

HALLING VIEW

Photos courtesy of Trudi Smith & David Fenton Scott



Welcome to the December edition of the Halling View. I hope we find you all well? First and foremost I would like to thank each and everyone who was involved in Halling's WW1 commemoration events. What a wonderful day it was from start to finish, from the church service, the parade, the unveiling of Sergeant Thomas Harris's Victoria Cross centenary stone, the tea/coffee and delicious cake (courtesy of the Halling Sapphires WI) in the Community Centre afterwards followed by a spectacular (and very loud!) fireworks display on 'The Mound' in the evening, complete with the last post played via our very own bugler Mr. Robin Harris, 1920's music and refreshments. A personal thank you to Councillor Chris Herbert, his wife Trudi Smith, Sam Walsh from the Five Bells Public House and our Parish Clerk Jenny Allen for all of their hard work in arranging it.

Following our November Parish Council Meeting I am pleased to report that we have now co-opted two new members onto the Parish Council, Councillor James Loveday and Councillor George Wenham, a very warm welcome to you both. An equally warm welcome also to Maria Cook, our newly appointed Recreation Equipment Facilitator, who very kindly has agreed to assist us in the refurbishment project involving the play equipment on the upper recreation ground planned for 2019. We very much look forward to working with you all.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We whole heartily thank you for your support this past year and very much look forward to working with you in 2019!

Paul Crispe, Chairman



HALLING REMEMBERS WW1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

A selection of a few of our favourite pictures from our event held on Sunday 11th November 2018



CATTLE ON 'THE MARSH'

Rightly, many villagers have been concerned about cattle on 'The marsh', and the matter has generated much Facebook comment. All the land beyond the main marsh gate at the bottom of Marsh Road has long been referred to generically as 'The marsh', but the reality is that 'The marsh' is divided between Halling Common (owned by Halling village, and over which Halling Parish Council (HPC) has control), and Kent Wildfowlers' private land over which HPC has no control.

It's true that cattle were on Halling Common recently without HPC authorisation. The farmer (not Mr Andrew Lingham, who no longer has cattle) promptly herded them back to Wildfowlers' ground from which they had escaped through a riverside gate left open. That was on Monday, 3rd December.

On Tuesday, 4th December, it was erroneously reported on Facebook that the cattle were again on 'The marsh'. They were not. It seems a technicality, but the cattle were not (on Tuesday, 4th December) on HPC's Halling Common to which it is only too easy to refer to as 'The marsh'.

The cattle were – are – still contained within the Wildfowlers' private ground on which the new farmer has been granted temporary grazing rights. The controversy is complicated by the public footpaths. A section of one footpath, the RS320, must cross Wildfowlers' ground. A part of another riverside footpath, the RS319, skirts Wildfowlers' ground until it reaches a containing stile which marks the beginning of Halling Common. Yes, cattle are on those sections of the two public footpaths, but the cattle have not been prevented from making easy and damaging access to the paths by the landowner.

A missed chance still rued was not having the deciding Chairman of the successful legal tussle between HPC and Kent Wildfowlers order, there and then, that the newly won back footpath across private ground was fenced off from cattle. The path had been closed arbitrarily by the Wildfowlers when they bought the ground some 8 years prior to the judicial hearing. Of course, the positive outcome was that people could once again walk the paths all the way round 'The marsh' as they had done for 50 years and more, even though the walk now crosses and skirts Wildfowlers' land.

Regretfully, there is nothing that can be done – yet – to have the cattle kept from gaining access to public footpaths on Wildfowlers' ground. The cattle have hugely churned up the footpaths after so much wet weather. Currently, the paths are a nightmare to walk.

A recently completed survey commissioned by Medway Council asked for reports on all the public footpaths in all Medway parishes, and this has put the focus on problems for walkers. HPC has been advised to seek free permission to publish a specially adapted Ordnance Survey map (normally protected by copyright) as a double-page spread in future Halling Views which details all our footpaths within Halling's surprisingly far-flung boundaries, and the paths' official RS numbers. This will be helpful and informative for everyone.

Medway Council's Rivers & Paths Manager has already acted on Halling's response to the survey by having his volunteer team start installing new steps and a firm hand-rail just beyond the marsh gate, and at the start of the Halling Common section of RS320.

HPC has improvement plans not only for 'The marsh', but also for other parts of the village. With certainty, we can say that for 'the marsh' there are plans for wide, metal kissing-gates in selected locations for people to gain easy access to Halling Common and walk paths without the current need to climb stiles.

Everyone in Halling refers (even if not quite accurately) to the whole area beyond the marsh gate as 'The marsh', but we hope this explanation of why the cattle are not on 'The marsh' (but on Wildfowlers' ground) clarifies matters!

Cllr G. Wenham (Marsh Portfolio) and Mr. B Barnes (formerly co-opted by HPC for Footpaths)



RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ROWIP)

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is an important statutory document which sets out how rights of way will be managed.

It is required by legislation (the Countryside and Rights of Way Act), which also sets out what it must cover. The plan must include an assessment of:

The extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public

The opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other recreation and enjoyment

Accessibility of rights of way to blind, partially sighted and others with mobility problems

A new ROWIP

Medway Council are producing a new Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) to replace the existing plan which is now over ten years old. An important part of this update is to get the views of people who use the rights of way network.

The ROWIP team wanted to hear from you

To complete the assessment and the ROWIP, the team has been gathering information. You were invited to share your views through an online survey the link for which was included the last Halling View and we hope that many of you completed the survey.

Workshops

A workshop for parish council representatives and interested members of the public was held for **Halling and Cuxton Parishes** on Tuesday, 25 September 2018 in the Halling Community Centre and representatives from HPC attended with members of the public to see a presentation and to identify areas that needed to be addressed within the boundaries of Halling.

The active part

In order to complete the ROWIP, 10% of Medway's 350km of rights of way need to be surveyed. The recently retired HPC's co-opted member for Footpaths put his walking boots on and personally walked and completed a survey report for all the footpaths in Halling except for one which he left for me to do.

The ROWIP Consultant supplied A1 copies of an Ordnance Survey map for Cuxton and Halling which had been overprinted with all the footpaths and walks in the area. This has been used to generate a quality map of Halling which will become available to use once the required permissions have been obtained and this is work in progress and it should be completed for the next issue of Halling View.

What happens after the survey is completed

Actions resulting from the ROWIP will include a new 10 year plan to guide us on how we can best serve residents and visitors who use the network.

The ROWIP will provide Medway Council with new aims and aspirations:

A better understanding of the needs of all users

Identify improvements needed

Target which paths to increase accessibility

Improve signage where needed

Take forward new circular routes and promotion for urban and rural areas

Attract more people to use this fantastic resource.

Mr T K Dolby



HALARA CELEBRATED THEIR 21ST ANNIVERSARY

Earlier this summer HALARA celebrated their 21st Anniversary by hosting a large BBQ for all their members – please find enclosed a few pictures of this fabulous event enjoyed by all.



I am sure you will all join me in wishing HARLA a happy (and belated) 21st Anniversary ~ here's to many more anniversaries ahead!!



This year Halling raised **£705.64** for the Poppy Appeal
THANK YOU to all those who supported the collections across the village



CHRISTMAS CATCHES UP!

Christmas has rather caught me out this year! It's partly the wonderful Autumn weather lasting into October and November. Still enjoying warm sunshine, it didn't seem like Christmas was coming, even though the days were getting shorter and the nights were growing longer. In fact, some people suggested that the reason we sold fewer burgers this year than usual on Guy Fawkes Night, was that it wasn't cold enough to make people want hot food to warm them up.

Mainly, I think, it was that we were all focused on our commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the fighting in the First World War. There was all the planning to do and then there was the day itself. In Halling, as all over the country, large numbers of people participated in diverse and moving commemorations. There were the figures representing First World War soldiers, the poppies on the lamp posts, the Field of Peace the children of Halling School made, the artwork created by Halling Sapphire WI and displayed at the lych gate, different village organisations contributing music and readings to the service in church, and the lighting of the beacon and the fireworks in the evening. It was gratifying to see serving members of the armed forces in uniform and to hear the bugled played at the war memorial, the traditional Last Post and Reveille. As always, the fallen were remembered by name, wreaths were laid on behalf of the whole community and we supported the poppy appeal, which helps to finance the vital work of caring for former members of the armed forces and their families. It was a particular honour for a large number of us to be present for the unveiling of a stone to commemorate Halling's own Sgt Thomas Harris MM VC. The day went well and thanks to all who took part, especially the Parish Council and others involved in the organisation.

So, Christmas! What's the link? Faith, hope and love. We need to make sense of things, to believe that there is meaning and purpose, despite the foolish and wicked things we human beings do and their consequences: on the international level, such as war and bad relations between countries; the problems which perplex and divide our own and other nations; and, closest to home, in the way we are all capable of mistreating one another and in the mistreatment we may suffer at the hands of other people. We need faith that God makes sense of our human lives, whatever may happen to us. We need hope that God is just and merciful and that, therefore, justice and peace will prevail. We need to know that God is love, that we are loved, and that we are called to love another.

The Christian belief is that God makes Himself known in Jesus Christ. Our Christmas hymns and readings proclaim Who God is, the One Who reveals Himself in Jesus. In Him, Christians will tell you, we find faith and hope and love.

Roger Knight
Rector of Cuxton & Halling.

Christmas Services at St John the Baptist Halling:

Sunday 23rd December: 3.00 pm: Carol Service with Nativity and Christingle.
Christmas Day: 8.00 am: Holy Communion.

Christmas Services at St Michael and All Angels Cuxton:

Sunday 23rd December: 6.30 pm: Nine Lessons & Carols.
Christmas Eve: 5.30 pm: Crib Service with Nativity and Christingle.
11.00 pm: Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day: 9.30 am Family Communion.



Halling Baptist Church presents
Community Carol Service

at **THE OLD
FIRE STATION**

Sat 22 Dec 16:00 Hrs

Come and have a good
sing-along this Christmas!
Traditional carols, participation from
various members of the
community & children, followed by
a brief Christmas message—arrive
early to get a seat!



Bring a gift for a child! In aid of Demelza
visit hallingbaptist.org.uk for more details...

Halling Baptist Church, The Old Fire Station, Vicarage Road, Halling, ME2 1BE

All donated gifts will be sent to the Demelza
Children's Hospice in Sittingbourne.
Let us bring a BIG smile to their faces!

"Due to the nature of the conditions of the children and young people using our services, we are always happy to receive sensory toys, CDs, DVDs, computer games, vouchers, books and toiletries. Gifts will be given out throughout December and at our New Year Parties in January at our Sittingbourne, Eltham and St Leonard services. Any gifts that cannot be given to families will be used for fundraising and retail, with the money going back into providing care to our children, young people and families." Demelza Sittingbourne

Other meetings this Christmas
- Sun 23, 11:00, Sunday Christmas Family Service
- Sun 23, 16:00, Carol Service in Ryarsh Baptist Chapel, ME19 5LX
- Tue 25, 10:30, Christmas Day Service

Halling Baptist Church
The Old Fire Station, Vicarage Rd, Halling, ME2 1BE.
Pastor Kevin Félix Hollington M:07868 182423

All at Halling Baptist Church
wish you a very happy Christmas
and a blessed 2019!

THE MOST CHRISTMASSY HOUSE COMPETITION IS BACK!!



Following the success of 'The Most Christmassy House' competition last year we've re-launched this year's competition with a twist!

This year the completion will be judged by members of the Parish Council and not through public votes.

There are four prizes available, of which a prize will be awarded to the best decorated and most Christmassy property in the following wards within the Parish:

**Upper Halling
Lower Halling
North Halling
St Andrews Park**

The competition will be judged on Friday 21st December at 5.00pm and the winners notified via letter.

If you wish for your property to be considered (we will try to get round all the roads but to make sure we know you are competing) please send us your address and details via email to the address listed below:

hallingclerk@btconnect.com

Good Luck!!





Kent Police

CHRISTMAS ADVICE

Many of us will be dusting down the decorations or buying new, ready to decorate our homes for the festive period.

If you are using old decorations make sure you check electrical products before you plug them in for damage and loose wires. Be careful not to overload sockets especially if you're using extension leads - use this [socket calculator](#) to find out if you're exceeding the maximum load.

If you're buying new decorations this year then make sure you buy from reputable retailers. Fake electrical goods are not safe; causing electrical shocks and fires.

Inspect the packaging and item carefully – look for spelling mistakes

Check the plug – it must have 3 pins

Choose a reputable business – watch out for offers online that are too good to be true

(One in six people in the UK has bought a fake electrical item as a Christmas present)

Fake toys are made with cheap, nasty materials containing dangerous chemicals and flammable materials. They break easily and can be dangerous for children to use, especially those containing electrical components and batteries.

Take your time & follow these top tips when buying toys:

Only buy from shops you trust – be wary of websites you've never shopped with before especially if it sounds too good to be true

Check the website is genuine – look to the left hand address bar for the padlock symbol

Look for the CE mark

Look for the BSI Kite and Lion quality marks

Check the packaging for spelling mistakes – do the instructions make sense?



RIVERSIDE MEDIAL PRACTICE

Halling Medical Centre Improvements

We are pleased to announce that we have secured approval for a loft conversion at the surgery. This will allow existing medical records to be moved into the loft and create a new clinical room in the process. The work is scheduled to start on Monday 7 January and is expected to be completed by 31 March. Much of the work will be done from the rear of the building so as to minimise disruption. The builders have requested 2 parking spaces to be allocated to them in the car park. We would therefore request that car journeys to the surgery are minimised during this time.

Dr Krishna Malladi



Adult and Toddler Group

Halling Community Centre

Every Tuesday (during term time)
Term 3 commences 8th January 2019

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 SAPPHIRES WI



Halling Christmas Experience



Halling Community Centre

Doors Open 11:30 am (SEN session available at 11:00 am)

Saturday 15 December

Refreshments Raffles Face painting Stalls
Fun Christmas activities Carols from HALARA Choir

Enter the Best Hand Decorated Yule Log or
Best Christmas Jumper contests

Children's tea with Mother Christmas

£3.50 inc. a gift from a special visitor...

Tickets for Mother Christmas' Tea **must** be purchased in
advance at:

Halling Community Centre – Wednesday 17 & 31 October
09:00 am – 09:30 am

Halling Community Centre – Wednesday 24 October
6 pm – 8 pm

St Andrews – 35 Germander Ave – Friday 26 October
11 am – 1 pm



Halling Sapphires WI would like to thank Halling C.C, Parish Council and Halling Association for their contributions towards making this event possible.

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minis@lordswoodrfc.co.uk

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YOUR LOCAL LEGO CLUB

Monday 4.00pm – 5.00pm 5.30pm – 6.30pm	Tuesday 4.00pm – 5.00pm
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**£3 per session
£5 one off joining fee per family**

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Halling Community Centre

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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!

SNODLAND



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For enquiries and bookings:

Contact the Booking Secretary on 07879641356

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



**The Committee wishes you all a Happy Christmas
and a wonderful New Year**

RANGERS

Halling Rangers

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

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding

1st Halling Guides



- 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)
meet every other Thursday
night at 18:45

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

19 Browdens Rd, Upper Halling, Rochester ME2 1JH

[Register here: www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)





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

Halling Youth Club is a fun, safe place which is open for all children in Halling. We always have lots going on including: Football, Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Competitions, and Arts & Crafts etc. So far, this term, we have had a visit from Petaholics, been bowling and climbing and had a fun early Halloween evening.



We are now preparing for our annual Christmas disco.

If you have a child who wishes to join us (or you would like to volunteer occasionally), feel free to pop in on a Friday evening at Halling Community Centre.

Alternatively call Paula on 07969342953.

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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Sacha Dodd, 22 Low Meadow, Halling, Rochester



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beverleyann.wdd12@gmail.com

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS CLEARLY TO ENABLE ME TO
RETURN YOUR CALL

Please include a brief outline of your issues.

The initial 1 hour consultation is free

HALLING ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION - HALARA

Our members are a friendly bunch
You can join us on a Ramble
Then afterwards a pub lunch
That's just one of the activities we do
There's Bowls, Speakers, Art, Games and outings too.
And of course there's many more,
Tai Chi, Lunch Club, Bring & Buy, Raffles for sure.
To really enjoy ourselves is our main aim
Retired or semi-retired - it's all the same,
Our Members are Fifty or Over? – after all, age is just a number,
So don't sit at home and vegetate like a cucumber.
For fun and laughter you're welcome to join us,
To start the next part of life's adventure – so don't miss the bus.
HALARA is here waiting to greet you anon
At the door ready to meet you is our lovely Yvonne.

For more information Contact: Carole on 01634 716 049
She's waiting for you call

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Halling Parish Council Office Opening Times ~ Christmas 2018

MONDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
TUESDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	9.30 - 12.30
THURSDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
FRIDAY 21 ST DECEMBER	9.30 - 14.30
MONDAY 24 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
TUESDAY 25 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 26 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
THURSDAY 27 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
FRIDAY 28 TH DECEMBER	CLOSED
MONDAY 31 ST DECEMBER	CLOSED
TUESDAY 1 ST JANUARY 2019	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 2 ND JANUARY 2019	9.30 - 12.30

Halling Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Tuesday	8	January	2019	19.30	Community Centre
Monday	4	February	2019	19.30	Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	12	March	2019	19.30	Community Centre
Monday	1	April	2019	19.30	Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	7	May	2019	19.30	Community Centre
Monday	3	June	2019	19.30	Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	2	July	2019	19.30	Community Centre
Tuesday	3	September	2019	19.30	Community Centre
Monday	7	October	2019	19.30	Jubilee Hall
Tuesday	5	November	2019	19.30	Community Centre
Monday	2	December	2019	19.30	Jubilee Hall



Halling Parish Council has a vacancy for an **Assistant Clerk** for 6 hours per week, to start in January 2019.

This is an exciting opportunity to work with our Clerk and forward-thinking team of Councillors. Good organisational and administrative skills are essential for this position. Applicants should also be IT skilled, be able to undertake project work and provide support to the Parish Clerk.

Please submit applications via email to hallingclerk@btconnect.com by Friday 4th January 2019.

*ON BEHALF OF HALLING PARISH COUNCIL WE WOULD
LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

**ANYONE WISHING TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE HALLING VIEW PLEASE
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE / ADVERT BY:**

FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2019

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

All adverts must be paid in advance or sadly they cannot be included. Pricing and advertising as per follows:

MARCH / JUNE / SEPTEMBER / DECEMBER

Prices per annum based on an A5 page: **FULL page £280 / HALF page £150 /
QUARTER page £80 / EIGHTH page £50**

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

(Charity Adverts & Village Articles are free!!)

HALLING PARISH COUNCIL

Lower Ward: Chairman Paul Crispe
Vice-Chair Richard Thorne
Councillor Chris Herbert
Councillor George Wenham

VACANCY
VACANCY

Upper Ward: Councillor Matt Fearn
Councillor James Loveday

VACANCY

North Ward: Councillor Anita Butterfield

VACANCY

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

Address: Halling Parish Council
Halling Community Centre
93 High Street
Halling, Kent,
ME2 1BS.

Tel: 01634 241551

Email: hallingclerk@btconnect.com

Website: <http://www.halling-pc.co.uk>

**NEW! A4 Copies of
the Halling View
are available at
your local
amenities & the
Community Centre**

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

Your Parish Councillors live in Halling 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 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, Clerk:

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