



High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron
The Newsletter for High Halstow



March 2020

Date for your Diary

**High Halstow Climate and
Environment Group
are meeting again on**

**Tuesday 7th April at 7.30 pm (venue details
to follow)**

We are working on a tree planting project,
finding out more about recycling and
encouraging Green Practice in local
businesses.

If the above date is a problem or you would like
to get involved sooner and have your own
project ideas please contact me on
mob number 07944490903 or on
Marilyns53@aol.com

Recommended Reading

20 Actions for Parish and Town Councils can
take on the Climate and Nature Emergency
type the above into your search bar to access
this document.



**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

Village Hall Quiz - March 13th

The Village Hall Quiz is now entering its 20th year
with just under £11,000 raised to date. Why not
help take it through the £11,000 barrier this time. To
book your table please ring Margaret Church on
01903 41300 or 07702 196179.

The cost per table is just £3.00 per person. The
Quiz's are superbly run by Margaret Church and
ably assisted by Marty and John Pink are really just
an excuse to have a good time and to hear much
laughing. Why not come along and take part.

Spittin Feathers 26th September

Book a date in your diary as this group will be
preforming at the Village Hall. Details to follow in a
later edition of the Times.

High Halstow Community Choir CONCERT

To
Celebrate 100 years of the
Memorial Hall

7pm Saturday 28 March
St Margarets Church

Musical Director Ken Reynolds
Accompanist Elizabeth Ryan

Tickets £6 (voluntary contribution for children)
Including refreshments

Available from High Halstow village shop,
Kings Kitchen or phone June on 250105

All proceeds to go to Royal British Legion

Lent

Lent is a time for counting the good things in our life, thinking what we actually need and what other people actually need. Being grateful for spring and reflecting on life. A time to get ready for Easter.

Lent lasts 40 days: a time to renew by “healthy” eating or giving up luxuries to prepare for Easter. A time to donate what You have given up or what you can make available for good use in *Your* community.

Can you donate to *Your* village church's Lent Fund; to enable the village church to do more work in *Your* village and Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) to carry on “praying, protesting and providing for persecuted Christians, persecuted non Christians and persecuted people with no faith”? CSW do this by, “ offering support and solidarity to any persecuted people, they empower victims of humans rights violations, document these events to raise awareness, while trying to influence decision makers whose policies or actions affect the oppressed”.

We accept donations any how *You* like. Traditionally *Your* Village Church asks *You* to have a clean jam jar and put any money you save by “giving up something for Lent” into the jam jar as thanks for good things in *Your* life or as a sacrificial thank you for Jesus's Sacrifice at Easter.

Donations and jam jars to the village church by Easter Sunday please. PLEASE help us to help OUR Village.

Church Mission Group

Memorial Hall Anniversary

This year sees the 100th anniversary of the opening of High Halstow Memorial Hall. Officially opened in January 1920 the first committee meeting was held in April of that year. The current committee will hold an open day on Sunday 5th April 2020 when we hope to have photos and information from that time up until the present day. The hall has seen many events, clubs and parties held there over the years and if you have any photos or memories you would like us to include then please let me know and I am happy to copy photos or include stories and memories you may have. Maybe you have photos when you were a Brownie or Cub, photos of Saturday Club held by Mrs Winder or even when the Youth Club which met in the Memorial Hall. Thank you in advance.

Jeanette - present Secretary of the Memorial Hall Committee

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

High Halstow & District Gardening Club

The High Halstow and District garden club held its AGM at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 11th February 2020.

Thirty three members of the club were present

The Committee members gave short presentations on the past years events and future plans for our next year.

The following members were re elected

Chair Mike Hughes

Vice Chair Mike White

Treasurer. Bob Wells

Speakers Secretary. Wendy White

Social Secretary Jan Hughes

Outings Secretary Pam Walsh

Committee Member Margaret Shuter

Minutes Secretary Alison Wells

Elaine Whyatt was put forward for the position of Show Secretary this was proposed by Dusty Miller and Seconded by John Wilson .

The meeting concluded with a gardening quiz won by Gill Martin and Rosemary Collins

Followed by refreshments

The next meeting will be the spring show on March 10th members only. Our judge this year will be Alison Wells

Happy gardening waders required !

Mike Hughes

High Halstow Hikers

Our February walk was planned to be mainly around Knole Park but unfortunately had to be cancelled a couple of days beforehand as it became clear that Storm Ciara was going to make things hazardous. As it turns out Knole Park was closed as a precaution against the extreme conditions. While we have experienced all weathers this was just the third walk to be cancelled since our first in October 2010.

In the absence of a walk to report I thought I might record a few facts about those we have completed over what is approaching 10 years. Nineteen of the 105 weekend, usually Sunday walks have started from High



Halstow and another 20 from elsewhere on the Hoo Peninsula with several around the Cliffe Marshes and Pools. We have visited Greenwich Park and the river twice (including walking through the tunnel under it) and taken the train to central London to walk the Thames footpath and on another memorable sunny Summer Sunday around the Royal Parks. Otherwise almost all the walks have involved a 30-60 minute drive to other parts of Kent although we did go as far as the Cuckmere Valley near the Seven Sisters on two occasions that were well worth the drive. We have had 3 trips that involved one or more night's stay and allowed more than one walk: to Rye, Snettisham near Kings Lynn and last year's very enjoyable 3 nights near Chatsworth in the Peak District.

The most we have had on a walk is just over 30 and the fewest was 5 (hardy souls) with most involving between 15 and 20. We generally walk for around 2.5 hours and try to take non-challenging routes of 5-7 miles. It is not infrequent for some of us to take a pint plus or minus a pub lunch after the walk.

While some of our walkers have been involved for most of the ten years there have also been many changes with people moving away, becoming less mobile or in a few sad instances passing away. Those departures have been more than balanced by others coming along. I almost said "joining", but that implies some form of membership and we are in fact a very informal group: one that gathers to enjoy some exercise in the open air but mainly to share good company - many new strong friendships have developed as a result. If you fancy taking part you can just turn up on the day. If you wish to be put on our email contact list, which allows details of upcoming walks to be seen earlier, please send an email to mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com.

Our March walk will be one week later in the month than usual and will be that which we cancelled in February. We will start at 10.00 on Sunday 15th 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 the above email or 01634 254428.

***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 10th March

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

Dramarama visit the Emerald City

Dramarama put on 3 performances of the Wizard of Oz on the weekend of 7th/8th February, receiving rave reviews from audiences young and old. With stage and scenery expertly set the cast did their best to tell the story of Dorothy's adventure to the Emerald City and back again. Dorothy had the help of her newly found friends, the scarecrow, tin-man and cowardly lion as she managed to evade the wicked witch of the west and her comic side-kick Riff Raff and return to Kansas with the help of some magical ruby slippers. With a hint a pantomime slapstick, some excellent singing and an audience sing-along a good time was had by all.

If you would like to join Dramarama we are looking for new cast members (under 18's will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult). We rehearse on a Thursday evening normally between 7:30 and 9:30; if you are interested in joining, please contact me at editor@highhalstow.org.uk for more information.

Hope to see you soon at our next production in the summer, details to follow.

Carl Mitchell



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

*Latest update from Kent Association
of Local Councils*

Doorstep Crime - Tree cutting services

There have been recent reports that doorstep criminals are active in the East Peckham area - all Kent residents should be on alert.

What happens:

- Residents are cold-called for tree cutting work
- Exorbitant sums of money are demanded
- The criminals drive the resident to the bank to withdraw cash

What to do

- NEVER agree to work being carried out from someone who knocks on your door uninvited
- Don't allow anyone to pressure you into having work done
- If you ask them to leave and they don't, contact the police on 999
- Use reputable traders who are members of the KCC Trading Standards approved trader scheme, run in partnership with Checkatrade
- Get a minimum of 3 quotes in writing
- Warn vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours.
- Report it

Doorstep crime is financial abuse



**High Halstow
stay & play**

**Thursdays
9.00am-10.30am
(term time only)**

**For Parents & Carers
with Children 0-5 years
£1 per adult / 50p per child**

High Halstow Village Hall
The Street, High Halstow, Rochester, Kent ME3 8SX

Refreshments Available
Come along, have fun and meet other Mums, Dads and Carers at our lovely group, while the children play!

Contact: Facebook: High Halstow Stay and Play
Email: highhalstowsp@gmail.com
Organisers: Hannah & Melissa

SiLocks.co.uk
01634 252349 or 07544 054650
Si.locks@outlook.com



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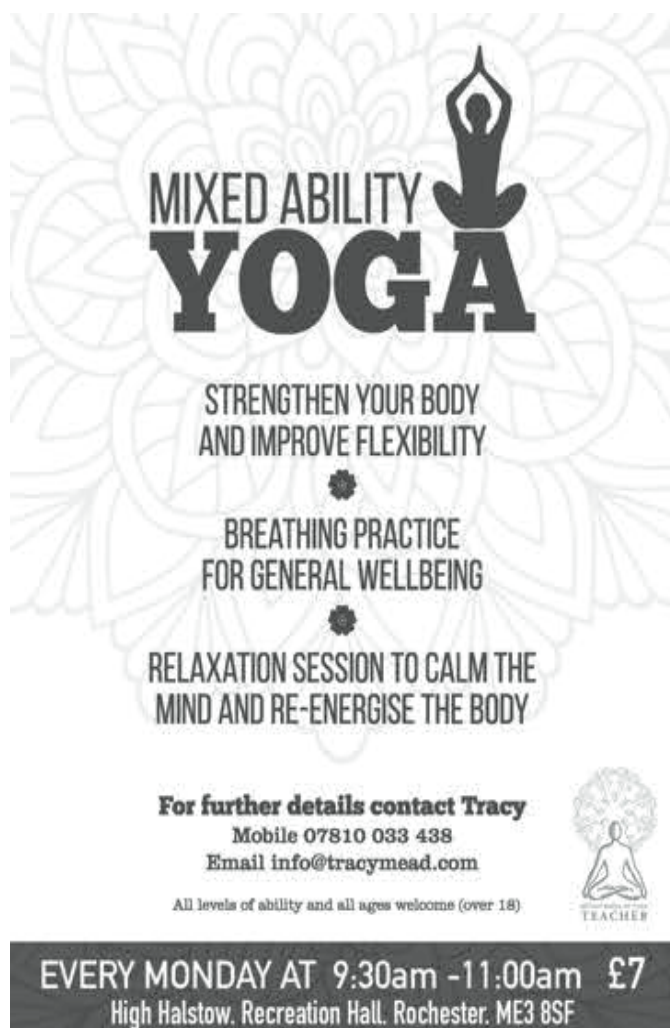
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Master Classes:

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Pilates Classes - Memorial Hall 6.15pm Every Tuesday



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TEACHER

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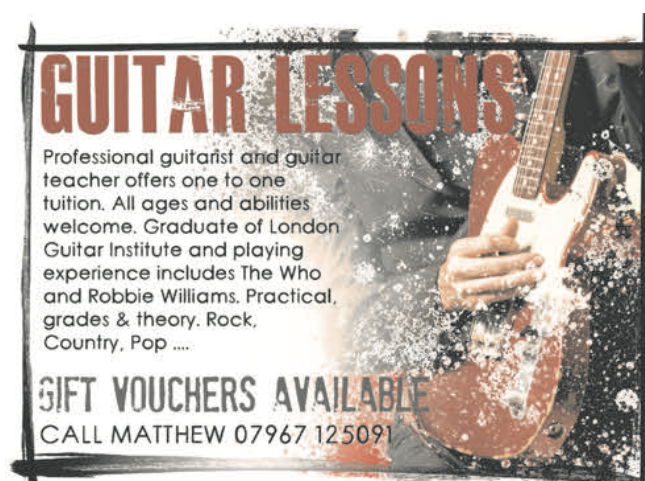
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Your Parish Councillors

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

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 Willlowbank Drive	01634 252 604
Tamsin Stowers		
Natasha Turner	12 Marsh Crescent	
Office email	office.hhrin@gmail.com	

Sunday Services

8:00am High Halstow

1st & 3rd Sundays Morning prayer BCP
2nd & 4th Holy Communion BCP

9:30am High Halstow

1st and 3rd Sundays All age worship
2nd and 5th Sundays morning prayer
4th Sunday Family Communion

Baptisms by arrangement

1st or 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30am

For further information: Rev Stephen Gwilt 01634 250637
Or Email stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk

Caring for the needs of the community for over 1000 years

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)

The family of May Smitherman would like to thank the villagers of High Halstow for the wonderful send off you gave her at the church service and afterwards at the Memorial Hall.

My sister and I have many fond memories of growing up in High Halstow. We will miss visiting mum but will never forget the warmth that was shown on 5th February

Peter Smitherman

Dear HHT,

May Smitherman

I have received messages from May Smitherman's daughter and son. I'd like to share these with you. They said everything was perfect about their Mum's funeral, the refreshments were wonderful and they had good feedback from family and friends. Pauline wrote "Please thank everyone who was involved in making the day so special. We know that Mum would have been so touched that people from the village attended. What a lovely turnout."

Chris Peek

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**



Come and enjoy Afternoon Tea on Easter Saturday, April 11, at the High Halstow Memorial Hall, in aid of the Anim-Mates animal charity. There will be delicious homemade cakes and sandwiches, plus unlimited tea or coffee, and some great tombola and raffle prizes up for grabs. Doors open at 2pm. Entry is £5 (£2.50 for under-12s).

Anim-Mates cares for more than 100 cats, dogs, rabbits, goats, sheep, poultry and ponies at its sanctuary in Ash. All are permanent residents and most are elderly, infirm or have special care needs. The charity relies entirely on public support, through donations and voluntary help, to carry out its much-needed work and is run entirely by volunteers.



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



**Caution
Ice
Slippery
surface**

To advertise in this publication:
£88 Whole Page, £44 Half Page, £22 Quarter
Page, £11 Eighth Page.
editor@highhalstow.org.uk

Next edition April 2020; Contributions for March should be sent
by 26th March to:

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