



High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

February 2012

Faster Broadband for Hoo Peninsula How You Can Help..

Kent County Council and Medway Council, working in partnership, are aiming for 90% of homes to have superfast broadband access by 2015, and for all to have access to a service of at least 2mb. Some £20m is being invested to make this happen

To achieve this ambition, there is a requirement for broadband service providers to invest and this requires Kent and Medway being able to demonstrate that there is a demand for a better service. As with all supply and demand driven services, the greater the demand, the more interest there will be for private sector investment.



HHT Editor

We are asking you to register your demand as it could make all the difference so please register your support here and encourage other users to do the same

To register your vote please visit High Halstow Website, www.highhalstow.org.uk and follow the link

Santa's Visit

The crowds came out in large numbers to see the Annual Visit of Santa Claus, Fairy George and all of Santa's Helpers on Christmas Eve.

This year the money raised, £778 will be split between:

- 1 Help for Heroes:
The charity set up to help wounded servicemen and women.
- 2 Cerebral Palsy Care, The Bradbury Centre, View Road, Cliffe Woods:
The organisation that was setup many years ago to provide both special need services and educational support to people of all ages who suffer from a wide range of disabilities.



More pictures on the High Halstow website:
www.highhalstow.org.uk

Farmers Market Returns: Saturday 4th February

Friendly Club

We shall be starting up again after the Christmas break and will be going out to lunch on Wednesday January 25th and next month February 22nd we shall be having our favourite game of Bingo, we also still have our usual games of cards, scrabble, and time to chat to our friends, plus of course our cups of tea and coffee and homemade cakes. We are hoping to go to the Isle of Wight in September, the 15th to the 22nd we shall be leaving the village by coach from the Recreation Hall and returning to the Hall at the end of the holiday, door to door, and the coach will be staying with us while away, if you would like to join us we would love to have you. The cost of the Holiday is £312.00 that includes the boat fare. If you are interested please give me a call on 250503 or 251242. I hope to hear from you.
Sheila Marchant and Judy Southwell

A New Year

Christmas seems a long time ago, but I can still hear the laughter and feel the hub of activity as we all tried our hands at making a floral display in a tin can. The results were pretty good and Hazel Kilburn kept us under control and brought out the best of our artistic!! skills. With her donated arrangements for the W.I. raffle we all went home with smiley faces. We began the new year with a social evening playing 'beetle' which is always fun--we are still young at heart. It also gave us more time to chat over tea and catch up with our news. We have played our first inter-district darts match, and to the disappointment of our opponents and our surprise, we won. We returned to a favourite venue for lunch, Deansgate Golf Club with half the members attending. As expected the food was excellent. We have been asked to provide teas etc for the exhibition in the school hall on 31st January. As usual I had plenty of offers of help from the members. We next meet on 1st February in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 when Stephen Gwilt will be our speaker. Entitled 'Spring has Sprung' it will no doubt be an interesting time.

Margaret Whitebread

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

NB: Wednesday mornings at the Memorial Hall are now free for bookings.

Happy New Year

Our Christmas Market was a great success thanks to your support in purchasing cakes Christmas decorations and the Pick a Duck, resulting in over £400 for the Hall fund. We also had a Quiz Night between Christmas and New Year which adds to the funds for our next project which is to redecorate the kitchen area.

Our thoughts are also on the Queen's Jubilee in June and will keep you advised and should any of the Groups who Hire the hall have any ideas please let us know.

Ann Smith

Angela Forward.

High Halstow Hikers

In December over 20 of us did a local walk through the bird reserve to Cooling and back via Cooling Court. Some snow flurries and a get together with yuletide fare after the walk added to the seasonal enjoyment. The January walk by 15 of our group went from Trottiscliffe village up to the top of the Downs and the Country Park. The spectacular views through the trees across the Weald were followed by a visit to the Neolithic Coldrum Barrow and Trottiscliffe's quaint old medieval church, which fortunately was open for visitors. Drinks in the Plough were well deserved. The February walk will be on Sunday 12th and will start at 10.00 in Sutton Valence. This village is reached by taking the A274 from Maidstone taking a left turn at the start of the hill into the High St where cars should be parked. Please gather by the old church in the village centre. The walk is 5 miles long through classic Kent countryside with what has been described as having a French feel to Ulcombe. The return has some lovely views from the Greensand Way. There is one modest slope and some of the paths may be a bit muddy this time of year so make sure you wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Other walks in the first part of 2012 are listed below. All are Sundays with expected start times of 10.00 am. Full details of each will appear in the HH Times immediately preceding the respective walk.

11th March Brickhouse Farm (between St Mary's and Allhallows) to River Thames and St Mary's Bay
15th April Upnor and Medway walk

13th May Cranbrook and Sissinghurst

10th June To be announced

8th July High Halstow to Egypt Bay (repeats the first walk of our group as requested by many)

For further details please contact Mitchell at mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or on 01634 254428.

URGENT APPEAL

OUTDOOR GYM

The Parish Council applied to Sport England under the Olympic Legacy scheme for funding for an outdoor gym for the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately our bid was unsuccessful but we failed on only one section and are being encouraged to resolve this and to re-submit. This will have to be done by the end of March.

The section was "Impact". The equipment would be open to all, all the time, in the same way the children's play equipment is permanently available. However they were concerned that without some more formal use, which is more easily measurable, the gym would be a "white elephant". Having discussed the situation with Sport England, we are now appealing to you, to help us "beef up" the impact section. Without your support we'll have no chance of getting the grant, which would be a real lost opportunity. Listed below are some ideas and we would appreciate your help.

- Keep Fit Club. A club could organise regular sessions. Numbers of those taking part would demonstrate the equipment was being used.

- Fitness trainer. Are you a qualified fitness trainer? Would you like to arrange regular sessions?

- Sports clubs. A request from you to "book" the gym for club training on a regular basis, once the gym was installed, would add to the support you previously gave us.

If you can help with any of the above or have further ideas, please contact Cllr Chris Watson on 256529 or the Clerk on 01474 871269 or at clerk@highhalstow.org.uk to discuss how we can progress further.

We are also applying for a grant for equipment for the under 5s to enhance the playpark. We're approaching Mothers and Toddlers and the Pre-school but if you have any children under 5 in your care and would like some play items aimed especially at them, would you please write to us, either using the Clerk's email or dropping a letter in to Chris (8 Drayton Close). To obtain funding we have to demonstrate need.

Many thanks.



4x4 ?

Last year in the thick snow a number of people found getting the essentials, like prescriptions, very difficult indeed. To try and avoid that this year I am making a list of people who have 4x4's and are willing and able to help in an emergency. If that is you and your around during the day, please give me a ring on 250637, or send me an email to stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk and I will add you to the list of volunteers. Thank you, Rev Stephen Gwilt

Stuck in the snow ?

If you're infirm and unable to get out in the event of a heavy snow fall and you need help collecting a prescription or essential food stuffs please give me a ring, depending on the number of volunteers it may be possible to offer some help.
Rev Stephen Gwilt 250637.



Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee is looking for new members to join the committee and help decide the future of the hall. If you are interested then please contact Gary Thomas, gary@highhalstow.org.uk



Has your heating packed up ? Feeling cold ?

The High Halstow Relief in Need charity has a small number of brand new oil filled, electric radiators. We are happy to make one or more of these available on loan till your heating is repaired. Don't get cold this year, Give us a Ring and let us know what you need. Rev Stephen Gwilt 250637

Village Hall Refurbishment Phase One

Phase One of the refurbishment works should be finished at the time of going to press. The works took a little longer due to an issue with the roof but this has been successfully resolved. Spencer Francis, the builders who carried out the work, have kindly installed temporary stairs to the new room, which was a bonus. This room will be used for storage until a later time when permanent stairs, rewiring etc. will be carried out for this room.

The Hall Committee would like to thank all those responsible for ensuring that we have got to this stage, in particular the Parish Council, for its kind grant



In addition to the planned work carried out by Spencer Francis, a tremendous amount of work has also been carried out in completing a painting programme. This has seen the main hall (including ceiling), the doctor's waiting room and corridor completely painted. This was able to happen due to the following:

- 1 An anonymous donation to the Hall Committee which enabled the works to be undertaken
- 2 Some free paint being supplied by the builders as well as the use of their scaffolding tower
- 3 A party of volunteers who gave up a many hours to ensure all the works completed on time
- 4 Ray Collins who managed this and gave up a tremendous amount of time to see all the works completed to such a high standard

For all of this the Hall Committee are extremely grateful

We hope you like it and believe the work worthwhile. What next I hear you ask, well work is underway to secure funding for Phase Two, which will be for the following, new doctor's surgery, refurbished library, new toilets (including facilities for the disabled), rewiring, plumbing and heating

Why not come along and see for yourself the improvements made by coming to the next Farmers Market on Saturday 4th February. See details of this elsewhere in this months HHT

Since the works have been undertaken the Committee has already noticed an increase in the number of family related parties which helps with the sustainability of the hall. In addition a new club, Zumba on a Monday Night has started with over 60 people attending the first one and we wish it every success.

Thank you all for your past and we hope continued support

Hall Committee

High Halstow and District Gardening Club



AGM - Tuesday 14th February

Our AGM is at 8pm on Tuesday 14 February at the Memorial Hall in High Halstow. To add cheer to the proceedings there will be wine and cheese followed by a gardening quiz. **The winner of the raffle will receive 2 tickets for the Hampton Court Flower Show in July**, a prize worth having! Please come and join us and remember to bring you £5 annual subscription with you! We have many exciting events planned for 2012!

New members are welcome to join, come along and find out more about we do or contact Gwen Bucknall on 01634 250456 from 14th February onwards.

ANNUAL DINNER – Friday 17th February

Our Annual Dinner is being held at the Village Restaurant at the top of Bells Lane (the old BP Club) and promises to be a highly convivial evening. Please arrive between 6.30 – 7pm with dinner commencing at 7.30pm.

There is a choice of starters and sweets and we need to advise the Chef of your choices in advance please. Either let us know at the AGM or telephone Margaret Shuter on 01634 251196 to let her know what you would like. The main course will be a carvery.

Starters

Leek and potato soup
Prawn cocktail
Chicken liver pate with toat and chutney

Sweets

Apple and blackberry crumble and custard
Lemon and raspberry brule
Fresh fruit salad

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Gwen Bucknall

RESUME OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2012

It may seem a bit late, but Happy New Year to you all.

One of the most important items on the agenda for the January meeting was the planning application for the Lodge Hill development. The meeting was chaired by Gary Thomas, as the Chairman was unable to attend, but George had prepared a draft response which was considered by the councillors. Some minor additions were made. The submission is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. The plans are the developer's ideas of what they want to do with the site. The Lodge Hill Development Brief that was considered at the end of last year is Medway Council's vision for what they want to see on the site and has now been adopted by them. The developer's plans will be matched up with the development brief. All this sounds rather technical in planning terms but it's important not to muddle the two up. The fact they were considered at almost the same time made things rather confusing.

The other important item was adoption of the budget for 2012/13 and the precept. The precept is the amount raised from your council tax. It is collected by Medway Council but passed on to the parish Council. The Parish Council has not increased the precept, keeping it at £40,000. This in spite of inflation being about 4½%.

I hope you will already have read our appeal for help to overcome the final hurdle of obtaining funding for an outdoor gym on the Recreation Ground. A quotation was accepted to construct a proper hard area in front of the kickwall and some repairs to the surface under the rock'n'cross will be done.

Parking issues throughout the village were raised. These included parking on pavements, forcing those with prams, wheelchairs or disability scooters onto the road (the pavement is for the safety of people; the road is for cars – not the other way about); parking by the pub and church; parking in the Street by the side of 1 Goodwood Close and up to the junction of the two streets, making turning in or out of Longfield Avenue difficult and sometimes dangerous. This is not just parking related to the new house being built next to Heronsbank – there were 4 cars and a van with trailer parked in this position at 9 o'clock the other evening. We would urge you to think about the implications to other people of where you leave your car and to try to be considerate.

Finally, Josh Gordon is setting up a committee for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. He will be in touch with village organisations, but if you're interested in helping, or co-ordinating your own plans, please get in touch with him.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th February, in the Memorial Hall at 8 pm.



Help

I want your old Wood !

Do you have any old or unwanted wood ?
New or old, Long or short lengths, any profile and any size, soft wood, hard wood anything over about 2 foot long, batons, scaffold planks, off cuts whatever you have as long as it is clean and relatively nail free. I also need plywood, hardboard, chip board, MDF or OSB any thickness or size. All for making games and equipment for next years garden party. I will happily come and collect it or you can drop it off at the rectory any time.

Thank you Rev Stephen Gwilt
01634 250637

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. 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 |
| Mrs M. Bufford | - 34 Christmas Lane |
| Mrs D. West | - 14 Cooling Road |
| Mr J. Myatt | - Decoy Hill Road |
| Mr B. Prichard | - 9 Drayton Close |



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Further response to Medway Council
Re Lodge Hill development MC/11/2516

Sirs

We are objecting to the proposals for the development at Lodge Hill and are dismayed to read some of the submissions and comment to the outline planning application MC/11/2516 for around 5000 homes (estimated 12500 people) at Lodge Hill

You will appreciate that as ordinary people we are in no way experts in planning matters, let alone qualified to understand what is required to set up a completely new town. We therefore approach our reaction to the application with common sense and some degree of negative skepticism.

In the entire time since 1947 that the Peninsula has been under the spot light as a potential site for an airport for London, Governments and developers have paid little attention to true environmental importance of the Area or its position in, and value to biodiversity in the wider North Kent Marshes and global bird migratory routes. In 1972 Eldon Griffiths MP (Con, Bury St Edmunds), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, referred to the Maplin Sands scheme as the "world's first environmental airport".

In 2008, Mayor Boris Johnson said that it was "ever more urgent that we investigate the possibility of a long-term solution, in the form of a new and more eco-friendly international airport at a site in the Thames estuary". The 2009 Oakervee report referred to a 'green airport' in the estuary.

It is unsurprising therefore that we read from KCC that Land Securities have paid scant attention to the value of biodiversity present at Lodge Hill in relation to items listed below.

1. Areas they recommend for retention for True fox sedge not being on the plans.
2. Inadequate information given for the protection of Chattenden Woods SSSI.
3. Given the variety of habitats available on the site, it is likely that there are areas of the site that would fall into BAP habitat and it is not clear whether the potential importance of these areas has been recognised and adequately assessed.
4. Only Three site surveys were undertaken. The Natural England Research Report (NERR005) advises that "a reasonably thorough survey of a terrestrial habitats can be made through seven visits at monthly intervals from April to October" For a site the size of Lodge hill we would consider three visits inadequate.
5. Given the size of the site with some thirty four ponds we doubt that all great crested newts are part of the same metapopulation.
6. In their Masterplan for Amphibians the proposal will result in the loss of nine great crested newt and common toad breeding ponds and eight additional ponds 49.8 hectares of terrestrial habitat with 250m of existing great crested newt ponds will be lost. which are protected under the Conservation of Species and habitats regulations 2010.
7. Mitigation and compensation are proposed but the detail is inadequate.
8. The reptile surveys have not been carried out using best practice guidelines and there is insufficient information available to assess the impact on reptile populations.
9. The survey has indicated a large number of wintering bird using the site. There is currently insufficient consideration on the increase in the numbers of people will have on the numbers of wintering birds using the site.
10. Insufficient information has been provided to adequately assess the potential impact on breeding birds using the site
11. Insufficient number of Nightingale territories have been recorded within the site.
12. Insufficient information has been provided to adequately assess the potential impact on Bat populations within the site.
13. Insufficient information has been provided to adequately assess the potential impact on dormice populations within the site.

Read submission letter 143

at <http://planning.medway.gov.uk/donline/AcolNetCGI.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgDoc&TheSystemkey=124463>

You will appreciate that the A228 is the main and only major access road for the peninsula's entire population, International container port, 4 or 5 power stations,

major LNG facility, and many other road dependent businesses. A new town housing an extra 12,500 people at its mouth, with no provision for separate access to the M2 / A2 or Medway towns renders it critical in terms of traffic flow.

The Highways Agency note :-

The transport assessment indicates that the A2/M2 will suffer a material impact from the proposed development.

1. Due to errors within the capacity assessments presented of A2 / M2 junction 1, these are not able to be acceptable. These should be reviewed, corrected and revised assessments presented to the Highways Agency.

2. The assessments currently presented do however indicate that element of the A2 / M2 junction 1, interchange will be overloaded. The transport Assessment has suggested that potentially a ramp metering scheme could be introduced for the A289 approach. A potential layout and assessment of this scheme has not however been presented. If the applicants wish to take forward this option, further details and evidence supporting such a response will need to be provided.

3. The Transport assessment suggests that the operation of the Junction 1, westbound diverge will be monitored to see whether upgrade is required. It is not clear how the upgrade will be monitored and funded. Therefore further information should be provided.

4. We also consider that the developer should provide details of the additional trips that are predicted to be generated by the proposed development at M2 junctions 2 and 3, both on the mainline carriageways, the slip roads and turning movements at the junctions. If the development traffic flows at these junctions exceeds 30 two way vehicle trips in an hour, junction and merge / diverge capacity assessments should be undertaken. The requirements is in accordance with the Highways Agency Protocol for dealing with Planning applications.

(read submission letter 115

at <http://planning.medway.gov.uk/donline/AcolNetCGI.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeDocs&TheSystemkey=124463>

Further The Design and Access or other statements do not fully demonstrate how crime prevention measures have been considered.

If the submission is successful we would welcome an assurance from Medway council that the infrastructure indicated in the proposal is delivered in a timely manner so as not to cause disruption to the infrastructure already in place in nearby villages. That road access to the site is up and running before building begins.

It is not clear what the impact is on the A228 should there be an incident which causes partial or total closure of this road. What is the contingency plan being put into place should an incident occur? Please note we have been asking for this information now prior to any development at Lodge Hill and want to know what are the contingency plans irrespective of any development.

The extension to the consultation period has allowed further objects to be raised we note however that Land Securities appear not to have used this time to disseminate information about the proposed development. The general feeling of this council is that they have failed to consult positively to sufficient members of the communities on the peninsula.

No consideration has been identified for any S106 issues and would want to know how this would be addressed in relation to our Parish

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of High Halstow Council

George Crozer
Chairman

Mower Medic +

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High Halstow Parish Council Precept

The Parish Council is pleased to announce no change in the Parish Precept for the coming year. Please find below the details of how the budget is to be spent

High Halstow Budget Approved January 2012

<u>Budget Heading</u>	<u>2011/12 Revised Budget</u>	<u>2012/13 Draft Budget</u>	<u>Comment</u>
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>			
Clerks Fees	6,192	6,192	£515.96 per month
Clerks Expenses	600	600	Mileage £55 per month
Street Cleaning Wages	13,392	13,794	2010/11 Plus 3% (increment and payrise)
Handyman's Wages	500	500	Provision
Employees Tax & NI	2,600	2,652	2011/12 plus 2%
Street Cleaners Expenses	500	200	Included litter bins for 2011/12
Handyman reimburseable expenses	150	150	Provision. Nil to December 2010
Training	400	150	Provision 2011/12 included Play Park training
Payroll Clerk	200	200	Provision
Sub Total	24,534	24,437	
<u>Administration</u>			
Insurance	1,715	1,715	The Parish Council have signed for a three year fixed period
Audit Fee	550	561	
Telephone	320	320	
Subscriptions	650	650	This includes KALC/SLCC/ACRK/Villager
Chairmans Allowance	400	400	Provision
Hall Hire	200	200	
Miscellaneous Administration Costs	600	600	
Publications	50	50	Provision
Web Site	100	100	
Election	0	2,000	Includes money set aside previous years
Sub Total	4,585	6,596	
<u>Rent</u>			
Garage Rent	800	816	
Sub Total	800	816	
<u>Grants</u>			
Section 137	500	500	Provision
Other Grants	500	500	Provision
Sub Total	1,000	1,000	
<u>High Halstow Times</u>			
Printing	4,400	4,400	
Editor	100	100	
Sub Total	4,500	4,500	
<u>Green Spaces</u>			
Grass Cutting Contract	16,193	16,517	
Hedge maintenance	3,000	3,000	
Other non contract costs	2,000	2,000	
Tree Maintenance	0	1,500	
General Maintenance - Forge Common	0	2,000	
Sub Total	21,193	25,017	
<u>Playground</u>			
ROSPA Inspection	122	130	
Playground Maintenance	500	500	
Playground Equipment	10,000	5,000	
Sub Total	10,622	5,630	
<u>Highways/Footpaths</u>			
Bus Shelters	0	20,000	Includes £15,000 from previous years
Speedwatch/Gating	0	5,000	Includes £3,000 from previous years
Sub Total	0	25,000	
<u>Trailer</u>			
Trailer Maintenance	250	250	
Sub Total	250	250	
<u>Village Projects</u>			
Village Hall	68,000	10,000	
Church		5,000	
Ditch	5,900	0	Funded by Rural Liaison Grant
Notice Board Maintenance	100	100	
Bromhey	300	300	
Allotment Fence	2,695	0	
Project Day	250	250	
Cricket Fence	250	250	Provision for ongoing repairs
Youth Projects	0	4,000	Provision. Includes Youth Provision from previous years
Car Park Posts	1,000	0	
Airport Contingency	0	3,500	
Diamond Jubilee	0	2,000	
All Weather Path	0	3,000	Reserve to be built up to consider all weather path to Ruggles Close
Sub Total	78,495	28,400	
<u>Contingency</u>			
Working Contingency	0	1,344	Provision
Long Term Contingency	0	24,000	
Sub Total	0	25,344	

Total Expenditure	145,979	146,990	
Income			
Precept	-40,000	-40,000	Assuming No Increase
Bank Interest	-550	-300	Reduced due to use of Hall Reserve
Rural Liaison	-8,595	0	Not none what available 2012/123 so assumed nil
High Halstow Times Advertising Income	-900	-900	£470 to end of September
			Reduction due to Medway Council taking responsibility for Dux Court/Britannioa Road, Christmas Lane (past the footpaths) and bottom of Cooling Road
Street Cleaning	-16,898	-14,398	
Grass Cutting Contract	-16,026	-16,026	
Allotments	-60	-90	£10 per year
Recreation Ground - EDF Wayleave	-10	-10	
Sub Total	-83,039	-71,724	
Surpluses Brought Forward			
Long Term Contingency	-40,000	-40,000	
Buffer Zone	-14,699	-14,699	
Hall Monies	-58,000	0	Money spent 2011/12
Bus Shelters	-10,000	-15,000	
Speed Watch		-3,000	
Youth		-2,000	
Other	-11,752	-567	
VAT Recovered	-3,755		
Sub Total	-138,206	-75,266	
Total Income	-221,245	-146,990	
Total	-75,266	0	

High Halstow Youth Club

We haven't sent a report to HHT for quite some time, so we thought it was time for an update from the Youth Club. While the Recreation Hall was closed for its refurbishment we were fortunate enough to be able to keep the Youth Club going and use the School premises for our Club evenings. This worked out very well for us and we are very grateful to Mrs Sanford for giving us permission and for making us feel welcome at the school. We were able to continue with our indoor football, our tuck shop and the ever popular electronics sessions, though unfortunately we could not continue with the table tennis or table football; these activities will be reintroduced as soon as is possible.

In January when we started again after our Christmas and New Year break, we went back to the Recreation Hall, even though one of the rooms was still out of bounds. It was good to be back, especially with the new decoration in the main hall and our storage space that we missed so much while using the school.

The area we could use at the school was smaller than we were used to, so our membership numbers in September had to remain lower than would be usual for that time of year. However, once we have full use of all the rooms at the Hall we plan to take in the children at the top of our Waiting List and increase our numbers again. We are sorry that these children have had to wait so long to join the Club but perhaps they will appreciate it even more having had to be so patient!

The next new intake of children after this, is planned for after Easter, when we return in mid April. With increasing numbers of children we, naturally, need to have more adult helpers to supervise them. Some of our adult helpers do come and help every week and we are extremely thankful that these people are so committed to the Club. But we also have a rota for adult helpers who prefer to come only every so often; everyone makes up their own mind how much of their time they wish to commit. So if you feel you could help the Youth Club by giving some of your time to come and supervise our lovely bunch of children (they are loud sometimes, but they really are lovely!!) please get in touch and we will arrange for you to visit. We can also arrange a CRB check for you, free of charge, if you don't already have one.

Many thanks,
Chris Peek 01634 252604 (email: chris.peek@lineone.net)
and Lesley Munday 01634 250276

Kent Police

101 The New Non Emergency Number

You can now call Kent Police for non-urgent issues on **101**. The number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To make it quicker and easier for the public to get in contact with their local police, 101 has been introduced in England and Wales. It gives a single, easy-to-remember number to call to report crime and other issues which do not require an emergency response.

You can also call 101 to speak to your local neighbourhood officer, to make a general enquiry or to make us aware of a policing issue where you live.

What classes as an emergency?

Calling 101 for situations that do not require an immediate police response helps keep 999 available for when there is an emergency. An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or a life is at risk, or there is a traffic incident involving personal injury or danger.

Each call to 101 will never cost more than 15 pence - no matter what time of day you call, how long your call lasts or even if you call from a mobile. We do not receive any of the call cost.

Frequently asked questions

Why was 101 introduced?

The British Crime Survey in 2010 found that only 54% of the public knew how to contact their local force. The 101 number offers the public an easy way to contact their local police force.

101 has been rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales and means people only have two numbers to remember, whichever county they are in when they need to call the police – **999 in an emergency, 101 when it's not urgent.**

When should I call 101?

You can call 101 to report crime that has already happened and other incidents or concerns that do not require an emergency response.

For example:

- If your car been stolen
- If property has been damaged
- If you suspect drug use or dealing
- To report a minor traffic collision
- To report any other incident that doesn't require an immediate response
- To give us information about crime or criminals in your local area

You can also call 101 if you simply want to talk to your local police officer or a member of

police staff - you will be connected to the relevant person via our switchboard.

What benefits does 101 provide?

Using 101 for situations which do not require an immediate police response helps keep 999 available for when there is an emergency.

We hope introducing a simple and easy to remember number - 101 - makes it easier for people to contact us and reduces the number of inappropriate 999 calls received.

You should only call 999 when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

How does 101 work?

Your mobile phone signal or landline area code determines which police force you are directed to. If you are calling from within one mile of a force boundary you will be given options of nearby police forces so you can choose.

Will I be put through to a national call centre?

No, all calls to Kent Police on 101 are answered by police call handlers in our Force Control Room in Maidstone, Kent. Calls may be recorded for training, development, evidential and public safety reasons.

Will 101 replace 999?

No, 101 is the national non-emergency number. 999 continues to be the number to dial when you need to report an emergency.

999 should only be used for real emergencies – when a crime is in progress, offenders are nearby, someone is injured or being threatened, a life is at risk, or there is a traffic incident involving injury or danger.

What happens if I call 101 but it is an emergency situation?

If you call 101 and we believe you need an emergency response, our trained call handlers will put you through to 999 for immediate assistance.

Come and Meet Members of the Parish Council

One or two councillors will be holding regular “Surgeries” on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

WHERE: Kings Kitchen, Memorial Hall

STARTING: 14th February 2012

TIME: 10.30 AM – 12.00PM



Why not come along and discuss any issues you have or to find out what we are doing in the Parish. It's a good opportunity to have your say.

Why not have some refreshments while you're there (or not). We're really looking forward to meeting with lots of you, and hopefully answering some of your questions.

There is also a chance to meet with councillors at the Farmers markets.

Christine Watson – High Halstow Parish Councillor

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	
09:30	Memorial Hall
Sugar Babes	
19:00	Memorial Hall
Every Saturday	
Karmann Dancers	
09:00	Memorial Hall

Other Dates

Wednesday 1st	Women's Institute
19:30	Memorial Hall
Friday 3rd	Red Dog Golf Society
	Details from the Red Dog
Friday 3rd	Youth Night
19:00	Memorial Hall
Saturday 4th	Farmers Market
9:30 - 11:00	Village Hall
Sunday 5th	Family Service
09:00	St. Margaret's Church
Wednesday 8th	Parish Council
20:00	Memorial Hall
Saturday 11th	Project 90
8:30	Village Hall
Sunday 12th	High Halstow Hikers
	Details in HHT
Friday 24th	Quiz Night
20:00	Memorial Hall

Project 90

Project 90 started again in January and plans to meet the Saturday after the Parish Council meeting. January saw the usual litter hot spots dealt with, along with an inspection of the playpark, cricket fence, and the bus shelter at Eden Road. In addition there was a partial cleaning of the drains at the back of the Village Hall

From April, Medway Council will be taking over responsibility of cleaning Dux Court, Cooling Road, Britannia Road and Christmas Lane (once passed the footpaths). As a result with all these roads spick and span there will be a need to fill this time with other activities to help improve our Village. Do you have any ideas, if so please let the Parish Council know

We meet at 8.30am in the Village Car park and after the 90 minutes or so have a drink and cake so why not come along each month and do your bit in keeping the Village something to be proud of.

A New Family Service



Great stories, fun action songs, arts & crafts, crazy puppets, video's, musical instruments, flags and fun for the whole family as well as a time to reflect, learn and worship together as God's family. So why not come and join us and find out what God has to say about his purpose for our lives.



1st & 3rd Sunday
of the month,
Starts 4th Sept
9:30am High Halstow
11:00am Allhallows

Come and put the JOY back into life

Zumba Classes

FUN latin dance fitness classes for all ages/sizes/ability's!

High Halstow Village Hall

Mon 7.00pm

(Starting 16th January First class 2 for 1
so will be £2.50 each with a friend)

Cliffe Scouts Hut

Mon 8.30pm + Thurs 7.30pm

Cliffe Memorial Hall

Wed 9.30am

Cliffe Woods Community Centre

Weds 8.30pm

Classes £5

Any further info please contact 07746 082 182



Jonathan Computers

Contact Jonathan directly on the Office No: 01474 879878 or

Freephone: 0800 321 38 79 Mobile No: 07905 120 557

Web: www.jonathancomputers.co.uk

Email: sales@jonathancomputers.co.uk

Based in High Halstow so will be quick to respond



Computer problems solved quickly and cheaply...with a friendly face

- ☐ Speed up Slow computers (to very quick)
- ☐ Fix Broadband connection issues
- ☐ Optimise & Speed Up Your Broadband
- ☐ Upgrade your computer to Windows 7
- ☐ Data and Hard Drive Destruction
- ☐ Vista back to Windows XP
- ☐ Virus removal, Data Transfer & Recovery
- ☐ Set Up Network Printing On Computers
- ☐ On Site Install of Computer Equipment
- ☐ Supply of Cheap Reconditioned Pc's
- ☐ Memory and Hard Drive Storage Upgrades
- ☐ New PC and Laptop Power Supplies

Do you want some training on using a computer?

- ☐ I Can offer help with One-To-One Training, Beginners to Advanced
- ☐ Set Up Skype Accounts
- ☐ Set Up your Existing Emails Or create New Ones for you
- ☐ Set Up the internet on New PC's
- ☐ Set Up New Pc's & Laptops (Even if purchased from elsewhere!)
- ☐ Learn eBay, Amazon Etc.

**I Am Based In
High Halstow
So Can Be Quick
To Respond**

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.

Regards
Jonathan

Let's Hear from You

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.? etc

In terms of recent history, were you at a recent event in the village, did you enjoy the recent film shows ? Let us know your tales so we can publish in the HHT and or the website. It would be great to hear from you!!

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, which will be published alongside the letter. 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. Items should be sent to editor@highhalstow.org.uk

The Village Shop

LONGER Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm
Sunday 8am – 2pm
New Telephone number: 01634 254561

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.

Learn

GUITAR

Professional guitarist and guitar teacher offers 1 to 1 tuition. All ages and abilities welcome. Graduate of London Guitar Institute and playing experience includes The Who and Robbie Williams. Can inc practical, grades & theory.

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS AND DEALS AVAILABLE
HOME VISITS OR AT HOME STUDIO IN CHRISTMAS LANE

Call Matthew 07967 125091



High Halstow Pre-school

Modular Building, Primary School, Harrison Drive,
High Halstow, Rochester, Kent. ME3 8TF
01634 255088

Proprietor/Manager Mrs Anita Russell BA (Hons), 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.

Ring 01634 255088

Clothes for Charity Weekend

A local animal rescue sanctuary is holding a
Clothes for Charity weekend to raise funds to
help feed the 100+ animals in its care.

Anim-Mates, based at St Mary Hoo, is
appealing for good quality clothing and towels,
but not bedding, to be handed in at either drop-
off point:

The Fenn Bell Inn pub, St Mary Hoo or
31 Church Farm Close, Hoo, ME3 9AY
10, 11, 12 February.

Contact Sue on 01634 254172
for further details

PROJECT 90

90 minutes spent improving
the village

The next Project 90 will be
Saturday 11th February
8:30am - 10:00am

Village Hall Car Park

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](http://highhalstow.org.uk/business-page) where you can find all the details of how
to put your business on the site.



TIME A N D TIDES



A local history and community arts project for the villages of Cuxton, High Halstow and Upnor

Have you ever wondered what your village was like in the past?

Have you ever wondered who has lived here before you?

TIME & TIDES offers the opportunity for communities to research their local history and take part in arts and drama activities.

To launch the project, we will be holding a series of taster sessions in each village. Come along and see objects from the Rochester Guildhall museum or get up close and personal with old archive documents.

To find out more about the project and how to get involved, drop in and meet the team – refreshments and activities for all age groups will be provided!

Cuxton

Tues 24 Jan 3.00 - 7.00pm Cuxton Junior School Hall
Sat 28 Jan 9.15 - 11.30am Cuxton Junior School Hall

High Halstow

Tues 31 Jan 3.00 - 7.00pm High Halstow Primary School Hall
Sat 4 Feb 9.30 - 11.30am High Halstow Village Hall - with a Farmers Market too!

Upnor

Sat 4 Feb 2.00 - 6.00pm Kings Arms Pub, 2 High Street, Upnor
Fri 10 Feb 6.00 - 10.00pm Kings Arms Pub, 2 High Street, Upnor

Refreshments and activities for all age groups will be provided!



Contact: Nicola Waddington nicola@icontheatre.org.uk
01634 813 179 www.timeandtidesproject.blogspot.com

Photographs used with kind permission of Medway Council,
Medway Archives & Local Studies Centre

ICON
THEATRE

Medway
Serving You

 **heritage
lottery fund**
LOTTERY FUNDED

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

I would refer you to an edition of the High Halstow Times dated August 2010.

I think it would be fair to say that the whole village were pleased to read the front page, in particular - namely about the Red Dog being reopened as a 'Traditional Country Pub'. The article further went on to say that it would be a traditional country style pub and restaurant and that TV's, pool tables would be taken out to fit in with the ambience the new people were trying to achieve.

Well from my point of view, and others that I have spoken to this has not been achieved and it is very sad. It would be fair to say it looked much fresher inside with new tables etc. but as far the typical country pub was concerned this did not come to fruition. For several months it was freezing cold - gone was the roaring fire, the local WI could not play their darts there etc. The food was far more in keeping with a good restaurant and not a country pub that served Ploughmans, Roasts etc.

I am sure that Mr & Mrs Atkinson must have been pleased with the support from the village for the fund raising they did for Cancer Research with the Hog Roast, but the village lost it's 'local' where people popped in for a pint and a chat or Sunday Lunch. Indeed we have had two temporary closures due to licensing problems and further it closed last Sunday early due to an incident. And now it is not opening during the week until 4pm. Lunch time at our local has vanished for a snack.

We now have found out why the sign of the Red Dog swinging in the breeze was missing - it was being sign written with the name of a new organisation taking over the Restaurant. I can assure you I am not opposed to a curry and the people concerned have a good name but what happened to what Mr Atkinson promised us and I am sure he advised the Trustees of the Red Dog he was aiming for.

Sorry but Traditional Country Pub it is not - we have been sadly let down.

Oonagh Elliott
Forge Lane

Dear HHT,

A Nappy Appeal

Many mornings in the past months, I have opened my curtains to find my garden covered in shredded nappies and baby wipes. I live in Harrison Drive, and we have foxes visit our garden overnight - we have found dog toys, bones, muddy towels, the odd sock or glove and even half a pheasant! But the nappy seems to be the favourite lately.

As my garden backs on to the those in Thames Avenue, Northwood and Longfield, I don't know who the nappy supplier is.

I ask, PLEASE can you dispose of your baby nappies properly in a solid, lidded bin, its not a pleasant job collecting pieces of solid nappy & baby wipes. Thank You

Jacqui Horsley
Harrison Drive

PAUL HUGHES
Double Glazing Repairs
NO CALL OUT CHARGE FREE ESTIMATES

- Misted Units Replaced •
- Cracked Units Replaced •
- Broken Hinges •
- Cat Flaps Fitted •
- Locks Repaired •
- Damaged Handles •
- Doors Re-Adjusted •
- Windows Fitted •



M: 07815 948637
H: 01634 256631

Readers Letters

WENDY DAVIDSON.

I wish to Thank everyone for their kind thoughts on the loss of Wendy on 22nd November 2011, and to Gill Ellen and Paul Howden in making her funeral a nice although sad occasion.

As Wendy's friends will know, she was very fond of all animals and birds, therefore instead of floral tributes donations to the local animal sanctuary ANIMATES were requested in her memory and gratefully received.

Dear HHT,

The Best One Yet

Congratulations to Dramarama for putting on such a fabulous production of Aladdin. Yet again we have come away with aching sides from so much laughter. The cast, costumes, singing etc. were absolutely brilliant. We mustn't forget a plaudit for the behind the scenes people who make it all possible; the lighting, sound, scenery and costume makers, and last but not least, Lesley for her prompts. A special mention must be made for Gary Thomas for his debut performance, hopefully a larger part to come.

We are very lucky in High Halstow to have such a talented bunch of amateurs, and for those who don't support them you don't know what you have missed!

Bravo Dramarama, can't wait for the next production.

Pat and Malcolm Coomber

A Towering Challenge

A sponsored abseil to raise funds for St James Church Cooling will be held at Burham Church Nr. Rochester on Saturday 17th March registration forms can be obtained from Alison Bucknall 01634 220204, it will be run by a recognised company and instruction will be given on the day, hurry to book your place as they are selling quickly £10 registration fee.

Many Thanks

Alison Bucknall.

Dear HHT

I am amazed that there has not been an accident at the junction of The Street and Longfield Avenue. For some unknown reason certain residents have chosen to park their vehicles directly opposite the turning into Longfield Avenue. Notwithstanding that this is against the highway code it is extremely dangerous and makes it very difficult for any vehicle, large or small, to either turn into or out of Longfield Avenue. Just a couple of days ago I followed an MTS Tanker which had real problems in navigating the parked cars on one side of the road and the bollard on the other side. Could the owners of these cars not find a less dangerous place to park?

Mike Dodd

Name and Address Supplied

Please note that from December 2011, all letters published will show the name and part address of the author.

Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you wish to apply for the position please contact the Parish Clerk.

Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, Chair	01634 250286
e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk	
Gary Thomas, Vice Chair	01634 252812
e.mail: gary.thomas@highhalstow.org.uk	
Martin Andrews	07984 791029
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Josh Gordon	07753 212179
Gary Jerreat	01634 253999
Lesley Munday	01634 250276
Christine Watson	01634 256529

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269

Next edition March 2012; Contributions for March should be sent by 22nd February to:

Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ
or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk

Welcome Back to High Halstow Farmers Market



After its enforced break due to the Village Hall refurbishment the Village Hall Committee are pleased to announce the return of the popular Farmers Market

Saturday 4th February

Times 09.30 - 11.30

**Come and see the works that have been carried out in
the refurbishment programme**

Speak to a local Parish Councillor re any issues you may have

Welcome back the stall holders who continually support the Hall

Enter the raffle to win a voucher worth £30 at Denis Hills The Butchers

Meet Faruk from Spice Fusion and try a taster

Other local groups – have you considered using this event to raise money for your group? If so book a stall and contact Michelle (Tel on 254121) for a space

High Halstow Farmers Market 4th February 2012
******* Special Promotional Voucher *******

On production of this voucher the individual will be entitled to :

One free cup of tea or coffee along with a cake or cheese scone

Only One Voucher per person