



High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron
The Newsletter for High Halstow



June 2021

At last, the government's Covid rules permitted organised walking groups to become active and we took advantage of this with our first walk of the year from Godden Green near Sevenoaks into and around Knole Park on Sunday 9th May. We selected this partly on the basis that its wide paths and open spaces allowed for socially distanced talking as well as walking.

There is good on-road parking at Godden Green outside the Buck's Head pub where nearly 20 of us congregated on the warm sunny day – a real rarity so far this spring. From there the footpath into the park took us through lovely areas of bluebells to the park's "Pedestrian Entrance Alpha". Shortly afterwards we needed to pass across the golf course which was busy that day with a competition with another club. Along the route to Knole House we passed large numbers of sika and fallow deer that were totally unbothered by passers-by. Apparently, there are about 350 in the park overall. At the



High Halstow Hikers Return

moment, their largely grey colour gives them good camouflage against the many tree trunks that lay across the ground as the victims of past storms.

After just over a mile, we came to the large austere Knole House that was taken from the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1538 by Henry VIII to use as a hunting lodge – quite a lodge! After passing the house on a short stretch of the Greensand Way, we walked along the Broad Walk and then the Chestnut Walk which are long, straight, wide tracks that were perfect for safe socialising. After returning towards the house, we started to complete the second loop of our figure of 8 walk. This part of the route proved a little more difficult to follow since the public footpaths that we tried to follow deviated in an unmarked fashion from the many tracks around and across the golf course. So, after a short "detour" we were re-routed by a kind golf steward to the correct path that took us up the only hill we encountered and out of the

park close to Sevenoaks Preparatory School and its extensive playing fields. From there we had a short walk along a narrow road back to the cars.

With our little detour the walk was about 6 miles and seemed to be enjoyed by

all. Most of us took the opportunity for a little more socialising with a drink outside the Buck's Head.

Mike Davies has agreed to organise the June walk. It will start from Brickhouse Farm between St Mary's Hoo and Allhallows (ME3 8RP) at 10.00 on Sunday 13th June. As ever, all are welcome to come along. Enquiries for this walk to mikeplotters@mac.com or 07772-549124. General enquiries to mitch.dowsett@btopenworld.com or 01634-254428.

Village Theatre Trips

Like many others I have enjoyed the London Theatre Trips that Margaret Church organised until recently with the able help of John Pink. A sincere thank you to Margaret for transporting us by luxury coach from the village to some excellent West End shows usually at less than half the ticket price. John and I are hoping to reinstate the .trips as soon as the Theatres reopen. If you would like to be informed as and when we are offered a block booking then please let John know by email at- johnpink078@gmail.com



High Halstow Parish Council Resume April 21st 2021

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 21st April where it was attended by seven (7) Parish Councillors, one (1) Ward Councillor and one (1) member of the public. During this meeting the members received a report from Ward Councillor Ron Sands concerning the new 'Customs Depo' that had opened on the Isle of Grain and reports of a 'hit and run' on a car that had subsequently been written off, following an incorrect turning taken by a Thamesport lorry. The Parish Council learnt of two (2) new planning applications that had been submitted since their last meeting, where comments in regards to one of these applications was agreed to be passed on to Medway Council. They also discussed in detail five (5) new decisions, of which it was noted that four (4) had been passed and one (1) had been declined. A report from the Neighbourhood Plan committee confirmed that the members' design code still had room for improvement after the documentation had been professionally assessed by Urbed. The Councillors voted and collectively agreed to continue using the services of Urbed to aid with the finalisation of their plan. Additionally, and in order to provide a united front against the developers, the members agreed to elect two representatives from the Parish Council to attend Hoo Parish Council meetings, where in turn two members from their Parish Council would attend High Halstow Parish Council's meetings. They discussed in detail the two

quotes sourced for a more durable surface to be installed under the basket swing in the Recreation Ground, where it was recognised that this project would be funded by Section 106 funds. After careful consideration the members agreed to proceed with one of the two quotes, where it was confirmed that work could commence after the funds from Medway Council had been received. It was accepted that owing to a rise in inflation that the Parish Council had applied a 10% increment to their fees, payable by Taylor Wimpey, to upkeep their green spaces. It was also recognised that the developer had granted permission for the Parish Council to instal additional seating on the land, via means of the installation of wooden benches. The members discussed the preferred material for new village notice boards, where it was confirmed that 'oak' was the more favourable option. It was agreed that a further quote to refurbish the existing boards would also be sought before any final decisions were made at the next meeting. Owing to further adaptations to the newly installed gates along the RS40 footpath it was advised that the right of way would be closed until 10/05 whilst the new alterations were made. The members confirmed receipt of two new trees, that had kindly been gifted by a Parishioner and planted. The Parish Council spoke of a new watering programme for the saplings, where a member volunteered. The condition of the new bus

shelters windows was addressed, where it was confirmed that this task would be added to the list of 'things to do' by the volunteers at the next Saturday morning community event. The members received both internal and external reports from the High Halstow Community Support Group, the Environmental Group, the GDPR & Policy Working Party, the Rural Liaison Committee, High Halstow Primary Academy and Friends of St Margaret's. It was established the Village Hall was planning to reopen on the 21st June, owing to a relaxation in the COVID-19 restrictions, where it was established that the hall could only cater for up to 30 people at one time initially. Similarly, it was confirmed that the Memorial Hall would not reopen until after 21st June, where the hall could only house up to 20 people at one time, allowing for social distancing measures. Owing to a change in legislation, discontinuing the use of virtual meetings from Friday 7th May, the Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting was brought forward to Thursday 6th May from 7.00pm. The meeting was closed at 9.25 pm. A resume from the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be published in the next edition of the High Halstow Times, owing to the decision not to hold a Parish Council meeting in the month of June.

Memorial Hall

We are pleased to announce that the Memorial Hall will REOPEN for use from Monday 21st June. Following the Government guidelines to reopening all users will have signed a contract with details of all safety measures in place, and procedures to be followed.

Our hall has stood empty for over a year so it will be lovely to see it open again for the benefit of our village. Please remember the most important HAND FACE SPACE and we will be able to continue to open up for all of our Clubs and groups.

If anyone has any queries please contact Angela Forward on 01634 251756

Jeanette Dowsett- Secretary.

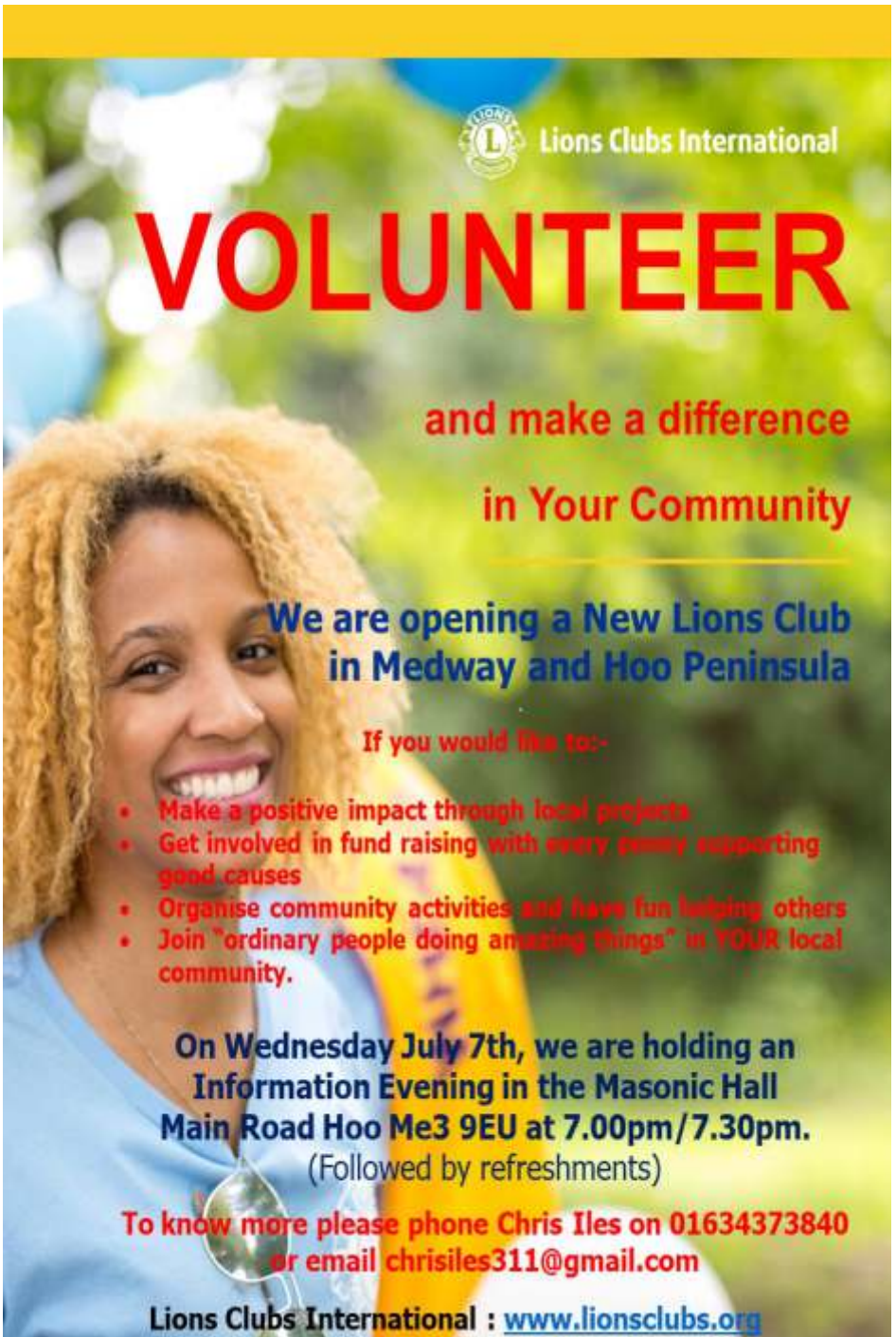
End of Lockdown Celebration

After coming up for 18 months it looks like the COVID restrictions we've all been living with are finally going to be ending for good. The suggestion has been made that the village should do something to celebrate the end of lockdown so, with that in mind, we are thinking of staging an event on August Bank Holiday Monday. Planning is in its infancy but we would like to invite any village organisations or individuals to join the planning team.

Please contact Councillor Tim Munday to register your interest.

Tel: 07730477017

Email: tim.munday@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk



Lions Clubs International

VOLUNTEER

**and make a difference
in Your Community**

**We are opening a New Lions Club
in Medway and Hoo Peninsula**

If you would like to:-

- **Make a positive impact through local projects**
- **Get involved in fund raising with every penny supporting good causes**
- **Organise community activities and have fun helping others**
- **Join "ordinary people doing amazing things" in YOUR local community.**

**On Wednesday July 7th, we are holding an
Information Evening in the Masonic Hall
Main Road Hoo ME3 9EU at 7.00pm/7.30pm.
(Followed by refreshments)**

**To know more please phone Chris Iles on 01634373840
or email chrisiles311@gmail.com**

Lions Clubs International : www.lionsclubs.org

The Lions Club are looking to open a new club on the Peninsula and we will be holding an information evening on 7th July at the Masonic Hall, Main Road, Hoo ME3 9EU
7pm for 7.30pm
Followed by refreshments.

To find out more or to book your place please call Cris Iles on 01634 373840 or email chrisiles311@gmail.com.

Or for more information about Lions Clubs please visit www.lionsclubs.org

Bread Wrappers

Thank you to everyone who added to my bread wrapper collection and helped me to help Rosemary to help Medway Food Bank.

A delivery has already been made to a very thankful Rosemary from Strood who for over two years has been collecting various "hard to recycle items" and sending them to TerraCycle. As requested by Rosemary a donation is then sent to Medway Food Bank. Rosemary is happy to receive soft, not waxy bread and fruit loaf wrappers of all sizes. Printed and clear wrappers are all acceptable.

I am still collecting so if you would like to contribute look out for the labelled black bin at the end of my garage driveway entrance. My address is 18 Christmas Lane (opposite the cricket pitch). If you have any queries and would like to know what else Rosemary collects give me a call on 07944 490903.

Environment Group

The next meeting of the Environment Group will be a face to face meeting hosted by St Margaret's Church on the 13th July at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

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.



Kent & Medway Healthy Workplaces Registration for Zoom Seminars
Tuesday 15th June: 12.30pm to 1.30pm- Men's Health with Steve Loft
(Time to Change).

Almost 1 in 5 men die prematurely before the age of 65. Join us for this special seminar to mark Men's Health Week. Hear how you can encourage men in your workplace to live healthier lifestyles and better manage their mental wellbeing.

For more details go to www.medway.gov.uk/workplaceseminars or for more details on Men's Health week go to: www.menshealthforum.org.uk/mhw

Women's Health seminar will be: Tuesday 13 July, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

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

At the time of writing we are all eager to know what the decision will be with regard to 21st June and the easing of lockdown restrictions.

We have been planning to be open for bookings pre lockdown as from 1st July but clearly this will be subject to the Governments final decision on 14th June. In the meantime we have been pleased to welcome back some of the regular hirers including:

1. Fatman Fitness
2. Ladies badminton
3. KLUK Marital Arts
4. Yoga

We also as you may have noticed had the recent Police Commissioner Elections held at the hall. This has enabled us to work with the guidelines to see if any issues prior to 1st July. Hopefully we can welcome back all users very soon and it will be good to see the hall being used again after such a strange year.
Hall Committee

We are looking for volunteers willing to support people on the **Hoo Peninsula** with transport to medical appointments, shopping and prescription collection.



Full Training provided * Flexible hours * Generous mileage rate paid

01634 272138

volunteer@whoo cares.org.uk

DRIVERS NEEDED
DRIVERS NEEDED
DRIVERS NEEDED
DRIVERS NEEDED

F. R. BRADFORD & CO. LTD.

Established 1920

Fuel, Servicing repairs, MOTs & Calor Gas Supplier

Workshop 01634 250 000

Forecourt 01634 250 248

Welcome back

We are open for worship
Every Sunday at 9:30am
St. Margarets Church High Halstow

Please Wear a mask

Please sanitise your hands as you enter

Please remain socially distanced

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Psalms 122:1-2

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



Re-discover and re-connect in Medway this summer.

This year it's all about the staycation, which can be as wonderful, unique and memorable as any summer getaway. It just all depends on the people you spend time with and the experiences you encounter together.

There's no arguing that Rochester's magnificent cathedral and imposing castle that dominate the Medway skyline are impressive examples of Norman architecture and are on the must-see list when exploring the area. But are you aware of the number of family attractions, our thriving cultural scene, the breath-taking natural landscapes, and the adventures you can have both on and off the water?

Medway is jam-packed full of things to do that are beyond the ordinary, which are perfect for any staycation. There's alpaca walking, beautiful country strolls, riverside dining, electric go-karting, outdoor theatre, speed boating along the estuary, and a whole host of creative festivals. You can even go champing – that's glamping in churches!

That's just a snapshot of what awaits this summer, and if that wasn't enough, there are even more reasons why staying in Medway is great. The staycation trend isn't just good news for the budget-conscious, but it helps to limit your carbon footprint too. It also gives local business owners a chance to get their happy dance!

We'd love to see your Medway Staycation pics. Please tag us @VisitMedway and use #WhoKnew

For more information please visit www.visitmedway.org



To advertise in this publication:
£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 Willlowbank Drive	01634 252 604
Tamsin Stowers		
Natasha Turner	12 Marsh Crescent	
Office email	office.hhrin@gmail.com	



High Halstow

**3rd July 9:30am for
sellers and 11:00am for
buyers till 2pm
£5 for sellers and
free for buyers**



**The Rectory High Halstow
To book your place contact Louise
louisekennett@yahoo.com**

**We have all cleared out so much
during lock down, and probably
bought too much to with online
shopping. Here is a chance
to get rid of it all**

**Its vital to book your place in
advance as we have
limited availability and
first come first served**

**Enjoy the family
atmosphere Soft
drinks, Tea, Coffee,
Bacon or sausage
Butties and soft fruit
from an award winning
local farmer**

Limited onsite parking on the day for buyers

Your Parish Councillors

George Crozer, Chair

07711 432598

e.mail:George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

Christine Watson, Vice Chair

01634 256529

Linda Atkinson

07825 619353

Marc Buckland

07979 751431

Ray Collins

01634 250105

Gary Jerreat

07880 697657

Cora MacFarlane

07801 892664

Tim Munday

07730 477017

Marilyn Stone

07944 490903

Your councillors may also be
contacted through the Parish
Clerk:

Jenny Allen

01634 710086

email: clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk



Permanent Makeup
(Machine & Microblading method)
Eyebrows
Eyeliner
Lips
Areola
Removal of permanent makeup

Fibroblast – non surgical face lift for hooded
eyelids, under eyes, crows feet, lip lines, neck lift

Dermapen – Skin needling to improve stretch
marks, scarring, acne, acne scars, fine lines and
wrinkles & pigmentation

www.thejaderooms.com
www.facebook.com/thejaderooms

Call Jade on 07708 394979 for your
FREE consultation

Hedges & Bushes

Please trim back any hedges, bushes
or trees which are overhanging
footpaths as they can cause an
obstruction.



HH Village Website

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

Readers Letters & Emails

Tribute to Martin Mitchell (September 1968 – 8 March 2021)

Dear High Halstow,

Sadly in late February, we lost a caring member of our village community, a loving father to Millie, Rosie & Pippa, Son-in-Law to Irene & Bob and my husband.

Those that knew Martin knew him as such a kind hearted, smiling, larger than life character. He had lived in High Halstow for nearly 20 years and had been an active member of village life including time as a Parish Councillor, member of the Hall Committee and supporter of many village events over the years. Many will also have known him as running the karate club in the village since 2015.

Martin had suffered ill health for many years and required medical attention due to an existing condition in late February, but during his short stay in hospital he contracted COVID which was too much for his body to cope with. Although he was a fighter he lost this final battle on 8th March.

Regrettably, I too contracted COVID and whilst trying to cope at home, was admitted to hospital

myself later in March with breathing difficulties. I would like to personally thank members of the community who have supported my family during this impossibly difficult time with words of kindness, offers to get shopping, food hampers and even providing meals delivered to my door. It meant the world to me knowing they were all being so well taken care of whilst I was lying in a hospital bed unable to do so myself. Living in such a wonderful village is a blessing at such times of crisis and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Martin will be missed by so many people and my family would like to thank all those who had sent their condolences.

With thanks for your kindness and generosity,

Alison, Millie, Rosie & Pippa and
Irene & Bob



“Off to University?”

The High Halstow Relief in Need charity (Reg. No. 250996) has a number of bursaries available to students going to University for the first time. The bursaries are normally available each year for a maximum of three years while studies continue. The bursary includes an arrangement for a student laptop from a local supplier.

A copy of your placement offer and course registration confirmation will be required before the bursary can be issued.

Second and third year students should apply in subsequent years when they receive confirmation of acceptance onto their second or third year course.

The scheme is available only to students living in the parish of High Halstow at the time of application.

Please try to get your initial application to us by the end of August and include the word 'Bursary' on the envelope or in the Subject heading of the email. In your letter or email please state your name, address, telephone number, email address, the universities you have applied for and the length of your course.

Please apply in writing or by email to any of the Trustees or to the Clerk:

Mrs Margot Sturt, 32 Willowbank Drive, High Halstow ME3 8TW

Next edition July 2021; Contributions for July should be sent
by 24th June to:

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