



High Halstow Times

Home of the Heron



December 2017

Santa Clause to visit High Halstow!



For the 15th year in a row Santa has decided to pay another visit to High Halstow. He 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 per present being delivered.

The usual rules will apply as follows:

1. 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 **TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER**. This is to provide Santa's helpers sufficient time to organise his deliveries.
3. Please note for insurance purposes the value of the present should not exceed £10.00.
4. Please, please do not make the presents too large (preferably no bigger than a shoe box size).



Again, like last year Santa plans to start at around 4.00p.m. Sorry we cannot guarantee a time for any deliver, 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 6.00p.m. if this helps.

This year the money raised will be going to wHoo Cares which is a community interest company created to support individuals on the Hoo Peninsula.

Come on High Halstow – lets make it the biggest one yet.

Santa's helpers always appreciate the odd drop of something warming and the occasional mine pie or sausage roll. They have a busy evening and we don't want them slacking do we!

For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Editorial

We have finally completed our first Christmas Edition which was a real challenge to get all the news in as usual!

The WI Halloween Children's Tea was a joy to be part of for both of us and the Remembrance Service in our Church was very thought provoking. It was a lovely service and very well attended.

Villagers seemed to like the meanings of our road names and we have carried on with the history theme on the back page with the 1987 snow fall – trying to keep to a snowy Christmas feel too. We do hope you like it.

As with tradition, there is no publication in January.

We are expecting to have a lot to tell you in February but please keep communications coming with either stories to tell or complaints to make. It all leads for an interesting read.

Finally, we both would like to wish all of our readers a very Happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year.

See you in February.

If you have a story about High Halstow that you would like to tell, you can either email us at

Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk or write to us via
Linda Atkinson, 32 Goodwood Close, High Halstow.

Linda and Natalie

Letters

The Villager

The Villager Community Bus was set up for the Peninsular Villages as a Community Bus for days out. It was funded for 5 years by a transport grant from the Government and operated by Medway Council. The grant has now finished and Medway Norse have agreed to continue to operate it but it has to pay its way.

We have until June to turn it around. If it gets axed it will never be brought back so its use it or lose it.

It is operated with volunteer drivers and at the present time there is a severe lack of drivers. If you would like to volunteer please get in touch with Norse.

I have met with the MD of Norse and he has purchased a new vehicle to use but recently there has been a spate of bookings being cancelled at the last minute resulting in bookings going below 10 people and the day out is cancelled. People are disappointed, this is a life line

for some. Membership is £12 a year and the trips are reasonably priced. Owing to last minute cancellations Norse are going to introduce a pay when you book system and tickets are going to be non refundable. Hopefully this will weed out those making bookings and cancelling (we know who they are and discussions are underway to remove them from booking if they do it again. It's the same 3/4 people, one drops out they all drop out).

This is a service for all to use and there is nothing stopping Norse operating trips through school holidays with their buses. Its open to anyone. Bums on seats are needed.

Book with Norse on 01634 283224.

Community groups pay £27 a year membership. They can hire the bus(es) for their use. Hoo WI hired it to go to Eastbourne in the summer. It worked out about £13 each.

Something to think about....

Elaine Cutting

Thank you

June and Emma would like to send their sincere thanks for all the kind words and sympathy, following the recent death of John, a much loved husband, father, and grandad. We would also like to thank the Reverend Stephen Gwilt, and everyone that attended his funeral. The Kent Air Ambulance are very grateful for the £155 donation. John has left a huge void in our lives, and will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

June and Emma Bird

Christmas Card Fund Raising

My brother and I are training to run the London Marathon in April to raise money for Brain Tumour Research on behalf of our Dad, Mark who has a Grade IV brain tumour. Our justgiving page where you can find more information is: **www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marksmatter**.

As part of our fundraising, we have lots of Christmas Cards to sell and all money raised will go directly to funding research for a charity deprived of government funding. Reverend Stephen Gwilt has kindly offered to place boxes of our cards in both Allhallows Church and High Halstow Church but we have lots more we can sell from our home too. We live at number 8 Half Moon Way if anyone would like to purchase any directly from us. My number is: 07780 586 055 it may be useful for people to call and ask, if for example they can't make it to us then we can drop them round.

As a family we have lived in High Halstow for 13 years and lots of people in the village supported me five years ago when I raised money for Meningitis UK. I hope that you don't mind my asking them to do so again.

Beth George



WI Halloween Children's Halloween Tea Party

As part of a Fund Raising exercise for the new village sign we organised a Halloween Tea party for the children.

The event was well attended and fun was had by all. Those Committee Members that attended dressed up in Halloween costumes and entered into the spirit of the occasion for the children.

There was plenty of food and activities for the children and adults together with a Children's Tombola and a Raffle. There was a Jelly Cauldron operated by our member Sue Prescott, Splat the Rat operated by Marilyn Stone and June Collins did an amazing job of Face Paints on the children. Linda Atkinson was in charge of guessing how many sweets in the jar. Angela Heathcote and her Granddaughter Amelia were responsible for the apple

bobbing and Denise did an amazing job of giving out creepy crawlies and sweets as the children arrived.

A lot of work went into organizing and decorating the hall so thanks must be given to the Committee, Husbands and Members for their help and generosity.

This was the last of our three fund raising events towards the cost of the new village sign which we hope will be in place by Easter of 2018.

Since this event we have enjoyed an excellent Afternoon Tea at Rosie's Tea Room in Stoke and we had a busy Craft Afternoon making decorations for our Christmas Tree for the Festival in the Church.

Crystal Wakefield, President



Fund Raising

The High Halstow Community Lottery

The November draw for our October game took place at The Powder & Cartridge in Upnor. The two winning balls were drawn by the Manager.

If you would like to play please contact Linda Atkinson on 07825 619 353 for details.

Linda Atkinson, Mick O'Hanlon and Graham Coppard – High Halstow Lottery Committee

There has been some confusion regarding the way the game is played. There are only two winners. First and second prize. Not

everyone in the post code showing as the winner, wins. The post code described is only half the winning ticket – the rest of the ticket number is withheld because the winner may not necessarily want the public to know they have won.

Where the same post code has been shown as winning, this may not necessarily mean that the same person has won. We have many players in the ME3 8SU post code area and therefore it is entirely possible that different people have won.

DISCLAIMER:

The High Halstow Community Lottery is administered by a Committee formed by villagers of High Halstow and is not connected in any way with High Halstow Parish Council.

Only the winners POST CODE is shown – their house number is withheld. Not every household in that POST CODE would win even if they are playing – the house number is essential.

Game	Venue drawn	Postcode	Area	Amount	Total won to date
October game (Nov draw)	Powder & Cartridge Upnor	ME3 8TD ME3 7ST	Longfield Avenue, High Halstow Salt Lane, Cliffe	£1,150 £200	£13,560
September game (Oct draw)	Rye Street Equestrian Cliffe	ME3 8SU ME3 7UD	Goodwood Close, High Halstow Rye Street, Cliffe	£1,000 £200	£12,210

**For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk**

Parish Council News

Resume of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2017

The meeting held on 8th November was attended by all parish councillors and four members of the public.

There were two planning applications. A response of “no objection” was made to one and Gary Jerreat would look at the other before a comment was made, due to a reported objection about roof lights from the resident of a property across the street.

George again raised the issue of the parish undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a planning matter that can eventually become part of planning guidance within the Local Plan and gives the parish a degree of control over the type of development and where it can be allowed. Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council is in the middle of doing one at the moment. They have been asked to speak to a meeting on their experience so far. We hope this will be at December’s meeting, but if not, at the January meeting.

There had been an exhibition by Redrow that afternoon on their plans for about 70 dwellings on land off Britannia Road, adjacent to Willowbank Drive and Longfield Avenue. Those who had visited had been disappointed about the calibre of the Redrow representatives.

There is some welding to be done to a couple of play items on the Recreation Ground and the cost of this work was approved.

The “Home of the Heron” signs at the entrances to the village need refurbishing or replacing and it was agreed to do this.

You may have noticed vandalism to our smart new bus shelters. The repairs are now done. It was emphasised that vandalism must be reported to the police, however trivial it may seem – by reporting it, a picture will be built up and it will be easier for the police to deal with it. It is planned to replace the remaining metal bus shelters with wooden one next year, which includes moving the shelter by the vet’s to

replace the ancient one on the A228 near the roundabout. Brian Williams has discovered there are grants available to help with the cost. Brian will also apply to the High Halstow Community Lottery for part funding of the new bus shelters.

Martin Andrews reported on a Community Safety Partnership drop-in meeting he attended. He mentioned the van parked inconsiderately in Gypsy Way. He learnt that Kent Police was expecting the numbers of PCSOs to rise by January.

A question was asked about Neighbourhood Watch in the village and Linda Atkinson volunteered to contact the police about it.

George put forward the idea of number plate recognition CCTV at the entrances to the village. Mick O’Hanlon volunteered to investigate.

The Youth Club has now opened and will meet fortnightly until Christmas, after which it will be reviewed. They still need adult helpers of all kinds.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman attended a school assembly and presented the prizes for the poetry competition to commemorate the end of the First World War. It is intended that a plaque will be made of the winning poem to be put up in the Memorial Hall.

There has been a suggestion that poppies could be put on lampposts next year, when Armistice Day will be on Remembrance Sunday and it will also be the centenary of the end of the war.

You may have noticed an advertisement for a new parish clerk. The Clerk will be retiring at the end of May next year and it’s been decided to recruit her replacement as soon as possible to ensure a good hand-over period

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th December in the Memorial Hall, starting at 8pm. Everyone is welcome.

Come and meet your Parish Councillors



Christine Watson and Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors, will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: **Tuesday 12th December** from 10.30am–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.

Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, <i>Chair</i>	01634 250 286
Christine Watson, <i>Vice Chair</i>	01634 256 529
Martin Andrews	07984 791 029
Linda Atkinson	07825 619 353
Ray Collins	01634 250 105
Gary Jerreat	01634 253 999
Bill Khatkar	07775 668 620
Brian Williams	07908 006 448
Mick O’Hanlon	07752 873 379

Your Councillors can also be contacted through the Parish Clerk Mrs Roxana Brammer.
Email: clerk@highhalstow.org.uk, Tel: 01474 871 269

**For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk**

High Halstow News Update

Roxana Brammer, our Parish Clerk, who has served our Parish Council is set to retire. Roxana has decided to step down on 31st May 2018 after over 15 years of service and seeing us through many ups and downs with a variety of different Councillors.

She will continue as Clerk for other parishes for some while.

The recruitment of a replacement begins this month. We hope to short list applicants early in January and have a new clerk working alongside Roxana until she retires.

The new clerk will begin work on our new much needed "Neighbourhood Plan".

I am sure you will join with us in thanking Roxana for her commitment and support she has brought to the role over the years and wish Her a happy and long retirement.

George Crozer
On behalf of
High Halstow Parish Councillors

HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL PARISH CLERK

High Halstow Parish Council is seeking to recruit a Clerk, who is the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer of the Council. The Council consists of 9 elected councillors and employs 2 street cleaners in addition to the Clerk.

The post involves working from home.

The Clerk will be employed part-time for 10 hours/week, which will include some evenings and occasional weekends or public holidays. Salary range is £28,822 - £33,437, pro rata and starting salary will be according to experience and qualifications.

Candidates will have a good standard of education; be able to write minutes of meetings and reports; be able to handle the Council's finances; be able to supervise staff and be conversant with Microsoft Word and Excel.

He/she will preferably hold the CiLCA or other relevant qualification, although training will be given and CPD is encouraged. The Council is considering undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan.

The current Clerk retires in May 2018 and there will be a hand-over period. Closing date for applications 22nd December, with interviews in January and appointment as soon as possible thereafter.

To discuss what is involved contact the Clerk, Roxana Brammer on 01474 871269.

Please send your CV with a covering letter to the Clerk, High Halstow Parish Council, 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Kent DA3 8LQ or by email to clerk@highhalstow.org.uk

Relief in Need Charity

The charity has existed in High Halstow for many years and is an amalgamation of smaller charities/private trusts, the oldest of which dates from 1716. It exists to help the residents of the Parish of High Halstow who are going through a time of need or hardship. This could include not only widows and widowers but also to help people of all ages and from all walks of life. Requests can also be made by organisations or groups in the Parish.

Requests for financial assistance can be made at any time of year, in writing, email or in person to any one of the Trustees. A resident can apply on behalf of someone else in the village – but their permission must be obtained first. All requests are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

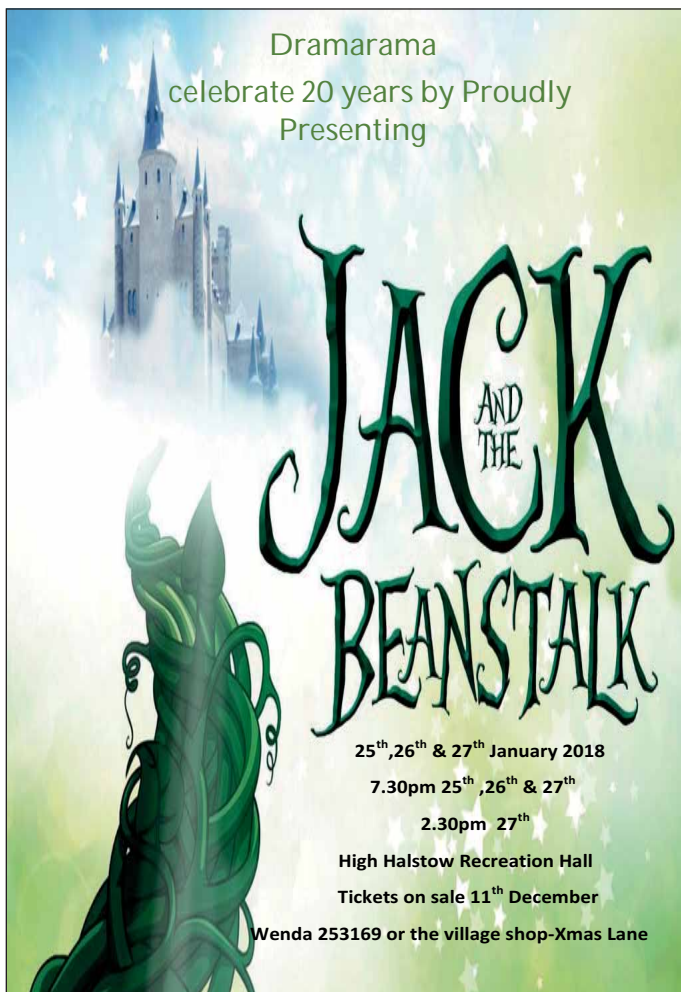
If you are not sure about a request and think it may be rejected, do not be afraid to speak to any of the Trustees listed below about it. These funds are there for villagers who need help.

Trustees

Rev. Stephen Gwilt	The Rectory 01634 250 637
Stuart Bailey	27 Cooling Road 07976 760 844
June Collins	6 Marsh Crescent 01634 250 105
Lesley Munday	22 Willowbank Drive 01634 250 276
John Myatt	Decoy Hill Road 01634 256 185
Chris Peek	2 Willowbank Drive 01634 252 604
Natasha Turner	12 Marsh Crescent
Office email address:	Office.hhrin@gmail.com

Save the Date

Dramarama
celebrate 20 years by Proudly
Presenting



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

25th, 26th & 27th January 2018
7.30pm 25th, 26th & 27th
2.30pm 27th
High Halstow Recreation Hall
Tickets on sale 11th December
Wenda 253169 or the village shop-Xmas Lane



Due to its amazing success
Knit and Natter
Wednesday 6th December
2:00pm-4:00pm
St. Margaret Church
All welcome

High Halstow Primary School
Christmas Fayre
Friday 1st December
3.30pm – 5.30pm
Come and support the school fund
raising High Halstow
Community Lottery draw –
you may win!



Christmas service times 2017



11th December Allhallows 6:30pm Carol Service
17th December High Halstow 6:30pm Carol Service
24th December High Halstow 5.00pm Childrens service (visit from santa at 6:00pm)
24th December Allhallows 11:30pm Midnight Communion service
25th December High Halstow 8:00am Holy Communion service 9:00 Christmas Family Service
25th December Allhallows 10:30am Christmas Family Service

FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S

Christmas Tree Festival 2017

This year we are planning to hold the Festival in St Margaret's Church.

This will enable the trees to be displayed for several days between Saturday 9th December and Saturday 16th December and including some afternoons during that week. Refreshments will be available with entertainment on Saturdays

We can display a maximum of 23 trees so if you would like to be involved please contact June Collins on junemari49@gmail.com or 01634 250105.

Tree applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis for a £5 fee. The closing date for applications is 25 November.



Calendar

DECEMBER	1 st Friday	15:30-17:30	High Halstow Primary School Christmas Fete	Primary School, High Halstow
	1 st Friday	17:00	HHCL Christmas draw	Primary School Fete, High Halstow
	6 th Wednesday	14:00-16:00	Knit and Natter	St Margaret's Church, High Halstow
	9 th Saturday	11:00-16:00	Christmas Tree Festival with Community Choir and Karman Dancers	St Margaret's Church, High Halstow <i>refreshments available</i>
	15 th Friday	19:30	Quiz Night	Recreation Hall, High Halstow
	16 th Saturday	11:00-16:00	Christmas Tree Festival with Matthew Crane	St Margaret's Church, High Halstow <i>refreshments available</i>
	24 th Sunday	16:00	Santa comes to High Halstow	High Halstow (<i>times are approximate</i>)
JANUARY	25 th Thursday	19:30	Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime Dramarama has been running for 20 years in January 2018	Recreation Hall, High Halstow <i>Entrance – Tickets on sale 11th December from Wenda 01634 253169 or from the Village shop in Christmas Lane</i>
	26 th Friday	19:30		
	27 th Saturday	14:30		
	27 th Saturday	19:30		
	28 th Sunday	12:00-16:00	Craft & Well being Fayre	Recreation Hall, High Halstow
FEBRUARY	10 th Saturday	12:00-16:00	St Valentine Fayre	Chattenden Community Centre

If you have an event coming up in High Halstow please email: Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk for inclusion

REGULAR DATES			
MONDAYS	Line Dancing	11:00-12:30	Memorial Hall
Alternate Mondays	Community Choir	20:00-21:00	St Margaret's Church
TUESDAYS	Kings Kitchen	10:00-13:00	Memorial Hall
	Circuit Training	18:15-19:15	Memorial Hall
	Youth Club	19:00-20:45	Recreation Hall
	Bell Ringers	19:30-21:00	St Margaret's Church
WEDNESDAYS	Tai Chi	10:30-11:30	Memorial Hall
THURSDAYS	Seated Exercise	11:00-11:45	Memorial Hall
	Sugar Babes	19:00	Memorial Hall
FRIDAYS	Pilates	14:00	Memorial Hall
SATURDAYS	Bowls Coaching	09:00-11.30	Deangate Bowls Club
	Karmann Dancers	09:00	Memorial Hall
	KLUK Martial Arts www.klukacademy.co.uk/hoo-village-hall	09:30	Memorial Hall
SUNDAYS	Holy Communion BCP	08:00	St Margaret's Church
	Deja Vu Spiritual Centre	18:30	Village Hall

Every 1 st WED	Women's Institute	19:30	Memorial Hall
Every 2 nd WED	Parish Council Meeting	20:00	Memorial Hall
Every 2 nd TUES	Gardening Club	20:00	Memorial Hall
Every 3 rd WED	Whist Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Every 4 th WED	Friendly Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Last FRI	Quiz Nights	20:00	Memorial Hall
1 st and 3 rd SUN	All Age Worship	09:30	St Margaret's Church
2 nd and 5 th SUN	Morning Prayer	09:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 4 th SUN	Family Communion	09:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 1 st SUN	Holy Communion	18:30	St Margaret's Church
Every 3 rd SUN	Informal Worship	18:30	St Margaret's Church
1 st and 3 rd SUN	Baptisms by arrangement	09:30	St Margaret's Church

High Halstow Village Hall

Quiz Nights

Remember the last quiz for the year is December 15th.
To book a table, please ring Margaret on 01903 340953 or 07702 196179. Entry £3.00 per person.

Door from 7.30pm. Why not start your Christmas Celebrations with a fun evening

Day Time Groups

One thing we haven't yet cracked is to see the hall used more during the daytime, so if you are running a group or just looking at a venue for a one of event, meeting etc then look no further than the Village Hall. Remember we have the main hall, the Green Room (the Doctors Waiting Room) or the Blue Room (upstairs), you can hire the hall that suits your needs. For more details please contact our booking clerk on 07752 682437

A 'Taste of Christmas'



This Christmas fair is an annual parish social event held from which any proceeds go towards the day to day running of St Margaret's and All Saints Churches.

As in previous year's parishioners had been busy making preserves, cakes, Christmas ornaments etc. to sell as well as pre loved books and gifts. Visitors also had the opportunity to partake of festive refreshments.

Thank you to all the contributors, helpers and customers who attended, in raising just short of £1000.

June Collins



For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk



Remembrance

Villagers gathered at St Margaret's for the annual service of Remembrance. The church was beautifully decorated with the knitted poppies made by enthusiastic knitters at home and during knit and natter sessions held at the church.

The service was led by Reader Di Welch and the Sermon given by Rev Gwilt who then dashed to All Saints for their Service.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Village by Chris Watson and a Soldier from the School of Military Engineering. Candles were lit to honour those whose names appear on the memorial stone.

June Collins



The HHCL Committee
would like to
wish our players a very

**Happy Christmas
and lucky new year**

Thank you for your
continued support.

With your help a total of

£13,560

has been won,

with a total of **£4,480**

for charitable causes.



If you haven't joined yet then
why not start your new year
with a win on our Lottery

It could be you!

Linda Atkinson 07825 619 353



Opening in the New Year

Kenpo Kwai

coming to High Halstow



All training is good training

Being it jogging or working out or in the gym, field or track, or team sports, all are good for your physical health.

I favour team games for two reasons. They build friendships, mutual respect and comradeship, and build social awareness. Having said that many individuals would train to be the best they can be. By pursuing "individual" goals this requires strong mental concentration as well as physical hardship to become a champion. The mental arts gives you both options.

Many sports have a "sell by date". You get to a certain age and retire because you cannot compete or the injuries outweigh the pleasure. Many Martial artists train all their lives as it is both a physical and mental discipline. There are many additional benefits that are often not seen or understood by outside observers. Self-defense training is a physical as well as social activity. It can be done with friends and family and has many benefits other than learning how to defend oneself. It builds a child's confidence, the syllabus helps the child to set goals and work to achieve them through the badge and belt system. Parents training with their kids become closer as they know what their kids need to do because they are doing it too. The training helps the individual to be resilient both physically and mentally. Children learn coping strategies. This increased focus helps with school work and other activities.

It encourages the building of social networks and friendships that in many cases span age groups, social groups and even international friendships and they last a lifetime. It is often said that discipline in the martial arts is a "key" element. This is true but this is not the discipline being enforced upon you by school parent and society. This is a realisation that through hard work and concentration you can achieve skills and respect from your peers. These skills and mind-set can "carry over" into all walks of life, schoolwork, sports and business. The physical skills that you learn within training build speed timing and all over body co-ordination, a respect for your training partners. In today's society we all need a bit of confidence building.

Prof Soke Any McGill

10th Degree O Grandmaster Kenpo and holder of several black belts
International Martial Arts Teacher



Contact: Prof Soke Andy McGill 07519 699 215 or Bill Khatkar 07775 668 620

Classified

YOU COULD ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE **FROM ONLY £10** email: Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk

The Horseshoe and Castle
Tel: 01634 221691



Christmas Menu 2017

Christmas Dinners Served from Midday 1st December until 9pm 23rd December

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve Bar 12 Noon until Late - Kitchen 12 - 6pm
Christmas Day Bar Only 12 Noon until 3pm.
Boxing Day Bar Only 12 Noon until 3pm

New Years Eve 12 Noon until Early Hours New Years Day -
Kitchen 12 - 4pm then 7.30pm until late New Year Gourmet Only.
New Years Day 12 Noon until 5pm - Kitchen 12 - 3pm

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

www.horseshoeandcastle.com
Main Road, Cooling, Rochester, Kent ME3 8DJ

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Presents

Craft & Well Being Fayre

28 Jan 2018 12-4pm

High Halstow Village Hall
The Street
ME3 8SQ

Join us at Craftastic Events for craft Stalls,
Holistic Healing, Tea Room
& Psychic Readings

St Valentine Fayre

 **10 Feb 2018 12-4pm** 

Chattenden Community Centre
Swinton Ave
ME3 8PH

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Fully Refurbished with an Inglenook open fire for those cosy winter nights. The Cottage is set in the Tiny Hamlet of Trewint. 1 minute walk to the Moors. Only a few cottages down is the famous cottage of John Wesley, with the smallest church in the World. Bude, Boscastle, Port Isaac all within 20 minutes of the cottage. Jamaca Inn only 8 minutes up the road.



Long weekends and weekly bookings available. Check out dates.

The Cottage is advertised with Sykes Cottages: (<http://www.sykescottages.co.uk/cottages/Cornwall-Fivelanes/Laburnum-Cottage-935455.html>)

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Memorial Hall, High Halstow
6.15pm-7.15pm

Just £5



QUALIFICATIONS

Premier Active IQ Level 3 Diploma in Fitness Instructing and Personal Training. Awards in Emergency First Aid at Work, Circuit Training and Instructing, Kettlebell Exercise Instructing and Training. Instructing Gym training based Exercise and the Principles of Nutrition to a Physical Activity Programme.

High Halstow & District Garden Club

On Tuesday 14th of November Sue Shaw gave a wonderful passionate presentation on her Road to the Chelsea Flower Show with the Kent branch of the NAFAS (*the National Association of Flower Arranging Society*).

Our next meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 12th December. A buffet with entertainment has been organised by the committee. This evening will be for members only. There is no meeting in January.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 13th February 2018.

It just leaves me to wish all of our members and all of those interested in our activities a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Happy gardening to you all
Michael Hughes

Down to earth gardening tips

– Alison Wells

CHRISTMAS PLANT PROFILE:

Ilex aquifolium [Common holly]

Ilex altacrerencis 'Golden King'

Ilex aquifolium 'Silver Queen'

Ilex aquifolium grows easily on any soil and any aspect. You get red berries on pollinated female trees. But try Ilex altacrerencis 'Golden King' that has golden edged leaves and red berries and is a smaller bushier tree or shrub. Ilex aquifolium 'Silver Queen' is also a smaller bushy tree, the leaves have broad cream margins but this one does not have red berries.

Strangely enough, 'Golden King' is a female plant and has berries and 'Silver Queen' is a male plant!

Things to do this month out in the garden when the sun is shining:

- If you are keeping tender plants overwinter in the garden, ensure that they have a dry mulch such as chipped bark around them. I like to think that I'm tucking them up in a warm blanket!
- Plant blueberries in pots with ericaceous compost; grow two different types so they cross pollinate.
- Leave the flower heads on your hydrangeas until spring to protect buds from frost,
- Gather up fallen leaves from under roses to reduce the risk of disease next year.
- Make sure the ties on climbing plants are secure.
- There's still time to plant tulips – you can get some bargains now.



- Lift and divide clumps of rhubarb.
- Keep some garden fleece at hand to cover precious plants should the weather turn really bad.
- If you haven't already done so, clean the greenhouse out ready for an early start in spring and if you are keeping plants in the greenhouse, don't forget to give them a little water now and then but sparingly.
- And, if you are feeling like doing something energetic to use up those excessive calories, spike your lawn all over with a garden fork to improve drainage.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS GARDENING!

St. Margaret's Church Sunday Services

8:00am – High Halstow
Holy Communion Book of
Common Prayer

9:30am – High Halstow
1st and 3rd Sundays – All age worship
2nd and 5th Sundays – Morning Prayer
4th Sunday – Family Communion

6:30pm – High Halstow
1st Sunday – Holy Communion
3rd Sunday – Informal Worship

Caring for the needs of the community for over 1000 years

**Baptisms by
arrangement
1st or 3rd Sunday
of each month
at 9.30am**

For further
information.
Rev Stephen Gwilt
01634 250637
OR email: Stepheng-
wilt2@hotmail.co.uk

NEED TO HIRE A HALL?

If you are interested in hiring either of the halls in the village for a function or meeting then please contact:

Memorial Hall Angela Forward 01634 251756
Recreation Hall Martin Mitchell 07752 682437

**** Please do not call on a Sunday ****

High Halstow Hikers

The weather in the hours before our November walk was horrible and resulted in a smaller group of 9 of us meeting at Mote Park, Maidstone. We were, in fact, rewarded by the rain ceasing a few minutes before we started and, although there was little sun, we did not get wet.

Our spirits had already been lifted by the welcoming thick carpet of golden leaves along the avenue at the main entrance to the park. The route took us around the north and east sides of the park and through a short stretch of housing to reach open countryside and then on to the small attractive church of St Nicholas

at Otham. From there we walked across open fields along footpaths, which were thankfully well-kept to Stoneacre, a lovely 15th Century House owned by the National Trust. We were due to turn for home at that point but a few days before an architecturally



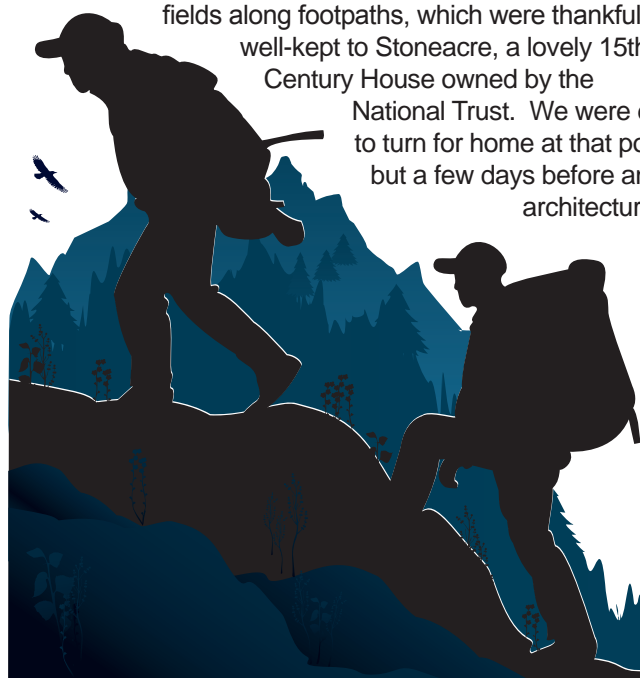
striking house about half-a-mile further on had appeared on TV because of it being short-listed by RIBA as a potential House of the Year. We therefore walked to see this and could appreciate the very unusual roofs of the cubic-like take on a cluster of oast houses (but not much more). Close to Stoneacre we stopped at a very unusual village sign that features many tools and was labelled as "The tools that shaped our village" (see photo). The return took us around the south side of the park to complete a walk of a little more than 8 miles.

All of us had visited Mote Park before but like most people had not ventured far from the lake. We were struck by just how large the park is (440 acres) with a great variety of landscape ranging from purposely swamp-like areas to the splendid developed area around Mote House and wide-open spaces for all sorts of recreation giving views to the North Downs in the distance. Moving beyond the main hub of the park provides a rewarding experience: a circular walk around it can easily take well over an hour.

Some of the walkers below the unusual village sign at Otham that illustrates "the tools that shaped (the) village"

Our December walk will start from High Halstow village hall at 10.00 on Sunday 10th. The walk will be about 2.5 hours with a route that is chosen closer to the date to take into account underfoot conditions. As ever all are welcome.

Any questions can be made to Mitchell at mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or 01634 254 428.



Kings Kitchen

A Coffee and Cake Café
for the whole village

Open 10am-1pm

Every Tuesday
in the Memorial Hall,
High Halstow

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a cuppa and a chat.
A warm welcome awaits you.

Burnt House Farm Dog Grooming

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For appointments
contact **Jade** at
doggroomingbyjade@yahoo.com
07751 209737



For further information on High Halstow please visit our village website.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Sport in High Halstow

Darts (played by the Cricket Team)

As the cricket remains in hibernation until the New Year, the cricket club darts team have continued to play other teams from on and around the peninsula. In the last month, HHCC have come up against decent darts teams

in the form of Westcourt B and Strood Conservative Club and unfortunately we lost 12-0 and 7-5 respectively. This leaves the team currently placed 7th in Division 3. Hopefully a couple of wins over the festive period will see the team climb the table.

The current standings are as follows:

	Team Name	180s	100+ Checkout	Played:	Won:	Drawn:	Lost:	Points:
1st	Westcourt Arms B		1	8	8	0	0	16
2nd	Westcourt Arms A	3		7	5	0	2	10
3rd	Red Dog			7	5	0	2	10
4th	Strood Conservative Club		2	7	4	1	2	9
5th	Prince of Wales B			7	4	0	3	8
6th	Prince of Wales A			7	1	2	4	4
7th	High Halstow Cricket Club			7	2	0	5	4
8th	Higham Club			7	0	2	5	2
9th	Steam Packet B			7	0	1	6	1

High Halstow Football Club

Manager – *Graham Beale*

At the time of going to press High Halstow Football Club were still at the top Division Four of the Rochester and District Football League. The team play on a Saturday afternoon and are pleased to see spectators coming along.



LEAGUE TABLE				
Table	Fixtures	Results		
ADULT		DIVISION FOUR	Go	
Teams	P	GD	Pts	
HIGH HALSTOW	6	17	16	
GRAIN	6	9	16	
GOLDEN KNIGHTS UNITED	5	24	12	
MEDWAY ATHLETIC	7	7	10	
UK PAVILION	6	8	9	
PARK REGIS	5	8	9	
NEWTOWN SOCIAL ATHLETIC	6	1	9	
BORSTAL WANDERERS	5	-3	6	

Mature skilled/experienced lady seeks full time permanent live in carer position.

Currently in St Mary's Hoo, house and pet sitting at the home of my last client, who sadly, recently passed away.

Excellent references from previous employers upon request.

Available to start work immediately.

If interested, please contact me on my mobile:
07918 312 661

Or e-mail me on: xphynxy@gmail.com

Hoo Spice

Indian Take Away Menu

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Snowfall during Christmas 1987

The village was cut-off for about 4 days, although it seemed longer. A farmer bought us in a load of bread from the Highway, where the Bakers lorry had got to! My wife and daughter, tied rope to the bread trays and dragged the bread all round the village to the elderly and where they knew young babies were. Needless to say being offered a drink at most stops, they were pretty well plastered when they got back.

The Army arrived by Snow-cats, dragging trailers filled with food from Tesco's main store, which was a lot of top end supplies, that their own stores didn't need. We didn't have a clue at the prices, so we guessed, (on the low side, as it happens), and when the bill arrived, months later, we were out by a couple of hundred quid. Luckily the village charity stepped in and helped us out.

The Secretary of State flew in by Helicopter with his entourage and camera crew. The army had to take out some of the supplies they had delivered so that he could be seen helping to deliver the food to the needy. As far as I remember, gas & electricity were not affected very much.

This all happened because the EU issued a directive that Farmers had to CUT DOWN THEIR HEDGEROWS, and farm up to the edges of their fields. We only had the one heavy fall of snow, which was cleared from our approach roads the first day. Then the

Chatting with WI members on our Craft day members remembered...

- Paul Frost from Willowbank taking a sleigh and walking to the Farm for sacks of potatoes for villagers.
- Kate Aide was in the helicopter for the "rescue"
- The villagers were rationed with milk and bread
- One couple took it in turns on alternate days with their neighbours to sit in each others' houses to save on fuel and relieve the boredom.
- Farmers were out with their tractors
- The sense of comradeship was fantastic.
- Lots of people were out with their children.

wind blew all the snow from the fields, into the roads, That is what cut us off.

It was actually a wonderful time to be here, the way everybody got stuck-in helping everybody who needed help, the laughter and togetherness was something to remember.

John Pink
Ex Village Shop Owner



I was 10 at the time and living in Allhallows.

The snow drifts were bigger than me in places. I lost my boots several times whilst out playing in it.

I remember walking to Stoke as our shop ran out of basics. All the villagers got together to dig out a big clearing for a helicopter to bring in food supplies

and I'm sure it ended up landing somewhere totally different after all that effort. There were news reporters interviewing people at the end of my road and we made it on to the evening news, which I thought was really exciting at the time.

Marie Calvert

NEXT EDITION – February 2018

Contributions for February should be sent by 21st January to:

Linda Atkinson via email: editor@highhalstow.org.uk or telephone: 07825 619 353