



High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

April 2011

Broadband In High Halstow

I am working with colleagues on supporting a bid for improving broadband infrastructure in Kent and Medway. The Hoo Peninsula is likely to be the focus of work in Medway, as the rural area will be a low priority for market investment by the telecoms industry.

The bid is to the Broadband Delivery UK fund set up by the government to progress its ambitions for superfast broadband infrastructure set out in its strategy document published in December 2010. A key element of the BDUK fund is to tackle 'digital exclusion', that is the poor levels of broadband connections found in many areas, which particularly affects rural communities.

I would like to seek your help in gathering information about broadband services in your parish, along the following lines:

- the nature/quality of current broadband connection
- the impact that this is having on local residents and businesses (currently and in future)
- a statement of support for the Broadband Delivery UK bid

You may have specific issues that you may like to raise in relation to how you use/need broadband in relation to parish council business. I know that broadband connections are problems for some villages on the peninsula and hope that you may be able to help in supporting this bid.

The timescale for this work is incredibly tight and the bid needs to be submitted in mid April. I therefore need any responses by **8 April**. We do not need detailed data, but any information that helps us to evidence the nature of the problem in rural Medway, and how improvements could benefit village communities and businesses would be very helpful.

We are planning to report on the funding bid and the associated issues to a meeting of the Rural Liaison Committee later this year.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me. Similarly, if you would like any information on the bidding process, content and the government's broadband strategy, please let me know.

Please log your comments on the High Halstow Website www.highhalstow.org.uk/blog/broadband-in-high-halstow

Regards

Catherine Smith
Medway Council

Resume of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2011

The last meeting of the Parish Council was a relatively short meeting. There were no planning applications to discuss and no issues with maintenance of the village land. The work to the drainage ditch on the Recreation Ground did not start as expected due to some technical aspects still to be agreed with the Drainage Authority.

Cllr Thomas reported that some comments had been received about the provision of a football cage and so far the majority of these were not in favour.

Problems with water on roads were raised and these would be reported to the Drainage Authority.

A reminder was given about the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13th April.

At the end of the meeting, the public was excluded and members went through the tenders for the grounds maintenance contract. Three companies had submitted tenders. The current contractor had been invited to quote for 3 years and the other two for one year from 1st April. The Parish Council does not have to award the contract to the company with the lowest quote; it is awarded on best value for money. After comparing the various elements of the quotations and a subsequent discussion, the contract has been awarded to the current contractor, Turfsoil Ltd, for a further 3 years.

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
- Mrs M. King - 11 The Street
- Mr J. Myatt - Decoy Hill Road
- Mrs J. Lingham - 7 Harrison Drive

Well Now We Know

The Kent Historic Environment Record is what it says. Ben Croxford and his small team at KCC record any 'find' in Kent of historical value. Over time this may indicate a site of archaeological importance. A dig would not be carried out until an application for a development was submitted. (I bet builders love this department.) It's amazing what you learn at a W.I. meeting.

Sadly I have to report the end of our darts success. At Matfield we just lost by a whisker or should that be a thin wire. They piped us 2-1 when we were both trying for the final double. We came very close but there is always next year. We have been eating again, our lunch club tried the Red Dog for the first time since the refurbishment. All very nice, a wide choice of food, from light meal to substantial lunch. All beautifully presented and served by 2 lovely young ladies. Vicki and Elise looked after us so well. It cannot be easy serving 13 chattering ladies all wanting separate bills.

Our annual dinner was further afield. The Ship and Trades at Dockside proved to be a good choice. Venue, food, especially the service was all very good. Even no complaints when I made them 'shuffle' after the main course. Next month we are very local with a talk on 'Birds In North Kent' by a member of the RSPB from Bromley. We are following this up with a guided tour on the reserve in May. Meeting is on Wednesday 6th April in the Memorial Hall at 7:30.

Margaret Whitebread

Memorial Hall Easter Fare

The committee will be holding an Easter Fare on Saturday 16th April from midday to 3pm. There will be stalls to buy home made cakes, pickles, chocolates, cards and lots more. We will be holding a raffle and there is a bottle tombola. Come along and guess the weight of the cake or the name of the lamb. Lots of fun for young and old. Refreshments available.

Please support this very valuable village amenity, we have to raise a lot of money to carry out essential repairs to the flooring in the hall and we are hoping, with your support, this fund-raiser will be the start of the funds required.

Quiz nights

Quiz nights are held in the Memorial Hall on the last Friday of every month. Entrance is £2.50, bring your own nibbles and drinks. We have a vacancy at the moment for a table of six to come along and join in the fun. If you are not able to make up a table, come along anyway and make new friends by joining an existing table. Ring Margaret Church on 244203 for more details.

Quizzathon

Our annual quizzathon is on Friday 29 April. Yes, the same day as the Royal Wedding but don't let that stop you coming along for a fun filled evening in the Recreation Hall. Only £2.50 per head, bring your own nibbles and drinks. In the past the funds raised on this evening have been passed over to the Recreation Hall to help with the refurbishment costs but this year the proceeds will be going towards the repairs needed in the Memorial Hall. Give Margaret Church a ring on 244203 if you would like to come along either as individual players or as a team of six.

Walking Club (High Halstow Hikers)

The March walk was led by Alan Marshall to his favourite haunts around Stoke.

The next 2 walks are as follows; all starting at 10.00 am on the 2nd Sunday in the month.

Sunday 10th April: Starting from the Harty Ferry Inn car park on the Isle of Sheppey towards Leysdown. Walk includes Shellness (where there is a naturist beach but seems a bit early in the year for that sort of thing!) and along the edge of Swale looking towards Whitstable. Seals may sometimes be seen on the mud banks in the estuary. The walk is flat but depending on weather could be muddy. About 8 miles. Given that it is a moderate length drive to get there it would be sensible to share cars so please let me (Mitchell) know (Mitch.Dowsett@btopenworld.com or 01634 254428) if you would like to come and I will try to organise the transport.

Sunday 8th May: Darnley Trail meeting at Shorne Country Park. Meeting point to be announced. Through woods to Cobham. About 6.5 miles. Your contacts remain Mitchell Dowsett on mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com and Derek Baker on 07710-806757.

Annual Parish Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall, High Halstow on Wednesday 13 April 2011 at 8.00 pm, which meeting Members are summoned to attend and to which all parishioners are invited

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 April 2010
3. To receive the Financial Statement of the Parish Council's Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010
4. Chairman's Annual Report
5. Reports from Local Organisations
6. Other business at the Chairman's discretion

Presentation by Brian McCutcheon, Medway Council, on Developments on the Hoo Peninsula, including the Lodge Hill development at Chattenden

Presentation by Nancy Hirst, ICON Theatre, on the Time and Tides Project

Chairman's Buffet

Roxana Brammer
Parish Clerk
30 March 2011

ALL WELCOME

The Chairman's Report and reports from local groups will be published in the May edition of the High Halstow Times.

**High Halstow Mother & Toddler Group
Activities for Spring/Summer 2011**

We meet on Thursday's, 9.00 – 11.00
at the Memorial Hall.

All children between ages 0-4 welcome.
Drinks & biscuits are provided.

There's a large selection of toys to play with
every week plus special events,
guests & parties.

£1.00 for first child and
50p for any additional children.

APRIL

7th April Easter Egg Hunt
28th April Royal Wedding
Celebration –
crown making

MAY

5th May Face Painting &
Dressing Up
(own costumes required)
12th May Musical Play &
Nursery Rhymes
19th May Modelling Dough
26th May Bring & Buy Sale
(bring along anything
you want to sell)

JUNE

9th June Craft Activities
(aprons or old
clothes required)
16th June Ball Pool
23rd June Puzzles
30th June Modelling Dough

JULY

7th July Biscuit Decorating
14th July Face Painting &
Dressing Up
(own costumes required)
21st July Summer Picnic
(weather permitting)

Any queries please call Marie Calvert on
01634 – 253544

At the end of July I will be leaving the Mother
& Toddler Group as my youngest child will be
starting school. My role is therefore up for
grabs. Managing the group requires you to
be keyholder, collect the money, some book-
keeping and banking. There is an insurance
to renew each year and other than a little
advertising, you simply have to be available
to run the club once a week.

It's simple!!! If you are interested please let
me know.

MARK RECKLESS MP

Working Hard for Rochester and Strood



MEET YOUR LOCAL MP

Mark Reckless MP will be holding
a public surgery on

Friday 8th April 2011

10am - 1pm

Memorial Hall

The Street, High Halstow

Local residents are invited to come along and meet their
Member of Parliament at an open surgery

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

www.markreckless.com

**High Halstow and District Gardening Club
proposed Outings/Activities for 2011**

Sunday 17 April - Day trip to Columbia Street
Flower Market in London £20

Thursday 5 May – Visit to the Tulip Festival at
National Trust property, Polesden Lacey in
Surrey. Tour of the house also possible if
wanted. £23 for non-members of the NT or
£13 for members

Sunday 19th June – Garden Safari and Tea
at The Oast, Ducks Court Farm. Cost to be
decided.

Sunday 26th June – Visit to the stunning
Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Hyde
Hall in Essex to see the beautiful roses,
woodland, lakes and dry gardens.
Spectacular! £20

Sunday 17 July – Meet at Gravesend for a
boat trip on the Princess Pocohontas down
the Thames to Southend and back with free
time to enjoy a gentle stroll along the pier and
sea front in Southend and have a pub lunch!
£20

Prices may alter slightly depending on the
number of people on the outing and the size
of coach that has to be booked.

Gwen Bucknall

**Contact the Neighbourhood Watch Team
Now for your Free Purse Chain**

Kent Police's partnership with the Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association to provide free purse chains has been hailed a real success. So much so that 1,000 more of the metal chains, which enable the user to secure their purse to a handbag, have been ordered, after the first batch of a thousand were snapped up in just over a month.

The chains were purchased by the Association thanks to a donation of £400 from the Kent Police Property Fund.

Our NW Liaison Officer, John Haddaway, said: "The chains are simple, yet very effective. They make it difficult for anyone to remove a purse from a handbag once they have been attached. We are delighted at the response we have had, which is why we have been able to get an extra one thousand chains. They do provide extra security, but shoppers should remain vigilant and take care of their belongings at all times"

THESE CHAINS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ANYONE RESIDENT IN THE MEDWAY TOWNS AND ARE COMPLETELY FREE

SIMPLY CONTACT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE 01634 792131

www.medwaynwa.co.uk

Note from the Editor

The High Halstow Times is a friendly point of contact and all views expressed are those of the individual. No letter will be published without the name and address of the writer being supplied to the editor, although this information may be withheld from appearing in the HHT upon request. If you have a matter for complaint, it should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council, which meets on the second Wednesday of every month, at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

Advertising rates are £15 per quarter page per edition; £30 per half page per edition.

**THE RED DOG
GOLF SOCIETY**

1st FRIDAY of EACH MONTH



Details available at The Red Dog

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.

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

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

PAUL HUGHES

Double Glazing Repairs

NO CALL OUT CHARGE FREE ESTIMATES

Misted Units Replaced •

Cracked Units Replaced •

Broken Hinges •

Cat Flaps Fitted •

Locks Repaired •

Damaged Handles •

Doors Re-Adjusted •

Windows Fitted •



M: 07815 948637

H: 01634 256631

Second Time Around Clothes Sale and Fashion Show

High Halstow Memorial Hall
Friday 20th May, 7.00pm -10.00pm

Fashion show starts 7.30pm



Good quality, nearly new clothes and accessories
for men and women from only 50p!

£1.00 entry - includes free prize draw
Refreshments available

All proceeds to

**The National
Brain Appeal**
Funding advances
in neurology and
neurosurgery

NEURO
MUSCULAR
HEAD INJURY
STROKE
BRAIN TUMOUR
DEMENTIA
PRION
PARKINSONS
MIGRAINE
MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS

Charity reg. no. 290173

Dates for Diary

Every Tuesday	
King's Kitchen	
10:00	Memorial Hall
Every Wednesday	
Painting & Drawing for Beginners	
10.00	Memorial Hall
Every Thursday	
Mother and Toddler's	
09.00	Memorial Hall
Sugar Babes	
19.00	Memorial Hall
Every Saturday	
Karmann Dancers	
09.00	Memorial Hall

Other Dates

Friday 1st	Youth Night
19:00	Memorial Hall
Saturday 2nd	Farmers Market
09:30	Village Hall
Wednesday 6th	Women's Institute
19.30	Memorial Hall
Friday 8th	Mark Reckless
10:00	Memorial Hall
Sunday 10th	HH Walkers
See article for details	
Tuesday 12th	Gardening Club
20:00	Memorial Hall
Wednesday 13th	Parish Council
20:00	Memorial Hall
Friday 15th	Springboard 11
14:00	HH Village Hall
Saturday 16th	Project 90
08:30	Village Hall Car Park
Saturday 16th	Easter Market
12:00	Memorial Hall
Friday 29th	Quizathon
20:00	Village Hall

FARMERS MARKET
SATURDAY 7TH MAY
FRESH FRUIT & VEG,
BREAD, MEAT, CAKES,
GIFTS AND CRAFT
9:30AM TO 11:00AM

Learn Guitar

Electric and Acoustic Guitar Lessons

Professional guitarist and guitar teacher offers one to one tuition. All ages and abilities welcome. Graduate of London Guitar Institute. Playing experience includes Elton John and Robbie Williams.

Learn Rock, Blues, Pop, Country, Scales, Modes, Chords, Reading Music, Writing music and songs and more. Grades through Rockschool (UCAS accredited) or ABRSM

Home visits or at Home Studio in Rochester

For more information call Matthew on 07967125091
or email mcrozer@me.com

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 & DISTRICT
GARDENING CLUB**



ONLY GARDENING CLUB ON THE PENINSULA

COME AND JOIN US, PLENTY OF ACTIVITIES

SPRING SHOW (Members only)

ANNUAL SHOW (Open to all)

OUTINGS

MONTHLY MEETINGS with SPEAKERS

at MEMORIAL HALL (2nd Tuesday of month)

BRING & BUY SALE

For more information contact -
GWEN BUCKNALL (01634 250456)

local website

**NOTES FROM MEDWAY'S
HOO PENINSULA**

www.hoo-peninsula.co.uk

a record of local life

**! STOP PRESS !
MEMORIAL HALL EASTER MARKET**

16TH APRIL 12pm-3pm

**All you need for Easter; Chocolate Eggs,
Cakes, Cards and Refreshments.**

PROJECT 90
90 minutes spent improving
the village

Saturday 16th April
8:30am start
in Village Hall
Car Park

Refreshments served afterwards

Bellini
MANUFACTURING

Designers and Manufacturers of quality interior furniture

With over 18 years experience to draw upon within the cabinet making industry, Bellini Manufacturing design, produce and install high quality furniture for the bathroom, bedroom, kitchen and home office.

We can work with you and help develop an idea for a particular piece or simply give us the dimensions and what your requirements are, then leave the rest to us.

Vanity Units, Bath Panels
WC Units, Storage Solutions
Wardrobes, Bed Side Cabinets
Built In Shelves
Computer Desks
Replacement Doors
HiFi and TV Units

www.bellini-manufacturing.co.uk
sales@bellini-manufacturing.co.uk

Tel: 07914 671365



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Good quality, nearly new clothes and accessories
for men and women from only 50p!

£1.00 entry - includes free prize draw
Refreshments available

All proceeds to

**The National
Brain Appeal**
Funding advances
in neurology and
neurosurgery

NEURO
MUSCULAR
HEAD INJURY
STROKE
BRAIN TUMOUR
DEMENTIA
PRION
PARKINSONS
MIGRAINE
MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS

Charity reg. no. 290173

Spring break workshops for under 18s

Springboard 11

from Medway Council's Arts Development Team. Arts for Life.

FREE FAMILY FUN

Craft, drama, fun and games

Suitable for under 11s

All children must be accompanied by an adult



Thursday, 14 April

2 - 4pm

Upnor Castle*

Friday, 15 April

10am - 12pm

Cuxton Social Club

2 - 4pm

High Halstow Village Hall

Places subject to availability, first-come-first-served. However, priority will be given to those who book in advance. To book phone 01634 338319

*Castle entrance fees apply for non-Upnor residents -

£5.50 adults, £3.50 children and concessions or £14.50 family ticket.

Upnor Residents Association and Parish Council have kindly agreed to distribute free entry vouchers for Upnor residents - look out for these coming through your door soon

The Time and Tides Project

Do you live in Cuxton, High Halstow or Upnor? Want to get involved in a fun community art and history project for people of all ages? Investigate the hidden histories and unique stories of your village and present these findings artistically through drama, music, workshops and events.

To find out more or register your interest, phone 01634 813179, email nancy@icontheatre.org.uk or regardless of whether you have children or grandchildren, come along and meet us at one of the Family Fun events above.





Football Cage

The Parish Council are considering seeking funds to assist the installation of a football cage which will allow people to play football (five-a-side size) on an all-weather surface.

Before the Parish seek funding from additional sources, which it will need to do, comments are sought from the parishioners on the possible location of the football cage. Two possible solutions have already been identified as follows:

1. On the Recreation field joined up with the existing Kick Wall.

Advantage - part of the facility is there already.

Disadvantage - lack of lighting in the darker evenings.

2. On the grass area between Wilcon and Abbey estates.

Advantage - may be able to be located near existing street lighting.

Disadvantage - away from the main recreational facilities within the village.

Should you have any comments please either:

1. email the editor@highhalstow.org.uk

2. leave comments on the Parish website www.highhalstow.org.uk/blog/football-cage

3. send your comments to the Parish Clerk

High Halstow Parish Council

Parish Councillor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a councillor on the High Halstow Parish Council. If you are interested in filling this position, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01474 871269.

Readers Letters continued...

Dear HHT,

I really cannot believe this is even being considered! The youths/children will not benefit from this – just the contractor hired to build the structure! It will become just another hangout for the so called bored young adults who at the moment find fun in wrecking the village hall weekly – destroying the bus stops – damaging peoples gardens (note the trees damaged of an a readers letter on the back page of HHT). If they want to play ‘organised’ football – then let them join a club. Surely the Mums and Dads that insist on parking all over the place in the morning outside the primary school will take them to Football ‘4’ All or Strood Sports Centre!

This will downgrade the village immensely and cause a shift in the ‘village’ atmosphere that High Halstow currently enjoys. The front page of this month’s HHT outlines a massive development that is within a stone’s throw of our quiet abode.

It’s not a case of how much noise or where? – it is a case of not being led by inappropriate ideas and concentrate on the real needs of the village.

Yes – the lighting to the rear of the Recreation Hall is non existent. So why not fix that – then people will be able to use this area. The tradition of jumpers for goal post is never going to go away – so why not keep it!

Already kids are losing imagination through computer games – don’t force them to have to play football in a purpose built cage! Already I have changed my name to Anon whilst typing this – because the youths of the village have taken over to a point where I’d feel threatened by airing my views.

Don’t let them have yet another ‘ghetto’ that will be a no go area late at night!

Name and Address Supplied.

Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee is looking for new members to join the committee and help decide the future of the hall. If you are interested then please contact Gary Thomas on 01634 252812

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

Having recently read the Lodge Hill plans I am horrified at the scale and impact on the local area, it sounds like another ill conceived and hair brained idea..that means it will enjoy the support of Kent county Council and Medway Council. Let's hope it goes as poorly as the development plans on the Rochester side of the Medway, like many people I fear that the locals will not be involved in the decisions and if they are it will simply be to satisfy the system and we will not be able to change a thing! We Already have a poorly served Road system in the South East so it make total sense to add to the problems, why not create another Industrial Estate to lay empty "Oh they have" I suggest they develop Rochester, Chatham and Strood High Streets in advance of killing another part of countryside, or is the plan to let them fall down! They already look like shanty Towns so what will bringing in another 7,000 Min people in do for the poor people that try to operate business from them? .. bugger all! It is very clear that our area has a shortage of Medical practices, either they have been missed in the High Halstow of not thought of by the Land Securities, waiting for a month to book up to be unwell is not an option. We no sooner get over one major spanner in the works in the South East and in particular the Medway Towns, when we are presented with another. I am sure money will be put aside for Road improvements, I am also sure that like High Halstow and a number of other developments around Kent NO MONEY WILL BE SEEN IN THE AREA AFFECTED, NO MONEY NO IMPROVEMENTS...That large bird in the sky called the Government local and National (I think that what it calls it self) has once more flown of our locality only to Poo on us once more..what a sad old situation!

Regards
Vic Godding
Christmas Lane

Dear HHT,

I am writing on behalf of my elderly Grandmother, Ruth Finch, of Longfield Avenue. On two occasions in the past 12 months her drains have been blocked as a result of people putting wet wipes down the toilet in her road. This has caused her great distress and inconvenience and been costly for her to rectify. Please can I ask residents to refrain from flushing wet wipes/baby wipes down the toilet.

Many thanks,
Matthew Finch

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

For Sale



***Sit on lawnmower
AL-KO T850R Comfort
Excellent Condition
1 Summers' use only
£800 ono
Tel: 01634 253037***

SAVE THE DATE

***HH PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE
SATURDAY 25TH JUNE 2011,
1PM TO 4PM.
STALLS, GAMES, PRIZES
AND MUCH MUCH MORE
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON...***

***Date for your Diary
Easter Market
16th April 12-3pm
Memorial Hall***

Next edition May 2011; 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