



High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron



March 2019

Your Parish Council

George Crozer + Chairman
01634 250 286

Chris Watson + Vice Chair
01634 256 529

Martin Andrews + Councillor
07984 791 029

Linda Atkinson + Councillor
07825 619 353

Ray Collins + Councillor
01634 250 105

Gary Jerreat + Councillor
01634 253 999

Bill Khatkar + Councillor
07775 668 620

Brian Williams + Councillor
07908 006 448

Mick O'Hanlon + Councillor
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



Parish Council votes 5 to 2 to increase the Precept by 2.08%

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Parish Council there were 5 votes in favour and 2 votes against an increase of 2.08% on the previous year's precept request. **The actual 2.08% increase varies according to your banding, from £1.26 per year (Band A) to £3.77 per year (Band H).** The small increase is essential to maintain the excellent standard of upkeep of our village. The Parish Precept for 2019/20 will be approximately £47,000. The draft budget for next year includes provision for new funds to be allocated to village security, the play park, surfacing all weather paths and dog bins among other things.

How the PC is funded

The Parish Council is mostly funded by something called the "precept". This is forwarded to a parish council by the senior council, in this case Medway Council and is collected through your council tax.

Any increase in the precept on the previous year's figure made by a parish council only applies to the parish council element of your council tax. **FOR EXAMPLE:** if HHPC applies a 3% increase on the precept then that 3% increase only goes on to the precept part of your Council Tax bill and not the whole amount of the bill. The rest of the council tax is made up by



Medway Council, Kent Police and the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority. The parish precept is by far the lowest amount of all elements.

When the parish council sets its precept, it first drafts a budget. It takes into account expected income and expenditure for the following financial year, which is 1 April to 31 March. In our case for 2018/19, it will include the payments by Medway Council for the street cleaning and for the maintenance of their greenspaces.

Over the last few years we have also received something given by central Government called the Council Tax Support grant. For the last financial year this was £300. However, this has now been phased out so has stopped. We've had to be mindful of the impact this would have on the precept.

The average increase per household is around £1.72 for the year, or 4p per week, a lot

less than your lottery ticket or the price of a coffee! Excellent value!

Of course, with the banding, some will pay less and some more, but the increase is really very little.

As you will have seen, we spent a lot on maintenance and will need to spend on an ongoing basis so we will have to dip into reserves.

We hope this explanation is useful. Do get in touch if you have any questions.

High Halstow Parish Council



Please join us at our next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13 March

Editorial

Spring is around the corner and hopefully a great Summer beckons. As the better weather arrives and villagers are outdoors more please let us be mindful of speeding around the village. Lets look out for each other.

I have to apologise to the Gardening Club for missing their regular article last month. It was my fault entirely but I have made sure their article is in this edition!

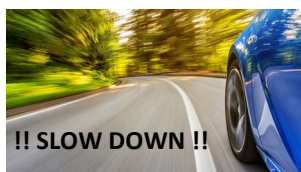
If you are part of a High Halstow Club and would like to share your news, please let us know.

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
Tamsin Stowers		
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 or write to Linda Atkinson at 32 Goodwood Close, High Halstow, ME3 8SU

Peter Dall

Barbara Dall and family would like to thank everyone who sent floral tributes, donations to The Shipwrecked Mariners Society and Letters of Sympathy on the death of Peter.

He served on the Parish Council and the Hall Committee for many years.

Free to a good home.

We have an almost brand new Rise & Recline chair that we purchased for my mother. I have no need for it but wondered whether anyone in the village might. We would really like that someone in the village could benefit from it.

Tim Munday 07730 477 017



LENT THOUGHTS FROM YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

Lent starts 6 March, the day after pancake day and is a time some people think about giving up some food or drink until Easter; although not everybody's "cup of tea", other people start thinking of spring and cutting back on some food or drink for their wellbeing.

Can we ask the people of High Halstow to support Your village church by finding a clean dry jam jar and every time you don't buy biscuits, cakes, puddings, meat, chips, cigarettes, drink, sugar.....well you get the gist to put the money they would have saved into the jam jar, not borrow the money when you need change, and give the jam jar to the Church on or near Easter, or contact 01634 271579 if you cannot, for somebody to collect the jam jar. A packet of biscuits costs from 50p upwards, a cake £2.00 upwards, four weeks plus worth of savings could make a huge difference to our village church.

Please help us to help our local community at Easter time.

Please persuade your friends, family, social club, anybody you know to do the same

Thank you

Julie Baker

Kings Kitchen

Every Tuesday
In the Memorial Hall
High Halstow

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



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

High Halstow Gardening Club

The year 2018 came to a close with a most enjoyable Christmas buffet with entertainment provided by Joy Dey.

The new year has started with the usual cold and damp weather but not to worry Spring is just around the corner

The club held its AGM at the memorial hall on Tuesday 12th February at 20.00 hrs.

Thirtynine members attended the meeting. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and the committee members gave brief reports of the last years highlights and various events held throughout the year

All of the committee members were willing to stand again and were re elected. We had no contenders for the position of show secretary or outings secretary. These positions remain open.

The committee members are:- Mike Hughes Chairman, Marj Ives Vice Chair / Fundraising, Bob Wells Treasurer, Alison Wells Minutes Secretary, Wendy White Speakers secretary, Jan Hughes Social Secretary, Margaret Shuter and Mike White Committee



Members. After the meeting we held a quiz followed by refreshments and a raffle.

We have two trips planned for 2019 the first to RHS Wisley in May and the other to Rock Cottage near Ashford in September. Unfortunately, will only be able to accommodate sixteen members in the minibus. Details of costs and times will be available soon. At our next meeting on Tuesday 12 March in the memorial hall we will hold our spring show. This year our judge will be Rosemary Collins, last year's winner. This show is open to members only. While the exhibits are judged we will hold a quiz, have refreshments and hold the raffle

Wrap up warm, happy gardening.

Mike Hughes

High Halstow Youth Club

The Youth Club has been running for 6 months now under new management, and we are pleased to see that the club is as popular as ever. We have a full house, with 30 members on the register, plus nearly as many again on the waiting list. We know that being on the waiting list isn't as much fun, but due to us being full we can only offer places as others decide to leave. Parents will be contacted as your child gets to the top of the list. Membership is for those aged 9+, but you can register sooner on the website if you want to be added to the list. Please visit

www.hhyouthclub.co.uk

We are investing in new equipment and adding as much variety as we can to keep the members entertained. Christmas saw nearly 50 children join our end of term party as members were able to bring a friend. There were some fantastic games and lots of fun had by all. Thanks go to Jamie and Natacha Robbins for making this happen.

Whilst we had intended to run through the half term holidays we have had a change of heart, due to there only being a small number of adult volunteers attending on a regular basis. With the large membership, it is essential that we keep them safe and this requires more eyes in the rooms. We would like to see more adults putting their names on a rota, to ease the pressure on the regulars who rush around to provide cover some weeks. You do not need to be a parent to join us, anyone in the community who is willing to volunteer can get in touch. We run on Tuesday evenings 7.00-8.45. We do in particular wish to hear from those who are first aid trained and those with a DBS check in



place, although this is not essential. It is our intention to book some first aid training in the near future for our team of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a helper please email us at info@hhyouthclub.co.uk

The Village Hall has had a make over recently and we are lucky to have the use of such a great venue. We also use the Recreation Field in the warmer, brighter months. We are able to spread out and use different areas for different activities and this requires even more helpers. Basically the more helpers, the more options we have for how we can maximise the use of space available to us. We are pleased to support the village amenities and appreciate the hard work that goes into maintaining them. Please help support our club too, so we can continue providing a safe and enjoyable place for your children to meet up for many years to come.

**Marie Calvert
Club Secretary**



Rule 59: Help yourself to be seen

High Halstow Community Lottery

January game (February draw)

£1,400 ME3 8SU £200 ME3 8TW (£10 per ticket)

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

Account No 21507826 Sort Code 40 43 44

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

07825 619 353 if you need help or more information or visit www.HighHalstowCL.uk

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

Resume of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall, The Street, High Halstow on Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 7.30 pm

Unfortunately information on the Parish Council meeting was not available at the time of going to print. We will print the information for the February and March meetings in the April issue. We apologise for any inconvenience.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE ALERT !

Wine Recovery Fraud

There has been an increase in Recovery Fraud, regarding fraudulent wine investments, over the past six months, with a total of 19 related crime reports recorded on Action Fraud during this period.

Previous victims of wine investment fraud from four to six years ago, are being cold called by suspects to resell the victim's "wine" for an insurance or shipping fee. The suspects appear reliable and legitimate, attracting the victim's attention with their knowledge of their personal details such as their name, address, bank account and the wine company name with whom they previously invested.

Fraudsters are taking advantage of liquidated wine investment companies, or company directors that have been arrested and publicised on forums and websites to add to their legitimacy. Victims have paid on average £2,000 into an escrow account via bank transfer, in various instalments to different payee names over a period of one to four months. Overall no victims have recovered their initial wine investment payment, and are at a further loss for paying an advance recovery fee.

Inference: Wine investment victims from several years ago will be targeted by cold callers claiming to be able to recover their previous "investment", paying £2,000 by bank transfer to a "consultancy". payee for a bogus insurance or shipping fee.

What you need to do

Never reveal any personal or financial details as a result of an unsolicited call, email or text. Even if someone knows your basic details (such as your name and contact details), it doesn't mean they are genuine.

- Don't immediately agree to any offer that involves an advance payment or having to sign a contract on the spot. Always speak with a friend or family member first.
- Always check the credentials of any financial company on the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) website: – they should be on the register. Contact the preferred company directly and

"Parishes are Blooming"

In 2018 South & South East in Bloom launched Parishes in Bloom as a pilot program to encourage Parishes to get involved in South & South East in Bloom, part of Britain in Bloom. South & South East in Bloom is the regions largest environmental competition and annual program.

Successfully, 15 Parishes entered with all achieving a Silver, Silver Gilt & Gold award, a great start and one which proved that Parishes are thriving and

being managed with the environment in mind and working with local people and business to make their community attractive and well maintained for all to see.

All participants are invited to the South & South East in Bloom awards to receive recognition for their hard work.

Assessors will visit between mid-June to mid-July and spend an hour or so to identify the work of the Parish under the assessment criteria. The aim

of the category is to see what is being achieved and for Parishes to consider getting involved in the wider Britain in Bloom movement along with 1,000's of other communities UK wide.

For your free entry just call or email South & South East in Bloom for an entry form, we would love to hear from you.

**South & South East in Bloom,
124 Gravel Hill, Croydon, CR0 5BF
Phone 020 8662 1021**

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 March 2019 from 10.30 – 12.00 noon and then every second 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.

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



High Halstow Women's Institute

It is some time since we reported in The High Halstow Times. We have been very active during the last few months. We hosted a District Carol Service in our Church which was very well attended by many other Institutes.

We have had an Afternoon Tea at Millbrook Garden Centre and we also took part in the Christmas Tree Festival.

We are now looking forward to our Annual Dinner in April and a trip to the Orchard Theatre to see Calendar Girls in March.

We are hoping to take a boat trip down the river to Southend during the summer.

We occasionally meet for a Craft Afternoon where we have made earrings and our next project will be a necklace. We still have our lunch club once a month and some of our ladies are learning and enjoying the art of playing bowls.

We have a very good membership but we are always hoping to see fresh faces joining us on the first Wednesday of each month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm you will be made very welcome

Crystal Wakefield, President

HIGH HALSTOW VILLAGE HALL

Please see details of the events planned for 2019/20 so far

Quiz's

Dates are as follows:

- 15 March
- 14 June
- 13 September^h
- 13 December

To book your table please ring
Margaret Church
on

01903 41300 or 07702 196179

The cost per table is £3.00 per person

4 May 2019 Essex Blue Brothers – 6 Piece Band



Tickets available from

11 March 2019

Price £15.00

Available from

Wenda on

01634 253169 or

07807 983 248

Future Events

18 October 2019

2CHE

– Sensational Singing Duo

16 November 2019

Hits From the Blitz

(Back By Popular Demand)

20 December 2019

The Redford's

- More Than Just A Band

Watch This Space

For Further Details &

Future Events

High Halstow Hikers

After a week of snow and ice and before another of rain and cloud, there was a single day of winter sunshine at the beginning of February; it was our amazing good fortune that it was the day we chose for our walk from Upper Upnor. The walk took us alongside the wall of the Castle to lower Upnor where the views through the yachts on the Medway were exceptionally picturesque. We took the footpath from the Arethusa Centre up to Chattenden - a rather stiffer challenge than most we take - and from there the Saxon Shore Way past Hoo Lodge and the very neat farm buildings around it to Hoo. That part of the Shore Way provided outstanding views on that sunny morning of the islands in the Medway, of the Kingsferry Bridge linking Sheppey to the rest of Kent and of the Thames estuary in the distance. Having rested for coffee outside Hoo church we decided to return by the same route to Upnor. By then the tide had risen to give a sparkling beautiful view across to St Mary's Island and Chatham Dockyard before we made our way back to the cars and lunch in the Kings Arms.

The March walk will start from the main car park at Trosley Country Park on Sunday 10th at 10.00 and will be about



6 miles including a loop round Harvel.

In April the walk will be on Sunday 14th and will be around the tops of the Downs above Wye (near Ashford). The walk of between 6 and 7 miles will start at 10.00 from the Wye Downs Car Park off Coldharbour Lane. This Car Park serves the nearby Devil's Kneading Trough a spectacular bowl-like cleft in the Downs.

Mitchell
mitch.dowsett@
btopenworld.com



Auction of Promises

in memory of
Elizabeth Meredith

7:30pm 27th April, 2019.

High Halstow Memorial Hall

Light supper provided but please
bring something to drink.

No obligation to bid

• •

All proceeds going to the
Brain Tumour Charity





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Local teacher is running the London Marathon for wHoo Cares

An art teacher at the Hundred of Hoo Academy is running the Virgin Money London Marathon to raise money for wHoo Cares. wHoo Cares is a local non-profit community organisation which supports vulnerable and isolated people on the Hoo Peninsula.



Jennifer Vidgen has been a keen runner for many years and has competed in 2 marathons already.

Here's what Jennifer has to say about why she's chosen to run for wHoo Cares: "Having taught Art at The Hundred of Hoo Academy for almost 9

years, I have come to understand how having a strong sense of community is important on the Peninsula, the predominant reason why I have chosen to support wHoo Cares in running the 2019 London Marathon. Living in Rochester, I understand how it can be isolating to be in such a rural area and often see it first hand with the students I teach living in small villages.

If you'd like to support Jennifer in her fundraising, please go to her Virgin Money page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JenniferVidgen>. Please note: The charity Friends of wHoo Cares is sponsoring Jennifer but proceeds will go to wHoo Cares.

If you'd like to find out more about wHoo Cares, please see their website www.whoocares.org.uk or call the office on 01634 272138.



Craftastic Events

Craft & Well-being Event

Sunday 24 March 2019

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

12-4pm

FREE ENTRY



Karen Watson

Personal Trainer and Pilates Instructor

Mobile 07581 375 080

Email watsonkaren68@gmail.com

Facebook: Karen Watson Personal Trainer

Pilates with Karen Watson

Train at your home or in my private gym

Qualifications:

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- Advanced Diploma and City and Guilds in Exercise Health and Fitness Instructing
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 - Weight Management
 - Sports and exercise
 - Pre and Post Natal
 - 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

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
	Pilates	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
	Pilates	14:00 — 15:00	Memorial Hall
	Sugar Babes	19:00	Memorial Hall
FRIDAYS	Pilates	14:30 — 13:30	Memorial Hall
SATURDAYS	Karmann Dancers	09:00	Memorial Hall
	KLUK Martial Arts	09:30	Recreation Hall
SUNDAYS	déjà vu Spiritual Centre	18:30	Recreation Hall
Every 1st Wednesday	Knit and Natter	13:30	St. Margaret's Church
	Women's Institute	19:30	Memorial Hall
Every 2nd Tuesday	Gardening Club	20:00	Memorial Hall
Every 2nd Wednesday	Parish Council Meeting	19:30	Memorial Hall
Every 3rd Wednesday	Whist Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Every 4th Wednesday	Friendly Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Last Friday	Quiz Nights	20:00	Memorial Hall

Waterford House Evangelical Free Church
Rede Court Road, Strood, ME2 3TE

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Tues. 9th to Fri. 12th April
9:15^{am} to 12^{pm}
For ages 6 to 11.

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