

HALLING VIEW



Parish Council Report

Dear Parishioners,

We hope you are all safe and well. It has been heartwarming to see the community coming together these past few months, Halling Hub has been very active, the Virtual Street party was very successful on the VE Day Bank Holiday, Halling Essentials provided foodstuffs that were in short supply and Halling Sapphires WI were very busy providing things for the community to keep themselves occupied during lockdown. (Please see inside for more details)

The new Halling Parish Council website went live on the 1st May and the feedback we received was very positive and encouraging, we took on board some of the comments about the website and have already incorporated some of the changes suggested by Parishioners into the New Website. (Please see article inside for a detailed update)

This edition of Halling View like the VE Day special edition is only available on the HPC website as we are still unable to print and distribute Halling View.

Keep safe everyone,

Halling Parish Council

Editorial

The opinions expressed in articles in this magazine represent those of the authors and not the opinions of Halling Parish Council.

Any images in this magazine that are from external sources are reproduced using the Fair use concept.

It should not be implied that the local businesses advertised in this magazine have been endorsed by Halling Parish Council.

Please note the services/facilities advertised in this magazine may not be available at this time, you are advised to check with the advertiser to ensure availability.

A4 copies of the Halling View are NOT available at the moment.

All articles submitted for publication must be approved by Halling Parish Council.

Anyone wishing to submit an article or advertise in the September edition of Halling View please submit your article/advert by the 12th September 2020 by email to hallingclerk@btconnect.com.

Payments can be made either via BACS or cheque (made payable to Halling Parish Council).

All adverts must be paid for in advance or sadly they cannot be included.

Pricing and advertising are as follows:

MARCH / JUNE / SEPTEMBER / DECEMBER

Prices per annum based on A5 page: **FULL page £250 / HALF page £150
QUARTER page £80 / EIGHTH page £50**

Prices per issue based on A5 page: **FULL page £70 / HALF page £45 /
QUARTER page £25 / EIGHTH page £15**

(Please note Charity Adverts and Village Articles are free!!)

SNODLAND



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



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CAKES



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now working with...

Halling Hire

07763 677773

01732 222224



info@jandlcars.co.uk
www.jandlcars.co.uk

HALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE

93 High Street, Hailing, Kent ME2 1BS
Registered Charity Number 1064906

Available to Hire for Children and Adult Parties, Wedding Receptions, Meetings, Classes, Baby Showers and more....

Why not join one of the classes — Zumba, Badminton, Sequence Dancing, Children's Dancing, Short Mat Bowls, Tap Dancing, Flower Arranging, Circuit Training, Slimming World, Youth Club, Duets and more...

For enquiries and bookings: Contact the Booking Secretary on 07879641356

For more information visit www.hallingcentre.btck.co.uk



Halling's Local Heroes



Do you know a local hero?

Is there someone you would like to nominate for a new section in our quarterly Halling View Magazine?

Someone who goes above and beyond for our community, it may be helping a neighbour or our local environment?

To nominate please either email hallingclerk@btconnect.com or complete and drop off the form below to the Parish office:

Nominee name:

Reason:

.....

Nominated by:

Name:

Address:

E-Mail:

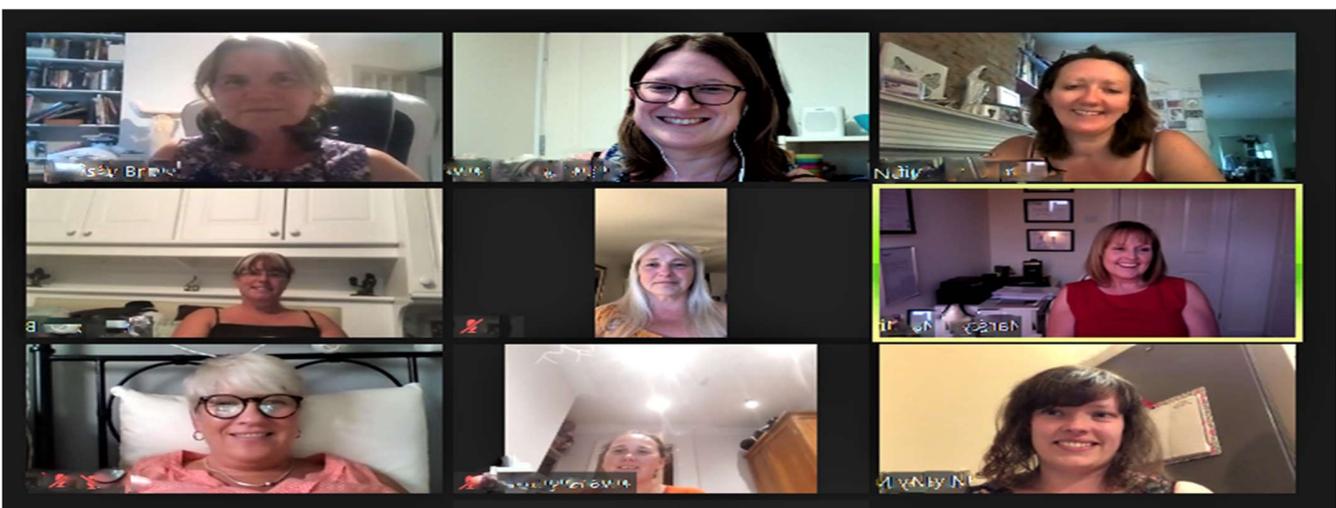
Mobile:

If you wish to include the nominee's photograph, please obtain their permission to do so. Nomination does not guarantee inclusion in Halling View.

Halling Sapphires WI take on Lockdown! By Lucy Marshall

It seems like so long ago now; February 19th, 2020 was our third birthday and, little did we know it at the time, the last time we would be together as a group for many months. We had a birthday cake, and a great laugh teaching ourselves how to make origami hearts for the Climate Coalition's #showthelove Campaign. Coronavirus was talked of, but as something distant and, dare I say, trivial. The weeks came and went, and plans were made for our March meeting; many of us were adamant we would still be meeting amidst the threats and proposals of quarantine and lockdown. And then it happened. Big news. Coronavirus was here and it was spreading at an alarming rate. Just two days before we were due to meet for our March activity, the Committee had to make the difficult decision to keep everyone safe and cancel our meeting. Now, I am a founding member of the WI, and I have never missed a single meeting. This was awful! How would I ever cope?! Still, it was only for a little while, right? We would not cancel April's meeting as this was just for a couple of weeks. Then the booked speaker for April cancelled on us. Oh.

March 23rd came upon us, and we were told to stay at home. Lockdown. We took yet another difficult decision to cancel our Easter Fayre. And that is when we decided to power through. This strange, scary, and unprecedented situation would not stop us. The Committee met, one evening, over Zoom – finally, I could see their faces and we had a great chat! A WhatsApp group was created for anyone who wanted to keep in touch. A Photo A Day challenge was started. Easter Cards were sent to all our members. The Easter Eggs we had bought for our Easter Fayre were distributed around the village by the Halling Hub to give all the children a smile at Easter.



One of the WI resolutions of previous years was to combat loneliness, and this was what we would do. We would keep everyone in touch. Don't you love it when a plan comes together?!

On the 12th April I filmed a shocking 'how-to' video to share with our members, of the activity that we were due to complete in March. The materials required were sent out to everyone, and it was fantastic to see the completed pieces; it had given many people something to do at a time where we were struggling and bored, and honestly, still a little lonely.

We started to madly make poppies, ready to add to our display at the church for Remembrance Day.



The allotment was suddenly kicked into life again; fresh air and exercise all rolled into one. The soil was dug over, paths laid, seeds planted, sheds painted. You name it! We look forward to a magnificent bounty of fruit and vegetables throughout the year.



On a fantastic sunny day at the beginning of May, 80 'grow your own' sunflower kits were put together and then left around the village for people to find. It was fantastic to see the smiling faces again, bringing people in the village some happiness at a tough time.



Then, we took the plunge! We would hold our full monthly meetings virtually, over Zoom! That way, we could all be connected for a short while every month, have a chat, and be together. We kicked off with a Bingo night; what fantastic fun! We giggled, some of us got a Bingo, and we had a lovely catch-up. We even welcomed along a visitor, new to Halling. What a strange way to meet, but it worked. Before we knew it, it was dark and well past my bedtime! The week after, we held a virtual Book Club, followed by a lesson in reflexology the week after that.

Last week, we held a quiz night. Lots of our members turned up virtually with their pens and paper to take each other on in a five round, fifty question quiz, written by one of our own. What a laugh! Even better that there is no queue for the bar, and the drinks measures are larger!

It has been a challenge and journey getting to this point; the Halling Sapphires WI has always been a very active organisation, going to the theatre, meeting monthly for Dinner Clubs and Book Clubs, attending every quiz going, and we were even due to compete in the World Custard Pie Championships for the second time this year. Suddenly, we were all fragmented across the village, and even further afield for some,

not knowing what the future would hold. But we faced the challenge head on, made use of the amazing technology available to us, and have been able to come together.

The Committee have been working so hard behind the scenes; there is now a programme running throughout the summer of almost weekly meetings for our members, ranging from our visit from Henry VIII next week (who knew that Henry could use Zoom?!) to making bunting, and arranging flowers. Members are showcasing their skills and teaching others. We will be learning about Therapy Animals and meeting some of them, virtually of course. We will be having psychic readings, and learning about Edit Cavell, all the while looking forward to finding out more about glass fusing. I can honestly say, I think this will be a fantastic summer!



Our (virtual) doors are always open, we love to see new faces! Visitors are welcome to drop in for a virtual cuppa and chat anytime. You can find us on Facebook (@HallingSapphiresWI) or email us at hallingwi@yahoo.com.

As the saying goes; “this, too, shall pass”. We will meet again!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915

FOR 100 YEARS

2015

HALLING Women's Institute

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH

at

7.30 PM

JUBILEE HALL
BROWNDENS ROAD
UPPER HALLING
ME2 1JH

hallingwi@yahoo.com

 **Halling Sapphires W.I**

New Members and Visitors Welcome!

Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 – Update on Progress by Terry Dolby

There has to be a major change to the Parish Council Website before September 2020 due to changes in regulations about accessibility due to the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) **Accessibility Regulations 2018**, to give its full title which came into force on 23 September 2019. It aims to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps are **accessible** to all users, especially those with disabilities. The Halling Parish Council Website must be compliant by 23rd September 2020.

The existing website could not be made compliant so a new web site was required and the Parish Council set up the Media and Communications Working Group to carry out this task made up of two Councillors and two members of the public.

The Group documented the existing website and planned on paper what was required for the replacement. They looked at numerous websites and concluded that the Hugo Fox website fully met our requirements and that the structure was ideal to support the disability access that the new website was required to have.

Hugo Fox is used by several Parish Councils in this area and they have confirmed that they will be fully compliant by September 2020.

Our Web Master offered, at no cost to us, to carry out the initial setup of the new website if we decided to go with Hugo Fox which the Working Group did. He set up the new website using the paper design that had been produced and one of the Working Group members worked with him. Phase 1 of the development plan was to set up a Hugo Fox web site and to transfer over all the existing content from the in-use web site. A special link was provided to members of the Parish Council so that they could see the first version of the new website when testing was complete, and any feedback and comments received were incorporated.

The website went live on Friday 1st May 2020 and any feedback and comments received have been actioned.

Due to the design of the Hugo Fox website and the experience that the team now has we can build on what we have and over time end up with a particularly good website. The Working Group will be able to make changes now that the new website has gone live and our web master will be able to stand back but will be there as and when we need him.

The web site ownership has now been transferred from our Web Master to the Parish Council.

The web site that was in use had links back into a previous version of the website to access information that had not been transferred across to the in-use web site. This could not be allowed to continue as both web sites will have to be closed down in September 2020 as they would not be compliant with the Accessibility Regulations. To preserve all the historical information that was on the old website the Web Master provided a complete back up of the data from both web sites so that this can be revamped and put up onto the new web site as part of the development program. Some examples of this are the Halling Walks that we can now provide an OS based map as we now have the authority to produce these maps and the installation of Forge Green which is a part of the history of Halling.

The new web site that we now have will be compliant when Hugo Fox complete their program of improvements. There will now be a program of updates to improve the existing content of the new web site and a to add new content.

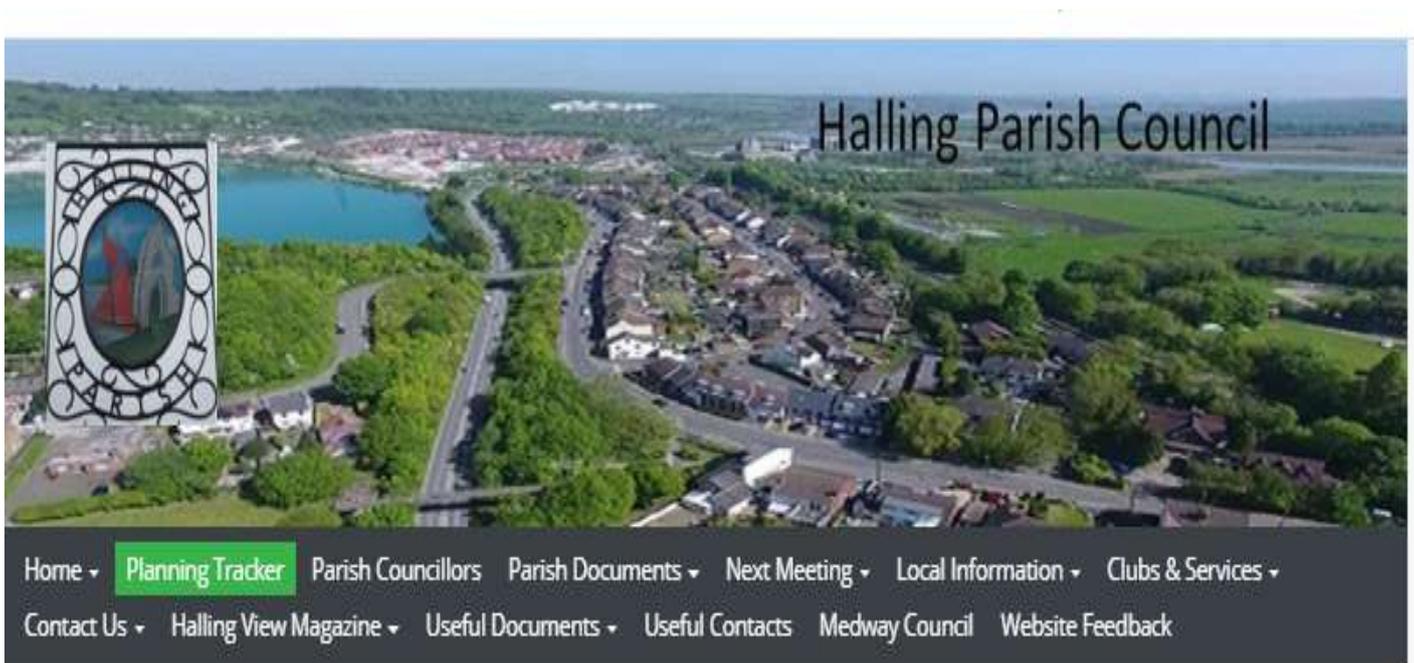
There is still work to be completed on the Phase 1 development and work is now also in progress on Phase 2 of the development which will include implementation of Google Analytics (this monitors the number of people that visit the New Website), the creation of a new domain (GOV.UK) and the

implementation of the new specific email addresses for all Council Members and Clerks.

To access the New Website please copy the following link into the address bar on your browser and press enter:

www.halling-pc.co.uk

The home page of the website will be displayed as follows:



If you have any feedback or comments to make please use the Website Feedback page, enter your email address and type your comments on the form provided and press submit, your comments will be sent to the webmaster.

T K Dolby

Chair of Media and Communications Working Group

Covid-19 Mutual Aid

Local organising to support the most vulnerable in our communities

By Carol Parker

When we realised the impact that the lockdown was going to have on neighbours we mobilised ourselves and called for volunteers to put their contact details on flyers and distribute them to their immediate neighbours in Halling so that we could reach everybody – (especially those who don't use the internet) so that all residents had at least one local contact they could get hold of.

We were offering to pick up shopping, get urgent supplies or even just have a friendly phone call.

We soon reached a network of over 60 'coordinators' and managed to leaflet every home in Halling.

Each coordinator knew which of their neighbours we needed to help including shielded neighbours, self-isolators, elderly, housebound, NHS and keyworkers

We have a WhatsApp Group called Halling Is Here To Help and we put links onto the Simply Halling and Halling Neighbourhood Watch FB pages so that people could get in touch with us.

We set up 'The Halling Hub' using The Five Bells pub as the focal point for both food and cash (Just Giving) donations so that our coordinators could deliver FOC food boxes to all 'sheltered' and 'vulnerable' neighbours on a weekly basis.

We were also able to help keyworkers by getting their shopping for them so that they did not need to worry about doing it for themselves after the grueling shifts they were working. As well as the food boxes and The Hub we also set up Halling Essentials to help villagers who were having difficulty getting basic products such as flour, sugar, eggs etc. from supermarkets.

As life now slowly returns to some semblance of (a new) normality we have wound down the FOC (Free Of Charge) food boxes and are in the process of winding down The Hub but Halling Essentials will still keep going (see FB page) and we are still very much in existence to help neighbours who still need our support or may need help in the coming months.

If you want to get in touch with us then please feel free to request to join any of the Facebook Pages (Halling NhWatch (open group), Simply Halling, or Halling essentials) or send a message to either Sarah (07886 901081) or Carol (07765 351064)

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
(24hrs)

National Domestic
Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247
(24hrs free)

Mind
0300 123 3393
(Mon-Fri 9-6)

NEVER ALONE

Victim Support
0808 168 9111
(24hrs)

Cruse Bereavement
0800 808 1677
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

ChildLine
0800 1111
(24hrs)

Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

Respect - Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327
(Mon-Fri 9-5or8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic
Violence
0207 186 8270



Over 50?

HALARA

semi-retired?

Halling Active Retirement Association



Day trips

fun games



Speakers



In house entertainment



QUIZZES



**Meetings held on last Friday
of the month**

**Jubilee Hall, Browndens Rd
Upper Halling**

2pm - 4pm

Contact :01634 716049

Sergeant Thomas Harris VC MM blue plaque project

Halling Historical Society is delighted to have raised the necessary funds to install an historic blue plaque on 79 High Street, Lower Halling, which is the house from which our village World War One hero, Sergeant Thomas Harris VC MM enlisted in the army aged 22 in 1914.

Most of the money has come from Harris family members. The plaque is now in draft design, after discussions with the manufacturer. The Society will arrange a Saturday afternoon unveiling. However, of course this unveiling is in limbo during the current lockdown and must be put off until at least the autumn if not into next year.

The plan is to invite Harris family members to the unveiling, and all contributors, plus the Mayor of Medway, representatives of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (successor to Thomas's regiment The Royal West Kent Regiment), the VC/MM Association, the Parish Council, our Medway Council member, Medway Archives Centre, Snodland Museum, Halling Gardening Society as a contributor, MCL, and the WI.

There will be a small tea party in the Community Centre to commemorate the unveiling. Halling Sapphires WI has kindly offered to help arrange this. The local builders MCL, have kindly agreed to fit the plaque without charge.

Unfortunately, the Society got it wrong in the original information about the appeal. Many of the several historical records, including military, refer to 79 High Street as Thomas's birthplace - some even say Malling or Snodland. This put the Society on the wrong track.

It is now known from family members, and the Society has also got a copy of Thomas's birth certificate from Medway Records Office, that Thomas was actually born at 5 Monarch Hill Terrace, Upper Halling, which was off the top of Browndens Road. The whole road is long demolished. By the 1901 census, Thomas had moved to 4 Malvern Terrace, which it is thought was along Essex Road, but not known exactly where (can someone help with more information?).

Then by age 18 in 1910 (but not known exactly which year?), Thomas had moved to 6 Manor Terrace, which in the late 1900s became 79 High Street, from where Thomas enlisted in 1914, aged 22.

The Historical Society will still welcome learning of Harris family members who can be invited to the unveiling gathering, so if you know of someone who has not contacted HHS please encourage them to contact hallinghistorical@gmail.com.



Reminiscences of Old Halling

Did you live in Halling prior to 1980? If so, you probably have many memories of what the village was like before the expansion that it is now. Halling Historical Society would like to hear from you with any reminiscences of your life in the village before 1980.

What shops and trades can you recall from then? Tell us about characters you remember. If you were at school what did you get up to growing up in the village? What changes in the village have you lived through?

The Historical Society is developing a new website, coming soon, and wants to give over space to villagers of that time to record their memories for posterity.

You can submit your memories in writing, with photos, by audio recording, or in a video; however, you please. The Society reserves the right to edit in length if necessary. This will not be a site for photos only, it will be for stories, but which can include photos. Photos only should continue to be posted to the popular 'Photos of Old Halling' Facebook page.

Please contact hallinghistorical@gmail.com to test out your ideas or to submit material, or call 07754-616210 to discuss.



Useful Telephone Numbers

Accident & Emergency Departments

Maidstone District General Hospital 01622 729000 Maidstone

Medway Maritime Hospital 01634 830000 Gillingham

NHS Online 111

Crime

Kent Police 101 (PCSO Sophie Clarke)

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Medway Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131 (Michael Laidlow)

Dental Surgeries

Snodland Dental Surgery 01634 245505

Holborough Dental Surgery 01634 242366 Snodland

Doctors

Snodland Medical Practice 01634 240296 Dr Brophy J V 01634 719692 Strood

Riverside Medical Practice 01634 240238 Halling (01634 714317 Cuxton)

Halling Parish

Community Centre 01634 243696

Jubilee Hall 01634 244289

Parish Council Office 01634 241551

St John's Church 01634 717134 (Rector)

Medway Council

Consumer Advice 01634 333333 Medway Trading Standard

Emergency Service 01634 304 400 (Out of hours)

Local Councillor Matt Fearn 07739 706 432

Local MP Kelly Tolhurst, Conservative Party 020 7219 5387

Opticians

Buchanan Optometrists 01634 757227 Snodland

Thorndike Optical Practice 01634 817217 Rochester

Pharmacies

Delmergate Ltd 01634 841967 Chatham

Medimart Chemist 01634 714455 Strood

Paydens Ltd 01634 240539 Snodland

Tesco Pharmacy 01622 312040 Larkfield

Transport

Bus Information

0344 800 4411 Arriva Medway Towns

016322 882288 Nu Venture

National Rail Enquiries 03457 484950

Utility Emergency

Gas Leak 0800 111999 Transco

Water Leak 01634 873 111 Mid Kent Water,

0330 303 0368 Southern Water

Electrical Supply 105 Scottish and Southern

Other Services

Medway Citizen Advice 01634 383760

Floodline 0345 988 1188

Relate 01622 411005 Maidstone

Samaritans 01634 730981 Strood

Job Centre 0800 169 0190 Chatham

Jubilee Hall

Browndens Road,
Upper Halling



Parties, Meetings Weddings, Classes, Children's Activities

For enquiries and bookings:

Contact: 01634 244289 - Claire Stotesbury
Claire-mad@hotmail.co.uk

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07909 051151

slimmingworld.co.uk

0344 897 8000   



Police surgery – Halling

Your Local Officer will
be holding Police Surgeries
at:

The Community Centre
95 High Street
Halling
Kent
ME2 1BS



Come and speak to local officers about your concerns on crime and anti-social behaviour

Your local officer PCSO Sophie Clarke will see people individually on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, please contact your local policing team by calling **101**.

Please see notice board for future dates and any changes.

For news, safety advice and information about policing in your area, visit www.kent.police.uk



**Kent
Police**

**Protecting and serving
the people of Kent**

Anxious? By Kevin Félix Hollington

A few weeks ago, I developed a persistent and new cough. Then, anxiety struck! Suddenly I became conscious of my breathing, heartbeat, temperature, etc. “Will the statistics apply to me? Will my wife be able to cope with the children if I am gone?” My mind began to wonder. Thankfully, it was only hay-fever.

As you can tell, my tendency is to worry; be it due to health, bills to pay or even about what other people think. It is at times like these that I am reminded of these words from the Bible: *“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down”* and *“The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.”* The truth is, God is in control even of the things that I cannot control. He knows what I want, but more importantly, He knows what I need. God cares. He has even dealt with the most significant fear that we will all have to face dying.

One of the reasons we fear death is because deep down we know that we will have to give an account for our lives, and if we are honest, we have not lived a good life.

The sad reality is, whether it be an illness due to a virus, a tragic accident, or an intentional act of violence, 10 out of 10 die. We Christians do not believe that death is natural. We believe the Bible’s teaching that death is an intrusion to life because of man’s sin and rebellion against God. In the beginning, everything was particularly good, no pain, no suffering, no grieving, no death. Our world is not the same as it used to be.

Despite man’s rebellion and its consequences, God promised a Saviour —and He is not like us who forget our promises! God, the Creator, intervened at the appointed time in history. The Word of God became a man like you and me. God made a young woman be with child. He lived a perfect life on our behalf and willingly gave up His life with one purpose: to save His people from their sins. And to substantiate His claims, Jesus rose again from the dead!

I hope in Christ in times of uncertainty because He is Sovereign and has control over all things, even over those we cannot control like the coronavirus. I hope in Christ in life and death because He gave himself up to the point of death for such a sinner like me.

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

**Nominate a neighbour
for an emergency food parcel**

Anxious and want to talk?
Want to read the Bible together?

Call or text 07868 182423

Kevin Félix Hollington

Pastor of Halling Baptist Church

hallingbaptist.org.uk

Du4Accounts



- SATR (Self Assessment Tax Returns)
- Bookkeeping Services
- VAT returns (MTD compliant)



Carol Dufour

Du4Accounts, 75 Kent Road, Halling, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1AT

Phone 01634 244807

Mobile 07765 351064

Email: Carol@du4accounts.com

Community Wardens

Community wardens are a reassuring uniformed presence who are fully trained and can tackle low-level crime in the area.

Daily they deal with:

- The collection of stray and dangerous dogs
- Flyposting
- Reporting graffiti
- Inspecting and dealing with carriageway and footway obstructions
- Responding to complaints of dog fouling
- Inspecting and removing abandoned vehicles

The above is not a definitive list for the full list please see the About us section on the Facebook page (Please see link below)

Community Wardens for Strood, Cuxton and Halling contact details:

Telephone: 01634 333 333

E-mail: communityteam@medway.gov.uk

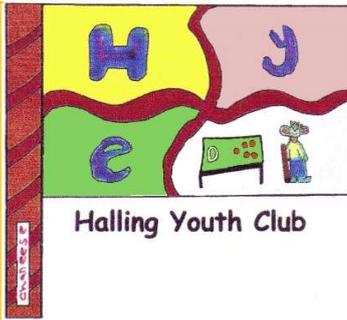
Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/Strood-Cuxton-and-Halling-Community-Warden - 2046679345452691/?modal=followers¬if_id=1548838540760776¬if_t=page_follow&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/Strood-Cuxton-and-Halling-Community-Warden-2046679345452691/?modal=followers¬if_id=1548838540760776¬if_t=page_follow&ref=notif)

Halling Sequence Dance Club

Many thanks to our members for raising the following amounts for three charities during the last three years:

2017	Heart of Kent Hospice	£500
2018	Demelza House	£500
2019	Kent Air Ambulance	£300



Halling Youth Club

1st Session (6.00 pm – 7.30 pm) for 8-11-year olds

2nd Session (7.45pm – 9.15 pm) for 11-15-year olds

HELP US!

Halling Youth Club needs your help in continuing to be a fun, safe place for the children of the village to come. We are urgently in need of some regular volunteers, due to our diminishing pool of helpers.

Ideally, we need 3 or 4 helpers each week, plus the parents / guardians who can assist us fortnightly/monthly.

Without your support we are in danger of losing this asset.

If you can help please contact us on Facebook, in person at the Community Centre on Friday evening, or contact Paula on 07969342953.

RANGERS
Halling Rangers

Girlguiding
WE DO OVER, WE SHINE
1st Halling Guides

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK

- Rangers is a new section for girls aged 14-18
- We have fun doing activities together
- Achieve goals, work towards badges and awards
- Girlguiding builds girls' confidence and raise their aspirations
- Give them the chance to discover their full potential
- We give them a space to have fun

The fun starts here!

Rangers (aged 14-25)
moot every other Thursday night at 18:45

Girlguides (aged 10 to 14)
moot every Thursday night at 18:45

19 Browndens Rd, Upper Halling, Rochester ME2 1JH

Register here: www.girlguiding.org.uk

Buster by Roger Knight

I have been reading *Buster's Diaries*. Buster was the dog of the Labour politician Roy Hattersley. He came to the notice of the public when he (the dog, not the MP) killed a goose in St James Park, an incident which was considerably exaggerated by the press. So, you might have heard of Buster. In his published diaries, he tells the very funny story of how, from being a badly treated and neglected stray, he wound up living in a fancy house just near Westminster Abbey. There is the joy of meeting other dogs in the park, trips to the countryside, overnight stays in hotels, the challenges of living in a busy, built up area with far too many busy roads, and the mutual adoration there is between a faithful dog and the principal human being in his life.

Much of the humour revolves around Mr. Hattersley's attempts to discipline Buster. The book was written in 1996 at which time there was a popular theory of dog training which revolved around the idea that dogs are basically wolves which have never grown up. There had been a study of a group of wolves which were observed always to be competing for dominance. This led to the belief that you must keep showing the dog that you are boss, dominating him, putting him down, so that he knows that you are the pack leader – the alpha male (or, I suppose, female). There are two problems with this approach. One is that no-one who loves his dog can keep it up. Roy Hattersley certainly could not. Neither could I, even if I wanted to. I do not want to because it is a false premise that wolves and dogs are continually fighting for dominance. The group of wolves in the study this theory is based on had not known one another previously. That is why I do not call them a pack. They were strangers to one another and that is why they fought to establish a hierarchy. This is the second reason why the theory does not work. Better studies show that wolves which form a pack know one another and know their place in wolf society. Fights sometimes break out and the social order changes over time, but generally speaking, a wolf pack is a harmonious whole, a functioning social unit, which works, rests, and plays together. Left to their own devices, dogs will behave in much the same way. A dog living in your home will instinctively want to fit into the pack. You do have to make it clear that you are the pack leader, but it is not necessary to keep on reinforcing your dominance. His instinct will be to follow you.

The other thing to remember is that he is a dog with a dog's outlook on life, not a mini human being, and that he has his own personality which you need to work with rather than attempt to suppress. So, do not expect a big dog or even a small dog of a working breed to become a lap dog. If you get a dog, get one you can live with without crushing his own nature.

Reading *Buster's Diaries* reminded me of a book I read when I was a teenager, *King Solomon's Ring*, by Conrad Lorenz, an early student of animal behaviour. He was the one who brought to the public's attention the way that chicks will follow the first thing they see when they hatch from the egg, if not their mother hen than any other animal

or human who will give them a lead. He also noted that most species of animals do not fight with one another to the death. It is not in the interests of the species to do so! Yes, many kinds of animals will fight over hierarchy, over food and in order to acquire a mate, but it is never in their interest to fight to the death. It is not even in the interests of the victor to fight without restraint. If he is badly injured, he may not be able to get food or the wounds might become infected. So, in most species of higher animal, the vanquished will either run away from a fight or will make a gesture of submission which the victor will respect and break off the fight. Turning the other cheek when someone punches you is not just a matter of showing Christian forgiveness to the aggressor; he is less likely to hit you again if you submit or just walk away.

When this does not happen, it is often because of human interference. If your hens are really savage in maintaining the pecking order, there are too many in a confined space. Bad people breed dogs or cocks to fight and put animals in situations where they cannot run away. We do that accidentally when our dog is on a lead and another dog picks a fight. Usually (unless the other dog is really vicious, or you are on the road) it is best to let your dog go and let them sort it out between them.

Generally speaking, it is the interest of both the individual and the species, if animals refrain from striving after dominance or fighting for other reasons and co-operate in the interests of the pack. The same is true for human beings, but we do not seem to be so good at realising it as most animal species.

As I write this, we are still in lockdown. Please let me know if I can help you in any way. Please send me any prayer requests. The Cuxton & Halling parish magazine is available <http://cuxtonandhalling.org.uk/> and, for the duration, I am putting a weekly sermon on the same site under TEACHING. I am saying Morning & Prayer daily and celebrating Holy Communion on Sundays at 10.15 alone at home. If you wish to join in in spirit, please do. If you send me an email address, I will include you in the loop for weekly news and monthly magazines.

Roger Knight,
Rector of Cuxton & Halling.
01634 7171343
roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk
6, Rochester Road,
Cuxton,
ME2 1AF.



Adult and Toddler Group

Halling Community Centre

Every Tuesday (during term time)

Closed until further Notice

9.30am to 11am

Small fee of £1.50 per Adult; 50p per Child

Refreshments included

This group is for all ages; birth to 5 years of age for children;
16 years to 100 years! for Adults.

A wide variety of activities are available including –
Baby corner, Role-play, Construction, Small world, Books, Craft,
Mark making, Messy play, Musical instruments, Bikes etc.

Each session ends with singing/action songs.

Everyone is welcome.

No need to pre-book, just come along.



HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

Lower Ward: Councillor Richard Thorne
Vice Chair Terry Dolby
Vacancy
Councillor Darren Marshall
Vacancy
Vacancy
Upper Ward: Chair George Wenham
Councillor Sheila Chamberlain
Vacancy
North Ward: Councillor Chris Buckwell
Councillor Ged Chalker

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

Address: Halling Parish Council
Halling Community Centre
95 High Street
Halling, Kent,
ME2 1BS.
Tel: 01634 241551
Email: hallingclerk@btconnect.com
Website: <http://www.halling-pc.co.uk>

There are 9 notice boards around the village which are updated regularly with village information and you can also read what is going on, on our website

Your Parish Councillors live locally and act for you voluntarily in the interest of the village as a whole. Any matters brought to the attention of the office are given to Councillors to discuss and/or act upon if necessary.

If you would like to raise any questions in advance of the next Parish Council meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk via the contact details listed above or alternatively please return the form below to the Parish office. Thank you.

Halling Parish Council, Parish Clerk:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Email:.....

Mobile:.....

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