

July 2011

Village Shop Grand Opening July 22nd 2011 at 11.00am

Free Refreshments Come along and see our own Fred Beringer perform the opening ceremony

The new shop will be open for business from 15th July and to celebrate there will be a Grand Opening Ceremony on 22nd July

- A new, larger, completely modernised Premier Express store with CCTV, air conditioning.
- New extended opening hours 7am-8pm Monday to Saturday, Sunday 8am 2pm. However the shop will be closing at 6pm for the first couple of weeks, until Medway Council has confirmed the permission to stay open until 8pm.
- Many more lines, catering for all your needs, including bread & milk, fruit & vegetables, ready meals & frozen foods, confectionery & snacks, magazines, newspapers, beers, wines & spirits.
- Premier deals with a range of offers (25+) every month including buy one get one free deals plus £1 deals.
- Lottery application is also in progress.
- Brand new post office, with pay point.
- Hot and cold food, including freshly baked bread on site as well as fresh pasties sausage rolls cakes & coffee machine, fresh vegetables including a wide range of groceries products.
- Family run business.
- Personalised newspaper delivery to your home.

NB.

The Parish Council are please to see the new village shop open. We would like to thank Derek Baker for his vision and Dale for his tenacity in seeing the project through.

George Crozer HHPC



Farmers Market

Please note that the Farmers market will again be on the second Saturday of the month so as not to clash with the Rector Garden Party. Why not come along and support all the stallholders as well as support the refurbishment programme for the Village hall, Doors open at 9.30.

Project 90

Due to the market once again falling on the second Saturday of the month, there will not be a Project 90 in July. Thanks again to all the people though who come along and support this worthwhile event. Please watch this space for further dates in the year.

Village Hall

Please be aware that the plans for the refurbishment for the Village Hall can be seen on the website www.highhalstow.org.uk They will also be on show again at the Farmers Market on July 9th.

Memorial Hall

Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on the 4th July 2011, which is open to all. Villagers can raise any questions or make requests to be considered by the Committee.

Mother & Toddler Group

The Summer Picnic will be taking place on 14th July on the Recreation Field. However, as this is the same day as the School Sports Celebrations, the starting time has been changed to 12:15pm. I hope this is convenient for everyone. This will be the final date for your diaries with myself running Mother & Toddlers. Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in continuing the group. *Marie Calvert*

Village Hall Committee

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

A Lull In Activities

Well, we had a great celebration for our 'Birthday Meeting' with refreshments and dancing in the Memorial Hall. We had been advised to beware of the floor, so I was a little worried when so many W.I. ladies joined in the dancing. As far as I know the floor survived. Everyone enjoyed the evening with much laughter and it was good to receive thank you letters from our invited guests in the days following.

The monthly lunch club met at The Tudor Rose in Upnor. We were only a small group, but sometimes I prefer that as everyone is included in the 'chat'. Food was as usual very good if a little slow on the service. Eleven ladies had a great day out at Bartello's in Meopham where they started with coffee were then taken through a flower demonstration which they all did followed by a 3-course lunch. The food at this restaurant is superb and it is planned to repeat this albeit at a different venue. Coming up is a trip to Hythe with morning coffee and lunch all arranged and the rest of the day free to do as people choose. Lets hope the rain stays away. Also a visit to Lullingstone in July with details yet to be confirmed. Next meeting is on July 6th when Jean Whittington will be telling us about the Jewellery Trade. £1:50 on the door starting at 7:30. Margaret Whitebread

Parish Councillor Vacancy There is currently a vacancy on the HH Parish Council, if you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk on the number below for further details.

Your Parish Councillors George Crozer, Chair 01634 250286 e.mail: george@highhalstow.org.uk Gary Thomas, Vice Chair 01634 252812 e.mail: gary.thomas@medway.gov.uk Martin Andrews 07984 791029 Angela Bostock 07880 531641 01634 250105 Rav Collins Josh Gordon 07779 735849 Lesley Munday 01634 250276 Christine Watson 01634 256529

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer

01474 871269

Parish Review

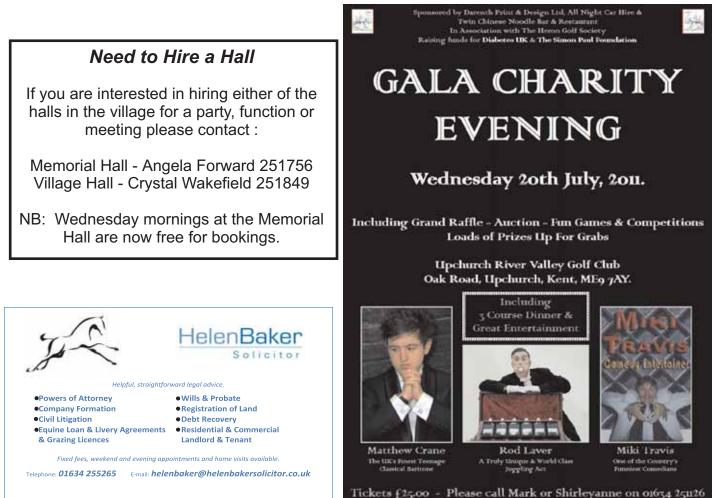
Like most organisations the church periodically has to review itself and see what is working well and where it is underachieving. The Diocese of Rochester has tasked each area (or deanery) to do a careful and radical review of how it operates and how it can co-operate with parishes around it. This is not solely due to financial issues, but like everyone else the church is suffering from the present economic difficulties. Each parish is wholly responsible for financing it's ministers stipend (salary) the running, maintaining and insurance of its buildings and ministry, as well as contributing to the financial support of the Diocese and wider Church. The parish of High Halstow, Allhallows and St.Mary Hoo, has to raise about £68,000 a year to pay all our bills, sadly we have been unable to do that for some years.

The purpose of the review is to look at ways in which the church can be more effective in what it does and more efficient in how it does it.

Despite some rumours no decisions have been made and no church buildings have been earmarked for closure, although that cannot be ruled out either. Like any attempt to have a realistic and meaningful review we have to be prepared to look at every possible option before realistic conclusions can be made. It will be some months before the Deanery submits a report to the Diocese and then the Diocese will make some recommendations and suggestions.

I am sure it will be apparent to all that when income and attendance fall there comes a point at which it is impossible to carry on. If you are concerned about the possibility of the church closing its doors, as it has elsewhere, then I would ask you to think about supporting the church by coming along and becoming part of it.

Stephen Gwilt Rector



High Halstow and District Gardening Club

Despite the inclement weather, the Garden Safari on Sunday 12th June was extremely popular and many people very much enjoyed visiting the 12 gardens being exhibited, finishing up at The Oast for tea and cake in the garage! Many thanks for your support, it is greatly appreciated. The gardens were all very different, reflecting the personalities of their owners, so many thanks to the exhibitors who worked extremely hard indeed in order to display them at their best. Exhibitors were able to visit each others' gardens on the Saturday afternoon, which was great.

On Tuesday 14th June, we had an enlightening talk on "Reminiscences of an Asylum Judge" given by Chris Buckwell, which was an excellent presentation and was well attended.

Many members opened their gardens on Thursday 23rd June to be judged for the best garden award for the Summer Show on August Bank Holiday Saturday. We will not know until the Show who has won. The judge was Mrs Rita Hunt who chairs the Strood Garden Club.

The outing to the RHS garden at Hyde Hall in Essex, leaves the Recreation Hall at High Halstow at 10am on Sunday 26th June. Let's hope the weather is kind, as it is a spectacular garden. I have no doubt that members will be tempted by the food in the lovely restaurant; that they will buy some wonderful plants in the fantastic RHS plant shop and also enjoy spending some money in the RHS gift shop! It is an excellent place to visit for the day.

45 people are booked to enjoy a leisurely cruise down the Thames from Gravesend to Southend on the Princess Pocanhotas on Sunday 17th July. Please ensure that you have paid your money for the trip to Margot Sturt, our Treasurer at 32, Willowbank Drive. Please park in the St Georges Car Park in Gravesend by 10am (free on Sundays), walk down across the road towards the river and take the path to the Jetty. Embarkation is at 10.15am and we will set sail for Southend at 10.30am. You will all be given a pier ticket which includes using the train. No doubt many of us will enjoy a superb pub lunch! We leave Southend at 4.15pm returning to Gravesend by 6.30pm. If anyone else would like to come with us you are very welcome, please contact Margaret Shuter on 01634 251196. Tickets cost £20 each for the day. All we need now is lovely weather!

The next garden club meeting is on Tuesday 12th July when Dusty Miller will talk to us about "What the judges are looking for," prior to you entering your exhibits for the Annual Summer Show, so come along and find out!

The Annual Summer Show is on Saturday 27th August. Entries for the Show should be submitted between 9.30am to 11.30am and it is open for members or non-members.

The Show is free and will be open to the public at 3pm, so please come along and see the fantastic array of vegetables, flowers and arts and crafts being exhibited and enjoy some refreshments. The Show is a great annual event and is worth a visit! There are classes for your children/grandchildren to enter and also the men as well as the ladies, so don't miss the opportunity! There's lots of talent out there, so come and show it!

Gwen Bucknall

Church Yard Work Day

Once again a very big thank you to everyone who came and worked so hard in the churchyard this month, despite the weather lots of people turned up and we managed to clear literally tons of undergrowth and in some cases overgrowth! Sadly due to the weather the BBQ didn't take place. I did freeze the burgers and sausages ready for our July work party. So if you want to come and join us for the July clear-up on Saturday 30th July at 10:00am feel free to do so, and we will make sure you are well fed.

Stephen Gwilt, Rector

Resume of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th June 2011

The main event at the last meeting was a presentation by Rowena Collins of Land Securities on the latest ideas for the development of Lodge Hill at Chattenden. Most of the development will be in Hoo St Werburgh parish, but some of it is in our parish adjacent to Dux Court Road. Rowena explained that nothing is set in stone and the company is still listening and investigating various options. The Masterplan has not yet been finalised. At present the intention is to provide 3 primary schools (one of these may be an upgrade to the existing Chattenden school); a secondary school; shops, including a supermarket; offices and other business opportunities and a transport hub. The finished development, which will take about 30 years, will eventually house 12,000-14,000 people. The main concern of those present was the road system for access to the development. Rowena emphasised that in all things they are working with Medway Council. One suggestion is to take a road into the development off Four Elms Hill, at a location roughly where the lay-by is at present. Dux Court Road would be upgraded to the point of the access road from this direction. Beyond that no alterations would be made, to discourage residents of the development using the section into High Halstow, unless they wished to go to the village. Another concern was that a transport hub would mean reduced services to the rest of the Peninsula. A request was made that all infrastructure is put in place, including improved public transport services, before occupation by residents. Rowena promised to keep the Parish Council fully informed of progress and of course the Parish Council will be consulted when the outline planning application is eventually submitted to Medway Council.

Following consultation through the High Halstow Times and the village website, it was decided not to go ahead with a football cage. However some young people have asked for a skateboard facility and consultation will be carried out.

A request has been received for the footpath from the Recreation Ground to Ruggles Close to be surfaced to match the all-weather path leading onto Christmas Lane. This is a public right of way owned by Medway Council and they will be referred to.

A complaint has been made about a commercial vehicle parked in Gypsy Way that extends over the pavement. It is an eyesore for other residents and it is believed residents of this estate have a covenant in their deeds that parking of large vehicles is not permitted. We will be taking this up with Medway Council to see if anything can be done.

The speed of vehicles in Christmas Lane was mentioned. A survey was done a while ago and it is not officially a problem. It is probably perception that vehicles are going too fast. The Chairman requested all residents to be mindful of other residents and road conditions and drive accordingly.

There was no Project 90 in June and it will not be held in July either. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th July in the Memorial Hall at 8 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Hello, I'd Like to Introduce Myself..

I'm Chris Watson and I'd like to introduce myself as a new High Halstow Parish Councillor. I have lived in High Halstow for just over 10 years and before that I lived in Essex, where my two sons still are. Prior to retiring 4 years ago I worked for a number of voluntary organisations. These included being the Director of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford Council for Voluntary Services and an Advocate for Medway & Swale Advocacy Partnerships. I have also been a volunteer, for Essex Alcohol Services and Victim Support. For the last 4 years I have been a Trustee, Vice Chair and then Chair of Medway & Swale Advocacy Partnerships.

Since retiring I find I have more time for hobbies such as reading, walking and eating out. I am also an ardent West Ham United fan (for my sins.)

I hope that I will be a useful addition to the Parish Council and I will certainly try my best to do a good job.

The Rudes' Summer Outdoor Show

The very popular Rude Mechanical Theatre Co will be coming to Northwood Hill RSPB reserve, Cooling this summer on Wednesday 13th July at 7.30pm with their new play, 'Gentle Harry's Farm'. It's another brand new story and clutch of songs performed by this brilliant troupe of actor/musicians. Tucked under the Downs in the breathless July of 1957 it will buzz with hilarity, sigh with tenderness and chirrup with gentle satire! Here's a brief introduction to the story.

Agnes Church and her very special friend and neighbour, Minnie Heartfelt, just love their boarding school, The Gables School for Jolly Nice Girls! But domestic science college calls - and husbands after that, steady sorts with prospects (like the Hon Ernest Dartford), and children (one of each, of course), then after that the WI (to be useful). But first under the blissful summer blue of Gentle Harry's Farm, amongst the cows and sheep and the sweet hay with magpies chattering their rhymes above - One for sorrow! Two for joy! - they were going to have such a twiffic summer!

Then of all things they find some bounders have burst into the bank in Eastbury and nicked the cash! And the place is swarming with coppers! Bliss! Bliss in abundance! What a cackle! It would be such a summer! Meanwhile the brown eyed cows and the other animals chew - and listen. And the magpies chatter.

The director and writer, Pete Talbot, says, "The 1950's were a lovely period. Not just because it was the period of my early childhood! People were breathing the fresh air of a much simpler, more rural, more innocent England. There was hardship, but the war was over and people were looking forwards in hope. But things were changing. The balance of power between the social classes was changing. There would even be a grammar school boy in No 10! There was new music and new clothes. The age of youth hadn't yet begun, but the '60's were just round the corner! Like our earlier 'Five Get Famous' our new play, another 'jolly nerve-wracking adventure', both enjoys and gently satirises the period."

Tickets are already on sale on the company's website – www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk or telephone 01323-501260





The High Halstow Relief in need charity has a limited number of small bursaries available to students going to University for the first time in the academic year 2011-2012. Those who started last year and were able to apply for a bursary may also apply.

The scheme is available only to students living in the parish of High Halstow at the time of application. Closing date is 30th August 2011,and applications received after that date will not be considered. In your letter of application please state your name, address, telephone number, the universities you have applied for and the length of your course. Proof of acceptance on your course will be needed before the bursary can be given. No appeal is available for unsuccessful applicants. Please apply in writing to, The Chairman, High Halstow relief in need charity, The Rectory, 2 Cooling Road, High Halstow, Rochester, ME3 8SA.

High Halstow Walkers

Our June walk was through the lovely countryside around Shoreham towards Otford taking in parts of the Darent Valley Path and a remarkable model of the solar system in Otford itself. The walk was very ably led by Linda Dobson who spent much of her life in Shoreham and therefore provided many snippets of local history and interest.

The next walk will be on 10th July around Oare marshes, along the edge of the Swale and including the remains of the gunpowder work where there was a massive accident in the First World War killing over 100 people. There will be spectacular views across the wild marshland and the Swale to Sheppey. We will leave the Kent WildflifeTrust Car Park (ME13 0QA) at 10.00am. This is at the end of Church Road, Oare (Nr Faversham) which you turn into at the Three Mariners Inn on The Street. The walk will be about 7miles long and is very flat and will be led by Alan Marshall. As always all are welcome. Sunday in the month on: 14th August: Kits Coty led by Michael Banner Martin

11th September: Cuckmere Valley and Seven Sisters led by Mitchell Dowsett

Full details in next Times. Your primary contact is Mitchell at mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or 01634 254428. All are welcome.



The following 2 walks will all be on the second

Say Cheese !

Once again we are again running a photographic competition to try and find High Halstow's best photographers for 2011. The categories are simple. Under 16's anything in the village . For the Over 16's there are 3 categories,

People, Places & Fauna and Flora. All photographs must be taken in the parish boundaries, they must be clearly marked as to who took them where they were taken and when they were taken and contact details. Maximum 4 entries per person. In addition where photographs of children are submitted, parental approval of ALL the children on the picture must be included with the entry. As the winning photographs will be included in the 2012 High Halstow Calendar, photographs MUST be of sufficient size and quality to enable enlargement and reproduction.

The Judges decision will be final and no correspondence can be entered into. Winners to be announced at the parish council meeting in October 2011.



All entries to be posted through the Rectory letter box by Friday 3rd September 2011 Digital entries should be on a CD or DVD where possible. For Further details Please Contact Rev Stephen Gwilt on 250637



An Evening With.... Matthew Crane



THE U.K'S YOUNGEST CLASSICAL BARITONE 12TH AUGUST 2011, 7.30PM

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TICKETS £10 EACH A GREAT EVENING OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

PLEASE CALL 01634 251126 FOR MORE INFO THANKYOU



Dates for Diary

Every Tuesday	
King's Kitchen	
10:00	Memorial Hall
Bell Ringers	
19:30	St Margaret's
Every Thursday	
Mother and Toddler's	
09.30	Memorial Hall
Sugar Babes	
19.00	Memorial Hall
Every Saturday	
Karmann Dancers	Memorial Hall
09.00	

Other Dates

Monday 4th 19:30 Wednesday 6th 19.30 Friday 8th 19:00 Saturday 9th 19:30 Sunday 10th See article for details Tuesday 12th 20:00 Wednesday 13th 20:00 Friday 22nd 20:00 Saturday 30th 10:00

Memorial Hall AGM Memorial Hall Women's Institute Memorial Hall Youth Night Rectory Garden Farmers Market Village Hall High Halstow Walkers

Gardening Club Memorial Hall Parish Council Memorial Hall Quiz Night Village Hall Churchyard Project Churchyard

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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.





Looking for something to do with the children during the school holidays? Then come and join us every Friday morning. The program starts at 10:00am and finishes around 12 noon at St.Margarets Church, High Halstow. A tuck shop selling inexpensive sweets available but no drinks. The morning will consist of the main feature as well as a combination of short stories and songs. Children under 11 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please note we do not have any toilet facilities so it is suggested you go before you come along ! (Sorry). There will be a retiring collection to help cover



Note from the Editor

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

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

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

High Halstow Relief in Need Charity

This charity exists to assist those in the Village who are in need, especially widows and widowers. The trustees wish to remind the people of the parish that they will give consideration to any request for a particular need, at <u>any time</u> during the year. All requests are dealt with in complete confidence and there is no need to wait for the October form

The trustees are:

Rev. S. Gwilt	-	The Rectory
Mrs L. Munday	-	22 Willowbank Drive
Mrs M. Bufford	-	34 Christmas Lane
Mrs D. West	-	14 Cooling Road
Mrs M. King	-	11 The Street
Mr J. Myatt	-	Decoy Hill Road
Mr B. Prichard	-	9 Drayton Close



<u>Readers Letters</u>

Dear HHT,

Why is it that some builders find it essential to play loud music and conduct shouted conversations whilst carrying out their work, much to the annoyance of neighbours, even some distance away ? Does the home owner like the noise, or simply tolerate it for fear of upsetting their contractors ? Perhaps they are not there during working hours. For months I have been a close witness of the construction of the new Post Office and shop.

In all that time there has been no radio blaring, no shouting and I have been pleasantly entertained on only a handful of occasions by gentle murmerings of Indian folk songs, indeed I have asked for more but without success. Please, when you call the builder in, think of others.

John Wilson

Dear HHT,

The Anim-Mates Summer Fete is to be held on Saturday July 30th at the Fenn Bell Public House in St Mary Hoo between 12 and 4. There will be a number of stalls selling books, dvds cds, bric a brac, cakes, a psychic and several craft stalls. There will also be a small brass band playing. This is our first effort at this type of event. If successful we hope it will grow for next year!

Sue Perkins

Voluntary worker Anim-Mates

Dear HHT,

I would like to leave a message for the dog owner(s) who frequently do not clear away their pet's mess as they take them for a walk along Longfield Avenue, in particular when passing Harrison Drive:

Please tidy up after your dog- the mess is disgusting!

Many thanks.

Antje Harrison Drive

Dear HHT,

Elections to Medway Council were held on 5th May and here in Peninsula Ward we had one of the highest turnouts in the whole of Medway.

43.7% of residents went out to vote locally, and we'd like to thank everyone for taking the time to have their say about the future of Medway and our community – even if they didn't vote for us!

We're all delighted to have been elected (reelected in Phil's case) to serve as Medway Councillors for the next four years and are really looking forward to working with local communities to keep our part of Medway special.

We would ask readers to get in touch if they have got any issues they would like to raise, or if we can be of any assistance. Our phone numbers are: Phil (01634 254196), Chris (07713 615550) and Tony (01634 255694).

Many thanks,

Phil Filmer, Chris Irvine and Tony Watson Medway Councillors for Peninsula Ward

HH Village Website

Please visit the Parish Council website for everything about our village. You can see the minutes of your Parish Council or look-up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events.

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

www.highhalstow.org.uk

Next edition August 2011; Contributions for August should be sent by 20th July to: Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk