Friends of St Margaret's Church
At the last meeting of the Friends a discussion took place regarding the long term project we are looking to support and the representatives from the Parochial Church Hall informed the group that there is a need to replace the South Transit Roof, so it has been agreed that 50% of all funds raised will be set aside for this. The estimated costs is £20,000. By setting aside 50% it allows the Friends to support other issues that will be brought to the committee for attention. If you would like to become involved in supporting the Friends, please visit http://thefriendsofstmargarets.org.uk/
The AGM for this year has been set as Wednesday 27th May at 7.30 in the Church.

Christmas Tree Festival
The Friends of St Margaret's would like to thank all the people who attended the third Tree Festival in the Village. This is proving to be a very popular event as a lead up to Christmas. Many thanks to all the people who made this occasion a success, including all the groups and individuals who put trees in, Karman Dancers, Dramarama and the Choir for the entertainment. Just under £200 was raised from this event and is already planned for next year on December 12th.

Allotments
As you may be aware the Parish Council have a number of allotments which are rented out each year. There are currently people on the waiting list, however, if you would like to be added to the waiting list please contact Chris Watson on 256529 or email me at chris.watson123@btinternet.com.

HH Parish Council

Santa's Visit
Santa would like to thank all the people who helped make Santa's Visit a special occasion again in High Halstow on Christmas Eve.

Special thanks to Stuart who was very brave in letting Joanne drive his car, (she liked it so much that we thought he would never see it again). Bradford's garage for providing the petrol for the generator free of charge, and Bob and his staff in the Village shop who collected the presents on Santa's behalf. All the helpers on the night deserve special thanks especially Wenda who somehow manages to still be on her feet at the end of the evening.

Many thanks to the people who came out with the refreshments that kept us all going.

A total of £864 was raised this year, which included donations in the charity buckets. The money will go to the Friends of St Margaret's Church.

See you next year - Santa.
**Memorial Hall**

The Halls’ bookings are very good at the moment, with the Hall in use most days; Saturdays being hired by Karmann Dancers which means we cannot accommodate any party’s until after 4 pm in term time, but most Sundays are free.

However, ‘Mother and Toddler’ numbers fluctuate from week to week, and subsequently have only booked until half term, unfortunately if numbers do not improve it may not be viable to carry on. This facility has been in the Village for many years and it would be a shame for it to disappear. It does not have to be a Mother, but could be a Grand Parent or Father who looks after a child on a Thursday. Hopefully, therefore, if you are able you will give it a go, first time is free.

Thank you
Hall Committee

**Auction – 14th March**

You will remember that we were planning on holding an auction last year but decided to postpone due to poor ticket sales. Well we are back on again for Saturday 14th March. This will be in a similar format to the auctions run previously but with a little twist. Those who watch the television programme Bargain Hunt will know that two couples go head to head to see who makes the most money from items they have previously purchased. What we would like to do is challenge couples – can be friends or partners to bring along four items to the auction for sale during the course of the evening. The couple making the most money on their four items will win a prize – yet to be decided.

Please keep the date free to attend the auction and please let me know if you would like to enter the “Bargain Hunt Challenge” on Medway 244203.

If you have items you would like to donate that would help raise funds for the hall please also give me a ring. This could be anything from toiletries/cosmetics, china, books, small items of furniture or pledges of time. This means volunteering to perhaps do 2 hours gardening or cleaning for someone who is not quite able to do this.

Thanks
Margaret Church
On behalf of the Village Hall Committee

**Bus Stop Improvement**

Medway Council are pleased to confirm that the bus stop improvement works are scheduled to start on Monday 2nd February and are scheduled to last a maximum of two weeks to complete. The footpath will be constructed from Half Moon Way to the existing bus stop position and raised kerb installed as per the plan below:
High Halstow Friendly Club

Last month we had an enjoyable lunch at Deangate Golf Club, with nearly all our members attending. The next meeting is Wednesday 25th February when we will have a quiz, bingo and lots of time to chat, with refreshments of course. Anyone wishing to come along and find out what we get up to will be made most welcome. We meet at 2pm in the Memorial Hall for 2 hours.

More Food With The WI

Christmas seems a while ago now, but we had lots of fun with silly games at our last meeting. In February we will be hearing about and tasting the products of Matthew Kearsey-Lawson. He makes sauces and preserves which he uses in his cookery demonstration of tasty foods that we can all sample. His mother had also made lots of yummy cakes that (he said) had to be eaten. Interested? You can join us on Wednesday February 4th at 7:30 in the Memorial Hall, just £1:50 on the door.

Village Hall Update

In assisting the Parish Council in setting its budget a presentation was given to the Council about the history of the hall refurbishment programme. This explained for the benefit of some of the newer councilors the different phases the work that has been carried out and the work still to be finished. It broke the costs down for the various phases and how it had been funded. The presentation is too large to republish in full detail in the HHT but can be viewed shortly on the Council website http://highhalstow.org.uk/blog

With regard to phase three we are awaiting the final plans, which will be shared with the village. The plans will include the new main entrance, kitchen and stairs for the room upstairs. As soon as they are available details will be published as to where these can be viewed

Boot Fair – 21st March

There will be a boot fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 21st March. Doors open to stallholders at 8am, buyers at 9am. Stalls will be £8 each. Refreshments available. This is similar to the ones we used to run in the Hall but this is a one off. Why not have a spring clean and get rid of some of your unwanted “clutter”. Please give me a ring on Medway 244203 for more details or to book a table.

Thanks

Margaret Church

High Halstow Youth Club

45 young people attended the Christmas disco at the youth club and everyone had a good time.

Village Hall Quiz 16th January

Thanks to all who came along and supported the first Village Hall Quiz of the Year. £235 was raised for Phase Three with the next one planned for April 16th. Thanks to Margaret, Lesley and John for the work put in
High Halstow Hikers

As usual our December walk was a local one. About 20 of us started from the village hall and headed out of the village towards Cooling but taking the road to Wyborne’s Farm. We took the farm track immediately before the railway to stay on paths that were largely in as good condition as one can get in the country at this time of year. The route to Cooling gave its normal excellent views to the north across the river to Essex and to the west to Cooling Court and Spendrift to Cliffe, Cliffe Woods and beyond to Gravesend. We paused to look at the children’s graves featured as holding Pip’s siblings in Great Expectations and paid a short visit to the Church itself. On return to the village from the approximately 6 mile walk we shared a great seasonal lunch to round of an enjoyable year for the Hikers.

We chose not to walk in January because of a large number of absences among our regulars.

Our February walk will be on Sunday 8th and will start at 10.00 at the Car Park Upper Upnor. This is best reached by turning right into Upchat Road as you enter Upnor along Upnor Road. The car park is on the right just before you reach the Kings Arms (ME2 4XG) at the top of the High Street. We will walk along the foreshore of the Medway to Hoo Marina (tide will be out) and return by inland paths. All are welcome to join us. If you have any questions please contact Mitchell on 01634-254428 or onmitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com.

Would the Mystery Lady Please Stand Up?????

While we were away over the Autumn Half Term holiday, someone very kindly left a large bag of really lovely cones and balls of mostly new wool next door at No. 27, which I received on my return. I was absolutely delighted. Unfortunately my neighbour had no idea who the donor was, other than ‘a lady with a young girl’ and so far all enquiries have drawn a blank. I would dearly love to know who it was in order to say a heartfelt ‘Thank You’.

Since the closure of our local Blythswood branch, our knitters have continued to produce blankets (now totalling 900) for another ‘off-shoot’ charity — S.E.E.D. When I took our most recent offerings down this month the lorry was already loading and they went straight out to Kosovo. There is still a desperate need for blankets to keep both adults and children warm this extremely cold weather and we thank all those who have so generously helped us out with gifts of money to purchase or actual wool in the past. At the moment our stock is dwindling fast and once again we would be most grateful to receive any help you might be able to give us__ (any ply, any colour, any amount, cones or balls). We are happy to collect.

Meanwhile...... if our generous donor reads this ......please do get in touch (Tel: 251135) so that I may thank you personally on behalf of our Home Group. You certainly raised our spirits (and the needles are still clicking!)____ A real answer to prayer!

Hazel Beringer.
Cooling Road Home Group

Come and Meet Your Parish Councillors

Chris(tine) Watson & Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 10th February from 10.30 – 12.00pm and every 2nd Tuesday in the month.

Come and tell us your problems or find out about projects we are undertaking. If we can't answer your questions there and then we will get back to you.

High Halstow Parish Council

Share your Thoughts, Ideas and Comments.

Do you have a story about the history of the Village, did you go to or know anything about the old school, can you tell us a story about a picture in the Memorial Hall? Would you like to promote an event or club within the village? Is there something concerning High Halstow that you would like to share with everyone. Then please write to the editor (address as shown on the back page) or e.mail your article/letter and we will share your thoughts with the village/world.

Kings Kitchen

A Coffee and Cake Café for the Whole Village.

Open 10.00am - 1.00pm every Tuesday in the Memorial Hall.

Why not come in and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.
A warm welcome awaits you.
**TIMETABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9–11am</td>
<td>Entries to be delivered</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am–1pm</td>
<td>Judging</td>
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<tr>
<td>1–5pm</td>
<td>Viewing for the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Prize giving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30–5pm</td>
<td>Sale of cakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5–6pm</td>
<td>Collection of unsold entries</td>
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</table>

**BIBLE CAKE RECIPE**

1. 8oz Judges V – verse 25 (last clause)
2. 8oz Jeremiah – VI verse 20
3. 1 Tablespoon 1 Samuel XIV - 25
4. 3 oz Jeremiah XVII - 11
5. 5 oz 1 Samuel XXI - 12
6. 8oz Nahum III - 12 (chopped)
7. 2 oz Numbers XVII - 8 (blanched & chopped)
8. 10 oz Kings IV - 22
9. Season to taste with II Chronicles IX - 9
10. A pinch of Leviticus II - 13
11. 1 teaspoon of Amos IV - 5
12. 3 tablespoons of Judges IV - 19

**Method:** Beat nos. 1, 2 & 3 to a cream. Add 4 one at a time, still beating, then 5, 6 & 7 and beat again. Add 8, 9, 10 & 11 having previously mixed them and lastly no.12. Bake in a slow oven for 1 25 hours, or until skewer is clean.

Oven temps. 130-140 C, 200 – 275 F, Gas Mark 0.5 - 1

**Note:** Leaven means baking powder

**COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

1. Cupcakes – six
2. Victoria sponge
3. Fruit cake
4. Chocolate cake
5. Bible cake
6. Novelty cake
7. Celebration cake
8. Gateau

Entry £3 for first cake £1 for subsequent entries

On the day take part in “the best decorated cupcake in 1 minute”.
Cake & materials provided.
50p a go and you get the cake to eat afterwards

---

**CAKE FESTIVAL**

High Halstow Recreation Hall
Sunday 1st March 1.00 – 5.00pm

Fundraising event for “The Friends of St. Margaret’s Church”

Refreshments available
1.00 – 5.00pm

For further information contact
Juno Collins 01634 250105 june@jal.net

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**EVENT RULES**

1. The competition is open to all non-professional bakers and the ingredients must be safe, legal and not a commercial ready mix.
2. Exhibits and place cards must remain in place throughout the event.
3. The committee reserves the right to refuse an entry and accepts no responsibility for damage to the entries.
4. The judging will be “blind” i.e. the judges will not know the identity of the entries.
5. The judge’s decision will be final
6. Entrants can offer their cake for sale on the day at their price, but the committee requests a minimum of 10% donation to the fund.
7. Entries not being sold can be collected between 5 – 6pm

**HOW TO ENTER**

1. Complete the “Entry Form” and send to one of the organisers (see front).
2. It would be appreciated if you book in advance, which will help with the planning of the event.
3. All entries must have been made by the entrant whose name is on the “Entry Form”.
4. All entries must arrive with fee between 9 – 11am on the day.

**ENTRY FORM**

Name.................................................................
Phone number.........................................................
Email address........................................................

Circle categories you would like to enter
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Underline circle if you wish to sell cake
Please find a breakdown of the budget that the Parish Council will be working with for the next year.

**High Halstow Budget 2015/16**

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<th>Budget Heading</th>
<th>Initial Budget</th>
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<td>Playgroup )</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<td>Rural Liaison</td>
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<td>High Halstow Times Advertising Income</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>-156,210</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
High Halstow Relief in Need Charity

This charity exists to assist those in the Village who are in need, especially widows and widowers. The trustees wish to remind the people of the parish that they will give consideration to any request for a particular need, at any time during the year. If you, or an elderly relative would feel safer at home with a telephone ‘Lifeline’ the Charity could help with this. All requests are dealt with in complete confidence and there is no need to wait for the October form.

The trustees are:
- Rev. S. Gwilt: The Rectory
- Mrs L. Munday: 22 Willowbank Drive
- Mr S. Bailey: 27 Cooling Road
- Mrs J. Gillies: 22 Leaman Close
- Mr J. Myatt: Decoy Hill Road
- Mrs C. Peek: 2 Willowbank Drive
- Mrs J. Collins: 6 Marsh Crescent

Stay and Play

High Halstow Relief in Need Charity

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- Mrs C. Peek: 2 Willowbank Drive
- Mrs J. Collins: 6 Marsh Crescent
Dates for Diary

Every Tuesday:
King’s Kitchen
10:00
Memorial Hall
Bell Ringers
19:30
St Margaret’s Church
Every Thursday:
Mother and Toddler’s
09:00
Memorial Hall
Sugar Babes
19.00
Memorial Hall
Every Friday:
Pilates with Joy
14:15
Memorial Hall
Karmann Dancers
09.00
Memorial Hall
Every 4th Wednesday:
Friendly Club
Memorial Hall

Other Dates:
Sunday 1st:
09:30
Family Service
St. Margaret’s Church
Wednesday 4th:
19:30
Women’s Institute
Memorial Hall
Sunday 8th:
Tuesday 10th:
20:00
Gardening Club
Memorial Hall
Wednesday 11th:
20:00
Parish Council
Memorial Hall
Sunday 15th:
09:30
Family Service
St. Margaret’s Church
Friday 27th:
20:00
Quiz Night
Memorial Hall
March:
Sunday 1st:
Cake Festival
Saturday 14th:
Auction Night
Saturday 21st:
Boot Fair

Local groups, please let us know the dates of your meetings/events for the coming year so we can include them in the HHT and on the website.

Dog Walkers
Our rights of way and green spaces are for us all to enjoy especially this time of year. Please be aware that if you are exercising your dog it should be under control at all times when in a public place.
George Crozer, HHPC
Jonathan Computers
Contact Jonathan directly on the Office No: 01474 879878 or
Freephone: 0800 321 38 79
Email: sales@jonathancomputers.co.uk

REALLY IMPORTANT!!!! Does your COMPUTER run....

Currently from 8th April 2014*
Microsoft™ Support
for ALL XP™ Versions will discontinue!!!!

YOUR COMPUTER WILL BE AT SEVERE RISK!!!!

I Can upgrade** or supply new computers with...
- Windows™ 7 on.... and NOT the new unpopular Windows 8™ on!
*As currently stated by Microsoft™ as of 1st December 2013. **Subject to Old PC Specification.

You may become vulnerable to:
- Destructive Viruses!
- Banking Fraud!
- Total Computer Failure!
- On-Line Credit Card Theft!
- Identity Stolen!
- Being Spied On!

(All Antivirus products will cease to update at this time also)

If Running XP you will need to
upgrade** or replace your old PC
To keep yourself Secure!!

I will deal with you personally so I can provide you with the best service. I offer a
fast and friendly service and explain any problems about your computer to you in
an easy to understand way.

St. James’
Sure Start Children’s Centre
St. James’ Church of England Primary Academy, High Street, Isle of Grain, ME1 8BS
Services, activities and lots more for expectant parents and for families
with children aged 5 and under.

- Would you like to find out what our children’s centre has to offer?
- Do you have any suggestions to develop the children’s centre,
including services and activities in your community?

WHY NOT COME ALONG TO OUR
PARENTS FORUM?
An informal chat over free refreshments
at our drop-in session detailed below.

WE NEED
YOUR VOICE!

HIGH HALSTOW
Thursday 12th February 2015
9am-10.30am
at The Memorial Hall, The Street, High Halstow, ME3 8SF

Sunday Services
8:00am High Halstow
Holy Communion BCP

9:30am High Halstow
1st and 3rd Sundays All age worship
2nd and 5th Sundays morning prayer
4th Sunday Family Communion

6:30pm High Halstow
1st, Sunday Holy Communion
3rd Sunday Informal worship
5th Sunday Joint Songs of Praise with Allhallows
See notice board for venue

Baptisms by arrangement
1st or 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30am
For further information. Rev. Stephen Gwilt 01634 250637
Or Email stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk

Caring for the needs of the community for over 1000 years

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage
one another - and all the more as you see the day of judgment approaching. - Heb 10:25
Take Care
... Supporting your Independence

Home Help Service

Are you...
- An older person?
- Living with a disability?
- Having difficulty with day-to-day tasks in your home due to ill health?
- Convalescing?

We can help you with...
- Housework
- Laundry/vending
- Shopping
- Support to the shops and appointments
- Bespoke sitting service
- Companionship for outings and community activities
- Handyman/Gardener service

Our Community Assistants are carefully chosen and matched to you. We believe that having the same face is important for continuity and your wellbeing - CRB checked, fully insured and referenced.

01634 316821

Visit: www.facebook.com/serenitypermanentmakeup
New website coming soon

Permanent Makeup is a term used for tattooing hypoallergenic pigments into the skin. It can be used to create beautiful brows, define eyes and enhance lips.

People that can benefit from Permanent Makeup include:
- Over plucked brows
- The ageing process, finer brows, less lashes & thinner lips
- Visually impaired
- Hair loss from alopecia or chemo
- Allergies to conventional makeup
- Gym goers, swimmers, athletes
- Oily skin
- Watery eyes
- Sufferers from arthritis, MS, Parkinson’s etc.
- Jobs that do not allow conventional makeup

Call Jade on 07708 394979 for your FREE consultation

High Halstow Pre-school
Modular Building, Primary School, Hermon Drive, High Halstow, Rochester, Kent. ME2 0TF
0634 295088

Proprietor/Manager Mrs Anna Russell DLA (DID), EYPS

Outstanding Provider Ofsted
2009-10 Extensive Outdoor Facilities
Excellent Links with Primary School
Friendly, Qualified Staff
Affordable Childcare

Open Weekdays, term time only
8.45 am - 3.30pm

Morning, lunch, afternoon and all day sessions available.
Children are funded for 5 free sessions the term following their third birthday.

Don't take Ofsted's word that we are an outstanding provider, come and see for yourself.

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The Village Shop
Opening Hours
Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm
Sunday 8am – 5pm
Telephone number: 01634 254561

HH Village Website
Please visit the Parish Council website for everything about our village. You can see the minutes of your Parish Council or look up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events. Please note that there is now an RSS feed on the Parish Website where you can get automatic updates when the site is updated. Please visit www.highhalstow.org.uk and follow the instructions on the right hand side.

Local Groups and the Website
You can advertise your activities free of charge on this site just let us have the details. If your details need updating with either dates or details of events please let us know by emailing gary@highhalstow.org.uk. This can be used to keep your members informed and possibly attract new members to your group.

Local Businesses
The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Business Page is back on the website. Should you wish to advertise your business please visit http://highhalstow.org.uk/business-page where you can find all the details of how to put your business on the site.
Dear HHT,
A letter to the complainers. Why is it that people move to our village and want to change things?

If you buy a house/bungalow close to the ‘Recreation Ground’, you also benefit from a number of nearby facilities, such as:
Two Village Halls
Cricket Club and Field
A good village Pre-School and Primary School
A village pub
A Beautiful Church (with bells)

High Halstow Recreation Ground is used by football teams at weekends and once or twice a year by local schools for ‘Games Days’, as well as special events such as summer fayres. There are good facilities for the children of all ages who live in this village. The little ones can enjoy the swing park, and an outside Gym for the older ones (plus adults). There is a kick wall, a teenage seat, and now we have a brand new ‘Half Pipe’ for scooters and skateboards - which the youngsters have been really hoping for and are absolutely loving!

Maybe the people that move here and then complain have forgotten that children live here as well, and it is great to have so much for them to do. Our village youth are a very important part of the Village and its future - so stop complaining and enjoy our village as it is!

Ann
Willowbank

Dear HHT,
Whilst I am very much in favour of keeping the area tidy, I strongly object to immediately having to rush outside and pick up rubbish other people leave/drop on the pavement along the property. This concerns dog mess and paper (with the exception of windy weather, naturally). Everybody should take responsibility to tidy up after themselves, and it is for this reason that I would like to appeal to those people who cannot resist and with the self-assumed authority of wanting to keep their surroundings tidy, repeatedly throw rubbish over my fence onto the property, in particular in the dark. Please stop.
Thank you.
Antje
Harrison Drive

Readers Letters

Your Parish Councillors
George Crozer, Chair 01634 250286
e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk
Gary Thomas, Vice Chair 01634 252812
e.mail: gary@highhalstow.org.uk
Martin Andrews 07984 791029
Stuart Bailey 01634 255537
Ray Collins 01634 250105
Gary Jerreat 01634 253999
Lesley Munday 01634 250276
Christine Watson 01634 256529
Brian Williams 07908 006448
e.mail: bdwilliams9@hotmail.com

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:
Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269
clerk@highhalstow.org.uk

Distributors
We have a couple of vacancies for volunteers to deliver the HHT in Thames Avenue and a section of the Street. If you fancy a walk along one of these roads, once a month to deliver the HHT, please give me a call on 01634 250018 or 07760 110364. There are relatively few houses on these routes, so the time needed to deliver is quite short. I would also like to voice my appreciation for the sterling service that the late Barbara Starrs provided in delivering to Thames Ave for many years

Dear HHT,
The family of the late Alan Woodward would like to thank friends and neighbours in High Halstow for their donations to the R.N.L.I in Alan’s memory. The donations came to a total of £285.00. Thank You
Peter Gilbert (Cousin of Alan Woodward)

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 - Angela Forward 251756
Village Hall - Crystal Wakefield 251849

Please do not call on a Sunday.

Next edition March 2015; Contributions for March should be sent by 24th February to:
Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ
or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk

Published by High Halstow Parish Council
Printed by Cousins Copy Centre (01634) 727215