



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



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**March 2021**

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## ***Redrow Development East of High Halstow***

The development of the site East of High Halstow between Christmas Lane and Britannia Road for circa 760 new homes is looming ever closer. The draft Local Plan is set for release for 'Planning Inspector' review this summer.

The High Halstow Neighbourhood Plan (NP) steering group is close to releasing the High Halstow NP plan for a village referendum which is essential should the Local Plan pass inspection.

On the 11th March the NP team along with its expert will begin a collaborative design review with Redrow, Medway Planning and independent experts from 'Design South East' at a virtual online meeting to monitor the process for any development and see it is strictly adhered to. It will also importantly ensure that we have our say.

We can assure you that we are united in our opinion that

development on the Peninsula is unsustainable and will seek to make that and other arguments to the Planning inspector in due time. For the moment we must however concentrate on Plan B the Neighbourhood Plan.

George Crozer  
HH Parish Council

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 10th February where it was attended by nine (9) Parish Councillors, one (1) Ward Councillor and three (3) members of the public.

Before the meeting began the members received a half an hour talk from Ms W. Wright from 'Towards Plastic Free Medway' concerning the damages to the environment caused by the effects of single use plastic. After careful consideration it was unanimously agreed to become an ally for this new venture where the members pledged to implement three new changes to reduce their plastic wastage.

Shortly afterwards the Councillors received an update from Ward Councillor Ron Sands concerning the redevelopment of the former Kingsnorth power station site, the proposed amendments to the HIF bid (as suggested by Hoo Parish Council) and the loss of the Rural Liaison Grant (with effect from April 2022).

Four (4) new planning applications were discussed, alongside four (4) new decisions. A vote took place where the Parish Council agreed to object to one of the applications and to provide comments on another. It was established that 35 of the new dwellings at Heronden Grange were now occupied and following this announcement the members agreed to chase Medway Council for an update on the first tranche of the Section 106 funds.

The need for a meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee with Medway Council and Urbed (a design and research consultancy working alongside Medway Council) was mooted.

The members agreed to invite the Hoo Neighbourhood Planning Committee to this meeting, to provide a united front.

Grant applications for wHoo Cares and Cabs4Jabs were discussed. After careful consideration it was decided that additional information would be required before the members reached any formal decisions.

The Councillors learnt that the non-urgent repairs to the half pipe in the recreation ground had been undertaken.

Owing to the recent poor weather conditions it was acknowledged that the surfacing underneath the basket swing in the recreation ground had become very boggy. The installation of a hard-core base was suggested where the members agreed to incorporate this item into their list of expenditure for the next financial year (2021/2022).

It was confirmed that there had been two new commemorative benches installed at Forge Common and that new bark chippings had been laid to the entrance. The members also agreed and voted on the plantation of a new row of trees, spanning from the Northwood Avenue entrance at Forge Common to the RSPB entrance.

It was agreed that due to the large amount of rubbish had accumulated in the ditches, that the Parish Council would obtain a quote from the landscape contractors for litter picking.

The installation of an electronic notice board was discussed, where two proposed sites were suggested. It was established that further research would be required before any formal

decisions were made.

The members learnt that the two fallen trees, located along Eden Road, had now been replaced by Medway Council and that the long-awaited replacement bus shelter at Britannia Road, had finally been installed.

A report received from the High Halstow Environmental Group confirmed that the committee had received interest from new members wanting to join. It also confirmed that a couple of the committee's long-term projects had been completed.

Due to the restrictions of the current lockdown, it was recognised that both the Memorial Hall and the Village Hall remained closed and that the improvement works to St Margaret's Church had temporarily been placed on hold.

Finally, the members discussed and approved a proposal, sent by email from Reverend S. Gwilt, for the purchase a new memorial book to commemorate the loss of life caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and to aid the bereaved.

The meeting was closed at 9.08 pm.

The next Parish Council meeting has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10th March via Zoom, where a warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to attend.

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### ***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](http://www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

# Big steps for a little village

Following in the steps of the **Rainham Eco Hub**, High Halstow are initiating a similar network to include the whole Peninsula – **Peninsula Eco Hub**.

The **Rainham Eco Hub** was started just a year ago by two young women with a passion for environmental change.

They posted their thoughts on **Facebook** and quickly acquired a following.

It became a platform to exchange views, ask questions, solve problems and most importantly effect change.

Individually, it seems, people want to help but don't know how.

Collectively, things can happen :

- A complaint about grass verges not being mown led to a survey where the majority (92% of people) were in favour of keeping the wild flowers which were creating a meadow.
- Shopping trolleys were removed from ditches at a wildlife centre after a volunteer from the Council came forward.

- Rainham Recreation Ground, formerly a sad and uninspiring place, will get a makeover from a gardener, using natural materials and planting trees to produce a place where communities can gather to socialise.
- Local businesses have investigated using alternatives to single-use plastic.
- Two beauty salons are now working towards an entirely sustainable salon in the future.
- Links to other **Eco Hubs** have been forged to share ideas and projects.
- Research is being done into Eco Bricks by a lady who is passionate about Eco Schools.
- Working with the Woodland Trust, **Rainham Eco Hub** have pledged to plant 1,000 trees in Rainham in 2021. After only 3 days from the announcement of this pledge the planting of 100 trees were promised.
- Contacts were made with groups and individuals who distribute out of date or unwanted food.

- Links were made with Amy – “**The Lazy Environmentalists**” who has 100,000 followers. Check her out on **Facebook**.

**Rainham Eco Hub** have achieved a great deal in the year that they have been operating especially considering the pandemic restrictions.

We would like to make High Halstow the inspiration for change on the Peninsula. Joining forces with other villages on the Peninsula gives us a wider community from which to draw ideas and enthusiasm.

At this early stage we are looking for followers (young or older) to post eco-information, to share ideas, to make suggestions or requests for help and to network with other groups.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Marilyn.Stone@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk  
or 07944 490 903

Linda.Atkinson@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk

**Peninsula Eco Hub**



**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.



### ***Dramarama Hoping to Return to Stage Near You Soon!***

It was February 2020 that we last performed in front of an audience with our performance of the Wizard of Oz, since then we have kept in contact via Zoom with weekly quizzes and catch-ups.

With all of our fingers and toes crossed we are hoping that we might be able to start meeting-up in person after the summer and start rehearsals for a pantomime in January 2022.

If you would be interested in joining our group and have a talent for 'showing-off' we meet on Thursday evenings (when able to) from 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Please email at [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)



**Help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Medway:** Symptom-free testing is now available for everyone.

Anyone who lives or works in Medway can now book a coronavirus (COVID-19) symptom-free test. This is especially important if you're leaving your home for an essential reason including:

Leaving home for work  
To go food shopping  
For exercise  
For a medical reason.

The aim is to identify people who do not have coronavirus symptoms but who are infectious and could spread the virus to others unknowingly. This will provide a more accurate picture of cases in Medway and will help reduce the spread of the virus locally.

The current symptom-free testing centres are in Chatham, Chattenden, Gillingham, Rainham and Rochester. Testing centres are open from 9am to 7pm, Monday to Sunday. Medway Park is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 7pm.

1 in 3 people with coronavirus have no symptoms. It is important to book regular symptom-free tests every 2 weeks to help protect each other, including our loved ones.

Play your part now and help us get out of lockdown restrictions.

To book a test or for more information please visit the Medway Council website.

### **Daylight Saving**

The warmer weather and lighter evenings will soon make a return, and this month, the clocks will change, as we enter British Summer Time (BST).

As part of Daylight Saving Time, the clocks will go forward at the end of March, meaning we lose an hour in bed and wake up feeling a little sleepier than usual. On the plus side, we'll relish in the longer daylight hours and have an excuse for arriving late all day.

### **When do the clocks change in 2021?**

On Sunday, March 28, we will move to British Summer Time (BST) – at 1am, to be precise. The clocks will move forward an hour (remember the Americanised mantra: spring forward, fall back). We will then remain under BST until Sunday, October 31, when the clocks go back an hour and we return to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

### **What is Daylight Saving Time?**

Daylight Saving Time, or summer time, is the practice of advancing clocks during summer months by one hour so that in the evening daylight is experienced an hour longer, and normal sunrise times are sacrificed.

In the UK, the maximum 16 hours and 38 minutes of sunlight occurs on the longest day in June (the summer solstice) and dwindles to just seven hours and 49 minutes six months later in December (the winter solstice).

Studies have shown it leads to a general sense of wellbeing, cognition and fewer accidents on the roads.

To advertise in this publication:

£88 Whole Page,

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[editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)

## ***Healthy Mind***

### Support with your mental health

Approximately one in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year, and one in six people report experiencing a common mental health problem in any given week.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your mental health, do not suffer in silence. Asking for help shows strength in character and sets the course for change and recovery.

For information relating to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, NHS Moodzone can provide practical advice, interactive tools, videos and audio guides to promote mental and emotional wellbeing. Go to NHS Moodzone (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>)

### Where you can go for help

Asking for help can be a hard step to make – there's many ways though that you can get confidential support. Mental health support can be provided in various forms such as: face-to-face, telephone, and online.

In the first instance, talk to your GP. They should be able to assess your health and support you to make a choice on your next step towards recovery.

### Talking Therapies

Medway Talking Therapies offer short term free counselling services for people over 18 suffering from mild to moderate depression, anxiety and other common causes of mental health issues. You can self-refer or be referred by a health professional by calling 0300 029 3000.

### Mental Health Crisis

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call Mental Health Single Point of Access for support on 0300 222 0123. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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## ***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	

## ***The Government Roadmap Out of Lockdown***

8 March: All school and college students in all year groups headed back to the classroom with outdoor after-school sports and activities also allowed to restart. The “one plus one” rule is also now in place, which means one person from one household is allowed to meet one friend or family member from a separate house. Care home residents are allowed a single, regular visitor who must take a lateral flow test and wear personal protective equipment.

29 March: The “rule of six” will return, along with a new two-household rule, at the end of the month. This will allow either six people from a maximum of six separate households to meet in outdoor settings such as parks and private gardens from 29 March, or a maximum of two households, regardless of the number of people.

This means friends and family members will be able to sit down for a coffee or have a picnic in the park, something not currently allowed under lockdown.

Outdoor sports facilities, such as tennis and basketball courts and golf courses, will also be able to reopen.

The government’s “stay at home” slogan will be replaced by “stay local” at this point, but people will still be encouraged to work from home and minimise all travel where possible.

No earlier than 12 April: The hospitality industry, including pubs and restaurants, is expected to reopen outdoors with the rule of six or new two-household rule in force.

There will be no curfew or restrictions on alcohol only being served with a substantial meal, however customers must be seated.

Non-essential retail, hairdressers, barbers and nail salons, will all reopen, as will gyms, zoos, theme parks, drive-in cinemas, public libraries, community centres and self-contained holiday accommodation.

Funerals will be allowed to take place with a maximum of 30 people, while weddings will resume with up to 15 attendees.

No earlier than 17 May: Gatherings of up to 30 people will be permitted outdoors at this point. However, the rule of six and two-household rule will apply indoors as people are allowed to meet inside for the first time in months. Pubs and restaurants will reopen indoors, as will cinemas, children’s play areas, hotels and B&Bs.

Some large events will be able to take place, including conferences, theatre and concert performances and sports events. Controlled indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50 per cent of a venue’s capacity, whichever is lower, will be permitted, as will outdoor events with a capacity of either 50 per cent or 4,000 people, whichever is lower.

The government will also make a special provision for large, outdoor, seated venues where crowds can be safely distributed, allowing up to 10,000 people or 25 per cent of total seated capacity, whichever is lower.

Up to 30 people will be allowed to attend weddings, receptions, funerals, and commemorative events, including wakes. A broader range of stand-alone life events will also be permitted at this step, including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

No earlier than 21 June: All legal limits on social contact will be lifted from 21 June at the earliest.

Once social-distancing is completely eased, nightclubs should be able to reopen and restrictions on events and live performances, including weddings, will finally being lifted.

What four conditions must be met?

The timetable for lifting restrictions will be subject to four tests at each stage of easing measures, including the success of the vaccination rollout, the effectiveness of the vaccination programme at reducing hospital admissions and deaths, infection rates and the impact of any new coronavirus variants.

The government will also conduct four reviews, including looking at coronavirus status certificates to allow people to prove if they have had a vaccine or negative test result, pilots of large events, international travel, and the withdrawal of social distancing measures and face masks.

## *An Apology and Thanks*

To our Volunteer High Halstow Times Deliverers

Recent additions have not been published with the usual predictability, largely due to the Parish Council wishing to keep residents as up to date as possible in regard to the proposed housing development and the Neighbourhood Plan,

We apologise for this inconvenience and thank the High Halstow Times deliverers for their flexibility and patience.

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[www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](http://www.highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

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### *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

High Halstow Parish Council

## **High Halstow Community Lottery**



**January Game (February draw)**

**£1,200 ME3 9EW and £200 ME3 9FRS**

**To enter: £10 monthly, Account No 21507826 Sort code 40 43 44 quoting your POST CODE and house number/name**

**Disclaimer: This lottery has no connection with High Halstow Parish Council**

**HIGH HALSTOW  
PARISH COUNCIL**

ALLOTMENT VACANCY

PLEASE CONTACT  
Our Clerk on 01634 710 086 if  
you are interested in working an  
allotment.  
Our Clerk can also be contacted  
on [Clerk@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk)

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Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, Chair  
07711 432598  
e.mail: [George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk](mailto:George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

Christine Watson, Vice Chair  
01634 256529

Linda Atkinson 07825 619353

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

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## Readers Letters & Emails

### A Vaccinator's Tale.

After forty-years working as an NHS nurse in hospitals, hospices and community teams, I retired in September 2017. So much to enjoy, with more time now for reading, walking, music and gardening, not to mention one very lively little grandson! And then along came this pandemic, making its awful impact on all our lives.

I've often heard it said that 'Once a nurse, always a nurse', and I did leap at the opportunity to become actively involved in the fight back against this horrible virus. I completed the required training and started work at the Gravesend Mass Vaccination Centre when it opened on February 1st. Since then, it's been my privilege to meet hundreds of vaccinees. Many have been elderly and frail, and they have – often accompanied by their carers – braved some very cold winter weather with slippery pavements, to attend for the first of their two doses. Although each injection procedure with its 'Can you roll your sleeve up for me, please?' usually lasts for only a few moments, so many heartfelt expressions of appreciation and gratitude have made a deep impression on all of us at the hub. We are a multi-skilled team, from a variety of backgrounds, with a common purpose. My colleagues include trainee and qualified nurses and midwives (I received my own vaccination from Holly, a student midwife) as well as

dentists, paramedics, radiographers, therapists, pharmacists, support workers, and retirees like myself. I've also worked shifts with a veterinary surgeon, retired police officers, teachers and lecturers, furloughed airline personnel, and an international mountain guide! We have swapped stories from our different work experiences, but none of us has known anything to compare with this. It is, of course, very encouraging to hear all the latest reports of falling case numbers and the reduced spread of COVID-19, but we must all still keep our guard up, at least for now. Amazing progress, when only a matter of months ago we were thinking it might be years before a safe and effective vaccine became available. We hope to be kept busy vaccinating over the coming months, encouraging more people to attend for their first dose, as others return for their second. Stay safe, everyone.

*Jed Sheerin*



### COVID 19 SUPPORT



wHoo Cares is your local community organisation. We are reducing loneliness & social isolation, strengthening our local community and supporting vulnerable people on the Hoo Peninsula.

As always, we are here to support anyone who lives on the Hoo Peninsula and may need a little extra help during this challenging time (ME3 postcode area & Upnor)

How are WE supporting vulnerable people and those in need?

-  Telephone Befriending and check in calls
-  Support with shopping and prescription collections
-  Transport to essential health appointments

**If you or someone you know is in need of our support, please contact us**

01634 272138  
enquiries@whoo cares.org.uk

Company NO. 9677439    38 Chapel Road, Isle of Grain, ME3 0BZ  
www.whoo cares.org.uk

**High Halstow Parish Council**

**VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD VIA  
**ZOOM**

MEETING ID  
**96274514945**

ON  
**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 7.30 PM**

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR PASSWORD ENTRY AT:  
clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Next edition April 2021; Contributions for April should be sent by 24th March to:  
Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ  
or e.mail to editor@highhalstow.org.uk