



# High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

March 2017

### *High Halstow Annual Parish Meeting*

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th April. This is the yearly meeting for all parishioners. Everybody is welcome, including representatives of village organisations, who will be able to report on their organisation's activities over the last 12 months. It would be helpful if reports could be in written format, for easier inclusion in the minutes and subsequent Annual Report included within the High Halstow Times. If your organisation will not be able to send a representative, please post or email your report in advance to the Clerk, so that your report can be read out at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the Memorial Hall on 12th April.

### *Mobile Food Vans*

The subject of the mobile food vans parking in the village and/or using the Village Hall Car Park will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday March 8th at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**HH Parish Council**

### *Quiz Night*

This month's quiz night was very well attended and as a result the charity of the month, Kent Association for the Blind nominated by Mick Taylor's table, have benefited by £288. We celebrated our 20th birthday at last month's quiz and I am so grateful to everyone who comes along and makes these evenings so enjoyable. There are some people who attend these quiz nights who have been with us from the start, so we must be getting something right! A big thank you to Lesley and John who have supported these evenings for years now - John was one of the original quizzers, together with Trevor Jones. If Alison is reading this, could you please give me a ring on 01903 340953 as I seem to have the wrong phone number for you and have been unable to contact you, thanks.

**Margaret Church**

### *High Halstow Relief in Need Charity*

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

The trustees are:

- Rev. S. Gwilt - The Rectory
- Mr S. Bailey - 27 Cooling Road
- Mrs J. Collins - 6 Marsh Crescent
- Mrs L. Munday - 22 Willowbank Drive
- Mr J. Myatt - Decoy Hill Road
- Mrs C. Peek - 2 Willowbank Drive
- Mrs N. Turner - 12 Marsh Crescent

### *Come and Meet Your Parish Councillors*

Chris(tine) Watson and Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors, will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 7th March 2017 from 10.30 – 12.00pm and



every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the month.

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

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

High Halstow Parish Council.

## ***Resume Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 8 February 2017***

The meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February was attended by 8 of the 9 parish councillors, Cllr Bill Khatkar being on holiday; Gary Thomas, the Parish Council's Webmaster and by 7 members of the public.

The traders operating the mobile food vans handed over letters forming a proposal for siting the vans off-road. They are operating with all the correct licenses and are trading legally but they recognise that there are concerns from certain residents about the on-street operations. Their letter will be circulated to councillors before the next meeting, when the contents will be discussed.

Medway is preparing a Local Plan to supersede the existing plan, adopted in 2003. They have to plan for the construction of 30,000 homes in their area by 2035. Also in the plan are business uses, including offices, industrial and retail. There are essentially 3 options for the Peninsula – 5,500 houses at Lodge Hill; 3,000 at Lodge Hill with the remainder on the Peninsula and all homes required on the Peninsula scattered around the villages. Councillors have been asked to read the draft plan and a special meeting is being held on 27<sup>th</sup> February to formulate a response, which has to be submitted to Medway Council by 5 pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The order for the two new bus shelters has been placed. A quotation for their installation was approved.

Martin Andrews had attended a police liaison meeting, where no police had been present. He reported that the police station at Kingsnorth would soon be closing, leaving just two police community support officers for the Peninsula. Ray Collins had attended another meeting in December where he had heard that there was consideration to giving PCSOs powers of arrest.

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about the poor state of the trampoline on land in Valentine Drive. This land is maintained by the Parish Council's contractors and it's now impossible to mow beneath it.

A letter has been received from Medway Council, who have a 99-year lease on the toilets in the car park. The building belongs to the Parish Council and is leased at a peppercorn rent of one shilling a year. For those too young to remember "old money", one shilling is 5p today. The lease was taken out in 1971 and ends in 2070. Medway wish to surrender the lease. It will then be up to the Parish Council to decide what happens to the building. We know that the toilets are used by villagers and visitors. The cost of operating them was not included in the coming financial year's budget, which has been pointed out to Medway. They have been asked to put a proposal to the Parish Council in time for the March meeting. Operating costs would have to be included in the budget for 2018/19 if the Parish Council decides to continue to operate them.

Carl Mitchell reported that there is to be a change at the printers of High Halstow Times and that future issues from May '17 may be produced in colour for the same cost as the current black and white edition.

At the end of the meeting Christine Chetwood of Hoo Cares told us about the organisation, which was set up to help out people on the Peninsula. They are planning a fund-raising event in the summer – a walk round the villages between Isle of Grain and Hoo St Werburgh. It will be 12 miles but in sections so people can choose either to walk the whole route, just a short distance or anything in between.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the Memorial Hall at 8 pm. You are all welcome to attend. If you are coming for a specific item on the agenda, it is important that you introduce yourself to the Chairman and Clerk before the start of the meeting.

### ***The High Halstow Community Lottery***



The winner lives in Hoo within the post code area ME3 9EE

### ***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](http://www.highhalstow.org.uk) and follow the instructions on the right hand side.

### ***Need to Hire a Hall***

If you are interested in hiring either of the halls in the village for a party, function or meeting please contact:  
Memorial Hall - Angela Forward 251756  
Village Hall - Crystal Wakefield 251849

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

## High Halstow Hikers

In February a dozen of us did a six-mile circular walk starting from Mereworth and involving a wide variety of scenery and walking conditions that were pretty good considering the recent wet weather. We parked alongside Mereworth church, the tall, elegant spire of which is strikingly obvious for miles around. Closer up the roof of the church is also unusual with overhangs that resemble those seen on alpine chalets. We walked west along the village high street and, immediately after crossing the busy 7-Mile Lane, we headed through the ancient Yotes Court Farm and followed a gentle long climb to Peckham Hurst passing a mobile telephone mast that was convincingly disguised as a dead tree. We then followed narrow, very quiet roads along the edge of Hurst Wood before taking a short stretch of the Wealdway from Gover Hill to Oxen Hoath Park where the ornate buildings host regular weekend "new-age" like retreats.

The route through the open parkland took us close to Hadlow before we began the return leg through West Peckham to the cars at Mereworth. Several of us returned to West Peckham for lunch at the Swan on the Green that is in a classic English country setting alongside the village green and the cricket field, the church and the well-maintained farm. Given this is at the end of a cul-de-sac it forms an exceptionally quiet and picturesque setting. Coincidentally, the Swan was mentioned in a national Sunday newspaper the same day for its Sunday lunches – it is well worth a visit.

On Sunday 12th March we will leave from High Halstow village hall car park at 10.00 and walk to the bank of the Thames just to the west of Egypt Bay. At that point the seawall has been purposely breached for about 400 yards to form a large new lagoon surrounded by the new sea wall to compensate for the wet land lost to the London Gateway Port on the other side of the river. This is a major new development in our local environment and well worth seeing. The walk will be between 7 and 8 miles and is flat apart from Decoy Hill, which can prove strenuous for some.

As ever all are welcome and any queries should be made to Mitchell on 01634-254428  
[ormitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com](mailto:ormitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com).

## Gamble Responsibly

### What is responsible gambling?

Responsible gambling means staying in control of how much time and money we spend gambling. Whether you are buying a lottery ticket or scratch-card, placing a bet, playing poker or bingo, or playing on a gambling machine or casino game, gambling responsibly means treating the activity as just one form of entertainment in a balanced lifestyle. Just like with other forms of entertainment, gambling is a form of expenditure, and responsible gambling means not spending more money or time than we can reasonably afford, keeping in mind all our other responsibilities in life.

## High Halstow Arts & Crafts Village Market

Handmade Cards & Jewellery,  
Tattoos, Hand Bags,  
Gifts, Make-up, Collectables,  
Cakes and Treats.  
Refreshments available.

The Memorial Hall  
10am - 2pm

March 12th  
April 9th

Come and support our village event!

## Cornish Holiday Cottage Let

A fabulous 300 year old cottage, recently fully refurbished with open fire place, fully fitted kitchen, modern decor and off-road parking, benefitting from two well-furnished bedrooms (1 double and 1 twin).

The cottage is in the hamlet of Trewint, only a mile away from Altarnun, one of the most beautiful villages in Cornwall. The Rising Sun Inn just outside the village is

a 16th century award-winning traditional pub, selling locally produced ales and fresh and innovative meals in a great atmosphere. The cottage is ideally placed for discovering the coastline of Cornwall.

- Electric wall heaters with open fire
- Electric oven and hob, microwave, fridge, dishwasher, TV with Freeview, DVD, WiFi, selection of books, games and DVDs
- Fuel, power and starter pack for open fire (October-March) inc. in rent
- Further fuel for fire available to purchase locally
- Bed linen and towels inc. in rent
- Off road parking for 1 car
- Lawned garden with furniture opposite cottage across road
- One well-behaved dog welcome
- Sorry, no smoking
- Shop and pub 1 mile.

The cottage is advertised with Sykes Cottages (<http://www.sykescottages.co.uk/cottage/Cornwall-Fivelanes/Laburnum-Cottage-935455.html>)

Alternatively I live in the village and will be able to offer a discounted rate if you contact me directly on: Andy 01634 936095  
Mobile: 07958 604268





***Village halls could become a thing of the past as youngsters say they are too busy to volunteer***

They are as British as tea, crumpets, and a spot of cricket on the green, but the future of village halls is under threat as a new generation of young volunteers cannot be found to run them. Once the cornerstone of communities, Britain's 10,000 halls are at risk as an ageing group of 80,000 volunteers continues to dwindle. Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) said halls have struggled to recruit the next generation to keep the community spaces going and are calling for drastic action.

Deborah Clarke, ACRE'S village halls manager, said: "Village halls are vital for the survival of rural communities. People want to use them but they don't want to commit to running them. "It's understandable - there are a raft of duties to deal with, from licensing legislation to health and safety - but communities are in danger of taking their volunteers for granted." Younger people are especially hard to attract as they often work long hours away from villages in order to live in them, while the newly retired often don't want to commit" Alan West, 69, vice chairman of the now disbanded National Village Halls Forum, said: "The crunch has finally come. We need young people to step forward and get involved in the future of village halls. "The traditional village hall is the hub of a community. Younger generations communicate via social media these days but in the hall they can actually talk and interact" England's 10,000 village halls rely on more than 12 million hours of volunteering each year, according to ACRE. But more than half of the halls' volunteers that responded to the survey said they were struggling to find new recruits - with people saying they were too busy, too old or just not interested.

**Lexi Finnigan**

***High Halstow Village Hall***

***Events 2017***

To start the event cycle for 2017 we are pleased to announce the following dates

**Quiz Nights**

- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October

There will be further events planned for the year so please watch this space

**Thank you**

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank the Youth Club for their recent donation. This followed their Christmas Disco and I can assure them that it was very well appreciated.

**Booking Secretary**

Following last months request for a new Booking Secretary we are pleased to announce that Martin Mitchel kindly put himself forward and he will be liaising with Crystal so that a handover in May will be a smooth as possible. Thank you, Martin for coming forward, again it was appreciated.

***2017 Heron Awards***

Every day sees acts of kindness, generosity, sacrifice and courage in our small community. From the friend who visits sick neighbours to the single parent struggling to raise young children alone. From the sick child who always has a smile to those who work sacrificially to ensure our community is a wonderful place to live in. The High Halstow Relief in Need Charity is once again sponsoring the Heron Awards. It has been 10 years since we ran our community award scheme so there are lots of people out there who deserve to be recognised and thanked for the difference they make to all of us. So often we don't realise what a difference a person makes till they are no longer here and it dawns on us what we have lost. Let's try our best to change that and say thank you while they are still here. Maybe what they do will inspire others to do the same. There will be a special award night on 28th June so book the date now and join with us as we celebrate the efforts of our friends and neighbours.

There are two main categories: "Junior" (under 16), and "Adult" (over 16). Each main category has 3 further divisions as listed below. There will also be an overall "Community Hero" chosen by the judges from the nominees. Applications must be completed in full, put into a sealed envelope marked "Heron Awards" and deposited in the Rectory letter box (2 Cooling Road High Halstow, ME3 8SA) or handed in at the Village Shop no later than **12th May 2017**. Applications may be supported by a maximum of one A4 page of supporting information, but no photographs. The judges are nominated by The High Halstow Relief in Need Charity and the judges' decision will be final.

***Rules & conditions***

You may nominate anyone who lives, works or attends school in the village or makes a significant contribution to the village

A nominee may only be nominated for one category and in the event of a nominee receiving more than one nomination the judges will decide into which category he or she should be entered.

the more information you give us about the person and why they deserve an award the easier it will be for the judges to make a decision

The number of nominations will not affect the judges' decision **BUT** the quality of the supporting information will.

Illegible nominations will be discarded.

Nomination forms & supporting documents will not be returned.

The Judges may also present a special community award to anyone the feel has made a significant contribution our community.

<i>Junior</i>		
Educational effort/ courage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental care <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Adult</i>		
Caring neighbour / courage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental care <input type="checkbox"/>
Name, address & tel. no. of Nominator .....		
.....		
Name & address of Nominee .....		
.....		
Reason for Nomination .....		
.....		
.....		
.....		



## ***Medway Local Plan Consultation Will Effect Us All***

Medway Council are planning to build 30,000 houses throughout Medway between 2012 and 2035. Around 6000 are proposed for the Peninsula. ITS IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY NOW.

Medway Council is preparing a new Local Plan that will guide the development of Medway up to 2035. Medway is one of the largest urban areas in the south east. In 2015 our population had grown to 276,472, and this is projected to increase to 330,200 by 2035. The most important aspect of the Local Plan is making the most effective use of land to ensure we are able to provide the required new homes, jobs, services and roads, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment. The council is now consulting on the second formal stage of the Local Plan preparation. The Development Options consultation document includes a draft vision and strategic objectives for the new Local Plan, options for how growth could take place in Medway, and approaches to developing policies for the new plan. The council is keen to hear from residents, businesses, organisations, community and interest groups to help inform the plan. The consultation period runs from Monday, 16 January to Monday, 6 March 2017. Comments must be received in writing by 5pm on Monday, 6 March 2017.

You can view the Development Options consultation document and supporting information online at [www.medway.gov.uk/futuremedway](http://www.medway.gov.uk/futuremedway) Copies of the document are available at the reception desk of the council offices at Gun Wharf, public libraries and Community Hubs across Medway.

### **Have your say**

To have your say, please read the development options and respond to the consultation by completing the **online questionnaire**. Alternatively, you can respond by email to [futuremedway@medway.gov.uk](mailto:futuremedway@medway.gov.uk) or by post to Planning Policy team, the Planning Service, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR

**The consultation runs from Monday 16 January 2017 to 5pm on Monday 6 March 2017.**

### ***Responsible Parking***

It has been noticed that a number of vehicles around the village are either parking on the kerbs, causing obstruction to pedestrians and risking children crossing the road unseen between parked cars; or are parking on corners which is a danger to other road users. Please park with consideration to pedestrians and other road users.

The booking details are

Where: All Saints Church, Allhallows

When: Saturday 11 March 2017 at 7:30pm

How much: £10 (£8 for FoAS members)

£7: Children under 12; and OAPs

Ticket sales: Phone: 01634 270404 or

01634 271373 or

email: [muskudder@gmail.com](mailto:muskudder@gmail.com)

Complimentary refreshments available on the night.

The Friends of All Saints work closely with the government funded "Applause" organisation, to bring high value entertainment to rural communities, at a low cost, by subsidising the ticket prices. Don't miss out on great professional entertainment, right on here on your Peninsula, at affordable prices.

### ***Vegetation***

The Parish Council is asking people who have any shrubs/trees overhanging public walkways, or vegetation spilling onto the path if they would mind cutting them back in order for people to walk unhindered. Thank you for your cooperation.

### ***Thefts from Sheds and Outhouses***

Please be aware that thefts from sheds and outhouses have been reported recently on the peninsula and the Parish Council have been asked to remind people to lock up securely to make it more difficult for would be thieves.

**HH Parish Council**



## Dates for Diary

### Every Tuesday:

King's Kitchen  
10:00 Memorial Hall  
Bell Ringers  
19:30 St Margaret's Church

### Every Thursday:

Sugar Babes  
19:00 Memorial Hall

### Every Saturday:

Karmann Dancers  
09:00 Memorial Hall  
KLUK Martial Arts  
09:30 Village Hall

### Every Sunday:

Déjà Vu Spiritual Centre  
18:30 Village Hall

### Every other Monday:

Community Choir  
20:00 St Margaret's Church

### Every 3rd Wednesday:

Whist Club  
14:00 Memorial Hall

### Every 4th Wednesday:

Friendly Club  
14:00 Memorial Hall

### Other Dates:

Wednesday 1st: Women's Institute  
19:30 Memorial Hall  
Sunday 5th: Family Service  
09:30 St. Margaret's Church  
Wednesday 8th: Parish Council  
20:00 Memorial Hall  
Sunday 12th: Arts & Craft Fair  
10:00 Memorial Hall  
Tuesday 14th: Gardening Club  
20:00 Memorial Hall  
Wednesday 15th: Whist Club  
14:00 Memorial Hall  
Sunday 19th: Family Service  
09:30 St. Margaret's Church  
Friday 24th: Quiz Night  
20:00 Memorial Hall

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

## The Village Shop

### Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm  
Sunday 8am – 5pm  
Telephone number: 01634 254561

## HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2017



**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> to Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April**  
9.15am till 12pm ~ For ages 6 to 11

**It's Fun & It's Free**

**Come on a Journey with Prizes & Singing Stories & Quizzes Competitions & Games**



**www.whefc.co.uk**  
Waterford House Evangelical Free Church,  
Rede Court Road, Strood  
ME2 3TE



Based in High Halstow  
Contact Jade  
07708 394979



Permanent Makeup is an advanced technique used to apply coloured hypoallergenic pigments into the dermal layer of the skin. The pigments are made from natural minerals making enhancements look very natural that can last for years but will fade over time.

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**Brows:** Eyebrows frame the face, with the right shape & colour brows it can make you look years younger

**Eyes:** It can be difficult to apply eyeliner correctly & make it last all day. Define your eyes with eyeliner or lash enhancement.

**Lips:** Define & enhance your lips with a gorgeous lip liner, blush or full lip colour.

**Book a free consultation to see how Permanent Makeup can help you.**

**www.serenitypermanentmakeup.co.uk**



# 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

## 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**



GUITAR LESSONS 07967 125091

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## Jonathan Computers

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- New Economy Pc's & Laptops



## NEW!!!!!! Windows 10™

From 8th April 2014 All Support for ALL XP™ Versions has discontinued!!!!  
If you are using a computer with Windows XP on  
**YOU ARE AT SEVERE RISK!!!!**



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

# 01474 879878

(Gravesham Office Number)



## Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

My thanks to the many villagers who attended the service for Brenda Waghorn.

She was a much loved neighbour and friend to many in the village. My thanks must also go to Gill Ellen for a lovely service and to the many neighbours and friends who offered support and help for the weeks after Brenda's passing.

A donation of £153.30 was given to The Cats Protection League in Brenda's memory which I am sure she would be grateful for.

Euan Orr

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Luke Gilbert and I am currently 14 years old and looking for a weekend vacancy. I would also like to volunteer to wash peoples cars. I am an active young man who lives locally. My telephone numbers: 01634 255743 or 01634 254681 mobile number: 07541 121283 thanks for your time kind.

Regards

Luke Gilbert

### *Tri For You Fun Day!*

Would you like your family to eat well, move more and live happy? Do you need something to get your family motivated and feeling good? Medway's new family lifestyle course helps your family make healthier choices with support from:

- \* a lifestyle adviser
- \* tips and ideas from other parents
- \* incentives to help you make simple everyday changes

Come along to the fun day and find out more on topics such as portion sizes, body image, what's in our food, cravings and much more.

Some of the activities on offer include: face painting, pickleball, bubble football and much more!

Plus, sign up for the brand new programmes: walking football and flag football.

Sunday 2 April at Medway Park, Gillingham, from 10am to 4pm. Make your first step today by calling us on 01634 333741 or by emailing us at [change4life@medway.gov.uk](mailto:change4life@medway.gov.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

### Kings Kitchen



A Coffee and Cake Café  
for the Whole Village.

Open 10.00am - 1.00pm  
every Tuesday

in the Memorial Hall.

Why not come in and enjoy a  
cuppa and a chat.

A warm welcome awaits you.

### *Your Parish Councillors*

George Crozer, Chair 01634 250286

e.mail: [george@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:george@highhalstow.org.uk)

Christine Watson, Vice Chair 01634 256529

Martin Andrews 07984 791029

Linda Atkinson 07825 619353

Ray Collins 01634 250105

Gary Jerreat 01634 253999

Bill Khatkar 07775 668620

Carl Mitchell 01634 250911

Brian Williams 07908 006448

e.mail: [bdwilliams9@hotmail.com](mailto:bdwilliams9@hotmail.com)

Your councillors may also be contacted  
through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269

[clerk@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:clerk@highhalstow.org.uk)

Next edition April 2017; 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](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)