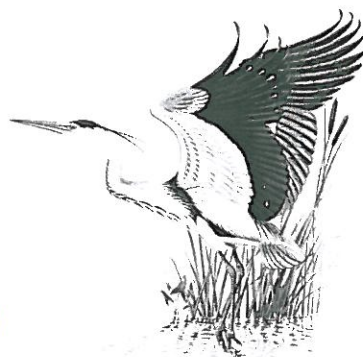


High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

March 2009

Rural Housing Needs Survey

A housing needs survey is planned for the village this Spring. The survey seeks to gather information from people about their current housing situation, and to find out if they or their family members are looking to move in the next few years.

The survey has been planned and organised by Medway Council officers in the housing and planning departments, in conjunction with Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK).

Survey forms will be sent out to all households before Easter, and residents will have a few weeks to complete and return the survey form.

The information will be used to understand the specific housing needs of people living in Medway's villages. It will be used by planning and housing officers in making provision for new homes, to ensure that there is the right number, type and mix to meet the needs of rural communities. The information given on the form will be treated as confidential, and the survey does not collect personal details, such as name or address.

For more information, please contact Richard Hall, Rural Housing Enabler at Rural Kent on telephone 01303 813790 or Russell Drury, in the Housing team at Medway Council.

High Halstow Village Hall Refurbishment Plans

The draft plans were shown at the Farmer's Market in February along with them being available at the Dramarama production. At the time of going to press comments are being collated in order for the Architect to be able to complete this part of the process. The plans can still be viewed on the website www.highhalstow.org.uk for you to view.

Nicky Moore & Friends

He is back with more friends. Like last year Nicky Moore will be putting on a showcase so please put the date in your diary, May 23rd 2009 at the Village Hall. Details to follow in the next HHT.

Farmers Market 7th March 9:30am

The next Farmers Market at the Village Hall is on March 7th, doors from 9.30. To book a stall please contact Margaret on 253709. Along with our favourites Bread, Vegetables, Jam, Honey, Sparkles, Cards, etc there will be special Easter cards and Gifts

PROJECT MORNING
90 minutes spent improving
the village

Saturday 14th March

8:30am Start at the Village Hall

Quiz Nite

A note for your dairy's April 24 is the annual QUIZZATHON, and is held in the Recreation Hall, this year it is more important that ever now the hall is about to start its refurbishment this year we will need as much money as we can possibly get, so make a table of six or eight and join in the fun. Its only £2.50 each and we start on that day at 7.30.

Gardening Club

On Tuesday evening 10 March is our Spring Show, Members should have received their schedules, if you have not, then please contact Wendy and Mike White for one, benching will start at 7.30 and judging starts at 8.30. There will be refreshments while you wait for the judging to be done, this years Judge is Margaret Shuter. Even if you don't have anything to show, Please come along to see what has been shown, and have a cupper and join in the fun. All are very welcome.

P Hillman

Friendly Club

At our February meeting we were pleased to have as our speaker someone from the Social Services who gave advice on what we can and cannot claim.

Many people don't realise what is on offer to them, but this will highlight any help that's available to all of us. That will include invalid help.

Next month (March) we will be celebrating Easter, instead of Easter bonnets, we will give each member a hard boiled egg, together with all the glue, beads, sequins and ribbon they need to decorate their eggs, and then members will vote to decide which egg is the best, with a prize for the winner.

Why not come along and join in the fun, because I bet there will a lot of fun and laughter, also a bit of frustration.

P. Hillman

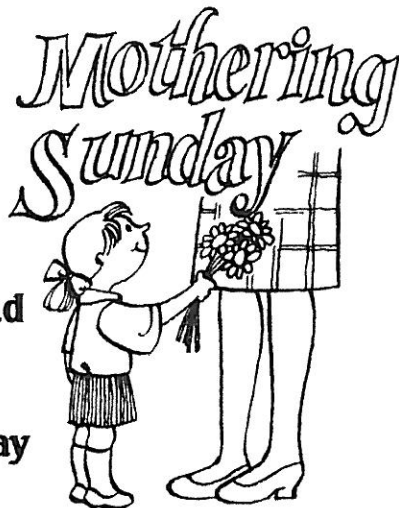
E.ON awards Hoo Peninsula community groups over £63,000

The EON Community Investment Fund is available to all communities across the Hoo Peninsula and is aimed at supporting effective projects that will help genuine community needs. A total fund of £125,000 has been allocated for the construction period of 2007 to 2010.

E.ON, the company behind Kingsnorth and Grain power stations, has awarded 33 community groups in the Hoo Peninsula a total of £63,000 in funding from their £125,000 community investment fund. Decisions on the grants are made by members of a special Local Liaison Committee, which features representatives from local parish councils and members of E.ON's project teams and is administered by Action with Communities in Rural Kent. The deadline for the next round of applications is 13th March 2009, and, however big or small the project, it will be considered.

If you would like to know more, please call Becky Williams on 01303 813790 or email info@ruralkent.org.uk. Or visit www.ruralkent.org.uk for more information.

**22nd
March
is**



**Why not come and
join us for a
special
Mothering Sunday
Service.**

**Find why in Britain we
celebrate Mothering Sunday,
while in America they
celebrate Mothers Day !
Sunday 22nd March
at 10:30am.**

With a special free gift for all mothers !

For more details contact Rev. Stephen Gwilt on 250637

***High Halstow Cricket Club
February 2009***

Despite a fairly long cold spell, our thoughts are very much on the coming season. Nets began in January at Kings School Sunday afternoons for Colts and Wednesday evenings for adults. We have already recruited a number of new players through these sessions. If you wish to join us simply turn up, introduce yourself and take part.

2009 is a very important year for the Club with the 1st and 2nd XIs playing in Division 3 of the Kent League. The 3rd and 4th XIs will bring the Kent Feeder League (East) to the Recreation Ground, while the U11s, U13s and U17s will all play Medway Youth Cricket League fixtures every week from May to July. None of this is possible without the help and support of friends, parents and supporters to whom we are always very grateful.

In support of the on-field activities, we have a number of events planned for the next few months. We begin on 7th March with a Quiz Night in the Memorial Hall (7 for 7.30) tickets from David Laphorn (250334) at £3 a head; our members think they are very bright, come along and prove them wrong!; bring your own food. On 25th May we will hold a Family Day, much the same as happened for years in the recent past. Details are still to be finalised, but anyone or organisation wishing to participate to raise funds for themselves, please let us know.

The Colts Presentation will be held at the Pavilion on 5th July after the 1st XI match against Gravesend. More details will follow, but with like the Family Day and the Quiz Night is open to all.

David Laphorn
Chairman
HH Cricket Club

Need to Hire a Hall?

If you are interested in hiring either of the halls in the village please contact :
Memorial Hall - Pat Hillman 251064
Village Hall - Ann Smith 251914

EVENING of CLAIRVOYANCE

WITH MEDIUM

**JANICE BROOK
AND GUESTS**

AT

**HIGH HALSTOW Village Hall
Friday 17th April 2009**

AT

7:30pm (doors open at 7:00pm)

Admission £6.00

(PROCEEDS TO CHARITY)

**CONTACT JANICE: 01634 221083
SANDRA 01634 220212**

Our One Weakness

Well it's food and the pleasure of eating. Our annual dinner held at Deangate Golf Club was a success. Not far to travel, good parking, food and service was excellent, a venue we will no doubt use again. A week later and the monthly W.I. lunch was enjoyed by almost half our membership at the Fenn Bell. A really cosy pub complete with real fire, again good food and service. Our speaker last month could talk for England because of his passion for his subject, Dartford. Christoph Bull used very old slides to show us what Dartford could have been if the town planners had not had their way. Two members attended a day course entitled 'Stand Up and Be Heard'. (I'm expecting great Votes of Thanks from them now.)

Later this month 3 members will attend our County Conference when the speakers are Baroness Scott and Jeremy Spake from 'Airport' fame.

First, March 4th and we will be welcoming Colin Breed telling us about 'Royal Visits to Kent'. I'm told that he is a brilliant speaker so I'm sure it will be a good evening. We start at 7:30 in the Memorial Hall and all visitors are made very welcome.

Margaret Whitebread

RESUME OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2009

All councillors attended the January meeting of the Parish Council, together with our Footpaths Officer Charles Crouch, Medway Council's Rural Strategy Manager Catherine Smith and 6 residents. Catherine came to explain a rural housing needs survey that Medway Council will be carrying out on the Peninsula and to enlist help with distributing the questionnaires. She also encouraged the Parish Council to enter the Kent Village of the Year competition. This was no longer aimed at a "chocolate box" pretty village, but at a village with a strong community identity.

Although the ditch on the recreation ground had been cleaned out following advice from Medway Council, a resident had complained that his garden had been flooded again, although he acknowledged the weather had been exceptional. It had come through the protective bund under his gate. More advice will be sought.

We continue to seek funding towards the renewal of the playpark.

A draft agreement for use of the recreation ground by the Cricket Club for the colts had been forwarded. They will use the field on Tuesdays between 6 and 9 pm for practice, linking in with the Youth Club, and matches will be on Saturdays between 1 and 6 pm. This will be from May to August for 18 weeks. A vote was taken on this use for the 2009 season, with a review at the end of the period and was carried by 8 votes for and 1 against.

Groundwork Kent & Medway, a charitable organisation who carry out environmental projects, had spoken to the Chairman about projects in the parish. It was suggested they might plant some trees on Forge Common and also help with the replanting of the buffer zone behind Cardigan Close.

The Parish Council is moving forward with replacing bus shelters and Carl Mitchell gave an update on styles and prices.

A decision was taken not to pursue the "Speedwatch" initiative, as there seemed to be little enthusiasm from the police in making this happen. It was reported that rural Inspector Robin Wharfe had retired. It was also reported that funding had been made available for the construction of a roundabout at Fenn Corner, scheduled for 2010 and that the cameras on the A228 were working.

Finally, it was agreed February project day would concentrate on replacing the missing posts in the car park.

Sparkles

New 2009 Stock now in....

Handbags, Scarfs, Costume Jewellery, Silver Jewellery

Ideal Gifts for Mothering Sunday

High Halstow Farmers Market - Saturday 14th March

Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre 16/3 to 22/3

Now taking bookings for Home Parties

for more details phone Tracy on 253047

(earn 10% commission on all sales)

Wanda Wright LCH, MARH
 5 Cooling Road, High Halstow, ME3 8SA
 Tel: 01634 252284
 Email: bespokenhomeopathy@yahoo.co.uk

Suffering from a COLD OR FLU ???

Each year the cold and flu viruses seem to get stronger so that even healthy people are catching them and suffering worse and often longer than before.

Homeopathy offers remedies to take at the onset of a cold or flu which, if taken early enough, will prevent it from developing. Or, if it has already developed into flu, there are remedies to get rid of it swiftly and completely regardless of the severity of the symptoms. Even the vomiting and diarrhoea virus responds really well and quickly to Homeopathy. On the other hand, if you have already suffered from flu, even several months ago, but have not been well since, a homeopathic remedy will treat this promptly and effectively.

For a £5 charge I will be happy to give advice and supply remedies to treat the present virus and prevent future episodes. Simply ring or email as above.

There is no more natural way to good health than with Homeopathy. Recovering naturally from an illness will strengthen your immune system and lay down the foundations for better health in the future.

HH Village Website

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

For all your village needs the site is
www.highhalstow.org.uk

Dates for Diary

Every Other Tuesday:

Mobile Library

12:30/12:50

Village Hall Car Park
 Northwood Ave.

12:55/1:15

Every Wednesday:

Painting & Drawing for Beginners

10.00

Memorial Hall

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 4th

19:30

Women's Institute
 Memorial Hall

Saturday 7th

09.30

Farmers Market
 Village Hall

Saturday 7th

19:00

CC Quiz Night
 Memorial Hall

Tuesday 10th

12.15

Open House
 Memorial Hall

Tuesday 10th

20.00

Gardening Club
 Memorial Hall

Wednesday 11th

20:00

Parish Council
 Meeting

Saturday 14th

08:30

Memorial Hall
 Project Morning

Wednesday 25th

14:00

Village Hall
 Friendly Club

Friday 27th

20:00

Memorial Hall
 Quiz Night
 Memorial Hall

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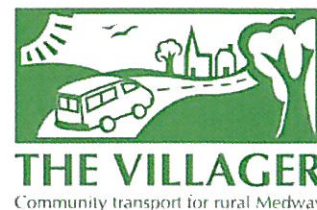
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Havisham House, Main Road, Cooling,
 Rochester, Kent ME3 8DH

The Villager – community transport for rural Medway



The *Villager* community transport scheme has two fully accessible minibuses with seating for up to sixteen passengers, including space for up to three wheelchairs. It runs regular excursions to a range of destinations and offers low cost minibus hire for local community and voluntary groups.

Upcoming trips from High Halstow in March and April:

| Date | Destination | Cost | Further information |
|------------|--|------|--|
| Wed 4 Mar | Romney Marsh tour & Dungeness for lunch | £12 | Enjoy the best fish around or have a steak |
| Wed 11 Mar | Romford Market | £9 | Popular market |
| Tue 17 Mar | Coastal tour & Pub Lunch | £11 | Look out over Dover Straits |
| Tue 24 Mar | Museum of London Docklands & Thames Clipper to Greenwich. | £15 | Explore the Museum (cost £3) and then boat across the Thames from Canary Wharf. |
| Wed 1 Apr | Country tour & Pub Lunch | £11 | Pub for Lunch stop |
| Wed 8 Apr | Audley End House | £10 | Admission charge: £7.30 |
| Tue 14 Apr | Royal Mews (Buckingham Palace) Displays of the Queen's coaches & more. | £14 | Admission charge: £7.50 Visit the Palace or Queen's Gallery before or afterwards. |
| Wed 22 Apr | Kew Gardens | £14 | Tree top walks and Blooms. Admission charge: £13 |

Pick up times from 8.30 am

PLEASE NOTE: Entrance fees, lunch, Tea Costs are not included in the cost of the trip

LADIES

Can you :-

Repair a leaking tap ?

Put up a new shelf ?

Unblock your drains ?

Fit a new toilet seat ?

Drill a hole in your wall ? NO ?

Why not join us to learn how ? 3 evenings of practical tuition and hands on experience. Learn how to use power tools safely, what to do in an emergency and how to handle some of the most frequent jobs round the house with confidence. If you have never picked up a hammer and don't know the difference between a screw and a nail this is for you !

Only 8 places available on a first come first served basis.
£25 for the course including all materials and notes.



To book call Rev Stephen Gwilt 250637



Note from the Editor

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

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

DRAMA- RAMA- KARMA

CINDERELLA 19/02/09

WELL!! A trans gender giant with an excruciatingly ugly sister, a heinously wicked stepmother. A prince and 'man' servant fit to raise the blood pressure! A butler who may be signed for the next 007 movie. Policemen and bailiffs to terrify any crook or debtor. Financially strapped aristocracy, refined royalty and a worryingly realistic village idiot! (I heard 'Zits' first of all but could not believe that the producer could be that cruel!).. Cooks, market traders and postmen all plugging the 'farmers market'. Ghosts especially 'drafted' in from the churchyard. Throw in a couple of impromptu appearances from sweaty stagehands and MAGIC WAS MADE,

Some admirable acting, delectable dancing, stylish singing (with one voice that would not go amiss on a west end stage). Good props and an enthusiastic production.

All this pooled from the rich vein of thespian and musical talent oozing through the Hoo peninsular!

I nearly forgot to mention the prompt. Having been prompted myself by Leslie a few times woe betide the poor trembling bit part actor who hesitates or stumbles over a line!!

As good an evening as could be wished for from an amateur drama group brimming with talent, enthusiasm and happiness.

At £4.00 a ticket (£5.50 at the village shop) oops! You could not go wrong.

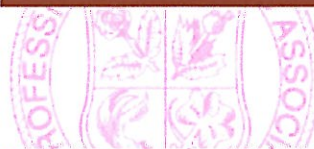
I look forward to their next production which I am reliably informed will be Ian Fleming's Moonraker starring Fred F Berringer as 007 and George Crozer as Plenty O'Toole!!!!

See You There.

D. Baker

TOM CROZER

PGA PROFESSIONAL



Lesson Charges

1 Session (30mins) £15
(Juniors £10 25mins)

3 Sessions £39
6 Sessions £75
9 Sessions £110

Deangate Ridge Golf Complex
Duxcourt Road
Hoo Rochester
Kent
ME3 8RZ

Tel: 01634 251180
07595269025
tom@crozer.eu

Your Parish Councillors

| | |
|--|--------------|
| George Crozer, Chair | 01634 250286 |
| e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk | |
| Gary Thomas, Vice Chair | 01634 252812 |
| e.mail: gary.thomas@medway.gov.uk | |
| Ray Collins | 01634 250105 |
| Pat Hillman | 01634 251064 |
| Carl Mitchell | 01634 250911 |
| Martin Mitchell | 01634 229404 |
| Lesley Munday | 01634 250276 |
| Margaret Shuter | 01634 251196 |
| Andrew Waters | 01634 253202 |
| Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk: | |
| Mrs Roxana Brammer | 01474 871269 |

*The Red Dog
Public House*

Forth Coming Events

1st March Bingo 7.30pm

7th March Live Music
7.30pm

22nd March Mothering
Sunday Lunch
12.15, 2pm, 4pm.

28th March Darts
Knockout 7.30pm

01634 250336

Dear HHT,

With regards to the unpleasant subject of discarded dog mess. I am an owner of two dogs, and I too have noticed the increase in dog mess on both our streets and open spaces, which I find abhorrent, as I conscientiously clear up after mine.

However, on two separate occasions my husband and myself have been on the receiving end of someone in The Street, anonymously calling out to us (I assume from their house), after our female dog has squatted to pass urine, asking if we we're "going to pick that up?". Whilst myself and my husband are considerate, responsible and conscientious dog owners who always carry a pocket full of 'pooh-bags', I fail to see how we can 'pick-up' wee, especially from a grass verge! I would politely request that this person be sure of her facts before falsely accusing myself, or anyone, because I find that, also, offensive and upsetting. In addition I would request owners who are guilty of not clearing up after their pets, please make it your New Year resolution to start doing so.

Name & Address Supplied

Dear HHT,

A Thank You

I rarely get to meet other ladies within the Village as I am a home based Freelance Floral Designer specialising in wedding floristry.

I therefore would like to thank all the ladies of the HH WI for making me so welcome over the last four months I am really enjoying their company so much that I have now become a full member.

Ladies I must admit I was a little nervous & apprehensive, I didn't know what to expect. That first meeting (October 2008) I thought an I really ready for this?? On opening the door I was greeted with a friendly warm welcome. I am now looking forward to some interesting evenings and outings in the company of good friends which I thank you all for.

If you like joining in, and the company of good friends why not come along for a visit. The ladies won't bite! You might just enjoy yourself. The WI is a mixed aged group of ladies with varying interests who meet at 7:30pm the first Wednesday of each month in the Memorial Hall, High Halstow. New members bring fresh ideas and input so we would love to see you all.

Why not come along!

It may or may not be for you!

Like me you will never know until you try!

Hazel Kilburn

Dear HHT,

Roy Waghorn.

Many thanks for the kindness and messages of sympathy given to me following Roy's death. My special thanks go to Gill Ellen and to Caroline and Euan Orr for their help and support.

**Brenda Waghorn
Christmas Lane**

Contributions for April should be sent by 25th March to:
Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ
or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk