



High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

March 2010

Garden Club

Our AGM was very well attended; a rough count was almost 50 thank you all. We have five new members to our committee, who we welcome. And different members can bring new ideas, they are Gwen Bucknall Chairperson, - A welcome return to Christine Panter - Karen Watson Treasurer, Oonagh Elliott is doing our seeds. Darren Campbell will also be on the committee. The rest are as before.

The two tickets for Hampton Court Flower show were won by Sue Burroughs.

I would like to thank Michael Bucknall for reading out the Pbi questions.

It is always sad when someone has to leave, in this case it was Margaret Church, who has been with the Gardening club for about 15 years, and has held various posts in that time. So we decided a gift was in order, but what do you buy someone like Margaret.

John Pink had the perfect idea, after a few 'white' lies we took her photograph, then John had it transposed onto a photo that depicted a moonbeam. We were all relieved when she said she really loved it

Village Speed Limit

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

HH Parish Council

The Village Shop

As you all know the current financial climate the country is in has not helped small businesses obtain finance as in the past. The long term plan for the shop is still to develop to new premises when the time is right and circumstances allow. However please be aware that the current situation is making it difficult to keep the current shop going as it is so we are asking you all to help by supporting your local shop. It would be terrible for the Village should the shop cease trading and it will only be when the shop closes that people will realise the difference it makes to the Village and by then it will be too late. Please can we ask you to support the shop in anyway you can to ensure it stays open.

HH Parish Council

Quiz Nite

Annual Quizzathon 30 April

Our first quiz evening of 2010 went very well, and we look forward to seeing every one on Friday 26 February for another good evening.

But on Friday 26 of March is our Easter quiz, when both questions and prizes will reflect Easter.

A date for your Diary; On Friday 30 April is our annual Quizzathon so please phone and book a table, as we have this particular quiz in the Recreation hall, there is no restrictions on tables, the more the merrier, and all profit is going to the refurbishment of the hall (which will start this year) to book a table, please call Pat Hillman on 251064

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

Cricket Club events for the 2010 season:

Date	Event	Detail
20th March	Quiz Night Fund-raiser	Memorial Hall 7.30pm £3 per head
27th-28th March	NatWest Cricket Force Weekend	Ground, buildings and equipment preparation for new season. All volunteers including non-members, welcome; free T-shirts for first 30.
31st May	Sponsored Walk	Joint fund-raiser with Hundred of Hoo School in aid of cricket facilities and equipment for club and school.
30th August	Family Fun Day	Fun and games for all including free fund-raising space for all participating village groups.

More details from David Laphorn on 250334.

Friendly Club

Our 10th birthday party went very well, despite the entertainer letting us down with less than 24 hours to go, and although Judy spent long hours trying to find a replacement, there was no one who could help us out.

But our members are a resilient lot and got on with their whist of just chatting, but they all said they had enjoyed themselves (perhaps it was the wine that helped).

We were all very pleased to see Sheila at the party, and hope her health continues to improve.

Dog Fouling Act 2005

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

HH Parish Council

HH Village Website

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

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

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

Marty Hands Over the 500th!

Cooling Road Home Group was pleased to welcome Marty Pink recently. Her two lovely blankets pictured here (knit by Marty, crocheted together by Hazel and now safely delivered to Blythswood by Joyce Davis) brought the Group total to 500. We were delighted. Well done to Marty and indeed to all our loyal knitters, whose contributions were vital in helping us reach this wonderful total. Our thanks go also to those who have so kindly passed on or bought wool for us. The good news is..... we still need wool, as we embark on the next 500!
Hazel Beringer (251135).



Need to Hire a Hall

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

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

Please avoid phoning on a Sunday as we are often busy with family and won't be able to take your booking.

Resume of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 February 2010

The Meeting held in February was attended by 7 councillors and 2 members of the public. The Chairman sent his apologies and the meeting was chaired by Gary Thomas. A letter of application to fill the vacancy on the council had been received just before the meeting started. This person will be co-opted at the next meeting.

Complaints have been received about dogs fouling the Recreation Ground and about not being under control. Please pick up after your dogs and remember when exercising them that not everybody loves dogs as much as you do and may be frightened by a boisterous dog's greeting.

Tree Warden Ray Collins has taken delivery of trees for Forge Common, which have now been planted.

Youth Club Leader Lesley Munday reported on craft and theatrical workshops being organised by Medway Council.

The new playpark was due to start on Monday 14 February. We are pleased the contractor has listened and is making use of half term week; however the works are scheduled to last for 3 weeks and may carry over if the weather goes against them.

At the end of the meeting, David Laphorn announced that the Cricket Club would like to arrange a family fun day on August Bank Holiday Monday (31st) but were looking for an organiser. If you're interested, please contact David or the Parish Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors, who will pass your interest on.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 March at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. The April meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting and we would like to see as many of you as possible there. If you're connected with a local organisation or club, we'd like to receive a brief written report that we can include in our Annual Report. Please submit this to clerk@highhalstow.org.uk by the middle of March. The meeting itself will be on Wednesday 14 April in the Memorial Hall at 8pm.

Mr David Bond
Medway Council
Dear David

The Parish Council has asked me to write to you to express their thanks at the donation of the new bus shelters. This has been much appreciated not just by the Parish Council but also by our residents, especially during the weather we've experienced since they were put in.

We still have a third shelter to replace and we are retaining our "bus shelter fund" so this can be done in due course.

Once again, many thanks
High Halstow Parish Council

Invitation To The Men

Would you like to hear Colin Breed, a retired police officer, talking about his work following the Zeebrugge Ferry disaster? As this will be an 'open' meeting any gentlemen wishing to join us will be made most welcome. Only £1:50 On the door which includes light refreshments. 8pm start for visitors in the Memorial Hall.

We are still in the darts competition having won our match at Ryarsh, we now have to travel to Harrietsham in the next round. We had an enjoyable evening at Deangate Golf Club for our W.I. annual dinner. Like last year the staff looked after us very well, and we had all but one member attending including the 3, yes 3, new members that joined in February. Last months meeting was adorable (the puppies that is), a very vocal German Shepherd and beautiful black lab, being 'walked' in preparation as guide dogs for the blind training. They really stole the show. Lastly about 10 members attended the Thursday evening performance of Dick Whittington and his Cat. Our congratulations to Dramarama for another first rate show. As usual, costumes and sets were brilliant.
Margaret Whitebread

Weee recycle in Medway

Is your toaster toast? Has your kettle run out of steam?

Bright pink bins have sprung up across Medway to help residents recycle small electrical items. Old or broken items such as toasters, kettles, remote controls, hair straighteners, video, DVD players, cameras and radios can be placed in the Tardis-style containers. The opening to the new bins is 30cm x 24cm. Until now, small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) could only be taken to one of Medway's three household recycling sites, but items can now be taken to Kestrel Road shops car park, Lordswood; Parkwood Green shops car park, Rainham; Union Street car park, Rochester and Hoo village shops car park, Stoke Road.

The pilot scheme is in conjunction with Sittingbourne-based recycling company SWEEEP – Specialist Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Processor and Veolia Waste Management. All small electrical items will be collected by SWEEEP and taken to their recycling centre in Sittingbourne, which recycles materials using 100 per cent renewable energy.

Their sophisticated plant recycles electronic waste back into reusable metals, plastic and other everyday items, while at the same time capturing the environmentally damaging parts such as the batteries

Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services Cllr Phil Filmer said it was important to give residents access to as many different recycling schemes as possible.

He said: "Medway Council is committed to reducing the amount of unnecessary waste that is sent to landfill. We already offer residents a wide range of options to recycle their items, through doorstep collections, the household waste and recycling centres and extending the range of items that can be deposited at various community recycling points. I am sure Medway's residents will embrace these new pink collection points and deposit their small electrical items in them, instead of sending them to landfill."

Justin Greenaway, SWEEEP's Contracts Manager, said: "I'm pleased Medway Council is offering residents the opportunity to recycle their small electrical items. Recycling helps the environment and safeguards UK jobs, so don't bin it, bring it."

Andy Hanratty from Veolia Environmental Services said: "Veolia is very pleased to be part of this innovative recycling initiative in Medway. We all love our gadgets and labour-saving devices. These recycling containers will make it more convenient to do the right thing when they become waste"

Visit www.medway.gov.uk/weee and www.sweeep.co.uk for more details.



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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.

Policing Matters

A different approach to tackling crime

An innovative approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is being rolled out across the county. The initiative, known as Restorative Justice, brings together victims, offenders and communities to decide on a response to a particularly crime or incident.

Victims have the opportunity to tell offenders about the impact of the crime as well as get answers and an apology. Offenders have an opportunity to understand the consequences on the victim, make amends and repair the harm. In the long term it is hoped the scheme, which has been shown to be successful at a national level, will reduce crime rates. Evidence shows that offenders who have to face their victims are unlikely to offend again.

The process is carefully and sensitively managed by both the police and the Mediation Service. Participation by victims is voluntary. The process can involve both serious incidents including assault as well as low-level anti-social behaviour and nuisance. This acknowledges the serious impact of even comparatively minor incidents and has the ultimate aim of stopping offending behaviour escalating.

Any budding actors or actresses out there?

Samuel Hall 22, a resident born and bred in High Halstow is in the early stages of forming a video production company and is in the process of making the company's first film. Samuel having graduated last year from University and becoming despondent at the lack of employment opportunities, has recently set up with a friend a video production company. Having attended High Halstow Primary School and Hoo Comprehensive, Samuel went on to take a degree in Film Studies from which he graduated last year. Being so passionate and interested in films and film making, he combined forces with his friend James from Allhallows, who has himself graduated in sound design and the company Halstrat was born. Although still in its infancy, Halstrat has already received much attention and some commissions. Both Samuel and James are enthusiastic and eager to gain more experience in their fields and are available to produce film for events such as weddings, live bands, special parties etc in the local and wider area for a minimal fee. For more information on Halstrat and to audition for a part in their first film, please visit www.halstratmedia.com, email enquiries@halstratmedia.com or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/halstrat.

Dick Whittington and his Cat arrive in High Halstow

From London to Morocco to High Halstow, Dramarama's annual pantomime was the story of Dick Whittington and his cat, and as always all the cast delivered a fantastic show. The night was packed with lots of laughs, fabulous songs and dances, and some very creditable stage performances, and of course a larger than life pantomime dame for some extra laughs and ad-libs'. I am always so impressed with the scenery, lighting, sound quality and professional costumes that manages to transform a cold village hall into a genuine theatre experience for the night, well done to all involved. Dramarama manages to combine a full spectre of age groups from the youngest at 9 through to the very oldest at ???. I was also very impressed with the songs this year with 7 or more different artists singing individually extremely well, we clearly have some extraordinary talent in the village.

I know that a lot of time and effort goes into each and every show performed by Dramarama and I for one can't wait for the Summer Show in July.

Well done everyone and keep it up.

PROJECT 90

90 minutes spent improving the village

Saturday 13th March

8:30am Start at the Village Hall

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

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	
Martin Andrews	07984 791029
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Pat Hillman	01634 251064
Carl Mitchell	01634 250911
Martin Mitchell	07531 984169
Lesley Munday	01634 250276

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269

Dates for Diary

Every Tuesday	Memorial Hall
Kings Kitchen	
09:00 - 12:00	
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
1st Friday of Each Month	
Youth Night	Memorial Hall
19:30 - 10:00	
Other Dates	
Wednesday 3rd	Women's Institute
19.30	Memorial Hall
Saturday 6th	Farmer's market
09.30	Village Hall
Tuesday 9th	Garden Club
20.00	Memorial Hall
Wednesday 10th	Police Surgery
09.00 - 10.00	Village Hall Car Park
Wednesday 10th	Parish Council
20.00	Memorial Hall
Saturday 13th	Project 90
08.30	Village Hall
Saturday 20th	HHCC Quiz Night
19.30	Memorial Hall
Tuesday 24th	Friendly Club
14.00	Memorial Hall
Friday 26th	Quiz Night
20.00	Memorial Hall
Sat 27th-Sun 28th	Cricket Force Weekend



All types of domestic maintenance work.

Hanging a door, fixing a shelf, building a wardrobe, repairing a gate.

No Job too Small..

NH Carpentry & Maintenance
12 Willowbank Drive,

High Halstow, Rochester, Kent ME3 8TW
Tel: 01634 253542 Mobile: 07738 649067

I Know The Score

League positions to 1st March

Mrs A Sitta = 1925

Comos1 = 1715

cousboss = 1505

Ben_De_Legs = 1415

eric007 = 795

Ben_De_Legs drops 2 places, and Mrs A Sitta carries on at the top. Comos1 making moves upwards.

Evening of Clairvoyance

HH Village Hall

Friday 16th April

Janice: 01634 221083

Sandra: 01634 220212

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Rochester, Kent ME3 8DH

Report Crime

Always call 999 if

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

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

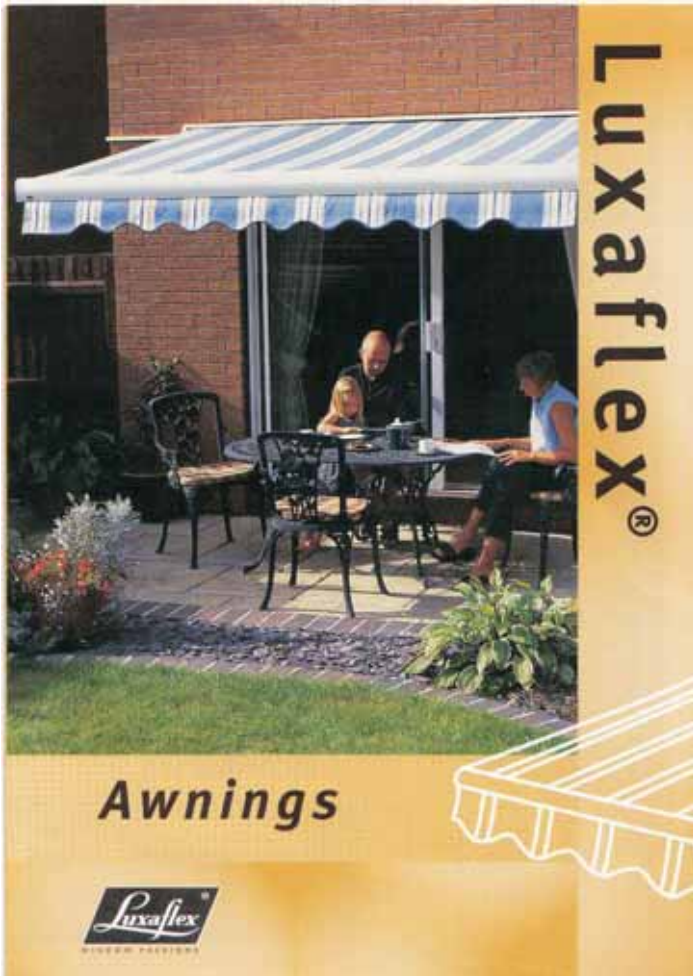
To help please record when and where the problems are happening including:

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

Martin Mitchell
HHPC Police Liaison

Patio Awning Spring Promotion

Free electric motor and remote handset on all awnings ordered before 30th April 2010.



Awnings



Huge range of fabric available.
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To see the models available please call into our
Showroom: 98 Frindsbury Road, Strood.

Tel: 01634 723088

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



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

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

The Kings Kitchen

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

Youth



Night

A place to just hang out and be yourself
Friday 5th February and
the first Friday each month
Youth Open Night at the Memorial Hall.
7:30-10:00pm entrance free.

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

**NOW With PLAYSTATION 3
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YOUR mates to a CONTEST.**

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

I am writing to you for two reasons, one to thank the committee of the Relief In Need Charity for there answer to our letter in the Halstow Times. The second to warn Villagers and the Relief in Charity to be vigilant! Shortly after the Red Dog and was vacated with lights off etc. I had reason to challenge the movement of a number of people who seem to think that the empty, dark and non protected Red Dog grounds and car park were fair game!

After I had moved two cars onto the pub car park I managed to convince them that the Pub was being lived in and cared for, and that I was in fact the next tenant doing reparations prior to moving in. The following night, after seeing a number of vehicles in and around the Red Dog, I called the police who attended fast and made themselves visible, anyone seeing something adverse or suspect happening on the grounds of the Red Dog could help by telephoning 999.

Vic Godding
Christmas Lane

Dear HHT,

I have lived in High Halstow for 27 years and Dog fouling has long been a problem, just to day in a 25 metre run between my house and the Street end of Christmas Lane I threw 35 piles in to the road. We look after our Grandchildren taking 3 of them to School by foot to High Halstow School the whole journey is a obstacle course around the piles of Dog mess.....We would like to see more signs and more bins in the village, I am happy to fit them....sadly Many Dog owners see no harm in allowing there Dog to foul a pavement where children walk and play, I regularly clean the pavements....but do request more bins and loads more signs please.

Vic Godding
Christmas Lane

STOP PRESS

The next Police surgery is on Weds 10th March 09:00-10:00 in the Village Hall car park. Our New PCSO is Sean Brooks and we hope to have an interview with Sean next month.

Dear HHT,

Having just read the February edition of the High Halstow Times and in particular the letter from your anonymous reader moaning about the heron population and his depleted fish pond, I thought I might offer some advice.

The clue is in the words 'HOME OF THE HERON'

Heron:

English Oxford dictionary analysis: 'A large fish-eating bird with long legs, a long neck and a long pointed bill'.

Problem:

Hérons eat fish.

Hérons like eating fish from ponds.

Hérons were here long before your pond.

Solution:

1] Do not build a pond, knowing that there is a large population of herons on your doorstep, that's main diet, is fish.

2] Do not keep fish in your pond if you are not prepared to protect them from a natural predator, that's main diet, is fish.

3] Move.

Clive Harvey
Cooling

Dear HHT,

The clues in the name High Halstow "Home of the Heron". I do hope that the writer of the letter in last months Times was joking when he appeared to be complaining about our Herons eating the fish in his garden pond. Anyone that lives in High Halstow and decides to have a pond (with fish) in their garden knows that they are fair game to the Herons (and cats) unless they make a point of protecting them. Perhaps he should approach the R S P B and ask them to have a word with the Herons and ask them to leave his pond alone.

Personally I love our Herons and would not like to think that someone is even thinking about shooting them, even in jest.

They were here first.

Ann
High Halstow Resident.

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