

February 2010

The Red Dog Public House

It is often said that real life is stranger that fiction and whilst that may be true occasionally, the reality is that most of the time real life is usually very boring in comparison to fiction. That is the reason why so many rumours are started and people gossip. What they don't know they make up. That has certainly true with regard to the Red Dog.

The trustees of the Red Dog have heard many rumours regarding the pub over the last few months, many of them fascinating, some bizarre but none of them close to the truth. As trustees we feel that it is important for us to re-assure parishioners as to the true position.

The Red Dog public house belongs to the High Halstow Relief in Need Charity. It does not belong to the Church or the Parish Council and neither the Church nor the Parish Council gains financially from the charity nor do they have any control over the charity. The Charity is independent and has it's roots an 18th Century charity set up by a previous Rector and church wardens. The purpose of the charity was and remains to relieve the need and hardship of people in the parish.

Over the last few years we have paid for repairs to peoples' homes, helped with heating bills, helped people with funeral expenses as well as new glasses, we have provided equipment for disabled children and housebound adults as well as supplying emergency phone lines for those who are vulnerable and living alone and more recently we have given bursaries to young people going to university. All of our funds are used solely for the benefit of residents of the parish.

Our primary source of funding is the rent paid by leasing out the Red Dog. Recently the rent has not been paid, and despite our best efforts the trustees have been forced to take legal action in order to regain control of the premises. On 12th January 2010 the trustees obtained an order for possession of the property. This is not something that it has done lightly but we have a legal responsibility to do what is best for the charity.

The charity is committed to maintaining a successful and thriving village pub and has no intention of selling the building. The charity can now begin the process of looking for a new tenant for the Red Dog. We have not made any decisions as to who the new tenant will be.

There will be a period of advertising and the terms of the new tenancy will be discussed with professional advisors to ensure that we are making the best business decision for the charity, as we are required to do by charity law.

We know that having the Red Dog closed will be very inconvenient for many people in the parish but we wish to re-assure parishioners that we are as keen as anyone to get it re-opened as soon as is reasonably practicable.

We will keep people informed of firm developments through the High Halstow Times. In the meantime we ask you to be patient.

Anyone wishing to take on the tenancy should contact Mr Mark Foster at Rogers Stevens & Chance on 01634 841433.

High Halstow Relief in Need Charity

Farmers Market - Saturday 6th February 9:30 - 11:30 Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Meat, Bread, Cakes, Pasties and Pies, Cards, Chocolate, Honey, Handmade Craft, Jewellery, Ornaments and Gifts.

Friendly Club

On Tuesday 26th January we were 10 years old, so there was the usual Birthday tea, Birthday gifts and also we hired an entertainer, more about that next time

I do hope all our members remembered our change of day from the 4th Wednesday to the 4th Tuesday of each month.

This change of day was done to avoid any clashes with other activities in the area.

Our next meeting is on TUESDAY 23rd February.

Pat Hillman

Village Play Park

The programme for bringing in new pieces of equipment and upgrading the play park is still on track for completion by the 31st March 2010. We are still awaiting confirmation as to the exact dates and will notify you as soon as possible. Should the work be commencing before the next HHT is published then there will be notices put in the Parish Notice Boards. There may well be an impact on the use of the car park, as the contractor carrying out the work will be utilising some of this space. Please accept apologies for any inconvenience should this occur.

HH Parish Council

Village Speed Limit

Please be aware that the speed limit within the village is 30mph, speeding is a major cause of accidents and fatalities are more likely at speeds above 30mph. Some areas are considering lowering the speed limit to 20mph in built up areas. Traffic Police can prosecute anyone exceeding the speed limit. Please drive carefully.

HH Parish Council

Quiz Nite

Yes! We are back again starting on 29th January, so we hope your brains are all charged up after the break, hopefully there will be all the usual banter and laughter that we usually have.

You will be pleased to know, that although Margaret has moved she will be back to do 'Margaret's Music' each month.

Pat Hillman

Santa's Visit

I am pleased to say following my annual visit to High Halstow on Christmas Eve, £732 was raised. This has been split between the two charities, Help for Heroes and Cerebral Palsy Care. This included donations of £180 over and above the small charge for the delivering of the presents. Many thanks to you all

Father Christmas

Parish Precept

The Council is pleased to announce that there is no increase in the precept for the forthcoming year. In the March HHT it is anticipated that the complete breakdown for the budget for next year will be published for your information

Parish Council

Dog Fouling Act 2005

There has been an increase in dog foul not being picked up by owners walking their dogs. On 1st October 2009 a dog fouling order was introduced by Medway Council under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments act 2005 that makes it an offence to fail to remove dog faeces (without reasonable excuse) from any area to which the public have access. The fixed penalty for this offence is £80 fine. Please make sure you clean up after your dog.

HH Parish Council

Memorial Hall

The bad weather affected so many people, and we didn't get away scot free. We had a frozen pipe at the back of the hall, but fortunately no permanent damage was done, thanks to Pat Ford who soon had the repair done. I don't know if the bad weather was also to blame, but our door lock packed up, but Steve Steward soon had that sorted. Fingers crossed there shouldn't be any more now. A big thank you to everyone who was inconvenienced, and didn't complain.

Pat Hillman

Garden Club

We start our Gardening year on 9th February with our AGM, it will follow the usual pattern, and there will be two tickets for the Hampton Court Flower Show.

There are some changes to our committee, which I am sure you will approve, and again there is a new programme for the whole year. Please come and join us - everyone is welcome.

₂ HH Garden Club

Resume of the High Halstow Parish Council Meeting - 13 January 2010

The meeting held on 13 January – the first of 2010 - was attended by 8 councillors, the Footpaths Officer and, surprisingly in view of the weather, one member of the public. She is to be applauded for making the effort. The Parish Council is still one member short, as no-one has come forward to be considered to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Margaret Shuter. If you would like to get involved in what happens in the place in which you live, do give it some consideration. You may speak to any parish councillor or the Parish Clerk. Details are given both in High Halstow Times and on the website.

There was no objection to a planning application for a single-storey extension and internal alterations to provide a bathroom for the disabled to a property in Christmas Lane. An objection was made however to the building of a pair of houses on the corner of Eden Road and Harrison Drive, as it was felt the site is cramped, would create some loss of amenity to adjoining and other neighbouring properties and also on highway grounds as new accesses on the corner would have to be made.

The most important item for discussion was the precept. This is the amount of money required by the Parish Council and which is raised through the Council Tax. The Finance Committee having met three times to work through the budget for 2010/11, it was decided not to increase the precept this year. So even though you may find an increase in council tax, none of it will be due to the Parish Council. Savings have been made through obtaining grants towards the new play park and the works to the ditch on the Recreation Ground last year, which has helped keep the precept the same.

You may have noticed the "new" bus shelters at the Recreation Hall and at Heronsbank/Longfield Avenue. These have been provided, installed and donated by Medway Council, following a programme of new shelters elsewhere in Medway. They are not the "rustic" shelters that we were intending to buy, but it seemed silly to refuse perfectly serviceable shelters on grounds of appearance. We are continuing our bus shelter fund as the other shelter in the village will need replacing at some time. The "new to us" ones are in fact second-hand, therefore they will also need replacing at some time in the future.

The new play park is due for installation by the end of March. New swings will be provided, as will an item of equipment for toddlers and equipment aimed at the 8 to 13 years age group. Some equipment will be inside the play park fence and some outside it at the back of the hall. A grant was also obtained to renew the ground under the kick wall and tidy up the shrub area between the public conveniences and the allotments. This work will also take place before the end of March. Each contractor is aware of the other, in case they both appear on site at the same time! When start dates are notified to us, we will inform the school, so that parents will be forewarned of potential parking difficulties. The Parish Council has also agreed to the use of the Recreation Ground for Mini Youth Cricket (arranged and managed by Medway's Education Department) on 2 or 3 occasions next summer. This is a repeat of last year's event, which was well organised and caused no problems.

Trees promised from Groundwork could not be delivered because of the snow and were diverted to elsewhere, where they could be delivered and looked after. The Parish Council has ordered other trees for Forge Common which should arrive (weather permitting) and be planted in the next few weeks.

HH Parish Council

Need to Hire a Hall

If you are interested in hiring either of the halls in the village for a party, function or meeting please contact :

> Memorial Hall - Pat Hillman 251064 Village Hall - Ann Smith 251914

HH Village Website

The Parish Council website has been relaunched. Did you know you can see the minutes of your Parish Council on our website! If that is not your cup of tea, you can also look up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events.

A reminder for local groups is that you can advertise your activities free of charge on this site just let us have the details.

For all your village needs the site is:

www.highhalstow.org.uk

High Halstow Cricket Club

The Cricket Club is delighted to report that agreement has been reached with Hundred of Hoo School to further enhance the relationship between the two organisations. Since the School's foundation more than 50 years ago, former pupils of have played their summer game at High Halstow. In more recent years the Club's Colts Section has been well served by current students from the School.

As part of the agreement, the Cricket Club's qualified coaches will run coaching sessions at the School and provide expertise and assistance in the preparation and maintenance of the School's cricket square. The Club's winter nets for adults will be held at the School from 7-9pm every Thursday between now and mid-April and the 3rd and 4th XIs will use the School's facilities for home matches on Saturdays from May onwards. In addition the School will have access to the Club's facilities at High Halstow.

Readers will recall the 1st XI won promotion at the end of last season and will take their place in Division II of the Kent League in 2010. The 2nd XI will be pressing for promotion from Division II (2nd XIs). The 3rd and 4th XIs play in the newly re-organised Kent Regional League, which feeds directly into the Kent League. Traditional Sunday cricket is not forgotten, with a full fixture list as well as participation in the Medway Area Sunday League.

The Colts Section are fielding teams at U17, U15, U13 as well as 3 teams at U11, with every prospect of putting out an all-girls team at U11 this year. All the teams participate in the Medway Youth Cricket League. Several members have represented Medway District, and we are pleased to report representation at the Kent County winter training. Our colts nets are held at Kings School on Sunday afternoons until April. Full details of the Colts Section are available from Malcolm Coomber on 01634 251473.

As part of our preparation for the new season, the Club is taking part in NatWest Cricket Force 2010. On the weekend of 27 and 28 March volunteers from the Club, sponsors, parents and other supporters will be doing all the jobs (big and small) necessary to get the season under way – including making sure all volunteers are well fed and watered during the weekend. Why not find out how you can help, then register as a volunteer? Contact David Lapthorn.

Higher standards of cricket inevitably lead to higher costs, so fund-raising will take on particular significance this year. There will be a quiz night on 20th March in the Memorial Hall, and a Spring Bank Holiday Sponsored Walk on 31st May. Proceeds will be shared between the Club and Hoo School, in support of their cricket. The Family Fun Day returns on August 30th. More details of all these events are available from David Lapthorn (01634 250334). As ever we are very grateful for the continuing support of all our sponsors, donors, parents and other friends. Together we can make this an entertaining and successful 2010 for all.

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David Lapthorn HH CC Chairman



Note from the Editor

The High Halstow Times is a friendly point of contact and all views expressed are those of the individual. No letter will be published without the name and address of the writer being supplied to the editor, although this information may be withheld from appearing in the HHT upon request. If you have a matter for complaint, it should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, which meets on the second Wednesday of every month, at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

Advertising rates are £15 per quarter page per edition; £30 per half page per edition.

Not Beaten By The Snow

I was so disappointed to have to cancel our January meeting that plan 'B' was drawn up, and so we met just two weeks later. It was good to see everyone again and our speaker was someone not to be missed. We have been very lucky by recently having two 'home grown' speakers. A member guided us through a painting of a Christmas scene in December. Fun was had by all

with lots of laughter, and for some it got a little messy. It was a member's husband that joined us in January, telling us of his work as a free lance photographer and displayed some brilliant pictures of well-known people. My favourites were one of the Queen wearing the biggest smile ever, and a lovely one of her Mother looking so elegant as she

always did. Frank Bruno at his fittest with not a lot on was pretty memorable to.

I must mention a great day out that a small group of us had travelling by train to see The Snow Queen at the lovely though small Theatre Royal in Margate. This is a town that could be wonderful, but is looking rather sad. Lunch was enjoyed overlooking the sea, and a walk to see the show took us through a fabulous Victorian square, which in its prime would have been magnificent.

Coming up is the next round of the darts at Ryarsh, and we are returning to Deangate Golf Club for our annual dinner. Last year they looked after us really well and the food was very good.

Next W.I. meeting is on 3rd February when we will learn about Puppy Walking for Guide Dogs, complete with dog. Just £1:50 on the door, not a lot for a good evening out.

Advance notice. Colin Breed, a retired police officer will tell us about his work following the Zeebrugge Ferry disaster. This will be an 'open meeting' so if any gentlemen would like to join us they would be made most welcome.

Margaret Whitebread

High Halstow Parish Council Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council, anyone interested in applying to become a Parish Councillor should contact Roxana Brammer on 01474 871269

ΗΟΜΕΟΡΑΤΗΥ

makes real and lasting improvements to health, <u>naturally</u>, with no side effects.

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Fears & Anxiety	Glandular Fever
Thyroid Problems	Irritable Bowel
Migraine	All digestive probs.
Overindulgence	Cystitis
Eczema	Osteoporosis
Nose, Throat and Chest	infections.
al probs. including Infer	tility, Endometriosis,
	Thyroid Problems Migraine Overindulgence Eczema Nose, Throat and Chest

All hormonal probs. including Infertility, Endometriosis, Period probs., Polycystic Ovaries, Pregnancy Problems. Ill effects from vaccinations.

Homeopathy is particularly good at treating **flu viruses**, however obscure or long lasting, and also ailments that are the result of a virus. Each year we get a new selection of viruses which take even apparently healthy people by surprise, often with strange or unusual symptoms which come and go for months. Homeopathy usually treats these effectively and quickly. Similarly **"stomach bugs"** with vomiting & diarrhoea are well treated with homeopathy in adults and children of any age.

For further information call: Wanda Wright LCH, MARH, (Registered Homeopath) 5 Cooling Road, High Halstow. Tel : 01634 252284 or email : <u>bespokehomeopathy@yahoo.co.uk</u>

Achieve Better Health and Keep it

PROJECT 90 90 minutes spent improving the village

Saturday 13th February

8:30am Start at the Village Hall

Free Tea, Coffee, Cakes and Buns afterwards for all the helpers

Your Parish CouncillorsGeorge Crozer, Chair01634 250286e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.ukGary Thomas, Vice ChairGary Thomas, Vice Chair01634 252812e.mail: gary.thomas@medway.gov.ukMartin AndrewsMartin Andrews07984 791029Ray Collins01634 250105Dat Lillinger04024 0540044

01634 251064
01634 250911
07531 984169
01634 250276

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer

01474 871269

Free craft day at High Halstow

Organised in partnership with High Halstow Youth Club

Friday, 19 February 2010

High Halstow Memorial Hall, The Street, High Halstow (Parking available across the road at the village hall)

Come along and try your hand at fun arts and crafts including clay modelling, face painting, fabric printing and much, much more. Drop in or stay for the whole session. Tea and coffee for parents who want to stay.

- 11am to 12.30pm for Under 8s (Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult).
- 1.30 to 3pm for 9-14-year-olds (Children over eight may attend unaccompanied, but we advise parents of younger children to drop them to the hall and sign them in before leaving)
- Places subject to availability, first-come-first-served.
- Please wear old clothes or an apron.
- This workshop is open access, so young people can come and go as they please. Medway Council is not responsibile for those who choose to leave the hall.







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Dates for Diary

Dates for Diary		
Every Wednesday		
Painting & Drawing for Beg 10.00	ginners Memorial Hall	
Every Thursday		
Mother and Toddler's		
09.30	Memorial Hall	
Sugar Babes		
19.00	Memorial Hall	
Every Saturday		
Karmann Dancers	Memorial Hall	
09.00 Sunday 14th 21at 29th		
Sunday 14th, 21st, 28th Joy Club	Memorial Hall	
15.00 - 17.00	Wembhar Hair	
Other Dates		
Wednesday 3rd	Women's Institute	
19.30	Memorial Hall	
Saturday 6th	Farmer's market	
09.30	Village Hall	
Tuesday 9th	Garden Club AGM	
20.00	Memorial Hall	
Wednesday 10th	Parish Council	
20.00	Memorial Hall	
Saturday 13th 08.30	Project 90	
Thurs 18th - Sat 20th	<i>Village Hall</i> Dick Whittington	
19:30	Village Hall	
Tuesday 24th	Friendly Club	
14.00	Memorial Hall	
Friday 26th	Quiz Night	
20.00	Memorial Hall	

Local Lad Branches Out

Nathan Hall who has lived in the village all his life and attended High Halstow Primary School and Hundred of Hoo Secondary school is now starting out in business on his own. Nathan has worked as a joiner for an exhibition company completing projects at the Chelsea Flower show, NEC Centre and O2 arena is now turning his hand to domestic maintenance, everything from hanging a door, to fixing a leaking tap. As Nathan says 'No Job too Small', you can contact Nathan on 253542 or 0773 8649067.

I Know The Score

http://ikowthescore.premierleague.com/

League positions to 27th January Mrs A Sitta = 1360 Ben_De_Legs = 1280 cousboss = 1185 comos1 = 1035 eric007 = 420

Mrs A Sitta is still in the lead, Ben_De_Legs is slowly catching up.

FANCY A CUPPA AFTER DROPPING OFF THE KIDS ? OR SOMEWHERE TO GO FOR ELEVENSES ?



The Kings Kitchen opens every Tuesday morning from 9:00 till 12:00 noon in the Memorial Hall.

Serving, teas, coffee, hot chocolate, soup and a selection of cakes and biscuits. There will be a warm welcome from your host Liz Meredith and a relaxing atmosphere to get over the trauma of the school run ! So don't just stand at the school gate chatting come in and chat over a drink instead. Or pop in midmorning and meet with friends and neighbours for elevenses

The Kings Kitchen

For more info contact Rev Stephen Gwilt Stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk

Fancy yourself as DJ? Why not do your own remix or a 10 minute set, stick it on your iPod or mp3 player, bring it in and lets see how good you really are !

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INVITATION

CINCUSES of Discovery

FROM: The Medway Informal Learning Partnership's Circus of Discovery TO: Everyone in the Community who would like to come and 'Have-a-go'

COME AND TRY YOUR HAND AT WHOLE RANGE OF FREE ACTIVITIES AT A CIRCUS OF DISCOVERY

TO BE HELD AT HUNDRED OF HOO SCHOOL MAIN ROAD, HOO ST. WERBURGH. ME3 9HH ON WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2010 5PM TO 8PM THERE WILL BE 'TASTER SESSIONS' AT WHICH YOU CAN TRY: -

Printing inspired by music Dancercise Salsa Japanese Watercolours Music technology Pop song writing Bookbinding for beginners Fine art, drawing & painting Yoga Pilates Ceramics Film making & editing Bead jewellery & accessories Community choir

COME AND JOIN US – TRY AS MANY OF THE SESSIONS AS YOU LIKE – MOST WILL LAST NO LONGER THAN HALF AN HOUR

The Medway Queen

The Medway Queen Preservation Society celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2010, and although it has been a long hard struggle for the dedicated team of volunteers, there is now light at the end of the tunnel, as the valiant little ship is at last having its hull rebuilt at a shipyard in Bristol.

Not being robust enough be towed to the Albion Shipyard, she was dismantled at Damhead Creek, with each part being numbered, photographed and listed to enable her to be rebuilt in dry dock. Every part that could be saved and reused was carefully stored and later taken to Bristol by lorry.

Although there is still a long way to go, the hull of the ship is now taking shape, the keel was unveiled last June by the Lord Mayor of that city, many of the frames are now in place, bulkheads are being added, a ship is being reborn.

The Medway Queen is the first ship in 50 years to be riveted not welded, and the Society had to promise to use as many traditional skills as possible, and also to use apprentice labour for the fitting out of the ship when she is back in the Medway area. The MQPS are grateful to Medway Council who have offered the use of Gillingham Pier to use as a fitting out berth - that task could take up to a year to complete.

If you would like to find out more about the Medway Queen and to see the progress being made, visit www.medwayqueen.co.uk, and click on the webcam to view the daily progress in the dry dock.

Noreen Chambers, Vice President MQPS said "We expect the ship back by the end of the year and then we can start to fit her out, finances permitting. We will have apprentices involved in that task and have had great co-operation from local colleges. Donations always welcome, people can donate online now or send to the Medway Queen Project office. 42 North St, Strood. ME2 4SN.





FEBRUARY 18TH / 19TH / 20TH @ 7:30PM MATINEE PERFORMANCE SATURDAY 20TH @ 2:00PM TICKETS: £3.50 RECREATION HALL, HIGH HALSTOW FRED & HAZEL (251135) OR NOLEEN (271026)

<u>Readers Letters</u>

Dear HHT,

Today is Sunday 10th January 2010 and as far as we and most villagers are aware the Red Dog will close its doors and it may not re-open. Steve Waldie and his family have run the local pub for 28 years, no mean feat when one considers we have had two major recessions and are now in the middle of a very difficult time for all Public Houses, for those of us who appreciate what happened in the last few months a thank you to Steve and the Staff is in order, we may not have had a pub over Christmas if it was not for staying power.

The second part of this letter comes from a delegation through myself and Chris Hills who are both Red Dog users and concerned that as a community asset, we the community, do not know what the future is for the Red Dog. After all when it closes its doors today it is no longer a Pub or indeed a business!!! It will have not loyalty to sell on, no fixtures and fittings achieving nothing but depreciation and the possibility of and empty rundown building on our door steps. Is it not time that the committee of the Relief in Need Charity who own the building informed the community of there plans and actions, it may not be our business but we believe we as part of the community should know what is planned for this empty ex Pub and ex-village asset.

Vic Godding and Chris Hills

Report Crime

Always call 999 if

Martin Mitchell

HHPC Police Liaison

- a crime is happening now
- people are injured
- people are being threatened or are in danger
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby

Call Kent Police on 01622 690690 to report any non-emergency crime

To help please record when and where the problems are happening including:

- dates and times of incidents.
- as much detail as possible.
- names and/or descriptions of those involved.
- how the incident has affected you.

Dear HHT,

High Halstow is very proud to be associated with the "Home of the Heron", I as a local resident consider this to be an unwise choice unless you are willing to sacrifice the right to have garden ponds and keep fish in them.

Even though my modest pond is just a few feet from my lounge window, to date I estimate that I have personally contributed, albeit unwillingly, to providing the local marauding herons some 50 meals over the last two years. My enjoyment of this

beautiful garden feature has been totally destroyed. My neighbour had a much larger and better-stocked feeding station for these birds and daily one is seen stalking his pond. In fact last week he brought along two of his friends to also have lunch.

I read that one way of protecting your pond was to erect a trip wire around the perimeter to stop the herons from walking into the water as they are considered a wading bird. Let me inform your readers that this does not work at all as I have witnessed herons diving into large ponds for the fish. Other methods of protection are covering in netting or mesh screens, but we don't build garden ponds just to spoil their looks by covering them in hideous green netting or rusty wire mesh. Besides this, netting interferes with the planting of the water and marginal plants.

If my fish were considered farm animals and there safety was being threatened could I shoot the herons like farmers can do to dogs worrying their sheep? I wonder if the European Court of Human Rights may have an opinion on this.

Perhaps the answer would be for those who support the Heron should provide feeding stations around the village and surrounding areas so that the Herons will be so well fed that they would leave my fish alone.

Perhaps the High Halstow Times would like to set up such a fund and organisation.

Name and Address Supplied

Contributions for March should be sent by 23rd February to: Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk