



High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron

June 2012

Jubilee Party In The Park

Monday 4th June from 4pm

Just days to go until the biggest Jubilee Party High Halstow has ever seen!! The organising committee have been working hard to ensure everything is ready for the big day

(although attempts to guarantee the weather have so far failed).

The live music is ready, the fair ground games are ready, the dance acts are ready, the children's tea party is ready, the bell ringers are ready, the refreshments are organised and the stall holders are all ready.

If you haven't got your tickets for the children's tea party, please hurry as they are selling out fast (call Joanne on 250911)

The Beacon will be installed in the Recreation Ground shortly, ready to be lit at the designated time to coordinate with the rest of the country.

Please come along and join in the festivities, the entertainment on the outdoor stage is all free, and there will be plenty to see and join in with.

Watch out for the programme of events dropping through your letterbox soon.

Local Groups want to get involved?

Book a stall only £10.00

*Contact Michelle King on 254121 or
Josh Gordon josh@highhalstow.org.uk*

Parish Council Resume

At the last meeting it was the time to appoint councillors to the various committees and due to unforeseen issues this will be published in its entirety next month in full detail. George once again was appointed Chairman with Gary Vice Chairman. A discussion took place about the Friends of St Margaret's with one or two amendments made to a constitution for the group. As mentioned elsewhere in the HHT this will be published next month to see if the Village as a whole is interested in this group to assist in the maintenance of the fabric of the Church. The Parish Council will be making a payment of £5,559 to Veolia in order for the Veolia Environmental Trust to make a grant of to the Village Hall of £54,475 for Phase Two works

Friends of St Margaret's

The aim of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church, High Halstow, will be to promote wide interest in the care and preservation of St Margaret's Church and its history and to provide a focus of support for it and to support the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in maintaining the fabric and furnishings of the building. In next months HHT there will be more information on this new group to be formed so please watch this space.

Noise Complaints Southend Airport

Some of you may have noticed that there has been an increase in air traffic recently with additional flights going to Southend. Comments regarding noise at the airport should be made in the first instance to:

LSAenquiries@stobartair.com

If you would like to further contact London Southend Airport regarding noise please use the following contact details:

* By phone: Noise Complaints Hotline 01702 538599

* In writing: LSACL, Southend Airport, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6YF
Their aim is to respond in writing to all noise comments within 7 working days. However, in order for any comment to be logged as much information (date, time, location etc.) about the event must be given.

Lodge Hill

At the time of writing we are awaiting confirmation of someone attending the next Parish Council meeting to explain what is happening with regard to Lodge Hill. There is talk about 50% of all the traffic from Lodge Hill now using Dux Court. We would like to know what is going on and as such have invited a senior representative from Medway Council to attend. Please keep an eye out at the notice boards, village hall and the website for further details. Please take an interest as this could have a major impact on our way of life.

WI Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the WI was held on Wednesday 2nd May when Val Osenton was elected President for the coming year. We thank Margaret Whitebread who stood down after serving in that capacity for 3 years, for all that she has done for us over many years and we hope will continue to do so.

Despite the weather the guided tour of the RSPB took place on Saturday 28th June. With our friends from Hollingbourne WI joining us, 28 ladies plus some husbands walked for 2 hours over Northwood Hill, we then adjourned for an enjoyable lunch at the Horseshoe and Castle followed by a visit to St. James church Cooling. We will be manning a stall and joining in the Jubilee Celebrations on the 4th June, our theme will be WI past and present and of course we will be selling home made cakes, scones, etc.

Wednesday 6th June is our birthday meeting when we will be joined by members and friends from other institutes on the peninsular, and entertained by a magician.

We will be travelling to the coast on Saturday 16th June to the Walpole Bay Hotel for a delicious cream tea. Some of you might remember that this 1920's Edwardian hotel and museum has featured in the BBC's programme One Foot in the Past and also The Hotel Inspector Alex Polizzi was called in in 2010 to try and bring the hotel into the 21st Century. On Wednesday July 4th a representative from Marks & Spencers will talk about Exotic foods (bringing some tasters we hope).

Please feel free to come and join us, we are always pleased to welcome visitors.

Val Osenton

High Halstow Hikers

Our May walk was on a Saturday for once and enjoyed by 14 of us. The weather was kind - very lucky considering the poor weather in the days immediately before and after. We started from the lovely church in Cranbrook and passed initially through mainly open-fields to Sissinghurst and then through woodland to the splendid Sissinghurst Castle grounds where we took advantage of the National Trust coffee shop in the very well preserved ancient barn. The return to Cranbrook was easy going and gave varied excellent views across classic Kent countryside.

On 10th June we will start our walk around Wouldham and Burham from All Saints Church at Wouldham at 10.00am. The church is reached by to going through Borstall and under the M2/rail bridges and following the Wouldham Road for a couple of miles to find the church on the right-hand side, just as you enter the village. It should be OK to park outside the church. We will walk northwards along the river bank for a mile or so, then take the footpath eastwards across the fields up to the North Downs Way. From there we will follow it down and divert from it to go through Burham and on down to the old church by the river. We will walk back along the track/road by Wouldham Marshes and back to the village. This walk will be led by Alan Marshall and is estimated as between 6.5 and 7 miles. On 8th July we will do a circular walk from High Halstow to Egypt Bay (repeats the first walk of our group as requested by many). For further details please contact Mitchell at mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or on 01634 254428.



High Halstow Farmers Market

There will be a gap until August due to other commitments including the Diamond Jubilee and the Rectory Garden Party. The next market will be on Saturday 4th August. Watch this space for more details. Have you considered using this event to raise money for your group. For a stall please contact Michelle on 254121.



Junior ABA Champion

Did you know that High Halstow has a national boxing champion in it's midst? Jack Budge (17), born and bred in Harrison Drive, won the prestigious Junior ABA championship (54kgs) on Sunday 13th May in Sheffield, having previously beaten all the best boxers from around the UK in his weight category to reach the final. Jack (pictured with his trainers), who boxes for Brompton ABC, has also been picked to represent England in a tri-nation tournament in June. A future world champion – watch this space!

New Evening Bus Service

As a result of some efficiency savings that have been achieved, following the recent contracted local bus service retendering exercise, and the availability of some developer funding from the new residential sites in Hoo, Bells Lane, I am pleased to propose the attached timetable for a new evening service between Chatham and Hoo, Mondays to Saturdays, to be operated by Arriva. The plan is to introduce this with effect from Sunday 17th June. Please let me know if you have any comments or require any further information.

David Bond

Transport Operations Manager

Service 191, Chatham - Hoo

Mondays to Saturdays

Chatham, Waterfront Bus Station, Stand A4	1830	1930	2030	2130	2310
Chatham, Rail Stn, Stop A	1834	1933	2033	2133	2313
Rochester, Star Hill	1837	1936	2036	2136	2316
Strood, opp Canal Road	1842	1939	2039	2139	2319
Wainscott, The Walk	1850	1947	2047	2147	2327
Chattenden, Main Road, Chattenden Lane	1854	1950	2050	2150	2350
Hoo, Five Bells	1858	1952	2052	2152	2352
Hoo, St John's Road	1900	1954	2054	2154	2354

Hoo, St John's Road	G 1933	2004	2104	2204
Hoo, Five Bells	1935	2006	2106	2206
Chattenden, Main Road, Chattenden Lane	1939	2008	2108	2208
Wainscott, The Walk	1943	2014	2114	2214
Strood, Canal Road	1951	2022	2122	2222
Rochester, Star Hill	1954	2025	2125	2225
Chatham, Rail Stn, Stop A	1958	2029	2129	2229
Chatham, Waterfront Bus Stn	2000	2031	2131	2231

Notes

Existing journeys

G = from Grain

Village Hall Bars

One of the issues frequently asked when the Hall is hired is what do they have to do if alcohol is to be sold or given out at an event. Up to now the answer has been to obtain a Temporary Event Notice yourself or seek a license holder to run the bar yourself.

The Hall Committee are pleased to announce though as from now we have given permission for Elise Mankelow to run these bars and she will ensure all the necessary paperwork is completed for you

Details will be provided when you hire the hall but if you want to obtain further information before hand from Elise please contact her as follows:

Email: mankelowe@aol.com
Telephone No: 07595 870 883

We trust you see this as an enhancement to the service currently provided.

Village Hall Committee

Quizathon 2012

Well what can I say, WHAT AN EVENING! It started with a great surprise with the return of Pat Hillman, a founder of the Annual Quizathon. It was also so good to see the next generation coming through with amongst others Naomi who wasn't even born when the first Quizathon was held for the Village Hall

Our team, although not the winning team, was superbly led by Maureen Short, who tried to keep us all in check. An instruction to keep the bad language down was reluctantly accepted by Maureen although she did pick a fight with George. I thought I had laryngitis the next morning as my throat hurt so much from laughing. Perhaps if we had listened more we would have done better, but on second thoughts looking at the team perhaps not!

I would like to thank on behalf of the Hall Committee the Gang of Four, responsible for the evening and all of those who came along to support the Hall. Thank You

Gary Thomas
Hall Committee

Annual Quizathon

As tradition dictates the quizzers from the Memorial Hall visited the Village Hall in April for the Annual Quizathon. This is held in the big hall to enable us to have lots more people come along and therefore raise a nice sum of money for the Village Hall Refurbishment Programme.

Well it was an eventful evening. We started by welcoming Pat Hillman back for a surprise visit along with celebrating Naomi's 9th Birthday. Maureen's Chippendale's were having a whale of a time and Wenda's team giggled more as the evening went on and consumed more and more alcohol. Both Ken and Bob wished they had played their joker on the second music round and Karen's dancers wished they hadn't – it was classical music!

In addition to everyone having a really great evening we managed to raise the princely sum of £427, which was amazing.

As you will appreciate a lot of hard work goes into any quiz night but the Quizathon is even more time consuming but when it all comes together and over 100 people have a fun evening it really is all worthwhile.

I would like to thank Lesley and John, as ever, for their help and support at the quiz nights but also to everyone who comes along to support the little hall every month and all the additional people who come along for the Quizathon.

If you didn't come along you don't know what you missed.

Margaret Church
Leader of the Gang



Picture from the Past

Further to Mark Owens report in April's edition of the High Halstow Times, I and my mum have looked at the photo and have to disagree on some of the names. Mark named Mrs Gibson (mum, still living in the village) and Valerie Gibson (one of my sisters, now living in Scotland) as being in the photo. Neither were and as far as we could make out some of the other names were also wrong. I do believe that Mrs Eldridge was in the photo, she was our neighbour during the 1960s but she was not as pointed out.

Regards

Jeanette Dowsett (nee Gibson)



Grant Funding for Phase Two

The Hall Committee is pleased to announce that we have received a provisional offer of a grant from Veolia Environmental Trust to the tune of £54,475 taking the total grants for Phase Two to £104,475. This has been achieved with a third party payment from the Parish Council to the landfill operator of £5,559 for which we are extremely grateful. We still have to cross the t's and dot the i's but this will enable us to seek further grant assistance from other sources to meet the estimated target of £250,000 to see Phase Two to completion

High Halstow Hall Committee

Local History and Family Research Group

Interested in taking part in a local history research group, perhaps including family genealogical research? Although we are a small village, High Halstow has existed since Saxon times and in some way been touched by some great events and people. The Time and Tides project is going ahead and memories of our more immediate past can be even more interesting. If you would like to know more or are just casually curious about the subject, either young or old, please let me know and perhaps a village meeting could be arranged discuss it further.

Dave Stephenson.

dennydave@talktalk.net

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Elvis Charity Tribute Night 7th July 2012

Starts at 7.30pm till
12pm at the Hoo Institute
Club, Hoo, Main Rd.
Tickets are £10 per
person, this includes
tribute and disco till late.
At a charge there will be
a Portrait Photographer,
Raffle and Seafood stall.

All proceeds are donated to Wisdom
Hospice.

For tickets contact Leanne Eastwood:
07930 684113



Memorial Hall

**JUBILEE
AFTERNOON TEA**

MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH HALSTOW

SUNDAY 3RD JUNE 2012
2PM TIL 5PM

TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND
JUBILEE, YOU ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG
AND ENJOY A

'SPECIAL AFTERNOON TEA'
WITH
FRIENDS & FAMILY

SANDWICHES

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM

CAKES

JAM & SCONES

AND MUCH MORE...

**FORGET TEA AT THE RITZ....
COME AND JOIN US
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL
TO CELEBRATE THIS HISTORIC
BRITISH EVENT**

**AFTERNOON TEA
AT
POCKET MONEY
PRICES**

Final details of our Jubilee Tea appear above, come along and join us.

At our recent hall meeting the improvement of the kitchen was discussed and details agreed - work should start in August.

Unfortunately the Whist Club has been discontinued after many years, but if anyone wants to start it up again, please get in touch.

We have regular bookings during the week and children's parties at the weekends, but we do have Wednesday and Friday mornings free at the moment if you are thinking of starting something new.

We look forward to seeing you in June.

High Halstow Cricket Club

May 2012

When I first played for the club – and that was when a bowler named F.S. Trueman was taking his 300th Test wicket – there were no home fixtures until the first weekend in June. This was not because we didn't want to play, merely because experience showed that the ground would remain wet until then. Since then “global warming” has come to High Halstow and the problem of a late start has largely gone away. Indeed this year, we could have played in March! But this year, with nearly a quarter of the season gone, we have played 4 games at home. Three of those came on the weekend of 19-20th May, some 4 weeks after the first game. Most clubs in the county have suffered in the same way, indeed the first weekend of league fixtures saw only 6 fixtures out of 120 across Kent. Amongst the games played, we reversed the result in the first round of the National Village Knock Out Cup against Limpsfield Chart, winning by 10 wickets. The next round was less successful, resulting in defeat at the hands of Upchurch by 48 runs.

Several senior players are playing less this year, so there is plenty of scope for our youngsters to make a mark in the top sides – an opportunity not to be missed, as we expect the “big boys” looking to regain their places later in the season (perhaps its something to do with the weather and old age!). Our annual invitation goes out to all to join the club either as players (of any age and ability) or as supporters. Just come along when you see us on the ground, or contact me on 250334.

David Lapthorn
Life President

Project 90

In May, plans to pick up the Beacon for the Diamond Jubilee were made following a visit to the current site. An inspection of the playground was carried out as well as some litter picking around the field. Plans for next month include painting of the fence around the play park. (I suspect this may be like the Forth Bridge), repairs to the benches in the Recreation and repairs to the cricket fence

Are there other ideas you would like to see happen, if so please let the Parish Council know and we will see what is possible

If you can spare 90 minutes once a month please come along to the Village Hall Car Park on Saturday 16th May at 8.30. When finished a cup of tea and cake are available at the Hall.

Make Your Nature Count

After the huge success of its Big Garden BirdWatch at the start of the year, the RSPB is asking people in Kent to take part in its summer survey, Make Your Nature Count, which runs from the 2-10 June.

Not only is the RSPB asking people across Kent to record birds, it also wants to know about some of the other wildlife visiting gardens, like hedgehogs, squirrels, deer and for the first time ever, slow-worms.

Make Your Nature Count, is the UK's largest summer wildlife survey and takes just an hour to complete. To take part, simply record what slithers, tweets, forages and snuffles about in your garden or green space.

Last year nearly 3000 Kent residents stepped up for nature and took part in the RSPB's summer survey, revealing that blackbirds were the most frequent garden visitor, being recorded in 92% of all gardens in Kent, followed by woodpigeons in 84% and collard doves in 83%.

Other regular garden visitors included frogs, which were seen in over 32% of the county's gardens, followed by bats in 28%, and hedgehogs in over 23%.

Samantha Stokes of the RSPB South East said: "Gardens are teeming with wildlife at this time of year so it's the perfect time to sit back and enjoy an hour of wildlife watching".

To take part, simply spend one hour during the week of 2-10 June, counting the birds and the other wildlife that visit your garden or green space, record the highest number of each species seen at any one time and send the RSPB your results.

For further information about Make Your Nature Count, or to submit your results online, visit the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk/naturecount where an online survey form will be available from 2 June.

Alternatively, ring 0300 456 8330 for a Make Your Nature Count survey form; the hotline number will be operational until 6 June 2012.



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Sadie 01233 501832
Sophie 01634 254175

From John O'Groats to Lands End and back to High Halstow

Just to say we had an excellent journey, all 1100 miles covered with no breakdowns or accidents and as promised here is an update. First of all could we please say a massive thank you to all the people who sponsored us at the High Halstow shop, both me and Claire have raised over £750 and the total raised by all the riders was £23,000!



So Day 1 & 2,

Was spent driving from Kent to Norfolk in our 1967 VW camper to stay at a rider's house his name was Andy, we had met for 10 minutes and chatted through VZI about his moped project. We arrived in pouring rain at about half 10 with a bottle of wine and the hope of relaxing! No chance Andy and a few others were still modifying the trailer to fit all of the bikes on, so we got stuck in and finished at about 1am!

Day 2 & 3,

Woke up, with flat air bed, to an alarm at 6am, time to hit the road and collect other riders in the mini bus and get bikes loaded onto the trailer. We stayed that night at another forum member's house just out side of Glasgow. Another night with a flat air bed and up again at 6am for shower then back on road to John O'Groats, (via a camping shop for new air bed) we arrived at JOG that evening and me and Claire were reunited with our mopeds we had a quick ride around the site before we got the tent up and attended the organisational meeting at bar.

Day 3 & 4,

Up at 6am after a cold night in thermals, luckily most of the snow had melted but there was enough about on the hills and fields and all the locals had said if we were 3 days earlier we would have been snowed in! After photos at the JOG sign we set off in packs of 10, the first days riding totalled about 150 miles and took us to a campsite in Borlum, near Loch Ness. Spent that evening helping some other riders repair a clutch issue so had a late night. Up early after a long night, served croissants with jam and lots of coffee by the support crew and fuelled up ready for the 2nd days riding which would take us through some of the best scenery in Scotland. That evening we had a sit down meal in the village hall and a most welcome warm shower, but not before more bike repairs to other's mopeds.

Day 5 & 6,

Long days riding today total miles = 170 finishing up in the Lake District; Fairly uneventful day just pushing on through some more urban areas feeling a bit tired and wet after 3 days riding in the rain and knowing we had some serious miles to put in plus we kept getting lost as well, but it all made sense when we hit the lakes and took on Kirkstone Pass which climbs in to the clouds and had all the bikes in first gear and down to 6 mph for a long time! We made it to Ambleside after dropping down a 1:20 incline in the dark and rain! The bike went in the tent at the campsite and we got some food and some sleep feeling we had over come the most challenging day.

We were woken up at 2am with the tent in our face, it was blowing a gale and the pegs had come out plus we had put it up badly as too tired! A bit of rallying around from a few others in the same situation had it sorted, but didn't get much sleep that night

Day 6,

Very tired at this stage and spent a fair bit of time getting lost and confused riding through some city centres – and nearly rode on to a motorway at one stage we avoided by bumping bikes down the grass verge and riding down the cycle paths and back up to the correct junction! The campsite that night was just outside Worksop at a rugby club we had very nice sit down carvery and double servings of chocolate cake after, plus beer which was much needed.



After food I spent some time in the big army tents supplied so we could work on our bikes, Claire's Simson had a sticky throttle cable, another rider was replacing his clutch, and I changed my oil and casually did a service whilst being smug that my old bike was giving me no cause for concern. Had a fairly early night as we planned to be away early to get to Nottingham hospital early for a press

shoot and be shown the foundations of teenage cancer ward that we were raising the money for, plus have a chat with Brad's mum who started the charity.

Day 7,

Quick ride through Nottingham to meet at the pub opposite hospital so we could all ride in together; We rode in to the hospital as one large group and parked up. The charity had organised a few people to come down and say thank you and talk about the benefits of the teenage cancer ward to patients, including one of the hospitals cancer patients and I must admit it got a bit emotional when Brad's mum told us we had raised £23,000 between us (target was £10,000).

It was also the lift we needed after a few rough days with little sleep and frayed tempers. We left focussed and determined. That night we ended up at the Tunnel House near Cirencester, after riding down the Fosse way.

Had another sit down meal in pub few beers and my first shower since John's house!

Day 8,

We ended up leaving at about 10am as one of our group was having trouble with his bike, sadly we didn't have time to get it right and had to leave so that was him out. Both me and Claire were looking forward to today as we planned to pass through Bath town centre and stop for a few snaps, very interesting town I would love to come back and explore properly but we had to push on.

Next stop was Glastonbury we made a detour as a few of the group had never visited and it seemed a shame to ride past and the sun had come out, so we wheeled the bikes in to town centre for a few photos.

It was getting a bit late so we decided to push on to Dartmoor and our camping stop the Fox and Hounds pub which had camping out back.

Had a few beers and went to bed feeling a bit sad knowing it was last days riding tomorrow.



Day 9,

So last day riding, another rider in the group had issues with his rear brake locking up so he stripped and sorted that as it had nearly caused him to crash just before the campsite!

I know Cornwall well as my mum lives in Wadebridge, the official route was A303, I planned in some scenic detours and a road with a 'welcome to Cornwall' sign this way our group could see some of Dartmoor and have a photo at the sign.

The last few miles crept up on us and before we knew it we were 10 miles from Lands End, as we rode in we had a big welcome from a large crowd and spent along time taking photos and talking to the other groups and cheering them as they arrived.



That weekend was spent at a local show ground that the Charity had hired for us so we could relax and unwind and let it all sink in before heading off back home.

High Halstow and District Gardening Club

The Garden Club have planted out red, white and blue petunias round the 3 Heron signs in the village in readiness for the QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE. On MONDAY 4 JUNE, we will have 2 stalls in the Recreation Ground from 4pm, one is a Lucky Vegetable Dip for 20p a go, where you can win cash prizes and the other is free for children to create a Vegetable Monster, the winner will be the one that scares me the most!!!

We will also be handing out pots containing a sunflower seed for the children to grow. The tallest sunflower will win a special prize at our Summer Show on Sunday 26th August in the Recreation Hall, High Halstow providing it is entered for the competition between 9.30am and 11.20am. Doors are open to the public at 3pm in the afternoon to find out the winner! We would also like children to enter a picture of the Olympics for the Show!

We are holding a HOG ROAST in the GARDEN of the OAST at DUCK'S COURT FARM, DUX COURT ROAD, HIGH HALSTOW on SUNDAY 17TH JUNE at 2PM. I am now selling tickets for this event at £10 each which include the hog roast, a dessert and a glass of beer, wine or a soft drink, which is really good value for money! The hog roast feeds a large number of people, so we need plenty of people to attend, so all members please encourage all your friends and family to come! If you would like to buy tickets, please take your money to Margot Sturt, our Treasurer at 32 Willowbank Drive or to Gwen Bucknall at the Oast, Ducks Court Farm. It promises to be a great afternoon, all we need is the sun!

On 24TH JUNE we are going to the NATIONAL TRUST GARDEN AT MOTTISFONT ABBEY IN HAMPSHIRE, leaving the Recreation Hall in High Halstow at 8.30am. The cost is £20 if you are a National Trust member and bring your card with you or £29 if you are not an NT member. If you have already signed up to go on this trip, I would be grateful if you would send your payment to Margot Sturt at 32, Willow Bank Drive as soon as possible. Mottisfont Abbey Gardens are the most stunning rose gardens I have ever been to and the sight and scent of the old fashioned roses is incredible! I HAVE A FEW PLACES AVAILABLE ON THE COACH IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A GARDEN CLUB MEMBER, SO PLEASE RING GWEN BUCKNALL.

On SUNDAY 8TH JULY WE SAIL ON THE PRINCESS POCAHONTAS FROM GRAVESEND TO SOUTHEND and back and will meet in the St. George's car park in Gravesend at 10am. The cost is £20 which includes the return train fare along the pier! We are able to take a large number of people on the boat, so if you are interested in coming on the trip please contact Gwen Bucknall.

On SUNDAY 15TH JULY we are holding A CREAM TEA with TEA or a soft drink, SCONES, JAM and CREAM and STRAWBERRIES, IN THE GARDEN OF MARJ IVES BUNGALOW AT 11, GOODWOOD CLOSE. THE COST WILL BE £5. If members and friends would like to attend, please give your money to Marj Ives. The money raised will go towards purchasing computer equipment to support the lecturers and the annual show.

30 people participated in an excellent trip to Winchester on Saturday 5th May and had a highly enjoyable tour of Winchester Cathedral followed by free time in the city.

We held our annual plant Bring and Buy sale on Tuesday 8th May with Peter Tyler as our Auctioneer, which was entertaining and successful.

Gwen Bucknall, telephone: 01634 250456 or
email: gwenbucknall@btinternet.com

Our Village Bells

Since the mid 17th century our bells at St Margaret's which ordinarily call the faithful to services have also rung out for celebrations, just as they will on the 4th June for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and just as they joyously welcome brides on their wedding day.

Since 1983 six ringers have been both privileged and needed to ring our bells. They start ringing in 'rounds' where each bell is rung in sequence from the lightest bell in weight to the heaviest when the pattern is repeated. This is only altered by either directing a bell to change place with an adjacent one or by directing a pre-determined 'method' for the bells to follow. Hence called 'change' ringing which is almost uniquely English in nature. As there is only about 1/3rd of a second between each bell striking, maintaining a rhythm depends entirely upon the skill of the ringer sounding a bell of sometimes several times their own body weight.

By 1983 the bells had fallen into disuse and villagers raised more than £4,000 of the £8,400 cost of their restoration. Retuned, restored and increased to six in number and led by David Jack the bells were re-hung by volunteers and members of the Kent County Association of Change ringers. Mr Jack also trained some 24 new bell ringers, some of whom are now the prime ringers of our present tower band.

The original bells which are still part of our present ring of six were made specifically for our church; two in 1675, one in 1825 and the latest in 1861. The bells of 1675 were cast in the reign of King Charles II and two coins of his reign are still embedded in them. Embossed on all bells are their year of manufacture and the names of the bell founder (maker), the church rector and his church wardens. It is unfortunate that our ancient bells, particularly those of 1675 and among the oldest artefacts of our village (we all know what the three earliest are! Don't we?!), are virtually inaccessible in their bell chamber and out of public view.

In the 1600's it was the practise to cast church bells on site, and in High Halstow this would logically be on church owned ground next to the Tithe barn, now demolished but then just off the Street. A pit would be dug for the 'founding', there was a pond there for cooling and the adjacent barn for storage. Just opposite was the verger's house, later the Red Dog, for accommodation. The site later developed into the wheelwrights pond and forge, last run by George Plewis, and artefacts from his workshop are now displayed in a Country and Rural museum as exhibits from the last traditional wheelwright in England.

A plaque displayed in the ringing chamber the bell tower copies an original notice;

“November 19 1798 was rung in this steeple by 5 men only, 42 different 5 bell peels without setting their bells or ringing rounds between each peel except the last change of every peel. Treble was rung by Robert Baker; 2nd. was rung by Joseph Goody; 3rd was rung and peels called by Jas Cockrill; 4th. was rung by James Munn; 5th was rung by Daniel Jackson. The peels were rung in 3 hours and 8 minutes.”

The names of some of these ancient ringers are still familiar in our village and area although their subjects are probably not aware of this feat of their ancestors, or its significance. Although it can never be certain whether this was the very first five bell peal ever rung, it does seem to be the first historical record of such a peal being rung, anywhere. A 'peel', as it was then spelled, and as mentioned above demanded then as it does to this day, ringing continuously without pause and never repeating the sequence of a previous round.

Peculiar to 'Change Ringing', bells are hung in their chamber within a mechanical system which allows them to be pulled over (rung) in a circle of nearly 370 degrees, before being pulled back in the opposite direction. This causes the bell to strike and sound as it swings upwards on either side. According to Wikipedia, there are about 5750 towers which ring bells this way in England, another 260 in the rest of the British Isles with a further 120 spread mainly around the English speaking world.

On the 4th June our bells of St Margaret's will ring out in joyous celebration of our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As they have for hundreds of years in the past and as, God willing, they will continue.

Dave Stephenson.

**FAMILY MIDSUMMER
TEA PARTY
SUNDAY 17TH JUNE
ST JAMES CHURCH COOLING
2pm-4pm**

Followed at 4.30 by a Special Service
in the church to
Celebrate Charles Dickens' Birth



Local strawberries and cream,
Scones with jam and cream ,
Tea or Coffee
Cakes and plants and books for sale.

only £3.50 per person
Telephone 01634 220204

Organised by the
Friends of St James Church Cooling



***Come and Meet Your
Parish Councillors***

One or two of your Parish Councillors will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 12th June from 10.30 – 12.00pm and every 2nd Tuesday in the month.

Come and tell us your problems or find out about projects we are undertaking.
If we can't answer your problem there and then we will get back to you.

High Halstow Parish Council.



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Anim-Mates New Website

Anim-Mates has just given its website a new look and if you click www.anim-mates.org.uk you'll be there in a flash. We are very keen to get views and feedback on the new look site and would be grateful if you could spare a few moments to look at the site and reply to this email. We are not looking for praise (though that would be appreciated too, of course) but would genuinely like your thoughts on how it could be made more appealing, better, clearer, more interesting etc. Our website is aimed at: - people thinking of adopting a rescue animal - attracting donations - recruiting new Friends of Anim-Mates - bringing news of our activities to existing Friends. We hope we are meeting those aims with our new look - if not, please tell us.

Many thanks
Dennis Hon. Secretary

Saving just one animal won't change the world, but it surely will change the world for that one animal.

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 J. Gillies - 22 Leaman Close
- Mr J. Myatt - Decoy Hill Road
- Mr B. Prichard - 9 Drayton Close
- Mrs C. Peek - 2 Willowbank Drive

Christmas Tree Festival

I know it is a bit early thinking about Christmas, with the first signs of summer just arriving, but please can put a date in your diary, it is proposed there will be a Christmas Tree Festival in the Village Hall on December 8th.

Details to follow shortly so watch this space.

Our Village

Five girls in the village have been set the challenge of producing a tourist brochure about the place where they live. Over the next few months their contributions will be published in the High Halstow Times as space permits. Their whole brochures will be available on the village website – www.highhalstow.org.uk.

Reading two of their brochures has made me realise afresh the fact that we live in a great village. Unfortunately, we do not always appreciate fully what is on our doorsteps or make use of the facilities offered to us by such a great army of willing volunteers. I would like to say “Thank You” to all those who give so willingly of their time and effort to provide us with activities and services for all age groups. Very often, that work goes unnoticed and unreported but they still carry on “seeking no reward.”

PLEASE NOTE that some, but not all, of the comments, telephone numbers and names mentioned in the brochures are imaginary but the perspective of our village from a young person's point of view is very refreshing.

Di Welch

Ellie Curtis' Holiday Brochure

VISIT HIGH HALSTOW, KENT

Take a trip to this wonderful village set in the heart of North Kent. There are so many activities to keep you occupied. Whether you are visiting for one day or two weeks you are to sure to be kept busy the whole time.



Attractions in the Village

10 th Century Church	Village Shop and Post Office
Beautiful church. Bell ringers meeting every Tuesday at 7.30pm	Hiking Group (details available in local newsletter available at the Post Office)
Traditional English Pub, The Red Dog (open throughout the week)	Quiz Nights
RSPB Nature Reserve – organised walks at various times of the year	Badminton Club
Zumba every Monday at 7.00pm	Drama Group
Sugar Babes Cake Decorating every Thursday at 7.00pm	Petrol Station and Garage
	Mother and Toddler Group

High Halstow offers a lot of fun to all visitors, whatever their age. There is comfortable bed and breakfast facilities at Dux Court Road. Prices and availability are available on 01634 xxxxxx



About the village

High Halstow is set at the highest point of the Hoo Peninsular, 50 metres above sea level.

It offers many attractions, there has never been a better time to visit. Situated just 5 miles outside of the historic city of Rochester there is so much to offer.

There are direct bus routes to Rochester, Chatham and also Bluewater, the largest shopping centre in Kent.

“What an outstanding place to visit, I would definitely recommend a drive out”.

Mrs Sarah Windark, London

“What a lovely day at the Nature Reserve, saw lots of different species of birds. I have taken lots of photos”.

Miss Charlie Banks, Devon

The RSPB Nature Reserve

On a ridge overlooking the Thames Marshes, Northward Hill, High Halstow includes a lovely bluebell wood where nightingales sing in Spring. It is also well known to be home of the heron.

Opening Times: Open at all times

Entrance Charges: Free, although donations are always welcome.



Madeline Harris' High Halstow Brochure

The red dog pub, a relaxing country pub and restaurant, families are welcome.



QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE MONDAY 4TH JUNE 2012!!!!

HIGH HALSTOW AND NEWS FROM AROUND



Zumba! Keep fit and healthy and try some new moves, Monday 6.00pm-7.00pm at the recreation hall, £5.00 per session.



RSPB RESERVE!!!

RSPB RESERVE IS ONE OF THE MOST PEACEFUL PLACES WHERE YOU CAN RELAX AND CHILL. THIS IS ALSO A PLACE OF OUTSTANDING BEAUTY, AND HAS ONE OF THE MAGNIFICENT PLANTS YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE. SO IF YOU ARE ANGRY COME DOWN TO THE RSPB RESERVE AND BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO RELAX. THAT IS NOT ALL, IF YOU LIKE WALKING, OR HAVE A DOG YOU NEED TO WALK, THEN COME DOWN TO THE RSPB RESERVE. IT WILL ASTOUND YOU WITH HOW MUCH FUN YOU CAN HAVE, YOU NORMALLY WOULD THINK THAT IT IS BORING WHEN IT REALLY IS AMAZING! DID YOU KNOW THAT ALSO IN THE RESERVE THERE ARE LOADS OF BIRDS TO LOOK AT SWOOPING THROUGH THE SKY LIKE FEATHERS FALLING FROM A TREE. THIS IS A GOOD THING FOR BIRD LOVERS TO DO BECAUSE YOU CAN CATCH SOME FABULOUS IMAGES OF THE BIRDS.

THE PLAY PARK!

THE PLAY PARK IS THE BEST PARK EVER; IT HAS A BASKET SWING THAT SWINGS NOT ONLY UP AND DOWN BUT AROUND AND AROUND. THIS PLAY PARK ALSO DELIVERS A WHOLE LOT OF OTHER AMAZING THINGS TO DO. IT IS A PERFECT PLACE TO WALK A DOG ON A RAINY DAY, GUESS WHY?, BECAUSE IT HAS A MASSIVE FIELD AND YOU CAN EVEN WATCH CRICKET ON A BENCH IN THE PARK. ALSO YOU CAN PLAY FOOTBALL. WHEN YOU PLAY FOOTBALL THERE IS A GOAL AND SOME GRAVEL PITCHES. IT IS NOT ONLY A FOOTBALL AREA YOU CAN PLAY BASKET BALL THERE AS WELL, BECAUSE IT HAS A NET FOR YOU TO SCORE IN.

NEARBY PLACES TO VISIT:



- ROCHESTER CASTLE
- UPNOR CASTLE
- ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM
- CHATHAM DOCKYARD
- HOO SWIMMING POOL
- SHORNE COUNTRY PARK
- BLUEWATER
- THE STRAND
- RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK.

PRIVATE CARER

Do you need help with personal care (washing dressing etc.) or need a little help around the house, or maybe you're a carer yourself for a family member and need a break from time to time?

I am a local carer. I have a NVQ2 in health and social care, and I am CRB checked regularly (Criminal Records Bureau) and have worked in the care field for approximately ten years.

If you already have agency carers and feel you would like a more personal touch or just feel you could do with a little more help.

Social Service work (eg. direct payment) and private work taken on.

Please call Claire on 01634 270993 or 07890 551974

Dates for Diary

Every Monday: Zumba 19:00	Village Hall
Every Tuesday: King's Kitchen 10:00	Memorial Hall
Bell Ringers 19:30	St Margaret's Church
Every Thursday: Mother and Toddler's 09:00	Memorial Hall
Sugar Babes 19:00	Memorial Hall
Every Friday: Pilates with Joy 14:15	Memorial Hall
Every Saturday Karmann Dancers 09:00	Memorial Hall

Other Dates

Friday 1st:	Red Dog Golf Society Details from the Red Dog
Friday 1st: 19:00	Youth Night Memorial Hall
Sunday 3rd: 09:00	Family Service St. Margaret's Church
Sunday 3rd: 14:00	Jubilee Tea Party Memorial Hall
Monday 4th: 16:00	Party in the Park Recreation Ground
Wednesday 6th: 19.30	Women's Institute Memorial Hall
Sunday 10th:	High Halstow Hikers Details in HHT
Tuesday 12th: 20:00	Gardening Club Memorial Hall
Wednesday 13th: 20:00	Parish Council Memorial Hall
Saturday 16th: 08:30	Project 90 Village Hall
Sunday 17th: 09:00	Family Service St. Margaret's Church
Friday 29th: 20:00	Quiz Night Memorial Hall

THE BAROQUE THEATRE COMPANY
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ST. JAMES' CHURCH COOLING
WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE AT 7-30PM

Tickets £15.00 each from Alison Bucknall 01634 220204

cheques payable to The Friends of St James' Church
Cooling
Light refreshments will be on sale



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Mobile Website: - m.organgrinderandmonkey.co.uk

Telephone: - 01634 270947/07854 664799/079030 12855

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.

The Village Shop

LONGER Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm

Sunday 8am – 2pm

New Telephone number: 01634 254561

Let's Hear from You

Do you have a story about the history of the Village, did you go to or know anything about the old school, can you tell us a story about a picture in the Memorial Hall.? etc

In terms of recent history, were you at a recent event in the village, did you enjoy the recent film shows ? Let us know your tales so we can publish in the HHT and or the website. It would be great to hear from you!!

Note from the Editor

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

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

Zumba Night

Monday's at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Zumba is a Latin inspired dance fitness class
to improve not only fitness levels
but to burn off calories.

It is a class for all ages and abilities
and is also a great way of making new friends

The class costs £5.00

For further details please contact
Jess on 07746 082182

Zumba at High Halstow Village Hall

Monday 7.00pm



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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.

NB: Wednesday mornings at the Memorial
Hall are now free for bookings.

The Garden Party is Coming 7th July 12:00 - 4:00pm

A special prize for the best Olympic themed costume

Bigger and better than ever before come and
spend the day with us, bring your granny, your
kids, your neighbour, your friend from work
and don't forget to bring your money as there
will be plenty to spend it on.

The Rectory, High Halstow



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High Halstow
So Can Be Quick
To Respond***

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

*Regards
Jonathan*



The Bakery Maid is a new Local Business that makes Cupcakes, Loaf Cakes, Cookies & Much More.

Cakes can be made for Special Occasions, weddings, Birthdays or an afternoon treat.

For more information or orders please contact the Bakery Maid:

Email - thebakery@yahoo.co.uk
 Mobile - 07875021079

Follow us on Facebook - **The Bakery Maid**

The Village Store in High Halstow Currently Stock the Bakery Maid Cakes.

The Village Cook Book

The Village Cook Book is gathering pace and we have started to receive the recipes for the Village Cook Book. The Village Cook Book will be produced in aid of the Village Hall and this is where we would like your help. Do you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share; well this is the time to let us know. Please could we have the following:

- 1 The recipe details
- 2 A picture of the finished recipe
- 3 Your name and address
- 4 A picture of yourself (passport size would be great)

The level of responses and recipes sent in will determine how the book(s) will be produced and available. We hope you like the idea and join in. More details to following future HHT's

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GUITAR

Professional guitarist and guitar teacher offers 1 to 1 tuition. All ages and abilities welcome. Graduate of London Guitar Institute and playing experience includes The Who and Robbie Williams. Can inc practical, grades & theory.

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High Halstow Pre-school

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

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Open Weekdays, term time only
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Children are funded for 5 free sessions the
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Don't take Ofsted's word that we are an
outstanding provider, come and see for
yourself.

Ring 01634 255088

A New Family Service



Great stories, fun action songs, arts & crafts, crazy puppets, video's, musical instruments, flags and fun for the whole family as well as a time to reflect, learn and worship together as God's family. So why not come and join us and find out what God has to say about his purpose for our lives.



1st & 3rd Sunday
of the month,
Starts 4th Sept
9:30am High Halstow
11:00am Allhallows

Come and put the JOY back into life

Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, Chair	01634 250286
e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk	
Gary Thomas, Vice Chair	01634 252812
e.mail: gary@highhalstow.org.uk	
Martin Andrews	07984 791029
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Stuart Bailey	01634 255537
Josh Gordon	07753 212179
Gary Jerreat	01634 253999
Lesley Munday	01634 250276
Christine Watson	01634 256529

Your councillors may also be contacted
through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269

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RECREATION HALL • HIGH HALSTOW

28TH / 29TH / 30TH JUNE @ 7:30PM

TICKETS £4 FROM: WENDA (253169)

JOANNE (250911) • FRED & HAZEL (251135)

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

As part of the Gardening Club's contribution to the Jubilee festivities, with Margaret Shuter and Wendy White I spent an hour planting flowers around the HERON sign in Christmas Lane.

As I left to walk back home with two very heavy road safety cones a young man named Wayne stopped and insisted they be put in the boot of his car for him to drop off for me, not only that, he handed all three of us an ice cream as a 'reward' for our efforts.

I hope I thanked him enough for his kindness.

Christine Wilson

Christmas Lane

Dear HHT,

I have recently spent many hours researching the history of our house, with very little success. If anyone in the village has any old pictures of 17 Christmas Lane, or could tell me anything about it I would be most grateful. I am considering returning the house back to its original design and would love to have as much information as possible. Please call me on 251347.

Kelly Saunders

Christmas Lane

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 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. This can be used to keep your members informed and possibly attract new members to your group.

Local Businesses

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Business Page is back on the website. Should you wish to advertise your business please visit <http://highhalstow.org.uk/business-page> where you can find all the details of how to put your business on the site.

PROJECT 90

**90 minutes spent improving
the village**

**The next Project 90 will be
Saturday 16th June
8:30am - 10:00am**

Village Hall Car Park

Name and Address Supplied

Please note that all letters published will show the name and part address of the author.



For more details,
call Natacha
on 254178

Toddler Group

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

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

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

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

Your first session is FREE!

Next edition July 2012; Contributions for July should be sent
by 20th June to:

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