



High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

March 2012

Village Hall

The refurbishment works for Phase One are now formally finished. There is a snagging list, which we will be ensuring is addressed over the coming period with the final payment not due to the builders until the end of the year. The committee have been very pleased with the builders Spencer Frances, who not only we believe carried out a really good job, but have also been very helpful and understanding the issues we have had. They have provided the stairs for access to the loft, some of the paint materials, edging to the floor free of charge which has enabled the hall to look as good as it does.

We have had an issue with the floor after it was cleaned and polished, I might add with a terrific amount of elbow grease being put in, we have had to strip the floor of the polish as it had become too slippery. We believe it is okay but will be keeping an eye on it.

The badminton lines are due to be replaced shortly so hopefully all will agree that the main hall looks like it has been refurbished and are pleased with the outcome. As said last month the bookings for a Friday and Saturday have already seen an increase, which will help with the sustainability of the Hall.

With regard to Phase Two we have formally been offered £50,000 subject to the rest of the money being sourced for Phase Two. Only another £200,000 to go, but we do have other applications in and are still awaiting decisions at this time. We will keep you informed as to progress.

A water leak has been identified in the car park and at the time of going to press we are looking to resolve this.

Village Hall Committee

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



On Thursday 14th a committee was formed and met in the Recreation Hall to outline Village celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee. Many ideas were discussed and a suggested outline for the day was put forward for Monday 4th June in Recreation ground and Village Hall.

The Main Focus to be the Lighting of a beacon in formal synchronisation with the Palace and other communities around the country (between 10 and 10.30 pm). Celebrations to start around 4pm with a tea party for the children of the village with games. Outside stalls from participating local groups, refreshments and possibly a marquee. Dancing to live music and disco with local bands and performers featuring a theme of the 6 decades of music. The event to culminate with St Margaret's bell ringers and the lighting of the beacon. Additionally the Gardening Club to plant out Home of Heron signs with annuals.

If you feel you can help on the committee, during the day or perform we would love to hear from you.

Contact Details.

Josh (Chair) 07753 212179 or
josh@highhalstow.org.uk
George Crozer 07711 432598 or
george@highhalstow.org.uk

Quizathon

Traditionally the quizathon has been held in the Recreation Hall to allow more people to join us for a fun evening and also as a way of the Memorial Hall assisting the Recreation Hall with all the major works needing to be done. Last year we broke with tradition because the Memorial Hall needed a new floor and other remedial works which would have a major price tag. This work is now complete in the Memorial Hall, albeit we are always renovating and upgrading, and we now want to return to the Recreation Hall and assist with their fundraising. With this in mind the quizathon will be on 27th April. The normal start time for quiz nights is 8.00 but because we have more rounds at the quizathon (making it a marathon) we will be starting at 7.30.

Please come along and support both the quiz team and the efforts of the Recreation Hall committee. If you haven't had an opportunity to view what has been done so far in the hall, now is your chance. If you do not normally attend quiz nights but would like to join in on the quizathon please give me a ring on 244203 or speak to Lesley Munday or John Pink.

Thank you in advance of your support.

Margaret Church

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.

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.



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

Memorial Hall

At the moment not much is happening at the Memorial Hall. We have plans to update the kitchen area later in the year and to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. We are planning a special Jubilee afternoon tea on Sunday 3rd June - Everyone welcome. More information next month. Watch this space, but please save the date.

Ann & Angie

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Surprising Super Speaker

Last month we had a really good speaker on a surprising subject. Keeping the members guessing seemed to be a successful ploy as we had a very good turn-out. Stephen Gwilt took us through the process of restoring a dining-room chair. He came armed with a lot of equipment which he has built up over many years. Explaining the process from start to finish, with the chance for some of us to have a go at various stages. Of course he couldn't finish the chair completely but he produced a matching one that 'he did earlier', and quite a few ladies commented just how much they had enjoyed the evening.

For our monthly lunch club we went to Upnor's Kings Arms as usual the food was excellent with perfect service.

Coming up this month. We will be holding our annual dinner, and 12 members will be taking part in the District 'Murder, Mystery Evening'. Plus I will be attending the County Annual Council meeting in Tunbridge Wells.

Next meeting is Wednesday 7th March at 7:30 in the Memorial Hall. Our speaker is an expert on walks in Kent, Mr Kev Reynolds entitled 'The Best of Kent'. Only £1:50 on the door.

Margaret Whitebread

High Halstow Memories

I lived in Harrison Drive from 1956 to 1967, when we moved to West Sussex, when I was 12 years old. I loved my childhood in the village, and have lots of good memories. One that stands out for me is when a few of us were using some straw bales to make a camp-we didn't damage any I hasten to add. We were just finishing when a Jaguar Mark 10 appeared over the crest of the field containing assorted Osentons, who were not best pleased with us! They took names and addresses and sent us away with a flea in our ears. They reported us to PC Bob Haskins, who paid the parents of the "offenders" a visit. We were terrified, needless to say! I also remember "hordes" of helpers hanging off or sitting in the milkman's van - no such thing as Health and Safety then of course! Mind you, he used to get the round done much quicker! Other memories are attending "Jock" Lacey's club in the Memorial Hall (neither he or we ever knew why he was referred to as Jock, but he didn't like it). "Newting" in Dead Man's pond - which was said to be bottomless. Us kids believed this to be true, even though you could clearly see the bottom! Scrumping from the orchard - sadly all gone, apart from a few cherry trees. We also "raided" Bill Rayner's orchard and strawberry field at the top of Town Hill. We also built countless camps and "created" new paths in the woods - much to the annoyance of Mr Hudson and Mr Fletcher the RSPB wardens. Strangely enough I am a Volunteer Warden at Northward Hill now. I have to say that it was a fantastic place for kids and we never had "nothing to do and nowhere to go". The village looks bigger every time I go there but I suppose that's called "progress".
Best Regards

Mark Owen.

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



High Halstow Residents Involved In 1000 Mile Classic Moped Ride For Charity



Following an online discussion about long journeys on mopeds, a thread was started on Volszone.com (VW) forums asking if anyone would be interested in a charity run from John O'Groats to Lands End - on 50cc motorbikes. As foolhardy an idea as it might appear, soon enough people started putting their names down and it has snowballed from there. As a result my fiancée Claire Naylor (Eden Road) and I are attempting to ride from John O Groat's to Lands End on classic 50cc mopeds to raise funds for www.brad's.org.uk/ (teenage cancer charity). The funds will go towards

- 1 Providing equipment for the care and lifestyle specifically for teenagers with cancer.
- 2 Supporting the development of a Teenage Cancer Unit, through the Teenage Cancer Trust.
- 3 To provide help and support to teenagers with cancer and their families to relieve the stress and hardship during a difficult time.

We are part of a group of 50 riders, all on 50cc mopeds which will be setting off from John O'Groats on Saturday 7th April and will hopefully be at Lands End on Friday 13th April.

As we are riding mopeds our top speed will be 30 mph, so we are using smaller roads and plan to ride around 150 - 170 miles a day passing through some very scenic but also very hilly countryside. Including stops we estimate 8 hours riding per day. There will be a total of 55 riders all on 50 cc mopeds ranging from classic to modern. My bike is a Honda c50 (1973) with Claire riding a MZ Simson s51 (1993)

To see the full route please visit the High Halstow website (<http://highhalstow.org.uk/blog/high-halstow-residents-involved-in-1000-mile-classic-moped-ride-for-charity>) A sponsor form is in the shop or you can drop any donations at 15 Eden Road. I trust you can support this worthwhile cause and look forward to putting an update in the High Halstow Times as to how we coped and the adventure incurred.

Thanks
Robin Watson (15 Eden Road – 01634 252567)

Resume of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 8th February 2012

The Parish Council met on 8th February and we were pleased to co-opt Stuart Bailey to fill the vacancy on the Council. Stuart must have felt thrown in at the deep end but appears to have come through the ordeal unscathed. We look forward to working with him.

Thank you to those who responded to our appeal for help to overcome the final hurdle of obtaining funding for an outdoor gym on the Recreation Ground. We have until the end of March to improve our submission on "impact" and it is still not too late to pledge your help. We are particularly still seeking a trained fitness instructor who would like to offer supervised sessions once the gym is in place. We are preparing a bid to Awards for All for toddler equipment for the fenced playpark and we seek your help once again. If you have a child under five and would like to support the bid, please send us an email. From speaking to people we know that equipment for the very young would be welcomed, but we do need written evidence to put with the grant application.

The only member of the public in attendance queried the sum of money in the budget for the church. There has probably been a misunderstanding in the village through the item not having been explained fully. Two things have to be stated – first, the money is a budget provision only and its expenditure as a grant has not been agreed. Second, by the "church" we mean only the mediaeval building as a historic part of the village and not the rector, congregation or other functions of the ecclesiastical church, nor the upkeep of items such as the churchyard or the heating bill.

There was discussion about the provision of a bus shelter in Christmas Lane near the junction with Half Moon Way. The Vice-chairman has spoken to officers at Medway Council about a path to the stop and this is being given consideration. Replacement of the shelter at Eden Road was also discussed.

Cllr Gordon reported that he had registered a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and was arranging a meeting to progress an event.

Finally, Charles Crouch has resigned as our Footpaths Officer. We would like to thank him most sincerely for monitoring the public footpaths over the years for us and for reporting problems to the public rights of way officer at Medway Council. His work will be continued by Ray Collins.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 14th March, in the Memorial Hall at 8 pm.

Charity Appeal

We are appealing to the residents of High Halstow to help raise £375.00 to cover the cost of a return flight for a delightful nine year old girl from Belarus.

Marsha comes from the Gomel region of Belarus which was badly affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster. The charity Concern for Chernobyl Children bring some 27 children over to the UK every year to stay with local host families for a recuperative break. The accident at the nuclear power plant in 1986 was the worst man made, peacetime catastrophe the world has yet seen. Belarus has a population of 10.2 million people; when this disaster happened 70% of the 190 tons of radioactive debris fell on Belarus; leaving devastating results and as always the children suffered the most. There has been an increase in childhood cancers, thyroid damage, chest infections and spine and bone problems since the disaster, the children live eat drink, sleep and breathe radioactive contamination in Belarus. Four weeks stay in the UK helps to improve their health and life expectancy and boost their immune system by more than two years. We hosted Marsha last year. She is a beautiful, lovely, intelligent child who we grew to love. When she first arrived she was very thin and pale, the first time she washed her hair the shower was full of hair that had fallen out, this is a direct result from the radiation she has endured in Belarus. By the time she left us she had put on weight, was glowing with health and her hair was thick and shiny. She was very quite and shy when she arrived home with us and I can only imagine how scared she must have been, although her eyes lit up when she saw my daughters pink bedroom. Myself, my husband and two daughters made a special bond with Marsha and the day she had to leave us was heartbreaking, she clung to us with tears streaming down her face and we made a promise that we would try and bring her back again. We have kept in touch with Marsha and her lovely family and would dearly love to help her again. What ever you could donate would be gratefully received, we only have until March 25th to raise the £375.00.

The charity is also looking for host families from 25th July - 22nd August, there is no financial gain but to spend time with these wonderful children is priceless, the children attend organised trips and there and host family get togethers.

We hope you can help in anyway you can.

Bruce, Lesley, Jasmine and Abigail Mulhall
Thames Avenue

Dates for Diary

Every Monday	
Zumba	Village Hall
19:00	
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	Memorial Hall
09.00	

Other Dates

Friday 2nd	Red Dog Golf Society Details from the Red Dog
Friday 2nd	Youth Night
19:00	Memorial Hall
Saturday 3rd	Farmers Market
9:30 - 11:00	Village Hall
Sunday 4th	Family Service
09:00	St. Margaret's Church
Wednesday 7th	Women's Institute
19.30	Memorial Hall
Sunday 11th	High Halstow Hikers
10:00	Details in HHT
Wednesday 14th	Parish Council
20.00	Memorial Hall
Saturday 17th	Project 90
8:30	Village Hall
Friday 30th	Quiz Night
20:00	Memorial Hall

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
Stuart Bailey	TBC
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

Project 90

This month we saw the following carried out,

Following last months request for wood, the Parish Council shed was emptied of a serious amount of wood which has been passed to the Rector. As all shapes and sizes it will be interesting to see later this year what he turns it into, as 'we couldn't see what it was yet'

The Village Hall has some touch up paint done to the walls. Now the works have been done for Phase One a serious attempt to keep the hall looking good where the work has been done is going to be made

The cricket fence was reviewed with a plan to get this work fixed although this will be contracted out. The play park was reviewed to ensure no issues.

If you can spare 90 minutes once a month please come along to the Village Hall Car Park on Saturday 17th march at 8.30. When finished a cup of tea and cake available

See you then

Zumba Classes

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

High Halstow Village Hall
Mon 7.00pm

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

Name and Address Supplied

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



Wool SOS

When Joyce Davis took our Group's latest offering of knitted blankets (bringing our current total to 628) to Blythwood this week, she was met with open arms and shown a large lorry, standing ready to go on the forecourt, packed to the gunnels with supplies for Serbia. Apparently the weather there at the moment is ferociously cold; the people are absolutely freezing and crying out for supplies, including warm clothing and **blankets**. Our Home Group is more than happy to keep up our regular supply of blankets but we are approaching crisis level, due to a lack of wool. We desperately need to replenish our stock of wool very quickly. We thank all those who have helped us in the past, by providing wool or donating money towards the purchase of wool. We couldn't do this without your help.

We would like to say also, how much we appreciate all those who knit for us, past and present, and to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our current regular knitters :- Kit Gibson (120 blankets), Myrtle Bishop (117), Roz Harrison (45), Mrs. Swaisland, (Frances Penney's mum/36), Grace Milner (21), Judy Southwell (23), Rene Reynolds (Sue Russell's mum 6), Marty Pink (19) and Gladys Mockford (24). Hazel is really kept quite busy crocheting the squares together! Blythwood would be pleased to receive any 'ordinary' (i.e. not knitted) blankets in good condition as well.

If you can help in any way, please contact a Church member or better still contact Hazel Beringer direct (Tel. 251135 or 25 Cooling Road, High Halstow). We are happy to collect.

Thank you. Hazel Beringer.

P. S. Congratulations to Rene who celebrated her recent 94th Birthday by raising £155 for Blythwood in lieu of presents. Well done!



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High Halstow Hikers

Our February walk was affected by a short spell of freezing rain around 8am. Nonetheless an intrepid group still made the walk between the lovely village of Sutton Valence to Ulcombe across very snowy fields and back along the ridge above. The walking wasn't easy but there were some lovely views across the white landscape. A small map reading error towards the beginning just served to show what even-tempered natures the hikers have. The roaring fire in The Swan was very welcome at the end.

The March walk will be on Sunday 11th. It is more local and will start at 10.00 from close to Brickhouse Farm. This can be found about 2 miles after the turning towards Allhallows from the A228 Grain Road at the Fenn Corner Roundabout. Mitchell will be at the triangular island where the road bends to the left in front of the farm from 9.45 onwards and will direct you to some parking. The walk will be about 5 miles long across mainly flat land (threatened by Lord Foster) and including a walk along the seawall. Other walks in the first part of 2012 are listed below. All are on Sundays with expected start times of 10.00 am. Full details of each will appear in the HH Times immediately preceding the respective walk.

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.



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- ☐ Set Up New Pc's & Laptops (Even if purchased from elsewhere!)
- ☐ Learn eBay, Amazon Etc.

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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.



TIME

A
N
D

TIDES



A local history and community arts project

Time and Tides Project Update

Money has been awarded to the ICON Theatre recently by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Medway Council to run a local history and arts project focussing on the villages of Cuxton, High Halstow and Upnor and anyone with an interest in the area. The project is called Time and Tides and offers a chance for local communities to research their local history and take part in arts and drama activities.

The taster / introduction sessions for the Time and Tides Project in High Halstow last month were a great success with over 100 people visiting the arts and local history project displays. Thank you to everyone who turned out and took part.

The next projects to be run will be local history learning workshops, which will teach the basics of local history research, and also an oral history project. There will be opportunities to take part as either an interviewer or an interviewee and we will be talking to people about how life in High Halstow and the surrounding area has changed over the years. The interviews will be preceded by a short training course on how to undertake oral history interviews. These will be a chance to learn a new skill, catch up with friends and learn new things about the village where you live. If you know of someone who would make a good interviewee or you would like to have a go at interviewing someone then do please get in touch!

For teenagers there will be opportunities to take part in verbatim theatre, to make a heritage documentary DVD and to help create a website for the project.

If you could not make the introductory events or have not returned an Expression of Interest Form do get in touch to find out more or sign up to the events. Please contact the Project Officer on Nicola@icontheatre.org.uk, phone 01634 813 179 or write to ICON Theatre, The Brook Theatre, Old Town Hall, Chatham, Kent ME4 4SE

Happy Mother's Day

18th March

Come and join us for our very special Mothering Sunday Service, give thanks for mums past and present

Mothering Sunday Family Service
High Halstow 9:30am
Allhallows 11:00am

Share a cup of tea and some lovely treats after the service as well as a special gift for every mother (or even potential mothers of the future).

*For more info please contact Rev Stephen Gwilt 01634 250637
Or stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk*

Red Dog / Spice Fusion

It is fair to say that the letter from Oonagh last month has sparked an interest within the Village on the above subject. The Village has many views as to what they believe the Pub/Restaurant should be or not as the case is and are divided. Even within the same family we have letters in favour and not in favour of the changes as you will see below, but we do not have space to print all the letters received.

What has to be recognised though is that pubs up and down the country, both in towns and villages, have been closing at an alarming rate in recent years as high running costs, people drinking out less etc take their toll. We should be pleased that we have someone in the Village prepared to put his money into the business although ultimately it will be customers who decide if the business will be a success or not.

HH Parish Council

Dear HHT,

I am writing concerning the letter that was published in February's edition regarding the Red Dog restaurant now being a curry house.

Whilst I agree with Oonagh Elliott, I feel that no one in the village has given Mr Atkinson a chance since he re-opened the pub. I also feel that the younger generation of the village are now more welcome as there is less 'gossipers' that go in the pub on a regular basis.

Lilly Rutherford
Leaman Close

Dear HHT,

I'm in total agreement with Oonagh Elliot's letter in the last issue of High Halstow times. I feel the trustees have let down both the village and the relief in need fund with their treatment of the red dog in the past.

I fully support the red dog and will continue to as a regular customer but I would rather see a traditional village pub then a curry house.

I only hope we do not lose the rest of the Red Dog to the restaurant in the future but I'm sure the trustees would not let that happen, would they?

A Rutherford
Leaman Close

Response from Lee Atkinson re: Red Dog / Spice Fusion.

As a pub goer, and cask ale drinker myself and coming from a family of publicans, it breaks my heart to see all the pubs closing. Contrary to popular belief, the last thing I want to see is The Red Dog be anything other than a good pub. Unfortunately it got to the stage financially where it was not viable and was unable to support itself.

I understand there are aspects people like and dislike and if we can find a happy medium and get the pub supported I will deliver the pub that the village wants. I won't get into a tit for tat conversation here but in response to a previous letter, the trust were far from disappointed in what I delivered as they chose who would lease the pub, based on how it would be. They have personally told me that I

delivered what I said right down to the finest detail. I have asked them to reply to that comment but they have no interest supporting the pub or me in any way shape or form as a trust, though I must say one or two trustees have been excellent.

I didn't have any plans for a TV but after a year or so I decided that a TV may be better than closing the pub due to lack of support, so I invested a further £2500 in one due to popular demand. Very few people who requested it ever use it. I have put on live music and with the exception of two fantastic local bands in the Redfords and Glide, always lose money on these nights.

With regards to the menus, yes, I had a vision of a restaurant style menu to start with but due to many villagers requests changed it to one more in line with what had previously been expected at the pub. Then people complained that the pub had gone down hill and the food wasn't as good.

From day one until recently a Sunday roast and light lunches have always been available, and an even cheaper option was offered to the ladies quoted, as some were elderly and light eaters. On the back of a conversation with the ladies who wish to play darts, a board and darts were purchased but no further interest was shown.

The reason I have decided to close weekdays is because on average we were taking around £25 per day during these hours. Take the VAT out of that leaves approximately £20 then minus wages leaves £-4. Then take away the cost of the stock, the lighting, electricity etc and multiply that loss by 300, to establish my net annual daily loss.

As I say, I will deliver the pub that the village wants. Please come to the meeting to put your points forward, nothing will be disregarded without careful consideration. Any changes will be done in phases as the pub, as a stand alone business, could not survive immediate major investment so soon after its initial opening. The plan would be to gradually change the pub on par with the support received and therefore finances available.

To conclude, I understand it is the nature of the industry that everybody knows how to run a pub but should High Halstow as a village decide that it is me personally that needs changing I would be willing to sell the pub to the village for the value of my investment. I look forward to meeting you all. Thanks

Lee Atkinson
Red Dog



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8.45 am - 3.30pm

Morning, lunch, afternoon and all day sessions
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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

PROJECT 90

90 minutes spent improving
the village

The next Project 90 will be
Saturday 17th March
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> where you can find all the details of how to put your business on the site.

Divine Party Cakes

Cupcakes, large cakes & cupcake
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www.divinepartycakes.com

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e-mail: info@divinepartycakes.com

Sadie 01233 501832
Sophie 01634 254175



Farmers Market



Wow!! Last months Farmers Market was really well attended with £170 being raised for the Hall. A record number of stall-holders were in attendance along with the Time and Tides people carrying out their project.



The next one is

Saturday 3rd March

Times 09.30 – 11.30



Your chance to speak to a local Parish Councillor re any issues you may have

Enter the raffle to win £30 meat voucher from Denis Hills

Other local groups – have you considered using this event to raise money for your group. For a stall please contact Michelle on 254121

THE FENN BELL INN

OPENING TIMES

MON – SAT

11.30 – CLOSE

SUN

12 NOON – CLOSE

A TRADITIONAL ENGLISH PUB

SERVING TRADITIONAL PUB

FOOD

FOOD AVAILABLE

MON – SAT

12 NOON – 2PM

MON – SAT

6PM – 9PM

SUN – 1PM – 4PM

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High Halstow & District Gardening Club Events and Outings for 2012

Events

Fri 17th February Annual Dinner at the Villager Restaurant (Old BP Club) **£20**

Sun 17th June Hog Roast at The Oast, Ducks Court Farm. 2pm arrival for 3pm meal
Plenty of succulent roast pork served in freshly baked rolls followed by
a dessert. Glass of beer, wine or soft drinks included in the price. **£10**

Outings

All outings are booked on the Villager minibus which holds 16 people, so first come first served as unless I get a minimum of 40 people it is too expensive to book a coach.

Members of the Garden Club have priority. If a minimum of 40 people sign up to come on an outing, I will cancel the Villager and book a coach. For further information please contact Gwen Bucknall on 01634 250456.

Sat 31st March NT Bateman's, East Sussex. Rudyard Kipling's beautiful house.
There are formal gardens and wild spring gardens full of blue squill,
fritillaries and daffodils alongside a meandering stream, leading to the
working water mill, where you can see how it works and buy freshly
milled flour. Lunch available in NT restaurant
Leave Recreation Hall High Halstow at 9am
Leave Batemans 3.30pm approx.
£12 if a NT member, but you must have your membership card
£20 non NT member

Sun 15th April Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. Superb orchids are on
display in the new glasshouse. Lunch available in restaurant
Leave Recreation Hall, High Halstow at 9.30am
Leave Wisley at 3.45pm
£15

Sat 19th May Winchester. Visit the cathedral followed by free time in the city
Leave Recreation Hall, High Halstow at 9am. Short stop en route.
Leave Winchester at approx. 3.45pm
£20

Sun 24th June NT Mottisfont Abbey Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire. The most
beautiful rose gardens. Lunch available in NT restaurant.
Leave Recreation Hall, High Halstow at 8.30am. Short stop en route.
Leave Mottisfont Abbey Gardens 3.30pm
£20 if a NT member, but you must have your membership card
£28 if non NT member

Sun 8th July TBC
(3rd time lucky!) Cruise on the Princess Pocahontas from Gravesend to Southend.
Drive to Gravesend and park in St George's car park at 10am (free on
Sun). Walk across road and down passageway to jetty to meet
Princess Pocahontas. Board at 10.15am, sail 10.30am
Return to Gravesend between 6pm - 6.30pm.
£20 adults, £16 children

Hoo's Herons

Sunday 11 March

10am - 12pm

Price: Adult RSPB member: £4; Non member £6; Child RSPB member (4 - 16yrs) £3; non-member £5. Full refund for those joining the RSPB on the day

Booking essential

One hundred pairs of grey herons and another hundred little egrets nest at the reserve, and they are the first to kick-off spring at the heronry in our wood at Northward Hill. This is the best time to observe them before the trees go into leaf.

On the walk we will explore the different ways by which the RSPB monitors the health of our wildlife. As our climate appears to be changing, who are the winners and losers?

At the heronry viewpoint hot drinks will be provided accompanied by some insights into heron life and recitals of a historic heron theme. The walk takes about 45 minutes to the heronry and crosses agricultural land

Directions

RSPB Northward Hill nature reserve Bromhey Farm Lipwell Hill Cooling

Contact us

Telephone: 01634 222480

E-mail: northkentmarshes@rspb.org.uk

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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.

HANDY ANT



Property Maintenance

Interior & Exterior

Domestic & Commercial

I am a skilled tradesman who lives in High Halstow and has learned many skills in my 29 year career. I am a clean and conscientious worker who respects other people's property. Some of my skills are listed below.



§ Electrics	§ Carpentry	§ Painting & Decorating	§ Plumbing
§ Washing machines	§ Facia and Sofits	§ Gutters	§ Bathroom re-fits
§ Dish washers	§ Flat pack furniture	§ Flat screen TV's	§ Kitchen re-fits
§ Roofing	§ Wood flooring	§ Drains	§ Landscaping
§ Tiling	§ Curtain tracks/poles	§ Plastering	§ Fencing

Insurance work undertaken

Please contact me if the work you require is not listed or for free friendly advice

Quotes available via phone or email for small jobs

Hourly rate basis is £35.00 first hour

Then £20 per hour thereafter

References available

No job too small!!

Mobile: 07947706106

Home: 01634 252430

asrutherford@btinternet.com

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD

5 LEAMAN CLOSE

HIGH HALSTOW

ME3 8EZ

The High Halstow Website

High Halstow Parish Council

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Blog

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Welcome to High Halstow Parish Council

Any queries please email gary@highhalstow.org.uk

SAY NO ESTUARY AIRPORT



CONSERVATION ACCOUNTS OPENED

For further details [click here](#)

RSPB Step Up To Save Nature Campaign

Calendar

Please note where comments are made name of the author should be identified or the comment will not be shown

Hoo's Herons


Sunday 11th March 10.00am – 12.00pm. One hundred pairs of grey herons and another hundred little egrets nest at the reserve, and they are the first to kick-off spring at the herony in the RSPB wood at Northward Hill.[...] [Read more February 2012](#)

Boyhood Memories Of High Halstow

Further to the request for memories of High Halstow, I would like to offer some of my memories. I lived in Harrison Drive from 1956 to 1967, when we moved to West Sussex, when I was 12 years old. I loved my childhood in the village, and have lots of good memories. One that stands out [...] [Read more February 2012](#)

Say No To A Thames Estuary Airport

Help us to take e-action **BEFORE March 21st** by telling George Osborne you object to these ludicrous plans.



Spectacular sights like this will be a thing of the past if an airport is built in the Thames Estuary - your help is crucial to save the birds and wildlife there!

[Click here to read more February 2012](#)

Peninsula Times

Event Slideshow


The Village Shop

Longer Opening Hours

Monday - Saturday
7.00 - 20.00

Sunday
8.00 - 14.00

Now selling Indian Spices & Flowers



Recent Comments

High Halstow Parish Council on William Stockbridge


Hazel Owen on Wilfred Munday

R Morrison on Update On Santa's Visit 2011

George on Lodge Hill Consultation Ends 13th January

George Crozer on Dickens Marsh Walk 2nd February

Follow Us On Twitter



@Crickya @PeninsulaTony KCC & Medway have funding for further improvements to be allocated. Will look into BT actions. Thanks for comment
2 hours ago via web

Keep up to date with news and views for High Halstow visit – <http://highhalstow.org.uk/blog>

See the new Business Page, which is designed for local businesses to advertise their services visit - <http://highhalstow.org.uk/business-page>

For updates on the local groups visit - <http://highhalstow.org.uk/local-groups>

Keep up to date with news and views including the Estuary Airport, Lodge Hill and the Village Hall Refurbishment. The History Pages, Annual Reports, Council Responsibilities, comment online and much much more

Follow the news on Twitter High Halstow@High_Halstow

25,000 hits within first year of this site being live.

17

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

MEDWAY BAND ORGANISE DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S UK

Parkinson's UK – the support and research charity - is passionate about finding a cure and improving life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.

That's why the South East region of the charity is inviting local people to support Unit 5 and their fundraising charity dance at Lordswood Leisure Centre, Chatham on Saturday 24 March 2012.

This Charity Dance will take place at Lordswood Leisure Centre. Tickets are £9 per person and include entertainment and a raffle. All proceeds will help fund Parkinson's UK's vital work.

Fronting Unit Five is Dorian Gray, who had a top 40 hit in 1968, topping the charts for 7 weeks.

To BUY TICKETS contact Tony Ellingham on 01634 863941 or 07711 572306 or a.ellingham@btopenworld.com.

For information and support call the Parkinson's UK free confidential helpline on 0808 800 0303 or visit parkinsons.org.uk.

Dear HH Times,

I recently wrote to Boris objecting to the plans he seemed to be supporting for an Airport on the Isle of Grain, his reply is interesting, I have attached a copy in case you would like to publish it in the next issue?

Vic Godding

Hollyberry

Dear Vic, Jacky and Alice Godding

Thank you for your correspondence regarding a new airport serving the London area.

Over the past year and more a national debate has begun about London's future airport needs and the Mayor of London has been a leading participant in this. In the wake of the economic and financial crisis it is clear that both London and the UK must urgently find ways to rebalance and recover their economic vitality. This will require identifying new trade and investment opportunities, many of which are likely to be with emerging economies, in addition to our traditional trading partners. The Mayor believes that it will only be possible to do this if we ensure we have first class aviation links with the rest of the world. If we fail, we risk further damage to an economy that is highly aviation-reliant.

The Mayor's recent research has shown that for the most economically beneficial forms of aviation - business travel, inbound tourism and air freight - sufficient hub airport capacity is essential. This work has also shown that Heathrow is no longer capable of performing its role as the nation's sole hub airport sufficiently well. Its expansion would have unacceptable environmental consequences and it would not be able to meet our long-term capacity needs.

In his 2011 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor affirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining the UK's status as a world-class attractor for both business and tourism, and recognised the vital importance that excellent connectivity to both developed as well as emerging markets played in achieving this. He stated that "we will explore all the options for maintaining the UK's aviation hub status, with the exception of a third runway at Heathrow". The Mayor is planning further work to advance the debate. This will include the consideration of commercial and environmental issues as well as options for the location of such an airport.

The Mayor is not wedded to any single location at this stage. Rather, he is keen to ensure that the Government lead a broad and open-minded debate about the alternatives, and follow a process in which decisions are made by those responsible on a proper basis, following a rigorous assessment not only of the economic costs and benefits, but also the social and environmental impacts of the various options.

I would like to thank you once again for getting in touch with the Mayor of London on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Peart Public Liaison Officer

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

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

Readers Letters

Parish Council Meetings

Last month I went to the PC meeting - unfortunately I was the only member of the public there.

I made some comments on the items I was concerned about and I know the other villagers are too i.e. the large sum of Parish funds allocated to the Village Hall this year (£10,000 which is a quarter of the Parish funds for this year) and another large amount allocated to the church (£5,000 which is an eighth of Parish funds for this year). This is at a time when we cannot afford to replace bus shelters that are used by many or to put a new shelter in Christmas Lane.

I know that many in the village have questioned these items but if we do not get more people to attend the Parish Council meetings as in previous years (i.e. the playing of cricket on the recreation ground) nothing will happen. You need to make your views known - don't just talk amongst yourselves - speak up at the Parish Council meeting.

When I asked these questions and said that villagers were concerned the response I received was "where are these concerned villagers?".

**Ann Smith
Willowbank**

Response from High Halstow Parish Council:

Ann is right that monies have been allocated for the provision of the Hall and the Church. As you will have also have seen in the details produced last month, monies have also been set aside for the provision of bus shelters, some £20,000, saved over the last three or four years. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and are in dialogue with Medway Council as to the process we have to follow to make this happen.

The budget is drawn up to ensure we set a precept to meet the needs of the Council over the coming year. The monies are not spent until the full details are brought back to the Parish Council for them to approve or reject the expenditure. As members of the public you are more than welcome to come along to the Parish Council meeting to listen to the discussions and to put your views across – we welcome your input

HH Parish Council

Sleeping Angel

My husband Shaun and I would like to thank all our friends, family and neighbours for all their support after the birth of our beautiful sleeping angel Olly. It has been a very upsetting time for us but with the love of everyone we are getting through each day. Thank You.

Katie & Shaun
Harrison Drive

RIP Steven Cripps 6th January 2012

Unfortunately Steven passed away on 6th January 2012 after battling cancer for the last year. I would just like to say a massive 'Thank You' to everyone, whether friends or acquaintances of Steve and myself, for all their kind words and generous gestures. The children and I will miss him dearly. Thank you all once again.

Mrs Yvonne Cripps
Holmes Close

Dear HHT,

Do you own a large Grey Fluffy cat and live in the vicinity of Harrison Drive/Eden Road? For the past 6 months or so this cat has made a real nuisance of itself. It is aggressive beyond belief and is attacking our cats on a daily basis, and those belonging to our neighbours. At every available opportunity it gets into the house and steals food and attacks our cats and has hissed at our children. It appears to be outside the back door 24 hours a day! Our cats are now too frightened to leave the house and we are incurring huge vet bills as a result of the injuries it inflicts on our cats. We have>>> just about had enough! If this is your cat, firstly please keep it in or seek advice about calming it's behaviour and secondly, please be advised that due to the ever increasing vet bills we feel we will have no option but to seek legal advice regarding financial remuneration from the owner via the small claims court.

Mr & Mrs O'Sullivan

Next edition April 2012; 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