



# High Halstow TIMES



*Home of the Heron*

---

May 2010

---

## ***Village Hall New Blood Needed***

Have you seen the state of the Village Hall since the vandals smashed most of the windows? Have you been inside the Hall - to the Doctors or Farmers Market, maybe - and seen how the Hall is plunged in darkness since those broken windows have had to be boarded up?

Have you wondered what 'THEY' are doing about it?

For the past ten years the Hall Management Committee has been raising funds by holding a variety of events - Boot Fairs, Tribute Nights, Auctions, Race Nights, Farmers Markets and some generous donations. The aim is to have sufficient money to refurbish the Hall and ensure it remains a pleasant village amenity. The committee is becoming despondent as each time we think we will be able to start work, those plans are knocked back by mindless acts of vandalism.

Have you thought that you could do a good job at the Hall? Are you bursting with ideas for fund raising events? Do you want to give something to the community? The Hall Committee is getting smaller and would welcome new blood. If you think you might have something to offer, please come to the next Hall meeting - which happens to be the Annual General Meeting - on Wednesday 12th May at 7:00pm in the Hall, everyone is welcome.

Your Village Hall Needs You!!

***Village Hall Committee***

## ***Mother & Toddler Group***

The High Halstow Mother & Toddler Group has recommenced following the Easter break. We are a friendly club that meet every Thursday between 9:00 & 11:00 at the Memorial Hall (term-time only). Newborns to school-aged children are welcome. The small fee of £1.00 is payable for all those over 6 months, plus 50p for subsequent children. Squash & biscuits are provided for the little ones plus tea and coffee for the grown-ups. This is a great opportunity for the younger people of the village to meet, learn social skills and make friends. We offer two hours of fun, including free play with 100's of toys, table craft activities, musical play, singing and storytelling. Plus summer picnics and other seasonal activities to look forward to.

New faces always welcome, so if you look after a little one on a Thursday morning - please come along and join us.

All enquiries to Marie Calvert 01634 253544

## ***Recycling Banks***

The Parish Council will be considering at the May meeting (Wednesday 12th @ 8pm) as to whether we wish to have removed all the recycling banks from the Parish Council car park.

With the Council collecting bottles, plastic, paper, cans etc every fortnight with the domestic waste, is there any need for these to be here now with the noise, rubbish etc that comes with them.

Please let the Parish Council know what your feelings are before the decision is taken or come along to the meeting in May and join in the debate.

***Village Hall - Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 12th May @ 7:00pm***

***Annual Reports Inside***

## ***Billy Elliot - Local Success***

To celebrate five fantastic years of Billy Elliot the Musical in the West End, the producers are, for the first time, offering schools and youth groups the opportunity to stage their own production of this award-winning show as part of a new initiative called Billy Youth Theatre.

An amazing 115 schools and youth organisations from across the country have taken on the challenge of staging their very own version of Billy Elliot. ([www.billyyouththeatre.com](http://www.billyyouththeatre.com)) including a Medway group, Stage Theatre Society.

Billy Elliot is running from the 23rd to the 26th June at the Hazlitt Theatre and three young talented children from High Halstow Village auditioned successfully.

Aimee Bostock, 11

As a proud Mum I was delighted when Aimee successfully auditioned for a part in Billy Elliot. It is the fourth time Aimee has auditioned for the group STS (Stage Theatre School) and she very nearly gave up. However with perseverance and a good northern accent, she was given the part of Jeff the Miner. She will be acting alongside two other teens for High Halstow, Patrick and Tommy Murray.

I recently watched a production by STS and was amazed at the commitment and dedication that the children/ teens put into their show.

So please support your local children/teens and come and see them in June from 23rd-26th at the Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone.

Well done again x

Patrick Murray, 13, is playing the role of a kid 1 and a miners child where his talents are being stretched to the limit performing complex vocals, acting and dance routines. This is Patrick's third show with Stage Theatre Society (STS) after performing in Hairspray and Seussical.

Tommy Murray, 15, auditioned successfully for a principle role of Jackie Elliot, the father of Billy. This role is a dialect challenge Tommy is looking forward to after last year playing Edna in Hairspray and Vlad Vladikoff in Seussical for STS.

Stage Theatre Society is run by a dedicated group of volunteers committed to providing a platform for talented young people to socialise and have fun meeting and performing in a safe fun environment.

A lot of the young people from this youth group go into further education studying musical theatre / performance successfully at places such as Italia Conti.

## ***High Halstow Garden Club Outings***

We have two outings planned and there are more to follow!

### **Monday 17th May**

Visit the amazingly large Richborough Roman Fort, followed by a stroll round Salutation House Gardens, adjacent to the quay in Sandwich. There is a lovely tea room in Salutation House Garden or many others available in Sandwich. There should be free time to explore the enchanting cinque port of Sandwich.

Coach leaves from High Halstow.  
Cost £20 (price for senior citizen)

### **Monday 21st June**

Visit to Tower Bridge Exhibition in London. There are lifts in both towers, fascinating mechanisms to lift the bridge and wonderful views of London from the aerial walkway. This will be followed by a boat trip from St Catherine's Dock down the River Thames to the Thames Barrier near Greenwich, where we will visit the Thames Barrier Exhibition with a guide to give us additional information.

Coach leaves from High Halstow.  
Cost £25 (price for senior citizen)

If you would like to join us, both members and non members are welcome. Please contact Gwen Bucknall on 01634 250456 for further information as soon as possible as places are limited.

## ***Silver Surfers***

Taster sessions for would-be 'silver surfers' with no knowledge of computers or information technology are on offer from Medway Adult and Community Learning Service.

The sessions take place on Friday, 21 May on Silver Surfers' Day, to encourage older people to get online and use the internet. Anyone aged 60 or older and is interested in learning about the internet, buying and selling goods online and tracing their family tree, can attend.

The Silver Surfers sessions will be available at:  
Ebay taster session at Wigmore Library from 9.30am to 10.30am  
Internet taster session at Wigmore Library from 11am to noon.  
Genealogy on the internet at Chatham Library from 9.30am to 10.30am  
Ebay taster session at Chatham Library from 9.30am to 10.30am

Booking is essential, by either calling in at reception at either centre, or phoning 01634 338400. A £5 holding deposit is required to book; this will be refunded at the end of the session.

## *High Halstow WI*

We did ourselves proud at the County darts semi-finals. It all hung on the final double, but we were just beaten by the eventual winners.

Times are getting busy again, with members enjoying an evening at Nashenden W.I. who celebrated their 46th birthday. Two ladies had a great day out on a visit to Canary Wharf, the east end of London with all its history, and finally the Olympic site which is really taking shape. At Sevenoaks we had a brilliant 'Polish' evening. A young lady who has a Polish bakery came with doughnuts for everyone. She was amazingly slim and very attractive. We also heard about Polish customs and food. The evening ended with wonderful Polish dancers in full traditional dress.

One member reported on the annual council meeting in Tonbridge Wells. The speakers Anne Widdecombe and a lady Bailiff, were it seems fantastic, and the trip to the Medway Little theatre to see *The Graduate* was apparently the best ever. Next meeting is on Wednesday 5th May. It is our annual meeting when the committee will be voted in, we will lighten the evening with quizzes and some wine.

It was with great sadness that we heard that Glenda Everett, who had fought so long and hard, lost her battle with cancer. She was a valued member and served on the committee. She will be so badly missed by her many friends at High Halstow W.I.

**Margaret Whitebread**

### SPONSORED WALK 31st MAY 2010

A 10k walk from Hoo School  
to High Halstow in aid of

Cricket Facilities and Equipment for  
Hundred of Hoo School and  
High Halstow Cricket Club

To be followed by

A CHALLENGE MATCH  
HHCC President's XI v H of H School XI  
At

Rayner's Meadow, High Halstow  
BBQ, games and other therapies

Registration: from 09:00 - Start: 10:00

Sponsorship Forms available at:  
Hundred of Hoo School  
The Cricket Pavilion, and  
9, Marsh Crescent, High Halstow and  
[www.highhalstow.play-cricket.com](http://www.highhalstow.play-cricket.com)

Open to all

## *Village Hall AGM*

Please note the AGM will be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th May at 7.00pm - all are welcome. Details of the finances will be presented to the Committee (pre audit). Please note that the various groups who regularly use the Hall should send a representative.

## *Farmers Market*

The next Farmers Market is on Saturday 5th June, doors opening at 9.30. Why not come along and buy your weekend vegetables, meat, bread and cakes. We also have a huge selection of craft stalls including handmade cards, jewellery, candles, plants and handmade chocolates. Fancy some homemade jam, marmalade, pickles or honey. This is the place to come.

## *From the Cricket Club - April 2010*

The season had not begun before we heard the great news that Tyler Dockwray has been selected to play for Kent U10s this season. Although several (now ageing!) members represented the county at various age-group levels in their youth, Tyler is the first of our home-grown Colts to be selected to play for the county. He is a talented all-rounder and sets a fine example to all our players – whatever their age.

A busy schedule of 47 matches in May includes 12 home games for the colts teams in addition to the usual Saturday and Sunday games for the adults. We will also play 5 "home" games at The Hundred of Hoo School. During the month the Medway Secondary Schools Softball Festival and the Medway Mini-Youth Games Kwik Cricket Festival will be staged on the Recreation Ground and Rayner's Meadow – the 20th and 27th respectively.

Our Sponsored Walk on 31st May is a joint event with Hoo School and will raise money for equipment for use at both the school and the club. Our main goal is a motorised heavy roller for use at the school. For full details of how to enter or sponsor a walker please visit our website at [www.highhalstow.play-cricket.com](http://www.highhalstow.play-cricket.com), visit the pavilion or contact David Laphorn on 250334.

Last time I commented on the weather, it all went wrong. So I will restrict this comment to hoping that the sun shines on us all throughout the summer days, although a little rain from time to time (at the right time) will not go amiss.

**David Laphorn**  
**Chairman**

## *Patient MOT's*

Thousands of people in Medway are being invited in by their GPs to have a free NHS Health Check.

The check, for people aged between 40 and 74, will assess each person's individual risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and kidney disease. The chance of developing these diseases increases with age, and certain things – such as being overweight, smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol – put people at even great risk.

The good news is that, by making lifestyle changes, they can often be prevented.

That's where the free NHS Health Check comes in. After people's risk is assessed, they will be given personalised information and advice. If they need help with, for instance, losing weight, getting active, or drinking less, they will be told about local support available.

The first patients (those aged 40 and over, whose ages end in 0 and 5, and those who are 74) are already starting to get letters from their GPs. Over the next five years everyone in the age group will be invited in for a first check – unless they have already been diagnosed with one of the conditions, in which case they will continue to be checked in their usual way.

The free NHS Health Check will be offered every five years. The check itself consists of a blood pressure test and a cholesterol test, height and weight measurements, and questions about your medical history including your age and ethnic background (because people from some communities have a higher risk of heart disease, for instance) and that of your close family.

If the results from this first check flag up that you could be at higher than average risk, tailored advice and treatment will be given and you may be invited to have further tests.

“The NHS Health Check identifies people's risk of diabetes, kidney disease and cardiovascular disease – including heart attacks and stroke,” said Dr Alison Barnett, Medway's Director of Public Health. “Even if you're feeling well, I would urge you to take up the NHS Health Check when it is offered to you - prevention is better than cure.”

### *Memorial Hall*

I am very pleased that John Pink has replaced me as one of the four Trustees, I know he will be a great asset to the hall.

To book the Memorial Hall, please ring our Secretary Angela Forward her telephone number is 251756. The new Chairperson is Ann Smith, and Ann's number is 251914. Please do not ring Ann to book the Memorial Hall. Margaret Church continues to be the Treasurer.

### *Friendly Club*

Sheila Marchant has found someone to help her Judy and May run the club, they will also take over as treasurer, this is a club for anyone over 40 but no children are allowed.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2 to 4pm there are various board games or you can play cards, or some even prefer to sit and chat, tea and homemade cakes are served half way through the afternoon and during the second half there are a variety of activities, speakers, demonstrations, occasionally a game of Bingo.

Why don't you come along and see for yourself.

### *Gardening Club*

Gwen Bucknall is the new Chairperson, she is also the one to contact if you need to know anything about the Gardening Club. Gwen comes with many fresh and new ideas and is organising a couple of very interesting outings for this coming year. Why not give her a ring on 250456.

The next Garden Club meeting is on Tuesday May 11th, this is a 'Bring and Buy' meeting when we ask anyone to come along and bring any surplus plants, shrubs, cuttings, or any garden related items. But Please NO flower pots. As usual we hope to have our regular Peter Tyler to do the auction for us, Peter has a way of getting a chuckle going and a good time is had by all.

### *Quiz Nite*

John Pink is joining Margaret, and Lesley to run the quiz nites, so if you want to book a table please ring either John on 251536 or Margaret on 831570, you may even see John in the Village shop on occasions.

The next quiz nite is in the Memorial Hall on Friday May 28, our ever faithful Hazel is still going to provide the score sheet.



*High Halstow Parish Council  
Chairman's Report 2010*

This community is privileged to be able to run in some small way its own affairs. High Halstow Parish Council is 1 of only 11 Parish Councils in Medway, who collectively serve around 22 out of 250 thousand people.

Firstly I would like to thank those Councillors who have left us this year for helping to make High Halstow a better place to live. I welcome New Councillors to this table and wish them well in their time as High Halstow Parish Councillors. Can I also thank all Councillors on behalf of this village for their unpaid time and dedication?

Anti social behaviour in this village always seems to be the lead topic in my chairman's report. This year is no different I'm afraid and again I am convinced it is not a wide spread problem but is restricted a minority of offenders. Damage to the Village Hall has been extensive and will result in a delay to the start of refurbishment, as I believe we cannot risk committing hard earned money to an unsecure project without some form of security. I will therefore propose that work does not commence until there is an adequate surveillance system in place to monitor the building and anti social behaviour.

I am pleased to see that the play park and the additional facilities for the children are nearing completion. With the help of Medway Council we will jointly be spending around £50,000. There have been a few set backs such as the weather, water logged ground and of course anti social behaviour. But I'm sure that once the teething problems are ironed out this will prove to be very popular. Can I thank Councillor Thomas on your behalf for championing this project?

Improvements to the drainage of the Recreation Ground are on going again in conjunction with Medway Council and the Water Authority. I would hope by next year we would have further reduced the threat of the ingress of water to the adjacent houses.

This year we had hoped to begin to install two new bus stops that were to be more in keeping with our village scene. Our plans were thwarted when we were offered two second hand bus stops for free. I still believe that traditionally build stops would be more pleasing on the eye but hey!! We couldn't look a gift horse in the mouth and we still have the money if they are unsuccessful. What do you think! What would you prefer Urban or country styled? The anti socialists have given the new ones the thumbs up already.??

I am convinced that the decision to take on our own green space maintenance and continuing to clean our own streets is the right one. We have a good rapport with our contractor and of course our own staff and have this year extended the contract to a three-year period. Can I thank Andy Waters for his work in setting up our relationship and councillor Martin Mitchell for his ongoing expertise?

Despite all the rumours of me, me and Gary, or me and the rector taking over the Red Dog. I can report very little, except for what has already been published in the High Halstow Times. I'm sure that trustees of the Relief in Need Charity who on its behalf administer ownership the affairs of the building, are aware of the significance of this much treasured facility. Lets hope that its doors will once again be open to the public.

I take this opportunity to stress how important our village shop is to a large number of people who are unable to venture into town for their weekly shop or pop out to neighbouring villages for the odd thing or two. Think hard about ways you can help. What do you buy elsewhere that you could easily buy from our shop. Every little helps remember there are more than two and a half thousand of us who live in High Halstow. So please use it or we'll lose it.

I am pleased to see that the Cricket club have now found an alternative pitch for the colts and their fourth team. I pay tribute to the club for the excellent work they are doing with the youth of this and other villages. Their lead and example is giving inspiration to many.

On behalf of you all can I thank the Ladies and the one Gent of the Drop in Club (or the Tuesday Club or Open House as I was never quite sure of its name) for their wonderful meals provided regularly once a month? On the times I was able to attend I was able to treat my entire family and staff of 4 to a meal for a little over £13.00. You are and will be sadly missed. Thank you.

I am glad to see that the spot on Tuesday has now been filled by the Kings Kitchen I have not had the opportunity to sample as yet but will no doubt drop into the Memorial Hall soon.

Project 90 or project day is now in its 6th year I have kept a detailed list of collected that in that time we have collected

1000 bags of rubbish  
2500 aluminium cans  
50 tyres  
4 prams  
3 television sets,  
1 bed complete with mattress,  
2 micro waves.  
Only 1 syringe  
1 bicycle with no wheels  
4 car bumpers.  
5 cordless power tools (in good condition)  
1 Moulinex mixer  
1 shed  
And 100s empty Vodka bottles

Perhaps we should rename it TREASURE HUNT

I cannot finish this report without the mention of two of this village's most ardent supporters, firstly Margaret Church who was instrumental in organising our village parades, boot fairs, farmers markets, and many fund raising activities. Margaret left the village around Christmas time to pursue a new career. I thank her on behalf of the Parish Council and all for her lead inspiration, dedication and above all time she has devoted to this community. Good Luck Margaret!

Secondly our own Pat Hillman, who you will primarily associate as being the driving force behind the Memorial Hall and its refurbishment, the Chairperson of the Gardening Club, the eloquent speaker for the gang of five, the outspoken councillor not afraid to speak her mind at this table or for me the little face surrounded by the huge lorry tyre and mountain of rubbish in the original project day pictures. Like Margaret, Pat has given of herself un-selfishly whole-heartedly and without question. This Village will definitely miss Pat Hillman.

Pat there are a lot of people who will shed a tear when you leave. We are sorry to see you go but wish all the best and God bless you!

I look forward to another successful year for the Parish Council and everyone in High Halstow, please come along to the Parish Council meetings which are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the Memorial Hall.

Best wishes to you all.

**George Crozer**  
**HH Parish Chairman**

*Village Hall  
2010 Annual Report*

Is it really another year since the last report but here goes.

With regard to the regular users of the Hall we still have the regular hirers including the Youth Club, Dramarama, Doctors Surgery, Sound Hole, and a number of Badminton Clubs. We had a Line Dancing Club for a while and there are still opportunities for other groups to use the facilities available.

Along with usual fund raising events such as the Farmers Market, the Annual Quizathon and Gardening Club Dinner, we were richly entertained by Nick Moore and his guests as well as the Redfords. For the forthcoming year it is anticipated that we will see the return of Sarah Jayne back as Dolly Parton so please watch out for details in the High Halstow Times

The Farmers Market still goes from strength to strength and for that a big thank you to Margaret Church who put so much work into this to making it a success. Margaret as you know has moved on but will be pleased that the event is still going strong and we wish her well for the future.

Below you will see that the accounts for 2009/10 are printed. These are pre audit and will be presented to the AGM on May 12th at the Hall from 7.00pm - all are welcome. This is a reminder for all groups who use the Hall to send a representative along to the Hall meeting. It will be an opportunity to elect a new Chairman as I will be standing down from this post.

What has been disappointing this year is to see the vandalism occurring which has resulted in all the windows being boarded up. Consequently the actual refurbishment will be delayed until full CCTV is installed to ensure your money is not wasted. It is a pity that we have to go down this route but we need evidence for successful prosecutions which can only come from this or by witness statements.

Architects have been engaged to move the refurbishment project forward and as this goes to press the plans have been submitted to Medway Council as there are changes to the footprint of the building. The plans are available to be seen on High Halstow web site. The money available, along with the Parish Council Fund set a side, still stands at over £90,000. We will be in a position to seek other funding avenues once planning permission has been agreed and we are seeking assistance from Action with both Communities in Rural Kent along with the funding team at Medway Council to ensure we maximise our efforts

Repairs have been carried out by both George Crozer and Nathan Hall and thanks to them for all their efforts. I would like to say a big thank you to the Committee who continue to put in many hours to ensure this Hall stays open for the community.

I cannot end this report without saying a big thank you to Pat Hillman who has supported the Hall over a number of years. As well as missing Pat we will miss the many cakes which have been made in their hundreds over the years at Boot Fairs and Farmers Markets. As well as being a valued Committee member she has avidly supported the Hall including bringing the Annual Quizathon to the Hall as well as starting the Gardening Club Christmas Dinner at the Hall. We will all miss her but all wish her well in her new life in Reading.

Thank you all for your support both for the past and we hope for the future. Please continue to support the various activities as the Hall is an asset for all in the Village and we would be much poorer within the Village should we not have such facilities

**Gary Thomas**  
**Hall Committee Chairman**

*Youth Club Annual Report  
April 2010*

High Halstow Youth Club, which is just entering its 18th year, is a popular and friendly meeting place for our local young people aged 9 and over.

We have a mixture of activities on offer each week, depending on the time of year and the availability of adult helpers. Activities include arts and crafts, indoor football, table tennis, pool/snooker, electronics/soldering sessions, dance mats, skipping, or simply sitting and chatting or playing cards. In the summer months we go out onto the Recreation ground (weather permitting) for fresh air and outdoor fun and games. Tuck Shop continues to be very popular (all year round!) with a good selection of drinks, crisps and sweets sold at reasonable prices.

The Club recently had a visit from the Mayor of Medway. He was interested in all of our activities and said how much he enjoyed his visit. In the photograph you will see The Mayor in the Craft Room watching the children engrossed in a soldering session.

Youth Club meets from 7pm till 9 pm on Tuesday evenings (term time only) in the Recreation Hall. We operate a Waiting List system for offering new membership because the club is full at the moment. If you (or someone you know) would like to join, please contact one of us (contact details below) and your name will be added to the waiting list. You can join the waiting list when you are 8 but you will have to wait until you are at least 9 years old before you can join the club.

We are constantly looking for suitable people to become adult helpers at the Youth Club. All adult helpers need to be CRB checked. If you think you would be able to offer any help or support to the Club please get in touch and we will arrange for you to visit. Also we can arrange a CRB check for you.

Lesley Munday 01634 250276

Chris Peek 01634 252604 (email [chris.peek@lineone.net](mailto:chris.peek@lineone.net))





***Gardening Club  
Annual Report 2010***

Gardening Club meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month in the Memorial Hall, starting at 8pm, the Annual subs' are £3. During the year we have 6 speakers on a wide variety of subjects from Butterflies to the Saxon Shoreway. We start our year in February with an AGM then wine and Nibbles and finish the evening with a gardening quiz. There are two shows a year, one in the Spring and one in August. There is also a Bring and Buy of anything to do with gardening. Finally we round the year off with an Annual Dinner in December. New members are always welcome.

***Friendly Club  
Annual Report 2010***

We meet in the Memorial Hall on the Fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm. We are open to anyone over 40 years old, but definitely no children. Our Annual Subs are £2.

During the first half of the afternoon members choose whether to play cards, dominoes, crib etc some are meeting friends and just enjoy a good chat.

Members then have tea, coffee, or juice, and some homemade cakes. The second half of the afternoon we have a variety of talks, demonstrations. We have also had the Social Services advising us of what we can or cannot apply for, and we arrange for the whole club to have their annual winter flu jab, much nicer than having to make appointments.

***Quiz Night  
Annual Report 2010***

Is held on the last Friday evening of each month in the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm and we start at 8pm. It's only £2 and bring your own nibbles and Drink. This is a light hearted evening and the money raised goes to the running costs of the Memorial Hall and improving the hall facilities.

Once a year we hold a Quizzathon on the last Friday in April, in the Recreation Hall to help towards the money being raised to restore that hall. This is when we try and encourage as many people as possible to make a team and come along it's only £2.50 per head, and bring your own drink and nibbles.

***Craft Club  
Annual Report 2010***

This is a small group of ladies who make an assortment of things from soft toys, pram blankets, peg bags, aprons, premature baby jackets, birthday cards, etc. most of the materials are donated, and the items are made to suit whatever is there to be used, and whatever we have been asked to supply.

These items are sold at the Church garden party, and the church Christmas fair. The money goes to the Church and to various Charities.

***High Halstow Cricket Club  
Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 14th April 2010***

It would be easy to repeat last year's report with a few numerical adjustments, but that would not do justice to the year we have had.

Unfortunately we were unable to complete the Clubmark audit before the end of last season due to the incapacity of the assessor. However, the additional time has been spent productively and we now expect a successful completion of the Clubmark process in early May 2010.

The U17s struggled with consistency but most of the players were U16, so get one final go in 2010. The U13s finished a creditable 5th in their league after barely troubling the scorers in 2008. The same result was achieved by the U11 Herons (Hardball), whilst the U11 Egrets (Softball) finished 3rd in the inaugural league. These improved results are down to the hard work of the young cricketers and their coaches. More players than ever have been training in the winter nets and we look forward to another successful summer – our first with teams in all age groups (including 3 at under 11). We also intend establishing a girls team at U11 to play a few friendly games.

Several of our young cricketers represented Medway at district level and Tyler Dockwray trained with the Kent U10 squad during the winter. Andrew Dowsett, who played for our U17s in 2008 and joined the Kent League Umpires Panel in 2009, has become one of just 7 Young Umpire Tutors for the England & Wales Cricket Board.

The 1st XI had another amazing season, gaining a fourth successive promotion in the Kent League. Unfortunately the 2nd XI just fell short of achieving the same result in their league. The 3rd XI finished the 2009 season of the Kent Feeder League (East) Division 1E mid-table, having languished well adrift of all rivals the previous year. Despite their best endeavours the 4th XI propped up Division 2C for the second successive season. However, all sides have wintered well and with new recruits and maturing colts pushing for regular places at all levels, we are predicting further improvements in 2010.

Apart from our own cricket, the Medway Mini-Youth Games Kwik Cricket Festival and the Medway Secondary Schools Softball Festival were held on Rayner's Meadow and the Recreation Ground. We also hosted a number of Primary School Kwik Cricket games and look forward to these events returning in 2010.

It would be remiss of me not to thank all the umpires, scorers, tea ladies, sponsors and other helpers and supporters that helped to make 2009 run relatively smoothly. We would not be able to function without them.

David Laphorn  
Chairman

***The Investors Club  
Annual Report 2010***

The Investors Club began on the 6th April 1998, so we are about to start our 13th year. At present there are 9 members, at one point we had as many as 20 but it does vary, mostly due to illness and unfortunately death.

We meet every month on the 3rd Tuesday in a Members home, decisions made on a majority vote but not until after food and a little wine. We also keep in regular contact by e-mail between meetings. New members make an initial investment of £100, followed by monthly payments of £25.

Because of the 'Credit Crunch' it has been a very difficult year but we believe because of an expertise learned over our 12 years we managed to increase our portfolio value by over £11,000 this year.

We try and make the whole process as much fun as possible but one always has to keep in mind that you can lose money as well as make a profit!

## ***Bullying***

Following on from last month's article about child safety on the internet In this article I will discuss "Peer cruelty" and more specifically "Cyber-Bullying".

A recent study prepared for the American Psychological Association showed that 80 percent of middle school students admitted to bullying behaviour in the prior 30 days.

We have all heard that repeated bullying causes severe emotional harm and erodes your child's fragile self-esteem. We are told that boys and girls are also bullied differently: girls are more likely to be victims of emotional and verbal bullying while boys are usually bullied by physical harm or threat. It doesn't matter whether the bullying was verbal, physical or relational, the long-term effects are equally harmful. In the study both boys and girls reported high levels of emotional distress and loneliness as well as lower self-esteem, loneliness, anxiety and depression.

If your child is bullied it means that their peers are intentionally causing them pain and reports confirm that bullying is starting at younger ages and is far more frequent and aggressive than ever before.

There are five distinctly different types of bullying - A bully can "attack" their victim:

1. Verbally (spreading rumours, saying prejudicial comments, delivering cruel remarks)
2. Sexually (making sexual comments or gestures)
3. Physically (hitting, slamming)
4. Emotionally (excluding, humiliating, threatening, extortion etc.)
5. Electronically – Cyber-Bullying (cell phone, text-messaging, email or website).

Bullying also takes on different forms at different ages - of course, nothing is set in stone so your child's experiences may differ but here are typical expectations:

### **Bullying During Preschool**

The ages bullying behaviours are first learned because kids learn it works to get their way.

Bullying is mostly physical (biting, pinching, kicking, or shoving) and usually not intentional (the true definition of bullying).

Aggression is mostly due to impulsivity and the inability to regulate emotions. Do not allow aggressive behaviours or cruelty in any form. They easily become habits.

### **Bullying During School Age**

Verbal bullying (saying mean comments, put downs and taunts) is prevalent.

Physical bullying continues with younger school age students.

Around year 3 social exclusion (leaving kids out and knowingly hurting their feelings) begins.

### **Bullying During Preteens and Teens**

Bullying peaks during these years but is also the most vicious. Average middle school student experiences at least one verbal harassment per day.

Relational aggression, rumour spreading and emotional bullying are common amongst girls.

Cyber-bullying (via text, IM, pagers, cell phones, websites, Facebook, and emails) also begins.

So that we're clear, cyber-bullying is an electronic form of communication that uses cyber-technology or digital media to hurt, threaten, embarrass, annoy, blackmail or otherwise target another child. One reason for the dramatic increase in cyber-abuse is that it's just so much easier to be cruel when you don't have to lash out your vicious insinuations face to face!

Recent stories in the press about cyber-bullying and real-world bullying are sickening. It's hard to know how much cyber-bullying contributed to her decision to kill herself, but the case of [Phoebe Prince](#) brings tears to my eyes. The 15-year-old was reportedly the brunt of repeated cruelty at the hands of classmates (six of whom are now facing criminal charges) until she put an end to her life. There is also the recent cyber-bullying case of [Alexis Pilkington](#), a 17-year-old girl who committed suicide after being taunted with cruel comments on a social media site. Some of those comments reportedly even continued after her death and there are countless more bullying and cyber-bullying

cases that don't even make headlines.

Where we once thought we just had to protect children from adult predators using the Internet, we now need to shield kids from one another.

Cyber-bullying is real. Incidents are happening at an increasing rate. In the US, national surveys by online safety expert, Parry Aftab, estimate that 85 percent of 12 and 13-year olds have had experience with cyber bullying; 53 percent say they have been bullied online. This ties in with the APA study mentioned earlier which found that 80% of Middle School children admitted to bullying behaviour.

Many experts confirm that the psychological effects of Cyber-bullying on our children can be as devastating, and may be even more so than traditional bullying.

Research has also found that chances are that your child will not tell you that they are harassed online and, as our children get older, the likelihood that they will tell you declines even more.

One big reason: Our kids say we do not listen or believe them when they come and tell us.

Shocking! Current "Best advice" is to let our children know that we believe them and will not stop until they feel safe, making sure that we are clear that we want to know if our child receives an inappropriate message (that goes for both on and offline).

As parents we need to "tune into" our children closer and look for these possible signs of cyber bullying:

- Hesitant to be online; nervous when an Instant Message, text message or Email appears
- Visibly upset after using the computer or mobile phone or suddenly avoids it
- Hides or clears the computer screen or closes mobile phone when you enter
- Spends unusual and longer hours online in a more tense pensive tone
- Withdraws from friends, falls behind in schoolwork or wants to avoid school
- Suddenly sullen, evasive withdrawn, marked change in personality or behaviour
- Trouble sleeping, loss of appetite, excessively moody or crying, seems depressed
- Suspicious phone calls, e-mails and packages arrive at your home
- Possible drop in academic performance

Although this list is not exhaustive and there may be other signs that your child is being bullied our goal as Parents/carers is to keep a good ongoing dialogue with our children so that they will feel comfortable telling us if something bad happens online or elsewhere. We are our child's best filter both on and off line so we should build a relationship of trust and listen carefully to what our kids say about their experiences.

To wind up this article I am going to mention social networking websites - Ofcom, the media watchdog, said that one in five children, 19 per cent, between eight and 12 years old use social media sites such as Facebook, Bebo or MySpace. This is despite these sites officially having an age limit of 13.

That means that no student at High Halstow Primary school should have a Facebook, Bebo or MySpace account.

The report included internet audience data that showed that 37 per cent of home internet users aged between five and seven visited Facebook in October 2009. But it did not examine how many had profiles on the site.

The figures are likely to once again spark a debate about how Facebook and other sites police the age of their users. Though these sites insist that users type in their age, there is no verification process.



There are reasons why the 13 age limit applies and why it is policed so heavily in the US – Children are not that sceptical and are easily taken in. There are some pretty adult things on social media sites not just “racy” content but scams and predators.

The Ofcom study found that among the under 11s, 70 per cent of those using blogs or information sites such as Wikipedia believed all, or most, of what they read.

In April Facebook rejected calls from ministers and child protection campaigners to include an anti-paedophile "panic" button on its site. Company executives said including the button on the main section of the site could deter anxious users from coming forward. Calls for the button to be placed prominently were made following the conviction of a serial rapist for the murder of schoolgirl Ashleigh Hall, who met him on the site. Logically, a button would not have prevented the Ashleigh Hall murder because she thought she was talking to a fellow teenager, not an adult predator and she went and met her murderer without telling anyone. Facebook has said that it is the responsibility of parents to monitor where their kids are going online just as they do in the real world. Facebook requires its users to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account. Anyone who wants to report an underage user can do so easily on the site and they will promptly remove the account.

Cllr Dr Martin Mitchell  
High Halstow Parish Council

Further information on positive parenting and child safety is available by going to [www.twitter.com/parentboost](http://www.twitter.com/parentboost) and becoming a follower.

### *Village Speed Limit*

Please be aware that the speed limit within the village is 30mph, speeding is a major cause of accidents and fatalities are more likely at speeds above 30mph. Some areas are considering lowering the speed limit to 20mph in built up areas. Traffic Police can prosecute anyone exceeding the speed limit.

Please drive carefully.

**HH Parish Council**

### *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.

Past copies of the HHT are available on the village website [www.highhalstow.org.uk](http://www.highhalstow.org.uk)

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.

**FANCY A CUPPA AFTER  
DROPPING OFF THE KIDS ?  
OR SOMEWHERE TO GO  
FOR ELEVENSES ?**



The Kings Kitchen  
opens every Tuesday  
morning from 9:00  
till 12:00 noon in the  
Memorial Hall.

Serving, teas, coffee, hot chocolate, soup and a selection of cakes and biscuits. There will be a warm welcome from your host Liz Meredith and a relaxing atmosphere to get over the trauma of the school run! So don't just stand at the school gate chatting come in and chat over a drink instead. Or pop in midmorning and meet with friends and neighbours for elevenses

---

---

## The Kings Kitchen

---

---

For more info contact Rev Stephen Gwilt [Stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk)

# Youth Night



A place to just hang out and be yourself  
the first Friday each month

Youth Open Night at the Memorial Hall.

7:30-10:00pm entrance free.

Come and try our food Olympics  
and see if you can strike Gold

Bring your own PS3 games and see how good you really are !

### *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 - Ann Smith 251914

Please avoid phoning on a Sunday as we are often busy with family and won't be able to take your booking.

### *HH Village Website*

The Parish Council website has been relaunched. Did you know you can see the minutes of your Parish Council on our website! If that is not your cup of tea, you can also 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](http://www.highhalstow.org.uk)

### **PROJECT 90**

**90 minutes spent improving  
the village**

**Saturday 15th May**

**8:30am Start at the Village Hall**

**Free Tea, Coffee, Cakes and Buns  
afterwards for all the helpers**

### *Your Parish Councillors*

George Crozer, Chair	01634 250286
e.mail: <a href="mailto:george@highhalstow.org.uk">george@highhalstow.org.uk</a>	
Gary Thomas, Vice Chair	01634 252812
e.mail: <a href="mailto:gary.thomas@medway.gov.uk">gary.thomas@medway.gov.uk</a>	
Martin Andrews	07984 791029
Angela Bostock	07880 531641
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Pat Hillman	01634 251064
Carl Mitchell	01634 250911
Martin Mitchell	07531 984169
Lesley Munday	01634 250276

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269

### *Dates for Diary*

Every Tuesday	
Kings Kitchen	Memorial Hall
09:00 - 12:00	
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	Memorial Hall
09.00	
1st Friday of Each Month	
Youth Night	Memorial Hall
19:30 - 10:00	

### *Other Dates*

Wednesday 5th	Women's Institute
19.30	Memorial Hall
Tuesday 11th	Garden Club
20.00	Memorial Hall
Wednesday 12th	Parish Council
20.00	Memorial Hall
Friday 14th	HHPS PTA Auction
19:30	HH Primary School
Saturday 15th	Project 90
08.30	Village Hall
Tuesday 18th	Friendly Club
14.00	Memorial Hall
Friday 28th	Quiz Nite
20.00	Village Hall
Saturday 5th June	Farmers Market
09:30 - 11:00	Village Hall
Friday 11th June	HHPS Pamper Evening
19:00 - 22:00	HH Primary School
Saturday 26th June	HHPS PTA School Fair
12:00 - 16:00	HH Primary School

### ***I Know The Score*** League positions to 5th May

Comos1 = 2275  
Mrs A Sitta = 2110  
cousboss = 1745  
Ben\_De\_Legs = 1690  
eric007 = 975

*With one week to go Comos1 has overtaken Mrs A Sitta at the top, can he hold on for the win?*

### ***Report Crime***

Always call 999 if:

- a crime is happening now
- people are injured
- people are being threatened or are in danger
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby
- an act of vandalism is taking place

To help, please record when and where the problems are happening including:

- dates and times of incidents.
- as much detail as possible.
- names and/or descriptions of those involved.
- how the incident has affected you.

***Martin Mitchell***  
***HHPC Police Liaison***

## **High Halstow Primary School PTA**

### Friday 14th May - Silent Auction

Signed Man City shirt, Signed Kent Cricket team shirt, Signed House of Commons whiskey and much much more.

Entrance by programme. Cost £20 per table of 6 - to include a selection of cheeses and 2 bottles of wine.

Single tickets £4 each - Local talent Simone Moxon will be performing.

Tickets can be reserved by phoning the school on 251098

### Friday 11th June - Pamper Evening

from 7pm to 10pm in the school hall.

A wide range of treatments will be available including manicures, reflexology, spray tanning etc

Tickets can be reserved for £2.50 or £3.00 on the night.

### Saturday 26th June (12pm - 4pm) - School Fair

Many stalls and displays planned, more details to follow.

Anyone wishing to book a stall or wants more information on any of the above  
please call Wenda on 253169 (evenings)

## Readers Letters

**Dear HHT,**

Thank You High Halstow! I have spent 22 very happy years here, and enjoyed everything I have been involved with, especially the fight to stop the airport. But now the time has come when I feel I want to be nearer to my family, so after much heart searching I have finally sold up and I am moving to Woodley which is another village, near to my daughter in the Reading area. There are a number of activities similar to those I have enjoyed here in High Halstow.

There will be some changes to contacts to various clubs. That I been involved in so please read the notices to see the changes and more importantly who you will need to contact in future.

Once again thank you to everyone who has made my life here such a pleasure, I will leave with so many happy memories.

**Pat Hillman**

**Dear HHT,**

I have noticed a massive reduction in the strength of my Mobile telephone signal in from within High Halstow recent months, in fact more often than not we have SOS signal only. On question my family and friends they too have the same problems, I have heard rumour (not confirmed) that Hundred of Hoo School have installed some sort of mobile phone signal blocker rather than controlling the use of mobile telephones by other means whilst pupils are at school...is this true? And could this be affecting my and other network signals?

If anyone is suffering the same problem maybe they could let me know the network they use I use Orange!

**Vic Godding**  
**Christmas Lane**

### ***Financial Business Partner Required***

As I am sure you are all aware the current financial downturn has hit the Village Shop hard and the plans for the new shop are currently on hold. It is now come to the point that unless Derek is able to find a new business partner who is willing to invest finance and time to the Village Shop re-build, then there is a strong possibility that the shop and post office, will have to close. If you are interested in investing in this very worthwhile project please see Derek in the shop or call him on 250230

### **For Sale**

K&D Design 3-in-1 chair, removable tray, converts to junior chair. £10

Lindam 3-in-1 potty trainer. £5

Playskool, Step Start Walk & Ride. £5

All above kept in Grandma's house but hardly used!

IKEA bathroom cabinet, beech approx 60x60x17cm - mirrored doors outside and in, 2 adjustable shelves.  
Excellent Condition. £15

Telephone Bob on (01634) 256483

**Dear HHT,**

My husband and I were returning home last night and drove past a number of youths wearing hoodies acting very suspiciously around the bus stop. When we looked closer we saw that the entire bus shelter had been 'tagged' with spray paint graffiti. I rang the police as soon as we got in and reported this, whether they came out I do not know.

Are parents actually aware of what their children are up to in the village? I'm sure the parents of these five or six youths would be very proud to know what their sons were up to on their own doorstep.

I would expect to see this type of behaviour in Strood but not in our nice quiet village. Pointless vandalism and absolutely disgusting behaviour.

Yours faithfully,

**Michelle**  
**Valentine Drive Resident.**

### ***Dolly Parton Returns***

We are currently negotiating for the return of Dolly Parton. In addition she will be bringing along Kenny Rogers and Shania Twain. For those who came to her last show will remember how good she was. Please watch this space for confirmation of dates and times.

Contributions for June should be sent by 24th May to:  
Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ  
or e.mail to [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)