

August 2011

Grand Opening of the New Village Shop



The sun shone and the villagers turned out to witness Fred Beringer perform the Grand Opening of the new Village Shop. The shop will be run by Dale and Ria's son Bob who has been working tirelessly for the business for the past eight months. With the extended hours, many more lines, Premier Deals, brand new Post Office and much much more, this is the shop we have all been waiting for. We all wish them the greatest of success for the future.



For more pictures visit: www.highhalstow.org.uk

Farmers Market

Please note that there will be no Farmers Market in August but the next one will be on Saturday 3rd September at the Village Hall, doors from 9.30.

Village Hall

Phase One, the new roof, back wall and additional roof space is out to tender with the prices due back at the end of July. Depending on the prices it is hoped that the work will commence the first week in September. We will be working with the contractor and architect to ensure the minimum amount of disruption to the car park whilst the work is being undertaken and will keep you informed as to what the arrangements will be as soon as possible. The works are estimated to take three months for completion but it will be nice to see the refurbishment programme underway.

Parish Council Consultations

1 Bus Shelter

The Parish Council are keen to hear from you with regard to your views on a new bus shelter to be put in Christmas Lane, near the Heron sign. Do you think this should be the next bus shelter to be added/replaced? Do you think it is a good idea? etc.

2 Skateboard Park

The Parish Council have been asked by a young member of the public to consider whether a skateboard park could be built for the youth in the village. What do you think? Where could it go? etc.

For both items the Parish Council would like to hear from you. Please write to the Parish Council, email the editor or leave your comments on the Parish Council website www.highhalstow.org.uk

This is your chance to have your say

Last month we heard about the working life of a Jewellery Shop Assistant, interesting but also very informative. Miss Whittington gave us some useful tips about our gold and silver jewellery, and warned us of the adverts that offer money for your unwanted items. The monthly lunch club was at the Three Crutches. Food was excellent, service a little slow due to the high number of diners which meant that it was a little noisy.

We actually won prizes at the monthly village quiz night, sadly not for being first but coming in last again.

Our trip to Hythe was very enjoyable, the 'must do' High Street, lunch, walk along the seafront and some went up the hill to St Leonards Church to see all the 4.000 skulls and 8.000 thigh bones stored in the crypt - fascinating. Now for those teas. Many W.I. ladies will be going to June Collins garden for a 'strawberry' tea' on Monday 1st August. This is not a W.I. event but as you all know we just love 'tea' in any format. Two members are visiting Borstal W.I. for a Cream Tea on the 11th. Last but not least we have a mini-bus taking us to the beautiful Hempstead House near Sittingbourne for a real slap-up afternoon tea on the 20th. We do not meet in August so our next meeting is Wednesday 7th September. Frank Turner will be telling us about the wreck of the USS Richard Montgomery. As several men have shown an interest in the talk we have decided to make it an open meeting, so any gentlemen wishing to join us would be made most welcome.

Margaret Whitebread

Memorial Hall

Pilates class will commence in the hall on the 5th August from 2 - 3pm. Any one interested should call Joy Weavers on Medway 222275. Also Wednesday mornings is still available for any group in the village.

Change of Dates

Please Note that the next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 7th September in the School Hall, and that the next Farmers Market will be Saturday 3rd September in the Village Hall.

High Halstow Walkers

Our July walk was around Oare marshes, along the edge of the Swale and including the remains of the gunpowder works where there was a massive accident in the First World War killing over 100 people. There were terrific views across the wild marshland and the Swale to Sheppey. The birds on the Wildlife Reserve that we walked around at the end of the walk were in spectacular summer plumage, particularly the avocet and about 30 strikingly golden brown bar-tailed godwits. A pint in the garden of the Three Mariners finished things nicely.

The next walk will be on 14th August around Kit's Coty close to Bluebell Hill, Maidstone. The walk of about 5.5 miles and 2.5 hours duration will start from the first car park you come to (donation requested) of The Friars at Aylesford Priory (ME20 7BX) at 10.00am. This may be reached by leaving the A229 at the bottom of Bluebell Hill and driving to Aylesford through Eccles. The Friars is signposted on the way. Michael Bannar-Martin will be leading this walk which does have some hilly areas. If you would like more details please contact Michael on 01634 251075.

The September walk will be on:11th September: Cuckmere Valley and Seven Sisters led by Mitchell Dowsett, full details in the next High Halstow Times. Your primary contact is Mitchell at <u>mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com</u> or 01634 254428

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

Dear Resident,

One of the key issues that keeps coming up whilst talking to residents on the doorstep is that of our bus services here in Medway, particularly Arriva's 191 service which serves our villages on the Hoo Peninsula. Public transport in our rural communities provides a vital lifeline for those members of our community who either cannot drive or have no desire to do so. So I was glad when the Council announced its support for rural bus services in Medway - including those subsidised bus services here on the Peninsula. Further, the introduction of lowlevel access buses on the 191 route earlier this year has been greatly welcomed by local residents, increasing access to public transport for the elderly, disabled or less-able, and parents and relatives who have family members who rely on affordable and accessible public transport to get around.

There is, however, still some concern that services appear to be regularly delayed or cancelled. Whilst some of these matters will resolve themselves once the new dynamic bus station in Chatham opens in the near future, and there will always be unforeseeable events that will cause delays such as breakdowns, etc, I think it is important that we continue to monitor Arriva's performance here on the Peninsula to ensure that residents receive the very best bus service available. To that end, I would be grateful for your feedback on local bus services supplied by Arriva, and where you feel improvements could be made. I am also happy to take up directly with Arriva any complaints residents may have regarding late or cancelled buses in order that we get a clearer picture of where problems may be occurring and ensure that they are addressed.

Please feel free to email me at <u>cg.irvine@virginmedia.com</u> with your feedback/complaints and I will make sure these are brought to Arriva's attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Chris Irvine (Member for Peninsula Ward)

High Halstow Cricket Club

Whilst the adults have been having a struggle in their three leagues, the Colts have been flying the flag. There has been success at every level, as shown by the following honours:

- U11 softball (youngsters) league winners
- U11 Hardball league and cup winners
- U13 league and cup runners-up
- U15 league and cup winners
- U17 8 players playing in the adult teams, including 1st team level on merit.

It would be invidious to pick out individuals in what were outstanding team efforts, where everyone played a full part. As well as playing for High Halstow, we have continued representation at District level, together with Tyler and Clarke Dockwray playing county age-group cricket. Aaron Robertson is also playing for Kent.

This success is down to the willingness of all the players to learn, the encouragement and commitment of the coaches and the support (and generosity) of the parents. Without this collective effort we would not be enjoying this degree of success. In August we will take part in the U16 festival, which consists of mid-week afternoon matches, so is yet another experience for the players.

The 1st XI are beginning to play the standard of cricket of which they are capable, picking up valuable league points in Division 3. We are still 8th, just one place above relegation, but within a win of 4th place in the congested middle part of the league. The 2nd XI find themselves in exactly the same position in Division 3 (2nd XI), whilst the forecast struggle for the 3rd XI in Division 1A (Central) of the Feeder league has come to pass.

The annual presentation of prizes for the Colts Section will take place on the ground after the 1st XI game on 17th September. All are welcome to attend to help celebrate the achievements of our young players.

David Lapthorn Chairman HHCC









Sunday 7th August **RSPB Northward Hill Cooling Road ME3 8DS** FREE ENTRY Parking donation £3 www.rspb.org.uk

Resume of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 13 July 2011

The July meeting was chaired by Gary Thomas, George Crozer being on holiday. Martin Andrews was also missing, due to his work commitments. An application to fill the vacancy had been submitted by Gary Jarreat of Ruggles Close and he was duly co-opted.

We heard from the Recreation Hall Committee that work to the hall starts on 5th September. The builder wishes to use part of the car park as a secure compound. Disquiet was expressed at the reduction in parking, especially in the mornings at school times and for the surgery, which will remain open throughout. The Hall Committee was requested to speak to the builder about an alternative, perhaps at the back of the hall or on the grass at the left hand side in front of the building.

Nothing further had been heard from Medway Council about re-siting the recycling bins. It was agreed to ask for their removal before building works start and suggest they be put in the Deangate Ridge car park. They were removed immediately and it's not known whether they were taken to Deangate or away altogether. The clothing bank that was put on the car park without permission belongs to another company and as soon as we have their details they will be asked to collect it too.

There is a large willow in the Recreation Ground that has outgrown its space and could cause damage if blown down. This will be felled before building works start.

While attending a meeting elsewhere, new councillors Chris Watson and Josh Gordon saw some outdoor gym equipment, which they thought would enhance facilities on the Recreation Ground. Chris did some research and put the idea with examples and prices to the meeting. At the same time she evaluated the play provision and identified there is very little suitable for under 5s, including toddlers. She obtained some ideas and prices for this too. Some remedial work was identified and quotes also obtained. It was decided to proceed with repainting the fence, which will be done after the school holidays. Other things that were agreed were replacing the safety surface under the oldest piece of equipment and repainting this. However since the meeting we've heard of a new source of funding and we'll see how we get on with this before ordering the safety surface and the repaint, as it may be we can get a grant to replace the old item instead. The funding application will also include the outdoor gym and toddler equipment.

Also since the meeting, Gary, Chris, our street cleaner John and the Clerk did training to do visual inspections of the equipment. John will be doing it on a daily basis, with Chris filling in when he's on holiday and Gary and Chris covering weekends. This has already paid off as John discovered a bolt missing from the fence which was promptly repaired.

Due to the Clerk's holiday in Virginia and Connecticut, the next meeting of the Parish Council has been brought forward and will be held on Wednesday 7th September. The Memorial Hall isn't available and the meeting will be in the School at 8 pm. Please use the Harrison Drive entrance. Everyone is welcome to attend.





hall loft space due to essential roof repairs. Perfect opportunity for a clear out! We have accumulated dozens of costumes over the 10 years we have been running. Men. Women's and childrens costumes available from approx ap7 - adult (All shapes and sizes!) Come along and bag a bargain

while enjoying a cup of tea.



Dates for Diary

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

Other Dates

Monday 4th 19:30 Wednesday 3rd 19.30 Friday 5th

Friday 5th 10:00 Sunday 7th 11:00 Sunday 7th 12:00 Tuesday 9th 20:00 Friday 12th 10:00 Sunday 14th

Friday 19th 10:00 Saturday 20th 13:00 Friday 26th 10:00 Friday 26th 20:00

- Memorial Hall St Margaret's Memorial Hall Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
- Memorial Hall AGM Memorial Hall Women's Institute Memorial Hall Red Dog Golf Society Red Dog PH Film Festival St. Margaret's Church **RSPB W&C Fair** Bromhev Farm Dramarama Costume Sale Village Hall Gardening Club Memorial Hall Film Festival St. Margaret's Church High Halstow Walkers See article for details Film Festival St. Margaret's Church Treasure Hunt The Rectory Film Festival St. Margaret's Church Quiz Night Memorial Hall

PROJECT 90 90 minutes spent improving the village

There will be no Project 90 in August. But please watch this space for details of the next date.

Learn Guitar

Electric and Acoustic Guitar Lessons

Professional guitarist and guitar teacher offers one to one tuition. All ages and abilities welcome. Graduate of London Guitar Institute. Playing experience includes Elton John and Robbie Williams.

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Home visits or at Home Studio in Rochester

For more information call Matthew on 07967125091 or email mcrozer@me.com

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.



SAVE THE DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2011 MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING MEMORIAL HALL 9:30 AM ONWARDS. MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT IS 100 YEARS OLD.

Nearly everyone knows someone who needs, or has needed support from Macmillan Cancer Care and this is why I and my band of helpers, over the last 7 years we have (with your help) raised £2525 – this has been gratefully received by Macmillan from High Halstow. Last year's amount was a great £608 and we would like to beat that this year and hit over £3000.

Please come and join us in the Memorial Hall, where you can enjoy tea, coffee, cakes, scones and beautiful cup cakes, all homemade, as well as jams marmalade, bespoke cards and jewellery. There will be a raffle and our new "Pick a Duck" where everyone is a winner. If you are unable to come and join us we can arrange to deliver a box of cupcakes for £5 to your door.

We will remind you again in the September High Halstow Times giving the telephone numbers for orders. Look forward to seeing you. Ann Smith



Want to grow your own fruit and vegetables? No room in your garden, thought about having an allotment?

There is currently no waiting list, if you are interested, please contact Angela Bostock on 07880 531641 or 07969 056354 e-mail:angelabostock@fsmail.net

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

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

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 2nd September 2011 Digital entries should be on a CD or DVD where possible. For Further details Please Contact Rev Stephen Gwilt on 250637

RSPB North Kent Marshes

Members*: Adults £3.00 Children £1.50 Non members*: Adults £5.00 Children £2.50 Wildlife Explorers* £1.00 *Unless stated otherwise below

Booking is recommended, please call RSPB Northward Hill for all activities 01634 222480 Check website for full details: www.rspb.org.uk

Sunday August 7th RSPB Northward Hill, 11am - 5pm, Wildlife and Countryside Fair, Free Entry, £3 donation car parking.

Friday August 12th RSPB Northward Hill, 8pm - 11pm, Perseid Meteors and night wildlife, meet at main car park.

Sunday August 21st RSPB Northward Hill, 10am - 1pm, Winged Mini-beasts, meet at main car park.

An Evening With.... Matthew Crane



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

> HIGH HALSTOW VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, HIGH HALSTOW

TICKETS £10 EACH A GREAT EVENING OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

PLEASE CALL 01634 251126 FOR MORE INFO THANKYOU

Dear HHT,

Clickety- Click?

If you happen to have heard a strange clicking noise in the region of Drayton Close recently, don't worry _____ it's probably coming from No. 10, where Myrtle Bishop has just completed her 100th knitted blanket for Blythswood. (In fact her total now stands at 104!). There's no prize for guessing how many yards of wool Myrtle must have got through during her knitting sessions but I think it would be safe to assume we'd be reckoning in miles by now!

Myrtle's blankets are currently keeping many needy families cosy and with a feeling that someone really does care about them. Blythswood deliver them to Eastern European countries, including Romania, Serbia and Hungary.

Well done, Myrtle! We really do appreciate your superb efforts and, as Brucie would say, 'K-e-e-p Clicking!'

Hazel Beringer Cooling Road Home Group.

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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

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

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

THE RED DOG GOLF SOCIETY

1st FRIDAY of EACH MONTH



Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

I would like to thank all friends & customers at New Image Hoo for their support in sponsoring Chanel raising £260 for Race for Life. Chanel ran on behalf of her Mum Nicola, who has been fighting thyroid cancer.

Susan Watts Cooling Rd

Dear HHT

Please could you convey my thanks to the kind lady who found and returned my mobile phone to my home. She had been walking her dog and saw my phone on the path. I must have dropped it when I returned home from holiday in the early hours of the morning. I would have been lost without my phone. Thank you once again.

Chrissie Ireson Eden Road

Dear HHT,

Patricia Scott

Unfortunately Patricia passed away on 19 July after a short illness. Patricia was a previous editor of the HHT as well as being a regular contributor and deliverer. She was also involved in helping to set up the original child play group in the late 60s.

Her family would like to thank everyone for their support at this time.

Paul Scott



Dear HHT,

I am a resident in Christmas Lane and on several occasions now I have had the misfortune of discovering dog excrement in my front garden. I am now getting increasingly annoyed as the incidents are getting too frequent and moving closer to my house, therefore some non-thoughtful, rude dog owner is allowing this to happen. I myself own a dog and always clear up after him without fail. We have 2 small children and it is disgusting they should have to be careful when playing in their own garden. So would dog owners who let their dogs off the lead please watch what their dog is doing. My husband will be watching, and waiting to rub the owners nose in it because they obviously need some training !!!! There is no need for this to be allowed to happen!

From a very unhappy resident.

Name and Address Supplied

/	Your Parish C	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				
	Ray Collins	01634 250105				
	Josh Gordon	07779 735849				
	Gary Jarreat					
	Lesley Munday	01634 250276				
	Christine Watson	01634 256529				
	Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:					
	Mrs Roxana Brammer	01474 871269				

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