



High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron



April 2014

Your village needs you in the battle For Lodge Hill

In January this year, Martin Harper the RSPB head of conservation wrote about our ongoing battle to save the (now protected) nationally important population of nightingale at Lodge Hill.

Disappointingly - but as predicted - the Ministry of Defence and their delivery partner, Land Securities, submitted a revised Outline Planning Application at the end of February to build around 5,000 homes on this nationally important site for nightingale. If this proposal were to succeed, not only would it result in the loss of the only designated site for nightingale in the UK, but it would also seriously undermine the Government's flagship planning policy - the National Planning Policy Framework.

To recap, a few things to bear in mind about Lodge Hill and this proposal...

- * Lodge Hill is the only SSSI in the UK notified specifically for nightingales and possibly the single most important site for nightingales in the country. The site is estimated to hold more than 1% of the national population - particularly important given the fact that nightingale numbers have suffered a serious declines in recent years.

- * The proposed development would destroy the majority of nightingale habitat at the site and constitute one of the largest ever losses of a SSSI to development.

- * Medway Council's Core Strategy was withdrawn at the end of last year after an independent planning inspector found that the allocation of housing at Lodge Hill was in conflict with the Government's flagship national planning policy. This proposal fails to meet the tests set out in Government policy to protect places important for wildlife. If it is allowed to proceed, it would set a deeply damaging precedent for many of our most special sites for wildlife.

Please respond to the Council's consultation on these plans. With your help, we can send Medway Council the message that it's completely unacceptable to build on this protected site. Instead they should look for appropriate alternatives to meet their housing needs. The updated planning application comprises a staggering five boxes of papers, but this short consultation only runs until 15th April, so please write your letter as soon as you can.

Friends of Chernobyl's Children (FOCC) Medway

Do you have any clothing that your children have grown out of? If so, the Friends of Chernobyl's Children (FOCC) Medway can make good use of them.

This year FOCC Medway is hosting 12 children aged from 8 to 12 years from the middle of June. The boys and girls arrive with very few personal items, so ensuring they have appropriate clothing is usually one of the first challenges. Any donations will be gratefully received - even if it is only one item.

The Friends of Chernobyl's Children is a local branch of a charity that helps children from Belarus by giving them a recuperative holiday which allows respite from the poverty and difficult conditions they face at home for a month each year. (More information can be found at <http://www.focc.org.uk>) This is provided through family placements and the charity meets the full cost of these visits which include optical, dental and health checks as well as lots of tender loving care.

If you have anything to donate, please contact Margot Sturt by telephone on 01634 250258 or by e-mail: margotandphilip@gmail.com or if more convenient then clothes can be dropped off at the Village Market on Saturday 3rd May.

Street Cleaning

Residents will be concerned to hear that Jack, who has worked as one of our street cleaners for many years, is shortly to have an operation which means he will be off work for 5 weeks or so. We trust the operation will be a complete success and look forward to seeing him back when completely recovered. In the meantime, we wish him well.

Arrangements for cover are as follows:

John, our other street cleaner will be working each area of the village on alternate days. He will also be working an additional hour each day in the area he's not doing that day, just covering the hot spots. In this he will be helped by his son on a voluntary work experience basis. By this means we hope to maintain the overall standard of cleanliness of the village as far as possible.

HHPC

Friends of St Margaret's Church High Halstow

Annual General Meeting: 12th May 2014

Time: 7.00pm

Location: The Church

We are advertising this early so that you are aware that although the meeting is an open meeting for all to hear what has happened during the last year, please note that voting is restricted to one vote per Direct Debit/Standing Order completed and returned to the Treasurer by 31st March.

The form was available in last months HHT and can also be found at the following link:

<http://thefriendsofstmargarets.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Application-Form-and-Standing-Order-Mandate.pdf>

Further details will be published in the HHT before hand.

Friends of St Margaret's Church

Speed Limits

Please can I remind people to observe the speed limits through the Village. We should all be mindful that High Halstow is a nice place to live where children, older residents and walkers should feel safe. Some may not be as aware of the traffic as they might otherwise be. Please be careful.

George Crozer, HH Parish Council

Resume of the Meeting Held on 12 March 2014

All councillors were present at the meeting held on 12th March, which was attended by 7 members of the public.

The Parish Council has been alerted to new drawings for the proposals for Lodge Hill, Chattenden. A disk was supplied to the Clerk and this has been copied for all members. The new drawings were not discussed however as opportunities had been made available the following week for members to speak to representatives of Land Securities, the applicant. The consultation period has been extended until mid-April and the application will be discussed and a response agreed at a special meeting to be held on the evening of the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th April. If you want to look at the plans on Medway Council's website, the application number is MC/11/2516.

Representatives of High Halstow Football Club complained about the quality of pitch marking. Their comments will be forwarded to the landscape contractor, although it is fair to say they have been operating under great difficulties due to the state of the field. Another potential team have asked to share the pitch, with games on Sundays. So far they haven't put their detailed proposals in writing as requested. Asked for their opinion, the High Halstow FC representatives commented they thought the pitch might not stand up to potentially two matches a week.

Two ladies representing school parents spoke about their request for a zebra crossing between the school and the car park, which is supported by the school. In addition, the pavement is narrow and the grass verge by the barrier outside the school gates could be tarmacked to enlarge the waiting area at the crossing point. The Parish Council supports this idea. A speed indicator device (or SID) has appeared and is to do with investigating the parents' request.

Chris Watson reported that complaints are being made about the parking at the junction of Willowbank Drive and Longfield Avenue and in Britannia Road opposite the junction with Longfield Avenue. Martin Andrews will speak to the PCSO about this.

The contract with Turfsoil for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2017 has been signed. Now included within the contract is the marking of the football pitch and the mowing of the churchyard.

Chris Watson presented details with costings of a half pipe skateboard unit, together with an aerial view of where it could be sited on the Recreation Ground. This will be available to view and comment on at the meeting to be held on 9th April.

Finally, you will soon be seeing new speed restrictions in the area. Indeed by the time you read this, the signs may already be in place.

High Halstow Hikers

Our March walk was a local one and took place in terrific sunny weather. Twenty of us left Sharnal Street and initially walked across a meadow that appeared reasonably dry but was deceptively sodden and understandably led to few anxious faces. Fortunately the rest of our route was almost all dry. We headed South taking farm tracks towards Beluncle Farm (the place for pumpkins in October) and then onwards to Stoke Saltings across the railway. For those largely familiar with this area but who walked it for the first time the sheer amount of space was a surprise. The sight and sound of skylarks that have become increasingly uncommon was great to see and hear. The saltings were not at their most attractive in the low tide but they clearly showed the preserved grassy areas where, several decades ago, large numbers of barges were moored allowing "muddies" to dig around them and supply the local brick and tile works with clay. The large number of boats moored in the creek closest to Stoke and the numerous microlights taking off and flying close to the pylons and overhead power lines were also unexpected for most of the walkers. The return across the fields from Upper Stoke back to the cars finished an enjoyable 7 mile walk in the spring sunshine.

On Sunday 13th April we walk from Camer Country Park around the Meopham area. The walk is mainly flat around 5-6 miles long. We will begin as usual at 10.00am. Parking is in the car park of Camer Park which is reached very shortly after turning into Camer Park Road a left off Camer Road on the route between Cobham and Meopham via Sole Street. The postcode is DA13 0XT.

As always if you have any queries please contact Mitchell either on mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or 01634254428.

Responsible Parking

Complaints have been received by the Parish Council on the number of cars parked on the kerb, or irresponsibly parked opposite turnings, side roads or on corners. Please make sure that your parked car/van is not causing an obstruction to other drivers or obstructing pedestrians on pathways. Medway Council is aware of the issue on the Peninsula as a whole and are considering random patrols of the smart car to issue tickets. We would prefer no penalties are issued so the Parish Council is asking people to park properly in order to avoid the issues.

Allotments

As you may be aware the Parish Council have a number of allotments which are rented out each year. There are currently two people on the waiting list. Should you wish to be put on the waiting list please can you contact me (Chris Watson) on 256529 or email me at chris.watson123@btinternet.com.

High Halstow Parish Councillor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to join the High Halstow Parish Council. Applications should be made in writing to the Parish Clerk at 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8LQ or email roxana@madasafish.com.

Should there be more than one applicant the Council will hold a round of interviews to choose the successful applicant.

HH Parish Council

Annual Report

It is that time of year again, so it would be really nice if the local groups be it WI, Youth Club, Badminton, Investors Club, etc etc could contribute a report on the last year. It helps keep people informed at just what a variety of different activities are available to all during the year

Please email your reports to editor@highhalstow.org.uk by 20th April in order for these to be published next month

Thank you in advance

High Halstow Parish Council

Dog Owners

We all know that dogs bark - nothing we can do about that, but please, if shutting your dog out in the garden, be mindful of people that live around you and that they may either work night-shift or like to enjoy the peacefulness of their own garden. A barking dog can be a real irritation at anytime of the day, it may be worth checking with your neighbour if your dog is howling whilst you are away or if he sits patiently waiting for your return. Please be considerate to those around you.

High Halstow Parish Council

High Halstow Gardening Club

The Memorial Hall was a host of golden daffodils plus a myriad of all the other exhibits in both the flower and domestic sections at our Spring Show. It was a difficult task for Fran Carr to judge the entries and decide winners but she did an excellent job. The winner for Section 1 for flowers was Gwen Bucknall. The trophy for most points in Section 2 Domestic was shared by Janice Hughes, June Barton and Dennis Follett. The Spring Plate was awarded to Gwen Bucknall for gaining the most points in both Sections 1 and 2 which means she will have the inevitable task of judging our Spring Show next year. The Quizzes were won by Rosemary Collins, Mike White, Pat Merritt, Alison Wells and Bob Wells. Many thanks to all who contributed to make this an enjoyable and successful evening.

8 th April	Flynn Bees by Sudi Austin
13 th May	Forensics by David Tadd
10 th June	Trials and Tribulations of a Journalist by Barbara Stevens
8 th July	Funny Funerals, Weird Wills and Eccentric Epitaphs by Cyril Baldwin
23 rd August	Saturday Annual Show
9 th September	Patio and Containers by Janet Bryant
14 th October	A-Z of Flowers by Russ Bowers
11 th November	Pruning Roses and Best Variety for your Garden by Peter Cod
9 th December	Christmas Social Evening

Please feel free to join us on any of our club evenings at 8.00pm at the Memorial Hall and you would be most welcome.



High Halstow Youth Club – Needs Your Help

The Youth Club continues to meet on Tuesdays (term time only) in the Recreation Hall from 7pm till 8.45pm for local children aged 9 and upwards. The club is currently full but new members are invited to join several times throughout each year, so please do remember to give us the names of your eight year olds and we'll put them on the waiting list. Waiting time is usually around one year; they have to have reached their 9th birthday before they can become a member.

Recently we have been finding it difficult to get enough adults to come and supervise at the club so there have had to be a couple of weeks when the club remained closed. We are always looking for new people to become adult helpers and we hope that you might consider getting in touch to see how you can help the club. We work on a rota system where you can help as often as you like or just occasionally, perhaps once a month – it is up to you to decide how much time you would like to commit and how involved you would like to become in the running of the club.

If you feel you could help the Youth Club by giving some of your time please get in touch and we will arrange for you to visit. We can also arrange a DBS/CRB check for you, free of charge. The club is affiliated to the charity Young Kent which offers various training courses (also free of charge to you if you are interested).

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

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.

Disclaimer Please note High Halstow Parish Council: 1. makes no endorsement of any of the businesses listed in the High Halstow Times 2. is not responsible for the content of external websites. 3. the information is offered 'as is' with the wish to be helpful.

Advertising rates are £15 per quarter page per edition; £30 per half page per edition. Items should be sent to editor@highhalstow.org.uk

Red Dog New Menu

When was the last time you tried the food at the Red Dog? They have a new menu including Pub Favourites like Sausage & Mash, Fish & Chips or Home Made Lasagne, as well as an extensive Fish Menu and a Grill Menu serving a wide range of Steaks and Burgers. Starters include Scallops, Calamari, Pate & Chicken Wings. A childrens Menu is also available. Bookings can be made on 253001.

Ria Brainch
Proud to Present

DINE & DANCE SPRING BALL

Sunday 25th May 2014

Village Hall, High Halstow
Doors from 7.00pm
Ticket £12.50

*

Indian Food Buffet * D J Entertainment
Photographer

Dress Code:
Ladies – Dresses/Ballgowns
Men – Tux/Suit & Bow Tie

Licensed Bar

Tickets from the shop

Easter Service Times

17th April Maundy Thursday

Dinner High Halstow Recreation Hall.
£5:00 please book in advance

18th April Good Friday

2:00pm An hour at the Cross.
A time of reflection with music video and readings

20th April Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion High Halstow

9:30am Family Communion High Halstow

11:00am Family Communion Allhallows

4:00pm 4 Familes@Four
With Easter egg hunt

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.

Quiz Night

**Every 2nd Tuesday
of each Month**

@The Red Dog

QUIZ STARTS AT 8PM

Helping to Raise Money for:

- £2.00 per person

- Teams Of 1-8

- "Prize" for Winning Team,

Come & Join the Fun!



The RED DOG (01634) 253001

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.



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



For more details,
call Natacha
on 254178

Toddler Group

Come and join us for a cake & a
coffee while the toddlers play!

A great way for Mums & Kids
to make new friends.

Babies to 4 year olds,
just £1 for two hours of play.

Every Thursday, 9am to 11am at
the Memorial Hall, High Halstow.

Your first session is FREE!

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NO CALL OUT CHARGE FREE ESTIMATES



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- Cat Flaps Fitted •
- Locks Repaired •
- Damaged Handles •
- Doors Re-Adjusted •
- Windows Fitted •

**M: 07815 948637
H: 01634 256631**

Newly Discovered Map Now On Display In Church

A hand drawn tithe map has recently been discovered in the loft of the Rectory. The map was drawn in 1843 and is a copy of an original drawn in 1839. It gives a wonderful snap shot of life in the village almost 180 years ago. The main village which presently has over 400 houses consisted of less than a dozen including the present Red Dog public house. The map measures 8 foot long and 6 foot 6 inches wide and is pasted onto a cloth background.



To give parishioners a chance to view the map, before it is put in storage in the Medway archives, it is now mounted on the wall in the church. An beautifully illustrated old Cradle roll giving the names of children baptised in the church was also found. This dates from what we think is the late 1950's to the mid 1960's was also found and a copy of that will be on permanent display in church soon. If you were born here in the 60's maybe your name is on it. Many of the names do look very familiar.

Both of these will be on display after the usual morning services from 6th April to 25th May.

Sadly for logistic reasons it is not possible to be open at other times



The Big Boot Fair & High Halstow Village Market

£5 per Stall / Table

1st Saturday of Each Month

From 9:30am - 11:00am

Stalls Include

*Fresh Vegetables, Fresh Bread, Cakes, Cards, Jewellery
Books, Sweets, Candles, Knitting and much much more.*

The Cafe

Why not come along to the cafe for a drink and a snack.

Meet up with friends for a chat. Speak to a local Councillor about any issues you may have.

Boot Fair

Clear out the garage and loft of those items you no longer use or want. It's a great way to meet people and make some extra money, whilst having a clear out.

To Book a Stall / Table

Please Contact Michelle on 254121



Dates for Diary

Every Tuesday:

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

Every Wednesday:

Tai Chi	Memorial Hall
10:30	

Every Thursday:

Mother and Toddler's	Memorial Hall
09.00	
Sugar Babes	Memorial Hall
19.00	

Every Friday:

Pilates with Joy	Memorial Hall
14:15	

Every Saturday:

Karmann Dancers	Memorial Hall
09.00	

Every 4th Wednesday:

Friendly Club	Memorial Hall
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Other Dates:

Wednesday 2nd:	Women's Institute
19:30	Memorial Hall
Saturday 5th:	Village Market
	Village Hall
Sunday 6th:	Family Service
09:00	St Margaret's Church
Tuesday 8th:	Gardening Club
20:00	Memorial Hall
Wednesday 9th:	Parish Council
20:00	Memorial Hall
Friday 11th:	Village Hall
19:30	Quizathon
Sunday 13th:	High Halstow Hikers
10:00	Details in HHT
Wednesday 23rd:	Friendly Club
	Outing
Friday 25th:	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.

High Halstow Annual Report 2013/14


Local clubs, groups, organisations, schools, committee's, playgroups, teams, co-op's etc. are all invited to submit a report on their past years activities to editor@highhalstow.org.uk by 20th April

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.

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Divine Party Cakes



Cupcakes, large cakes & cupcake decorating parties

www.divinepartycakes.com

Find Divine Party Cakes on Facebook!

e-mail: info@divinepartycakes.com

Sadie 01233 501832

Sophie 01634 254175

Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, Chair	01634 250286
e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk	
Gary Thomas, Vice Chair	01634 252812
e.mail: gary@highhalstow.org.uk	
Martin Andrews	07984 791029
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Stuart Bailey	01634 255537
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
clerk@highhalstow.org.uk

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
High Halstow Primary School PTA

Acting Chairperson: Mrs D Matthews
Secretary: Mrs K Williams
Treasurer: Mrs S Dynes



**HIGH HALSTOW PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
Harrison Drive, High Halstow,
Rochester, Kent ME3 8TF



ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE PTA LOTTERY? IF NOT THEN JOIN NOW AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL!

For only £1 per month, you will be issued a number that is then entered into the Lottery draw which takes place during the children's School Council meeting each month (except for the August draw which is drawn in July). The prize monies are as follows:-

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
January – November	£20	£15	£10
December	£100	£50	£25

We ask that you pay your subscription on an annual basis of £12 (The start date has just been changed to September each year) Although should you join now and pay £4 your number will be entered into the remaining draws of May to August 2014! Please note that the cut off date is Wednesday 30th April 2014.

Please fill in the slip below and return it to school in an envelope marked 'PTA Lottery' and you will receive notification of your number asap.

The Lottery is open to everyone and you can have as many numbers as you wish. All subscription monies are used to pay out the winnings and to make a profit for the PTA funds. This is then used to buy items for the children which the school budget would not normally be able to support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

I would like to join High Halstow Primary School PTA Lottery

I enclose £..... which is for the purchase of number(s) for May to August 2014

Name Signed..... Date

Address Phone

I would like to be advised of my lottery number and any future winnings via:

Email..... Phone..... Text.....

Cheques to be made payable to H.H.P.S.P.T.A



Jonathan Computers

Contact Jonathan directly on the Office No: 01474 879878 or

Freephone: 0800 321 38 79

Email: sales@jonathancomputers.co.uk



REALLY IMPORTANT!!!!

Does your COMPUTER run....



Does this look familiar???



Currently from 8th April 2014*

Microsoft™ Support

for ALL XP™ Versions will discontinue!!!!

YOUR COMPUTER WILL BE AT SEVERE RISK!!!!

I Can upgrade or supply new computers with...**

☐ Windows™ 7 on.... and **NOT** the new unpopular Windows 8™ on!

* As currently stated by Microsoft™ as at 1st December 2013. **Subject to Old PC Specification.

You may become vulnerable to:

- ☐ Destructive Viruses!
- ☐ Banking Fraud!
- ☐ Total Computer Failure!
- ☐ On-Line Credit Card Theft!
- ☐ Identity Stolen!
- ☐ Being Spied On!

(All Antivirus products will cease to update at this time also)

If Running XP you will need to upgrade or replace your old PC To keep yourself Secure!!!**

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

I will deal with you personally so I can provide you with the best service. I offer a fast and friendly service and explain any problems about your computer to you in an easy to understand way.

Regards Jonathan

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

**Domestic + Commercial + Industrial
NAPIT PART P APPROVED ELECTRICIAN**

Steve Waldie

Full & Part Rewires - Consumer unit changes - internal power sockets & lighting - External power & lighting - Bathroom fans - Testing & inspection - Alarm Systems

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Take Care

... Supporting your Independence



Home Help Service

Are you ...

- An older person?
- Living with a disability?
- Having difficulty with day-to-day tasks in your home due to ill health?
- Convalescing?

We can help you with ...

- Housework ■ Laundry/Ironing ■ Shopping ■ Support to the shops and appointments ■ Respite sitting service ■ Companionship for outings and community activities ■ Handyman/Gardener service

Our Community Assistants are carefully chosen and matched to you. We believe that having the same face is important for continuity and your wellbeing - CRB checked, fully insured and referenced.



01634 316821

www.take-care-ltd.co.uk

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

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
Daily rates available on request
References available
No job too small

Mobile: **07947706106** Home: **01634 252430**
asrutherford@btinternet.com

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD
5 LEAMAN CLOSE, HIGH HALSTOW, ME3 8EZ

Village Hall

a. Quizathon 11th April

The next Quizathon at the Village Hall is **April 11th**. This is the second of four to be held this year. To book your team please contact Margaret on 244203, entry fee £3.00 per person.

b. An Evening with Nicky Moore and Friends 8th March 2014

What a night – how lucky were we to hear the talent brought to the Village by Nicky Moore. Nearly £800 was raised in what was a terrific night. Each singer performed exceptionally well and it was a joy to see the support they gave each other.

Thank you Margaret for organising this and thank you Nicky once again for showcasing some fabulous talent. Well done.

Roll on next year.

c. Golf Tournament

Details to follow shortly but a date in July is being worked on.

d. Booking

Are you a group looking for a venue to meet on a regular basis? If so have you considered using the Village Hall. You can hire the main hall, the Green Room or both rooms for a variety of activities be it meetings, children's parties, etc etc. Many evenings already have regular bookings but there are many opportunities available during the day. For more details please contact Crystal on 251849.

e. Village Market

Since we have added a number of stalls for people to bring along their unwanted goods and have a table alongside the regular traders, the number of people attending has increased, so thank you. The market starts at 9:30am and finishes at 11am. The usual stalls will be there including bread, vegetables, cakes, knitwear, cards, pet food, books, candles, sweets, jewellery and more. Please see the advert inside on page 7 for full details on how to book a table.

Village Hall Committee

The Village Shop

Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm

Sunday 8am – 2pm

Telephone number: 01634 254561

Dear HHT,

Dramarama

My name is Bethan Harris, I am ten years old and I live in High Halstow. I am part of a group called Dramarama. Recently we did a pantomime called Red Riding Hood. Many of the audience have reported back to the cast how enjoyable and funny it was I encourage you to come and see our next production which is the summer show on !!!!!!!!!!!

Behind the Curtains

Being backstage is a whole different experience to singing and dancing on the front. Lots of things go on not just trying to remember lines but so many more amusing happenings! All the girls had a very quick change before the finale dance. So we decided to get into a long line to undo our costumes before putting on new ones. Because we helped each other we managed to make it on stage with plenty of time for us to prepare for the finale. One of our newest cast members decided to hide in amongst some costumes to surprise other actors. Suddenly a head appeared shouting "boo!" and frightened some of the older members of the cast.

Feelings

The first show was on Thursday evening. When I stood behind the curtains waiting for the music to begin goose bumps shivered up my arm while I fiddled with my dress and my shaking fingers showed how nervous I was. The second performance was on Friday. I found myself just as nervous as I was the previous night even though I had already performed once. I thought that it was because my Grandparents, Auntie and Uncle were in the audience. On Saturday at the two o'clock show I was much more excited and ready to dance and do my best as there was lots of children who smiled at me and made me laugh. On Saturday night as we waited to begin the finale I felt my tummy rumble with nervousness and as I came on the stage for the last time, I had a big smile on my face and I enjoyed every minute of each performance, even the after show party was brilliant!

Bethan Harris

**NEXT DRAMARAMA SHOW
IS JUNE 2014. DETAILS TO
BE PUBLISHED SOON.**

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

I live in the village and my children are pupils at High Halstow Primary School. Since the day they started I have had concerns about their safety when crossing 'The Street'. The pathways are narrow, and the road markings and old signs are not doing their job to slow traffic down. This matter is of concern to many of us, so it's time to act before someone is harmed. Myself, the school and other parents are working in partnership to seek support for making the road safer, possibly with the addition of a zebra crossing. A petition is being drawn up where you too can show your support and these can be found in various places around the village including the shop, pre-school, Bradford's garage and the school office. Many people cross this road, not just school children. This is right outside the doctor's surgery and two halls where many groups get together including the toddler group, youth club and WI. If you don't drive down the road or even cross it, someone you know does - this affects us all. Please spread the word and help in any way you can.

Thank you

Marie Calvert
Ruggles Close

Dear HHT,

We wish to thank everybody who helped us through a very difficult time following the death of Sid. We appreciated the use of the Memorial Hall on the day of his funeral, and special thanks to Unagh, Angela, Rena, Rosemary and Ann for arranging the food, tea and coffee etc. It really helped make a very sad day run smoothly and we could not have coped without your help and generosity. We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support from the residents of High Halstow, and special thanks to Marty, Jenny, Eyvon, Eileen, Tracy, Clive, Lola, Bob and Lynn for being there for us.

A special mention to Ian and Russ for clearing 4 massive fir trees from my garden that came down in that bad weather, while all this was going on.

Everyone's help has meant so much to us.

Daphne, Rod, Gina and Ian.

Dear HHT

As we are half way through the school year I thought I would update the local community on some of the things that have been happening at High Halstow Primary School recently. Many of our pupils have been on school visits during the last term to enrich the learning that is going on in school as part of our new curriculum. There have been visits to The Natural History Museum, Chatham Historic Dockyard and The British Museum. All of Key Stage Two, (our Junior pupils), were able to travel to the Globe Theatre in London on 19th March as part of our Book Week which had a theme of Shakespeare this year. It was a fantastic opportunity for all involved. Some of our pupils have represented the school recently. Our choir performed at The Central Theatre, our swimming team made everyone proud when they competed in the Mini Youth Games at Medway Park and some of our younger pupils took part in a Multi-Skills Festival. We are always keen to hear from members of the community who would like to be involved in the life of the school. If you have a particular hobby or skill that you think we could benefit from at the school then please get in touch. Could I also take this opportunity to ask everyone in the village to be careful when travelling past the school, especially at drop off and collection times. There have been several times recently when cars have overtaken other cars at speed when they have either stopped to let a car through due to the narrowing road or stopped to let parents with their children cross the road by the Village Hall. On one recent occasion there was a near miss so please take extra care, especially when we all know the roads are busier and there are extra hazards. Our pupils are reminded about the importance of road safety as part of the curriculum but please help us to ensure our pupils and their families are safe as they leave the school by driving slowly and taking extra care. We ask our parents and carers to walk their children to school where possible or park further away from school and then walk in to avoid too much congestion. If possible, please consider whether you would be able to drive out of the village using an alternative route if you do not need to travel past the school on The Street so that we do not have any accidents. Thank you.

Mrs G. Stangroom

Head of School

High Halstow Primary School

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by 24th April to:

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