

HALLING VIEW



Chairman's Report

Hello,

I have chaired the Parish Council since the Parish Council AGM of 2019. I have been recently re-elected. Councillor Les Hitchcock serves as Vice Chairman. Until recently Councillor T Dolby served in that capacity, and I pay tribute to him for his considerable dedication.

During the period, which this report relates, the Parish Council has liaised with our Medway Councillor, Matt Fearn.

We were pleased to complete the refurbishment of the play area in Upper Halling, which had been organized and installed by the previous Parish Council and Mrs. Maria Cook, many thanks for their hard work, making this possible.

An official opening took place on July 20th, 2019, by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Steve Iles, whose recent passing was a sad loss and our local MP Kelly Tolhurst.

Come March 2020, things took a dramatic turn when a Lockdown came into operation with the arrival of Covid-19, which brought the country to a virtual standstill. But I must point out, not to be put off, later in the year, a Scarecrow competition was held by the WI plus a best decorated house for Christmas and I must not forget Sam from the Five Bells and volunteers for organizing a Christmas Meals on Wheels for those parishioners, who were either unable to visit relatives or join friends over the Christmas period, very well done.

On a more sad note, Ex-Councillor Peter Hudson passed away in November 2020, after a short illness and for those who are unaware, Peter worked as a volunteer at Halling School teaching Maths and will be sadly missed.

We look forward to Lockdown hopefully ending with 'step 4' being reached on 19th July.

Cllr George Wenham

Chairman 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 20th of September 2021 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!!)



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For enquiries and bookings: Contact the Booking Secretary on 07879641356

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



Halling's Local Heroes

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 History Museum update

by

Tania Peitzker-Lingham

Halling History Museum had its inaugural meeting at Lingham Manor at Court Farm. We have a dozen villagers working on a plan to open to the public with a series of exhibitions focused on Halling from Neolithic times to the present day!

All welcome to attend our public meetings on the terrace & lawn of Lingham Manor (behind the [farm shop at Court Farm](#)). **For 2021 it will be the last Saturday of the month, 2pm start, approx. 90 min meeting.** Tea & coffee provided free, please bring snacks if you wish.

Depending on numbers we may meet indoors in the former medieval Court room & tribunal of the travelling Assize judges. More information can be found on our website or join us via the contact page.

<https://halling-history-museum.jimdosite.com/>



Halara Update

by

Carole Nunn

Like all the other groups, Halling Active Retirement Association had to suspend its activities due to Covid-19. It will depend on the Government guidelines and the ruling after 21 June, as to when and how we restart our activities. We know our members are keen to get back to the group activities, but the safety of our members is essential and must come first at all times. Updates will be posted on our new

website <https://www.hugofox.com/community/halling-active-retirement-association-19871/home/>

Looking forward to seeing you all as soon as safely possible.

Over 50? **HALARA** **semi-retired?**

Halling Active Retirement Association

BINGO **Day trips** **fun games** **THEATRE TRIPS**

Speakers **Coffee mornings**

In house entertainment **QUIZES** **SHORTMAT** **It's fun to play!** **weekly Art Class** **Rambles**

Meetings held on last Friday of the month
Jubilee Hall, Browndens Rd
Upper Halling
2pm - 4pm
Contact :01634 716049



Pop-Up Café and Information Hub

Coming to Upper Halling Jubilee Hall Car Park



Thursday 15th July

Thursday 12th August

Thursday 9th September

Thursday 7th October

Opening times: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Come and get together with old friends and new! Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake. We will have all sorts of local information available, or you can just come for a chat.

Our information hub will be available once measures are lifted - we are not currently able to display the leaflets, unfortunately.

Please help us to spread the word. **Everyone of all ages and Children are welcome** see you soon!

Note that the Pop-Up Cafe and Information Hub will take place come rain or shine. **Halling Jubilee Hall** are partnering **Action with Communities in Rural Kent** to run this series of events.

Free Cake, tea, and coffee will be served by the team from **Rural Kent** under COVID safe conditions, to ensure you are able to relax in a safe environment.

If there is heavy rain, the hall will open for socially distanced morning tea. Otherwise it will be under the marquees and comfy chairs outdoors in the car park in front of the hall (courtesy of Halling Parish Clerk & Council who kindly gave us permission to use the space).

The plan is to cater for about 30 people but if more turn up, the Jubilee Hall has generously offered to provide additional catering so that all who attend on the day will be able to enjoy refreshments with their fellow villagers.

Please note the pop-up Café is funded by **The National Lottery Community Fund**.

Update from Event Co-Host Prof. Dr. Tania Peitzker-Lingham together with the Chairman of Halling Jubilee Hall, **Mr. Chris Beaney**.

The inaugural Pop-Up Cafe & Info Hub on the 17th of June was a big success - it really brought the community together. Thanks again to **Halling Jubilee Hall** especially **Jenny & Chris Beaney** who went "above & beyond" to make this event happen, and the friendly team at **Action with Communities in Rural Kent**.

"It's open to all ages and we welcomed several mothers with young children. Rural Kent will be providing toys and there's room to play in the rest of the car park i.e., ideal for tricycles and scooters!

Tania has invited a local microbusiness from Court Farm Butchery and Country Larder, Abby Johnson's HEN PALS. So, you may have the chance to cuddle or feed a hen. Abby employs several villagers from Upper Halling to keep the flock in the eggmobile at the farm and a local hand makes the hutches to lend or buy."

The support of **Rural Kent** will be ongoing because they are kindly providing the Committee of Jubilee Hall with free advice on how to obtain Government grants and financial support to improve and expand the existing building and resources!





Pop-up Café at Upper Halling 17/06/2021

If you would like further information about the Pop-Up Café & Information Hub, please contact Tania at tania.peitzker@pm.me or call/text on 07707 182 688. You can also drop by to see her at Court Farm in Upper Halling.





Electric Vehicle Charging and Rural Communities

People from 90 organisations – village halls and parish councils – attended a zoom event hosted by Rural Kent on Kent County Council's scheme to develop a network of electric vehicle charge points across the county on 15th June 2021.

As rural areas are less likely to be attractive to commercial providers, KCC (Medway are one of the 7 partners) are supporting the installation of charge points in village hall and parish council-owned car parks and other sites.

Tim Middleton, Transport Innovation Programme Manager at KCC, gave more details of how installation and management of the charge points would work, and how to apply to be part of the scheme.

Chenice Howard-Sparkes of Chartham PC and Nicola Greenaway of Ditton PC talked about their experiences so far. This was followed by a Q & A session.

If you would like to watch a recording of the session, please visit <https://youtu.be/LZuTXaQxe28> .

For more information about the KCC scheme, go to <https://tinyurl.com/46rj67zf>

Court Farm Update

By

Tania Peitzker-Lingham

Court Farm in Upper Halling has opened the Croquet Lawn Camping site for 4 "wild camping" tents from July to September. More info here <https://croquetlawncampingmotorhomescourtfarm.wordpress.com/>

Bookings can be made directly here on PitchUp

https://www.pitchup.com/campsites/England/South_East/Kent/upper-halling/croquet-lawn-camping-at-court-farm/

[Photos of the campsite can be downloaded from the websites above OR the pics on GoogleMaps for the croquetlawn with views over the Medway Valley...]

Note the outdoor theatre and sport club plans are postponed to next year due to COVID ...



Fields with a view of the River Medway and Rochester



Halling Sapphires WI Annual Report 2020-2021

Well, here we are in the first half of our fifth year, following our fourth annual meeting. In the current climate we have still been unable to meet as a whole group in person for some time.

Where we have been holding our meetings via Zoom whilst unable to meet in person, we have met weekly for many months, switching to fortnightly last September when the schools returned to normal. From July, we return to our usual monthly meeting, hoping to be back in person.

To reflect on everything over the past year, here is a brief synopsis of the last year in the life of the Halling Sapphires.

Social Events

As we are all very aware, social events were somewhat placed on hold this year. Many times, we had planned for our Dinner Club and Craft Groups to meet in small numbers, but every time, we were met with another red light from Number 10!

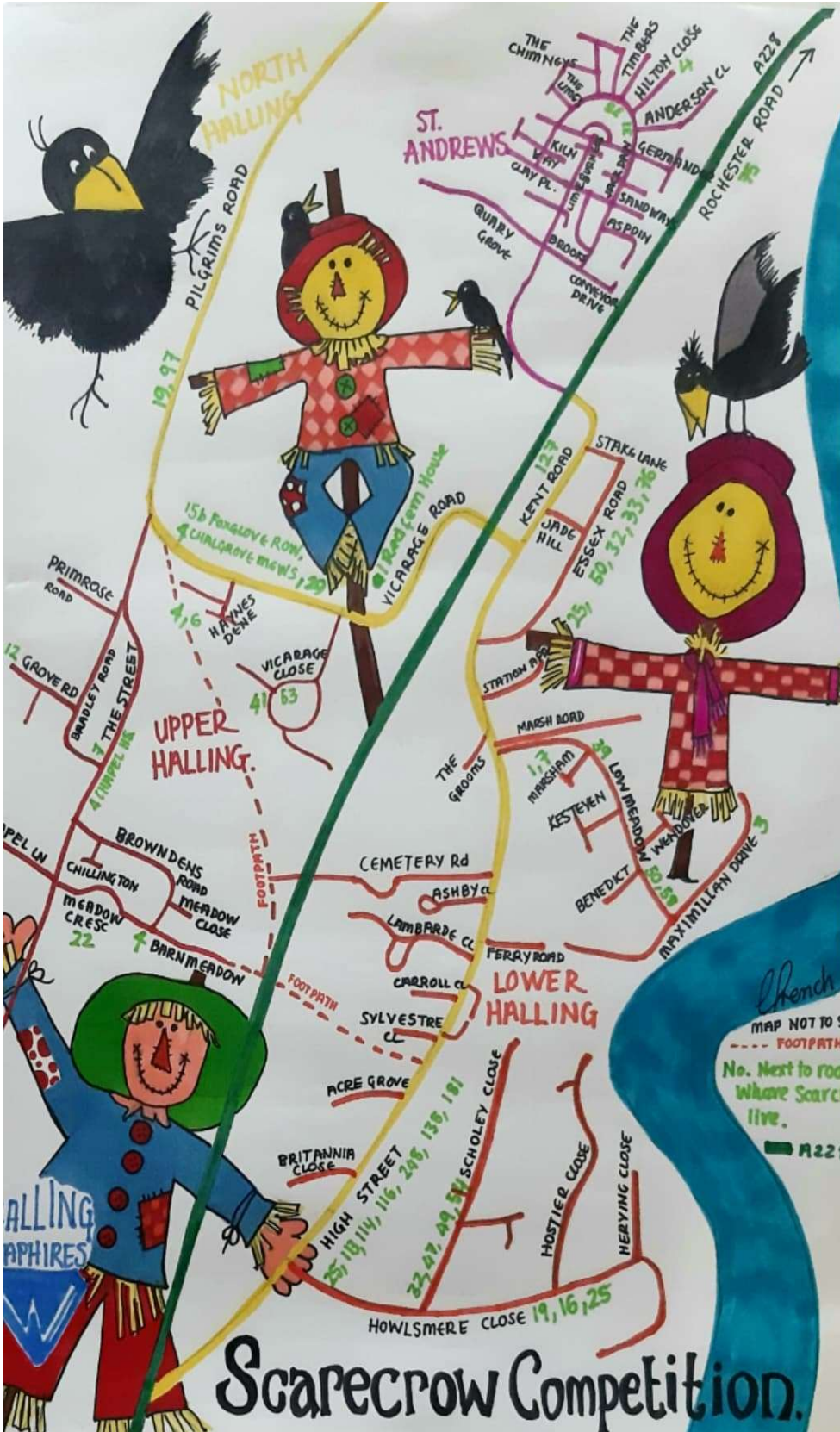
However, the allotment group were able to meet up regularly and keep it going for another year; getting great exercise and some much-needed social interaction when times were hardest.

The book club continued to be active, meeting online more or less each month, sometimes to discuss our latest reads, sometimes just for a friendly chat! We enjoyed some different reads this year, always with a variety of opinions!

Community Events:

Last year, on a hot Bank Holiday weekend, the Sapphires were out and about leaving little sunflower kits out for people to find, to spread a little bit of sunshine.

To cheer the village up during the October half-term, we ran a Scarecrow Competition which saw an amazing 49 entries. A very kind villager created us a map to share so that everyone in Halling could follow the trail. There were so many amazing entries to see!





Once again, we were invited to put up our Poppy Display at the Church, and attend the small, socially distanced service at the War Memorial.



LEST WE FORGET

Christmas was a little different with no village event to hold, or Carol Service to attend. Instead, we put together an activity worksheet for the children in the village to complete, and prizes were given out to everyone who entered.



As expected, another Easter came along together with some form of national restriction. So, we set about getting the village to decorate their houses for a 'Best Dressed' competition! Many entries were submitted, votes cast, and the Easter Bunny handed out Easter Eggs to the entrants. Another little way to brighten the day.



Easter Bunny

Our meetings

We have had a great variety of speakers coming to our meetings over the year, ranging from psychic readings, learning about skincare, and making dolls and Christmas decorations, to welcoming the fantastic Tony Harris back not once, but twice; as Henry VIII, and Nitty Nora. We were also lucky to be able to invite The Lady Historian to give us an hilarious history of gin.

Many of our very own members pulled some amazing meetings out of their hats for us; Julie taught us all about the Nurses of World War I, Bev ran some fantastic quizzes, Sarah and Tina gave us lots of ideas of things to do with a supermarket bunch of flowers, and Wendy showed us how to make marzipan fruits and gelatine flowers. We were also taught how to make paper flowers, how to fold books, and how to 'Make Do and Mend'.

We celebrated Christmas with a festive quiz, some Christmas bingo, and by making snowmen out of socks, and our 4th birthday party in February 2021 was seen in with a fun and exciting race night.





At the times where people struggled most, goody bags were given to all members to enjoy; one with coloring to do, seeds to plant, a Dorset button to make, and a little pocket hug to go with a lovely cuppa, and another containing a book to read, and some origami decorations to make. Christmas came in a bag to members too, with a drink, chocolates, and crafts.

We do not know exactly what the next year holds for us as we continue to tackle the tail-end of the pandemic, but we have a fun and exciting programme planned with the aim of being together in person very soon! We will be meeting Winston Churchill, enjoying fish and chips, making wreaths and Christmas decorations, doing some clay modelling and sugar craft, and celebrating Christmas with the Burlesque Bombshells.

We look forward to spending another year with Halling Village, as we look towards the light at the end of the tunnel.

Sapphires WI Contact details:

hallingwi@yahoo.com

<https://www.facebook.com/HallingSapphiresWI>



2021-22 Sapphires WI Programme

June 16th: Crystal Healing *with* Marie O'Connor
2021 (*please note that this session will be on Zoom*)

July 21st: Fish & Chip Supper in the Park
2021

August 18th: Beetle Drive & Social Night
2021

September 15th: Autumn Wreath Making Workshop *with* Angela
2021

October 20th: Clay Modelling Workshop
2021

November 17th: Fabric Christmas Baubles *with* Sarah
2021

December 15th: The Burlesque Bombshells present:
2021 The Halling Sapphires WI Christmas Party!
(*with Secret Santa*)

January 19th: Winston Churchill *with* Tony Harris
2022

February 16th: Birthday Party & Show The Love
2022

March 16^h: Sugarcraft *with* Wendy
2022

April 20th: Make your own Terrarium
2022

May 18th: Halling Sapphires 5th Annual Meeting
2022 *Including* Resolutions Discussion

Halling Gardening Society News

by
Philip Badman

Like every other organisation in the village, **Halling Gardening Society** has had a much disrupted 2020 and 2021 so far, because of the pandemic restrictions. Three regular Shows have had to be cancelled: Spring 2020, Summer 2020 and Spring 2021, but all hopes are now on the **Summer 2021 Show** going ahead on **Sunday 5 September** in the Jubilee Hall with a full schedule of classes for flowers, vegetables, cookery and art.

All was not lost though as the Society launched its new website at www.hallinggarden.co.uk and this has proved a great success as a showcase for members and other villagers to show off photos of their achievements in their gardens. The Society offered a small number of classes for photos instead of each Show, and also for Christmas 2020 decorations, and the outcome each time was a beautiful collection from local gardens. The gallery is still live on the website so if you feel like a cheerful wander over to www.hallinggarden.co.uk you'll be impressed.

It wasn't possible to hold an Annual General Meeting because of the pandemic restrictions so members were emailed the annual accounts and report and the committee was confirmed for another year. As soon as restrictions allow, members will enjoy a social gathering for an afternoon tea during the summer, and then start planning their showings for September.

Also on the new website at www.hallinggarden.co.uk are links for allotment bookings, other gardening organisations and a very useful guide to how to prepare your flowers and vegetables for showing. Take a read there and then think about putting in an entry to show off all your efforts in your lockdown garden!

Halling Gardening Society is open to anyone of any age interested in gardening. You don't have to exhibit in the Shows but they are fun events, not taken too seriously or competitively and you get a great kick from picking up a certificate for your efforts in your patch. To enquire about joining, call Pat on (01634) 240480.

Halling Historical Society
by
Philip Badman

The largest annual programme of talks and walks ever offered by **Halling Historical Society** went by the wayside after just one talk in February 2020. Eleven talks and the new activity of organised historical walks had been organised for throughout 2020, with three meetings especially for the 150th anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens in 1870.

Two highlights could continue though. The Society launched its new website at www.hallinghistory.co.uk and this has gone down hugely successfully, getting hits internationally as well as locally and throughout the UK. There has been interest from America, Japan, Australia and throughout Europe. The site is full of detail about the history of the village and its folk, all gathered in one place.

Read about our earliest inhabitant of 3,000 years ago, Halling Man (now residing in the British Museum!), and our most famous villager. William Lambarde, probably Shakespeare's lawyer, and holder of several high state offices. Look back on Halling as 'Cement City', find out about the Bishop's Palace, see maps of old Halling, and pictures of its oldest buildings. See the historical origins of the names of many Halling roads, including Maximilian Drive, Scholey Close, and several from Bishops of Rochester who lived at the Palace.

See the two fantastic historical video collections put together by Rod Kinslow and Stu Cunningham. The most hits are on the pages of reminiscences of local villagers, past and present, as a living history of Halling. Still more are being collected, so if you lived in Halling before 1980 why not jot down your memories to add?

The other major activity of 2020, though sadly deferred by the pandemic, has been a project to put an historic blue plaque on the house at 79 High Street where the village's World War 1 Victoria Cross hero, Sergeant Thomas Harris VC MM, lived before enlisting. Funds were raised from Harris family and the public, and the plaque is ready for unveiling but the planned ceremony has been on hold for over a year. It is now planned for 3pm on Saturday 7 August, which is three days short of 103 years since Thomas died so heroically on the battlefield on 9 August 1918.

Guests expected to attend include Thomas's descendants, an officer from his successor regiment, the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, and the grandson of Lieutenant Upfold, who was beside Thomas as he died and who recommended him for the VC. Maidstone Museum will bring along Thomas's medals. Local builder MCL has kindly agreed to install the plaque free of charge and catering will be by Halling Sapphires WI for a tea party in the Community Centre after the unveiling. All this of course is if pandemic restrictions are confirmed lifted on July 19.

The full story of Thomas's heroism is told on the new website at www.hallinghistory.co.uk

Halling Historical Society has been established over thirty-five years and has approaching fifty subscribing members and over a hundred Facebook followers. It actively works with Medway Archives Centre and Kent Archaeological Society. The plan is to relaunch a limited monthly programme of talks and walks from September so look out for details on the website or the Facebook page at fb:Halling Historical Society. No Annual General Meeting for 2020 could be held so the annual accounts and reports were emailed to members and the committee was confirmed for another year.

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)

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

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Upper Halling*



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Claire-mad@hotmail.co.uk

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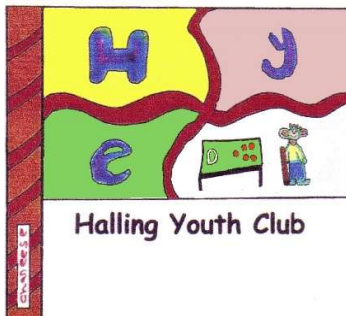
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Halling Youth Club

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

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.

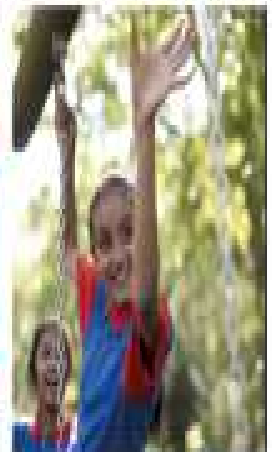
on Friday evening, or contact Paula on 07969 342 953.



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



In times of crisis, anyone can face difficulties

Please get in touch

- If you're in need and would like to receive an emergency food parcel
- if you'd like Christian support because you're a victim of abuse, are having suicidal thoughts, problems with addictions, relationship breakdown, etc, or would simply like to talk to someone

When?

Foodbank - Saturday mornings between 9:00-12:00

Support Groups - Get in touch for more information

Sunday Services - Sundays 11:00 (Halling), 16:00 (Ryarsh Baptist Church, ME19 5LX)

Where?

Halling Baptist Church,
The Old Fire Station, Vicarage
Road, Halling,
Rochester ME2 1BE
Call or text 07868 182423 or
07464 635187
hallingbaptist.org.uk

*Thank you for your
contributions, on behalf
of those receiving
emergency help through
the food bank*

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. (1 Timothy 1:15)

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**

Halling View Summer 2021 Feeding the Wildlife

I was going to write just about feeding the birds in our gardens, but we also feed a lot of other animals too – some of them inadvertently. On Thursday mornings, there's usually a good scattering of rubbish where the foxes have helped themselves from the recycling. I do try to avoid myself putting any food items in with the rubbish, but then I've got a healthy appetite, a dog and a compost heap in a big garden. So I don't really have any food waste.

Quite a lot of people make a point of feeding the foxes deliberately. Most of us enjoy seeing foxes about and nobody likes to think of any of God's creatures going hungry. On the other hand, there is case to be made that foxes are vermin and ought not to be encouraged. If you keep chickens, you might well feel like that. Maybe they take lambs too. Some people are slightly afraid of foxes, not entirely without reason. I once knew an old lady who fell asleep in her deckchair in the garden and a fox came up and bit her for no obvious reason at all.

Rats are intelligent creatures and keep themselves clean if they are allowed to. I am told that they make good pets. I have no objection to rats in principle, but I would object to them indoors. So such food as I put out for the birds I put out in the morning so that it is eaten up before the rodents come out at night.

The birds in my garden have to put up with breadcrumbs. A family of blackbirds are ready for their breakfast watching my kitchen door most mornings. If you put out food regularly, they get used to the time they need to be there. There is a danger that the number of birds in your garden will increase if you put out food very generously and then go hungry if for any reason you stop. It is a responsibility!

When I had goldfish in a pond, they were always waiting for their tea around 5.00. It is not true that goldfish have only three second memories.

One person I know, who is much more generous than I am with feeding the birds, has a regular visitor, a blackbird with a broken leg. Maybe the food she puts out has enabled to survive. It seems bright enough and in no pain from the leg.

I also put out any fat I do not want (out of reach of the dog) which I suppose the birds or other animals take. We are warned not to pour fat or oil down the drains for fear of causing those fatbergs which block up the sewers.

A huge number of people buy seed and other food to put out for the birds. If you do, you get a much greater of variety of birds and larger numbers than if you do not. Years

and years ago, Amateur Gardening carried out an investigation into whether putting out bird seed protected your plants because the birds were too full up to eat anything you were growing for yourself or whether you just attracted more birds which would eat your crops as well as the food you had specially bought for them. The conclusion was the latter, but it was worth it because birds in the garden are such a delight.

There have been a couple of warnings. You need to keep the bird feeding area clean and move the bird table occasionally. Otherwise, rotting food and disease organisms build up and the birds start to die. Greenfinches especially have suffered from an infection (trichomonosis) they have picked up around bird tables, feeders and bird baths.

Also, if you put out one kind of food, such as nuts, the kinds of birds which eat nuts will grow in numbers but the sorts of birds which do not like nuts may be pushed out of the area altogether by the increased competition. Greater spotted woodpeckers like nuts. Green woodpeckers do not.

In the winter, when the ponds and puddles are frozen, I like to put out water for the wildlife. When I was a child, my father told me that it was useless to put out hot water because it freezes faster than cold. As I grew up, I was not at all sure that he was right, but it turns out that he was right (as in so many things). Scientists have been puzzling over why this is the case for decades and now they think they know. Anyway, winter or summer, we need to make sure that the water we put out for the wild creatures is clean and in a clean container.

Looking after the world, especially the living world, is a nice thing to do and it's good that so many of us want to do it.

It is hard to say where we shall be vis a vis COVID. We are holding Communion services at S John's on Sundays at 11.00 & Thursdays at 9.30 and at S Michael's Cuxton at 9.30 on Sundays & Wednesdays. We can do socially distanced weddings and christenings with a maximum of thirty people. We can have as many people at funerals in the church as can keep 2m apart. We are hoping to hold a barbecue at Cuxton Rectory on 10th July and XKids for children and their parents and carers at S John's on 24th July. You can find the latest information I have as it comes out on my webpage. If there is anything I can do for you, please contact me.



Rector
The Reverend Roger Knight BD AKC
The Rectory, 6, Rochester Road, Cuxton, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1AF

01634 717134 roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk
<http://www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk>



Adult and Toddler Group

Halling Community Centre

Every Tuesday (during term time)

Telephone: 01634 243696

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 Les Hitchcock
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

Upper Ward: Chair George Wenham
Councillor Sheila Chamberlain
Councillor Linda Ali

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. (<http://www.halling-pc.co.uk/community/halling-parish-council-17817/home/>)

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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