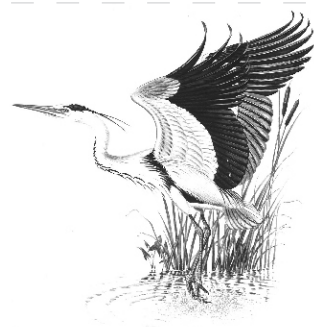




# High Halstow TIMES

Home of the Heron  
*The Newsletter for High Halstow*



**September 2022**

## ***High Halstow Memorial Hall***

The Memorial Hall Committee is looking for willing volunteers to join us in helping keep our Memorial Hall in good condition and ready for use by the many groups that use it for their meetings and gatherings.

If you have time for 4 very quick committee meetings a year, ideas as to how we can encourage users and groups into the hall please do get in touch. There must be many new residents in the village who drive past the hall and wonder what goes on in there, if that's you and you wish to know more and maybe help us then please do get in touch. You

don't have to have any specific skills, just the interest in what goes on in our village.

Covid has had an impact on bookings, and it would be lovely to introduce new ideas and fresh eyes to help us to get the hall booked out fully therefore ensuring the future use for many years to come.

Please feel free to contact any of the numbers listed here.

Thank you.

Jeanette Dowsett - Secretary -  
01634 254428

Angela Forward - Chairman -  
01634 251756

Wendy Brunt - Treasurer -  
01634 255366



## ***High Halstow & District Gardening Club***

The club held its annual summer show on Saturday 27th reports and show winners will be available in the next HHT edition. I hope you all enjoyed the afternoon.

Our next club meeting will be at the memorial hall on Tuesday 13th September. The speaker this month is Katherine Hook and her subject will be Sloe Seduction. The Hall opens at 0730pm for 0800pm start. Members £1 and non members (most welcome) £2. Refreshments included. Full annual membership is only £7.50p.

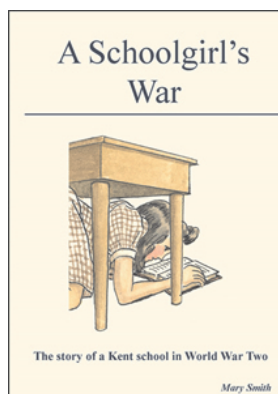
Keep cool and happy gardening.

Mike Hughes

## ***High Halstow Women's Institute***

After a short break during August we return to our normal meetings on Wednesday 7th September in the Memorial at 7.30pm.

Our Speaker will be Mary Smith who will tell us about "A Schoolgirl's War" the story of a Kent school in WWII.



It would be lovely if we had some new members, so come along and you will be made very welcome.

We have a varied programme throughout the year which includes a speaker at most of the meetings, outings and a very popular lunch club.

We always meet on the first Wednesday of each month, so we hopefully look forward to some new visitors or prospective new members.

Crystal Wakefield  
President

## High Halstow Parish Council Meeting Resume - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

A face-to-face meeting of High Halstow Parish Council took place in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, where it was attended by eight (8) Parish Councillors and four (4) members of public.

Owing to the Chairman being on annual leave, the Vice-Chair, Cllr C. Watson, conducted the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of the main part of the meeting the Parishioners sat in the public gallery were given an opportunity to speak, where several points were raised.

These points included concerns regarding:

- An overgrown hedge, that was obstructing the view of a highway within the village.
- The lack of a hard standing area located next to a bus stop (without a wooden shelter), which was subsequently forcing residents to either walk into the road or onto potentially wet grass, when boarding or exiting the bus.
- Concerns regarding the large number deceased trees that were leaning precariously close to the highway along Dux Court Road.
- Finally, a request for Medway Council to install speed bumps along Christmas Lane, alongside a suggestion of introducing a one-way system throughout the village.

The meeting started at 7.45pm, where Cllr B. Williams spoke to raise his concerns over the lack of care that was being taken by

residents walking through the Cricket Club grounds and the sudden increase in vandalism throughout the village. The members spoke collectively about possible deterrents, where they agreed to look further into camouflaged wildlife cameras. The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, also spoke to alert the members to the graffiti that was appearing throughout the village. A discussion ensued, where it was agreed to post photos of the offending tag on the members social media page, in the hope that the culprit would be named and shamed.

The members discussed the three (3) new planning applications that had been submitted since their last meeting, where they agreed to write to Medway Council with comments surrounding one of them. The three (3) new planning decisions were also discussed, where it was acknowledged that all of them had been agreed subject to conditions.

The latest update on the Neighbourhood Plan confirmed that the final draft version of the plan was being tweaked by Troy Hayes (the planning consultants) following various comments made by a volunteer of the committee, who also happened to be a fully qualified Planning and Environmental Law Barrister. Once the various suggested amendments had been made, it was understood that the Neighbourhood Plan committee would meet once more, before arranging to send the finalised document to Medway Council.

The members spoke about an email they had received from a Senior Transport Planner at Medway Council, with proposed improvements to footpaths in the village, following receipt of the Section 106 monies from the completion of the Heronden Grange development. Upon closer inspection of this document, the Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to respond with their objections, where it was acknowledged that Redrow's proposed new footpath from Heronden Grange to the centre of the village had been excluded. It was also noted that no improvements from Eden Road to Harrison Drive had been incorporated, where it was recognised that these roads formed part of the main route to the Primary Academy School, via the main entrance located on 'The Street'.

A grant for £40 was agreed to be paid to St Margaret's Church, as part of the Parish Council's contribution towards their joint event entitled, 'Welcome to our Village', that had been scheduled to take place from 12 noon on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr R. Collins spoke to inform the meeting that he was struggling to obtain a comparable quote to resurface the playpark. Cllr M. Stone also advised that she was hoping to present further research on the proposed new play equipment targeted at disabled children, at the members' next meeting.

It was reported that under the interests of health and safety, and following the recent spell of hot

and dry weather, that the edge of the grass at Forge Common had been trimmed back as a firebreak.

The closure time of the public toilets, located within the grounds of the Village Hall, was discussed. It was recognised that owing to prior commitments Medway Norse were not able to close the toilets at 5.00pm as previously agreed. Following suggestions from Medway Norse, the members unanimously agreed to close the toilets at their later time of 7.00pm during the summer months, but to bring forward their closure to between 3.30pm and 4.00pm during the winter months.

The maintenance of the trees located behind Leaman Close was discussed. After careful consideration the members agreed to accept the quote received from their existing grounds maintenance team, that included the trimming the overhanging branches and incorporating their future maintenance into the member's existing 'Green Spaces' contract.

The erection of the members' second reconditioned noticeboard was discussed. Owing to the length of time this matter had taken so far, it was decided that instead of waiting for the availability of several Parish Councillors to instal the noticeboard, that the members would pay for a contractor to carry out these works instead.

The cleanliness of the wooden bus shelters was discussed, where Cllr L. Atkinson referred the members to a quote, she had previously

circulated from a local jet washing company. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the wooden bus shelters needed to be thoroughly cleaned and that further maintenance should be carried out every three months. Cllr T. Munday spoke to suggest that a comparable quote should be obtained from a local window cleaning firm, which the members agreed was a good idea.

The main report from the Environmental Group was circulated prior to the meeting. Following on from this however Cllr M. Stone advised that the committee were still looking into the different variety of electrical car charging points available and that they were due to meet again the following evening to discuss their contribution towards 'The Great Big Green Week', which was a national initiative being held between 24/09/2022 and 02/10/2022.

A report from the Youth Club indicated that the numbers of children attending sessions during the summer had decreased. As the school holidays however were now in full swing, it was hoped that the numbers of children would increase again once the those who had been on vacation had returned.

Cllr R. Collins reported an increase in bookings for the Village Hall during the month of August in comparison to other years. He spoke of bookings from both the Youth Club and a School Club, who following their popularity, had booked additional dates. He closed his report in advising that

he understood that the Memorial Hall were looking for additional committee members, following the retirement of several longstanding colleagues.

A closed session at the end of the meeting took place, where several confidential matters, including personnel queries, were discussed. The meeting was brought to a close by the Vice-Chair, Cllr C. Watson at 9.45pm.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting was agreed to take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like to attend this meeting a warm welcome will await you. There is also an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting to raise any question or queries you might have. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

### ***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

Cora MacFarlane 07801 892664

Tim Munday 07730 477017

Marilyn Stone 07944 490903

Brian Williams

Your councillors may also be contacted through the Parish Clerk:

Jenny Allen 01634 710086

email: clerk@highhalstow-pc.gov.uk

## *Friends of St Margaret's*

Mitchell Dowsett

I am writing this article as a Trustee of the Friends of St Margaret's hoping to stimulate villagers both past and present, to share their memories of how our beautiful church has played a part in their lives.

St Margaret's Church was built in 10<sup>th</sup> Century and is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. It is built at one of the highest points of the Hoo Peninsula and given that it sits close to three of the entrances to the village many of us pass it a number of times each day. Its high position means that in times past it will have provided uninterrupted views across all of the surrounding area. Some of those views are still apparent at ground level, albeit vastly changed (eg from the lychgate to the Medway) much of the panorama can only be seen from the tower.

Many people from the village pass the church on a daily basis and most would agree that, irrespective of their religious beliefs, this ancient building adds greatly to the village's character particularly around its aged centre.

St Margaret's has been the venue and backdrop to many of the happiest but also some of the saddest events in our lives and those of our friends and families. I'm hoping that you will be prepared to share those with you fellow villagers by writing of them to the HH Times in the coming months. To start things off here are a few of the memories of our own family.



We have been fortunate to have the church as the setting for many weddings in the family. The first photo shows that of Jeanette and mine in 1978 with our parents. My suit is horribly dated now with the enormously wide collar and flared trousers, the only saving grace of which is that they hide my platform shoe. And, yes, I did at that time have hair. To the left of Jeanette is her mum, Kathleen or Kit as everybody knew her. She experienced three other daughters marrying at the church, Valerie, Cathrine and Linda. Inside the church I can advise future grooms that the beautiful inside of the church, particularly the roll of honour of those lost in the war, provides plenty to discuss and steady the nerves while waiting for the arrival of your bride.

The second photo is of our older daughter Joanne's marriage to Carl in 2005 with our other children Andrew and Gemma alongside. As the bride's father I had the privilege of walking Joanne along the aisle and I remember as we turned to go up realising just how short it was – just five or six steps and we were at the front. All that practise was of very limited value! The guard of honour that the several ushers formed with cricket bats for the

now married couple to pass through as they exited the church was particularly memorable. The observant among you will see the evidence that Carl and Andrew had picked up one another's top hats such that Andrew's is sitting on his ears and Carl's balancing precariously on the top of his head.



We have also had baptisms in the church and at the other end of life the sad experience of funerals with Kit and her husband William (known to all as George) whose remain now lie alongside one another on the churchyard. The church held a special place in Kit's heart. Hopefully we see it play further roles in the celebrations of future generations of our family.

I hope you enjoyed reading these few memories of our family and are stimulated to add your own by sending them to Carl Mitchell ([editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)). If you would like to support with the upkeep of the fabric of the church please contact Chris Peek, Membership Coordinator on 252604 or Mike Meredith Chair on 252939.

## *What's the difference...and what do they do?*

What's the difference between the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the church of St Margaret's, the Friends of St Margaret's and Relief in Need?

It may sound like the prelude to a convoluted music hall joke, but it is a serious question that is often raised. The joke is that I have been tasked with finding and submitting the answer to a wider audience. It can't be because I have been involved in High Halstow for over 65 years – others have done a lot more for longer – nor that I possess any literary inclination, despite my late uncle being a lecturer in English and (whilst a student) a drinking companion of Tolkien and C. S. Lewis. No, it is me because I put my hand up in a meeting, asked a question and was duly commissioned.

The Parish Council looks after the parish, and has a broad, statutory brief, that broadly covers the management of the parish as a whole and representing the community to the wider world. That brief does not impinge on the interests of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), all of which are related directly to the pastoral care of the residents, together with the upkeep of the active churches and churchyards within its purview. Importantly, the PCC covers not only the Parish of High Halstow but also Allhallows and St Mary Hoo. The parishes came together under one incumbent over 40 years ago, and the PCC does not differentiate between them. There is effectively one parish sharing income derived from donations from congregations, grants, legacies, fees from weddings and funerals and event-based fund-raising. This money is then used in the fulfilment of the PCC's obligations to the extended

parish, which include but not limited to maintenance of the two church buildings. Both High Halstow and Allhallows churches are listed buildings and therefore there are rules on how maintenance is carried out. In addition, the Diocese of Rochester has strict rules on the matter. Both sets of regulations have a restrictive nature, which inevitably pushes up administration and material costs.

Relief in Need is a stand-alone charity, based in High Halstow that makes donations to residents who are in conditions of need or hardship. Four charities established by philanthropist residents in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries for the benefit of the needy in the community came together under the single umbrella of High Halstow Relief in Need Charity in 1981. There are seven trustees and whilst the Rector of the Parish of High Halstow and the two Church Wardens are ex officio Trustees, the Charity is not a "church" charity. The Charity's property and investment portfolio provide all the funds necessary for the Trustees to fulfil their obligations.

High Halstow is blessed with a fine 12<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon church. As many of us know and understand, great age requires sustained care and support, and that is where the Friends of St Margaret's enter the scene. Now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Friends are dedicated to raising funds specifically for the maintenance and upkeep of the church building. The needs are identified by the PCC and the Friends step in with grants targeted at specific projects to assist with funding. Being neither religious nor

sectarian, the Friends of St Margaret's is an organisation with a single aim – to preserve the physical future of the village's landmark building, the church of St Margaret's at High Halstow. Anyone can be a Friend.

So, the answer to my opening question is simple: all the entities have similar but crucially different aims. Regardless of those differences, all exist and operate for the benefit of all the people of High Halstow. I am pleased to be a Friend.

David Lapthorn  
Trustee and Friend of St Margaret's



**High Halstow Parish Council**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

WILL TAKE PLACE IN

**THE MEMORIAL HALL**

ON

**WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

AT

**7.30 PM**

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT.

## *High Halstow Sports Camp Success.*

WOW! What an amazing 2 day sports camp in High Halstow which took place on 4th & 5th August.

With over 20 children in attendance we covered so much over the 2 days including:

Football, basketball, rounders, arts & crafts, karate, medals, card tricks, certificates, ice cream man and trophies for best boy and best girl.

Congratulations to everyone and well done to best boy Ewan Jeffery and best girl Ebony Huxted who were chosen for not only their sporting skills but showed great behaviour and helped others.

Thank you to the coaches who helped make it successful.

Next camp is 24th August with further dates to be confirmed. Please contact me if you wish to go on a mailing list for future dates.

Enjoy the pictures

Steve Coleman  
Sports Camp Organiser  
07793611544  
Senseistevemka@gmail.com



# COAT DRIVE

## Recycling Initiative



Winters are cold and buying a new coat is expensive - especially for children who grow out of them so quickly!

That's why St Margaret's & Allhallows Churches are facilitating this initiative to save you money and recycle good quality coats.

### How you can help:

1. Donate your clean, good quality unwanted coats by bringing them to one of our Churches
2. If you are in need of a coat, help yourself from the rail provided
3. Spread the word, tell your family and friends, these coats are free to have

Thank You for helping us & your Community

# Harvest Festival Celebrations 2022

We will be collecting for our local foodbank, please bring along your donations (no fresh foods) – Thank You

Join us on :  
**Sunday 2nd October**

**At St Margaret's Church, High Halstow from 930 AM**

**Or All Saints Church, Allhallows from 11am**



St Margaret's & Allhallows Churches  
[www.stmargaretshighhalstow.com](http://www.stmargaretshighhalstow.com)

## High Halstow Village Hall

### Afternoon Tea

What a great turn out to see the unveiling of the plaque in memory of Lesley Munday who did so much for the Village Hall. We will also be adding a new touch to the windows to mark the renaming of the kitchen to Lesley's Kitchen so please look out for that.

More pictures are available at [highhalstow.org.uk](http://highhalstow.org.uk)

### Dates for your Diary

Race Night - 29<sup>th</sup> October – See separate poster

The Redfords – 19<sup>th</sup> November – Tickets will be on sale as from 8<sup>th</sup> October, full details in next month's HHT

Quiz Night – 2<sup>nd</sup> December – details to follow in next month's HHT



To advertise in this publication:  
£88 Whole Page,  
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£11 Eighth Page.  
[editor@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:editor@highhalstow.org.uk)

## HIGH HALSTOW VILLAGE HALL

Proud to present

### RACE NIGHT

29<sup>th</sup> October 2022



Recorded races – Lots of competitive fun!

Doors open from 6:30pm to late

Licensed cash bar / Licensed Tote in operation

Ticket price £15

For each ticket purchased we will need to know the following:

- Name of person ticket for
- Name for your horse/dog etc

There will be a catalogue with details of all owners and riders provided on the night

There will be prizes for all winning owners and jockeys

Tickets from Wenda on 253169 from **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

## Quiz night

Thank you to everyone who supported the quiz night I organised at the end of July. This was my final quiz night and an opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past 20 years. The profit on the night was donated to the Demelza House children's hospice at the request of the Songbirds table. The quiz nights have raised thousands of pounds for a variety of charities, both national and local, chosen in turn by each table.

A special thank you to John for all his support over the years, firstly as a quizzier and then helping with the marking.

Once again thank you to everyone for supporting the quiz and for the support I have received personally, especially during my long period of poor health.

Margaret Church

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

## Harvest Festival Food Collection Box



A collection box will be in St Margaret's Church porch from 11<sup>th</sup> September – please fill with long life items such as:

- Tinned food
- Long life milk
- Tea and coffee
- Toilet rolls
- Kitchen roll
- Nappies and baby food
- Jars/sauces etc
- Cat and dog food
- Toiletries (toothpaste, soap, Shampoo etc)
- Household cleaning items
- Pasta
- Personal Hygiene items (ie Tampons)

These will go to our local food bank

Thank you

Next edition October 2022; Contributions for October should be sent by 26th September to:

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