



High Halstow Times

Home of the Heron

February 2018



wHoo cares about Christmas



Who cares about Christmas? Lots of people do on the Hoo Peninsula.

On Christmas Day, a festive meal was served at the High Halstow Village Hall, hosted by wHoo Cares, supported by our team of volunteers and local businesses.

wHoo Cares is a community interest company reducing social isolation and helping connect people in the community. This includes befriending, assistance to attend community activities, medical appointments or shopping or just connecting people on the peninsula to other support services.

The idea for the Christmas meal came from our former Volunteer Coordinator, Vikki Cordina. She was determined nobody should spend Christmas Day alone if they didn't want to. Sadly, Vikki passed away in August after a short illness but we were determined the event would go ahead to honour Vikki and her vision.

The Christmas Dinner was attended by about ten guests, unfortunately, ill health meant a few last minute cancellations but we had lots of volunteers who made the day a real success. They did everything from cooking the food to setting up the hall, serving and sitting with our guests and providing entertainment, not to mention our drivers who taxied our guests to the Hall and back home again.

It was a full Christmas Dinner with turkey, stuffing, pigs in blankets, brussel sprouts, peas, carrots, bread rolls, a choice of puddings and of course, a Christmas cracker! Dinner was followed by some traditional Christmas carols, dancing to a couple of rockier Christmas numbers,



gift giving and finally, listening to the Queen's speech (after a few technical glitches).

In addition to the work of our wonderful volunteers, the day was made possible by generous cash and food donations from individuals and local businesses including Co-Op (Hoo & Grain), National Grid, Billy's Bakehouse, Mandy's Teatime Treats, Hoo Marina Diner and Wilko. Not forgetting, the High Halstow Village Hall Committee for letting us use the hall.

All in all it was a great day enjoyed by everyone involved – guests and volunteers alike. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day possible. Fingers crossed, we're doing it all again next Christmas! If you would like to be part of our Christmas Day, either as a guest or a volunteer, feel free to get in touch by ringing the office on 01634 272138 or emailing christmas@whoo cares.org.uk.

If you think that wHoo Cares can help you or someone you know, or you would like to talk to someone about volunteering with us, please ring the office (01634 272138), emailenquiries@whoo cares.org.uk or see our website for more info: www.whoo cares.org.uk

For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Editorial

We're back! Happy New Year.

You will see that our publication is now much lighter. Advertising revenue has helped but goes nowhere near to covering our costs so the decision was taken by the Parish Council to reduce the number of pages. We have therefore either had to amalgamate pages or leave out regular popular articles altogether but the Parish Council must be prudent with public finances. I'm sure everyone will agree.

We hope you enjoy the news on the Christmas festivities in the village, on the front and middle pages.

Letters

Food bank

Please could you thank everybody for the splendid response for donations to the food bank. Particular thanks for things given at Christmas. It is unfortunate that food banks are necessary but they are and the need is still great. Please continue to donate. A new list of needs is on the lid of the box in the shop.

Gillian Ellen

Advertisement for a UNISCAN Roller, it is like a rolator.

This is an aid to walking and is free for collection by calling 01634 250262 and making an appointment.

Gillian Ellen

Wheelchairs

In our efforts to help our community we have 2 wheelchairs available for loan.

The loan will be free of charge but we will require proof of identification and a small deposit, which is negotiable.

Please contact me, Linda Atkinson on 07825 619 353 and I will put you in touch with the person storing the wheelchairs.

St. Margaret's Church Sunday Services

8:00am – High Halstow
Holy Communion Book of
Common Prayer

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

Caring for the needs of the community for over 1000 years

**Baptisms by
arrangement
1st or 3rd Sunday
of each month
at 9.30am**

For further
information.
Rev Stephen Gwilt
01634 250637
OR email: Stepheng-
wilt2@hotmail.co.uk

This year could mark huge changes in High Halstow if planning is approved for the Redrow development in Britannia Road. The Parish Council has agreed to oppose the development, one of the reasons being that it is predatory. Please see Parish Council news for further information on the way forward.

If you have a story about High Halstow that you would like to tell, you can either email us at Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk or write to us via **Linda Atkinson, 32 Goodwood Close, High Halstow.**
Linda and Natalie

100 year commemoration for 1st World War

I have asked several social groups to help with designing and creating large poppies to go on lamp posts in High Halstow. We still need to finalise the design. If you feel you would like to help with design and make them for the lamp posts please contact me on 07825 619 353 or email linda23atkinson@gmail.com

Street Angels

We have had a fantastic year with 23 people going into sheltered accommodation. We feed on average at this time of year 80/100 people a night. We provide meals to the homeless 5 days a week and usually a Saturday evening but not always.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Chatham we have a walking outreach. A group of volunteers set off between 7pm and 8pm and walk through the High Streets with hot drinks, food and emergency supplies.

On Thursdays in Chatham we have a soup kitchen, which is usually the busiest night. Here we provide camping equipment, toiletries, food, drinks and more one to one advice.

We organised a Christmas party in Chatham on **Christmas Eve**. This was an all day event packed full of raffles, karaoke, films and sweets. Through kind volunteers everyone was given a hair cut and a shave if wanted. The RRT also paid a visit and gave out a huge amount of new sleeping bags

We had a massive response from our plea for shoe box gifts. Everyone left with two.

On **Christmas Day** we held a buffet meal for all from 6:30 in Globe Lane car park. More shoeboxes were given out and again everyone was in high spirits. **Boxing Day** at 6:30 again we were out but this time the Gurkha Nepalese Community in Medway donated all the cooked meals and helped us to serve.

January has already been fantastic. We have reached charitable status. Registered number 1176617

Suite 1, Cobalt House, Sir Thomas Longley Road, Medway City Estate, Rochester, Kent ME2 4BQ
The contact number is 07564 829189
Mark or Michelle will be contactable on that number.

Amber Gilbert – Founder, Street Angels

High Halstow & District Garden Club

Gardening Club

Our last meeting of 2017 was held on Tuesday 12th December when members enjoyed our annual social evening. We were entertained by Trevor Styles followed by a buffet supplied by the committee members and afterwards a quiz and raffle. The first meeting of 2018 will be held at the memorial hall at 20:00 on Tuesday 13th February when we will hold our AGM. Committee members will be elected. The last year's events and financial statement will be presented. We welcome comments and ideas at the meeting and would encourage members to do so. The year's subscription will be collected (still only £5.00 pa) followed by the usual refreshments and raffle.

Our annual dinner will be held on 24th March at the Medway Yacht club at Upnor. The menu is now available to members, friends and families.

We have an outing planned to visit Thriplow on 17th March to see the display of daffodils and other spring bulbs. The cost is £23. The event is fully booked at the moment but if you would like to be added to the reserve list please contact **Marj Ives telephone 01634 255398**

Another outing to the World Gardens of Lullingstone castle is planned to take place in July (dates and costs to be confirmed).

For more information please contact hhdgc@outlook.com

Happy gardening (even if it's damp, wet, cold and windy)

Fund Raising

The High Halstow Community Lottery

Total amount won since the start is £16,410

If you would like to play please contact Linda Atkinson on 07825 619 353 for details.

Linda Atkinson and Mick O'Hanlon – High Halstow Community Lottery Committee

DISCLAIMER: The High Halstow Community Lottery is administered by a Committee formed by villagers of High Halstow and is not connected in any way with High Halstow Parish Council.



Game	Venue drawn	Postcode	Area	Amount	Total won to date
December game (January draw)	Horseshoe & Castle Cooling	ME3 8TL ME3 9BN	Medway Avenue, High Halstow Hoo	£1,200 £200	£16,410
November game (December draw)	Primary School High Halstow	ME2 4NY ME3 9HB	Wainscott Hoo	£1,250 £200	£15,010
October game (November draw)	Powder & Cartridge Upnor	ME3 8TD ME3 7ST	Longfield Avenue, High Halstow Salt Lane, Cliffe	£1,150 £200	£13,560

Relief in Need Charity

The charity has existed in High Halstow for many years and is an amalgamation of smaller charities/private trusts, the oldest of which dates from 1716 and exists to help the residents of the Parish of High Halstow who are going through a time of need or hardship. This could include not only widows and widowers but also to help people of all ages and from all walks of life. Requests can also be made by organisations or groups in the Parish.

Requests for financial assistance can be made, at any time of the year, in writing, by telephone, email or in person to any one of the Trustees. Requests can come from individuals, groups or organisations. All requests will be treated in strict confidence.

Trustees

Rev. Stephen Gwilt	The Rectory	01634 250 637
Stuart Bailey	27 Cooling Road	07976 760 844
June Collins	6 Marsh Crescent	01634 250 105
Lesley Munday	22 Willowbank Drive	01634 250 276
John Myatt	Decoy Hill Road	01634 256 185
Chris Peek	2 Willowbank Drive	01634 252 604
Natasha Turner	12 Marsh Crescent	
Office email address:	Office.hhrin@gmail.com	

For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council News

Resume of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2018

This is the first resume of 2018 and we would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

The first meeting of 2018 was attended by 8 of the 9 parish councillors, Bill Khatkar being away. There were 4 members of the public, as well as a representative from Redrow in attendance. The developer's planning application was discussed and a response of objection on various grounds has been forwarded to Medway Council. However, it was agreed that if the development went ahead, the Parish Council would ask for the public open spaces (ie not front or back gardens or the highway) to be handed over to them. This will ensure the same maintenance standards as you enjoy in the rest of the village and will preclude any further development on the site.

Mick O'Hanlon reported on research he has done on the viability and cost of CCTV being installed at the entrances to the village. This research will be progressed by Mick and Martin Andrews.

The budget for 2018/19 was discussed further and Linda Atkinson will come back to the next meeting with prices for a 12 page High Halstow Times. I have been asked to write an explanation of the funding and budget of the Parish Council and you will find this on another page of the Times.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th February in the Memorial Hall, starting at 8pm. Everyone is welcome.

Come and meet your Parish Councillors



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Chris(tine) Watson and Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors, will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: **Tuesday 13th February** from 10.30am–12.00pm and every 2nd Tuesday in the month.

Come and tell us your problems or find out about projects we are undertaking.

NEED TO HIRE A HALL?

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

Memorial Hall Angela Forward 01634 251756

Recreation Hall Martin Mitchell 07752 682437

**** Please do not call on a Sunday ****

If we can't answer your questions there and then we will get back to you.

High Halstow Parish Council.

Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, <i>Chair</i>	01634 250 286
Christine Watson, <i>Vice Chair</i>	01634 256 529
Martin Andrews	07984 791 029
Linda Atkinson	07825 619 353
Ray Collins	01634 250 105
Gary Jerreat	01634 253 999
Bill Khatkar	07775 668 620
Brian Williams	07908 006 448
Mick O'Hanlon	07752 873 379

Your Councillors can also be contacted through the Parish Clerk Mrs Roxana Brammer.


Email: clerk@highhalstow.org.uk, Tel: 01474 871 269

Kings Kitchen

A Coffee and Cake Café
for the whole village

Open 10am-1pm

Every Tuesday
in the Memorial Hall,
High Halstow



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

Neighbourhood plan

A meeting was held on 16 January 2018 in the High Hall Memorial Hall to ascertain whether villagers would be interested in taking the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan forward for consideration. The meeting was well attended and after a show of hands the idea was positive that we put the proposal to the Parish Council to take this forward. The subject of the Neighbourhood Plan will go on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 14 February. This is a public meeting where everyone is welcome.

The PC had arranged for Jim Haslem, a Councillor from Vigo Village to attend and talk about their experience in working through a Neighbourhood Plan. There are similarities between High Halstow and Vigo. Their village of similar size to us and they have ownership of parcels of land like us. But, they are a young village so not as well established as High Halstow.

Vigo didn't follow their project through to adoption because they were looking to get more control of the environmental and community aspects of the village, rather than the Planning and development aspects. Whilst it should be recognised that High Halstow is set in a rural environment, most who live here choose to live here and while it would seem a Neighbourhood Plan would appear the best solution for us in some way to be able to ensure that development of our village:

1. be accompanied by sustainable infrastructure;
2. takes into consideration the high importance of the landscape we live and recognised for its national and international recognition in future generations; and
3. that it is developed for its inhabitants and their collective future.

A précis of few comments and questions noted at the meeting

Vigo: Medway Council's Planning department at Medway Council is a vital resource for you. Their expertise is going to be critical to keeping you on track and steering you away from blind alleys. In our situation we ensured that Gravesham Planners were on board upfront, that our ward councillors were on board and the Leader of Gravesham Council was behind the process.

Q: Are you saying that it would be better for Medway Council if we didn't have a Neighbourhood Plan.

Vigo: No not at all. In our case Gravesham saw it as a useful input to local planning.

Q: Can the Local Council veto it in the end?

Vigo: No. But they will advise. You will need to read between the lines on their advice though. If and when the Neighbourhood Plan has passed the **Independent Examination**, Medway Council could not stop that going forward for a Referendum and if the Referendum agreed it, Medway Council could not stop it being enacted. You really need to be hand in glove with the Council.

Q: But it's not in their interest for this plan, surely?

Vigo: No quite the reverse. It is in their interest to support it because the Project should, if done right, bring the community with it and it's one pocket of the population of Medway that should be signed up to the Local Plan, bearing in mind that the Neighbourhood Plan sits under the Local Plan

Q: Can you explain what sustainable means, in this context?

PC Chairman: Its whether Britannia Road, Dux Court, the A228 can sustain an increase in the number of homes you have out here. It's difficult to get off the peninsula in the morning, as we all know. Whether the A228 can sustain an accident at the Plant at Grain. Whether there are enough GPs here. Whether the school is big enough. All this is what we mean by "sustainable".

Q: Is there any way of gauging the outcome or the success of this? You said [to Vigo] that at the end of the day you didn't go through with it as it didn't satisfy the criteria, so we could do all this work and then it might not go anywhere and wouldn't go anywhere.

PC Chairman: From what Jim was saying it looks like Vigo were looking for something different to what we are looking for. We may think it suits us and if we can get the funding for it then it shouldn't cost us, and even if we did have to spend, we may think its worth a try. We should not dwell on the cost and time it will take or the bureaucracy of it because it may be decided [without a Neighbourhood Plan] that perhaps High Halstow can take 2,000 (for instance). We need to put our foot down!

Q: So you don't know how successful this could be?

PC Chairman: We have no idea. No other Parish on the peninsula has done it.

Q: I think it certainly gives us a better chance than most.

PC Chairman: Do we have any Planners in the village? Any Architects in the village?

UPDATE ON MEDWAY LOCAL PLAN

In a recent Rural Liaison Committee meeting, Medway Council provided an update regarding the proposed Local Plan. The Local Plan is the development plan for the area, and will provide a strategic framework to guide Medway's growth up to 2035. The plan will identify sites and locations for development in line with the projected levels of growth, areas for protection and planning policies to achieve the ambitions set for Medway. The development plan forms part of the council's policy framework.

The figure of 29,500 new homes required has now been increased to 37,000 new homes:

"In September 2017, the government consulted on a number of proposed changes to the Planning system in "The Right Homes in the Right Places". This included the proposal to introduce a standard method of calculating local housing need. This would result in a significant increase in the number of houses needed in Medway, from 1283 a year to 1665. This would mean that the council will need to find land for c8000 more homes in the new Local Plan, over and above the already challenging figure of 29,500 homes.

The council has responded robustly to the consultation, and has strong concerns that the area does not have the infrastructure or environmental capacity to accommodate such a scale of growth sustainability. The impacts of such scale of growth will be further considered in the **Sustainability Assessment** accompanying the next stage of the Local Plan consultation."

High Halstow Update

How the Parish Council is funded and the High Halstow figures for 2018/19

The Parish Council is mostly funded by something called the “precept”. This is forwarded to a parish council by the senior council, in this case Medway Council and is collected through your council tax.

Any increase in the precept on the previous year’s figure made by a parish council only applies to the parish council element of your council tax. FOR EXAMPLE: if HHPC applies a 8% increase on the precept then the 8% increase only goes on to the precept part of your Council Tax bill and not the whole amount of the bill. The rest of the council tax is made up by Medway Council, Kent Police and the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority. The parish precept is by far the lowest amount of all elements.

When the parish council sets its precept, it first drafts a budget. It takes into account expected income and expenditure for the following financial year, which is 1st April to 31st March. In our case for 2017/18, it included the payments by Medway Council for the street cleaning



and for the maintenance of their greenspaces. Over the last few years we have also received something given by central Government called the council tax support grant. For the current financial year this is £1,477. However this is being phased out – we expect less next year, after which it will stop. So we’ve had to be mindful of the impact this would have on the precept.



The budget for next year includes an expenditure item of £18,000 to finish the bus shelter replacement programme. This has naturally made a large impact on the budgeted expenditure. To have collected the money over 2 years was not viable as we would have lost the grants available to us and the project would have cost even more. To keep other costs down we have asked that the High Halstow Times be kept to 12 pages if at all possible. The budget also includes the cost of 2 clerks for 2 months, while the hand-over period is in operation.

New High Halstow Clerk

We congratulate Cat Bloomfield on her successful application to the post of Clerk to High Halstow, starting her position in February 2018.

There will be a handover period of 4 months whereby our present Clerk, Roxana Brammer will work closely with Cat to ensure a smooth transition, until Roxana leaves at the end of May.



Finally, it was decided to increase the precept by 7.5%. This brings in an extra £3,210. When you get your council tax bill from Medway Council, it will give a percentage for Band D properties only. The **average** increase per household is **just under £4 for the year, or 8p per week**. A lot less than your lottery ticket!. Of course with the banding, some will pay less and some more, but the increase is really very little. As you see, £3,210 doesn’t come anyway near the £18,000 for the bus shelters, so we will have to dip into reserves. Consequently our reserves will have to be replenished over the next few years.

I hope this explanation is useful. Do get in touch if you have any questions.

High Halstow Parish Council

Christmas Catchup

There were happy parents and children on Christmas Eve in our village.

As usual Santa and his helpers were out doing their rounds. It is a much appreciated tradition as the comments on Facebook show below.

Hannah McCullie My daughter loved receiving her gift from Father Christmas! Thank you all so much 😊
Like · Reply · 3w

Natalie Kyne-Dinsdale Thank you all! It was fantastic 🎄❤️
Like · Reply · 3w

Kelly Shove Thank you so much you kicked started our first Christmas in HH we loved it and very much appreciated all the hard work put in to make it happen that you very much 👍👍
Like · Reply · 3w

Deborah Smith Thank you to all who play a part in making Christmas Eve in High Halstow so special. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated enthusiastic Christmas bunch, who give up their own time so generously each year. Xx
Like · Reply · 3w

Justine Turner Thank You Again For Such A Wonderful Christmas Eve Tradition To Remember xxx This Year Was Our First At The Church To See You All & I Was Soo Amazed At The Amount Of Villagers Awaiting Your Arrival 🙌 Well Done Guys & Girls 🥰
Like · Reply · 3w



Christmas Tree Festival

There were entries from several groups, the WI, The Youth Club, High Halstow Times and the Community Choir to name but a few.



Stephanie Miller I loved the baubles, made me feel very Christmassy, and grateful to live somewhere so nice that people chose to do this for the pleasure of others, and that they were left alone. Thank you.
Like · Reply · 1w

Frances Colleer replied · 1 Reply

Tamsin Elizabeth I loved them as did my little boy.
Like · Reply · 1w

Tamsin Elizabeth My three hooligans thought Santa had done it 🤪
Like · Reply · 1w

Marie Calvert I wondered who decorated the tree, really nice to see.
Like · Reply · 1w



The High Halstow Community Choir were in good singing voice at the Christmas Tree Festival



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- Sat 24 March

- Sat 28 April
- Sat 26 May
- Sat 30 June

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Kenpo Kwai

Venue and times to follow

Contact: Prof Soke Andy McGill 07519 699 215
or Bill Khatkar 07775 668 620 for more details



Kenpo training can seriously affect your health

There has been acceleration in research over the last few years into how our bodies react to stress and anxiety, and how our own minds can hurt our bodies and make us ill. When we become stressed or depressed we seem to weaken our own immune systems and leave us open to disease and we also aggravate any existing illness that we have. Stressful occurrences can be anything from: a Death in the family, to moving house, being mugged or burgled, divorce, starting a new job, bullying at work or play, any violent or physical attack even verbal abuse can be thought of as a mental attack and unhappiness in general, Are all causes of stress and anxiety.

Once we learn about the danger times in our lives we can start to look after our own health, on a mental as well as a physical plane.

Stress kills

How often have we heard this cliché in the media? But what does it really mean? There are links with stress and the following physical complaints: Multiple sclerosis, heart disease, bowel disorders, breast cancer, brain hemorrhages, colds and flu, appendicitis, bad stomach conditions, even sore throats and many more!

British family doctors have found that 60% of patients suffering stomach problems were found to have experienced 'severely threatening' life events.

People with coronary heart disease have been found to suffer oxygen starvation in times of stress, or even heart attacks. These conditions are inflicted on the self; the brain receives an incoming message, of an unpalatable nature and converts the cerebral pain into a physical one. In a survey in which the cold sore virus was targeted, it was found that although a large portion of people were carriers, the people who were generally under stress or unhappy were more likely to come out in sores. We all know this to be true when we are tired, over worked, and stressed, we do feel 'run down' and therefore susceptible to minor ailments. This is not a new theory. Nearly 2000 years ago a famous Greek called Claudius Galenus 130? -200? Ad who was an anatomist, physician and physiologist, had observed cancerous growths and general bad health in people, and found that they were more prevalent in sad, pensive, Gloomy, depressed people, especially women; than in people with a happy-go-lucky disposition.

It's not all bad news. A little stress is good for you!

And, it is beneficial in this competitive world in Work, and play. It can give you the 'edge' over the opposition but remember too much stress and the mind rebels against it and your body suffers. Then you can start comparing ulcers with fellow sufferers.

How can Kenpo help defeat stress?

Defeat stress by learning martial arts techniques and strategy, and by maintaining proficiency in self-defence, by doing so, you lose a lot of fears and phobias regarding personal physical Attack. And become more confident in yourself and your ability, to succeed in a physical confrontation. This new found confidence carries through into all walks of life and you find that you can face almost any confrontation, be it on a physical, verbal or on a mental plane. By reducing or even eliminating these so called severally life-threatening experiences, through your self-confidence and your ability to conquer these mental fears and physical opposition you do not feel 'stress' and can maintain a serene and calm mind. So through your training, and your acquired expertise in martial arts, you find that you not only reduce but also can eliminate 'stress'. To be the 'eye of the storm' and when 'all hell' breaks loose around you, you can maintain this calm. You will find through experience that the human brain can reduce the effects of injury, disease and illness. This is not to say that modern medicine cannot help, in conjunction with positive attitude.

Sports

High Halstow Football Club

Manager –
Graham Beale



STOP PRESS:
Saturday's win (27th January) has put us in the semi-final for the Centenary Cup!

Date	Match	Team played			
18 Nov 17	League Div 4	UK Pavillion	3	High Halstow	5
25 Nov 17	League Div 4	Park Regis	1	High Halstow	3
02 Dec 17	League Div 4	Newtown Social	1	High Halstow	5
09 Dec 17	Sittingbourne & Milton Cup Qtr final	Borstal	2	High Halstow	4
16 Dec 17	League Div 4	Grain	2	High Halstow	6
06 Jan 18	Kent Cup round 4	Kings Hill	4	High Halstow	8
20 Jan 18	League Div 4	Pavillion Ath	2	High Halstow	6
28 Jan 18	Centenary Cup Semi Final	Park Regis	0	High Halstow	5

LEAGUE TABLE			
Table:	Fixtures:	Results:	
ADULT	DIVISION FOUR	Go	
Teams	P	GD	Pts
GRAIN	12	17	29
HIGH HALSTOW	10	26	25
UK PAVILLION	10	23	21
PARK REGIS	10	15	17
GOLDEN KNIGHTS UNITED	8	24	16
BORSTAL WANDERERS	9	6	16
NEWTOWN SOCIAL ATHLETIC	11	1	15
MEDWAY ATHLETIC	12	-34	10
MEDWAY BOROUGH RESERVES	4	27	8
PAVILLION ATHLETIC	12	-34	7

Photo courtesy of <https://www.leaguewebsite.co.uk/randd>

High Halstow Hikers

The significant overnight fall of snow had pretty much stopped by the time sixteen hardy souls began our December walk from High Halstow village hall. The weather made for some slippery spots on the paths so we had to carefully select our route around the village. We walked through the village and crossed Forge Common to take the main path (forming part of the Saxon Shoreway) through Northward Hill reserve. To avoid having any human toboggans down the steepish hill down to the marshes we took a zigzag route and arrived safely to pose for the photograph at the snow-covered raised area at Bromhey Farm that overlooks the lagoon by the old radio station. This area looked about as different as it could from that when it is covered with tents for the RSPB's popular overnight summer event.



We left the bird reserve by the main entrance/exit track and crossed Lipwell Hill at Eastborough Bungalow to walk along the farm track to Mount Pleasant and the excellent views over Cooling Court and Spendiff to the Thames and Gravesend several miles away. We took the bridge across the railway track and walked through the orchard to take the path back to the village through Wyborne's Farm.

This walk of about 5 miles in an excellent and varied one throughout the year and although it can be mucky along some of the routes it can be enjoyed by most people so long as they have good footwear and appropriate clothing.

It was made even better on the day we did it by gathering for seasonal eats and drinks where we reflected on our informal walking group having now ventured out together at monthly intervals for over 7 years.

Our February walk will be on Sunday 4th (note this is the first rather than the second Sunday) and will start from Lullingstone Country Park car park at 10.00. The Park is signposted after the entrance to Lullingstone Castle on the A225 on the way to Otford. The postcode is DA4 0JF. The walk mainly around the Park will be about 5 miles and involves some fairly gentle gradients.

As ever all are welcome to come along. Any queries can be made to **Mitchell on 01634-254428** or mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com.

For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Calendar

FEBRUARY	10 th Saturday	12:00 – 16:00	St Valentine Fayre	Chattenden Community Centre
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If you have an event coming up in High Halstow please email: Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk for inclusion

REGULAR DATES			
MONDAYS	Line Dancing	11:00-12:30	Memorial Hall
Alternate Mondays	Community Choir	20:00-21:00	St Margaret's Church
TUESDAYS	Kings Kitchen	10:00	Memorial Hall
	Pilates with Karen Watson	18:15-19:30	Memorial Hall
	Youth Club (subject to change)	19:00-20:45	Recreation Hall
	Bell Ringers	19:30-21:00	St Margaret's Church
WEDNESDAYS	Tai Chi	10:30-11:30	Memorial Hall
THURSDAYS	Seated Exercise	11:00-11:45	Memorial Hall
	Sugar Babes	19:00	Memorial Hall
	Pilates	14:00-15:00	Memorial Hall
SATURDAYS	Bowls Coaching	09:00-11.30	Deangate Bowls Club
	Karmann Dancers	09:00	Memorial Hall
	KLUK Martial Arts www.klukacademy.co.uk/hoo-village-hall	09:30	Memorial Hall
SUNDAYS	Holy Communion BCP	08:00	St Margaret's Church
	Deja Vu Spiritual Centre	18:30	Village Hall

Every 1 st WED	Knit and Natter	13:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 1 st WED	Women's Institute	19:30	Memorial Hall
Every 2 nd WED	Parish Council Meeting	20:00	Memorial Hall
Every 2 nd TUES	Gardening Club	20:00	Memorial Hall
Every 3 rd WED	Whist Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Every 4 th WED	Friendly Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Last FRI	Quiz Nights	20:00	Memorial Hall
1 st and 3 rd SUN	All Age Worship	09:30	St Margaret's Church
2 nd and 5 th SUN	Morning Prayer	09:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 4 th SUN	Family Communion	09:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 1 st SUN	Holy Communion	18:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 3 rd SUN	Informal Worship	18:30	St Margaret's Church
1 st and 3 rd SUN	Baptisms by arrangement	09:30	St Margaret's Church

Dogs fouling

Dog fouling laws are in place first and foremost because dog faeces are unsightly and unpleasant. Not only does it look and smell awful but it also causes a mess if you step in it, cycle through it, push a wheelchair through it, drive a mobility scooter through it or even worse fall in it.

If you then don't realise that you have stepped in it, there is a good chance that you will carry it and spread it, either outside in public areas or take it inside into public buildings, your place of work, your own home or someone else's home. On top of everything else therefore it is extremely anti-social.

Dog mess is also unhygienic and a health hazard. The danger caused by dog mess is greatly increased because dogs are most likely to be walked and therefore to also foul in areas where the general public, and in particular children walk and play such as parks on pavements and roadways, on footpaths and playing fields.

Dog mess can lead to Parvo, which is potentially fatal disease which is transferred between dogs but the key health issue with dog faeces is that it can lead to toxocariasis in humans.



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Contributions for March should be sent by 21st February to:

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