



High Halstow TIMES



Home of the Heron
The Newsletter for High Halstow

April 2020

How to stick together, by staying apart



Stay at home
no unnecessary journeys
or social contact



Only leave home for
essential shopping
or **medical needs**



Or **exercise once a day**



Or **travelling to work** if
absolutely necessary



Public gatherings of
more than two people are banned -
excluding people you live with



Police may be able to fine you
if you don't follow the rules

Parish Council Meeting Resume – 11/03/2020

The meeting held on the 11th March was attended by all the parish councillors and two members of the public.

There were three planning applications. A response of “no objection” was made to all.

Ray Collins updated the meeting on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, where it was agreed that another survey would go out in the latest edition of the High Halstow Times.

It was understood that Medway Council had been in contact with the primary school to discuss a bursary for some new library books, and that following receipt of part of the Section 106 funds, the Council had also paid for the resurfacing of the 'All-Weather Path' and the replacement 'rocking donkey' in the play park.

Ray Collins advised he was continuing to chase several suppliers for mulch, to aid with the boggy ground at Forge Common.

Both Adrian Catchpole and George Crozer discussed their progress on the revised Grounds Maintenance contract (in advance of its expiry in April).

It was reported by the Tree Warden that the two deceased commemorative trees had been replaced.

The Clerk advised that she had accepted the insurance company's final settlement figure for the damaged bus shelter and was now waiting to hear back.

Ray Collins reported the Village Hall (Blue Room) had a broken heater but the kitchen roof at the Memorial Hall had been repaired.

A member of the public had raised their concerns in relation to local flooding within the cul de sac in Longfield Avenue. It was agreed the Parish Council would write to Medway Council to alert them to this, Adrian Catchpole also highlighted the road surface was delaminating at Longfield Avenue.

Marilyn Stone advised that the first meeting of the High Halstow Environmental Group had gone well and asked for additional funding for further meetings. It was agreed that Ray Collins would lend his expertise to aid the Environmental Group with an application for some free trees via the Woodlands Trust. Chris Watson also reported that the local school children had expressed an interest in helping with a tree count.

Tim Munday reported that he had received no enquiries surrounding the 2020 Village Charity Day.

The members received a complaint surrounding rubbish left by Amazon lorries.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic ALL Parish Council meetings, including sub-meetings and the Climate and Environment Group meeting, have been cancelled until further notice; once public meetings are permitted the Parish Council will allow ample notice.

HH Parish Council

High Halstow Parish Council Monthly Surgeries

Owing to the current situation, we apologise for the fact that the monthly Parish Council Surgeries will not take place at Kings Kitchen until further notice.

You can of course contact any of your parish councillors if you have an urgent problem. Their telephone numbers are contained in the High Halstow Times.

Cllrs Chris Watson and Gary Jerreat

Village Hall

Like everything else we are closed during this time. The exception is the Doctors Surgery and it will be open as follows:

For patients to drop off and collect their medication.

Mondays - 2pm - 3pm

Thursday - 9am - 10 am.

During the present crisis, it will remain closed on a Friday.

The dispensary at the main branch is open from 9am to 12 noon and 3pm to 6pm if patients would prefer to pick up their medication from there.

Concert and Open Afternoon

Unfortunately both the Concert and the Open Afternoon for the Memorial Hall 100 year celebrations are to be cancelled. Both these events will take place later in the year and dates will be decided when things are clearer.

High Halstow Community Lottery RESULTS

January game	£1,200 ME3 8AF	£200 ME3 9BA
February game	£1,200 DA18 4HW	£200 ME3 8TA

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

Church Services

All regular church services have had to cease with the exception of funerals, but then with very limited attendance.

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-pc.gov.uk

ROAD REPS IN HIGH HALSTOW

IF YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING YOUR COMMUNITY IS HERE TO HELP!

What is Road Reps?

Road Reps is a voluntary community initiative set up by High Halstow Parish Council and St. Margaret's Church in reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic.

What do Road Reps do?

In short, we are here to help those within our community that are either at risk, because they may have the virus, or are at high risk of complications, should they be exposed to the virus. Road Reps are on call to help. We are able to collect shopping, pick up urgent supplies, have a friendly telephone chat or even post mail.

How much does it cost?

Nothing, Road Reps is a free community based programme. We do not charge or pay anyone for helping.

What if I need shopping?

If you are unable to do an online shop for collection by a Road Rep or a direct home delivery, we advise the Road Rep to contact you to discuss payment for the shopping. Further advice for Road Reps will be available when they sign up. **For reasons of security, recipients are advised not to give anyone their bank details and Road Reps are advised not to accept bank details.**

What if I can't afford shopping?

Please contact Medway food bank on 01634 757057. They will advise. The Road Rep should be able to pick up supplies on your behalf. Or Contact Rev Stephen Gwilt on 01634 250637 to access the **High Halstow Food Bank**. (Donations welcome please call Rev Stephen Gwilt for advice on what is needed).

Can the Road Rep help to put my shopping away?

No, the Road Rep will not enter your home. They will deliver the shopping to your door.

I need medication collecting, can Road Reps collect?

I'm afraid not, however most GP surgeries and Pharmacies now offer a prescription delivery service, we therefore advise you to contact the surgery to make arrangements.

What is involved in becoming a Road Rep?

Quite simply volunteering to being available to help. If you are willing to be a Road Rep please contact Cllr Marilyn Stone (details below).

Will you pass my address on to others?

Your personal details will be stored to provide Road Rep support during the COVID 19 outbreak and may be shared with other groups to facilitate that support. It will not be shared with unrelated third parties.

Health & Safety...

The safety of Road Reps and self isolators is a priority. The Road rep should not enter your home for any reason. All correspondence should take place over the phone or face to face on the door step at a distance of 2 meters. If at any time you feel you are infected with COVID 19, contact your co-ordinator (see below) and they will co-ordinate your needs.

How do I get in touch?

If you would like the support of your community please contact Rev Stephen Gwilt on 01634 250637 or Cllr George Crozer on 07711432598.

If you are interested in becoming a High Halstow Road Rep please email Parish Councillor Marilyn Stone on Marilyn.Stone@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk or call 01634 250509.

High Halstow Road Reps

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our High Halstow Times Distributors for their help with delivering the COVID 19 leaflets that were recently posted to you all.

We would also like to thank the 26 plus people who have volunteered to support self-isolators in the village. Call for support is not high at the moment, but this is very likely to change over the coming weeks. Please consider contacting Marilyn, preferably by email Marilyn.Stone@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk or by phone 01634 250 509.

In order to keep everyone involved we have adopted a Road Rep policy and will be sharing guidelines to our volunteers.

DO NOT be shy or embarrassed to ask for support. Many of us are likely to find ourselves in this position. It is very probable that at different times some of us are likely to be volunteers and then someone self-isolating and needing support. Road Reps can shop for you, call you for a chat and take your dog for a walk. Ask for the help you need and we will try to help.

Cllr Marilyn Stone
On Behalf of HHPC

High Halstow Hikers

As I sit typing this on 28th March, we have had our first week of so-called lockdown and memories of our walk just two weeks ago from Godden Green seem like they are from a different world. At that time we had already been told that we should keep at least 2 metres apart so the 10 of us walked alongside our partners much more than usual and kept a good distance between ourselves and other walkers.

Heading from the Green towards one of the side entrances into Knole Park where we knew paths would be in good condition, we first had to negotiate a couple of very muddy areas where trucks had been in use for coppicing. The path towards Knole House crosses the attractive golf course and one needs to keep a keen look out for wayward golf shots. Shortly after safely negotiating one of the fairways we moved into an area of widely spaced trees where a few dozen deer were grazing with their impressive springtime antlers (see photo). Going back nearly 5 centuries, the deer would have lived less peacefully having to run the risk of being chased by one of our more rotund monarchs – Henry VIII – on horseback and intent on bagging their head.



Knole House itself is very substantial and is one of the most important properties of the National Trust. Over recent years the Trust has put several £ million into the restoration of the house and the creation of a visitor centre and a cafeteria that have been integrated into some of the side buildings (and include very smart toilets).

After leaving the house we took one of the long straight and wide paths towards the south that could well have formed a grand arrival route in earlier days. We then turned down the so-called Chestnut Walk and crossed the Greensand Way shortly before leaving the park close to Carter's Hill where there is a popular area for car parking close to another side entrance to Knole. After walking along a narrow road back towards Godden Green we turned to the right and walked through Lord's Spring Wood and then took a well-made track through some large and impressive houses to reach the cars outside the Bucks Head pub.

The walk was just over 5 miles long, quite easy going and took us a little over 2 hours. Most of us finished with a drink outside the pub to avoid the crowd of people inside who seemed less concerned by the increasing threat from COVID-19 than we were.

So that will be the last report of a shared walk by the Hikers for the foreseeable future. We are so much more fortunate than many given that there are of course a large number of excellent circular walks around High Halstow that the Hikers have taken and I have reported here in the past. The walks are of all sorts of lengths and would be rated by most people as easy as well as allowing good social distancing from others. Given the very limited means of exercise available currently, walking has clearly become more popular for large numbers of people. So I'll take soundings to see if at least some readers would value some of these routes being described in upcoming editions of the HH Times in a manner that allows them to be followed: it will keep me entertained if not you! If anybody would like a couple of routes described in the meantime drop me a note at mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com. Whatever the case, let's all try to keep safe and well.

Dear HHT,

I've written a 150 word piece weaving the titles of all fifteen of Dickens major novels, including the unfinished mystery of Edwin Drood, into a very short story. Just a bit of fun for anyone familiar with Dickens' work, or for newcomers trying to spot the less obvious titles. Have fun and stay safe.

Kindest regards, Jed Sheerin

150 for a One Hundred and Fiftieth!

A gloomy mid-November morning and the townspeople, semi-visible, purblind in fogbound streets, were singularly preoccupied with the mystery of Edwin Drood's death at Bleak House. Peculiar circumstances; signalling an untimely end to his great expectations. News-stands blazoned the Pickwick papers' headlines: 'Inspector Martin Chuzzlewit – "I'll un-puzzle it."' Perennially busy little Dorrit was overheard speaking with uncharacteristic bluntness to David Copperfield: "That simpleton Barnaby Rudge, you mark my words, fool or no fool; he's responsible for bringing more than hard times to our mutual friend." Her perspicacious assessment so impressed Nicholas Nickleby that he opined to Master Oliver: "Twist it how you will; that foolish boy's head is filled with more oddities than the Old Curiosity Shop, new branches of which – I'm reliably informed – have just been opened by Dombey and Son, in London and Paris."

And thereby, my highly esteemed, assiduous and indefatigable reader, hangs a tale of two cities.



Development in High Halstow

We are sure that many of you are anxious about the emerging Local Plan and the talk of massive development in Hoo and High Halstow. Medway Council has been granted a Housing Infrastructure (HIF) grant to improve infrastructure which will help bring development forward and they expect to submit a final draft plan in the summer of 2020. Work for this has **not** stopped because of the Coronavirus.

The Parish Council have strong concerns about the current Local Plan on the grounds that the number of new homes proposed – 800 – would double the size of the village, far more than needed to sustain the community.

The Parish Council also support Councillor Ron Sands' Bid to register the Peninsula as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which will have certain restrictions to development:

"Recognition is growing that the estuary is a place worth investing in, but there is a perception that it is an empty, meaningless wasteland in need of development. Nothing could be further from the truth; this is a rich, varied and historic landscape. It's just waiting to be appreciated."

"The Way to the Sea – The forgotten histories of the Thames Estuary" by Caroline Crampton. Published 2019 .

In response, to mitigate the Parish Council decided to introduce a Neighbourhood Plan so that if the Local Plan was adopted in its present form, we the community of High Halstow, would have a say in the way that development was delivered. The Neighbourhood Plan gives us the opportunity to influence many aspects of development. This you will see evident from the consultations and surveys we have and are undertaking.

Further to this we are seeing developers bring forward pre-empted applications for Planning Permission before any new Plan is in place. A meeting with Medway Council planned for the 17 March was cancelled because of the COVID 19 virus. Please go to www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk and view the Neighbourhood Plan tab to see the questions we have sent to the Medway Planning Office.

Agents for developers are seeking to develop up to 790 homes on the land between Britannia Road and Christmas Lane and have asked Medway Council for a Scoping Opinion to establish the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment required to support their application. This is a process they have to go through before bringing forward an application for Planning Permission.

A Scoping Opinion is what is required prior to development to assess the Environment Impacts. For example, the Council may want to see an ecological study into the effect on the rich wildlife which we enjoy in or such matters as air quality, noise, or landscape at Northwood Hill.

Medway council will **not** know exactly what special features of natural cultural or historic heritage High Halstow has and holds dear, so we must therefore make sure that we ask in strong terms to be involved in the Scoping Opinion.

We have already identified below many of our assets and aspects of life that we would like surveyed. Do you have any further suggestions or experience or specific knowledge we can use? If so, please contact Ray.Collins@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk.

You may be aware that Medway Council is currently consulting on a document "Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula". We urge you to go to Medway Council's website, search for "Hoo Peninsula Consultation", and respond with your comments.

Assets requiring Survey

Wildlife * Bats * Birds * Reptiles * SACS * SSSI's * Archaeology heritage * Cultural heritage * Heronry
* Rookery * Nightingales * Shrill carder bees * Pipistrelle bat

Social

Air quality * Carbon emissions * Climate Change * Traffic and transport * Relationship to goods and services

Other

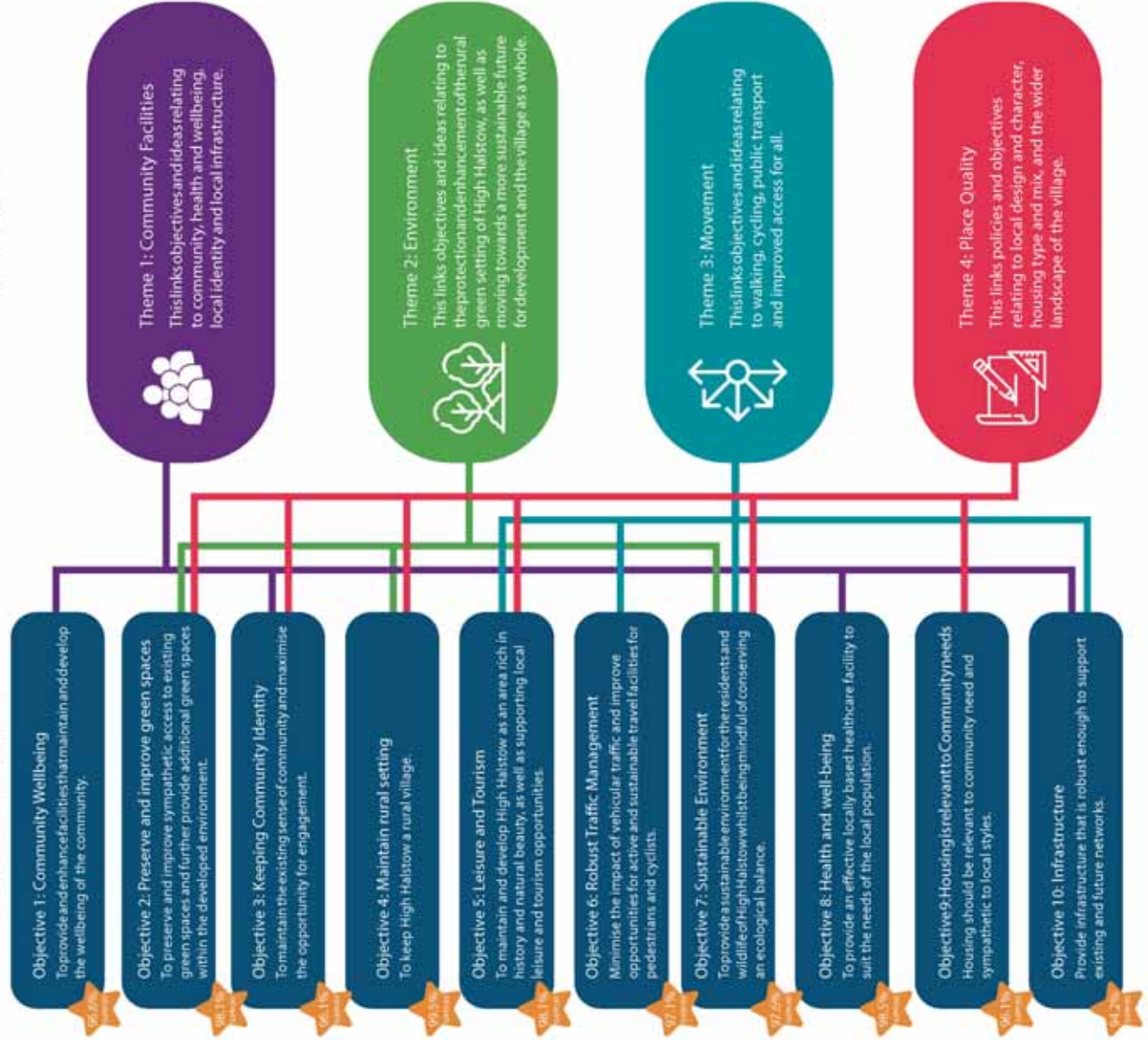
Agricultural land * Drainage and sewage * Visual and landscape

The Parish Council

OBJECTIVES

THEMES

POLICY IDEAS



High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Residents Survey Consultation on ‘Policy Ideas’

Overview and update

Last autumn we asked for your thoughts on the draft objectives for the NP. We had an excellent response and the percentage support is starred on the flowchart in the Halstow Times. Based on your comments we are now presenting our initial ideas for potential policies in the NP. These are linked back to the objectives and grouped around four key themes:

1. Community
2. Environment
3. Movement
4. Place Quality

We would now like your feedback on whether you agree or disagree with these policies. We'd also like to know whether you have any other ideas or suggestions that should be included in our **NP**.

You may be aware that, since our last consultation, Medway Council has secured Central Government funding to improve infrastructure on the Hoo Peninsula, including passenger train services on the existing freight line and a relief road for the A228. This will enable more new homes to be built.

Medway Council is preparing a new **Local Plan**. This will establish the scale of growth across the Hoo Peninsula, including High Halstow, and what infrastructure is required to support that.

What we are seeking to do through the NP is to influence the shape and form of any new development, such that it can be the very best it can be for High Halstow. We hope to influence the design and layout of any development, mix and type of uses, how we can improve community facilities and protect green spaces, and how we can make it easier for people, of all ages, to move around. The NP is a very real opportunity to steer the future of High Halstow, so that we can plan the best for our community. It is therefore really important that you are involved and let us know what you think – your thoughts will help shape the NP.

Local Green Spaces

A key message coming out of the previous consultation was the importance of protecting green spaces. Through the NP we have the ability to designate “Local Green Spaces”, which have strong protection in national planning policy. We need to be able to demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:

- it should be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- it should be demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- it should be local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

We have mapped what we believe to be important Local Green Spaces in High Halstow that should be protected through the NP, for example the Recreation/cricket ground, Forge Common, recreation area off Topley Drive. These are in addition to the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), RAMSAR (designated of international environment importance) and other nationally protected sites. Please let us know what other areas you think should be protected. For more information about recommended green spaces please go to www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Please help us by completing the following

House Number/Name	Post Code
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Each house occupant is invited to comment so please indicate the number who agree/disagree/unsure in the relevant box

Based on your comments these are our initial ideas for potential policies in the NP. These are linked back to the objectives and grouped around four key themes:

Theme 1: Community Facilities

This links the objectives and ideas relating to community, health and wellbeing, local identity and local infrastructure.

		Agree	Unsure	Disagree
1.	Reinforcing and strengthening the heart of the village by protecting existing facilities and delivering new and improved community facilities in this area.			
2.	A new health facility, potentially integrated within an expanded and improved village hall, as well as space for a café and meeting place.			
3.	Improved Changing Facilities for sports and recreation which might be integrated with community toilets.			
4.	Delivery of a new primary school as part of a major new development that is well integrated into the village.			
5.	Improved broadband speeds and mobile reception.			

Theme 2: Environment

This links objectives and ideas relating to the protection and enforcement of the rural green setting of High Halstow, as well as moving towards a more sustainable future for development and the village as a whole.

		Agree	Unsure	Disagree
6.	Promoting a zero carbon future including delivery of electric vehicle fast charging points and new zero carbon buildings.			
7.	Designate areas as local green spaces for long term protection.			
8.	Require delivery of new green space in any new proposed development that is well designed and accessible for use by all.			
9.	Integrating flood management into any new developments.			
10.	Protecting key views, valued landscapes, natural areas and places of importance for biodiversity			

Theme 3: Movement

This links objective and ideas relating to walking, cycling, public transport and improved access for all.

		Agree	Unsure	Disagree
11.	Promote walking and cycling for all and ensure regular low carbon affordable bus service.			
12.	Improve access to the countryside and Coastal Path.			
13.	Ensure any new development is fully integrated with the existing village and that all community facilities are easily accessible for all.			
14.	Ensure good walking, cycling and public transport links are provided to the expected new railway station.			
15.	Introduce traffic management measures that slow traffic speeds and make streets safer for all.			
16.	Explore how new technologies can be used to future proof development, using ideas such as car sharing and "Mobility as a Service" (MaaS).			

Theme 4: Place Quality

This links policies and objectives relating to local design and character, housing type and mix, and the wider landscape of the village.

		Agree	Unsure	Disagree
17.	To prepare design policies that deliver a high quality new development that reflect the best qualities of High Halstow, in terms of the scale of development, materials used, provision, planting and arrangement of open space.			
18.	Require independent design review of major schemes to maintain the highest standards of design. High quality of design would require developers to demonstrate (i) excellent access by sustainable modes (foot, cycle, public transport) to infrastructure, jobs and services; (ii) a high standard of build quality to deliver net zero carbon development on new buildings.			
19	Require a wide range of housing types to be provided through new development including affordable homes, self-build and flexible housing types that can be adapted for changing lifestyles, and accommodation for older people.			

Comments

Comments cont'd.

Policy ideas/suggestions

Green space suggestions

You can complete this form online at
www.highhalstowneighbourhoodplan.co.uk
or please return your completed form to High Halstow Village Shop

Memories Of High Halstow Memorial Hall
100 Years
1920-2020

When I began to put this article together we were looking forward to our 100 Year Celebrations of the Memorial Hall. But things have changed and the celebrations have been put on hold. However, I decided that I would still go ahead with this article. You can read it and enjoy a cup of coffee whilst keeping safe.

Below is a shortened version of a longer article that appeared in the local newspaper reporting social events in High Halstow in April 1920. It also includes memories from villagers who have used the hall over the years.

Unlike many Memorial Halls, High Halstow Memorial Hall was built to celebrate the return of the men of the parish who came back safely from the Great War. Villagers wasted no time and plans were quickly put in place with the land being donated to the village by Mr Bill Osenton - known to friends as Buckhole Billy as he owned Buckhole Farm. Solicitor, Mr Arnold Tuff of Arnold Day and Tuff gave his services free.

The Hall was officially opened in February 1920 at 3pm and a great number of villagers gathered around as the key was handed to Mr. Osenton and he opened the door and had much pleasure in declaring the hall officially open. The fifty-four men whose names appear on the scroll in the hall were invited along to attend the evening social gathering.

In September 1920 the committee decided to hold four concerts to pay off the remaining debt on the building. Those who attended were charged between 9 pence and 2 shillings with children under 14 half price for admission. Needless to say, the hall was packed and all had a fun evening. There was a splendid musical programme arranged by Mr Harland and at the interval refreshments were served to those present. The provisions were provided by friends and well wishers. The raffle or draw had some very interesting prizes, including donations of a Gent Bycycle (sic), a Pig, a bag of potatoes a sack of coal, several fowls, rabbits and other goods. At the close of the concert the remainder of the evening was spent with games and dancing. Just before midnight all joined in singing 'Auld Land Syne' and the National Anthem. There were cheers for Mr Harland who had been MC for the night's entertainment and also Mr Jeffries who had been pianist for the evening. The evening raised £14 by the sale of the tickets and this was handed over to the treasurer, the Rev. Longfield, to help reduce the debt still remaining on the building.

After the first year of the first committee concluded, it was decided that there would be three women and six gentlemen on the new committee. In November 1923 it was decided that an extra room be built behind the existing Hall and that it would be large enough to hold a billiard table. Plans were drawn up and the new room was officially opened in January 1925.

In October 1929 the football club asked to use the back room as their dressing room, this was agreed and continued to be used by the football team for many years.

Work done to recover the roof in November 1953 went ahead and lasted until it was renewed in April 2004! The Hall was temporarily closed during the Second World War but has been in use over the years by many clubs and functions.

Here are just a few memories of the hall through the years:

During the 1950's the hall was home to the Sunday School attended by up to 40 village children who met every Sunday morning. In the same decade the W.I. opened its doors for the first time and has covered many topics and interests over the years. One of its founder members sadly passed away earlier this year just months away from her 100 birthday.

During this time there were many dances held in the hall with Mrs Lacey on the piano along with drums, violins and banjos being played. Old time dancing was the popular music of the time with dances being held on a Saturday evening. Mr Lacey would be the MC for the night and much joy was had. There were Plays and Sketches on the stage during these occasions - the stage has since been removed.

During one of these dances men from Four Wents Army Camp attended and there was a fight with knives drawn. Mr Lacy and an Officer from the camp had to intervene and the dance was stopped!

On Coronation Day in June 1952 a party was held for the villagers which included a Fancy Dress competition for the children and celebrations for the adults. A puppet club and shows were also regular events. It was during the 1950s that plans were drawn up for an extension to the hall: this is the current kitchen area, along with the toilets and storeroom.

The 1960's saw many wedding receptions held in the hall, along with many birthday parties. Guides, Brownies and Cubs started up and were always well attended by the village children - I was a Brownie during this time and enjoyed good fun-filled evenings and camping overnight in the woods above Wybornes Farm. The Council funded Holiday Clubs for the children which again were well attended. Sunday School known as Pathfinders was still held in the hall. The 1960's also saw the opening of the Recreation Hall - now the Village Hall. This was built as the village grew with the influx of people into the village and some of the clubs moved to the new larger premises. This had a financial effect on the Memorial Hall but things improved and the hall once again flourished. Regular Beetle Drives and Whist nights were held as part of the fundraising. The village fete also saw the hall in use, rehearsals for the village float and entertainment were all part of the hall life. The Youth Club known as the Teenage Club also used the hall on a Monday evening. This was run by Mr Savage of Harrison Drive and the charge was 6 shillings for two hours use of the hall.

The 1970's decade saw the opening up of the Gardening Club which is still going strong in the village. Dancing classes started up during this time and the hall was also used for the Parish Council Meetings.

1980 saw the beginning of the Drop In Club, which is now known as the Friendly Club and is still going strong, meeting once a month with a varied programme of events and also an enjoyable annual holiday trip. There were also monthly Whist Drives held and well attended.

In the 1990's we see the hall hosting the monthly Quiz Nights which are still enjoyed by many - some teams are still going strong to this day. These fundraising nights helped in a big way to contribute to the funds of the Memorial Hall and helped with the ongoing upkeep. As the hall was in a good state of repair it was decided to allow each team to choose a charity of their choice to benefit from the money raised. Congratulations must go to Margaret Church and her team of quiz helpers for the money raised over the years. The Drop In Club grew into a Luncheon Club where villagers could meet for a hot meal cooked at home by members and taken along to the hall for serving. I used to be quite amused by my own mum who would tell me she was serving lunch for "the old people" when at the age of 80+ she was one of the oldest members of the club! During this decade the Mother and Toddlers Group started to meet in the hall where the children were free to play whilst the mums enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat whilst the children had fun.

The New Century saw changes in the Committee and the Hall went from strength to strength. Kings Kitchen was introduced by Liz Meredith, her vision being to give people somewhere local to meet for a coffee and a chat. Although this was mainly a place for the 'older' villagers to meet it is lovely to see the younger mums with their toddlers coming along for a drink and snack on a Tuesday morning. If you haven't tried it then please do: if you come along you can also pick up a secondhand book from the wide selection donated, try one of Dick Driver's cheese scones and make new friends.

My own early memories of the Memorial Hall are of going along to Brownies and the old pot-bellied heating fuelled by coke - there are reports of a burglary in the 1960's of coke being stolen from the hall. I also attended Mrs Winder's Saturday Club where we learnt to dance, rehearsed for the fetes and enjoyed the very hard sticky toffee that she made and sold to us. Now as an adult I still use the hall and find myself Secretary to the present committee. Here are just a few of the activities that are available in the Hall:

Line Dancing, Kings Kitchen, Pilates, Tai Chi, Seated Exercise, Sugar Babes, Karmann Dancers, Women's Institute, Gardening Club, Parish Council Meetings, Friendly Club and of course the ever popular Margaret's Monthly Quiz.

The beautifully hand-written Minutes from 1920 onwards make fascinating reading, the names have changed and the issues have changed but the one thing that remains the same is the fondness for the hall itself. Recent work in the kitchen ceiling has been finished which will help keep our Memorial Hall in good repair for what we hope will be another 100 years.

Jeanette Dowsett

Need to Hire a Hall

If you are interested in hiring either of the halls in the village, later in the year when we are all back to normal, please contact:
Memorial Hall - Cora Macfarlane 252587 / 07801 892664
Village Hall - Wenda Taylor 253169



High Halstow and District Garden Club

On Tuesday 10th March High Halstow and District Garden Club held its annual spring show . The show was judged by last years winner Alison Wells . Twenty two members entered a total of one hundred and twenty one exhibits.

While the judging took place the members retired to the Annex and enjoyed a selection of quizzes rolled by tea, coffee, biscuits and cake. The winners of the quizzes were Rosemary Collins with Gill Martin and Sue Osenton with Wendy Howland

Results

The Hillman Trophy for most points in section 1 spring flowers was won by Jan Hughes

The cup for the most points in Section 2 Home Crafts was won by Elaine Whyatt.

The best entry in the show voted by the members was Pam Walsh

The winner of the spring plate for the combined points scored in both sections 1 and 2 was tied between Wendy White and Jan Hughes. Wendy and Jan will now judge the spring show in 2021

A raffle followed the presentation of awards.

Due to corona virus the garden club meetings will be cancelled until further notice.

Enjoy getting out in the garden now the weather has started to improve.

Mike Hughes



Jan Hughes and Wendy White presented with the spring plate by club chair Mike Hughes



Worried about what is going to happen ? How you will cope ?

The present situation is a worrying one for all of us, but if we stick together as a community we can make a difference to the quality of life for all of us.

If anyone is having issues or needs any help please get in touch and we will try and find some help for you. I know many of our amazing neighbours help each other out and care for each other and if you are willing and able to help someone else do get in touch and I am sure working together we can make a real difference to those in our midst who are going to find it very difficult in the coming weeks. If you have food or spare toiletries that we can collect into a local village foodbank you can drop it off at the Rectory so we can give it to those who really need it. If you are struggling there are ways we can help each other so please do get in touch if you need it.

Please feel free to contact

Rev Stephen Gwilt on 01634 250637

George Crozer on 07711432598



IMPORTANT NOTICE

In light of the present difficulties of personal contact due to COVID19 the High Halstow Lottery Committee have no option but to temporarily change the way we carry out the monthly draw.

To keep things transparent, we have taken measures to ensure all players are content with these, they will be shown on our www.highhalstowcl.uk page once finalised.

Equally if your group need financial aid to purchase something in particular to help the village through this crisis then please consider applying for funding and we will do our best to help. The form to apply for funding can be downloaded from our website as above.

Our aim has always been to help the community of High Halstow with financial aid.

We have always promoted that the more people play, the bigger the prize fund and the more help we can provide to the community.

REMINDER

As set out in our initial promotional wording, we have approximately 800 homes in High Halstow and if every household played (at £10 per ticket) we would have a monthly income of £8,000 which would give us a monthly prize fund of £6,000 each month and £2,000 going into the charity pot for High Halstow groups. Just think what £2,000 per month could do to help High Halstow groups and therefore villagers.

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

Sort Code: 40-43-44

Account No: 21507826

Amount: (tickets are £10 each but some players pay for more than one ticket)

HHT via Email

If you would like to receive your copy of the HHT delivered by email, there is now a link on the HH Parish website which will allow you to request your copy electronically.
www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk/community/high-halstow-parish-council-13291/high-halstow-times-nov/

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



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



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.

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£88 Whole Page, £44 Half Page, £22 Quarter Page, £11 Eighth Page.
editor@highhalstow.org.uk

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	

Readers Emails & Letters

(No emails or letters will be published without the name and address, which can be withheld on request)

Dear HHT,

WHAT AN AMAZING VILLAGE WE LIVE IN!! The community spirit and feeling of being so welcome living here is such a wonderful feeling, you wouldn't find that living in many places these days.

But my main reason for writing is to say the biggest and heartfelt thank you to the HIGH HALSTOW RELIEF IN NEED charity. They have helped me this year putting my life back together in the most generous and selfless way.

You never know with life what is around the corner, and I know more and more families are struggling financially with day to day bills and unforeseen payments that need sorting. Becoming depressed and worried over not being able to pay these bills affects everyone around you, and just knowing there is someone there to lean on, is an amazing weight off your shoulders.

From the bottom of my heart, I cannot thank the High Halstow Relief in Need charity enough for everything they have done. Please, if you feel like I did, that they can help you, get in contact with them and they would be more than happy to listen to you, that's what they are there for.

Name & Address Supplied

Dear HHT,

I just wanted to say a big thank you for all the well wishes Roy has received.

Roy has been housebound with a rare skin condition since January, only leaving to go to attend hospital and Doctors appointments. He has received fabulous treatment and ongoing care from our Community Nurses; who have been our lifeline, dressing his wounds regularly.

As you may be aware Roy was rushed into hospital when he became short of breath & was put into HDU & treated for Covid19.

We as a family are eternally grateful to the paramedics and nurses & doctors at Medway Hospital but especially to those who cared for & treated him on the Medical High Dependency Unit.

His recovery will be a long one but we are glad to have him home.
Stay safe,
Marj Ives



Dear HHT,

I am a dog owner. And I get fed up of irresponsible dog owners.

It's not the dogs fault for needing to do their business, it's the owner who thinks they have no responsibility to deal with it or let them do it anywhere they like.

Why do owners drive to the village hall car park let their dogs out of the car whilst staying by their vehicle and after x amount of time blow a whistle.. dog returns what a good doggy and the owner drives away not caring what their dog has done.

Why do owners with dogs on leads not care or take notice that their beloved pet has done their business in the middle of the path. Its owners who think their dogs can be off lead and jump on people and say "agghh they dont normally do that".

It's the owner not the dog.

A dog may come back to their owner when called but can do an awful lot of carnage when not under control. Why do dog owners think their dog is so special that any thing they do wrong is totally ok and just one of those things that others must except.

Why oh why do dog owners pick up their dogs business and hang it on a fence or tree thinking that it's someone else's duty to dispose of it.

It's the owner not the dog. Dont give your dog a bad name for you not caring. I'm a dog owner who is fed up in treading in someone's lovely dogs mess.

Be responsible..

Brian Williams



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

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