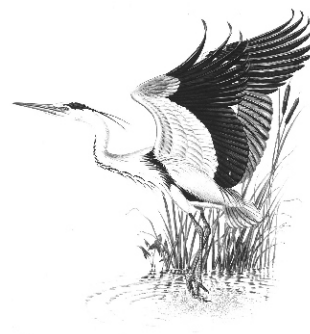




High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron

The Newsletter for High Halstow



February 2020

Charity Fun Day 2020

Following the success of the Charity event hosted by the Cricket Club last summer - which raised almost £7000 for JDRF— plans are being made for a similar event this year. At this stage no details of the date, format of the day or even which charity we'll raise money for have been decided, so we are open to input from any Village organisations that wish to take part. This will not be a Cricket Club event, nor will it be a Parish Council event although both organisations will be supporting it: the purpose of the day will be to bring the whole Village together to have fun and raise money for a good cause.

We will arrange a kick-off meeting in the near future where all interested parties will have a chance to put forward ideas as to what they would like. If you would like to be kept informed or get involved keep an eye on the village noticeboards and future issues of the High Halstow Times. You can also contact me directly & I will keep you in the loop.

Tim Munday

tim.munday@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Dear Parishoners

An open invite to the Parishoners of High Halstow: You can make a difference Councillors Marilyn Stone and Adrian Catchpole are, with the unanimous support of the Parish Council, setting up a High Halstow Environment Group (name/description TBC) . As a starting point we can use the document "20 Actions Parish Councils can take to address the Climate and Nature Emergency" but the focus and direction of the group will be a result of discussion and the group's composition.

During recent consultations on the Neighbourhood Plan, you the people of High Halstow, told the Committee that the preservation and regeneration of our green and protected spaces was important to you. We hope you will now consider becoming involved in this new High Halstow Group. Your response and enthusiasm will dictate our success. Residents of all ages and experiences welcome. Our first meeting will be held in The Village Hall, Blue Room at 7.30pm on Tuesday February 18th.

Best Regards

Marilyn, Adrian and the HHPC team.

Any Queries call/text on 07944490903


Confused about Recycling??

Come along to the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 5th February and hear 2 people from Medway Council tell us all about what you can and can't recycle, especially the dreaded plastic. Also where does it go to and how do we compare with other local authorities. They will answer any questions and bring new bags etc if you need some. Although this is our W.I. meeting we are opening it up to anyone, **female or male** to come and find out more.

Meeting starts at 7:30 with a £1:50 entrance fee but does include a hot drink and of course a cake.

More info needed? then ring me on 250677

Margaret Whitebread



THE WIZARD OF OZ

'DRAMARAMA GOES TO OZ'

High Halstow Village Hall

Friday 7th February @ 7:30pm
Saturday 8th February @ 2pm & 7:30pm
Tickets £5.50
Available from Wenda on 253169
or from HH Village Shop

Welcome to 2020 Another Gardening Year

The garden clubs social evening on 10th December was well attended and enjoyed by all. Later in December we displayed our garden club Christmas tree in the church. Decorated with fruit and flowers it was well received.

Thank you to members who donated items and helped with the decoration.

Our first meeting for 2020 will be the clubs AGM at the memorial hall on February 11th at 8pm. Our committee members will each give a small presentation on how the club has performed over the last year and our plans for 2020. We will then elect committee members. If any Club members would like to join the committee as a member or in one of the existing positions please contact a committee member ASAP. A quiz, raffle and refreshments will follow the AGM. The yearly subscription of £7.50 will be collected during the evening.

On Tuesday March 10th we will hold our Spring show open to members only. Members will receive a club news Email or Letter with the spring show schedule along with an entry form.

Our annual dinner will be held at the Medway Yacht club in Upnor on Saturday 28th March. Members may invite family and friends. All information including menu, costs and times can be found in our club news Email or Letter Happy gardening. Mike Hughes

Santa's Visit

The weather held fine as Santa came again to High Halstow on Christmas Eve and delivered well over 300 presents.



£830 was raised for The Village Hall with some of that money already spent on a new cooker which had been put in place for this Christmas.

Once again Santa would like to thank all those who helped on the night as well as Gerry for providing reindeer power and Bradford's Garage for Reindeer fuel.

Flying Drones, Unmanned Aerial Aircraft.

In the past there has been reports of Drones being flown in or close to the parish causing concern to members of the public to their safety and of property. Following the Gatwick Airport mayhem in 2018, our government with assistance from the CAA, BMFA, LMA and other regulatory authorities have produced new regulations to safeguard public and property from the misuse of these craft.



From 30th November 2019, it is a legal requirement for the operator to be registered under the **U.K.'s new Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme**, unless he or she is a member of the BMFA and has taken and is certified under their registration and certification scheme.

It is now an offence for anyone to fly a radio controlled craft without being a registered operator, without having insurance, fly higher than 400 ft / 120m. There are a list of other related disciplines but these are the most fundamental for the public to know.

It is therefore advised, if you have a Drone / UAV / Unmanned Aircraft, you should either fly at a local club, or, with the owner's consent in a field at least 150m clear of buildings and/or livestock or members of the public, but you must be registered and insured.

Within 2 weeks of this law becoming live, there has been a prosecution without there being any injury or damage to property, just ignorance to the existence of this new law and regulations.

For further information please feel free to contact Syd Brunt on tele # 01634 255366, or Eric Bishop on tele # 01634 255041.

Parish Council Meeting Resume – 15/01/2020

The meeting held on the 15th January was attended by all parish councillors and two members of the public. There were two planning applications. A response of “no objection” was made to one and Gary Jerreat advised there was no paperwork from Medway Council or a response from either neighbouring property to the other. Ray Collins updated the meeting on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and advised the section 106 monies from Medway Council still remained outstanding, despite being chased.

The Clerk confirmed receipt of two years' worth of money from Medway Norse for payment towards the grass cutting contract and the outstanding payments from January were approved. The finance subcommittee reported on the outcome of their meeting, where the members had discussed budgets and finance for the year 2020/2021. The members recommended a figure for the 2020/2021 precept, where a vote was conducted and the whole Council unanimously agreed.

A report from Ray Collins was received to confirm receipt of a replacement sprung donkey for the recreation park, however due a change of design a conversion kit was required to fit the rocker to the pre-existing base. The members discussed carrying out a full review of the grass cutting contract, in advance of the renewal in April, where a sub committee was formed and a meeting date arranged.

Brian Williams advised that following the refurbishment of the 'All-Weather path' that the work had been completed and the path reopened, he also acknowledged that the insurance company had finally provided a settlement figure for the damaged bus shelter and subsequently he and the Clerk were in discussions with Medway Council surrounding its re-installation.

The members discussed inviting Redrow to attend the Annual Parish Council meeting in April, to enable Parishioners and Councillors to raise any questions surrounding the Heronden Grange development. It was agreed the Clerk would write to invite a representative to attend.

A complaint was received surrounding the disposal of rubbish and vegetation in the various drainage ditches around the village. The Parish Council agreed to follow this up with the relevant land owners.

Marilyn Stone reported on behalf of the newly formed Environmental Group to recommend the members considered conducting a tree survey in High Halstow to set a 20-year plan to plant more trees.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th February in the Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Had a new Baby? Small Grants available from Relief in Need The High Halstow Relief in

**Need charity has small grants available to anyone living in the village that has a new baby who is under six months old. All you need to do to qualify is live in the village and have a new born baby. To request a grant email the charity at:
office.hhrin@gmail.com**

***Come & Meet Chris Watson And Gary Jerreat,
Two Of Your Parish Councillors
Every 2nd Tuesday Of The Month At Kings
Kitchen – 10.30am – 12.00pm***



Tuesday 11th February

Bring us your questions or find out about projects we have planned. If we don't know the answers, we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Need to Hire a Hall

If you are interested in hiring either of the halls in the village for a party, function or meeting please contact:
Memorial Hall - Cora Macfarlane 252587 / 07801 892664
Village Hall - Wenda Taylor 253169

HH Village Websites

Please visit the Parish Council website for everything about our village. You can see the minutes of your Parish Council or look up local groups in the village, past copies of the High Halstow Times, and pictures of recent events. www.highhalstow.org.uk or www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

High Halstow Community Choir Christmas Concert

In the song "Christmas Alphabet", 'C' could stand for the Choir, who gave an excellent Christmas concert of songs and readings at St Margaret's, in December.



Starting with a rousing chorus of "Gaudete", HHC choir went on to bring a varied programme of fifteen, lovely Christmas songs, all well received by an appreciative audience.

The Concert included three solo performances, with Leng singing "I'll walk with God", Bernie sang "The Christmas Song" and Elizabeth played Arabesque No 1 by Debussy. The Gentleman of the Choir were in good voice also with "White Christmas". However, it wasn't all music, good though that was. Included throughout the programme were five readings, given variously by Sandra, Mary, John, Dick and Dave.

The concert couldn't end though without some favourite carols, the audience joining in with "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "O Come all Ye Faithful" and all rounding out with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Village Hall

You will see elsewhere in the HHT that Santa helped the hall with funds on Santa's Visit which enabled a new cooker to be installed for Christmas. This has already been used for wHoo Cares Christmas Dinner and is a welcome addition to the Hall.

The Quiz Night in December was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of numbers and as result we will reconsider the dates for the coming year, so they do not clash with other events/holidays etc, so please watch this space.

December though was very good for the Hall as first we had Karen Woolmer with Karmann Dancers, which was arranged late, turned into a great event which we will repeat this coming year. This always feels the start to Christmas with an event in early December featuring these stars. At the end of the month we had The Redford's, and this was another successful evening. Thank you, Karen, Matt and Co, for both events and long may they continue as annual events for the Village.

A big thank you to Chris Peek who at her Birthday Party asked for donations rather than Birthday Presents. The Hall Committee really appreciated this, and a great night had by all.

Bookings continue to be healthy with a noticeable increase in Children's Birthday Parties, so it is great to see the next generation starting to use the Hall.

Events for the coming year will be discussed shortly so please watch this space for details.

Gary Thomas

Village Hall Chairman

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	Stay and Play	09:00 –10:30	Recreation Hall
	Seated Exercise	11:00 — 11:45	Memorial Hall
	Sugar Babes	19:00	Memorial Hall
FRIDAYS	Pilates	14:30 — 15:30	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 4th Wednesday	Friendly Club	14:00	Memorial Hall
Last Friday	Quiz Nights	20:00	Memorial Hall

Please email me with any updates / amendments to the above: editor@highhalstow.org.uk

High Halstow Hikers

We have had two walks since the last HH Times.

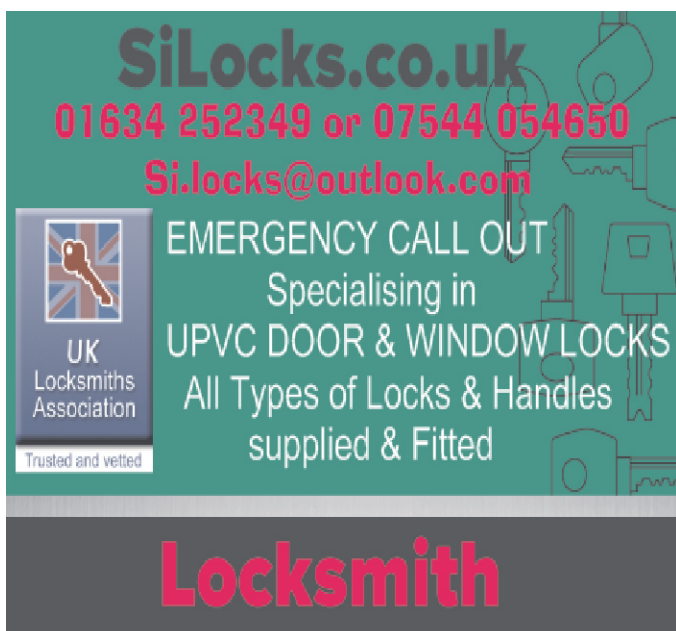
Shortly before Christmas about 25 of us walked around one of our favoured areas between High Halstow and Cooling. The tracks were pretty good for the time of year. To avoid the worst of a brisk westerly wind we walked from Wybourne's Farm to Eastborough bungalow and into the entrance of the RSPB reserve where one can appreciate some of the best views across the marshes to the Thames from Gravesend right around to Southend. From there we dropped down through one of the orchard tracks to take the road through Cooling to the castle. The frequent bends around this road can prove difficult for a group of walkers but on this occasion we knew it would be quiet because of the 6-week long closure for major road repairs at the castle. As we turned towards Cooling Court we saw that the repairs were nearly complete – a great pre-Christmas relief for the residents and Kevin at the pub. On the return across fields to the village the cold wind was behind our backs and sped us on our way to share festive refreshments over lunch. A very enjoyable way to complete out 10th year of walks.

The first walk of any New Year can often be a lottery with the weather, but this year we had a mild, breezy and sunny day, although overnight rain made the paths somewhat "heavy". Sixteen of us took a walk of about 5 miles around Ranscombe Farm, a mixed habitat area managed by Plant Life a recognised wildlife charity. The route took us from wooded areas onto ploughed fields and then to open areas with great views of Cuxton, the Medway and beyond. When the paths allowed us to keep our heads up it was great to see catkins already out on the trees and splashes of colour from the red dogwood.


Very deep wheel tracks from forestry machinery in an area of chestnut coppicing were a particular challenge before we found ourselves at the bottom of a long climb up through a line of mature trees. This pathway/roadway was the original main road from Cobham to Strood and comment was made on how horse drawn carriages would have used the road and whether Charles Dickens would have walked the road, musing over his latest book.

We left Ranscombe briefly to enter Cobham woods and passed the Darnley Mausoleum that stands proud in an open grassed area where there were views towards Gravesend and of deer running through the bracken. Tracking back into Ranscombe, we crossed the "Kitchen Field", an area of national importance for its rare plants, to reach the top of the downs with great views across the valley and beyond. We joined the North Downs Way by heading down and crossing the railway line to make our way back towards the cars where it appears that a new car park is being constructed along with what maybe toilets and a refreshment building. If this is the case it would make a visit to Ranscombe yet more enjoyable. Sharing good company on the 5-mile 2.5-hrs walk was an excellent way to spend a January Sunday morning, especially when followed (for some) a refreshing pint at the Cock Inn at Luddesdown.

Our February walk will start at 10.00 on Sunday 9th February from Park Lane Godden Green with most of the walk of about 5 miles being around historic Knole Park. Car parking is on the road close to the Buck's Head pub (TN15 0JJ). All are welcome. Queries to mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or 01634254428.



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Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, Chair	01634 250286
e.mail: george.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk	
Christine Watson, Vice Chair	01634 256529
Linda Atkinson	07825 619353
Adrian Catchpole	07788 721226
Ray Collins	01634 250105
Gary Jerreat	07880 697657
Tim Munday	07730 477017
Marilyn Stone	07944 490903
Brian Williams	07908 006448

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Jenny Allen 01634 710086



Inconsiderate Parking

Please be aware of where and how you are parking around the village. It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that people are parking on or across pavements, which is forcing pedestrians and children to walk in the road. Also some parking is creating pinch-points which limits access for emergency vehicles or can cause collisions with oncoming vehicles.

High Halstow 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 250637
Stuart Bailey	27 Cooling Road	07976 760 844
June Collins	6 Marsh Crescent	01634 250105
John Myatt	Decoy Hill Road	01634 256 185
Chris Peek	2 Willowbank Drive	01634 252 604
Tamsin Stowers		
Natasha Turner	12 Marsh Crescent	
Office email	office.hhrin@gmail.com	

Dear HHT,

My Birthday

Thank you to all who helped to make my birthday celebrations so special. I really do appreciate everything that everyone did.

Many thanks to you all.

Chris Peek



Sunday Services

8:00am High Halstow

Holy Communion BCP

And

morning prayer alternating

10:30am High Halstow

1st and 3rd Sundays Morning prayer

2nd Sunday Morning prayer

4th Sunday Family communion

5th Sunday morning prayer

Baptisms by arrangement

2nd or 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30am

For further information. Rev Stephen Gwilt 01634 250637

Or Email stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day of judgment approaching. Heb 10:25

Readers Emails & Letters

(No emails or letters will be published without the name and address)

Dear HHT,

Florence May Smitherman.

I was very saddened to hear of the death of May. A lovely person who had many interesting and sometimes challenging experiences in her long life. I had the privilege of interviewing her for a local history project. I sat entranced as she described growing up in her parents Public House, The Rose & Crown in Chatham, driving a crane in the Dockyard during the war, moving here to High Halstow when her husband back from War service in the Navy secured a job in the new B.P. Refinery, losing him in a tragic farming accident and then bringing up her family as a widowed cook at the Refinery. Always a smartly dressed lady, she participated in many aspects of Village life. She was a founder member of the Women's Institute and was present to see the new Village Sign unveiled sixty years later. She attended St. Margaret's, was a regular at the King's Kitchen and served on the Village Hall Committee. May was respected, admired and will be missed by all who knew her.

Mike Meredith

Dear HHT,

Can you help us?

High Halstow Primary School PTA has been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund.



If you are a Co-op member, and you have not already chosen to support a worthy cause please consider choosing us. Every time you buy selected own-brand products and services, 1% of the money goes into our fund.

If you are not a member but do shop in Co-op, please register to support our fund and perhaps you will be able to encourage family and friends to do so as well.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Stangroom

Principal

High Halstow Primary Academy



**High Halstow
Primary Academy**

High Halstow Community Lottery

October 2019 game (November draw)

£1,300 ME3 8SN High Halstow
£200 CT17 0DT Dover

November 2019 game (December draw)

£3000 ME3 8UG Cliffe Woods

December 2019 game (January draw)

£1,400 ME3 9EW Hoo
£200 ME3 8TL High Halstow

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DISCLAIMER: This lottery is privately run by volunteers and has in no way any connection to High Halstow Parish Council

Dear HHT,

Winter is truly upon us and we all need to take responsibility and care when moving around the village and using the variety of public roads, paths and amenity sites. Whilst some roads within the village are gritted this is not guaranteed and we should all remember that most footways are not gritted, so extra care should be taken on particularly cold days.

We would like to remind parishioners that they have a responsibility to make sure their vegetation does not obstruct a public right of way, footway or road, that any gravel driveway overspill is regularly cleared from footways and that they are considerate to all other highway and footway users in the way they park and manoeuvre.

Kindest regards,

High Halstow Parish Council



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editor@highhalstow.org.uk

Next edition March 2020; Contributions for March should be sent by 25th February to:

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