

December 2012

Christmas Eve in High Halstow 10th Santa's Visit

Can you believe that this is the tenth Christmas Eve that Santa and his helpers will be coming to High Halstow. What started out as an idea to deliver 40 or so presents saw a record number of around 300 presents delivered to homes and to the Church last year.

Following the many enquiries from the beginning of November from eager villagers, Santa has once again agreed and planned his route and therefore will be stopping by to deliver his gifts on Christmas Eve.

The charge as last year will be £2.00 per present.

The usual rules will apply as follows:



- You buy your gift and wrap it clearly with the name of the recipient and the address it is to be delivered to (High Halstow only please). If your child is attending the Church Service and would like the present at the Service please just put the address as "The Church" and Santa will call.
- 2 Pop the present along to Bob in the shop by no later than **Thursday 20th December**.
- 3 Please note for insurance purposes the value of the present should not exceed £10.00
- 4 Please do not make the presents too large as Santa is busy at this time of year and would prefer smaller parcels.

Again like last year Santa plans to start at around 4.00 pm. Sorry we cannot guarantee a time for any delivery, as the time taken is around 5 hours. If you have presents for young children don't forget there is a guaranteed delivery time at the Church at 6.00pm if this helps.

If you wish to have any pictures of this event added to the website please send to gary@highhalstow.org.uk. Please provide your name and address and, if possible, please identify the people in the picture.

This year the money raised will be to help a newly formed charity in The Friends of St Margaret's Church. The aim of the Friends is to support the Parochial Church Council in maintaining the fabric, the churchyard and furnishings of St Margaret's Church, High Halstow.

Come on High Halstow let's make this the biggest one yet!!

In This Months Edition: Sri Lanka comes to High Halstow
Table Top Sale Date; Christmas Service Times; Farmers Market Details;
High Halstow Calendars and Cookbooks and much much more....



Following our Village Table Top Sale in November (with only one week notice!), many ladies in the village rallied and made it a fabulous worth-while event for all who took part, and for all who visited. Together we raised money for a wonderful charity on Remembrance Sunday; £118 was donated to Combat Stress.

The general feeling of all who came was "we must do this regularly" - so this notice is to confirm - that is what we intend to do - with dates already booked for February, July and November 2013.

NEXT DATE FOR A H.H.T.T. SALE: 10th February 2013, 11am – 2pm.

Please do pop along to the Village Hall - have a browse through the variety of stalls, have a cup of tea, a bowl of soup and some wonderful homemade cakes, bag some Valentine's gifts for your loved ones and buy a raffle ticket for the draw at 1.30pm. For the February "Valentines" sale, all profits will be donated to a High Halstow charity eg, Village Hall, Memorial Hall, Friends of St Margaret's, etc. Which one is yet to be decided. If you'd like to help decide which charity we will support with this sale, please comment on our Facebook page — "High Halstow Table Top Sales" which has a full list of charities in the village.

Contact Bel Shearman on 251207 or visit the FB group "High Halstow Table Top Sales" if you would like any information about these events. **Bel Shearman**

Come and Meet Your Parish Councillors

One or two of your Parish Councillors will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 11th December from 10.30 – 12.00pm and every 2nd Tuesday in the month.

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

High Halstow Parish Council.

Village Vandalism

Since the vandalism to the rear of the Village Hall in early October, there has been a spate of other incidents including...

The village notice board in the cricket ground has been vandalised ..

The home of the heron sign in Christmas Lane has been smashed off its posts..

Three panels of the cricket fence near the kick wall smashed down..

I believe the damage has been caused by the same individuals. I have been given some names but the witness does not want to be named so the police cannot take action! The cost for the repairs to the above will amount to over £1000 which of course will be paid by us all out of village funds held by the Parish Council. Money that could be better spent elsewhere.

Please help me put an end to this by coming forward and helping the police do their job.

George Crozer

High Halstow Parish Council

NB. You can follow this discussion on Facebook @ High Halstow Village Appreciation Group <3

Friendly Club's Holiday

Good company, good hotel, and good weather in September, we couldn't ask for more. The Friendly Club's holiday to Sandown, Isle of Wight was all of this, plus trips to the wonderful Osbourne House, even better with blue skies and sunshine. We had more of the same weather on the boat trip across the Solent and around Portsmouth harbour, with an informative commentary on all we saw. Some visited the zoo, others the shops, lovely walks, even icecreams on the beach and all in the company of cheery, smiley fun loving folk. Thanks must go to the organisers, Sheila and Judy, for all their hard work. Sadly at the last minute Sheila couldn't make the trip, so Judy was left to keep us all in order. Bet she needed another holiday by the end of the week! It's my second time with this happy bunch, and hopefully not my

Margaret Whitebread

High Halstow Hikers

We were lucky that Sunday 11th November was a gloriously bright and sunny autumn day providing lovely conditions for 14 of us to walk along part of the Greensands Way and through Knole Park. The views across the weald were beautiful on the way to the park entrance. A comfort stop at 15th Century Knole House was convenient for pausing for 2 minutes at 11.00 for Remembrance which was signalled as finishing by the cannon of the house being fired. An unintentional "detour" of about half a mile had the added bonus of giving us views of several herds of deer. On the way back we stopped for a pint outside the terrific Buck's Head country pub in Godden Green which overlooks a duck pond and the Green itself. The return to the car park at One Tree Hill provided an excellent finish to the walk which seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our pre-Christmas December walk will start from High Halstow Village car park on Sunday 16th (note 3rd not 2nd Sunday) December. The exact route will be decided nearer the day according to weather and underfoot conditions but is expected to be of about 2 hours in length.

Our January walk will be on SATURDAY 12th January from Brenchley and is described as "Iron Man of Brenchley" in the AA guide because this village was at the heart of the once thriving iron industry that Kent once had. The walk starts from Brenchley village car park which is reached by taking the A228 from West Malling continuing along Seven Mile Lane eventually turning left onto the B2017 (Badsell Road). After 1 mile turn right onto B2160 (Maidstone Road). After another 0.4 miles turn left onto Chantler's Hill and then first right onto Waterman's Lane. After 0.8 miles turn right onto Pixot Hill and follow signs to Brenchley which is reached after about another 0.6 miles. The walk is 6.5 miles in length and is along orchard tracks, field margins and paved footpaths which will hopefully make the walking not too muddy. The Bull Inn in the village and the Halfway House just outside will provide refreshment at the end for those that would like to take advantage.

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

Village Hall

At the time of going to press we are about to instruct the work required for tenders to be sought for Phase Two. Phase Two will be for the front of the hall to be renovated includes the following:

- 1. New Roof
- 2. New toilets including facilities for the disabled
- 3. Completely rewired
- 4. New plumbing
- 5. Space created for a new doctors surgery
- 6. Heating
- 7. Alcoves removed with building squared off

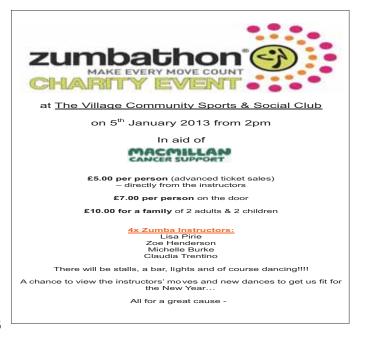
Depending on the price of the tenders being sought it may enable us to put the new surgery in at this stage. Should we not be able to proceed with Phase Two next year we risk losing over £100,000 in secured funding which would be a severe set back to the project.

We are also trying to get a refund from Southern Water due to a massive water leak we had during the year and hopefully next time we can inform you that this has been achieved.

Paint is still awaited in order to clean up the vandalism to the back wall and hopefully this will be here shortly.

The Hall Committee would like to thank all who have continued to support the hall over the past year, be it coming to events, painting, to Elaine for cleaning, all the groups for hiring it, stallholders etc.

Happy Christmas to you all. Village Hall Committee



Christmas Tree Festival 2012

At the time of going to press we have 17 trees confirmed but it is not too late to let us know if your group, family, business etc would like to put a tree in. All we are asking for is a donation of £3.50 per tree submitted

Trees can be any size or shape, fresh or artificial; as far as decoration is concerned, the only limit is your imagination and afterwards your tree goes home with you for Christmas.

Trees can be decorated at the Hall or brought ready-decorated.

Power is available for lights.

Trees should be brought to the Hall on:

Friday 7th December from 19.00 to 21.00 or Saturday 8th December from 9.00 to 12.00

Trees must be collected on either:

Saturday 8th December from 17.00 to 18.00 or Sunday 9th December from 9.30 to 11.00

Please invite all your friends to come and see your entry and enjoy this event. With your help - and with the help of others – please make this Christmas Tree Festival a success.

The public are invited to view the trees from 13.00 to 16.00 with entry being just 50p. Refreshments will be available on the day

Friends of St Margaret's Church











Speed Limits

Please can I remind people to observe the speed limits through the Village. We should all be mindful that High Halstow is a nice place to live where children, older residents and walkers should feel safe. Some may not be as aware of the traffic as they might otherwise be. Please be careful.

George Crozer, HH Parish Council

Resume of the Meeting Held on 14 November 2012

Last month we told you that George Crozer had arranged a trip to visit local skateboard facilities. At the following meeting on 14th November he reported back. A group comprising councillors, children and parents went to look at the skateboard facilities in Cliffe and at the cyclopark in Gravesend. These are totally different in scale and gave a good overview of what is available. The next step is to do further research as to a suitable size, possible location and likely costs. We reiterate that NO decision has yet been made, one way or the other, by the Parish Council on the provision of such a facility.

Ray Collins has inspected the ash trees round the perimeter of Forge Common and did not find any evidence of the die-back disease that is currently in the news. Also on the tree front, Gary Thomas agreed to organise a Christmas tree on behalf of the Parish Council for entry to the Christmas Tree Festival.

Josh Gordon attended a lunch at Kingsnorth Power Station for parish council representatives. The station will cease producing electricity in December and by March there will be only 10 people left working there. From then it will take about 5 years to demolish the plant, after which the site will be fenced and locked off. One of the jetties is to be retained and E-on will remain owners of the land.

All Councillors and the Clerk wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 8 pm in the Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome.

St Mary Hoo Parish Council wishes its residents a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

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.

Memorial Hall

Last month Sri Lanka came to High Halstow, when Trina, a regular user of our hall, held her wedding reception for friends and family that

were unable to join Andy and Trina on the actual day.

With great imagination Trina planned how she would transform the Hall to get the right atmosphere, and what a success it was. Palm trees, beach viens, and a







really great beach bar - but unfortunately no elephants. A good time was had by everyone.

The Memorial Hall Committee wish all our regular users a Happy Christmas and a very good new year. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

ps. The Hall will be open over Christmas and the New Year, and Margaret is holding a quiz on Friday 28th December.

Happy Christmas Ann Smith

Ann Smith Memorial Hall Committee

Village Hall Cookbook

Over 14 unique and very individual recipes have been received from all four corners of the Village, and for that we are very grateful.



The full colour book, priced at £6.50 will be available to buy from the Farmers Market. *Village Hall Committee*

High Halstow And District Gardening Club

Our final meeting of this year is on **Tuesday 11**th **December at 8pm in the Memorial Hall** and will be a **Free Christmas Social** with mulled wine (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), mince pies and sausage rolls etc. This should be an enjoyable evening for all!

Gatherings in the New Year

The AGM & Quiz will be on Tuesday 12th
February 2013 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall.
The ANNUAL DINNER will be held on Friday
15th February 2013, 7pm for 7.30 pm, in the
Village Restaurant (the Old BP Club), at the
top of Bells Lane, Hoo. The main course will
provide a choice of meats from the carvery and
there will be a choice of starters and deserts.
The cost will be £23 per ticket which includes
the cost of entry for the games.

Invitation letters will be circulated to all members either via email or delivered to the door. Due to the popularity of this event, we will need to restrict the numbers to 75 in order for the dinner to be comfortably held in the restaurant. Bookings will be on a first come, first served basis and members may invite family and friends who are not members. Please reply by **Friday 11**th **January 2013 at the latest**.

If you would like to attend, please complete the tear off section provided at the bottom of the letter you receive and return it together with your money/cheque as soon as possible to Margaret Shuter at 45, Christmas Lane, High Halstow. Tel 01634 251196.

Please note that refunds will not be available after Friday 1st February, a fortnight before the dinner, as we will be charged by the restaurant for your meal.

Gwen Bucknall

The Fenn Bell Sea Fishing Club

If anyone is interested please contact Terry on 01634 270213, or pop in to the Fenn Bell pub, St Mary's Hoo.

Everyone welcome.

Jackie Ballard







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We hope to see you soon xx

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High Halstow Cricket Club December 2012

I would love to be able to report that the "117" Annual General Meeting of the Cricket Club was held on 23rd November 2012. Although the meeting did indeed take place on that date, I cannot confirm that such a meeting has been held every year since 1895.

The Time & Tides Project was truly illuminating, and it was a great pleasure to participate in it. When asked to make a short presentation on the history of the cricket club, I limited my thoughts to my own experiences and memories. Bearing in mind that these extend well beyond 50 years, I thought that would be more than enough – especially for the listening audience. However, on the night, I was thrown completely by meeting, for the first time, John Durling, who played for the club in the 1940's and early 50's. He gave me a book of records extracted from scorebooks of the time. It also included a preamble, which reports that although cricket was being played here before 1885, it was in 1895 that the Rev. T. Longfield formed the present club.

In those days, the ground was on the other side of Christmas Lane in what was referred to as "Rayner's Meadow" – roughly where numbers 10-18 Christmas Lane are today. Including the change in location – does anyone know when? – and two or three pavilions, the club has been a pillar village life for nearly 120 consecutive years. We have often wondered about the date of our formation, and now we have it. Our thoughts are already turning to marking the 120th anniversary in 2015.

But before we are diverted by celebration, the AGM heard sobering reports on the difficulties arising from the appalling weather in 2012. We share these problems with many other clubs in the county and beyond, and the new committee has many interesting challenges in the coming months. But with youth and enthusiasm on their side, backed by a few experienced heads, chairman Carl Dockwray and his team are well placed to drive the club forward.

After the disappointments of 2012, we look forward to a better season on and off the field in 2013. New players – and returning old ones – are always welcome. The range of ability of our teams does not preclude the total novice from giving the game a go. Any sense of embarrassment one may feel will be quickly dispelled, when you discover that embarrassment raises its head every week, even in the best of teams. Don't be shy, give us a call.

Again, there will be a particular focus on the colts, who have enjoyed considerable success in recent seasons. We expect to field teams at U11, U13, U15 and U17 so there will be plenty of opportunity for young people of appropriate age and any ability. Indoor nets will again be held at Kings School from January until April for boys and girls from 10 to 16. More details will be circulated in the coming weeks.

As with any voluntary organisation, we are always looking for help. If you feel able to make a contribution to the future success of the club, and the colts in particular, please get in touch. We have qualified coaches to deal with cricketing issues, but there are many other things that need to be covered to make any team a success – driving, tea-making, scoring and umpiring, ground and equipment maintenance - but above all actual and positive support!

David Lapthorn Life President

Farmers Market

The last Farmers Market is on Saturday 1st December. We have Karmann Dancers and a visit from Santa as well as our regular stallholders. We have nearly twenty stallholders each month so there should be something for everyone. Doors from 9.30



St. James Church Cooling Saturday 8th December 2012 at 1.00pm A Christmas Decoration Demonstration

International flower arranger and florist Janet Harris who helped Vicki Hooper to organise the "Life and Times of Dickens" flower festival in St James Church. She will be sharing her expertise with us including some quick and easy arrangements we can do at home. To make this easier Vicki will have for sale some of the items Janet will be using. Come and enjoy a friendly and relaxing afternoon finishing about 3pm.

Tickets £8.50 including light refreshments, tea and coffee.

Ring Alison Bucknall on 01634 220204

Time And Tides

The Time and Tides exhibition was a fantastic success and thanks to all of those who came and those who contributed. We have asked for the information to be passed to us so that we can put it on the website over the coming year.

Take On Take That

Last month saw a successful Take That Tribute Night attended by more than 70 people (mainly screaming ladies) which made a profit for the Village Hall Hugh Fund. This was the second visit from this talented group, and they were brought back by popular demand, and assurances about ticket sales, having made a loss earlier in the year.

A concern for the Committee though is that attendance from people in the Village to events over the past year has declined. This may be to a number of factors so the Committee is seeking comments on the types of evenings you would wish to come out and support. We as always will still be looking to put a full programme of events on next year but obviously it must be events that you wish to come to. If you have any comments on what you would like to see in a future programme please let us know.

Village Hall Committee





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Dates for Diary

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 Memorial Hall

09.00

Other Dates

Saturday 1st: Farmers Market
09:30 Village Hall
Sunday 2nd: Family Service
09:30 St. Margaret's C

09:30 St. Margaret's Church Friday 7th Youth Night

Friday 7th Youth Night 19:30 - 22:00 Memorial Hall

Saturday 8th: Christmas Tree Festival

13:00 - 16:00 Village Hall
Tuesday 11th: Gardening Club
20:00 Memorial Hall

Wednesday 12th: Parish Council Finance Meeting

20:00 Memorial Hall Sunday 16th: Family Service

09:00 St. Margaret's Church Sunday 16th: High Halstow Hikers

10:00 High Halstow (Details enc.)

Monday 24th: Messy Christmas
17:00 - 18:00 St. Margaret's Church
Tuesday 25th: Christmas Family Service
9:00 St. Margaret's Church

Friday 28th: Quiz Night 20:00 Memorial Hall

The National Lottery

Lottery tickets are now available to buy from the Village Shop.
Good Luck!

Te Marional Local

Public Rights of Way

We've started a Facebook page for our Public Rights Of Way as a new way for people to interact with our service by reporting issues, making requests and offering suggestions.

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Adam Taylor

Public Right of Way Officer, Medway Council







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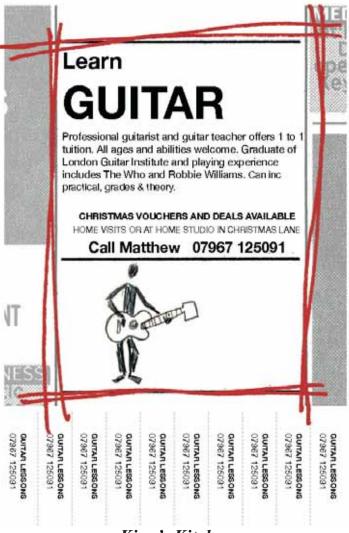
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Project 90

In November we saw the return of litter picking. In addition the bus shelter at Heronsbank was cleaned and the Home of the Heron sign at Christmas Lane was repaired after someone had vandalized it.

We will not be having a Project 90 in December but will be starting again in January. Additional jobs being lined up for the new year will include painting the play park fence, repairing the cricket fence (vandalised), litter picking and painting of the bus shelters. It is sad to say that much of the time and money spent on Project 90 is due to vandalism. If money continues to be spent on repairs due to vandalism it must be remembered that this takes money away from other projects, which could improve facilities for all in the Village, young and old.

If there are other projects you think the Parish Council could undertake with this scheme please let them know

The Parish Council would like to thank the many volunteers who have come out over the past year to help improve the Village

HHPC

Christmas Service Times

16th December

8:00am Holy Communion (High Halstow)

9:30am All Age Worship (High Halstow)

11:00am All Age Worship (Allhallows)

6:30pm: Carol Service (Allhallows)

23rd December

8:00am Holy Communion (High Halstow)

9:30am Morning Prayer (High Halstow)

11:00am Family Communion (Allhallows)

6:30pm: Carol Service (High Halstow)

24th December

5:00-6:00pm Messy Christmas for children fol-

lowed by a visit from Santa (High Halstow)

11:30 Midnight Communion (High Halstow)

25th December

8:00am Holy Communion (High Halstow)

9:00am Christmas family service (High Halstow)

10:30am Christmas family service (Allhallows)

30th December

9:30am Morning Prayer (High Halstow)

11:00am Morning Prayer (Allhallows)

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I Am Based In High Halstow So Can Be Quick Tan Be Quick an easy to understand way.		

Indoor Craft & Boot Fair 3rd Sunday-of-Every Month Main Village Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo

an easy to understand way

Setting up from 12:30pm, and doors open to the public between 2pm and 5pm.

Tables are £3.00 each, which are provided for the first 25 craft tables. All 'Boot Fair' people, please bring your own table.

Hot drinks, soft drinks, cakes etc. are all available. To book a craft stall, please text 07860 144010.

Next dates: 16th December; 20 January; 17 February; 17th March; 21st April.

All table profits to 'Step & Learn Conductive Education', the cerebral palsy charity on your doorstep.



Poppy Appeal

Susan Osenton of Dalham Farm would like to thank all those who collected and contributed towards this worthy cause. We raised a grand total of £1145.00

Many Thanks

Susan Osenton

Mower Medic +

END OF SEASON

Let us give your Lawn Mower a comprehensive service.

Schedule for Rotary Mower service: Jet clean cutter tray Remove blade, sharpen, balance and refit Oil change

Clean and lubricate air cleaner Remove and reset spark plug, replace if required (extra if replacement needed) Lubricate level adjusters Clean and seal electrical leads

Winterize fuel check and report on pull start Run and report From £25.00

We also service and repair ride on lawn mowers and cylinder mowers Cylinder mowers from £35 / Ride on mowers from £90

We can collect locally (Free)
Telephone 01634 250999
Mobile 07980 861999

Mower Medic Vic Godding Hollyberry, Christmas Lane, High Halstow. ME3 8SN

Enjoy a good movie?

Fed up with buying DVD's and watching them just once?

Have a growing DVD mountain?



Bring as many DVD's as you want and exchange them for ones you haven't seen for just 50p each.

Lots to choose from for all the family.

Every month at the farmers market

Does your child need extra help with Maths or English?



Primary. 11+. SATs. GCSEs

A* grade Year 13 Rochester Grammar School student here to help in High Halstow!

From £10 per hour

Call Alice at 01634 253196 or email aliceoseman@gmail.com



For more details, call Natacha

on 254178

Todd/er Group

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

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

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

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

Your first session is FREE!

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

Readers Letters

Dear HHT,

Needle and Natter

Do you enjoy knitting, crochet or needlework? Fancy meeting up, once or twice a month for a couple of hours, with like minded people? We are planning to set up a friendly group within the village. Even if you are a beginner or more experienced we can share our skills and have fun and a natter in the process!

If you are interested, please contact Christine

Cookbooks

on 01634 251448 or Margot on 01634 250258.

The Cookbook has been such a success that we have had to have a second print run. Cost is only £6.50 available from the Farmers market on Saturday. Go on treat yourself

High Halstow Calendars

There are still a few calendars left; available from the Farmers Market and the Village shop, Large £6.00 and Small £5.50. Some great pictures of your Village, again go on and treat yourself or a friend/loved one.



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

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

Name and Address Supplied

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

Next edition February 2013; Contributions for February should be sent by 22nd January to:

Carl Mitchell & March Croscopt High Halstow ME3 87 I

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