



High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron



August 2012

***Look, Hoo's Singing...But for How Much Longer?
Will Lodge Hill wipe out the Nightingale?***

Preliminary results from this year's national nightingale survey have revealed that the Hoo Peninsula is a national stronghold for the iconic songster that inspired some of our greatest writers. The Hoo Peninsula's nightingales are bucking a national trend that has seen this wonderful bird decline drastically. Around 150 nightingales were pouring forth their liquid songs on the peninsula this spring, almost double the number found during the last national survey in 1999. This makes the Hoo Peninsula one of the bird's strongholds in Kent and nationally. The key areas are at Lodge Hill near Chattenden, and the area between Higham, Cliffe and the RSPB's reserve at Northward Hill. With 84 singing males, the Lodge Hill area looks like it is one of the most important in Kent and possibly the whole country. Yet this news comes just when their very existence is threatened by a Medway Council plan to build up to 5,000 houses at Lodge Hill. Chris Corrigan, the RSPB director for the South East region said, "Most of the nightingales are found in the proposed development site, a development that would wipe out their habitat. Recreational disturbance and predation by domestic pets mean the remaining nightingales in the adjacent Chattenden Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest would be very badly affected. We objected strongly to the development at the recent inquiry into the Council's plans and urged them to reconsider their plans. We find it astonishing that a site that is so important for a rapidly declining species is earmarked for development. This is precisely the kind of magical place for wildlife that the Council should be protecting for the nation." Chris went on to say, "The Council and the developers have claimed they can create new habitat for nightingales, but this is untried and untested - we simply should not be taking a risk with somewhere this important. Now that the true value of Lodge Hill has been revealed we are calling on Medway Council to withdraw its damaging proposal and instead work with the RSPB, other conservation bodies and the local community to celebrate Lodge Hill and the Hoo Peninsula; this place is one of the natural wonders of Kent, the nightingale was celebrated by Keats and Shakespeare and should be protected for the inspiration of future generations."



Skateboard Park

The Parish Council would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the discussion on the possibility of a skateboard park as requested by the youth. As said last month the Parish Council will be looking to make a decision at the SEPTEMBER Parish Council meeting as to what it may do in respect of this request.

The issues for the Parish Council will obviously be cost and location. It is still not too late to have your say either by letting the editor have your comments or adding to the growing comments on the website at <http://highhalstow.org.uk/blog/skateboard-park>

HH Parish Council

Play the Music and Light the Lights

Another successful summer show under our belts, and a well deserved summer break for the cast and backstage crew, who don't return to rehearsals now until September. Unfortunately for our director, Pauline Martin, she gets no rest as the script for the next show will need working on straight away. Our summer show featured delights such as Operation P.I.D.D.L.E., Half-a-Sixpence, a Clinic in Limerick, Fat Sam's dancing girls, Uptown Girl, some wonderful singing by the individual cast members and as a group choir, the Lion King and the undoubted crowd favourite Synchronised Air Swimming (available to see again via the High Halstow website), along with many many other treats. The show was extremely well received on all 3 nights, with some travelling from as far away as Hampshire and Essex. All agreed it was extremely good value for £4 and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. If you have never been to a show, or missed the delights of this year's, highlights are available via the HH Website.

The recently refurbished hall was much more comfortable due to the improved ventilation, which allowed for a cooling breeze to circulate.

The strong rumour is that the pantomime, which will be January 17th, 18th, 19th (keep the date free), will be Snow White, but watch this space for confirmation and ticket news. We will be keeping you posted on details, and may even post sneaky peeks of rehearsals on the HH website. Well done to everyone involved, and thanks again to all of you that came out and supported us, without YOU there would be no show!

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall will be closed from 4th August re-opening 18th August, for kitchen refurbishment.
Memorial Hall Committee

High Halstow Parish Council Surgery

There will be no Surgery in August as the Memorial Hall is closed for improvements and there is no Parish Council Meeting in August. The next Surgery will be on Tuesday 11th September 10.30am - 12.00pm

HH Parish Council

Books

We would like to say many thanks for the donations of hundreds of books recently received for the new stall at the Farmers Market. We now have books covering many different styles be it popular fiction, classics, cookery, reference etc. Why not come along to the next Farmers Market and see for yourself. Prices start from as little as 50p.

Village Hall Committee

High Halstow Times

Your Help Wanted

Ann Smith after ten years of arranging the deliveries for the High Halstow Times has decided it is time to hand over to someone new. Ann is happy to continue until the end of the year should this help any prospective volunteer. If you are interested in taking over from Ann and finding out what is involved please ring Ann on 251914. The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to Ann for many years of service as it is much appreciated.

HH Parish Council

High Halstow WI

Two members joined Borstal WI for lunch at the Foord Alms Houses in Rochester. Both ladies were favourably impressed by the venue and enjoyed the company.

At our July meeting Marks and Spencers offered us samples of exotic fruit and vegetables. Everyone enjoyed the "doughnut" peaches and the sweet raspberries - although opinion was divided about the "superfood" which contained edame beans and couscous.

As we do not have an August meeting we have arranged on Afternoon Tea at The Kings Arms in Upnor. We have been promised sandwiches, cakes and scones with jam and cream. If you would like to join us please contact Crystal on 251849. This will be on Thursday 2nd August at 3p.m.

We meet the 1st Wednesday of every month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m, come along and join us, we're a friendly bunch and you will be made most welcome.

**Val Osenton
President**

Friends of St Margaret's Church

Thank you for those who have commented on the article last month on the Friends of St Margaret Church. There is still time to comment and letting us know your views. Date for the meeting will be in next months HHT.

Please continue to pass your comments to the editor or straight on to the High Halstow website as they are much appreciated.

Gary Thomas

Project 90

Last month saw the clearance of the shed where much rubbish from previous clear up days is held. The play park was inspected and it would be nice if the weather turns for the better so that we can move forward in the painting of the fence

There will be no Project 90 in August but we are still keen to hear of any ideas that you would like to see done over the coming months.

High Halstow Hikers

Our July walk took us from the village across the fields to St Mays Hoo, down onto the marshes to the River Thames and back to the village via Swigshole and Decoy Hill. Given the weather so far this year it was just about inevitable that we would have at least one wet walk and certainly the intrepid 15 walkers this time got a bit damp! Even so we were fortunate to be out on the marshes to watch a heavy thunderstorm moving across Northward Hill to Stoke. Everybody declared their enjoyment despite the wet during the 7-8 mile hike which gives excellent views across the estuary to Essex.

Our August walk will be farther afield leaving the iconic 12th century church towers at Reculver and along part of the Wantsum Way. It is a nearly entirely flat walk of about 8 miles and passes one of the most remote and famous pubs in Kent. We will start at 10.00am on Sunday 12th August from the country car park just in front of the church towers at Reculver. I think there is a charge for this car park so make sure you have some change. The drive takes about 1 hour from High Halstow down the M2 and A229 following the signs to Reculver.

Other walks for the year will be as below with further details to follow in future HH Times:

- 9th September - to be decided
- 14th October - Cliffe Fort and Lakes
- 11th November - Knowle Park and Greensands Way
- 16th December - Local pre-Christmas walk.

For further details please contact Mitchell at mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or on 01634 254428.

Gardening Club

The annual show for the High Halstow and District Gardening Club is to take place on Sunday 26th August at the High Halstow Recreation Hall. Exhibits can be entered by both members and non-members with the benching of exhibits from 9.30 to 11.20am. There are classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers plus sections for domestic, floral art and arts and crafts. There are children's classes for a Picture of the Olympics and the Tallest Sunflower. The show will be open to the public from 3pm. The presentation of trophies and prizes will be at 3.45pm.

Please contact 01634 221579 for a copy of the show schedule.

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.

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.



St. Margaret's Churchyard Clean up day



18th August Starts 9:30am with
BBQ at lunch time, everyone
welcome, come and enjoy some
great community spirit, and
maybe even a cup of tea !

Contact Rev Stephen Gwilt
on 01634 250637 for more details



Village Hall

- a. **An Evening with Nicky Moore and Friends**
The Hall Committee is so pleased to announce that Nicky Moore is  back with friends for a performance on 22nd September at the Village Hall. Tickets are £12.50 and are available from the shop. Come on along to see talent of tomorrow performing today. Buffett included in the price.

- b. **Take On Take That**
Ticket sales have started extremely well considering the event is Friday 9th November. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.
- c. **Fund Raising**
Latest news is as follows:
1. A new application is to be made to BIFFA in respect of the roofing works to be carried out to the front of the building.
 2. A small grant application has gone into the national Grid which we are hoping will be able to fund some materials for minor works we are hoping to carry out ourselves.
 3. The Committee is reviewing the specification of the works required to see how much can be removed so that we could do ourselves and bring the estimated cost down to the funds raised in order that we can speed up the second phase.

!!STOP PRESS!!STOP PRESS!!

The Village Hall Committee are pleased to announce we have secured a cheque for £10,000 towards the Phase Two refurbishment programme, bringing the total secured to £164,475.

- d. **Village Cookbook**
The recipes are coming in so that we are planning to have a book available to buy for this Christmas. It is not too late to get your recipe in 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.

- e. **Farmers Market**
It's back on August 4th Doors open from 9.30. To book a stall please contact Michelle on 254121. Have you considered using this event to raise money for your group or raise awareness of your group?

Take on Take That



High Halstow Village Hall
Friday 9th November
Doors open at 7:30pm
Fully Licensed Bar
Tickets £12.50
from Gary on 07809 287128
Wenda 253169 or
The Village Shop



- f. **Zumba**
Zumba came to the Village hall following Phase One of the refurbishment and for those who don't know what it is details as follows:

Monday Night at 7.00pm has seen Zumba Night at the Village Hall

This 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 normally costs £5.00 but if you bring along the voucher below your first class will be half price. For further details please contact Jess on 07746 082182.



g. **New Groups**

Are you a group out there looking for a regular venue, then why not consider the Village Hall. With the first phase of the improvements completed and more on the way, it makes an ideal venue for you to undertake your hobby, class etc. For more details on availability and costs please contact Crystal on 251849

h. **Programme of Events Up To the end of December:**

- i. Farmers Market 4th August
- ii. Farmers Market 1st September
- iii. Nicky Moore 22nd September
- iv. Farmers Market 6th October
- v. Farmers Market 3rd November
(Incorporating Time & Tides Exhibition – more details to follow)
- vi. Take On Take That 9th November
- vii. Church Christmas Market 10th November
- viii. Farmers Market 1st December
- ix. Christmas Tree Festival 8th December (full details in September HHT)



Gary Thomas
Village Hall Chairman

Zumba at High Halstow Village Hall

Monday 7.00pm

HALF PRICE WITH THIS VOUCHER

(One Voucher per person)

Bring this to the class to receive offer

Valid Until 31st August 2012

Save the Date
28th September, 9:30am Onwards
Macmillan Coffee Morning
High Halstow Memorial Hall



Nearly everyone knows someone who needs, or has needed support from 'Macmillan Cancer Care' and this is why I and my bank of helpers, over the last 8 years have (with your help) raised £3312. This has been gratefully received by Macmillan from High Halstow. Last year we hoped to hit over £3000 and we made it, maybe it can be £4000 this year.

Please come and join us in the Memorial Hall, where you can enjoy tea, coffee, cakes, scones and beautiful cupcakes, all homemade. As well as jams, marmalade, bespoke cards and jewellery. There will be a raffle and our 'Pick-a-Duck' tombola, where everyone is a winner.

If you are unable to come and join us but would like to donate, we can arrange to deliver a box of cakes to your door for £5.

I'll remind you again in the September High Halstow Times, giving telephone numbers for orders.

Look forward to seeing you on the 28th September.

Ann Smith

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Sadie 01233 501832

Sophie 01634 254175



First Year of the New Shop Party

We would like to thank all those who attended the Anniversary Party celebrating the first year of the new shop. We are sorry that we could not invite everyone to the party due to the numbers we could get into the hall but still like to pass on our thanks for your continued support

At the time of going to press we are developing photographs of the event and these will be published shortly on the Village website.
www.highhalstow.org.uk

Thank you all for coming and for those who helped make the surprise for Bob as good as it was. We would especially like to thank Debbie Pike not only for help with the party but for all of her help over the past year. It has been very much appreciated.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Ria

PS. We are looking for someone to work in the shop who can be flexible with their hours. For more details please contact Ria on 07738 276138.



Village Shop

Please note that until the end of August the shop opening times will be as follows:

Monday to Saturday 7am - 8pm
Sunday 8am - 4pm
(Now open for an extra Two Hours)

Tel: 01634 254561

Thank you for your continued support and don't forget to check out our regular bargains.

Bob

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

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Fresh Local Produce
Available 12 - 9pm**

Sunday Lunch

Watch out for more details.



TIME

A
N
D



TIDES

Summer Events Programme

All events are free and open to all. Please book via Project Officer, Icon Theatre, Old Town Hall, The Brook, Chatham, Kent ME4 4SE; or by emailing nicola@icontheatre.org.uk; or by phoning 01634 813 179.

Visit: The Story of Eastgate House, Rochester A tour of the house highlighting its special features given by Jeremy Clarke, Education Officer, Rochester Guildhall Museum. The tour will involve steep stairs and prolonged standing. Suitable for adults and children aged 8+. There will be time for independent exploration of the site afterwards. Meeting place: Front entrance to Eastgate House, High Street, Rochester, ME1 1ER. Monday 30th July. Time 2 - 3pm.

Talk: An introduction to the Rochester Guildhall and its Museum

A talk given in the main hall itself about the building, showcasing some of the major objects in the collection. The museum visit will involve steep stairs and prolonged standing. Suitable for adults and children aged 8+. There will be time for independent exploration of the museum afterwards. Meeting place: On site. Thursday 2nd August. Time 2 - 3pm.

Guided Walk: Ancient Cuxton – Green Lanes and Green Men

Guided walk around Cuxton led by Carol Donaldson. The walk is just over 3 miles and hilly so a reasonable level of fitness is required. Meeting Place: Outside Cuxton Community Church on Bush Road, Cuxton. Saturday 11th August. Time: 10.30am.

Visit: What is Temple Manor?

A tour of the manor combined with a brief history of its owners. Some car parking is available on site. The tour will involve steep stairs and prolonged standing. Suitable for adults and children aged 8 upwards. There will be time for independent exploration of the site afterwards. Meeting place: On site. Monday 20th August. Time 2 - 3.30pm.

Talk: The Medway Queen

Talk and presentation by Gillian Ellen of the Medway Queen Preservation Society about the paddle steamer, 'Medway Queen'. The Medway Queen is the last estuary pleasure steamer surviving in the UK, having been built in 1924, and was built for service between the Medway Towns and Southend on Sea. She sailed from Upnor Pier, after which the Pier Hotel was re-named. Venue: The Pier Hotel, Upnor. Tuesday 11th September. Time: 7.00pm.

Visit: Tour of Cuxton Church

Led by Rev Roger Knight. Venue: Church of St Michael and All Angels, Cuxton. Saturday 29th September. Time: 3.00pm.

Presentation: High Halstow

Friday 2nd November – more details next months HHT. This to be followed by exhibition in the Hall over a two week period



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.

For more details, call Natacha on 254178

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Photo Competition !

Once again we are again running a photographic competition to try and find High Halstow's best photographers for 2012. The categories are simple. Under 18's anything in the village . For the Over 18's there are 3 categories, People & Places, Fauna & Flora and a new category "Newcomers" for those who have not entered the competition before. There is a first second and third place for each category. And we are particularly keen to get entries from the younger generation. **RULES:** 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. Photos must say which category they are being entered for. 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 2013 High Halstow Calendar, photographs **MUST** be of sufficient size and quality to enable enlargement and reproduction. Those who have won first prize in any of the categories in 2011 or overall winner in 2011 are not eligible for the competition in 2012.

New Rules



The Judges decision will be final and no correspondence can be entered into. Winners to be announced at the parish council meeting in October 2012. All entries to be posted through the Rectory letter box by Friday 3rd September 2012. Digital entries should be on a CD or DVD where possible. For Further details Please Contact Rev Stephen Gwilt on 250637



Resume of the High Halstow Parish Council Meeting ***11th July 2012***

The July meeting was attended by Brian McCutcheon, a senior planning officer, who spoke about and answered questions on the Lodge Hill development. He said that development of this area had been a Government decision in 1995 and had been incorporated in the various structure and local development plans since. He appreciated that residents did not want the development to go ahead but explained the development was a matter of design and detail and not whether or not it should happen.

We were very disappointed that the Sport England bid for the outdoor gym was turned down again, although we had answered their previous comments on impact. The Parish Council has now decided to proceed with the 4 items agreed a year ago and these have been ordered. A vote of thanks is due to Cllr Chris Watson who worked very hard on the project and put in a great deal of time. The toddler (under 5s) equipment for the fenced playpark should have been installed by the time you read this.

Following discussions with Medway Council's public rights of way officer, a grant application has been submitted to Natural England for an all-weather path to be laid on the public footpath between the Recreation Ground and Ruggles Close.

Ann Smith, who organises the delivery of High Halstow Times, has written to say she wishes to retire at the end of the year. The Parish Council wishes to record its sincere thanks to Ann for having looked after the delivery of the Times and the team of delivery people for so long. If you would like to put yourself forward to take over, please contact any parish councillor or the Clerk.

Finally, please be assured that we are "on the case" about the bus shelter between Goodwood Close and Heronsbank. The matter is with our solicitors and you will understand that as such we cannot say any more at the moment. Also legal matters move fairly slowly as you will know if you have ever had to use a solicitor – please be patient.

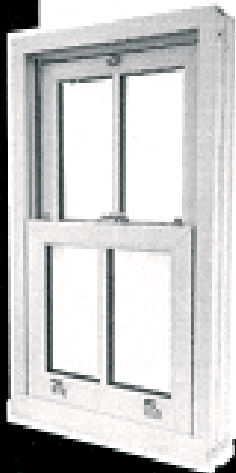
The next meeting is on Wednesday 12th September at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall. Discussion about a skateboard facility will be on the agenda.

PAUL HUGHES

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Asbestos Related Lung Cancer

You may still be entitled to compensation even if you were a smoker

Lung cancer is most commonly associated with smoking. However it can also be caused by breathing in asbestos dust and is a common complication of asbestosis.

Because a high percentage of lung cancers are attributed to smoking, the possibility that exposure to asbestos has contributed is often not explored. This also means that many miss out on claiming Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit or claiming compensation for lung cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

Medical opinion is divided on whether lung cancer can be caused by exposure to asbestos in the absence of asbestosis, although the majority view is that it can be. In any event, changes to the benefit system now recognise that you no longer have to have asbestosis to claim benefits for lung cancer caused by asbestos exposure. In those instances you have to provide evidence of substantial occupational asbestos exposure which is set out in the terms of prescription in the Appendix of Prescribed Diseases (for eligibility to Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit). You may also be able to obtain compensation from any employers (or their insurers) who caused the asbestos exposure.

Whilst exposure to either asbestos or smoking can cause lung cancer, the combination of both together significantly increases the chances of developing lung cancer.

A study in America found that a heavy smoker, smoking one pack a day for 20 years has a ten fold increased risk of developing lung cancer over a non-smoker. A non-smoker exposed to asbestos has a five fold increased risk over a non-smoker not exposed to asbestos.

Notably, a heavy smoker who has also been exposed to asbestos has a 50 to 90 fold increased risk of developing lung cancer over a non-smoker who is not exposed to asbestos.

As this data shows, exposure to asbestos can be a major contributing factor in the development of lung cancer even for those who smoke.

Evidence of fibrosis of the lungs, very heavy exposure to asbestos for one year, or five – ten years moderate exposure should be sufficient to establish that the exposure has materially contributed to the risk of developing lung cancer. A further requirement is that at least ten years must have passed between such exposure and the development of the condition.

Therefore if you have been exposed to asbestos and developed lung cancer you may be entitled to claim compensation for lung cancer caused by your asbestos exposure even if you have smoked. You may also be entitled to state benefits. Current case law indicates there may be a reduction in your compensation to reflect the extent to which smoking on its own may have contributed to the risk.

If you have been diagnosed with an asbestos related disease (asbestosis, mesothelioma, pleural thickening or asbestos lung cancer) as a result of harmful exposure to asbestos, you may be able to claim compensation. We offer free consultation, no charge for our time pursuing a claim win or lose and a guarantee that you will keep 100% of your compensation. For an informal, no obligation discussion on whether or not you may have a claim please contact Jeremy Horton (Partner and head of Personal Injury at Brachers) on 01622 680415 or email jeremyhorton@brachers.co.uk.

For more details, including case studies of how Brachers has assisted clients with asbestos related disease claims, please visit www.brachers.co.uk.

Lots of FUN
for all

Summer Fete

In the garden of the
The Fenn Bell Inn
St Mary Hoo ME3 8RF

Saturday 4 August 12 noon to 4 pm

Teddy tombola

Fun and Games

Many Stalls



Cake sale

**Lots of fun for
all the family**

Steph's Brass Band



in aid of
Anim-Mates
our local
Animal Rescue Sanctuary



Some of the unwanted animals who have been rescued



HIGH HALSTOW & DISTRICT
GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

SUNDAY 26 AUGUST

RECREATION HALL

HIGH HALSTOW

VEGETABLES, FLOWERS,

DOMESTIC, ARTS &

CRAFTS, ETC

FULL SHOW SCHEDULE FROM

SHOW SECRETARIES

01634 221579

HANDY ANT

Property Maintenance

Interior & Exterior ~ Domestic & Commercial

I am a skilled tradesman who lives in High Halstow and has learned many skills in my 29 year career. I am a clean and conscientious worker who respects other people's property. Some of my skills are listed below.

Electrics ~ Washing machines ~ Dish washers
Roofing ~ Tiling ~ Carpentry ~ Facia and Soffits
Flat pack furniture ~ Wood flooring ~ Gutters
Curtain tracks/poles ~ Painting & Decorating ~ Drains
Flat screen TV's ~ Plastering ~ Plumbing ~ Fencing
Bathroom re-fits ~ Kitchen re-fits ~ Landscaping

Insurance work undertaken

Please contact me if the work you require is not listed or for free friendly advice

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Then £20 per hour thereafter

Daily rates available on request

References available

No job too small

Mobile: **07947706106** Home: **01634 252430**

asrutherford@btinternet.com

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD

5 LEAMAN CLOSE, HIGH HALSTOW. ME3 8EZ

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.



Off to University ?

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 2012-2013. Previous bursary recipients in their 2nd or 3rd year may also apply for further assistance.

The scheme is available only to students living in the parish of High Halstow at the time of application. Closing date is 30th August 2012, 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.

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*

* The Memorial Hall will be closed from 4th August to the 18th August for refurbishment to the kitchen.

Other Dates

Wednesday 1st: 19:30	Women's Institute Memorial Hall
Friday 3rd 19:30 - 22:00	Youth Night Rectory Garden
Saturday 4th: 09:30	Farmers Market Village Hall
Sunday 5th: 09:00	Family Service St. Margaret's Church
Sunday 12th:	High Halstow Hikers Details in HHT
Sunday 19th: 09:00	Family Service St. Margaret's Church
Sunday 26th : 20:00	Gardening Club Show Village Hall

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.

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Mobile Website: - m.organgrinderandmonkey.co.uk

Telephone: - 01634 270947/07854 664799/079030 12855

**Youth
Night**



Free BBQ in the Rectory Garden to
celebrate the end of the school year so
come and join us on Friday 3rd August
7:30-10, we will also be having an open
air movie on the big screen.

Bring your own music, tack shop will be available, as well as some great games

For more info contact stephengwill2@hotmail.co.uk

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



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Medway Council in partnership with The Reading Agency, Medway Libraries will once again be running the Summer Reading Challenge.

The challenge is for 4 to 12-year-olds and available in all 16 libraries in Medway. The theme for summer 2012 will be Story Lab.

Children are encouraged to borrow and read six library books, of their choice, during the summer break. After reading each book they receive a reward, finishing after the sixth book with a medal and personalised Story Lab Certificate.

The challenge will run from Saturday, 14 July until Friday, 14 September 2012.

For more information visit the official Story Lab website www.story-lab.org.uk



Jonathan Computers

Contact Jonathan directly on the Office No: 01474 879878 or
Freephone: 0800 321 38 79 Mobile No: 07905 120 557
 Web: www.jonathancomputers.co.uk Email: sales@jonathancomputers.co.uk
Based in High Halstow so will be quick to respond



Computer problems solved quickly and cheaply...with a friendly face

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| <input type="radio"/> Optimise & Speed Up Your Broadband | <input type="radio"/> On Site Install of Computer Equipment |
| <input type="radio"/> Upgrade your computer to Windows 7 | <input type="radio"/> Supply of Cheap Reconditioned Pc's |
| <input type="radio"/> Data and Hard Drive Destruction | <input type="radio"/> Memory and Hard Drive Storage Upgrades |
| <input type="radio"/> Vista back to Windows XP | <input type="radio"/> New PC and Laptop Power Supplies |

Do you want some training on using a computer?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> I Can offer help with One-To-One Training, Beginners to Advanced | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Up Skype Accounts |
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*Regards
Jonathan*

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**For young & old and
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First and third Sunday of the month

9:30am at High Halstow & 11:00am at Allhallows

For more info contact Rev Stephen Gwilt on 01634 250637



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

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.

Note from the Editor: Bed & Breakfast – Dux Court

In a recent edition we published two made-up tourist brochures that had been produced by students as part of a creative writing exercise to promote the village of High Halstow. Unfortunately one was published with a number for a 'Bed and Breakfast' facility in Dux Court Road. As the brochure was part of an exercise, this number was thought not to actually exist, however we were mistaken and would like to apologise to the person whose number it is, for the telephone calls received in error.

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

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

01634 252016

The Village Shop

LONGER Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 7am – 8pm
Sunday 8am – 4pm
New Telephone number: 01634 254561



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.

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

Whilst I have not forgotten the welcome revitalising of the 'Red Dog', nor the parlous finances of our Church, I would like to congratulate Dale and Ria on the First Anniversary of the new Shop and Post Office. They both deserve all our thanks for having the courage to invest in one of the most important services a community can hope for. At their generous celebrations in the Village Hall recently it was obvious how warmly those attending felt towards the family, especially their son Bob. We must ensure they stay by giving it as much support as we are able, remembering that they also employ one full time and three part time members of staff.

John Wilson

Christmas Lane

Dear HHT,

I wish to congratulate Dramarama on a very enjoyable show. We have never been to a Dramarama show before and was invited down to stay with relatives in Hoo, and asked if we would like to come along to make an evening of it. We had a really good time, and enjoyed the sketches, dances, songs and especially the 'Synchronised Air Swimming' and the youngsters dance routine. It was lovely seeing how much all the cast were really enjoying themselves. I am sure a lot of time and effort goes into rehearsals and learning lines etc.

We will definitely be trying to arrange another visit to Hoo when the next show is on.

C & J. Wattam

Basingstoke

Dear HHT,

Can You Help Me?

I'm a young, healthy female tortoiseshell cat, I'm very friendly with a cute miaow and a sweet brown button nose. I went wandering at the end of May and have been lodging in a garden on Christmas Lane ever since. I'm quite happy here, I love the outdoors life and I enjoy catching mice but I must belong to someone in High Halstow, surely someone misses me, I must have a name? The family looking after me have asked lots of people in the village but no one has come forward so if my owner doesn't want me anymore, would anyone else in the village like to adopt me?

Tel 253763

M Taylor

Christmas Lane

Dear HHT,

There are many national charities doing vital work in this difficult time but there are perhaps many more smaller but also deserving causes within our community which depend upon local support. One of these, the 'Strood Community Project' (charity 1143225) recently wrote a nice letter to Elizabeth Meredith and her team from the 'Kings Kitchen' where villagers meet for coffee and cake on a Tuesday mornings (and can also chat with parish councillors).

As a ministry of our village church the Kings Kitchen (guess who is the 'King' ?) is run by volunteers, principally Liz Meredith, and is not a profit making concern although some small excess over expenditure can accumulate. This was given to the Strood community project. Their letter describes how from such donations they were recently able to help a local teenager who had fallen out with his family. Although perhaps not a difficult event in relationships with teenagers, his parents themselves were split between Kent and Essex. The project financed temporary accommodation and provided counselling for the lad and his family, with the associated travelling costs. They also arranged food for him from the 'Foodbank'. The 'Medway Food Bank' provides a minimum of 3 days non perishable food to local people in crisis. All the food is donated by the local community and the foodbank works with front line professionals to identify families and people in need. Beneficiaries are given a voucher to take to the Foodbank which is run by Hope in the Community Ltd (charity 1108850) and seeded from 'the trussell trust'. The food bank now has three centres, at Strood, Chatham and more recently Gillingham. The donors often buy an extra pack or tin of non perishable and basic foods with their regular shopping which, for High Halstow is left either at St Margaret's Church or on Tuesday mornings at the Kings Kitchen. Rosemary Pike is our local volunteer and takes the donations to a church distribution centre. Recently within our area we have given some 87.8 kilos to help local people, part of the 1,367 kilos collected and distributed to families across Medway.

There can be no doubt that there are many other charities, small and large, which enjoy the generous support of villagers but it's nice to hear of two such local ones which often benefit local people.

Dave Stephenson.

Dear HHT,

I'm pleased to announce that our Elvis Tribute Night raised £2224.89 for the Wisdom Hospice in Rochester. 'Thank You' to everyone that helped with the event, the sponsors and the ticket holders for making the night successful.

Leanne Young

Hoo Institute Club

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

Some thoughts on the proposed skatepark in the village. We already have somewhere that allows children and young people of all ages to play outside - the park and recreation field. We live in a lovely village with lots of open spaces, woodland, a youth club and more, we aren't short on activities for the young people of the village to experience and I can't see why we should build something like this. Why not ride bikes in the woods?

I grew up in inner London and had none of these amenities, which is why I moved to High Halstow to raise my own family. I would hope the children here can see how lucky they are and make the most of what they have on a day to day basis without needing something manufactured for them. As and when they do need more, there are skateparks around on the peninsula, in Medway, and further afield.

Aside from the enormous cost, a park would cause noise pollution and be an eyesore if not sited correctly. The proposal to put it on the green by Gypsy Way would surely upset the residents who would then overlook it. Putting it in the park would be a better option, but the suggestion on the village blog to have a graffiti area would not only make it even uglier, but would also encourage vandalism in the playground and around the hall, where of course a lot of money has been spent over the years tidying up this exact kind of thing. I can see how in an ideal world that a wide range of children would use it, but in reality its far more likely to be older boys.

Statistics (albeit from the US) show that the vast majority of skatepark users are boys with an average age 12-16 years, so building a park is not likely to benefit or include the whole community, indeed when discussing this with a supporter of the park, my wife was told she was not in favour only because we have a daughter and not a son! Those in favour are suggesting it is a minority who are against the construction of the skatepark. I wonder if perhaps the minority are those who are making a case supporting it, with the majority who are less keen feel that it probably won't happen and so don't feel the need to register any objection.

I would urge those on both sides of the fence to make their views known so that the Parish Council can come to a fair decision in September.

Kind regards

Matt Stutely

Dear HHT,

Bus Stop at Britannia Way and The Street Junction
Do you use this stop? - school children - early morning coaches - trips into town for shopping - the doctors in Hoo etc. etc. - all these people do everyday.

Are you aware that we may be in danger of losing this facility? Medway Council (despite opposition) granted planning permission for a house to be built on previous garden space, and the only access will be right alongside our Bus Stop.

The builder is hoping to have our Bus Stop removed. The Bus Stop and the grass verge it stands on have been part of our village for more than 40 years, maybe 50! And in all this time has been maintained by either the Parish Council and/or Medway Council (previously Rochester City Council).

If the lose of this Bus Stop worries you, please write to the Parish Council via editor@highhalstow.org.uk or attend the next Parish Council meeting and make your thoughts known.

If we do not do something soon it will be too late and this end of the village will have a long walk to the nearest available Bus Stop. Which for the elderly and less mobile will make it harder to get around. Please give it some thought and hopefully some support to stopping this happen.

Ann

Willowbank Drive

Dear HHT,

I would like to say a very big thank you to the young lady, with a very small baby (sadly I don't know her name). I am in a wheelchair, and went shopping at High Halstow post office and general store with my granddaughter. As it is not too easy for me to get out I had bought a good deal. Without prompt, the young woman offered to drop my shopping off and did so straight away; thank you so much it was lovely and much appreciated!

Kath Hutchison

Christmas Lane

Letters continued inside....

Name and Address Supplied

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

Next edition September 2012; Contributions for September should be sent by 22nd August to:

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