

April 2015

Medway Council Parish Election 7th May 2015 It is still not too late to put your name forward to stand as a Parish Councillor for High Halstow

A guide is available on the Parish Council website which aims to provide practical advice for people who want to stand as a candidate in the Medway Parish Council Elections on Thursday 7th May 2015. The advice is provided as a guide to the requirements for candidates during the election.

It will explain amongst other things the following:

- 1. The role of a Parish Councillor.
- 2. The Deadlines including as to when you have to complete and return your nomination paper to.
- 3. How you get nominated (How to become a candidate).
- 4. The Nomination Form.

You can find out more about High Halstow Parish Council by contacting the Parish Clerk

Roxana Brammer 53 Capelands New Ash Green Longfield

Kent DA3 8LQ

Tel No 01474 874343

Email: clerk@highhalstow.org.uk

This will be your chance to stand as a Parish Councillor

Come and Meet Your Parish Councillors

Chris(tine) Watson & Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 14th April from 10.30 – 12.00pm and every 2nd 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

Share your Thoughts, Ideas and Comments.

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? Would you like to promote an event or club within the village. Is there something concerning High Halstow that you would like to share with everyone. Then please write to the editor (address as shown on the back page) or e.mail your article/letter and we will share your thoughts with the village/world.

High Halstow Village Hall Refurbishment Works Phase Three

Many thanks for the comments and reviews made regarding the plans for Phase Three. These were on display at the Parish Council meeting as well as the recent Boot Fair. They can still be reviewed on the website http://highhalstow.org.uk/blog. At the time of going to print the tender specification was due out and hopefully next month we can inform you all of when the works are due to start.

We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council and Medway Council who kindly awarded the Hall Committee grants for phase three which has left us optimistic that the building works are nearing completion.

Village Hall Committee

Dramarama New Curtains & New Shows

Dramarama applied for a grant and along with the funds we have already raised, are currently replacing the curtains and stage framework. No one can say the current curtains have not been well used as they were secondhand when the hall first obtained them back in 1962 so this will be another part of the refurbishment programme to be brought to a conclusion.

It has been decided to have two shows later this year, the first will be a tribute to the musicals of the West End followed by a stage show. This will be performed on Saturday 26th September with an evening buffet and Sunday 27th September with an afternoon tea. Then later in the year we will be performing a Murder Mystery evening on Saturday 7th November which will be accompanied by a 3 course meal. More details are on Page 10.

The cast return to rehearsals in April after our short break following our performance of Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates in January. We will meet at least once a week leading up to the shows when it is not unusual for a last intense push, which hopefully brings everything together for the performances. If you have never been to one of our shows, please come along and enjoy a fun evening right on your own doorstep.

Dramarama

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th April at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall.

It would be very much appreciated if village organisations would please send written reports of their activities during the previous year to the Parish Clerk, either by email to clerk@highhalstow.org.uk or by post to High Halstow Parish Council, 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8LQ. All parishioners are invited to attend and to raise anything they wish.

The meeting will conclude with the Chairman's buffet, which will give the opportunity for a chat to councillors and fellow residents.

High Halstow Friendly Club

There is no club meeting in April, as members are out on a day trip to Canterbury. The next meeting is Wednesday 27th May. Details of the entertainment will be in next months Times.

Holiday to Bournemouth

Are you interested in a 6 day coach holiday to Bournemouth with members of the Friendly Club? Leaves on Sunday 13th September and returns on Friday 18th. We have twin and double rooms available but no singles. Coach from the village to Bournemouth and back to the village and includes 2/3 excursions during the week. For more information please contact me on 01634 250677. Margaret Whitebread

WI

Last month saw lots of eating (nothing new there). 5 members had lunch at The Stone Horse and we would certainly recommend the food. We also had our annual dinner at The Kings Arms Upnor everyone really enjoyed the food and the service was excellent. The April meeting is on the 1st so probably too early for the Times. Sue Threader will tell us all about the Rochester Bridge Trust which should be very interesting.

Dog Walkers

Our rights of way and green spaces are for us all to enjoy especially this time of year. Please be aware that if you are exercising your dog it should be under control at all times when in a public place.

Village Hall News

Boot Fair 21st March

The Boot Fair, organised by Margaret raised just under £330. Many thanks to all who donated items, booked a stall, bought items or bought refreshments. The money raised will be used for Phase Three

Quiz 10th April

The next Village Hall Quiz Night is on Friday 10th April. All the usual rules apply - £3.00 entrance, bring your own nibbles and drink. The evening starts at 7.30, doors open at 7.00. Money raised will be going towards Phase Three.

To book a table or individual places please call Margaret on 07702 196179.

Hiring Facilities

We have been asked to clarify that you can book the small room (Green Room) on its own should your group not require the main hall. For example if there is badminton being played in the main hall you could still hire the Green Room at the same time. For full details please contact Crystal on 251849. Apologies to Angela for putting the wrong number in last time.

Margaret

The Hall Committee would like to thank Margaret for her contribution over the many years to the Village Hall. Margaret is weaning herself away gradually from High Halstow, first leaving the Village, then leaving Medway, now it is her turn to leave Kent. You may or may not be surprised to know that although she will no longer be on the Committee Margaret will continue to run the Quiz's in the Hall so she will still be continuing to support the Village.

The Hall Committee would like to thank her for her contribution over many years and wish her well.

Stephen

A second member is also leaving the Committee and again the Hall Committee would like to thank Stephen for his time and effort in supporting them in what they do. Stephen played a pivotal role in making Phase Two happen and without his contribution the Village Hall would still be along way from finishing so many thanks from us all

New Committee Members

With the AGM in May (details in next months HHT) the Committee will be approaching the regular users of the Hall to come along and provide additional support to the Committee. It would be appreciated if the work in keeping the hall going is shared with the various groups so would be grateful if you would contribute to this.

Noisy Scooters/Motorbikes

A number of complaints have been made about scooters and motorbikes racing around parts of the village, particularly around early and late evening. The bikes are known to be loud and a nuisance especially when young children are being put to bed and trying to sleep. It is thought that the motorcyclists live in the village and are not passing through but riding around as fun. Please could whoever is responsible for these bikes/or are the parents of the young adults responsible for the bikes ask the riders to be more considerate to other residents in the village. Police constables in uniform, that have reason to believe that a motor vehicle is being used in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public do have the power to seize or stop the vehicle under Section 59, Police Reform Act 2002.

HH Parish Council

High Halstow Hikers

At the beginning of March, to ensure good underfoot conditions, we did one of our occasional walks in London. On this occasion we began by taking the short walk from Cannon Street Station to the Bank of England and Royal Exchange where we saw that one of the streets was blocked off for filming. It was as well that we were warned by one of the assistants to expect gunfire as even with the warning it was unsettling. Our route then took us past the Monument to the Tower and across Tower Bridge to the Mayor's office with a great view of HMS Belfast. As we walked along the south bank we caught up with and somehow passed through a large procession with gaudily dressed dancers and a group of drummers marking Women's International Day. Having passed the Globe, the Tate Modern and several other well-known landmarks we paused for lunch at the Southbank complex with a view of the O2 wheel. We then passed across the river by the Hungerford Bridge alongside the train bridge to Charing Cross. Our route up the Strand, past the Aldwych (more filming) and the Law Courts, along Fleet Street and past St Paul's got us back to Cannon Street after 6 and a half miles of interesting walking.

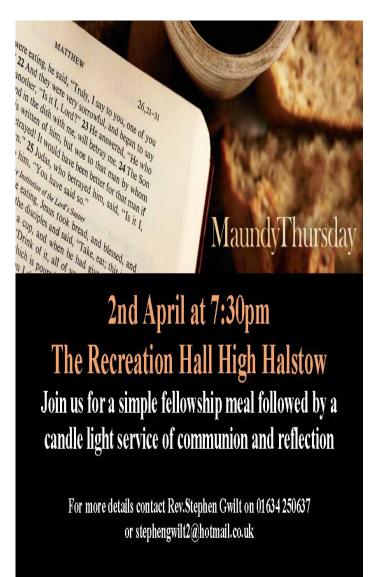


The April walk will be very different and will start from the car park of the Old Leather Bottle pub in the Street, Cobham (DA12 3BZ) at 10.00 on 12th April. The walk will include Ashenbank Wood where there should be an excellent display of bluebells, if the weather between then and now is warm. The walk will be led by Alan Marshall.

General enquires can be made with Mitchell on 01634-254428 or

mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or for this next walk with Alan on 01634 272490 or alanmarshallheron@talktalk.net.

Future walks will be on 10th May in Hadlow and 14th June in Conyer.



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 <u>any time</u> 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

Mrs L. Munday - 22 Willowbank Drive

Mr S. Bailey - 27 Cooling Road

Mrs J. Gillies - 22 Leaman Close

Mr J. Myatt - Decoy Hill Road

Mrs C. Peek - 2 Willowbank Drive

Mrs J. Collins - 6 Marsh Crescent

Cake Festival

A big thank you to all those would be Mary Berry's who baked cakes for the first Cake Festival on 1st March organised by the Friends of St Margaret's Church. Forty nine entries were entered into seven categories. It seems no one was brave enough to enter their gateaux into the eighth category. The three external judges viewed and tasted the entries and commented on the very good standard achieved.

Their conclusion was

Six Cupcakes – 1st Francesca Goodman 2nd Margaret Mace 3rd June Collins

Victoria Sponge – 1st Elizabeth Meredith 2nd Crystal Wakefield 3rd Margaret Mace

Fruit Cake – 1st Jenny Thomas 2nd Lesley Munday 3rd Margaret Bufford

Chocolate Cake – 1st Gary Thomas 2nd Joan Hetherington 3rd Sue Batchelor

Bible Cake – 1st Margaret Mace 2nd Hilda Woolmington 3rd Sue Batchelor

Novelty Cake – 1st June Collins 2nd Margaret Mace 3rd Joan Hetherington

Celebration Cake – 1st Joan Hetherington 2nd June Collins



Ben and Stanley Bucknall jointly won Best Decorated Cupcake in one minute as they were the only entries prepared to have them judged. Other competitors ate their cake immediately.

Refreshments were available to those who came to view the cakes and with the generosity of most cake makers who donated the full proceeds of their cake sale to the charity, the total raised after deduction of costs was £177.90.

June Collins

Overhanging Bushes, Shrubs and Trees

The first signs of Spring are with us, and everything will soon be breaking out in full bloom. Could residents please take a look at any flora they have growing on their property to ensure that it is not causing an obstruction to public pathways. It can be hazardous to have to step into the road or onto the grass verge when the path is obstructed or partially obstructed by an overgrown tree or bush. And an overhanging branch can cause a nasty scratch or worse. Please be considerate to others and get the clippers and shears out.

HH Parish Council

High Halstow & District Gardening Club

The Spring Show was very well supported with a good number of flowers exhibited despite the number in flowers available due to the weather. The number of exhibits in the domestic and arts & crafts section were slightly higher than last year showing the amount of talent in the club.

Gwen Bucknall had the difficult job of judging the show. The winner of the flower section was Rosemary Collins and the cup for section 2 was shared by John Wilson, Christine Wilson, June Barton and Dennis Follett.

The overall member with the most points was Rosemary Collins who won the Spring Plate and will be the judge next year.

During the judging, three quizzes were tackled by members and were won by Margot Sturt, Alison and Bob Wells, Pam and Alan Walsh and John Wilson.

Two outings have been arranged one for Hyde Hall and the other for Deal and Walmer Castle and names are currently being taken.

Our next meeting on 14th April, when Richard King will be speaking on Around the World on a Double Decker Bus. You are welcome to join us at the High Halstow Memorial Hall at 8.00 pm.



Resume Of The Parish Council Meeting Held On 11 March 2015

The meeting held on 11th March was attended by all parish councillors and 5 members of the public. We were especially pleased to welcome Margaret Church to the meeting. As reported last month, Margaret is moving away from the area and has given up doing the payroll for the Parish Council. The Chairman made a presentation to her of a gift voucher, which she will be able to spend on items for her new garden. We hope that as the plants she chooses bloom and flourish in the future, she will think back fondly of the parish council staff and HM Revenue and Customs! Sincere thanks to Margaret for all she has done over the years, not only for the Parish Council but for the village generally. Thank

The Recreation Hall Committee asked for grants totalling £30,000 to enable the third and final phase of the hall refurbishment to proceed. £10,000 was budgeted for this purpose in the 2014/15 financial year and the same amount is in the budget for 2015/16. After a site visit to the hall to be shown what was still remaining to be done as phase 3, it was agreed to release these funds and to make an extra grant of £10,000 from general reserves. It is anticipated that it will not be necessary in future years to continue to budget similar amounts for the hall.

At the request of the Parish Council, highways engineers are currently drawing up a scheme for a pedestrian crossing outside the school, rather than a raised table. This is the Parish Council's preferred option and is approximately the same cost as the raised table across the road.

Finally, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th April, in the Memorial Hall as usual and starting at 8 o'clock. Everyone is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be available after the meeting. Local organisations are invited to present their annual reports – written versions will be appreciated for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting and in the Annual Report which will be part of the May edition of High Halstow Times. These may be handed to the Clerk at the meeting or emailed to clerk@highhalstow.org.uk.

The first meeting after the elections will be held on Wednesday 13th May.



Dates for Diary

Every Tuesday: King's Kitchen

10:00 Memorial Hall

Bell Ringers

19:30 St Margaret's

Church

Every Thursday: Mother and Toddler's

09.00 Memorial Hall

Sugar Babes

19.00 Memorial Hall

Every Friday: Pilates with Joy

14:15 Memorial Hall

Every Saturday:

Karmann Dancers Memorial Hall

09.00

Every 4th Wednesday:

Friendly Club Memorial Hall

14:00

Other Dates:

Wednesday 1st:

Women's Institute
19:30

Memorial Hall
Sunday 5th:
Family Service
St. Margaret's Church
Hall Quiz Nite

19:30 Village Hall

Sunday 12th: High Halstow Hikers

Details in HHT
Tuesday 14th:
20:00

Wednesday 15th:
Council Meeting

Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall Quiz Night

Friday 25th: Quiz Night 20:00 Memorial Hall

Local groups, please let us know the dates of your

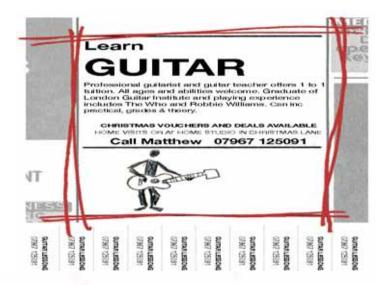


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St. James' Sure Start Children's Centre

For families with children aged 0-5 years



Stay and Play

High Halstow Memorial Hall Every

MONDAY 1.30pm - 3pm

Drop-in to this Stay and Play session for 0- 5year olds to enjoy fun activities with other families and to learn new skills with your child.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
St. James' Sure Start Children's Centre

St. James' Church of England Primary Academy High Street Isle of Grain ME3 0BS

01634 270341 E: childrenscentre@stjames.medway.sch.uk

www.stjamesisleofgrain.org.uk

Sure Start Children's Centres



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High Halstow So Can Be Quick 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.

You may become vulnerable to:

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- Being Spyed 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!!!

Village Hall Event Planner

The Village Hall Committee will be looking to put on a number of events for the coming year, below are dates already agreed

Quizathons

Friday 10th April Friday 17th July Friday 16th October

Murder on the Peninsula

Saturday 7th November See details in HHT

Nicky Moore and Friends

Nicky has been unwell recently, so no date has been set yet. The Hall Committee would like to wish him well and look forward to seeing him soon.

ou with the best service. I offer a Regards I on athan Sunday Services

8:00am High Halstow Holy Communion BCP

9:30am High Halstow

1st and 3rd Sundays All age worship 2nd and 5th Sundays morning prayer 4th Sunday Family Communion

6:30pm High Halstow

1st Sunday Holy Communion 3rd Sunday Informal worship 5th Sunday Joint Songs of Praise with Allhallows See notice board for venue

Baptisms by arrangement 1st or 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30am

For further information. Rev Stephen Gwilt 01634 250637 Or Email stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk

Caring for the needs of the community for over 1000 years

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day of judgment approaching . Heb 10:25



You are invited to take Afternoon Tea

Homemade cake

Sandwiches

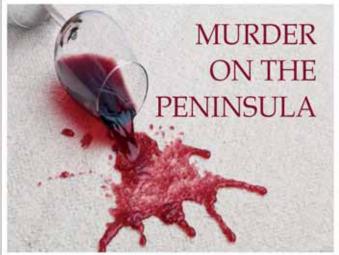
Unlimited Tea or Coffee

£3.50



Raffle - Tombola - Anim-Mates Craft Stall In Aid of Anim-Mates Animal Rescue

Saturday 4 April at 2.30pm High Halstow Memorial Hall The Street ME3 8SH



Murder Mystery Evening

"Saluté!" You're invited to the Heron Hall Wine Estates to celebrate the annual wine festival and grape harvest.

Saturday 7th November 2015

Doors @ 6:00pm Show Starts @ 7:00pm

Tickets = £8.50* including 3 course meal with licensed bar.

at High Halstow Recreation Hall Tickets available from Joanne on 250911

Hosted by the HH Village Hall Committee in partnership with Dramarama

* Tickets will not be available on the night

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

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Ring 01634 255088

Dramarama proudly presents

A TASTE OF THE MUSICALS



An Evening Buffet or Afternoon Tea with songs and dances from the musicals, and a show. Book a table with friends or family and enjoy the best of the West End in High Halstow

Evening Buffet Performance (with licensed bar) Saturday 26th September at 7:30pm

> Sunday Afternoon Tea Performance Sunday 27th September at 3:00pm

at High Halstow Village Hall

Tickets £8 per person including buffet or afternoon tea.

Available from Wenda on 253169

Free Family Fun Saturday, 18 April, 11am-5pm at Riverside Country Park

The English Festival is a fun-packed day for the whole family celebrating St George's day and the most iconic and ironic English traditions...

This year we have three exciting zones as well as a picnic area for you to take a lunch break from all the excitement.

Countryside experience

Escape to the country to meet some baby farm animals in cuddle corner. Don't miss out on the sheepdog and duck herding displays.

The seaside

Take a trip to the seaside where you can relax on the sandy beach while Punch and Judy entertain the kids, or reach dizzy heights at the funfair.

The village square

Head to the village square to do a little shopping in the farmers' market, hop on board the Little Red bus, or sit back and enjoy live music from the Kent Police Band and the Swingtime Sweethearts.

See if you can find some famous English characters wandering around the park...

There is very limited parking on site, so to avoid being caught in traffic, please take advantage of our FREE Park and Ride service that will be running all day. Or park at Bloors Wharf (at the bottom of Bloors Lane) and take a lovely riverside stroll to the park.

Medway Council

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 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.

PAUL HUGHES

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Based in High Halstow Contact Jade 07708 394979



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Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

Several neighbours responded to my letter last month, reporting that the fox had also left foil wrapped food in their gardens. They, like me were not at all pleased. However, my plea did appear to have been successful - that is until this morning, Friday the 20th March when there it was, foil and food scattered, the Magpies spreading the residue even wider. The 'feeder's' family obviously did not like the home made Spaghetti Bolognaise of the previous evening, not for the first time either. He/she must be a lousy provider for all this food to be continuously thrown away. Do they actually read our "Times" ? If not, then they have no interest in our community, if they do and have read my letter, then one can only conclude they have chosen not to care. How immature.

John Wilson Christmas Lane

Dear HHT,

I would like to thank the two ladies who stopped and very kindly assisted my son, to help me to my feet, after I fell over on the path outside the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 3 March. Doreen Stanbury Medway Avenue

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 Gary Thomas, Vice Chair 01634 252812 e.mail: gary@highhalstow.org.uk

Martin Andrews 07984 791029
Stuart Bailey 01634 255537
Ray Collins 01634 250105
Gary Jerreat 01634 250276
Lesley Munday 01634 256529
Christine Watson 07908 006448

e.mail: bdwilliams9@hotmail.com

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269 clerk@highhalstow.org.uk

Next edition May 2015; Contributions for May should be sent by 24th April to:

Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk