



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron



May 2016



*You are cordially invited to celebrate  
the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
on Saturday 11th June  
from 2pm to 9pm  
at the Village Hall & Recreation Ground*

*Have your photo taken with the Queen*

*See the 'March of the Scarecrows'*

**Craft  
Stalls**

**Face  
Painting**

**Teas &  
Coffee**

**Candy  
Floss**

**Karmann  
Dancers**

**Pony  
Rides**

**Live  
Music**

**Popcorn**

**Splat  
the Rat**

**Bar**

**Tack  
Stall**

**Food**



*The programme of events is being continually updated, so please  
visit [highhalstow.org.uk](http://highhalstow.org.uk) for more news and views*



THE QUEEN'S  
90TH BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION

## ***Quiz Night***

The Charity to benefit from the March quiz night was the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home (Brands Hatch Division) and we raised £221 for this very worthy charity.

The April quiz charity will be chosen by Ian Stone's table and I will let you know next month how much was raised.

As an aside can I please remind quizzers, both from the Memorial Hall quizzes and the Recreation Hall quizzes, that if you are unable to take up your table at any time can you please let Lesley, John or myself know. I do have a waiting list for people who would like to join in and have a fun night out with no travelling involved and if I don't know beforehand then an opportunity for them is lost. If you can let us know as early as you can, then we should be able to utilise your table for that month.

Thanks as ever for your support for the evenings and all the charities who benefit.

Margaret Church

## ***Friendly Club***

The next meeting is on Wednesday May 25th in the Memorial Hall at 2pm. We will be having a speaker plus the usual time for chat over tea and cake. All visitors are welcome to join us. If you need more information please ring 250677.

## ***Annual Meeting***

Lots of our favourite pastime last month, eating. The committee had a meal out at the World Buffet in Chatham. A different kind of eating experience but one that overall we enjoyed. Our monthly lunch club went yet again to Deangate Golf Club. We always enjoy the food and the service, and parking is easy.

An enjoyable evening at Istead Rise, where we took part in a darts evening with other institutes. Our members did well, with the highest individual score, winner of a fun game round the board, and one member in the winning team. Followed by tasty food of course.

Next meeting is our annual meeting when the committee is voted in. To make the evening more interesting we will be joined by Steve Joyce who will talk us through the villages new defibrillator. We meet on Wednesday May 4th at 7:30 in the memorial hall, visitors pay just £1:50p

## ***High Halstow Hikers***

For our April walk 14 members of the High Halstow Hikers met at Sole Street railway station on a perfect spring morning with clear blue skies and a gentle breeze. We started along the Wealdway back towards Gravesend walking through lightly wooded areas with flowering bluebells among other spring flowers and alongside arable fields of wheat and oil seed rape with its distinctive aroma enjoying the sound of skylarks soaring above. Leaving the Wealdway we crossed a more open area with long views across Gravesend to the River Thames and beyond into Essex. Jeskyns country park was as usual busy with families and their children on bikes and their dogs running free - a true family space. Walking on into Cobham, through the churchyard and past the ecclesiastical college, we entered the modern version of the "garden of England": apple and pear orchards but not in the typical sense of large trees, rather thousands of trees in long straight rows all trained in a framework of posts and wires - truly a meeting of engineering and nature. In early May when the blossom is in full flower, this part of the walk should be an assault on the senses. Returning to Sole Street after a fraction of just under 7 miles some of us retired to the Cock Inn at Luddesdown for some social bonding. This walk will be well worth repeating later in the year.

In May we will be doing 2 walks in West Norfolk. The first, on Saturday 7th, will start at 5.00pm from the RSPB car park at Snettisham Beach. This is reached by taking Beach Road from the A149 where it forms the Snettisham / Dersingham by-pass. After about 1.5 miles the car-park is signposted on the left at a point where the road turns sharply to the right. If you reach the beach car-park you have missed the turning. The walk will be to the shingle beach looking across the Wash where the incoming tide will launch what the RSPB call the "Wader Spectacular" when many 1000's of waders are forced off their roosts on the Wash and race inland to the gravel pits behind where we will stand. The round trip walk will be about 3 miles. On Sunday 8th we will meet at 9.30am (note earlier time) in Holme-next-the-Sea which is just beyond Hunstanton. You should take (a different) Beach Road of the A149 and take the right into Westgate and then into Kirkgate where you should park close to the White Horse pub. This walk will be about 5 miles in length and almost entirely flat.

As ever all are welcome but given the distance we will be travelling for these walks it would be best to let Mitchell know if you will be coming either at [mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com](mailto:mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com) or 01634254428.

## High Halstow Village Hall

### Quiz 15<sup>th</sup> April

The Village Hall would like to express its thanks to Margaret, Lesley and Jon who run this regular feature. In addition we would like to thank all those who continue to support this event, which raised £178 which will go towards the refurbishment programme

### Annual General Meeting

With the AGM on 11th May 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 not only the improvements can take place but to share the running of the Hall. This is your chance to hear what has happened and ask questions over the past year.

### 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.

### Murder at Heronwood Falls Saloon

After last years successful Murder Mystery evening we are planning to hold a similar event on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th September. More details to follow in the HHT.

### Come and Meet Your Parish Councillors

Chris(tine) Watson and Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors, will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 from 10.30 – 12.00pm



and every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



### Family Fun Day

Hosted by RSPB Medway Local Group

**Wednesday 1st June 11am – 3pm**

at RSPB Northward Hill Nature Reserve, Bromhey Farm, Cooling, ME3 8DS

A great opportunity for the whole family to explore and learn.

Pond dipping, bug sweeping, arts & crafts, bug hotels, bird ringing Demonstrations, nature trails and many more activities to keep you busy.

Bring your own picnic & blankets.

This is a **FREE** event, but donations are welcome.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult!



## High Halstow Toddler Group

Term time only

Thursday mornings

9-11

In

The Memorial Hall

From birth – 5 years

If you are a Mummy, Daddy, Grandparent or Carer please come along for a chat and some homemade cake whilst your children play!

**Just £2 a session**

For More Information Please Contact Emma

On

01634 255874

Or

[Emma.vidler1@btinternet.com](mailto:Emma.vidler1@btinternet.com)

Or Find Us On Facebook





## ***Turtle Doves on the Hoo Peninsula***

**Have you seen a turtle dove in your garden? If so the RSPB would like to hear from you.**

Some of you reading this may have been lucky enough to have heard the gentle purring call of a turtle dove, a wonderful, evocative, sound of summer. The only European migratory dove, this species is a rather later arrival than some other migrants, not appearing before the end of April at the earliest.

This year, we are asking residents on the Hoo Peninsula to send in their records of turtle dove to give us vital data on their numbers in North Kent.

Once common across most of England and Wales, between 1995 and 2014, the population of turtle doves in the UK has declined by over 91%. In addition, their range has also shrunk so that they are now largely restricted to parts of East Anglia and South East England and it is estimated that their population is halving every 5 to 6 years.

This is due to various reasons; lack of food and nesting habitat in the UK, spring hunting along their migration routes, and habitat loss at their wintering ground in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kent remains an extremely important area for these birds. As a result the RSPB are working hard to provide for their needs, by increasing and improving nesting habitat and providing feeding opportunities by planting special crops for them. We are doing this by being a part of the Operation Turtle Dove project: <http://operationturtledove.org/> If you see or hear a turtle dove, please contact the RSPB, with where and when, and if at all possible, please provide us with a photo. Please send your observations to [northkentmarshes@rspb.org.uk](mailto:northkentmarshes@rspb.org.uk). Alternatively you can telephone us on 01634 222480 or write to us at RSPB Northward Hill, Bromhey Farm, Cooling, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8DS.



You can read more about turtle doves on the RSPB website:  
[www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/t/turtledove/index.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/t/turtledove/index.aspx)

## ***High Halstow Gardeners***

We have enjoyed a couple of excellent evenings during April. Early in April, members and guests attended our annual dinner at the Medway Yacht Club where we had a lovely meal in charming surroundings with good company. Our speaker this month, Colin Moat gave a very informative and entertaining talk on '50 Greys of Shade'. Colin provided a comprehensive list of plants suitable for shady gardens plus selling plants from his specialist nursery.

For our next meeting on Tuesday 10th May, we are to have a bring and buy plant auction. Members have been asked to nurture plants/seedlings and bring them to the auction to help raise club funds. It is also an opportunity to obtain some different plants.

The schedules are now available giving details of the categories of vegetables, fruit, flowers, etc to be shown at our Annual Show on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August. The show is open for non-members to exhibit and if you require a copy of the schedule, please contact the Show Secretaries on 01634 221579 or [hhdgc@outlook.com](mailto:hhdgc@outlook.com).

## ***Responsible Parking***

It has been noticed that a number of vehicles around the village are either parking on the kerbs, causing obstruction to pedestrians and risking children crossing the road unseen between parked cars; or are parking on corners which is a danger to other road users. Please park with consideration to pedestrians and other road users.

### ***A New Fitness Class "Seated Exercises"***

***Thursday Morning 11:30am - 12:15pm  
£4 per session***

*This class is all about upper and lower body movement. If you have a problem with balance, are an older adult or are in rehabilitation then this is the class for you. All the exercises are completed using a chair in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Equipment such as light weights, resistance bands and foam balls are used to move to music.*

*Come and join us...No Lycra Necessary!!!*

*Phone Wendy (255366) or  
Ann (251914) for more info.*

## Scarecrow Festival

In recent months of the HHT you would have seen reference to the Scarecrow Festival which is to be part of the Queen's Birthday Bash. Well the time is getting closer and what we are looking for is the following:



- 1 4<sup>th</sup> June to 11<sup>th</sup> June – You place a scarecrow in your front garden for the rest of the village to admire and enjoy for the week.
- 2 On 11<sup>th</sup> June the scarecrow to make its way (you may have to help it) to the Recreation Ground where a suitable site will be made for the rest of the public to enjoy your handiwork.
- 3 We are looking for the rest of the community to show their appreciation for all of your efforts by placing a donation in the box in the shop which Bob has kindly allowed or paying a donation on the day.
- 4 In terms of rules there aren't any and it is left to your imagination as to what the scarecrow should look like. It could represent your local group, your family or anyone else come to that, the world is your oyster.

We hope you will enter into the spirit of the occasion either by erecting a scarecrow or by putting in a donation with all proceeds going to Friends of St Margaret's Church.



## Annual General Meeting

Please note the Annual General Meeting for the Friends of St Margaret's will be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Church. All are invited to attend. Look forward to seeing you there

## High Halstow Stitchers in The Memorial Hall

1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays in each month 12-2pm

*A chance to learn a new skill involving Stitches  
of all types from friendly, like minded  
ladies and to pass on any skills you may have.*

*Quilting - X Stitching - Patchwork - Knitting  
Sewing in General etc.*

*Come along and join us.*



## Help us to Celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday

A time to come together and give thanks  
for our wonderful Queen and for her  
faithful service.

Have you met the Queen in person ? We  
would love to hear from you, maybe you  
can share your experience with us.

Contact Rev Stephen Gwilt

On 01634 250 637  
Or  
stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk

**Sunday 12th June**

**High Halstow 9:30am**

**Allhallows 11:00am**



## DEJA VU SPIRITUAL CENTRE



### Every Sunday

Please join us to see mediumship demonstrated by different medium's each week. **6.30-9.30pm ONLY £3.00 ENTRY FEE.**  
RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.  
**RECREATION HALL, THE STREET  
HIGH HALSTOW,  
ROCHESTER  
ME3 8SQ**



## The Village Shop

### Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm  
Sunday 8am – 5pm  
Telephone number: 01634 254561

### Dog Walkers

Our rights of way and green spaces are for us all to enjoy. Please be aware that if you are exercising your dog it should be under control at all times, and it is your responsibility to clear up it's mess afterwards.

### HH Village Website

Please visit the Parish Council website for everything about our village. You can see the minutes of your Parish Council or look up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events. Please note that there is now an RSS feed on the Parish Website where you can get automatic updates when the site is updated. Please visit [www.highhalstow.org.uk](http://www.highhalstow.org.uk) and follow the instructions on the right hand side.

### Local Groups and the Website

You can advertise your activities free of charge on this site just let us have the details. If your details need updating with either dates or details of events please let us know by emailing [gary@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:gary@highhalstow.org.uk). This can be used to keep your members informed and possibly attract new members to your group.

### Vegetation

The Parish Council is asking people who have shrubs/trees overhanging on to public walkways if they would mind cutting back in order for people to walk unhindered. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Thefts from Sheds and Outhouses

Please be aware that thefts from sheds and outhouses have been reported recently on the peninsula and the Parish Council have been asked to remind people to lock up securely to make it more difficult for would be thieves.

**HH Parish Council**

**CRAFT FAIR**

**Craft & Tabletop Fair**

**High Halstow Memorial Hall  
10am - 2pm**

**Saturday 9th April  
Sunday 8th May  
Saturday 4th June  
Sunday 10th July**

If you would like a table,  
please call Pat 01634 251077

**St. James'**  
**Sure Start Children's Centre**  
 For families with children aged 0-5 years



**Bumps to Toddlers**  
 at High Halstow Village Hall  
**Monday**  
**9am-10.30am**

For pregnant women and children from birth to toddler stage.

This session includes sensory fun, introducing solid food, stories & rhymes, tummy time, staying safe and much more!

Come along and meet other parents and their babies.

Self baby weighing is also available in this session.

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](mailto:childrenscentre@stjames.medway.sch.uk)  
[www.stjamesisleofgrain.org.uk](http://www.stjamesisleofgrain.org.uk)

**Sure Start Children's Centres**  
 Medway

**Medway**  
 Serving You

## 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.



## High Halstow Pre-school

Modular Building, Primary School, Harrison Drive,  
 High Halstow, Rochester, Kent. ME3 8TF  
 01634 255088

Proprietor/Manager Mrs Anita Russell BA (Hons), EYPS

- ✓ 'Outstanding Provider' Ofsted
- ✓ 2009-10 Extensive Outdoor Facilities
- ✓ Excellent Links with Primary School
- ✓ Friendly, Qualified Staff
- ✓ Affordable Childcare

Open Weekdays, term time only  
 8.45 am - 3.30pm

Morning, lunch, afternoon and all day sessions  
 available.

Children are funded for 5 free sessions the  
 term following their third birthday.

Don't take Ofsted's word that we are an  
 outstanding provider, come and see for  
 yourself.

Ring 01634 255088

## Dates for Diary

### Every Monday:

Bumps & Toddler's

09:00

Village Hall

### Every Tuesday:

King's Kitchen

10:00

Memorial Hall

Bell Ringers

19:30

St Margaret's

Church

### Every Wednesday:

Stay & Play

09:00

Village 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

Karate

09:30

Village Hall

### Every Sunday:

Déjà Vu Spiritual Centre

18:30

Village Hall

### Every 4th Wednesday:

Friendly Club

14:00

Memorial Hall

### Other Dates:

Wednesday 4th:

19:30

Women's Institute

Memorial Hall

Saturday 7th &

Sunday 8th:

High Halstow Hikers

Sunday 8th:

09:30

Details in HHT

Sunday 8th:

10:00

St. Margaret's Church

Tabletop Fair

Tuesday 10th:

20:00

Memorial Hall

Gardening Club

Wednesday 11th:

18:30

Memorial Hall

Village Hall AGM

Wednesday 11th:

20:00

Memorial Hall

Parish Council

Friday 20th:

19:30

Memorial Hall

Dramarama

Saturday 21st:

18:30

Village Hall

Dramarama

Sunday 22nd:

09:30

Village Hall

Family Service

Friday 27th:

20:00

St. Margaret's Church

Quiz

Memorial Hall

Local groups, please let us know the dates of your





## Jonathan Computers

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Mobile No: 07905 120 557

Email: sales@jonathancomputers.co.uk



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**NEW!!!!!!**  
**Windows 10™**

From 8th April 2014 All Support for ALL XP™ Versions has discontinued!!!!

If you are using a computer with Windows XP on  
**YOU ARE AT SEVERE RISK!!!!**



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

**01474 879878**

(Gravesham Office Number)

## St. James' Sure Start Children's Centre

For families with children aged 0-5 years



**Stay and Play**  
at High Halstow Village Hall  
**Wednesday**  
**9am-10.30am**

**For children 0-5 years.**

A wide range of activities for children and adults to get involved with including creative activities, physical activities and exploration.  
**Fresh fruit and drinks are available.**

**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**  
Medway



**Medway**  
Serving You

### *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. 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
- Mr S. Bailey - 27 Cooling Road
- Mrs J. Collins - 6 Marsh Crescent
- Mrs L. Munday - 22 Willowbank Drive
- Mr J. Myatt - Decoy Hill Road
- Mrs C. Peek - 2 Willowbank Drive
- Mrs N. Turner - 12 Marsh Crescent



## Readers Letters

Dear HHT

Memorial Hall Gallery

Villagers attending functions at the Memorial Hall may have noticed our growing collection of historic photographs depicting Village life. The Committee are seeking to expand the collection and would particularly seek group photos from the Primary School, Scouts, Guides, Sports Teams or any other club, organisation or village based group activity. Historic views of the streets and houses would complement our existing collection.

Anyone able to loan pictures should contact me and I will undertake to return the originals safely once they are copied and prepared for display.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Meredith.  
Meneghy.  
4, Medway Avenue,  
High Halstow,  
ROCHESTER,  
Kent.  
ME3 8TL.  
e-mail:- m.meredith@zen.co.uk  
Ph. No. 01634 252939

### ***Your Parish Councillors***

George Crozer, Chair      01634 250286  
e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk  
Stuart Bailey, Vice Chair    07976 760844  
e.mail: bailey.stu@btinternet.com  
Martin Andrews              07984 791029  
Ray Collins                    01634 250105  
Gary Jerreat                  01634 253999  
Bill Khatkar                   07775 668620  
Carl Mitchell                 01634 250911  
Christine Watson            01634 256529  
Brian Williams              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



# HELP

Do you have an old working fridge or freezer that you no longer need ?

We desperately need a couple of replacement fridges and a freezer for the Garden Party in July. If your able to help please contact

Rev.Stephen Gwilt  
on 01634 250637

or  
stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk



Dramarama proudly presents

## DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING



An Evening Ploughmans Buffet served with songs, dances and sketches from the musicals, and a show.

Book a table with friends or family and enjoy an evening of entertainment.

Friday 20th May; show starts at 7:30pm\*

Saturday 21st May; show starts at 6:30pm\*

\* Doors and licensed bar open half-an-hour before show time.

at High Halstow Village Hall  
Tickets £8 per person including  
Ploughmans Buffet served to each table.  
Tables of between 2 and 8 available.  
Tickets from Wenda on 253169

Next edition June 2016; 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