

HALLING VIEW

SAT 5 DEC - see inside for further details

This year the village Christmas tree will be switched on by the President of Halling Women’s Institute Mrs Margaret Sutherland. Bo-Peeps Pre-School will be starting the carol concert around the tree straight after. All Halling residents are invited to join the Parish Council at the annual sing along and to join us in the Community Centre Hall afterwards for refreshments.

Hello Everyone

It saddens me to hear that Margaret Sutherland has not only left the village but also our WI has folded due to lack of support and harassment towards members, which hopefully has now ceased.

Regarding Formby Terrace, I am rather disappointed that Authorities showed lack of support in the re-housing of the residents who have now moved out of the area, including Sandra who cleaned Halling Community Centre for years.

We are holding a Parish Council meeting on 2nd December regarding a final decision to progress the disposal of the fire station, so that proceeds from the sale go towards the betterment of the village, including new play equipment, the Marsh and other areas in the village.

Attendance at our meetings is on the increase, which is welcomed by the Parish Council.



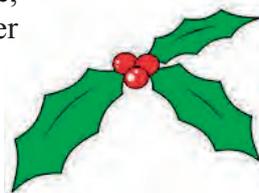
The Parish Council are always seeking local trades to offer their services towards various projects in the village, such as grass cutting in the cemetery, which has just received Council funding. Please contact the office with your contact details if you are looking for local work.

As the weather deteriorates please keep a close eye on your elderly or vulnerable neighbours to make sure they are ok.

There are lots of village events happening over the festive season, details of which are inside.

I hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and if there is anyone that you know who may be spending the holidays on their own, perhaps popping in with a piece of cake and a cup of tea might bring about much needed Christmas spirit to the village.

George Wenham
Chair – Halling Parish Council



Parish Council Meetings
Everyone welcome to attend

- 13 Jan 16 – Community Centre – 7.30pm
- 9 Feb 16 – Jubilee Hall – 7.30pm
- 9 Mar 16 – Community Centre – 7.30pm

Clerk’s Office Opening Hours:

Mon & Fri 9.30am – 12pm
Wed 9.30am – 4pm
Halling Community Centre
01634 241551
hallingclerk@btconnect.com
Bill Swan, Clerk

If you are a village group or society and you would like your 2016 calendar of events to be published on Halling Parish Council’s Website, please contact Mr Bill Swan, Clerk who will pass the details on to our webmaster.

HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

Lower Ward:
Councillor Les Hitchcock
Councillor Chris Herbert
Councillor Andy Simpson
Councillor Bob Morton
Councillor Richard Thorne
Councillor Kelly Talbot

Upper Ward
Councillor Matt Fearn
Councillor George Wenham
Councillor Trevor Reynolds

North Ward
Councillor Mark Joy
Councillor Michael Chattington

www.halling-pc.co.uk

Last year, the country came together to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War. Former Cllr Jim Sutherland suggested we buy one of the ceramic poppies planted at The Tower of London, for the village. It arrived this year and thanks to the skill of Mr Ian Adams, our poppy was displayed on a replica plinth of the village war memorial at Forge Green.

This was presented to the school and will be on display there in perpetuity.



Lower Recreation Ground Refurbishment

The children's play area in the Lower Rec is dated and decaying and the swings were put out of use following the annual safety inspection earlier in the year. The Parish Council is aware of the lack of facilities for the children of Halling and is making plans for improvements.

The Parish Council's Working Group has been busy working throughout the year applying for funding from different organisations to refurbish the Lower Recreation Ground. They have carried out consultations with the school, youth club and nursery. They have met with youths at the shelter and all the feedback has been taken into account for future improvements. We applied to Sport England for funding for an outdoor gym area but due to such a high volume of applications we were unsuccessful in our bid. HPC will re-apply in January in the next round of funding opportunities. The area designated for the gym equipment will be between the path and the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) together with a fixed table tennis table. It is designed to be used by children over 14 years and adults to improve and maintain good health and fitness. This will be free and accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Our application for funding for the play area was sent to Veolia at the end of August. We will get a decision in December and if we are successful. The play area will be open in time for next year's summer holidays. An initial design has been prepared based on the consultation process and was exhibited at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Fun Day. The plans have been well received. We have a long way to go raising as much money as we can as there is no guarantee our applications will be accepted and the more we raise the better play equipment we can have installed. Therefore, it is in all of our interests to get involved to be able to raise enough money to ensure the projects can go ahead.

Please keep an eye on Halling View for updates as we go through the year.

HALLING PARISH COUNCIL
LOWER HALLING RECREATION GROUND 2016
New Play Equipment

PLEASE HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT
If you require support in your efforts please contact
The Clerk, Halling Parish Council on
01634 241551

Partnership approach results in orchid success

Three years on, from one of the largest chalk grassland restoration projects undertaken in the south-east of England, at Ladds Farm, near Snodland, in Kent, has been pronounced a resounding success. The work, on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was thanks to Tarmac.

Over 40 hectares of former chalk grassland owned by Tarmac had gradually been lost to invading scrub and trees, and this important habitat was in danger of being lost forever. Over a three year period, the scrub was sympathetically removed using environmentally sustainable methods to once again reveal and restore the valuable and protected chalk grassland.

Around 800 tonnes of cut scrub and trees were removed from the site using novel carbon-neutral methods. This woody material was "baled" using a specialist machine creating compact 1/3 tonne bundles that were used as biomass fuel to generate energy to be used through the National Grid.

Today, two flocks of hardy Hebridean sheep roam the steep hillsides above the Medway Valley, maintaining the short downland turf and browsing on any shrubs that threaten to return to the open grassland. This is a return to a form of management that traditionally maintained what is one of the UK's most diverse natural habitats, sometimes called the European rainforest for the number of different species it supports. A well-managed chalk grassland can contain 30-40 different species of plant in a single square metre, and the site is now seeing the rapid spread of scarce species such as the musk orchid and ground pine.

To maintain this impressive habitat restoration still requires a lot of work. A dedicated team of local volunteers have been trained in the skill of 'lookering'. These individuals give up their time for free to support Tarmac and the tenant farmer in caring for the sheep that perform such an important job. This involves a daily check on the two flocks of woolly 'scrub munchers' to ensure that all their welfare needs are attended to and they remain in good condition.

The continued vital habitat management work is also made possible thanks to funding from Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme, which will help support the continued management of the SSSI and safeguard the important chalk grassland and its unique wildlife.

Tarmac also helps to fund time from a Kent Wildlife Trust warden to assist and advise on grassland management. The extremely rich wild flora restored by the project sustains an important variety of butterflies only found on chalk grassland, ensuring their survival and showing the symbiotic relationships between the flowers and butterflies. Stephen Weeks, Warden for Kent Wildlife Trust, said "The Trust is proud to be working with Tarmac on this nationally important conservation project and are delighted with the enhancements Tarmac has made to this wonderful area".

Jonathan Toyn, Senior Estates Manager at Tarmac said: "Chalk grasslands support a rich and diverse flora, attracting plants that do not grow in other soils. Chalk grasslands have been in decline over the last 50 years and Tarmac is delighted to be involved, with the help of tenant farmer Andrew Lingham in this project to restore valuable habitat and improving the SSSI."

Charles Chantler, Natural England SSSI officer for Halling to Trottscliffe escarpment, said: "The habitat management work on this land has helped restore chalk grassland of international importance and revealed a landscape unseen for fifty years. This is a landmark project for the SSSI and has made a huge difference to the environment of the area. It's a great example of joint working and represents the coming together of Heritage Lottery funding, and the involvement of the local landowners and farmers.

"This project is a credit to all involved and Natural England is delighted that the benefit will continue thanks to funding from our Higher Level Stewardship Scheme."

For further information contact Daniel Daniels on 01905 391 047

Chalkhill blue butterfly



FREE COACHING OFFERED (until end March 2016)

As many of you know, I have offered a free coaching service for some while now. I will continue to offer this until the end of March 2016.

Life Coaching, NLP, Clinical Hypnotherapy and EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique / Tapping) are some of the skill I use to help people resolve

all kinds of life issues, both emotional and physical. Issues such as confidence, phobias, motivation, weight, anxiety, stress and many many others.

In fact anything you may be able to think of!

INTRIGUED? as to how I can help YOU?

Then contact me, Beverley, on 01634 240190

Email - beverleyann.wdd012@gmail.com

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LEAVE YOUR NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER CLEARLY and a brief outline of your issues.

I am fully insured and CRB checked.

ALSO...

As from April 1st 2016 I will be making an hourly charge for my services.

However, there will still be SOME free sessions.



HALARA

If you like to mix and mingle than come along to Halling & Locality Active Retirement Association group meetings.

We may have snow on the roof but we are still lively. Some members are not so active but our group covers a variety of interests.

From Ten-pin bowling, Short Mat Bowls, Sequence Dancing, Interesting talks, Rambles with Pub lunch, Outings - to a gentle games afternoon. All good fun with friendly people – come along you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Over 50, retired or semi-retired then this may be the group for you.

- Contact the Secretary, Carole on 01634 716 049 or email: carole.nunn@tesco.net for further details.

HALARA'S Charity Race Night - Sat 24 October 15

In aid of The Mortimer Society for Huntingtons Disease, Birling House, Snodland
THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE THAT ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED OUR RACE NIGHT:
 Beanys Bakery, Loyal & True Lodge, The Flower arranging ladies, the raffle donations and Halling Community Centre.

WE RAISED £907

COURT FARM

SPECIAL OFFER until June 2016: Use our ESHOP and get 5% off your first online purchase. You can get a further 5% off if you get a friend or family member to make a purchase through our eshop... www.courtfarm.org



DECEMBER 2015



***Christmas Club* members – don't forget to use your**

Loyalty points when collecting your Xmas order! Call +44 (0)1634 240 547

JANUARY 2016 Birdwatching & fundraiser for the  giving nature a home **Last Sundays of the month with wild bird expert & Master Butcher Pete!**

The guided tour starts at 9.30 am inside the Butchery & Country Larder. RSVP via [facebook.com/courtfarmkent](https://www.facebook.com/courtfarmkent) under "events". Event series begins on January 31.



FEBRUARY 2016 Pop up Cinema on Bales of Hay for your family, sports, community, social & club events starting in April, outdoor screenings in our picnic area next to the farm shop.

It's free to use the cinema projector equipment and picnic space at Court Farm!

Catering can be ordered from the Butchery & Country Larder; outdoor bar can be provided by the Five Bells pub in Lower Halling Village (charges apply for the catering + bar). email Tania marketing@courtfarm.org for your free pop up cinema event bookings

OCTOBER 2015

Trenport

member of the Ellerman Investments Group

Connections for a new community

Peters Village and its 1,000 new homes should be 'well-connected' from the start, through proposals for enhanced bus services.

Highlights are:

- a Medway east to west bank service using the new Medway bridge - part of the Peters Village project - linking with peak hour fast trains to London via Snodland station
- better connections with employment and shopping offered by the Medway Towns and Maidstone
- the scheme's potential to lure people away from car use.

The Residential Travel Plan (RTP) was commissioned by Peters Village developer, Trenport Investments, for county council consultations.

It will encourage walking, cycling, and car share to drive down 'single occupant' car journeys, but the RTP also reflects an evolving transport landscape.

Trenport Director Chris Hall explained: "The transport picture for Peters Village changed while the project was on hold from 2006 until we started onsite last year, so had to be taken into account.

"There is, for instance, less demand for links with Kings Hill and West Malling; employment options in the former have scaled down, while the latter no longer has the fastest train services into London locally - east bank residents will now look to Snodland and the Medway Towns for the best rail access into the capital.

"The key issue remaining is how existing services can be extended or re-routed, with congestion from street parking on Wouldham High Street and current bus use heading the agenda; both factors have been taken on board in our discussions with KCC and Arriva."



'Exciting development' as Bellway named first to build at Peters Village

A UK top five house builder, Bellway, is to construct the 152-home Phase 1 on Trenport's Peters Village development near Wouldham on the east bank of the Medway - delivery of these new properties will start in 2016.

"This is a very exciting development," said Trenport Director Chris Hall.

"Construction of the infrastructure for Peters Village continues on schedule, but the site now gains real presence and significance to local people as the first homes start to be built.

"And we are delighted that we have reached agreement with one of the biggest and best known house builders in the country; one with a high reputation for delivering customer satisfaction.

"That's exactly the benchmark we would want, and accords with us setting the tone of design and quality high at Peters Village by securing detailed planning permission for the first homes ourselves."

Bellway was founded in the north east of England in 1946, but has since become a national concern - one of its divisional offices is located at Kings Hill, West Malling.

Chris Hall added: "Even as Bellway moves towards building the first homes, we already know that there will be hefty demand for these properties.

"Since we began actively registering interest on all types of property in September 2014 we have had almost five hundred inquiries in total.

"And while the 152 Phase 1 properties

do not include affordable homes, there is provision for 65 within the overall 157 units for Phase 2 and Trenport, working with affordable homes developer Guinness Partnership, plans to prioritise development of those particular properties.

"This will quickly foster a community feel at Peters Village by accommodating those who have grown up in the local area, yet cannot afford a home at full market price.

"We also fully expect sales momentum on Peters Village to speed up as physical evidence grows of progress on the new bridge over the Medway.

"It is currently bang on schedule for the opening in August 2016 (see overleaf).

"All in all, the progress of sales inquiries and general level of interest in the new development paints a bright future for Peters Village and the surrounding area.

"And Trenport is currently working hard with its architects and other consultants to refine proposals for the village centre facilities, including the new community hall and changing rooms, the medical centre and local retail units.

"Trenport hopes to submit the detailed applications for these buildings shortly."

■ A further announcement will be made shortly on www.trenport.co.uk about how people can express an interest in buying a property on Phase 1 - an update on affordable properties will follow with news on phase 2.

Bellway



Phase 1: Riverside perspective

Medway gets new crossing with style

An elegant bridge over the River Medway is taking shape near the villages of Halling and Wouldham.

This all-new river crossing is part of a £50 million scheme by Trenport - backed by £19.5 million of Government funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) - to create the new 1,000-home Peters Village community and connect it with neighbouring areas on both banks of the Medway, while also improving their transport links.

Work on the overall project began in May 2014, with bridge construction itself from spring this year, preceded by sheet pile strengthening of the river banks bearing the roadway onto the crossing.

Trenport Managing Director Tony Parson said: "The whole scheme is right on schedule and we are particularly pleased with progress on the bridge.

"This will soon open up new employment, education, shopping, and recreation horizons for the east bank villages of Wouldham, Burham and Eccles, as well as serving their new neighbour Peters Village



through linking with the A226 on the Medway's west bank.

Two coffer dams - effectively watertight boxes resting on the river bed - enabled site teams to build the two bridge supports, now poking their heads above the dams.

Each support has 15 piles running 48-50 metres down through the river bed into rock to support the weight of the bridge and roadway.

These pile foundations were core drilled, and then filled with steel reinforcements and concrete - a quieter and more

environmentally-friendly process than conventional piling. Two temporary jetties advanced steadily from the river banks to carry the plant and machinery needed for the piling and coffer dams, and enable the three bridge spans to be constructed: two 40-metre sections between each bank and its nearest support, with a 60-metre mid-section to complete the crossing.

Tony Parson added: "The jetties are crucial, as the spans will be formed from concrete in situ, rather than pre-fabricated and brought in by road; this is faster and causes less traffic congestion, and totally in keeping with our site contractor Bam Nuttall's methods - a company known for environmental awareness and 'good neighbourliness'."

A second bridge is also being constructed over the nearby rail line, west of the river bridge, replacing one which would be unable to cope with traffic using the new crossing. Both new bridges will be fully open by late summer 2016, with the whole Peters Village development due for completion in 2022.



HALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE
&
HALLING PARISH COUNCIL



Invite the residents of Halling to their
Annual
Christmas Tree Lighting & Carol Concert

To be held on

Saturday 5th December 15

6.00pm

at Halling Community Centre



The lights will be turned on this year by
Mrs Margaret Sutherland, President, Halling WI

The children of Bo-Peeps Pre - school will start with their Christmas songs
followed by villagers' carol singing



Free refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards

Merry Christmas from



The Five Bells

Please join us for our Christmas celebrations

Saturday 5th December

Father Christmas Grotto 1-3pm (£1.50 per child including goody bag and children's drink)

'Bravado' live 3-5pm

Mulled wine, spiced cider and hot drinks served all day.

Friday 18th December 8.30pm

Live music from IAN INGLES

FIND US ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EVENTS TO GET UP TO DATE INFORMATION

Christmas opening hours

Christmas Eve – 12.00 – 12.00

Christmas Day – 12.00 – 15.00

Boxing Day – 12.00 – 16.00

New Years Eve – 12.00 - 16.00 then 20.00 – 1.00am

New Years Day 12.00 – 16.00

Be safe this Winter:

Most people make sure their homes are locked



Do you:

- lock up before you go out or go to bed?
- close windows properly?
- keep cash and keys out of sight?

Kent against burglary

#wedo

Contact us

Email: csu.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk

Do not report crime via email, use the numbers below

Telephone: **101** (non-emergencies), **999** (in emergencies)

Our Neighbourhood Officer is:

PCSO Alistair Hardy

Email: 58815@kent.pnn.police.uk

RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES NEED YOU!

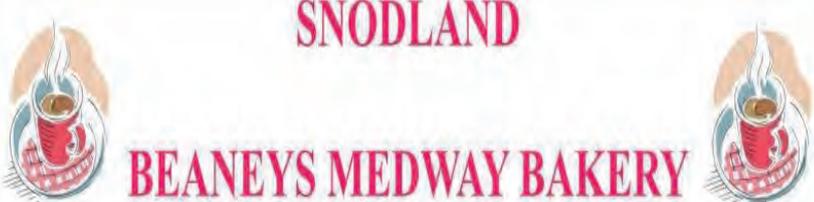


Rainbow, Brownie and Guide groups in Halling are in desperate need of leaders to help run units. There are many ways female volunteers are able to help, either as a leader in charge of a unit, or an assistant leader, helper, or occasional helper. You might also be able to offer help with finances or administration.

We are looking for help with Rainbows (girls aged 5-7 years), Brownies (aged 7-10 years) and Guides (aged 10 to 14 years). We meet on Thursdays during term time, at Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling. We start with Rainbows at 4pm to 5.15pm, followed by Brownies from 5.15pm to 6.45pm and then Guides and Senior Section from 6.45pm to 8.30pm. Volunteers must be aged from 18 plus, have some spare time, like children, and have a good sense of fun! All adults in Girlguiding are required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check completed.

If you would like to find out more, please have a look at the Girlguiding website at www.girlguiding.org.uk – see Get Involved. Or have a chat with Trudy via email at trudybarnowl@orangehome.co.uk. Thank you.

SNODLAND



**BEANEYS MEDWAY BAKERY
AND TEA ROOM**

**FRESH BREAD - CAKES - PASTRIES
HOT SAUSAGE ROLLS - PIES - PASTIES**



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CAKES**



MEDWAY 240253

HALLING ASSOCIATION SMALL PROJECTS FUND

Grants Criteria

This grant scheme is run by the Halling Association. This is a local partnership of private, public and voluntary organisations that supports projects for the benefit of the parish of Halling.

Who can apply?

- Only groups and organisations based in Halling, or other groups who want to carry out a project in the parish, or to benefit local residents.

How much funding is available?

- Grants of up to a maximum of £250 are available.
- There is a total budget of £1500 available for small projects in one year.

How long do we have to wait to hear the outcome of our application?

- Providing we have all the information we need, you should hear within 6 weeks of submitting the form.

What sort of projects are eligible?

- The Halling Association will be open to helping a wide range of projects, such as events or activities being organised by a group, improvements to a community building, or environmental projects.

How can we apply for a grant?

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/thecouncilanddemocracy/parishcouncils/hallingassociationproject.aspx>

Medway Council officers: Ross Crayford : 01634 331629 Email: ross.crayford@medway.gov.uk

Address: Planning Policy, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR

HALLING'S FOOTPATHS

Permissive path from foot of Plough Path to

Whittings Farm: Read out by the Halling Parish Clerk, my report to HPC was that Lafarge Tarmacadam and its tenant farmers, Messrs West and Lingham, have no objection to a permissive path, with the proviso that work is done first on fencing and installation of a wide kissing-gate to protect the farmers' crops from trespass and motorcycles. I was urged to use Lafarge's "strongly recommended" contractor. At the last HPC meeting, the contractor's quotation was accepted.

On asking my contact at Lafarge when the work might be started, his response was that he assumed I knew (I didn't) that it was first up to HPC to approach Kent County Highways (Medway) to request formally the permissive path. Medway Highways would then need to contact Tarmac Cement & Lime Ltd. via their Agent, Workman LLP to discuss on what basis such a permissive right is to be granted [basis: road-safety/busy A228 by-pass need not be crossed, perhaps twice, by people going in or coming from the Snodland direction]. Provided the land owner/s agree to the terms of the permissive path, a legal agreement will need to be drawn up between the parties. Upon completion of an agreement, only then (but when?) can any fencing or gates be installed.

RS320 path crossing Wildfowlers' private land: This path is maintained in good order, but vandals have struck again at the same two well-concealed stiles with 'lifting bars' at the Cemex end of the footpath. Total Properties have repaired these stiles more than once. This path was made *definitive* by a Government-appointed Inspector's ruling – which means that it will show on the next Ordnance Survey map published.

It saddens me that the time seems to have come for Halling Parish Council to have put in place *fixed* bars at the legal 'lifting-bar' height necessary as a further obstacle to cattle getting past stiles. I offer my apologies to those less nimble walkers who will be inconvenienced by these petty acts of destruction.

Maintenance of the Plough, Ticker, and Cam Paths: These paths connect Upper and Lower Halling. Lafarge have made it clear that, as these paths cross their land, they will do the cutting and maintenance. Please direct any footpath problems to Halling Parish Council: they will be forwarded to Lafarge.

Four Dogs Path: With the enthusiastic and very welcome help of fellow villagers, this new and aptly named path completes the perimeter of the whole marsh area. This new section starts to the right (over the stile) just beyond the marsh gate, and has been cut open all the way round to the Maximillian Drive end. When the cattle leave the marsh on 31 October, the exit gate will be unbolted for easy access.



The trail blazers: John Martin, Tony Hopson, and Andy Beman

Barry Barnes

– Co-opted by HPC for Footpaths

AN ADDITIONAL FOOTPATHS' REPORT (as read out by the Halling Parish Clerk on 10 November 2015)

I thank whoever was responsible on this Council for having the cattle removed from Halling Common to time on 31st October. Currently, the animals are grazing elsewhere.

Inevitably, the cattle have churned up public footpaths – which is why it is has always been necessary to keep cattle off Halling Common and the footpaths from 1st November until the coming April. The cold weather firms up the ground.

A means of having the cattle *not* churn up a majority of the footpaths is to have the cattle graze the north side only of Halling Common. This Council has spent a small fortune on having gates, fixings, stock-fencing, and stile-barriers supplied and erected to contain the cattle, all to make walking a less muddy, less slippery, and a less nerve-wracking experience for villagers with and without dogs.

Cattle and their containment have added to making access to the body of the south/Maximillian Drive side of Halling Common near-impossible: it is a mire and obstacle course of unwanted man-made shallows designed to fill with water, wide drainage ditches, the farmer's barrier gate and fence, deep mud churned up by cattle, and a cattle-trodden (new) perimeter path. Please try to access and then cross the south side of Halling Common on foot, if you think I am exaggerating!

I think that all of these irritations that thoroughly inconvenience walkers and involve continuing expenditure by the Council give weight to my suggestion that cattle do not have access to the south side of Halling Common. The farmer need not be disadvantaged: cattle would still be a welcome rural feature on the other half of Halling Common.

Most villagers would warmly welcome the river footpaths kept free of mud and the south/Maximillian Drive side of Halling Common being free to roam – with the cattle grazing the north side only.

Halling Common – a gift to the village – is primarily for people. The whole of the south/Maximillian side could be developed as a recreation area.

Barry Barnes

Co-opted for footpaths



Do you need a Helping Hand?

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Object to paying hefty Accountants fees?

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Winsor Works, London Road, West Malling, Kent ME19 5AN

CROSSROADS CARE

Kent

Family thoughts after days out

Thankyou for a lovely day. Everybody enjoyed it. There's no way I would have been able to take them on my own the travel and costs out of League. So thankyou

We've been through a rough time recently and today has given us an opportunity to forget for the day and have fun.

They mean socialising, a break and valuable

We are extremely grateful because days out are both expensive and difficult with travel options. This provides both

Without young carers we wouldn't be able to afford to go out on outings like this, young carers are a lifeline to me and my family.

We looked forward for weeks as it's the only time we get out really.

It gives us family time

They mean time out from the stresses of home life as a family.

Got to chat to others and got to enjoy a good day that didn't break the bank.

I never go out with the children in the half term and it put me at ease to maybe do it more.

These are some of your thoughts about Crossroads Young Carers

It meant I could be with people who care like me

It gives me time to have a good time with other people

They organise different days out

It gave me a break and more confidence

It allows me to have some free time and make friends with new people

Everyone is in the same position

A break from caring

They are brilliant and give us opportunities

I have fun and bond with other young carers

It gets me to places I couldn't usually go

Helps me to trust more people

Good to get away and have a laugh

It was nice to go somewhere my Mum can't get to because of disability

I've gained more confidence in myself

A chance to relax with no worries



Presentation by Julie Evans and Cllr Andy Simpson of Crossroads Care Young Carers £350 cheque raised from the Funday Sunday Duck Race. These lovely ladies were pleased as punch. Please support them in the future they are such a great cause.

Useful Contacts

Crossroads Young Carers Project:

Office: 01622 817114
 Mobile: Jan: 07906019313
 Marie: 07788213423
 E-mail: jan.hall@crossroadswest.org
 marie.smith@crossroadswest.org
 Website: <http://www.carerskm.org/>
 Our new address: Crossroads Care, The Oast, Orwell Place, 170 Tonbridge Road, Watlington, ME18 5NS

New Rise Above: A new health and wellbeing website for young people
<http://riseabove.org.uk/>

For Young People:

Visit www.foryoungpeople.co.uk for local info on sexual health, drugs and alcohol

Childline:

Phone: 0800 1111...Free call...Confidential
 Web: www.childline.org.uk

Talk to Frank

Phone: 0800776600... Free call ... Confidential ... Drugs helpline
 Web: www.talktofrank.com

National Association of Children of Alcoholics:

Phone: 0800358 3456... Free call ... confidential



SAMARITANS

Crossroads provides support groups each month specifically for young carers aged from five to seventeen years. We offer respite activities including sport, arts & crafts, quizzes, cookery, various workshops from Circus Skills to writing CVs. During school holidays we offer respite trips to such places as: Leeds Castle, day trips to the beach, London theatre trips, theme parks, swimming, cinema and bowling.

Christmas Tree Festival

This will take place at St John's Church the weekend of 19th & 20th December. Village clubs and societies and individuals are invited to produce and decorate a Christmas tree. Be as imaginative and creative as you like. Trees may be real or artificial. They need to be set up on Friday 18th. On the Saturday, the exhibition will be open to the public and there will be refreshments on sale. The exhibition will also be open on Sunday with our usual service of Holy Communion at 11.00 and our Christmas Carol Service, Nativity Play and Christingle at 3.00. Please contact Phyllis Chidwick (243213) or the Rector if you would like to display a tree. It would be nice if you could leave them in church until twelfth night, but, if you need them for your own domestic festivities, you can have them back after the Carol Service. We hope to have an enjoyable celebration with plenty of things to see and to raise something for church funds by way of visitors' donations.

Christmas Services:

St John the Baptist Halling: Sunday 20th December 3.00 pm Carol Service, Christingle and Nativity Play; Christmas Day 8.00 am Holy Communion.

St Michael & All Angels Cuxton: Christmas Eve 5.00 pm Christingle and Nativity Play, 11.00 pm Midnight Mass; Christmas Day 9.30 am Family Communion.

The Story of the Christmas Tree

Boniface was an Englishman, probably born in Devon towards the end of the seventh century. His original English name was Winfrith. He came from a wealthy family and was intelligent and well-educated. His father wanted him to go into business, but Winfrith strongly felt called to become a monk. In time, he discovered that his vocation was to be a missionary in Germany. At that time, there were still many unbelievers in Germany. The Church itself was weak and disorderly. Many people who called themselves Christians weren't really so. The pagans often persecuted the Christians. Boniface laboured with others both to reform the Church and to convert the heathen. In this he was very effective. He also helped to bring peace and stable government to the warring German tribes. Today he is known as Saint Boniface and his martyrdom is commemorated on 5th June each year.

Like the ancient Hebrews and, no doubt, many other pagan or semi-religious cultures, the pre-Christian Germans regarded certain trees as sacred. One such was the oak at Geismar, held to be sacred to the god Thor. Boniface was moved to demonstrate that it had no real power and cut it down. The pagans were astonished that nothing bad happened as a result. The wood was used to build a Christian chapel. The legend goes on to state that Boniface told them to forget about sacred oaks and to look to the fir. Its evergreen leaves point to eternal life in Christ. Its triangular shape reminds us of the Trinity. The whole tree points upwards to heaven. Thus an Englishman gave the Christmas tree to the Germans and a German, Prince Albert, brought it back to the English. Unfortunately, while the story of cutting down Thor's oak is well documented, the part about the Christmas tree is much less certain. We do know, however, that evergreens did come to be used as Christmas decorations through the Middle Ages. The balls used to decorate them were originally apples, to represent the forbidden fruit. There might also be wafers to illustrate the bread of Holy Communion, Jesus the Bread of Life. Later on, candles were added. Christ is the Light of the world. Later still, these were replaced by electric lights – a sensible health and safety precaution! An angel or a star usually tops the tree – a symbol of heaven and a reminder of the wise men drawn to worship the infant Christ with their gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Often families have their own particular Christmas decorations which mean something special to them.

It was on 5th June 754 that Boniface gathered a group of new converts to Christianity at Dorkum for Confirmation. The heathens fell upon them and Boniface and 52 others died the death of martyrs. Martyr is the Greek word for a witness and martyrdom therefore is a fitting death for a Christian missionary and evangelist.

Roger Knight, Rector of Cuxton and Halling.
The Rectory, 6, Rochester Road, Cuxton, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1AF, 01634 717134,
roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk
<http://www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk>

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17TH FEBRUARY 2016

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Parish Office, Halling Community Centre

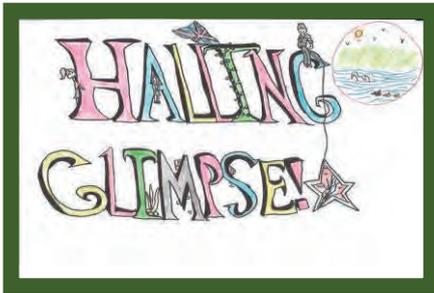
All adverts must be paid in advance or they will not be included.

Business advertising: (A4 format) Prices for x4 issues MAR / JUNE / SEPT / DEC

Half Page £ 150 / Quarter £80 / Small Ad £50
(Charity Ads & Village Articles are free)

Payments for single issue Ads welcome

£45 / £25 / £15



We started the new school year in September with a spring in our step following the publication of our latest OFSTED report. We are very proud of the many very positive judgements, including *OUTSTANDING* for our Early Years Foundation Stage and *OUTSTANDING* for Behaviour and Safeguarding.

The school is a happy, welcoming place, where pupils enjoy learning.

Pupils are cared for exceptionally well and there is strong support for families.

All pupils make at least good progress from their individual starting points.

Outstanding opportunities for learning in the Reception classes ensure children get off to an excellent start.

(OFSTED JUNE 2015)

It is now a year since we re-designed our curriculum and moved towards topic-based learning throughout the school (see our website for more details). This has been a great success, leading to increased enjoyment of learning and further opportunities for visitors and trips. *New and exciting topics engage pupils in their learning and contribute to excellent attitudes (OFSTED).*

On Monday 5th October 2015, a selected team of Year Six mathematicians from Halling Primary School were invited to compete at an **inter-school Maths competition** at Oakwood Park Grammar School. Harvey, Corvin, Evie and Cerys were chosen to represent the school to work as a team to complete a wide range of challenges. After an exciting day and lots of mathematical thinking, the team did extremely well and were placed 5th out of 40 schools. Well done to all four of them for being such fantastic representatives for the school!

On Friday 25th September 2015, ten children were selected (two from each Key Stage 2 class) to go and watch **Robot Wars** live, at Greenwich University, Medway. Robot Wars ran for seven series between 1997 and 2003 on BBC2. The programme featured roboteers, whose robotic creations fought against each other. The children were all very excited to attend and the atmosphere in and around the arena was exciting.

Leon (year 5) said, *"I was so happy that I was picked to go because my Dad and I used to watch it together all of the time at home. Some of the robots were scary but I enjoyed the show and would love to go again."*

Isabella (Year 3) said, *"It was amazing to watch the robots fight against each other. I understood which robots were stronger than others and what they needed to do to make the robot win."*

From this, the university has launched a design competition at Robot Wars, for children to design and submit their own plans to make their own robots. The winners will have their designs built with support from the university's engineers. The winners will also then be invited to take part in next year's show, bringing their robots to battle in the famous Robot Wars arena.

Forest School continues to be a successful and popular part of the curriculum in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. We were delighted to secure funding from Halling Association towards the building of a wooden "study shelter" in our Forest area during the Autumn Break. Our thanks to all of those who contribute to the Halling Association budget as well as to our own Friends of Halling School, who will meet the remainder of the costs.



Wendy Donnelly
Head Teacher



The beautiful seal (above) was captured on camera by Mr Ken Browne (left) when she rested on the banks of The Medway in Halling. Our School and the Parish Council decided to hold a Name the Seal Competition with Ken judging all the entries. He chose the winning name as it was very apt to the day he photographed the seal in the morning mist.

Katie and Nash each received a cuddly seal and a book on sea mammals donated by Halling Parish Council and our winner also received family tickets courtesy of London Sea Life Aquarium.

WINNER: Katie Akehurst, Kestrels Class
SILVER MIST

RUNNER UP: Nash Johnstone, Nightingales Class
Sea Nugget

Halling Garden Society, like other clubs in this area, would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Hopefully, the green fingered among you will be enjoying the break from weeding, bulb planting and mowing the grass. If you are suffering withdrawal symptoms, may I prescribe a leisurely look through the latest seed catalogues – We can arrange for you to get 50% - that's half price- if you order from Dobbies (Which Best Buy) using our club order forms which carry our Society number. Ring Pat on 01634240480 or Matthew on 01634727424 if you need a copy of the catalogue and form. The catalogue is available on line at www.dobbies.co.uk where you will find a larger choice. You can order online but need the club number to get any discount. You can order as many or as few packets as you wish so you don't have to have a large garden or an allotment to join us. Those with new gardens or new to the area may not know of our activities so this is our chance to introduce ourselves as your local club for all things garden related. We welcome all-comers to join us. Subscriptions are the massive amount of £3 per year. This entitles you to free entry to our 2 shows in April and September, Show Schedules, talks when arranged, updates by email of any related events or offers that we hear about in the South east, and as already mentioned, 50% discount on seeds from Dobbies and anything else we arrange during the year. It also gives you contact with likeminded people, some of whom have been gardening in this area for more than 40 years so know the conditions well. To find out more, look on our facebook page, Parish Council page or ring the numbers mentioned above as we are happy to help and a friendly bunch!!

“BAH, HUMBUG!”

by *Keith Barrett*

“BAH, HUMBUG!” That, of course, was Ebenezer Scrooge's view of Christmas in Charles Dickens' brief but haunting story, *A Christmas Carol*. At least, that was Scrooge's view of Christmas in Dickens' well-loved novella before the old skinflint had a radical change of heart and became the nicest person in town. As a consequence of his radical change of heart, Scrooge not only entered enthusiastically into the spirit of a happy and jolly Victorian Christmas, but his loving support of Bob Cratchit's family helped save the life of the Cratchits' sickly son, Tiny Tim, to whom Scrooge became like “a second father”.

Now, with four grown-up children and six grandchildren, I'm not against fun, but I must confess that I sometimes have a certain sympathy with Scrooge's cynical comment about Christmas, “Bah, humbug!” This is because of all the commercialisation of Christmas and the hypocrisy that goes with it. We are all aware of how Christmas has become increasingly commercialised over the years, aren't we, with Christmas goods entering some shops as early as September, but how about the “humbug”?

Well, I remember hearing a story once about two women who were buying Christmas cards in a stationer's. Many of the cards they looked at depicted typical winter scenes, such as children, deep in snow, playing around a large snowman; Father Christmas, with his sleigh and trusty reindeer, delivering toys to households of expectant children, while they were safely tucked up in bed; a family around a roaring log fire, with the children gleefully opening their presents on Christmas morning; and robins in front of a snowy background. Then, one of the women came across a Christmas card with a nativity scene on the front, showing the Baby Jesus in the manger, wrapped up in cloths, with Mary, Joseph and sundry farm animals looking on in the traditional cattle shed. “Huh!” she exclaimed, “they bring religion into everything these days, don't they?”

That may be an apocryphal story, but we can't escape the historical fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is at the very *heart* of Christmas — hence the name “*Christ*-mas”. So, if you don't usually remember the spiritual aspect of this joyful festival, why not, this year, put Christ back into Christmas and celebrate the miraculous birth of the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, who grew up and, as the man Christ Jesus, died for our sins on Calvary's cross? (That's the Easter story, of course!).

You would be most welcome to join with Halling Baptist Church for any (or all) of our Christmas services, so that we can thank and praise God together for the incarnation of his only begotten Son, as we sing the well-known carols and Christmas hymns and listen to the familiar Christmas readings. The dates, times and venues of our Christmas services are as follows:

Saturday 19 December: Community Carol Service from 6.00pm to 7.00pm in the Halling Community Centre, led by Pastor Kevin Félix-Hollington.

Sunday 20 December: Christmas Family Service at 11.00am in Halling Baptist Church, Vicarage Road, led by Pastor Kevin Félix-Hollington.

Friday 25 December: Christmas Day Service at 10.00am in Halling Baptist Church, led by Pastor Keith Barrett.

Pastor: Kevin Félix-Hollington (Mobile: 0786 818 2423)
Associate Pastor: Keith Barrett (Home: 01634 862494)
Email: info@hallingbaptist.org.uk



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THE JUBILEE HALL
Browdens Road, Upper Halling

The hall is used by members of the village for
 Many different classes and clubs:

- Tuesday Pilates 7.30pm
 - Thursday friends and fitness 9.30am-10.30am
 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
 - Fridays Halara 2pm-4pm
 - Saturdays Karate 10am
- Halling Historical Society also use the hall on a
 regular basis as well as the church holding
 services the first Sunday of every month.

For more information on all these clubs
 and classes just go to our website
www.hallingjubileehall.btck.co.uk

The hall also available to hire for
 parties and functions.

To hire the hall please contact
 Claire Stotesbury on

01634 244289
 or email Claire-mad@hotmail.co.uk



Charity Quiz night

For Ranscombe farm Reserve (Halling / Strood)

Saturday 20 February:

7pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Jubilee Hall in Halling

Tables of up to 8 people - £45 BYO but price
 does includes a light platter

To book your table please email or call 01634 245413

Plantlife



Halling Community Centre

Invites you to

Bring your Friends to our

Village Xmas Disco

All Proceeds go towards our Refurbishment and Future
 Improvements Fund

To be held in the Centre

On

Saturday 12th December 2015

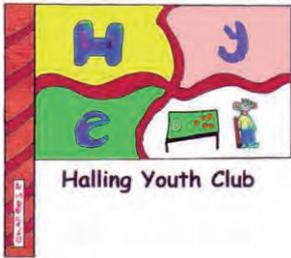
Commencing at 7.00 pm Adult £3 under 16's £2

Please Contact Len Sharp 01634-244605

Les Hitchcock 07518-931508

Halling Council Office or Post Office

Bring your own Nibbles and Drinks



It has been a busy few months at Youth Club (as usual). The Members have enjoyed a variety of activities, with more to come. The Members especially had a great evening during our Halloween themed night, many of whom dressed the part.

December will also be busy with trips to the Pantomime and Bowling planned. This will be rounded off on 18th December with our FREE Christmas disco for all our members. Thank you to all members and parents / guardians who continue to support us!!



THE COMMUNITY CENTRE HALLING

FRIDAY NIGHTS

**1st session
8 to 11 year olds
6pm – 7.30pm**

**2nd session
11 to 15 year olds
7.45pm – 9.15pm**

Contacting us is easy.... pop in personally on a Friday night or phone

**Les Hitchcock
07518931508**

Paula Wilkins-Smith 07969342953

HALLING YOUTH CLUB
Held a
CHILDREN IN NEED NIGHT

We at Halling Youth Club wish to say a very big
THANK YOU!
For your contribution to our event in aid of
Children in Need.
It was very much appreciated.
With your help we have managed to raise a total of:
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Says
THANK YOU TOO!

DAVID TAYLOR



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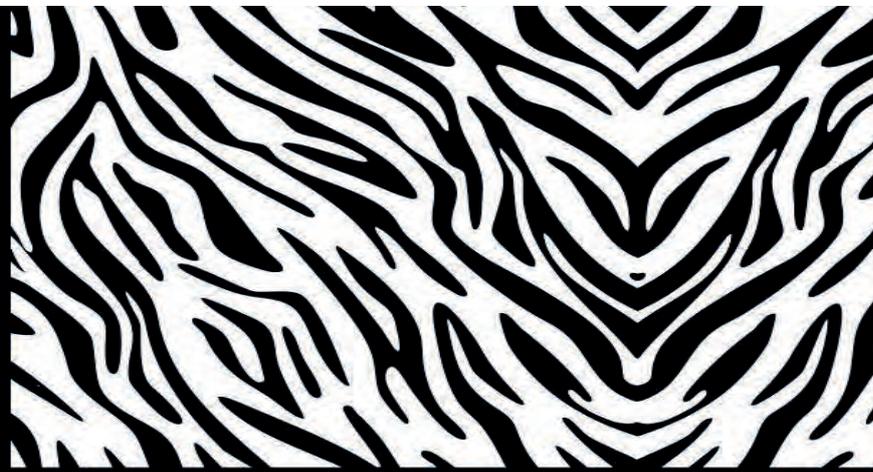


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Diane & Ash look forward to meeting you

WISHFUL THINKING...



**UNTIL THIS IS A REALITY,
PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET.**

Would you let your dog poo on your hallway carpet?

NO?

Then please pick up after your dog so it doesn't get walked into mine!

A few irresponsible dog owners are giving a bad name to the responsible ones who respect our village, other residents and their guests. It costs nothing to think of others.

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Rod fishing licences	✓	✓
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On demand travel insurance	✓	✗
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Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓	✓
National Lottery Terminal	✓	✓
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Products marked ✗ are available at Snodland Post Office, 46 High Street, Snodland, ME6 5DA	Mon & Tue Wed - Fri Sat	Opening times: 08:00 - 17:30 09:00 - 17:30 09:00 - 12:30



SANTA VISITS HALLING 2015



Santa and his elves will be making their annual trip to Halling on **Friday 18th December** from Upper Halling through to Lower Halling starting at approximately 4.00pm. If you live in Lower Halling it is likely that we will get to you after 8.00pm. Please note if you are not at home when the sleigh arrives we will be unable to return at a later time.

For all children at Halling School that don't live in the village (Holborough, Snodland etc.) we will be adding two additional Santa stops, one outside the Newtown Social Club between 5.30-6.00pm and one outside the Community Centre between 8.00-8.30pm. If you are interested please fill in the slip below and write clearly on the present **NEWTOWN SOCIAL CLUB STOP** or **COMMUNITY CENTRE STOP** and return to the school on the dates specified. This year St Andrews Park will be included in the Sleigh Run.

If you would like Santa to deliver a present to your child, please provide the following:-

- a wrapped present clearly marked with the child's name and delivery address
- the completed form provided below (please **DO NOT** attach it to the present)
- the amount of £3.00 for 1 child, £5.00 for 2 children, £7.00 for 3 children, £1 each for any extra children

Please hand **ALL OF THE ABOVE** to a member of the PTA who will be in the entrance hall at Halling Primary School at 2.30pm until 3.30pm from **Wednesday 2nd December** until **Wednesday 9th December**. **PLEASE NOTE:** Presents can only be accepted during these times - please **DO NOT** ask school office staff as they will be unable to assist.

Presents must be at the school **NO LATER** than **Wednesday 9th December 2015** as they then need to be sorted and boxed ready for the sleigh run, any presents that are received after **Wednesday 9th December** **WILL NOT** be accepted (even if left with the office - and will need to be collected). Presents must be small, not fragile, heavy or bulky etc.

The sleigh run is organised **ENTIRELY** by the members of the Friends of Halling PTA who give up their time to organise and run it for the residents of Halling and a special thanks goes to Martyn Court of Total Property who gives up his time every year to pull the sleigh.

Thank you for your continued support in making the sleigh run so successful and don't forget to put your loose change into our collection buckets as we make our way through Halling!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From Santa, the Elves and the Friends of Halling PTA

DO NOT ATTACH THIS FORM TO PRESENTS - PRESENTS MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY LABELLED WITH THE CHILDS NAME AND DELIVERY ADDRESS

Name of Child/Children _____

Delivery Address (this does NOT have to be your home address but **MUST** be the address where your child will be on the night).

Amount Enclosed £ _____
 (£3.00 - 1 child, £5.00 - 2 children, £7.00 - 3 children, £1 each for any extra children)

FOR PTA USE ONLY		
Amount: £ _____	Number of Presents: _____	Box No: _____
Signed: _____		