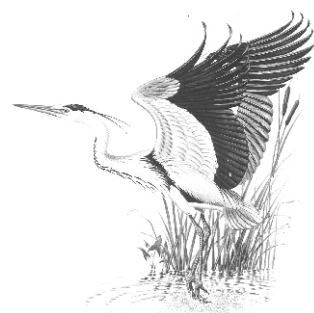




# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



October 2020



## SOS Help save our lovely Lychgate

The Lychgate was erected as a Monument to the men of High Halstow Parish who lost their lives in the service of this country during the First World War. Generations of brides and grooms have had their photographs taken in the gate on their wedding day. Sadly, after 100 years, it needs some urgent attention. If you would like to donate towards the cost of repairing this village icon please put your donation in an envelope addressed to "The Lychgate, c/o The Rectory, 2 Cooling Road, High Halstow, ME3 8SA" or put it in the Lychgate Collection Box at the High Halstow Post Office. If you are a tax payer and are able to Gift Aid your donation please indicate this and include your name and address inside the envelope. (Please make cheques payable to The PCC of High Halstow with Allhallows and St Mary's Hoo or you can Bank Transfer to the above Account, Sort code 20-54-11, Account Number 80485152. Please mark your transfer Lychgate and Gift Aid as appropriate.) All surplus funds will be used for other Church Repairs.

Any queries please ask

**Rev Stephen Gwilt on 250637 or [stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stephengwilt2@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Or**

**Jane Cook church Treasurer 252417**

**A really big "Thank You" for all donations received.**

### Meeting Resume – 09/09/2020

A virtual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, where it was attended by five parish councillors and three members of the public. During this meeting the members acknowledged receipt of two new planning applications and three new decisions.

It was understood, from a report prepared by the Chairman, that the RSPB were against the Medway Council HIF Bid (where the Councillors had been previously led to believe the RSPB were on board).

The results of the ROSPA report (an annual independent play inspection report) were discussed. It was acknowledged that Cllr R. Collins had already carried out the majority of the minor repairs listed, however a further concern was raised by the inspector in regards to the condition of the swinging basket joint. The members unanimously agreed to replace this part, where Cllr R Collins and Cllr G. Crozer agreed to fit it.

The use of off-road vehicles at Forge Common was discussed, where the members agreed that signs should be placed at either entrances and or exits to prohibit this issue from reoccurring.

It was noted that the Clerk had applied to three separate contractors to invite them to bid for tender on the newly updated village grounds maintenance contract. She informed the members that she had placed a closing date for applications for the beginning of October.

The members learnt that the repairs to the Cricket Club fencing had been undertaken. They also agreed that they would erect a new metal fence behind the football net, to prevent further damage by rogue footballs.

The RS41 footpath was discussed, where the Chairman Cllr G. Crozer informed the members that Medway Council had now cleared the site and installed a new stile. He advised that owing to the works the terrain of this footpath was now very rough, accordingly he advised that he had been back in touch with the district council to ask if they were able to provide any warning signs.

The siting of two newly proposed dog waste bins were discussed, where it was established that these bins would be organised and placed into use by Medway Council within the next couple of weeks.

The members received three internal committee reports, which came from the High Halstow Road Reps team, the Environmental Group and the GDPR Working Party. It was acknowledged that owing to the COVID-19 pandemic that there had been no external committee meetings.

It was acknowledged that there had been an error on the front page of the last High Halstow Times (which sadly had only been picked after the publication had been printed). Accordingly, the members made further arrangements for additional proof reading before the next edition was printed. The Clerk also made arrangements to provide the outstanding electronic minutes to keep the members webpage up to date.

Finally, the members discussed the issue of cars parked on the junction of Christmas Lane and The Street, they agreed to invite Medway Council and Ward Councillor, Phil Filmer, to visit the area, to see the issues first hand and to establish the best course of action.

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, via Zoom, starting at 7.30pm (where of course everyone is very welcome to attend!). The meeting finished after an hour and a half.

**High Halstow Parish Council**



## **VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD VIA

**ZOOM**

MEETING ID

**91927203263**

ON

**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup>  
OCTOBER, 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**



## *Village Hall*

We have been asked about the reopening of the Village Hall and can update as follows:

We are very much aware that the Doctors Surgery although a limited service is a valued service and an important service at this time so any attempt to reopen must take the issues and concerns from the surgery into account

As a result we will initially be trying to find solutions with the regular hirers of the hall and as such have asked them to complete a form to help us work through the various issues. We are anticipating a number will not return currently due to the restrictions that would be required to be in place

Not all the forms have come back yet so have not a complete picture and will extend the deadline for the form to be completed until 10th October

We are also trying to work through the guidance from ACRE but as I am sure you are aware with the ever increasing changes in rules and regulations, trying to keep up with this is proving time consuming and concerning that we stay compliant

The Hall Committee though cannot see how it will be able to take one off bookings for the foreseeable future meaning there will still not be any parties including children's parties whilst this pandemic is still going on

We appreciate that this may not be the answer you wish to hear but would hope you would understand the situation we find ourselves in

As soon as we hear anything else we will let you know

Best wishes and take care

Gary Thomas  
Village Hall Chairman

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## *HIF Bid Challenge Update*

As part of the HIF bid submission Homes England says that they required, and were given by Medway Council, "**letters of support**" from various bodies including our Local MP Kelly Tolhurst and the RSPB.

Having spoken to Kelly Tolhurst MP and RSPB, they have both confirmed that Medway Council did ask them to provide letters of support for the HIF bid. However, their replies were not "letters in support"; instead they raised significant reservations as to the sustainability of the bid. RSPB stated "We were asked by Medway to formally support the HIF bid, which we declined to do."

Our solicitors have asked Homes England to provide copies of the claimed letters of support and to explain why the HIF bid was accepted in the light for the negative High Level Feasibility report which revealed that the infrastructure would be likely to adversely affect international protected species and habitat.

To date we have had no response but will continue to press them to give us straight answers to our questions. We will let you know if we get a reply; straight or otherwise.

George Crozer  
HHPC Chairman

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**Relaunch of High Halstow Parish  
Council Environment Group  
Zoom meeting on  
Monday 19th October  
at 6.00 pm**

Lockdown prevented this group from progressing beyond our first meeting on February 18th 2020. The last 6 months have shown us all the importance of the natural environment so do try to join us. Residents of all ages are very welcome

If zoom is not for you we can plan smaller "non" zoom gatherings that abide by the rule of 6. Do let me know if this is your preference.

Text or email Marilyn to request the 19th October Zoom meeting log in details or to let me know you would prefer a "non"zoom meeting.

Marilyn's mobile number is 07944490903 or email her on her Parish Councillor email address [marilyn.stone@high-pc.gov.uk](mailto:marilyn.stone@high-pc.gov.uk)



## Your Community

wHoo Cares is a community based organisation with the vision to address social isolation and improve the health and well-being of residents on the Hoo Peninsula. Our aims are to reduce social isolation while strengthening communities on the peninsula.

**We do this by having an invaluable team of volunteers.**

## Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are pivotal to the success of wHoo Cares and our objective of connecting and making more resilient communities. Some examples of the support our volunteers have provided includes befriending, driving residents to community activities, shops, medical appointments and collecting prescriptions. More recently, since the Covid 19 pandemic, telephone befriending provided by our volunteers has been hugely successful.

**The support we provide to residents on the Hoo Peninsula could not be achieved without our wonderful team of volunteers.**



## Enjoyable

It is very important to wHoo Cares that our volunteers enjoy being part of our organisation as we appreciate the gift of time that they give. We always work with the availability of the volunteer and do not ask people to sign up to a minimum amount of hours or a rota. We provide training and support to our family of volunteers. Volunteering opportunities are open to people of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. Although we have defined roles available, such as telephone befrienders or drivers, we always ask perspective volunteers what they feel they can bring to the organisation and where they feel their skills are best placed.

**We are proud that our volunteer programme has received recognition for our support to our volunteers in the form of REVAMP (Recognition of Excellent Volunteer and Management Practice)**





We enjoy showing appreciation and recognition for our volunteers and so each year we hold a Volunteer Recognition Event. The event varies from year to year but has included a summer barbeque and a 1940's style tea party. Last year the volunteers received a Pride in Medway sponsor award so we hosted the wHoo Cares Oscar afternoon with all the glitz and glamour of a gala event. Sadly this year we have been unable to hold this event but we look forward to hosting this as soon as it is safe to do so.



## HIGH HALSTOW



Since we opened our doors in 2016 we have received much support from High Halstow, with a number of the community joining as a volunteers, many of whom have been with us since the beginning. During the pandemic members of the community joined together to form the Peninsula branch of the **Mutual Aid Road Reps** and provided much needed support to isolated and vulnerable residents. Marilyn Stone the Community Coordinator was nominated for our Peninsula wide 'Person of the Month' Award. Marilyn was chosen as Person of the Month for July and accepted the certificate on behalf of all the volunteers from this community group. Having enjoyed her volunteering experience with this group Marilyn has decided to join the wHoo Cares team of volunteers. Mutual Aid Road Reps and wHoo Cares look forward to further developing their good relationship in the future. We are thrilled that Marilyn will be joining the team and look forward to welcoming her aboard.

## GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new volunteers from the area and if you feel you can give an hour of your spare time to someone in your community then we would love to hear from you. You can find out more information on our website <https://whoo cares.org.uk/volunteering.html> .

**If you would like to have an informal chat with our Volunteer Manager, Michelle Trumper, about volunteering with wHoo Cares then please call our office on 01634 272138 or email [volunteer@whoo cares.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@whoo cares.org.uk)**

### *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)

### *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**

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Page, £11 Eighth Page.  
[editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)

## HH Scarecrow Challenge

My grateful thanks to all those who responded to the Scarecrow Challenge this summer. Our Village has been a brighter more welcoming place during the Covid-19 crisis. Whilst the purpose of holding our annual Scarecrow Festival was to promote community spirit in the village it was very heart-warming to see so many people making donations to the Friends of St. Margaret's via the collection box in the Post Office. If you wish to make a donation and have not yet done so then please note that the box will be removed in two weeks from the publication of this letter. My thanks also extend to Bob at the

Post Office for hosting the collection.  
Mike Meredith  
Chairman,  
The Friends of St.  
Margaret's Church



## 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.



### Permanent Makeup

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Lips

Areola

Removal of permanent makeup


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## Halloween 2020

As parents begin preparation for Halloween and young people are selecting costumes, this spooky season will require extra safety precautions compared to prior years.

Here are some tips for a safe and healthy Halloween:

Wear a face mask or face covering.

Observe good hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of alcohol-based sanitisers with at least 60% alcohol. Carry hand sanitiser and use it often, especially after coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces and before eating candy.

Refrain from touching your face.

Maintain at least 2 metres of physical distance from all others who are not members of your household.

Only visit houses which are showing decorations





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## High Halstow Community Lottery

### September draw (August game)

£1,100 ME3 8SN High Halstow

£200 ME3 8SN High Halstow (same road different house)

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

Account No: 21507826 Sort Code 40 43 44

That's all you need to do. No form necessary.

**IMPORTANT:** Please quote your post code and door number in the reference field  
(this is your ticket number!)

**Disclaimer:** This lottery is privately run by volunteers and has no association with  
High Halstow Parish Council

## 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	<a href="mailto:office.hhrin@gmail.com">office.hhrin@gmail.com</a>	

## *Old School Photographs Update*

Very many thanks to the 7 or 8 people that contacted me with information and photographs of the old school in High Halstow. I have put these into a folder and passed them to Michael Collins.

He is extremely grateful to all of you.

Also from me, very many thanks.

Margaret Whitebread



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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

## *Village Volunteering event – 17<sup>th</sup> October*

Following another very successful event in September the Parish Council invites you to the next Village Volunteering morning on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 9am.**

Meet in the Village Hall car park, making sure not to gather in a group of more than six while we're waiting to get started. Once we've collected a hi-vis vest, a litter picker, a black sack and anything else we might need we will disperse in smaller groups around the village. It would be great to have some more new faces and also some young adults and teenagers join us. We look forward to seeing you there. Bring your own gloves.

As well as litter picking we'll probably do the usual fence repairs, pruning overhanging tree branches and whatever that needs our attention.

Please help to keep our village looking great.

Chris Peek, on behalf of the Parish Council.



Next edition November 2020; Contributions for November should be sent by 26th October to:

Carl Mitchell, 8 Marsh Crescent, High Halstow ME3 8TJ  
or e.mail to [editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)