



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron



February 2019

## Your Parish Council

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01634 250 286

**Chris Watson - Vice Chair**  
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07984 791 029

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01634 250 105

**Gary Jerreat—Councillor**  
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**Bill Khatkar—Councillor**  
07775 668 620

**Brian Williams—Councillor**  
07908 006 448

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07752 873 379

Your Councillor can also be contacted on **07702 036 836** or emailing the Parish Clerk Miss Cat Bloomfield [clerk2@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:clerk2@highhalstow.org.uk)



## A disappointing end to 2018

On the evening of 27 December a group of, we believe, 3 people vandalised the gents toilet in the Village Hall Car Park. They were seen leaving the scene using a small white car and a motor cycle but the witness was unable to positively identify any individual or make out the registration numbers of the two vehicles.

The damage caused was extensive and has put the toilet out of action until it can be repaired. The crime was reported to the police directly after it happened but because of the lack of evidence that could lead to a prosecution no further action will be taken at this time.

The building is owned by the Parish and let to Medway Council who operate it as a public convenience. It's surprising how much it is used and is a great loss to

the community in general and to those who work in or visit the village regularly and have come to rely on the service.

The Parish Council have been looking into installing CCTV in the village to help strengthen security. It would seem that the village hall car park is probably the best place to start. It is surrounded by most of the community's most valuable assets. A fund to pay for the cost of purchase, installation and operation has been proposed and forms part of the Parish Council's budget for this coming year. Would you welcome a CCTV system of some kind in the village?

CCTV is not however the whole answer to the fight against vandalism or anti social behaviour in general. It is most important that we are all more vigilant and more aware of what is



happening in and around our community. We believe this is best achieved by a review of our neighbourhood watch scheme. Are you a member? Would you be prepared to volunteer?



At the time of writing this article we note that Medway Council have authorised repairs to the toilet block and Medway Norse have undertaken the work.

**George Crozer**

## Editorial

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas festivities in the village. What a special place we live in! Such a dedicated team of villagers who work relentlessly to ensure that the children get a visit from the HH Santa and Fairy George. Amazing.

I must admit to having enjoyed the Christmas break from publication but am always looking for interesting articles for you all. Please keep them coming

We have an interesting few months ahead what with our Neighbourhood Plan and local elections. Watch this space.

## St Margaret's Church Sunday Services

Rev. Stephen Gwilt 01634 250 637 or email  
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**



## 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	

## Letters

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

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It's the 1st of December and I have just got home after enjoying the show "A Christmas Carol" by our amazing Dramarama group.

What a show! I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

Over the last 20 years I have seen most of the Dramarama shows and I think this has been one of the best, if not the best ever. There was a clever mix of serious scenes and funny ones, sad things that happened and happy ones, young performers and older more experienced ones; these all came together and really gelled to make a brilliant show.

Well done to everyone who worked so hard to make it all happen. Special thanks must go to Pauline for her dedication and hard work over the last 20 years. You deserve a well-earned rest.

**Chris Peek**

On Saturday 1st December I was fortunate to enjoy a wonderful evening's entertainment from the multi-talented musical and theatrical group Dramarama. After 20 years we have become used to the consistent quality of the multi faceted talents on display across all age groups. The very young children's rendition of Away In A Manger was especially wonderfully heart warming. The story of A Christmas Carol, whilst familiar to all, was delivered with a uniquely fresh interpretation that kept everyone's attention to the predictably rousing conclusion.

I attended with my mother, Joyce Davis, who now lives with us in Tenterden and the evening was particularly moving as mum remembered the many past productions that she was able to participate in when still living in the village. It was a fitting end to Pauline's tenure as producer, that she was there to share in the tremendous acknowledgment of Pauline's considerable achievements over so many years.

The enthusiastic audience was able to show their considerable appreciation for this great show and so many previous ones.

**Chris Davis**

## The Whist Club

At the January session only one table was necessary again, making it obvious to those present that the fluctuating number of core players attending does not justify the further booking of the Memorial Hall.

It is hoped that those wishing to continue playing will find a solution to enable them to do so.

**Christine Wilson**

## Kings Kitchen

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



**Open from 10:00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.**

## "O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree"

Just like the wonderful, decorated Christmas trees in St Margaret's, High Halstow Community Choir lit up the Church with wonderful Christmas songs and carols. In their varied colourful Christmas jumpers they gave two solid performances during the Christmas Tree Festival, with songs such as the show-opener Gaudete !, (meaning Rejoice in Latin), Past Three a Clock, Frosty the Snowman and everyone's favourite, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

The audiences were very appreciative and joined in with the songs and the familiar traditional Christmas Carols.

**Bernard Dawe**



## Santa's Visit



Margot Sturt, Chairperson, receiving cheque from Santa on behalf of Friends of Chernobyl's Children

Santa came to High Halstow on Christmas Eve and what a night. The amount of £1,100 was raised for The Friends of Chernobyl's Children. Santa would like to thank all those who helped on the night as well as Gerry for providing reindeer power, Sandy Iles for servicing of the elderly generator and Bradford's Garage for Reindeer fuel. This support provides a



memorable and recuperative holiday for the children away from contaminated environment in their own country. **Gary Thomas**

## High Halstow Community Lottery

**November (December draw) £3000 ME3 9QU**

**December (January draw)**

**£1500 ME3 8SH HH**

**£200 ME3 9FX Hoo**

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

**Account No 21507826 Sort Code 40 43 44**

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Please quote your post code and house number (or name) in the reference field



## Craftastic Events

*Craft & Well-being Event*

*Sunday 24 February 2019*

High Halstow Village Hall  
The Street, High Halstow  
Kent, ME3 8SQ

12-4pm

FREE ENTRY



## 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— Rita Clark 01634 253 384**

**Recreation Hall— Wenda Taylor**

**01634 253169 or 07807 983 248**

**Please do not call on a Sunday**

### **Resume of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, The Street, High Halstow on Wednesday 9 January 2019**

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Crozer. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

At this meeting the council spoke in length about the damage that had been done to the public toilets – and how the crime rate has risen generally in the village – the Parish Council will be looking into the Neighbourhood Watch provision within the village and see if there is an appetite for this to be expanded.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on the 13th February 2019 at the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm.

All are welcome to attend and bring forward any issues that they may have during the public session.

**Cat Bloomfield**  
Clerk to High Halstow Parish Council

### **High Halstow Parish Council Surgery**



Chris(tine) Watson and Gary Jerreat, two of your Parish Councillors, will be at Kings Kitchen in the Memorial Hall on: Tuesday 12th February 2019 from 10.30 – 12.00pm

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.**

### **High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan**

The NHP Steering group are in the process of choosing an expert to help us write our plan.

Once we as a village have agreed what we would like to see this has to be put into a legal document.

The Expert we choose will help us ensure that the things we love about our village will be protected whilst working along side the inevitable development.

The next step for the steering group will be to create a vision statement to head up our document. We will be trying to engage with as many people as possible in order to make sure that all of your views are captured and presented within this. Once we have written this vision statement it will be put out for consultation.

The steering group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the recreation hall – if you would like to find out more – please do come along! If you can't spare the time, then please do look out for updates on Facebook and in the times.

**Cat Bloomfield**  
Clerk to High Halstow Parish Council

### **Local and Parish Elections—May 2019**

On 2 May 2019, elections are being held for all 55 Medway Council seats in all of the 22 wards in Medway and the 11 parish councils. A total of 163 seats will be available for election



### **Being a Councillor**

Councillors are elected to the local council to represent their local community, so they must either live or work in the area. Becoming a councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service. You will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives and prospects.

If you would like more information on this please check on Medway Council's website. [www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk) or if you are considering running to be elected as a Parish Councillor please check out <https://beacouncillor.co.uk/> for excellent information.

## High Halstow's hidden Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

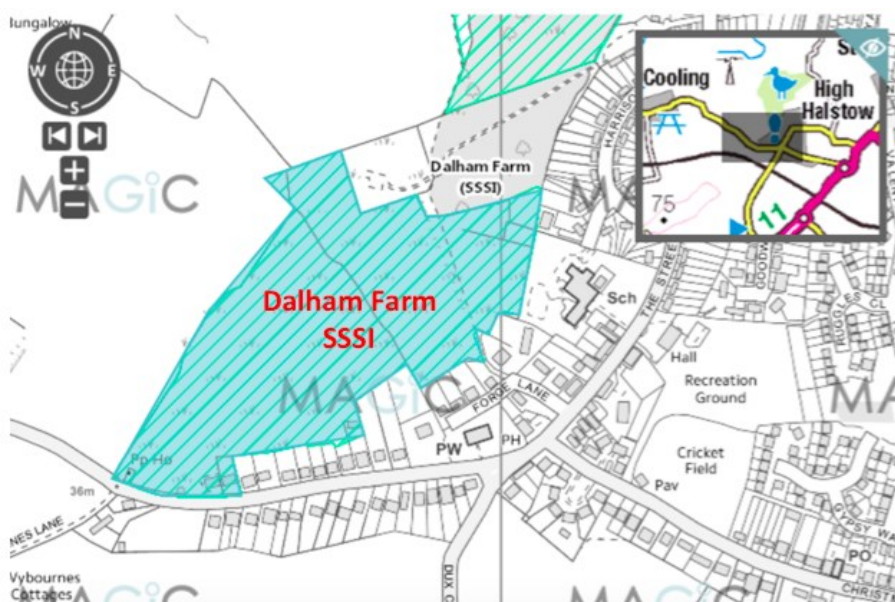
While most people of the village will be aware that the Northward Hill RSPB nature reserve is an SSSI, or at least would not be surprised to find that it is, few seem to know that there is another area of the village designated as an SSSI or the reason for it being so.

To the north-west of the school and church and to the north of the houses that line Cooling Road, there is an area of scrub covering land that has fallen away in an uneven manner. A public footpath runs through the area from Forge Lane into the RSPB reserve. This area of scrubland forms the Dalham Farm SSSI of 8.2 hectares (21.7 acres). Most of the area is owned by Wyborne/Dalham Farm but approximately 3 acres to the south-east of the footpath is owned by Jeanette and me.

Dalham Farm is thought to illustrate possibly the lowest angled slope failure in Great Britain, ie land that has slipped despite its slope being very shallow. For this reason it was designated an SSSI in 1987 although the slippage had been obvious for at least 20 years before that. Fortunately, the ridge of land on which the houses, church and school sit has been unaffected although parts of some of the gardens have dropped away.

There has been much speculation as to how the slippage was precipitated. The most popular theory is that it was a result of dredging being carried out in the Thames, because of the coincidence in timing, but there seems to be no certainty about this.

Until the early 1990s, the area was kept much more open by the grazing of horses and this meant that the effect of the slippage was visible in some places as a series of regular ridges that gave a clearly terraced appearance. Little of this is now apparent because about 90% of the area is covered in small trees, bushes and bramble; to a very limited extent the slippage can be appreciated



by the severe unevenness of the footpath that passes through the SSSI.

This overgrowth means that the folds in the slipping earth are hidden. Because of this, at its last inspection by Natural England, who are charged with protecting SSSIs, the condition of the Dalham Farm SSSI was considered to be "unfavourable". One of the few areas where the nature of the slippage is visible is on that which we have kept clear by sheep/goat grazing; this can be seen from the boundary with the school. Over the coming year or two we aim to clear more of the land closer to our boundary with the footpath. We

**Site of Special Scientific interest:**  
an area identified by the Nature Conservancy Council or its successors as having flora, fauna, or geological features of special interest

will avoid doing so in the Spring and early Summer when bird nesting occurs and will limit the clearance of the larger bushes and trees to minimise the impact on birdlife more generally. Hopefully this will mean that this strange feature of our village can become more obvious again on at least one small part of the SSSI.

**Mitchell Dowsett**



## HIGH HALSTOW VILLAGE HALL

We have already started to put together a programme of events for the coming year and for starters we have the following dates we want you keep free in your diary.

### Bands

4 May Essex Blue Brothers – 6 Piece Band



18 October 2CHESensational Singing Duo



20 December The Redford's—More than just a band



Please clear up after your dog...



### Quiz's

The ever so popular quiz's have been arranged and are as follows:

15 March, 14 June, 13 September and 13 December

To book your table please ring Margaret on

**01903 416300 (note new number) or**

**07702 196179**

**Cost is £3 per person.**

### Karen Watson

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Childhood Nutrition and Obesity Prevention +

Behaviour Change Coaching

Master Classes: + Motivational Communication + Diabetes

Food Allergies and Intolerances + Eat to Gain

#### Pilates Classes

**Memorial Hall 6.15pm Every Tuesday**

## High Halstow Hikers

In December, as is traditional we did a local walk followed by some seasonal drinks and eats afterwards. The route took approaching 20 of us through the Northward Hill reserve passing the lovely Christmas decorations that had been left on many of the bushes along the main path from Forge Common. We then walked challengingly muddy paths down and through Bromhey Farm but fortunately everybody remained upright. Having gone through Cooling to the Castle we turned left to Cooling Court and from there back to the village along the permitted path through Wyborne's Farm. Everybody seems to continue to enjoy this route of 5-6 miles even if we have followed it many times – familiarity does not detract from it being highly varied, undemanding and with great views across the countryside to the Thames.

At the start of January, we took a car-ride to Chartham an old village about 3 miles south of Canterbury. Our numbers were depleted by Christmas colds/flu and by nasty accidents to a couple of our regular participants, Jackie and Rita. Fortunately their breaks and bruises look as though they will not keep them out of action for long – we all hope the healing is very speedy. Our walk followed the well-maintained path along the Stour to Canterbury. At times



this was exceptionally pretty and quiet, while at others the busy A28 intruded and trains along the other side of the path made a regular appearance. On the river itself there were many pairs of mallard presumably getting ready for their Spring mating. We paused for a brief coffee in Canterbury and then for a view of the beautiful stained glass windows in St Dunstan's Church where we also contemplated the gruesome information that Thomas More's head rested in the vault below having been separated from his body by beheading. Our walk back to Chartham through large orchards of apple trees, many still with fruit hanging, was followed by excellent lunch at the Artichoke on a table with glass top to give a view of the well directly below.

Our February walk will be on Sunday 3rd starting at 10.00 from Upnor Castle Car Park (ME2 4XG) and will be of around 5-6 miles. All are welcome. Any queries to Mitchell 01634-254428 or mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com.

Mitchell Dowsett

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**101**

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<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 Memorial Hall
	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	19:30	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

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