

# High Halstow TIMES



*Home of the Heron*

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November 2009

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I would like to publically pass on my thanks on behalf of the Hoo Scheme, Ambulance Service Community First Responders, for the six Pulse Oximeters presented to us by the Parish Council at the October Parish Council meeting. These small but clever bits of kit, help us to very quickly obtain vital information on the condition of the casualty, to relay to the ambulance crew as soon as they arrive on the scene.

In many cases, this information may also assist us in providing the most appropriate treatment in the first instance before their arrival.

By the time this goes to press, Christmas will be just around the corner, so we take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and we hope not to be seeing any of you in our official capacity over the festive season.

Again, thanks you all for your support.

Steve Joyce

Hoo Scheme coordinator

SECamb Community First Responders

We have in our village, an unsung hero who devotes his time to helping people in their hour of need.

Steve Joyce is our local 'First Responder' and is normally the first on the scene after sudden illness or accident; often well before the paramedic or ambulance.

On a recent Sunday evening our son was suddenly taken ill, a shocking and frightening experience.

Having dialled 999 we were told an ambulance was 25 minutes away, however Steve arrived within minutes, much to our relief. He took control of the situation and provided reassurance at what was a difficult time. When the ambulance arrived he calmly provided the crew with all the information they needed to help our son.

Steve does this voluntarily and is often on call at all hours, ready to respond and provides, sometimes life saving emergency treatment.

We also understand that the Parish Council have provided funds for additional expensive equipment to allow Steve to be even more effective. Well done and thank you to all members of the Parish Council.

Hopefully most of us will never need to meet Steve, other than socially, but it is comforting to know that we have this resource on our doorstep and we most definitely owe him thanks for his efforts when we needed them. Thanks Steve.

Peter & Ashley Mepsted

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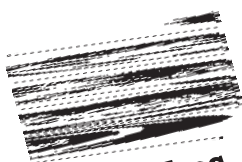
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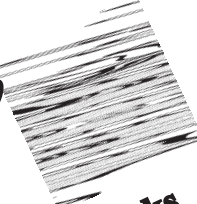
## Never mind Bluewater come to the St. Margaret's & All Saints Christmas Market



**Cakes**



**Special Mystery Guest**



**Books**



**Gifts**



**Refreshments**



Home made  
pickles jams  
and preserves



*Forget the credit crunch and  
traffic jams, come to the Christmas market  
for some hassle free  
Christmas shopping*

*The only jams you find here are made from fruit !*



The Recreation hall  
High Halstow

14th November 12:00- 3:00 pm



## **GARDEN CLUB**

The talk on Floral Clocks, although interesting, was not quite as good as had been expected, which was a shame.

The November meeting which is on the 10<sup>th</sup> promises to be interesting, it's the second part of the Saxon Shore way, Those of you who saw last years part 1, will not wish to miss this one.

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Any members who have not received their THE ANNUAL DINNER order sheet should contact Pat Hillman 251064, and one will be delivered.

Remember this is one event where it is not restricted to members only.

There will be a bar which opens at 6.30pm and the meal will be served at 7.30pm,

As most of you know, Margaret Church has sold her house and will move away from the village. Margaret will be resigning from her many posts on the Gardening Club committee at the AGM next February. This will leave the club short of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Seed Secretary. On top of this the Club Secretary is resigning at the AGM and with a senile president it's not looking good.

Since none of the existing members seem to want to take on any of these tasks, we do need new members, preferably those prepared to give up a few hours a year. If you have never been to a club meeting, it is more a social club than anything else. We have 2 outings a year and six speakers on various subjects – mainly garden oriented, but not always. A spring show for members only and the summer show which is open to all. We finish the year with High Halstow's premier event – our Christmas dinner – which combines an excellent meal with entertainment from Dramarama, held in the village hall. All this for £3 per year.

Anyone interested in joining, turn up on the second Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall, our next meeting is 10 November when our speaker is talking about "The Saxon Shore Way".

John Pink (President)

### **Bea Rolland**

Sad to hear about the passing of Bea. Many of you would have probably have seen her out each day walking with her alsatian, Gemma. Bea was a lovely lady who will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family

### **Friendly Club**

We had a busy time at the last Club which was on 28<sup>th</sup> October, as we had the nurse coming to give the flu jabs to all who want it, this will be followed by the Karmann Dancers who will entertain us. There will also be our usual Raffle. Come along and join us.

### **ESF Community Grant**

We have over £200k to allocate at the next ESF Community Grants Panel taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The DEADLINE is the 3<sup>rd</sup> February.


So if you have an income of under £2m over the last 3 years, and you have a project that helps the economically inactive and you can train them and help them, then you could potentially get £12k to allow you to do this.


The application form and guidelines can be downloaded from our website.

[www.ruralkent.org.uk](http://www.ruralkent.org.uk)



# Time to remember our heroes of yesterday and today

 A service of Remembrance on  
Sunday 8th November at 10:45 am to  
11:45 am, please do join us and stay for  
some tea or coffee after the service

 An act of Remembrance on  
11th November from 10:55 - 11:05  
**St. Margaret's Church High  
Halstow**



## Kit Gibson Completes 100 Blankets

Kit Gibson has recently completed 100 blankets for charity (most of which went to Blythwood). What a remarkable achievement this is. We would like to thank all who have donated wool for this project in the past and to say we would very much welcome further supplies as this is an ongoing commitment.  
Hazel Beringer



## The Medway Queen - Heroine of Dunkirk

A talk and slide show on the story of  
the Medway Queen

A truly amazing story of how a  
modest little paddle steamer became  
one of the best known and best  
loved ships in the Royal Navy and  
her fight to continue to give pleasure  
to us all

Memorial Hall Friday 20th November  
7:30pm

Light refreshments

Entrance £5.00 each or £7.50 for two  
adults

## Women's Institute

Not a lot of activity during October. The monthly meeting had reduced numbers due to the atrocious weather ( I didn't attend as I was on holiday somewhere hot). I gather the speaker from the Arethusa Venture Centre was very informative, and there was a suggestion that some members would like to visit them next year and try their hand at archery. W.I. members did not want to venture too far for their monthly lunch so they gathered at the Red Dog, always a favourite venue. November sees yet another day with the Royal College of Surgeons. Topics are Cancer, Breast Reconstruction and Paediatrics. Another great day organised by county is 'Women Reaching Women' with various speakers from organisations such as Oxfam, Fairtrade, Sevenoaks Council and the Deputy Chief Constable of Suffolk.

Finally we have arranged to spend an evening at Lakeland Plastics, Bluewater. There will be demonstrations and tastings of their Christmas products. This is open to anyone calling in on the evenings of 9th and 10th November. Next meeting is on Wednesday 4th November. We do not have a speaker but hope to have a fun evening playing silly board games and having lots of time for a chat.

Visitors welcome only £1:50 on the door. Margaret Whitebread

### Fantasy Football Scores as at 1st November

#### Cobham Tennis Club

Battle Street, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent. Da12  
3DB

#### Coaching on Monday Evenings

All ages and abilities are welcome

Learning whilst having fun

4.30-5.30 pm Orange Squad Ages 8-12  
(Beginner/Improver)

5.30-6.30 pm Green Squad Ages 12-17  
(Intermediate/Advanced)

7.30-9.00 pm Adult Coaching

#### **Juniors**

6 week block bookings of £30 per Junior or £50  
per session

#### **Adults**

6 week block booking of £45 per adult or £7.50  
per session

£22 for private lessons £24 for a group lesson

For enquiries or bookings contact:

Alex Woolmington on 07921713865

Mrs A Sitta	940
Ben De Legs	750
Cosmos1	700
Cousboss	690
Ericoo	125

The season is hotting up but the leaderboard has not changed.

There are now five players who have joined the High Halstow League. There is still time to show how good you are in picking results. The game is free so just follow the link below and follow the instructions to log on into this free game. Once you have logged in, click on the Mini-Leagues link on the right of the page and then enter the code FC58D-GBM

<http://iknowthescore.premierleague.com/>

### High Halstow Investors Club

This year we were greatly saddened by the death of one of our original members from a brain tumour. The Club recently entered it's Twelfth Year of trading. At the AGM all Club officers 'volunteered' to continue in post for another twelve months. Thanks to the recent bullish market the Treasurer was able to report a welcome recovery of the portfolio value after a difficult 'credit crunch' period during which for a time we suspended trading.  
John Wilson, Hon Secretary

## **Farmers Market**

On Saturday 7th November come along and support your local  
Farmers Market

At this months event there will be the following:

**Punch and Judy**

**Calendars for 2010 for sale**

**See the winning photo's from this years competition and buy  
yourself a calendar**

**Village Play Park Presentation**

**Medway Council's preferred suppliers should be showing  
their proposals for the play park and will be seeking your  
views**

**Medway Council Benefits Section**

**Medway Council's Benefit section will be available to take  
your questions to ensure that you can claim what you are  
entitled to**

**Regular stall holders including meat from Dennis Hill, fresh  
vegetables, bread, jams, cards, candles, handmade pens etc**

**Why not come along and see for yourself**

**Doors from 9.30**

**Entrance is free**



## *HH Village Website*

Did you know you can see the minutes of your Parish Council on our website! If that is not your cup of tea, you can also look-up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events.

For all your village needs the site is  
**[www.highhalstow.org.uk](http://www.highhalstow.org.uk)**

### **Quiz Nite**

The next quiz nite is on Friday 27th November which will be the last one before Christmas so as usual will be a little special.

We now have room for one more team, if anyone is interested please phone Pat on 251064 for information.

# Youth Night

***A place to just hang out and be yourself on the first Friday of each month***

***Youth Open Night at the Memorial Hall***

***7:30--10:00 pm Entrance Free***

***Fancy yourself as DJ ? Why not do your own remix or a 10 minute set, stick it on your iPod or mp3 player, bring it in and lets see how good you really are***

## **“H.H.C.C Colt wins place in County Squad”**



The Cricket Club wish to congratulate young Tyler Dockwray (9yrs) for being selected to join the Kent County Cricket Club Under 11 squad for winter training. Tyler plays for HH Heron's hard ball team and has shown that under the expert guidance of the clubs coaching staff, led by Bill Maurice, a promising career looks to be in the offing

## **RSPB emblem bird flocks to Cliffe Pools in record numbers**

The RSPB's emblem bird, the avocet, was recorded in record numbers in September at RSPB Cliffe Pools. Large populations of avocet are common at Cliffe Pools in winter, as the birds like to feed in the saline pools at high tide. However, local naturalist Trevor Hatton was very surprised when he spotted a flock of over 1300 avocet descending on the pools.

Trevor said: "It was incredible. I am used to seeing hundreds of avocet at Cliffe Pools, but nothing like this. I think something like three quarters of the entire Thames Estuary migrant population were together at Cliffe Pools at the same time."

It is thought that the very dry summer has led to lower water levels in the pools, which favours wading birds like the avocet. The RSPB believe that it may be a bumper winter at the site for other waders like dunlin, black tailed godwit and curlews.

The RSPB's Paul Hyde said: "Cliffe Pools is always fantastic for birdlife over the winter. In normal years you can expect flocks of around five thousand dunlin. With lower water levels this year, who know what we might expect. It's quite exciting."

The avocet is one of the UK's most celebrated conservation successes and was officially adopted by the RSPB as their logo in 1970. The avocet was declared extinct in the UK in 1842 and didn't start breeding again until 100 years later. Through the hard work of the RSPB and other conservation organisations there are now over 870 pairs of breeding avocet across the UK and nearly 4000 over-wintering.

Visitors will get a great chance to view avocet and other birdlife at the RSPB's Cliffe Coastal Safari Event on November 1. As part of Kent Coastal Week, the RSPB have organised a series of activities at the sea wall, aimed to help people discover more about what hovers above, crawls upon and lurks beneath our shores.

The event is free and will be signposted from the B2000 on the day. For further details about this event please ring 01634 222480 or visit [www.rspb.org.uk/northwardhillevents](http://www.rspb.org.uk/northwardhillevents).

### **Attempted Theft**

On 23rd October someone forced a gate at the rear of our property in Christmas Lane and actually attempted to take away a heavy garden bench, why they chose this I don't know but it was far too cumbersome and they gave up. I have told our immediate neighbours and also e-mailed the local police team. If anyone has any information please let me know

John Wilson,  
Christmas Lane

### **Parish Council Vacancy**

Following the resignation of Margaret Shuter there is now a vacancy on the Parish Council

If you are interested in serving your community please contact the Parish Clerk on 01474 871269 by 11th November

### ***Report Crime***

Always call 999 if

- a crime is happening now
- people are injured
- people are being threatened or are in danger
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby

Call Kent Police on 01622 690690 to report any non-emergency crime

To help please record when and where the problems are happening including

- dates and times of incidents
- as much detail as possible about what has happened
- names and/or descriptions of those involved
- how the incident has affected you

In this day and age I understand that individuals may hesitate to contact the Authorities for fear of reprisals: should this be the case please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence and I will act on your behalf

***Martin Mitchell***

***HHPC Police Liaison 0753 1984169***



## Readers Letters

### *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.

Dear HHT

OH FOR THE OPEN ROAD!

With all the unhappy furore about the Cricket Club Colts I originally intended to write to congratulate the 'Times' on introducing much welcome humour by publishing the letter from the "more senior reasonable driver" of this Parish. However, after my initial chuckle, I now ask if this chap (it must surely be a male, no woman would possibly open herself to such ridicule), if he is actually serious in his demand that other, slower drivers should avoid using Dux Court Road to allow him free passage. I too am a more senior driver, of 40 years, confessing to one accident and therefore not so full of arrogance as to dictate to others on the road.

No doubt my news will annoy this latter day 'Toad of Toad Hall' even more, as forthwith I shall increase my use of Dux Court, in both directions, at a speed I consider safe, if necessary slowing down when approached by oncoming vehicles, even pulling over if circumstances require, pausing even further to give a cheery wave to those similarly courteous among your readers. Toodle Pip!

Name and address supplied

Dear HHT

Re the gentlemen!! who complained about cars driven slowly along Dux Court Road (Oct HHT) which is a small windy road and not a motorway. He suggests that slow drivers go down Christmas Lane or Britannia Road. Why doesn't he go down these roads instead of complaining about slow drivers. Better to go slow than land up in the hedge or ditch which I have seen twice. Perhaps he should leave a little earlier in the morning then he wouldn't have to drive so fast and ruin the start of his journey. 22 years of driving without incident, try 45 years without incident. Calm down do not rush. Live and Let Live

B Ryan, Marsh Crescent

Dear HHT

After reading and seeing prominence given to the letter by Mr Coomber, (Oct HHT), I feel compelled to pen a reply. It's undoubtedly clear that the issue of the HHCC who already have their own ground within the village, now using the recreation field as an additional pitch has become emotional one for all parties

Mr Coomber's sentiments then regarding the issue of intimidation (to quote 'Intimidation will not prevail') are most admirable. I trust therefore that he and those people who also had letters published about this issue in the same newsletter, also include within their condemnation the sarcasm, offensive gestures, verbal abuse and worse, that some adult members of the HHCC have used against residents opposed to the playing of cricket so near to their houses?

On a purely personal level, I strongly refute and reject any accusations of intimidation, just for the record, I'm 72 years of age and no more than nine stone soaking wet, not the most of intimidating characteristics.

In the same letter, Mr Coomber also makes the baffling statement that 'these residents won't be happy until cricket has disappeared from High Halstow altogether'. This issue has nothing to do with being anti-cricket. My personal objection is about this new pitch boundary being just feet away from back gardens and houses - bearing in mind that one of the aims of cricket is to hit the ball over the boundary!!! Cricket balls are not soft and this is potentially a dangerous situation.

continued from page 9 - To give you just a little context, over the summer months, with cricket being played so close, I've found myself in a situation where I am unable to sit and feel safe or comfortable in my own garden and have experienced the frightening situation of a cricket ball hitting my kitchen window.

Unless you are directly affected by this situation I understand that it might be hard to appreciate or to see it from just one viewpoint. It could be interesting, though, if the situation was reversed and Mr Coomber and others suddenly found their houses within range of flying cricket balls whether they might be more empathetic and see things a little differently.

Lastly , some time ago now, along with a couple of other dads from the village, I ran a boy's football team for a number of years. I'm all for young people being involved in sport and understand the benefits of this type of endeavour, but surely it shouldn't be at the expense of the safety and quality of life of others.

John Hannen

***Dear HHT***

I must say I was very concerned at the letters that were published in the October edition of the HHT relating to the problems concerning the HHCC and certain residents in the village. As we are all aware there are always two sides to every story but as yet only one point of view made public.

Firstly I would like to point out that no resident of Goodwood Close has complained about any children playing cricket on the Recreation Ground, so to imply that the children are being deprived of the opportunity to enjoy their cricket is untrue. How could there be any complaints about the children playing when the children have never played cricket on a Saturday. We were all led to believe that the Rec was for the use of the Colts to play cricket, when in fact that was not the case.

I would like now to inform residents of High Halstow of the complaints and Health & Safety issues that have arisen as a result of the adult teams that play on a Saturday. We have been told on a number of occasions of the high standard of play that has been achieved by the players which is great, but at the same time raises a number of safety issues, such as the cricket ball being hit into peoples gardens, being hit into the play park, while little ones are playing, putting people at risk while walking along the public right of way or walking their dogs, the ball hitting garden fences every five minutes and that the balls were being hit so hard that they hit peoples windows. It is sheer luck that nobody was hurt. The other complaints have all related to the behaviour of certain members of the cricket team. I find it quite unacceptable to witness grown men urinating in public while children are present and when there are perfectly good facilities available only a few feet away. When residents objected to this they were verbally abused and shown occasional hand gestures. On a number of occasions residents were subjected to verbal abuse when the cricket ball was hit into their gardens which they objected to. Surely these are not the standards of behaviour that you would normally expect from the local cricket team

Lastly the cricket team had their licence revoked by the Parish Council because it was too dangerous, purely a health and safety issue and not because of the intimidation as was suggested. I find it almost laughable that anyone could even think that our Parish Council so weak as to allow themselves to be intimidated by a small group of old age pensioners. The residents of Goodwood Close are not anti cricket, the Rec is far too small area for the use of adult cricket to be played or in fact any hard ball game

Name and Address supplied

## Dear HHT

Having read the two letters and the article by M. Coomber, HHT October, I feel a few facts would be in order. October 2008 the HHCC ask for permission to use the Recreation Ground for the Colts cricket from May to September 2009, Tuesday for training and Saturday for matches. The HHPC gave permission but would review it again at the end of the season. Apart from Tuesday's training no Colts team played a competitive match on the Recreation Ground. On any Saturday it was 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XI's who played and they are all men. As the Colts did not play on Saturday how could they possibly have been threatened and intimidated? I suggest you get your facts right first and stop listening to the biased views of some members of HHPC. A few times 1 or 2 16/17 year old Colts did play with the men's team. We had threats, intimidation, verbal and physical abuse, all summer from some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XI Team and coaches. Their behaviour is disgusting and unacceptable, i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> July urinating against a garden fence, on two occasions, in front of children in the Play area. When challenged they gave the usual verbal abuse and hand gestures. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July the Police were called. Is this the sort of ROLE MODEL you want for your nine-year old son? Is this the good standards of sporting behaviour you are looking for? I don't think so. As for Mr Coomber's article he says, "intimidation will not prevail". He is right but we say COMMON SENSE WILL. HHCC have hijacked the Village Recreation Ground, you have taken away the freedom to play and walk in safety. It is a risk to the public, children playing, the elderly and dog walkers as they are always looking over their shoulder for the cricket ball. By now I hope you have seen HHPC comment on page 3, October 2009 HHT. We all look forward to next summer when we can sit in our garden, on Saturday's in safety, and not have the ball hitting our fences or into our gardens.

Name and Address supplied

## Dear HHT

I write in response to the article from High Halstow Cricket Club published in the October 2009 issue. Having attended this meeting it should be made clear that at no stage did the residents of Goodwood Close, and others from the village attempt to end the playing of cricket by the Colt's be it training on Tuesday or matches on Saturday. To stop this was a decision made wholly by the club.

The representations made at the meeting were concerned with adults playing cricket on the ground and for a variety of reasons. The main concern for Goodwood residents were around the issues of not being able to enjoy their properties due to cricket balls hitting and damaging their fences and indeed at times smashing into kitchen windows etc. This combined with the fear of sitting in their gardens and being hit, seems to me to be an entirely legitimate reason to lobby the Parish Council to revoke the licence for adult matches. After all I feel sure that Mr Coomber would soon have something to say if a group of 22 adults turned up outside his house and started knocking cricket balls all over the place.

Other issues voiced at the meeting were concerned with the behaviour of some members of the club, namely urinating in public ( a fine example to our youth) and the verbal and physical intimidation which escalated into violent assault all in the name of sport. Along with various other residents who objected to not being able to safely walk through the park and again not being able to use the facilities with their children for fear of being struck by cricket balls. It must be remembered that there is a public footpath across the land which anybody is entitled to use without hindrance at any time. In short the recreation ground should remain for the use of everybody in the village be it taking the dog for a walk, flying a kite, with your grandchild, or just sitting on a bench enjoying a warm summers day. After all HHCC you have a piece of land dedicated exclusively for your sport. Whilst your intentions for the youth of the village are very laudable they should not be to the detriment of the rest of us.

I Lay , Resident of High Halstow



## *Dates for Diary*

Every Wednesday  
Painting & Drawing for Beginners  
10.00 Memorial Hall  
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*

Wednesday 4th Women's Institute  
19.30 Memorial Hall  
Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday  
10.45 St Margaret's Church  
Tuesday 10th Open House  
12.15 Memorial Hall  
Tuesday 10th Garden Club  
20.00 Memorial Hall  
Wednesday 11th Parish Council  
20.00 Memorial Hall  
Saturday 14th Project 90  
08.30 Village Hall  
Saturday 14th Church Market  
12.00 Village Hall  
Friday 20th Youth Open Night  
19.30 Memorial Hall  
Wednesday 25th Friendly Club  
14.00 Memorial Hall  
Friday 27th Quiz Night  
20.00 Memorial Hall

### *Your Parish Councillors*

George Crozer, Chair 01634 250286  
e.mail: [george@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:george@highhalstow.org.uk)  
Gary Thomas, Vice Chair 01634 252812  
e.mail: [gary.thomas@medway.gov.uk](mailto:gary.thomas@medway.gov.uk)  
Martin Andrews 07984 791029  
Ray Collins 01634 250105  
Pat Hillman 01634 251064  
Carl Mitchell 01634 250911  
Martin Mitchell 07531 984169  
Lesley Munday 01634 250276

Your councillors may also be contacted  
through the Parish Clerk:

Mrs Roxana Brammer 01474 871269



Dear HHT

I would be most grateful if the following advert could appear again in the paper; I did have somebody interested, who also left a phone message BUT SO FAINT- I COULD NOT MAKE OUT THE NUMBER. What a pity!

"Ladies' bike for sale-bargain price.  
Interested? Call High Halstow 253971.  
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NUMBER  
AGAIN CLEARLY or CALL AFTER 6PM"  
Thank You  
A.Kruppa

**PROJECT 90**  
90 minutes spent improving  
the village

**Saturday 14th November**

**8:30am Start at the Village Hall**

**Free Tea, Coffee, Cakes and Buns  
afterwards for all the helpers**

### ***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 - Pat Hillman 251064  
Village Hall - Ann Smith 251914

Contributions for December should be sent by 24th November to:  
Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ  
or e.mail to [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)