



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron



May 2018

## High Halstow Youth Club History

High Halstow Youth Club started on 21st April 1993 so it is now 25 years old.

From 1993 until summer 2017 it had ran each Tuesday during term times from 7pm in the Recreation Hall, for children age 9 and over.

Since last summer it has been scaled down with fewer sessions open and fewer children attending because there have been fewer adults available and willing to run the club.

Please read the letter published here and help the Youth Club if you can.

Thank you.

## YOUTH CLUB POSSIBLE CLOSURE

Dear All

As you may be aware, following the letter that was sent out to parents on 10 April, High Halstow Youth Club has remained closed since Easter, due to the pending retirement of members of its Steering Committee.



In order for a youth club to continue and for the club to develop and prosper, a new Committee needs to be formed. New people are needed to take responsibility for the overall management of the club.

We, the existing Committee members, feel that it may be beneficial for anyone interested in taking on the development and delivery of High Halstow Youth Club to be offered the opportunity to discuss the roles with the previous Committee members and to formalise the handover process.

As such, the AGM will be held as usual this year on Tuesday 8 May.

This AGM will not follow the usual structure but will focus solely on the decision process that has led to the closure of the club, and the next steps to be taken. Ultimately, the AGM will be used to determine the future of High Halstow Youth Club. If this is a conversation you are keen to be part of, or if you're interested in taking on a role in the management of the youth club please come along on to High Halstow Village Hall (Green Room) on Tuesday 8 May at 7pm.

If you have any queries, or are interested in volunteering for a role with the new Steering Committee please contact:

Chris Peek - 01634 252604 or  
chris.peek@lineone.net

Cat Archer - carcher1391@gmail.com

Melvyn Mears - 01634 256529 or  
mears264@gmail.com

**High Halstow Youth Club Steering Committee**

### ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with much sadness that we inform villagers of the death of Lesley Munday. Lesley played a huge part of making this village the great place it is today. She will be very sadly missed. Tributes will follow in June HHT.

## Editorial

Much of the edition this month concentrates on land development in the village. This even ties in too with the Hikers report on how Cliffe and Cliffe Woods has changed due to land development in the area in a few short years. Draft figures show that our village could more than double in size. We are doing what we can to appeal this.

You will have seen that we have reverted back to the original heron banner for the front page as there were a few complaints on the new style.

Always happy to oblige.

## Letters

No letters received again this month for publication.

If you would like to write to the Editor for publication please send an email to [Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk](mailto:Editor@HighHalstow.org.uk) or write to Linda Atkinson at

32 Goodwood Close, High Halstow, ME3 8SU

## St Margaret's Church Sunday Services

Rev. Stephen Gwilt 01634 250 637 or email  
[StephenGwilt2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:StephenGwilt2@hotmail.co.uk)

08:00 Holy Communion book of Common Prayer

09:30 1st & 3rd Sundays—all age worship  
2nd & 5th Sundays—Morning Prayer  
4th Sunday—Family Communion

6:30 1st Sunday—Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday—Informal Workshop

**Baptisms by arrangement**  
**1st or 3rd Sunday of each month at 09:30**

## Need to hire a hall?

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

**Memorial Hall—Angela Forward 01634 251 756**

**Recreation Hall—Martin Mitchell 07752 682 437**

Please do not call on a Sunday

### Relief in Need

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 and 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 of all. 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.

Rev. Stephen Gwilt The Rectory 01634 250 637

Stuart Bailey 27 Cooling Road 07976 760 844

June Collins 6 Marsh Crescent 01634 250 105

John Myatt Decoy Hill Road 01634 256 185

Chris Peek 2 Willowbank Drive 01634 250 276

Natasha Turner 12 Marsh Crescent

Office email [Office.hhrin@gmail.com](mailto:Office.hhrin@gmail.com)

### TINKER BELLS DAY CARE

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## Christian Aid Week May 13th to 19th

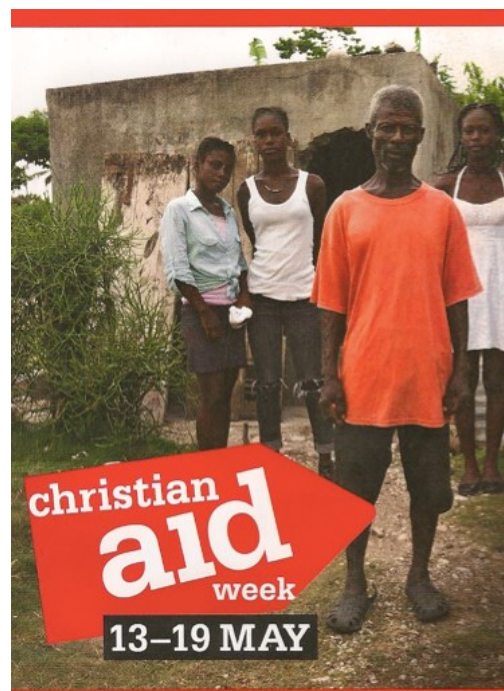
It's all about internally displaced people this year (IDPs). But who are they? They come with nothing. All are without food, jobs, schools and healthcare. They have no money, no way of buying food, clothes or medicine. They have nowhere to live. Aid agencies, often first among them Christian Aid, are contributing to food aid, water and sanitation. The humanitarian principle of delivering aid only according to the need of the recipient is paramount. Why are they not treated as refugees? Because they have not crossed an international boundary.

They are fleeing from persecution, war, hurricanes, floods, famine, drought whatever ..... It's a global issue. More than 40 million people worldwide are internally displaced.

Please support this worthy cause.

Thank you

**Jane Cook**



### Elizabeth Meredith

Our grateful thanks go to the 250 plus people who attended Elizabeth's Memorial Service in St Margaret's Church on 6 February and to others who expressed their sympathy, sense of loss and condolence by cards and messages.

Elizabeth was clearly loved and respected by many in the village as a Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Church Member, Chorister, Founder of The Kings Kitchen and Teacher in both our Village School and at Hoo.

Our thanks also go to Rev. Stephen Gwilt for his advice and support. Donations to her two nominated charities, Tree Aid and Water Aid have now exceeded Two Thousand Two Hundred Pounds. We remain devastated by our loss but proud of the esteem in which she was held by so many.

**Mike, Tamsin, James, Craig, Paula, Callum, Ennor and Finley.**

### Kings Kitchen

**Open 10 am—1 pm**



**Every Tuesday  
In the Memorial Hall  
High Halstow**

During **Christian Aid** week The Kings Kitchen (15 May) will be raising funds for the charity.

Please come for coffee or tea and a piece of cake.

It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbours in the village.

All welcome

**The Kings Kitchen**

### **Resume of the Parish Council Meeting on 11 April 2018 held in the Memorial Hall, The Street, High Halstow.**

During April we had the annual Parish meeting, an extraordinary meeting of the parish council and a Parish Council Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 9th of April and was a chance for us to come together as a community and celebrate the achievements and successes of all of the different organisations and clubs in the village. The reports that were submitted by the council are available in this edition of the HH Times. At this meeting the chair highlighted the strength of our parish and the generosity of spirit within it. He also thanked the members of the Parish Council for their dedication and hard work to ensure that High Halstow remains an excellent place to live.

At the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting also held on the 9th of April the council reviewed and accepted the Terms of Reference for our Neighbourhood Plan Steering group. This means that work can start in earnest regarding starting to pull together the information that is required in order for us to write a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th saw the Planning department of Medway Council deliver a presentation regarding the Local Plan – there was an excellent turn out for this meeting – the key questions from the meeting were around infrastructure, funding, and the importance of the peninsula being able to retain its rural status. You can still submit your opinions regarding the local plan to Medway council until the 11th of May.

### **Cat Bloomfield, Acting Clerk to High Halstow Parish Council**



Chris(tine) Watson and Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors, will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 5 May from 10.30 – 12.00pm and every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

George Crozer, Chairman	01634 250 286
Christine Watson, Vice Chair	01634 256 529
Martin Andrews	07984 791 029
Linda Atkinson	07825 619 353
Ray Colins	01634 250 105
Gary Jerreat	01634 253 999
Bill Khatkar	07775 668 620
Brian Williams	07908006 448
Mick O'Hanlon	07752 873 379

Your Councillors can also be contacted on 01474 871 269 or through the Parish Clerk Mrs Roxana Brammer [clerk@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:clerk@highhalstow.org.uk)



### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It has come to the intention of the Parish Council that a resident has been disposing of waste on one of our green spaces within the village. It is illegal to fly tip soil or indeed any waste. The Local Authority has facilities at several sites in Medway for the disposal of waste. We ask that residents respect their surroundings and use the appropriate facilities for disposal of house waste.

Persons seen fly tipping will be reported to the police.

**High Halstow Parish Council**



## NEW BUS SHELTERS

During the last financial year, High Halstow Parish Council voted to finalise the updating of all the village's old metal bus shelters to a more appropriate village wooden style structure to further enhance the beauty of the village.

Christmas Lane had the first shelter in the first phase that could be afforded within the budget set in that year. Councillor Brian Williams took up the baton of this task. After the success of the first shelter, he processed all the appropriate paperwork for the next two wooden bus shelters in The Street in last year's budget. One was placed outside the Recreation hall and the other by Eden Road.

We are now in a new financial year and, once again, Brian has supervised the placing of the additional new wooden bus shelters. One has been placed in Christmas Lane, by the Vets and the other along Herons Bank, Britannia Road.

Brian has also supervised the re-siting of the shelter that had been outside the Vet to replace the broken shelter along the main thoroughfare known as the Sharnal Street bus stop.

Organising the purchase, planning and siting of these new bus shelters is a long and arduous process and we should congratulate Brian on a job well done.



## High Halstow Village Hall

### Annual General Meeting—May 9th 6.30 pm

With the AGM on 9 May the Committee will be approaching the regular users of the Hall to come along and provide additional support to the Committee. It would be appreciated if the work in keeping the hall going is shared with the various groups so not only the improvements can take place but to share the running of the Hall. This is your chance to hear what has happened and ask questions over the past year

### Future Events

New Jersey Boys	18 May	Sold out
Quiz £3 per person	15 June	To book table call Margaret on 01903 340 953 or 07702 196 179
Garage Safari	14 July	Details in HH Times
Quiz £3 per person	14 September	To book table call Margaret on 01903 340 953 or 07702 196 179
Barn Dance	October— TBC	Details to follow
Event to mark 100 years of the end of WW1	11 November	Details to follow
Quiz £3 per person	14 December	To book table call Margaret on 01903 340 953 or 07702 196 179

### Day Time Groups

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 Blue Room (the Doctors Waiting Room) or the Green Room (upstairs), you can hire the hall that suits your needs. For more details please contact our booking clerk on 07752 682437.

### Plastic Chairs

If you know of any organisation that wants any plastic chairs or whether you have a need for them yourself the Village Hall Committee will accept any reasonable offer for these chairs, We currently have about 100 to dispose off so if you would like them please email [gary@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:gary@highhalstow.org.uk).

**Gary Thomas, Chairman Recreation Hall Committee**



**GUITAR LESSONS**

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### High Halstow Hikers

In April we walked around the area to the east of Cliffe Woods.

We had planned a different route to the west but the condition of several of the footpaths was poor after the very wet early Spring weather and the walkable roads and better footpaths back in the direction of High Halstow were preferable.

The figure of eight route had its "neck" at the hamlet of Spendiff, was easy and enjoyable. It allowed a few of us that were brought up in the area to reminisce about our time in Cliffe Woods as children when the now large estate was no more than a few tracks with shacks; it seemed a bit sinister at the time with many so-called eccentrics living there. There were also more recent memories of the old Merry Boys pub and the Staff-of-life restaurant/pub, which are now converted to domestic use.

In Spendiff itself we passed the old Methodist church where the commemorative plaques on its side show family names that have continued to be prominent in the area till now, eg multiple Batchelors. Overall the walk was between five and six miles and was followed by an ad hoc lunch for some in the Horseshoe and Castle in Cooling.

On Sunday 6th May we will start our six to seven mile walk at 10.00 from the Dorset Arms in Withyham (Buckhurst Park, Withyham, Hartfield TN7 4BD). This sits on the B2110 a few miles to the west of Tunbridge Wells and north of Crowborough. The walk has figured as one of the Times Good Walks. As ever all are welcome and questions can be addressed to Mitchell on 01634 254428 or [mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com](mailto:mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com).

### Gardening Club

At last the weather has been kind to us all. Plenty of jobs to catch up with now that spring time is here after a really dreary cold wet winter.

On Tuesday 10th April Jackie Aviolet came to our club meeting to talk about Herb Cultivation and Folklore. We were amazed by her stories of everyday plants that according to folklore had special properties. The talk had a few surprising facts and was filled with funny anecdotes.

Jackie also runs the yearly quiz at the Detling garden show on Sunday 27th May. Our club has entered a team. Watch this space.

The trip to Lullingstone castle gardens on 5th July is now full. However if you are interested in coming with us please contact Marj Ives on 01634 255 398 who will put you on our reserve list.

We will hold an auction at our next meeting on Tuesday May 8th at the memorial hall in High Halstow. Non members are welcome for an entry fee of £2. Tea coffee and biscuits supplied. Our auctioneer will be Peter Tyle. Plants, gardening equipment and other items will go under the hammer

**For more information please contact**  
[hhdgc@outlook.com](mailto:hhdgc@outlook.com)

**Mike Hughes**



*The Horseshoe & Castle at Cooling*

Main Rd, Cooling, Rochester,  
Kent ME3 8DJ.  
Tel: +44 (0)1634 221691

email: [horseshoe.castle@btconnect.com](mailto:horseshoe.castle@btconnect.com)  
web: [www.horseshoeandcastle.com](http://www.horseshoeandcastle.com)

### High Halstow Parish Council, Chairman's Report

Ladies and gentlemen can I start my report by thanking all the Parish Councillors for their efforts this past year in making High Halstow a nice place to live. You should know that the job of Parish Councillor is unpaid and voluntary and can involve a lot of time, effort and sometimes anxiety. That said it is very rewarding.

I say a special thank you to Councillor Chris Watson for her much valued support as Vice Chairperson and to the chairpersons and members of our various committees for their unsung work with Planning, Finance, Personnel, Tree and Ponds, Footpaths, Rural Liaison, Kent Association of Parish Councils, Police Liaison, Recreation Hall Committee, Memorial Hall Committee, Relief in need and Friends of St Margaret's.



I reported last year that Councillor Carl Mitchell had resigned and that we were in the process of co-opting a new member. May I introduce to you to that replacement, Councillor Mick O'Hanlon, some of you will know him as one of the committee members of the flourishing High Halstow Lottery.

With the resignation of Carl as editor of the High Halstow Times we had a need for a new person to step up. Councillor Linda Atkinson kindly volunteered. During this year Linda has also taken over as web master managing our new website. I would like to thank her on your behalf for taking up those positions in addition to her ongoing duties as Councillor.

I would also like thank on your behalf our employees Roxana, Jack and John for their efforts this year in keeping the Council on track and clean.

You will all know by now that our long standing clerk Roxana Brammer is retiring after some nearly 20 years service to this Council. She and her counsel will be missed but we never the less wish her well in retirement. Her duties formally finish in May when our new Clerk in waiting takes up the reins and will guide us through this next period of turmoil and change.

Before we turn to the future it is right of course to reflect on the past 12 months.

Although at first I was against adding August and December as regular Parish Council meeting dates I think it has been a prudent decision by the Council. So now please add the second Wednesdays in August and December to your diaries.

A special thanks to Councillor Brian Williams for championing the new bus shelters outside the Village Hall and at Eden Road. They really do make a difference to the look and feel of the village.

Councillors Martin Andrews and Bill Khatkar reported earlier in the year that our local police presence in High Halstow and the peninsula was to be reduced following the loss of the annual grant of £31,000 this of course is sad to us all but indicative of the amenity cuts being made everywhere.

Medway Council informed us that they no longer wanted to maintain the toilet block in the car park and want to return the lease to us. This was rejected by the Parish Council and the toilet block continues to be run and maintained by the Local Authority in the short term although we believe their long term objective is to return control to us. No decision has yet been reached as to its eventual use save that I believe we all agree it should remain in some way as a public asset and public convenience.

Thanks to Councillor Bill Khatkar for arranging the marking out of the village car park and organizing various other works round the village. Its has definitely made a difference but I'm not sure all parents dropping off and picking up children from the school have actually noticed the parking bays or IN and OUT signs yet. This is not surprising I guess, as some haven't even noticed the bus stop markings.

I know too you would like me to thank Ray Collins on your behalf for the tremendous effort he puts in to so many different aspects of this village there are not many things that go on in this community that Ray is not a part of.

Many of you know that my work often means I return home the village in the early hours of the morning sometimes as a passenger.. It's funny how as a passenger you always seem to wake up as you drive along Dux court. It has been very spooky at times this year being driven through the village at that time of morning when it's full of scarecrows. What a great event the scarecrow festival was. I do hope it continues this year.

This is probably one of the events Medway Council have heard about that has led them to believe that High Halstow is the right place to hold the celebrations to mark 20 years as a Unitary Authority. This Parish Council has agreed in principle to let them base the celebrations here.

In this year too we have been consulted on and submitted to the proposals altering the flight paths into an expanding Southend airport. The proposal is to use a safer computer controlled approach route that will direct aircraft west of the village to a funnel point over open ground halfway between Chattenden and Cliffe for the final approach over the estuary.

We have increased the precept by 7.5 percent this year. The precept is the relatively smaller amount of money added to the rates for the privilege of having a Parish Council and being allowed some control over our destiny. The precept for High Halstow stands at £46,000. For a band "G" ratepayer the amount paid per year is £104.63

Later last year the Parish Council agreed to look into the possibility of forming a "Neighbourhood Plan" to facilitate some control over development within and around the village. A representative from Vigo Parish Council was invited to our Parish Council meeting and gave an excellent explanation of what the village might expect from it's Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed to go forward and form a committee comprising of residents and Parish Councillors alike. The first two meeting of this steering group has met and the Parish Council will meet after this meeting to agree 'Terms of Reference' for that Committee.



### Chairman's Report continued ...

It is very likely that grants will be available to undertake the technical work required to take the plan to a stage where it can be formally accepted by a referendum in the village. It would then form part of the Medway Local plan currently in consultation for a phase of Strategic Development and set to be adopted late 2019 early 2020.

On January 28th January we learnt that a decision to close Deangate Ridge Golf Course and its associated amenity was to take place at a Medway Cabinet meeting on the 6th February 2018 without any public consultation what so ever.

Land now know as Deangate Ridge was bought by the then 'Strood Rural District Council' and the course was open in 1972. Sports and gym facilities were added at a later date. Over the last 10 years the council have commissioned and completed a major upgrading of the facilities at Deangate by adding a new pitch and putt and foot golf course and new driving range but never the less still voted for closure.

Following the closure decision on the 6 February a group called the Deangate Community Partnership was quickly formed to submit a petition of some 3876 residents to have the decision "Called In" to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The committee met and agreed to refer the decision back to cabinet for reconsideration on 12 March. Just before the 12 March the DCP submitted an Expression of Interest under the Localism act of 2011.

The cabinet reconsidered its decision and again voted to close without consultation.

The situation now is that Medway Council have voted to close a much loved and well used golf, leisure and sport facility at Deangate Ridge on 14 April 2018 without having consulted the community or the DCP in advance of this decision. We believe is unfair and unconstitutional. No alternative options to closure were explored.

This is not just about a golf course – this is about governance and legal compliance – we cannot allow Medway Council and cabinet to lead us as an undemocratic dictatorship.

The public were denied consultation and Medway chose to only consider 2 options – To continue to run the course at a loss or to close. There are many other options as pointed out to the Council, along with a Bid under the Localism Act Right to Challenge for the DCP and a sports charity to be given the opportunity to tender for management of the site.

We now have no choice but to commence a legal challenge to ensure that Medway Council are compliant in all future decision making processes not just over Deangate but The Local Plan and everything that determines our future.

This will initially be in 3 stages if Barristers agree we have a case:

1. A Solicitor will write a Pre-Action letter to Medway Council giving them 48 hours to postpone closure and to enter into discussions with the Deangate Community Partnership to ensure that the Localism Act Right to Challenge Expression of Interest is considered whilst the business is operational.
2. If Medway are not willing to reconsider a Solicitor and Barrister will apply for a Judicial Review Case.
3. If a case can be brought, we will apply to the Judge for an Interim Injunction to keep Deangate open until either Medway Council have considered our Bid or reviewed other options for operating the site. It will be hugely detrimental to any future operators of the site should it be closed on 14th April 2018.

To complete these first stages of Action we need approximately £10,000 plus VAT.

We have pledges and donations to date amounting to £9500. Of this £2000 has come from Hoo Parish Council. I firmly believe this community should also contribute via its Parish Council. The Parish Council has a contingency fund in excess of it precept to be used in an emergency so is well placed financially to make such a donation.

If we decide to go to Full Judicial Review (which can take up to 18 months) we will need to raise a further £30,000 plus VAT via various funding routes including crowdfunding.

There will be a lot happening in Medway and particularly on the Peninsula in the coming months and years. We must be vigilant. Clearly Medway have decided to solve its housing problem here on the Hoo Peninsula with no regard the residents. Please don't be taken in with promises of massive infrastructure grants from central government.

To look forward, look back to see what infrastructure has materialised following past development.

Finally on a positive note let us all be thankful that we are able to live among friends in a cohesive forward thinking community.

**George Crozer, Chairman High Halstow Parish Council**

### Karate Club

The club has been going for 3 years now – there are a good lot of students, of which the majority are from High Halstow and Hoo. The club has won more trophies and Medals than any other academy in the association.

### Badminton Club

There are two evenings a week when you can attend the badminton Club – there is a friendly club on Monday evenings in the Village Hall and there is a league team that play on a Wednesday evening. The cost of the club is the hall hire (£20) split between the people in attendance.





### Relief in Need

Relief in Need is a confidential service that can be accessed by anyone in the village. There is in the region of £46,000 available to help people from the village each year.

### High Halstow Football Club

The club is currently in its 5th year. During the last season the team have had 2 promotions and 1 major cup final. There are 16 players, 12 of which are from High Halstow. Although there is currently no youth section – this is something that the club will consider implementing this in the future depending on its financial status.

### High Halstow WI

We meet in the memorial hall on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. We pay a yearly subscription and we have 31 paid up members. Our programme is varied we have a speaker at most of our meetings, we try to cover interesting and topical speakers, for example the life of a Japanese woman, Pochohontas (her life and death) The antique trade, and a taster of the river Medway to name but a few.

We have a birthday party in June and Christmas party in December we also have a busy social life including visits to Medway Little Theatre, Outings such as Greenwich, Hythe, Cream Teas etc., we have an annual dinner, a lunch club each month, a darts team (we play in the district league) we have fundraising events such as Halloween, Fashion shows and Music Evenings and Craft afternoons.

We welcome anyone wishing to visit our meetings and are always pleased to have new members. We are a very friendly group. Contact Crystal on 01634 251849 or Val on 01634 220468.

We have also successfully raised money for our new village sign with generous donations from Medway Council, the Parish Council and the Lottery Fund.

**Crystal Wakefield — President, High Halstow WI**



### wHoo Cares

wHoo Cares has been in operation for just over 18 months and it's going very well. We now have about 65 Partners (clients) and about 30 Community Supporters (volunteers).

We support people who are socially isolated or vulnerable and who live on the Hoo Peninsula (ME3 postcode). We work with our Partners (clients) to identify activities that will make a difference in their lives and promote independence. This could be something like having one of our volunteers pop in for a coffee and a chat once a week, help to do a fortnightly shop or accompany them to a medical appointment. Or, it might be something as simple as introducing a person to the local coffee morning or bowls group to meet like-minded friends and neighbours. We work closely with local communities, groups and organisations as well as other local and national organisations in order to achieve the best results for our Partners so if there is another organisation out there that we think could help someone, we will sign post them to it but, importantly, we will follow up with the signposting to make sure it's what the Partner needs/wants.

Several groups (as well as residents) in High Halstow have been very generous to wHoo Cares and it's very much appreciated. We've received donations from High Halstow Memorial Quiz Night (twice), King's Kitchen, Christmas Santa Claus visit and the use of the Village Hall for our Christmas meal.

wHoo Cares is having it's first Fun Walk at the end of the month, 28 April. If anyone is interested in participating, all the details can be found on our website.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or if there is someone that could use our support, please get in touch.

You can get in touch by email: [enquiries@whoo cares.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@whoo cares.org.uk); phone: 01634 272138; our website: [www.whoo cares.org.uk](http://www.whoo cares.org.uk); or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/whoo caresic](https://www.facebook.com/whoo caresic).



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need easy access**



### Highways work undertake in Peninsula 17/18

- Dealt with 657 requests for service, from customers, regarding highway issues.
- We undertook 257 minor repairs and maintenance issues to street lighting columns, via our contracts.
- We raised 116 minor works orders, on individual roads, for repairs to the carriageway.
- We raised 56 minor works orders, on individual roads, for repairs to the footway. We completed 100% of statutory highway safety inspections, within the targeted timescales.
- We completed the cleansing of 1565 gullies, undertook 4 CCTV surveys of sites in the ward to investigate drainage issues, cleaned the culvert on Britannia road and inspected the culvert and drainage system on Main Road Hoo, which led to 300m of ditch clearance and a chamber dig out.
- 8 areas had road markings refreshed and 18 road signs were renewed.
- We resurfaced the footway in All Saints Road and the carriageway on Grain Road (from Lower Stoke to Stoke Bridge).

### 2018/19 Resurfacing schemes in the Peninsula

For 2018/19 resurfacing schemes, we have 4 areas in the Peninsula Ward which will have footway schemes (areas in Pintail Close, Teal Close, Green Lane, Herdsdown and Grain Road) and we are resurfacing the carriageway in Knights Road Hoo (from number 68 to Bells Lane).

### Waste Services and Enforcement

The following actions were carried out by Waste Services and Enforcement on the Peninsular between the 1st October 2017 to 31st March 2018

- Peninsular Residents achieved a recycling rate of 65% between Oct 17- Mar 18 this is a 3% increase on the previous year
- 30 Fly tipping incidents were cleared by the Council's contractor (Veolia)
- 8 Offensive and 24 Non- Offensive graffiti incidents were cleared by the Council's internal graffiti team
- Waste services monitoring offices inspected 210 waste collections and 58 street inspections
- 3 cases await trial against individuals linked to fly tipping on the Peninsular. First case has a date set for first hearing on 16th April 2018 other two cases have no date set.
- The number of waste collection completed on the peninsular by Veolia between Oct 17 –Mar 18 was 393,876 only 94 of these were not collected on time. We achieved 99.98% of collection as per scheduled during this period

### Integrated Transport

The installation of a new Zebra crossing on Main Road, Hoo, opposite Hoo Academy, is planned for June this year. Using the Council's Local Transport Plan funding, the new facility will improve safety for pedestrians crossing Main Road, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day.

We are working on a joint scheme with Natural England to facilitate the completion of a National Coastal Path - a single footpath encompassing all of the British Isles. A gap in the footpath currently exists by the A228 at Grain. Design work is underway to provide the new section of footpath over the next year.

ASD continue to provide an excellent service with the two MY buses serving the Peninsula, bringing students in to Holcombe Grammar School and Strood Academy

We continue to provide a comprehensive Road Safety Education programme to schools on the Peninsular:

Licence to Kill (L2k), Seatbelt sled, Bikeability and Bikeability Balance have been delivered as follows:

L2k – Hundred Of Hoo

Seatbelt Sled – Hoo St Werburgh and AllHallows

Bikeability – High Halstow and Hoo St Werburgh

Bikeability Balance – Hoo St Werburgh

Scooter skills - Hoo St Werburgh

### Road Safety Team

Over the last year on the Hoo Peninsula, Medway Councils Road Safety Team have delivered Road Safety sessions which include:

Road Safety Demo - Hall based lesson using a simulated road to introduce pupils to basic road safety skills and concepts for years 1 and 2

Distractions - Road safety lesson on the classroom using stats to explain how pupils become more likely to be involved in an accident as they get older because of distractions. For years 5 and 6

Sequences - Classroom lesson building on basic road safety knowledge using sequencing to give a broader knowledge of crossing skills for years 3 and 4

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These were delivered to the following schools:

All Hallows Stoke, Hoo St Werburgh and Marlborough Centre

#### **Phil Filmer, Councillor**

##### **High Halstow Community Lottery**

Since its inception in September 2016 the HH Community Lottery has gone from strength to strength. We have a Committee of 3 and we meet regularly to discuss not only to agree on prize amounts for the game and fund applications but of course, the way forward.

It all started when I formed an idea that if all the 800 houses in HH played with a £10 stake every month then we would have £8,000 flowing into the bank each month thus providing us with a £6,000 prize fund and £2,000 per month going towards local projects and charities. Percentage is 75% prize fund and 25% charity portion which is held in a Deposit Account gaining pennies in interest.

Unfortunately not everyone in High Halstow has taken up the baton with me but we do have an increasing players base. We are treading water because we do have players drop in and drop out but the numbers are gradually increasing. The game is open to everyone to play because it's a public lottery with a license from Medway Council. We have players in HH, Hoo, Stoke, Allhallows, Cliffe, Strood, Wainscott, Faversham, Welling and Barnehurst.

The prize fund has gone from £500 to a maximum of £1,350 just after Christmas 2017. The prize has settled at £1,250 for the past couple of months. Total won so far is £20,860.00

We have been able to provide funding to:

- £1,000 - The Primary School for playground equipment with a further £250 approved for equipment hire for Summer Fayre
- £1,000 - Women's Institute for the new village sign
- £1,000 - HH Cricket Club for new matting
- £1,200 - HH Memorial Hall for a new shed for storage
- £500 (approved) - towards new bridge in Herons Bank/Britannia road

That's just under £5,000 in helping the community in only 18 months. We are quite proud of this achievement seeing as though we only have a player base of around 200.

Our aim for our lottery is for it to grow and enable us to increase the prize fund.

The maximum we can provide in a prize is £20,000 per month – which is attainable with more players. With more marketing on social media we are hoping to reach a prize of £2,000 by Christmas of this year.

**Linda Atkinson, Chairman—High Halstow Community Lottery**

## LOCAL PLAN

Medway Council's Local Plan development Strategy is proposing 765 new homes in High Halstow.

Medway Council has published its latest consultation into its Local Plan, which runs until 11 May 2018. It is proposing doubling the size of the village to around 1600 homes. This has major implications for the High Halstow and the Hoo Peninsula, for you and your family. This is your chance to have your say.

The Parish Council and the Deangate Community Partnership are preparing their responses to the consultation but won't be able to share it in the Times before the due date,

The Parish Council has also decided to formulate its own Neighbourhood Plan which will become part of the Local Plan and should afford us some control over the way expansion and infrastructure within the village is developed.

So what should you say? All that paperwork is so complicated and confusing.

This may help you to make sense of it all.

- Local authorities like Medway Council are required to write a Local Plan setting out how the area will grow in the future - where houses will go, where businesses can set up, and what services (eg schools, doctors, transport) there will be in the future
- Local authorities are obliged by national government to try and find space for a target number of houses. Medway needs to find space for about 19,000 houses between 2017-2035 for the whole of Medway. (To give you a comparison, there are about 6,000 houses on the Hoo Peninsula). If they don't, then government steps in and chooses instead, so it is not something Medway Council can back out of.
- However, last year the Government came up with a new formula for working out how many new houses there should be. Because Medway Council hasn't finished its Local Plan, the new figure applies, which is 27,000 more houses instead of 19,000.
- Medway Council's new proposals have four options. All of them involve turning Hoo St Werburgh/Chattenden into what Medway Council calls a 'small rural town' and expanding some of the Peninsula's villages. What does this mean? It isn't clear, but the four options vary from 9,318 to 12,162 extra houses for the Peninsula.

Now here's the hard reality:

- Almost nobody wants extra houses next to them, but at the same time we accept that extra housing is needed in the future in Medway. More of us are living longer, and quite rightly we will want to stay in our houses, but our children and grandchildren need a home to move into as well.
- And people need jobs, so that means land allocated where people can set up business.
- So we can't stick our heads in the sand. Houses are going to get built. The big question is: how do we ensure the Council plans for the right number of houses in the right places that don't destroy our wonderful home here on the Peninsula?
- After the consultation, Medway Council will write its final plan, and it will go in front of an independent inspector, so we need to make our case because even if the Council doesn't listen, the Inspector might.

Here is a flavour of what you might like to put into your response to the Council's consultation. If you agree, please copy, paste and send to [futuremedway@medway.gov.uk](mailto:futuremedway@medway.gov.uk) by 11 May 2018 latest. Please add a few words of your own to make it personal.

1. We accept that some extra houses are needed in Medway, but we think that every community in Medway must take its share.
2. BUT we do NOT accept that Medway can accommodate 27,000 more houses between 2017-2035. The Council MUST show that they are doing everything possible to get government to agree that this is unsustainable for Medway.
3. We think that 10-12,000 extra houses on the Peninsula is WAY too many. That would destroy everything that makes the Peninsula special.
4. The Council admits the number of people in Medway is not increasing as fast as it was - so we ask the Council to recalculate and reduce the total number of houses it needs.





## LOCAL PLAN CONTINUED

6. We want the masterplan to consider the people who already live here, so that new housing fits in with our lives and our communities and doesn't ruin people's lives.
7. It is impossible to tell from the consultation what number of houses are allocated where on the Peninsula, so we would like the Council to work with us on a 'masterplan' to include in the Local Plan, before any more housing applications get passed, so we can agree what houses, transport infrastructure (including public transport), doctors, schools, and shops are needed, where and when. The Council must pledge an end to piecemeal development here until that masterplan is in place.
7. We think the Council hasn't explored several key options that are essential. For example, the Council should consider an attractive development at Kingsnorth, Capstone and Rainham. And the Council should consider redevelopment of Chatham town centre with housing options. These must be on the table, not just dismissed.
8. Medway Council must share with the people the plans they have for the roads and railways on the Peninsula, and for tackling air pollution. If the Council already has bids in for funding, there must be plans already, and we should see them.
9. The Local Plan must have more detail about the future of hospitals in Medway. It must include a timeline and possible locations.
10. We want the Council not to sacrifice protected places, such as Lodge Hill SSSI. Protected places should be Medway's trump card to say to government, "Hold on, we've got nationally and internationally protected places here, there's a genuine limit under national rules to what housing can go here".



We are willing to work with Medway Council in a constructive dialogue. We want to know that Medway Council is genuinely willing to work with us.

**George Crozer**

NB. The 4 scenario diagrams are available online ([www.Medway.gov.uk](http://www.Medway.gov.uk)), from Medway Council, or we do have some leaflets available and these can be obtained at the Kings Kitchen on Tuesday mornings.

## UPDATE ON THE CLOSURE OF DEANGATE

Cabinet will debate our Deangate Expression of Interest on the 8th May and a final decision on its future will be announced within 10 days of that date. We were unsuccessful in acquiring an injunction to stop closure on 14th April 2018. The Cabinet agreed to maintain facilities at the course until a decision is reached. In the meantime we are continuing to collect pledges to cover the cost of legal expenses. The bowls club kindly raise £400 towards the cost at a special evening of indoor bowls and supper on 21st April and the total of the bar raffle drawn on 14th April was £170.



**George Crozer**

**Deangate Community Partnership**

## High Halstow Community Lottery

### March game winners

£1,250 ME3 8SU High Halstow £250 ME3 9RW Middle Stoke

If you would like to play, please set up a monthly standing order to

Account No 21507826 Sort Code 40 43 44

07825 619 353 if you need help or more information

Disclaimer: HHCL is administered by a Committee and is not in any way connected with High Halstow Parish Council



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### High Halstow Cricket Club Report

2017 was another excellent season for the club. Promotions for both Saturday teams and the Sunday League XI were just reward for some stellar individual and team performances.

1st team captain Chris Maurice returned to the club to lead from the front with the bat scoring 738 runs. There were also outstanding seasons with the bat for two of our colts Tyler Dockwray and Harrison Hume who each scored over 1000 runs in all competitions including some vital contributions on Saturday with the bat, ball and in the field.

James Marrable became the 1st Halstow player to take 50 Kent League Wickets in a season and formed a potent new ball partnership with Adam Whatman, taking over 75 league wickets between them.

In the 2nd XI the evergreen Daren "Diggers" Brumbaugh led the way with 448 runs whilst another stalwart, Paul Belsey took 40+ league wickets and won the league bowling award. 14 year old Clarke Dockwray was also a regular wicket taker for the 2nd team and performed so well he secured a 1st team berth for the last few league games.

With these outstanding performances the club is in an excellent position to move forward and consolidate our position. With a thriving young colts section to nurture, extra investment off the pitch and one of the best grounds in the Kent league, we are looking forward to a fantastic 2018 season.

The only thing threatening to put a damper on the season, which is due to start next weekend, is the good old British weather which has left the ground more suitable for water polo than cricket. Hopefully, as the song says, the sun'll come out tomorrow and we can start our season on time.

If you're ever at a loose end on a Saturday afternoon why not pop along; have a drink and support YOUR village cricket team.

**Tim Munday**

**Chairman**



### HIGH HALSTOW FOOTBALL CLUB SCORE TABLE

Date	Match	Team		High Halstow
18 Nov 17	League Div 4	UK Pavillion	3	6
25 Nov 17	League Div 4	Park Regis	1	3
2 Dec 18	League Div 4	Newtown Social	1	5
9 Dec 17	Sittingbourne & Milton Qtr Final	Borstal	2	4
16 Dec 17	League Div 4	Grain	2	6
6 Jan 18	Kent Cup round 4	Kings Hill	4	8
13 Jan 18	League Div 4	Grain	4	1
20 Jan 18	League Div 4	Pavillion Athletic	2	6
27 Jan 18	Centenary Cup semi final	Park Regis	0	5
4 Feb 18	League Div 4	Newton Social	2	6
10 Feb 18	Kent County Cup Qtr Final	UK Pavillion	1	4
17 Feb 18	League Div 4	Golden Knights	2	1
24 Feb 18	League Div 4	Bleakwood	1	16
10 Mar 18	Kent Cup Semi Final	The Bull, Faversham	1	2
24 Mar 18	Sittingbourne & Milton Semi Final	Gillingham Green	0	2
14 Apr 18	League Div 4	UK Pavillion	3	2
17 Apr 18	[unclear]	Borstal	2	4
22 Apr 18	League Div 4	Medway Rovers	1	8

You will see from the score table that HHFC have had a fantastic season.

They have played their way into 3 cup finals. Please see below for details.

**Tuesday 1 May KO 7.30 pm**

**Centenary Cup**

Chatham Town ground

HH v UK Pavillion

**Saturday 5 May KO 11 am**

**Kent Cup**

Gallagher stadium

HH v Old Coffenians

**Saturday 12 May KO 2pm**

**Sittingbourne & Milton Cup**

Star Meadow ground

HH v AFC United Medway



<b>MONDAYS</b>	Line Dancing	11:00 — 12:30	Memorial Hall
<b>Alternate Mondays</b>	Community Choir	20:00 — 21:00	St. Margaret's Church
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	Kings Kitchen	10:00 — 13:00	Memorial Hall
	Pilates	18:15 — 19:15 19:30 — 20:30	Memorial Hall (subject to change)
	Youth Club	19:00 — 20:45	Recreation Hall
	Bell Ringers	19:30 — 21:00	St. Margaret's Church
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	Tai Chi	10:30 — 11:30	Memorial Hall
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	Seated Exercise	11:00 — 11:45	Memorial Hall
	Pilates	14:00 — 15:00	Memorial Hall
	Sugar Babes	19:00	Memorial Hall
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	Pilates	14:30 — 13:30	Memorial Hall
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	Karmann Dancers	09:00	Memorial Hall
	KLUK Martial Arts	09:30	Recreation Hall
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	déjà vu Spiritual Centre	18:30	Recreation Hall
<b>Every 1st Wednesday</b>	Knit and Natter	13:30	St. Margaret's Church
	Women's Institute	19:30	Memorial Hall
<b>Every 2nd Tuesday</b>	Gardening Club	20:00	Memorial Hall
<b>Every 2nd Wednesday</b>	Parish Council Meeting	20:00	Memorial Hall
<b>Every 3rd Wednesday</b>	Whist Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
<b>Every 4th Wednesday</b>	Friendly Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
<b>Last Friday</b>	Quiz Nights	20:00	Memorial Hall



**High Halstow Primary School  
Playing field**

## **Summer Fayre**

**23 June 2018**

**11:00 am.—3:00 pm**

**There will be a BBQ, games, alcohol, inflatables  
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