



# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*

December 2020



## **Lytchgate Appeal - Thank You**



We have been overjoyed at the generous response to our Lytchgate appeal. We have now raised enough to cover the cost of our estimates but like any building project we won't know the full cost until the work is completed. We will keep you updated once we get approval for the work to be done. If you would still like to make a donation, full details are in the October edition of the High Halstow Times.

Just a polite reminder, if you wish to Gift Aid your donation, we need BOTH your name AND address. 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, on 252417.

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### ***Santa's High Halstow Christmas Eve Visit***

It is with great sadness that Santa has decided not to visit High Halstow this year before he starts his mammoth annual world tour giving out presents to all the children. Santa said, in an exclusive interview with the High Halstow Times, that although he would love to visit his favourite

village in Kent before visiting the rest of the world, due to the latest government Covid-19 advice and the current restrictions on households mixing, he thought it best not to put people at risk by touring the streets of High Halstow. He hoped that everyone would

understand and that he was sure that he would be back next year.



## ***High Halstow and District Gardening Club***

This past year has been like no other. I'm sorry to say that most of our events were cancelled and meetings indefinitely suspended. On the positive side even though we were in lockdown for a large part of the year we had our gardens to enjoy coupled with the good weather. Lots of the members were so disappointed that we had to cancel our summer show during the lockdown as they had spent so much of their time in the garden and had managed to sow, plant and grow so much produce worthy of entering into the competition. We really hope that next year things will improve and we will all be able to meet again in the Memorial Hall. We have really missed each other's company, the talks, chatting with our fellow members the planned outings and social events. We are looking forward to getting together again soon. In the meantime please keep safe. The committee would like wish all of our members and families a lovely Christmas and a much better New Year.

Mike Hughes

### ***Collection for the Refuse Collectors***

I, and I am sure most of the villagers would agree, that the refuse collectors or 'bin men', have really done an incredible job throughout the past year, never letting us down with the weekly collection of everything. During the first lockdown many people, myself included were putting out extra bags and two brown bins; always these were dealt with. I thought it would be a nice thank you, to ask at the shop if we could

place a collection box to show our appreciation for their hard work. I know of people in other areas that do not enjoy a weekly collection. Money collected would be handed over on the last collection day before Christmas. The sum of money collected could be announced in the first edition of the New Year.

### ***Nativity Celebration***

This time last year we held a children's event in Church creating a lovely Nativity Scene. Due to the restrictions this year we will not be able to do that. Why not put a Nativity picture in your window as part of your Christmas celebrations.



### ***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

## ***Village Volunteering Event 12<sup>th</sup> December***

We were lucky with the weather again and had a successful event in November so the Parish Council is inviting you to join us next time. Please come along to the Village Volunteering event which will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December starting at 9am. Meet in the Village Hall car park, making sure not to gather in a group of more than six (or two or whatever is the number when the time comes) while we're waiting to get started. Once we've collected a hi-vis vest, a litter picker, a black sack (with a handihoop!) and anything else we might need we will disperse around the village.

We are looking forward to some new volunteers joining in next time, particularly some younger residents if possible. The event will only last for about an hour and a half, but please feel free to leave sooner if you need to; your contribution will be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there. Bring your own gloves. As well as litter picking there'll probably be some repair jobs to be done, as well as pruning overgrown bushes and overhanging tree branches and whatever else needs our attention. Please help to keep our lovely village looking spick and span.

Chris Peek  
on behalf of the Parish Council.

### ***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 Meeting Resume 11 November 2020

The virtual Parish Council meeting was attended by seven (7) Parish Councillors, one (1) Ward Councillor and three (3) members of the public. During this meeting the members acknowledged receipt of two (2) new planning applications and three (3) new decisions.

It was recognised that one (1) of the two (2) new planning applications received was from Redrow, who were applying to place a new temporary car park on the southern side of Britannia Road. The members voted and unanimously agreed to submit an objection to this application and request that should the car park be built that it be relocated on the northern side of the road instead.

The members learnt from Ward Cllr R. Sands, who joined the meeting fleetingly, that an application submitted via Esquire Estates to build 30 new dwellings at The Hollies in Sharnal Street had been rejected at the Medway Council Planning Committee meeting held that same evening.

Cllr R. Collins advised that Redrow had planted some new trees at Heronden Grange and the Chairman, Cllr G. Crozer, advised that the Neighbourhood Plan committee had been in touch with Ward Councillor Phil Filmer, who was going to assist them in speaking to Medway Council to obtain answers surrounding the HIF Bid. It was also understood that an additional meeting with Medway Council and Redrow was going to be arranged, where the

committee members were going to discuss the Parish Council's terms and conditions following the last preparations of their finalised draft neighbourhood plan.

The Parish Council voted and agreed to instruct a contractor to assess the non-urgent repairs to the half pipe, where repairs to the climbing frame whose rotators had stopped working was also discussed.

They spoke of obtaining contact with the Highways Department at Medway Council to verify the ownership of the overgrown trees near to the Veterinary Surgery in Christmas Lane, where it was also acknowledged that the new landscape contractors were due to commence work in High Halstow at the beginning of December.

The Councillors considered a report prepared by Cllr L. Atkinson concerning potential suppliers for proposed two new notice boards. It was agreed that Cllr M. Stone would obtain further details, including more detailed prices for the new notice boards to be made from either Aluminum or 'Man-made wood' (recycled plastic) to be considered at the next meeting.

The members acknowledged receipt of an email from Medway Council to confirm the installation of the proposed new kissing gates on the RS40 footpath had been placed on hold, however they learnt that the existing stiles in place would be repaired. A

complaint from a member of the public was received to advise that the Bessie's Lane footpath had become overgrown for the third time this year.

The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, was asked to chase Medway Council in relation to the resurfacing repairs required to Longfield Avenue and the members learnt that due to self-isolation and holiday leave that the village was likely to be without a street cleaner for a fortnight.

Internal Committee reports, External Committee updates and a Village report were received from the High Halstow Road Reps, the Environmental Group, the KALC representative, High Halstow Primary School and Relief in Need.

The Parish Council discussed the possibility of changing the typeface of the print in the High Halstow times, to make it easier to read and to make better use of the limited space in the publication.

The members agreed to fund a Christmas tree, to be placed in the grounds of St Margaret's Church to co-inside with the Church's outside nativity scene.

Finally the members agreed to place an additional notice in the notice boards to extend the closing date for applications for the two Councillor vacancies, to allow any interested parties additional time to apply.

Next virtual meeting 9 December 2020 at 7.30pm. For details please contact  
**Clerk@HighHalstow-pc.gov.uk.**

## ***RSPB Decline to Support HIF Bid***

In the response to a letter, High Halstow resident Mr John Colleer received the response below from Beccy Speight, Chief Executive Officer of the RSPB, revealing that the society had declined to support Medway's HIF bid.

This was despite the initial statement to the contrary from government housing agency, Homes England. In a written exchange between Homes England and Messrs Leigh Day, solicitors for High Halstow and Hoo parish councils, Homes England and Medway Council claimed that RSPB supported the HIF Bid. When pressed, Homes England released the letter, which made it plain that the RSPB did not support it.

The letter from RSPB to Mr Colleer states:

“Dear Mr. Colleer,

Thank you so much for your email, and for taking the time to write to me.

The Hoo Peninsula is a really important place for the RSPB. We have been managing nature reserves in the area since 1953 and have fought some considerable battles to save it from harmful developments (you may recall the 'No Airport at Cliffe' campaign). Once again, you're absolutely right, it is at risk. Across the South East we are seeing high levels of house building and, although we understand the demand for housing, we need to make sure that the right homes are put in the right places. In the case of the Hoo Peninsula, we are facing

a lot of housing proposed to be built in a very sensitive location, being near to both Lodge Hill and the Thames Estuary and Marshes.



At this stage of the process, from our perspective, the priority is to make sure that the planning authority, Medway Council, understands the potential impact of the proposed housing on nature and to ensure that any Biodiversity Net Gain and mitigation work will truly deliver. We have been making this clear to Medway as they collate what they call a 'cumulative ecological impact assessment'. We have also been talking to High Halstow and Hoo parish councillors to keep them in the loop with this process and to help them develop their own response.

A big problem with housing development, we find, is that it is often delivered in a developer-influenced and non-strategic way, which in Kent has led to a gradual erosion of open countryside and poor outcomes for nature. The award of a Housing Infrastructure Fund grant for Medway gives some hope of a more joined-up solution. However, there is still a big risk that we are left with an over-developed and nature-depleted landscape on the Hoo Peninsula. Because of this, we have been very clear with Medway about our expectations and will continue to assess the proposals to ensure they deliver for nature.

With regard to supporting the proposals, we were asked by Medway to support their application to the Housing Infrastructure Fund but declined to do so. Instead, we wrote outlining our concerns. Because it is usually more effective to have a positive influence on a potentially damaging development early on in the planning process, we often try to engage with local authorities in some way. Unfortunately this can be misconstrued as support. However, I can assure you that our interest is in saving nature on the Hoo Peninsula in the face of a development threat and we will continue to take the action required to deliver that interest.”

Signed by Beccy Speight CEO  
RSPB

*George Crozer (HHPC Chair)*

# Christmas kerbside collection days 2020

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	What to put out	What not to put out
Wednesday 23 December	Wednesday 23 December	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Thursday 24 December	Thursday 24 December	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Friday 25 December	Tuesday 29 December	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January 2021	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin
Friday 1 January 2021	Saturday 2 January 2021	black sacks, clear sacks, white and blue reusable bags	brown bin

**High Halstow Parish Council**

**VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD VIA  
**ZOOM**

MEETING ID  
**96660860841**

ON  
**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 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](mailto:clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk)

**High Halstow Times Distributers**

**Many thanks to everyone who has helped distribute the High HalstowTimes during this difficult year .**

**Thank you!**

**Al the very best for 2021**

To advertise in this publication:

£88 Whole Page,

£44 Half Page,

£22 Quarter Page,

£11 Eighth Page.

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

**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.



**£1,400 ME3 8AF**  
**£200 ME3 9DY**

**HIGH HALSTOW COMMUNITY LOTTERY DRAW**

OCTOBER GAME  
NOVEMBER DRAW

### ***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	



### **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](mailto:office.hhrin@gmail.com)

#### ***Your Parish Councillors***

George Crozer, Chair	07711 432598
e.mail: <a href="mailto:George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk">George.crozer@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk</a>	
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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**TIER 3****VERY HIGH ALERT****FROM 2 DEC**

<b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b>  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	<b>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b>  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	<b>RETAIL</b>  <p>Open.</p>	<b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b>  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
<b>EDUCATION</b>  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<b>INDOOR LEISURE</b>  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	<b>PERSONAL CARE</b>  <p>Open.</p>
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	<b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b>  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b>  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<b>TRAVELLING</b>  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	<b>EXERCISE</b>  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b>  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<b>LARGE EVENTS</b>  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

**Find out what support you can get**

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

**If you have any coronavirus symptoms:**

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough  
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

**Get a test and stay at home**

For more information and detailed guidance visit:  
**[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

## ***Readers Letters & Emails***

Dear HHT,

It is with sadness that I must tell you that Marty passed away this morning after her 8 month fight against Cancer. She will be very sadly missed by her Husband of nearly 60 years, and her family. I would like to thank her 2 friends who turned up to see her all through her illness.

John Pink  
Goodwood Close

Dear HHT,

I'd like to thank all the people involved in helping me find & rescue my cat on November 5th. She was found in the ditch along Britannia Road & had been missing for 2 nights.

I appreciate the couple who came to my home (Lisa & William ) to let me know where she was & also the couple (Donna & I apologise I don't know the other gentleman's name ) that waited with her until I got there.

I'd also like to thank Jill who phoned the vets letting them know we were on our way, once there we were seen straight away. Last but not least my neighbour Katie for posting details on Facebook. The advantages of Facebook!

Angie  
Harrison Drive.

Dear Friends of High Halstow

Many of you will know that I actually left the village some years ago but as Gary keeps pointing out, I keep coming back! I had hoped to continue with the

quiz nights and theatre trips for this year before I retired and moved to Devon, but Covid had other ideas. Well I actually retire on 18th December and move to Devon on 21st- I like a challenge-moving in Christmas week. I was hoping to come up to the village to say goodbye to everyone but with the latest tiers announcement that is now not possible.

I just wanted to thank everyone for their support over the years, High Halstow will always be in my heart and the best community I have ever had the privilege to live in. I have made some very special friendships which I will always be grateful for and I'd like to think I've made a difference with all the events I got involved in - from running the Christmas parades to being editor of The Times, from making glove puppets with the children at the school to running the quizzes for twenty odd years.

Now for the bad news, I'll be back-sorry Gary! I can't just walk away from the quizzes and theatre trips, so when the Covid crisis has gone away or at least is under control, I will come back and we will have one more quiz and maybe some tea and biscuits too!

In the meantime if there is anyone who feels they would like to run the quiz nights or organise the theatre trips, just give me a ring on 07702 196179 and we can have a chat.

Thank you to everyone who has cared about me, especially my poor health in the past few years, and for always being there for me. I now look forward to a new

adventure in Devon with Matthew, Kerry and my new granddaughter Amahle (9 weeks old).

Love and best wishes to you all,  
stay safe

Margaret Church

Dear HHT,

As we approach the end of 2020, I think it is important to thank all those critical workers in the village, and throughout the country, that have kept going throughout both lockdowns. Without these selfless individuals, what has been an extremely difficult year, would certainly have been a lot worse. And closer to home I know there have been lots of selfless acts to ensure our nearest and dearest have been looked after and cared for. Due to the tight tier 3 restrictions it has been decided not to have Father Christmas visit the village on Christmas Eve, as in the past 15 years or so. I know that he and his helpers will be sadly missed but to ensure we all have a happy and especially healthy Christmas and New Year I believe this to be the right decision. Finally I would like to thank everyone that has helped with the many challenges the Parish Council have faced this year with regards to the Local Neighbourhood Plan and helping to shape how our village will develop in the future years.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

George Crozer HHPC

**Next edition February 2021; Contributions for February should be sent  
by 26th January to:**

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