

HALLING VIEW

 - Picturesque Halling : Photo courtesy of Paul Chapman



For my sins, I'm back in the Chair! Since the last Halling View, the big event, of course, has been the opening of the QEII Play Area in the lower recreation ground. The event was a total success and I was very pleased to see so many villagers with their children on the day. The Mayor of Medway, Cllr Stuart Tranter and his wife, Sarah, attended and cut the ribbon to officially declare the play area open. With that, a tidal wave of excited children rushed onto the equipment where they remained for the rest of the afternoon! There were free ice creams for the kids and bouncy castle and slide, face painting and character entertainers on hand which rounded off the event fantastically.



I have just seen the final numbers for the installation of the equipment and I am very pleased to tell you that it looks as though Halling Parish Council (with the expert help of Maria Cook) have managed to save almost £1,700 compared to the original budget for the capital costs. We even managed to get more equipment for less as we have changed the configuration compared to the original quotation.



There are a couple of small items which will need attention, for example, turfing and soil reinstatement. This will be done in the near future and is included in the costs which we have already received.

Now for the official bit ... for those of you that have older children, please reiterate to them that this is a play area and that they should not be using it for any other purpose such as anti-social behaviour, breaking glass and intimidation of the younger children wishing to use the play equipment. This is aimed at the few thoughtless individuals who spoil it for everybody else. The youngsters of this village, as a whole, are a credit to Halling.

There is no further movement to report in respect of the sale of the fire station at this time. We are awaiting the outcome of the Baptist Church's planning application.

The new bridge across to Peter's Pit will be open soon with an official opening on 15th September.

Finally, may I convey my best wishes to the little ones who are starting pre-school, those moving up to Halling Primary School and to our students moving on to "big school".

Cllr Chris Herbert. Chairman. Halling Parish Council

Clerk's Office Opening Hours:

Mon & Fri 9.30am – 12pm
 Wed 9.30am – 4pm
 Halling Community Centre
 01634 241551
 hallingclerk@btconnect.com
<http://www.halling-pc.co.uk>
Bill Swan, Clerk

Parish Council Meetings: Everyone welcome to attend

12 Sept 16 – Jubilee Hall 7.30pm
 11 Oct 16 – Community Centre 7.30pm
 7 Nov 16 – Jubilee Hall 7.30pm

HALLNG PARISH COUNCIL

Lower Ward: Councillor Les Hitchcock
 Councillor Chris Herbert
 Councillor Andy Simpson
 Councillor Richard Thorne
 Councillor Kelly Talbot
 Councillor June Doohan

Upper Ward: Councillor Matt Fearn
 Councillor George Wenham
 Councillor Trevor Reynolds

North Ward: Councillor Michael Leverington
 Vacancy

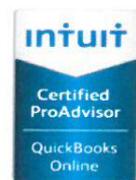
We now have three very enthusiastic volunteers who have undergone training in the weekly inspection of the village play areas. They will be checking for problems that occur from day to day i.e. litter, broken glass, vandalism. If you see them in their hi-viz jackets, please stop and say hello, as they are doing a wonderful job to ensure our play areas are fit for use.

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THIS IS A DOG :

Dogs CANNOT wipe their own bottoms and CANNOT put their poo into doggy bags. Therefore, dogs need a responsible owner to clear up their mess.

If you are not a responsible owner then train your dog to use your garden as a toilet, instead of the village. Other people are NOT responsible for YOUR dog.

(Remember doggy bags MUST GO INTO THE DOG BINS PROVIDED and NOT in hedgerows or left on paths.)





HALLING CRAFT

Monday
evening

7.15

HALLING BAPTIST CHURCH

- Sundays**, 10:00am - Sunday School (Term time, primary-school age), 11:00am & 6:30pm - Sunday Worship Services.
- Wednesdays**, 1:00 pm - Home Group Bible Study and Prayer (times to be announced), 7:00 pm - Grief Share Support Group.
- Thursdays**, 7:00 pm - Bible Study and Prayer.
- 2nd Friday**, 3:00 pm - Afternoon Tea (2nd Friday of the month)

On Saturday 30th July 2016, we gathered to celebrate the 118th anniversary of the church. We gave thanks to God for the years we have been able to worship here. We had the invited speaker. As many will know, we are in the process of writing, we are waiting for a satisfactory response for the purchase of the church. We will continue with the purchase process and the selling of the church. We will continue to worship temporarily on Sundays while some essential work is done. Meanwhile, we will continue to look for ways to help and love our community. At the *Community Centre*, we have an Autumn Supper, with quiz and games. We will also have a Ploughman's Lunch. It will be a great opportunity to get together, to contribute to a local need. Do let us know (for catering purposes) if you can help. Thank you from you!

On **Saturday 22nd October at 6 pm**, also in the *Community Centre*, we have a meeting called, "*The Story of Life: Accident or Design?*" Dr. ... will speak on creation vs. evolution. The event will be free of charge. For more information, visit hallingbaptist.org.uk.

Why not make plans to visit us at any of our weekly meetings? We welcome people of all religious affiliations. As a friend of mine says, "No perfect people here!"

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like more information, please contact us.

Jubilee Hall Window fund Penny Mile Challenge

In September 2017 we are aiming to lay 1 mile of pennies through the village of Halling, in order to do this we need to collect over 83,000 pennies, sorry I cannot be more precise about the amount of coins needed at the moment because Halling primary school is using this event as a maths challenge. But don't worry if you don't have that many pennies as any money donated to the challenge will be converted into pennies, in order for this to work we need as many villagers young and old not only to donate the pennies but also to lay them in September 2017, the aim of this challenge is not only to raise money for the Jubilee Hall window fund but to bring the village together in a fun and exciting way. There are several collection points through out the village in which money can be donated, the collecting points are at Halling Primary School 09:00-15:30, Halling Girl Guiding at Jubilee Hall Thursday 16:00-20:30 term time only, and the butchery shop Court Farm Upper Halling
7,200 pennies collected so far 77,640 pennies to go.



We are hoping to raise £4000 to replace the original single glazed windows with double glazed units. This will help with the noise levels and heat loss during the winter months but it will also make the building more secure and safer. The hall is used by a variety of villagers, such as Halara, Historical Society, Girlguiding, Karate etc. and other private parties.



There is a Facebook page for those interested in the Jubilee Hall Windows Fund. The page will keep you up to date on progress, and will promote the fundraising for the windows and to hear any ideas you may have.

David Fenton-Scott - Project Manager (please contact me if you would like to help or have any fundraising ideas) david@fentonscott.fsnet.co.uk Mobile.07941 555386 TOTAL RAISED SO FAR £2024.05

SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER 16
HALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE - 7PM start
FUND RAISING RACE NIGHT
All proceeds to go to the new chairs
Tickets available from 116 High Street, PO, and Community Centre
£4 adults £2 children under 5's free

The Rainbow, Brownies and Guides are all members of Girl guiding and are aged from 5 years old upwards. We meet at Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling every week during term time. Our aim in girl guiding is to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually, so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

Our girls would like to help our local community by doing a sponsored walk, summer fayre and other events to raise money to replace the windows in the Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling. Our aim is to raise £4000 to replace the old single glazed windows with stronger double glazed windows.

We would be grateful for any assistance you might be able to give us in achieving our aim.

Please contact trudybarnowl@orangehome.co.uk / bluebellpalmer@aol.co.uk if you would like more information or if you can support us.

Thank You

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Community Centre
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Friday	9am - 7pm	Saturday	8am - 4.30pm

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INTRIGUED?
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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 1hr consultation is free and will include your personal needs; my fee structure and any questions you may have regarding my work. There will be no obligation to continue after the first session. Future sessions will be 1-1 1/2 hours depending on individual needs and are tailored to suit you personally. I am fully insured and CRB checked.

Are We Getting More Stupid?

I've seen three things lately which suggest that we are progressively becoming less intelligent. The first said that we are not so bright as our Victorian ancestors. Of course, the human race knows more than it did in those days. As Isaac Newton said, we stand on the shoulders of giants. Hopefully, each generation adds to the store of human knowledge. As individuals, of course, Victorians might well have known as much as you and I do, but about different things. A twelve year old boy living in Halling would have been expected to know how to snare and skin a rabbit and to make a fire to cook it on. His sister would have had to learn how to black lead a grate and to darn woollen socks. Most parents nowadays probably discourage their children from playing with fire and knives and throw away their old socks. On the other hand, Victorian boys and girls didn't have to know how to stream a video onto their tablet.

That's knowledge, but what about intelligence? I guess that intelligence is the ability both to learn and to work things out for yourself. Knowledge is easy to test. Intelligence is much harder. I can ask you what you know, but how can I discover what you are capable of learning? IQ tests depend ultimately on knowledge of language and mathematics because the questions and answers have to be communicated. People who do well in IQ tests tend to be people who come from the same sort of background as the people who set them, middle class households with a high regard for education. IQ tests, therefore, tend unfairly to make rich people look smarter than poor people and, in the USA, to make black people appear less capable than white people. Take IQ tests with a pinch of salt. They are not truly a measure of intelligence or capability.

Anyway, the Victorians didn't set IQ tests. So how can we guess whether they were more or less intelligent than we are? The answer seems to be that they had to be smarter because life was so much tougher. If you weren't reasonably intelligent, you didn't survive. There was no welfare state to pick you up if you fell through your own stupidity. In the same way, wild cattle, sheep and goats are more intelligent than farm animals and wolves are probably cleverer than dogs.

The third thing I read to suggest we are getting dumber was that scientists had discovered that having all that knowledge on our 'phones and computers, our memories are getting weaker for lack of use. Use it or lose it applies to mental skills as well as muscles. In the same way, we all lost the ability to do mental arithmetic thirty years ago when we got calculators. 400 years before Christ, Plato observed that people's memories for stories and poetry became very much poorer when they started writing things down! Technology enables us to do a lot more, but we also become dependent on it. A few years ago, Channel 4 put a family in a house unaltered since

1900 to see how they would cope with coal fires, unheated bedrooms, oil lamps and no car, 'phone or computer. They made a pretty poor job of it. I thought I could have survived, except I would grow a beard before I attempted using a cutthroat razor, but I wouldn't like it. Technology makes life easier and more comfortable, though it might make us soft and dependent. I value my independence and would be sorry to lose it altogether.

The second thing they've brought up again recently has been around since safe, effective family planning was invented. If intelligent adults decide to have fewer or no children because they want to pursue their careers, or to have nicer homes and more leisure, or because they are concerned about global over-population, and, if intelligence is inherited, will we finish up with mostly stupid people having stupid children and so diminish the gene pool of the human race? There's a lot to question there. For one thing, it is not all clear how much inheritance may be inherited. Secondly, it isn't obvious that the intelligent choice is to have fewer or no children. Certainly, it's a mistake to have more children than you can afford to bring up, but, on the other hand, it isn't necessarily the case that you will have a more fulfilled life if you have a good job and plenty of money but nobody to love and nurture. I'm sure that really smart people put people before profit. As for overpopulation, the real problem is that the rich consume far too much of the world's resources, not that there isn't enough to go round.

Anyway, it's not intelligence that really matters, as I'm sure many of you thinking. What about common sense? What about basic skills? What about getting on with people? It's actually wisdom that really counts. Now, wisdom is an essentially religious matter. Wisdom is an attribute of God.

Roger Knight, Rector of Cuxton and Halling.

Harvest Festival Services: 2nd October Holy Communion 8.00 am Jubilee Hall & 11.00 St John's. Also 9.30 St Michael's Cuxton. Evening Praise and Harvest Supper 6.30 at St Michael's this year.



Roger Knight,
Rector of Cuxton & Halling

The Rectory,
6, Rochester Road, Cuxton,
Rochester, Kent,
ME2 1AF

01634 717134

roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk,
www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk

REPORT ON MARSH AND FOOTPATHS

On Friday, 8th July, agreement was come to by Mr Andrew Lingham and Cllr George Wenham on behalf of Halling Parish Council that cattle – steers not cow and calves – would graze on the south/Maximilian side of Halling Common, subject to gaps in the wire fence being mended (done), and a new gate put in place by Mr Lingham. When cattle are not on the marsh – between 1st November and 31 March every year – the gate will be open for freer public access to Halling Common.

Mr Lingham has now (16th July) cut the long grass on both the north and south sides of Halling Common.

It was further agreed that the saturated ground and the sink-hole in the north-west corner of the north side of Halling Common would dry out only if the nearby drainage ditch is opened, and not bridged or blocked in any way. The sink-hole had been caused by water back-pooling from a blockage, and Southern Water's underground pipe to drain water from the upper fields collapsed for lack of firm support. For the moment, the sink-hole is fenced off so as not to endanger people, dogs and cattle. As a matter of urgency, Southern Water has been asked to repair the pipe, and to dig out deeper the ditch designed to take excess water to the River Medway.

Footpaths from the north Cemex end to the south Maximilian Drive end have been thoroughly cleared of long grass and protruding brambles, hawthorn, and nettles. Two photographs of *Four Dogs Path* cry out, "Walk me"! I thank John Martin from Wendover Close for his unstinting help. Thanks are also due to the Medway Council Rural Footpaths' Team which re-hung a vandalised gate, filled in step treads, and made solid a formerly unsteady hand-rail.

B.P.Barnes
10 August 2016



Halling Historical Society present a Diary for 2017

The Jubilee Hall, Browndens Road, Upper Halling
7.30pm

16th February 2017	Dr Ann Kneif	Land Army
20th April 2017	Penny Harris – Potholes	Pits and Paradise
15th June 2017	Wilf Lower	T.V Golden Years
17th August 2017	Peter Hartley	Diamond Queen
19th October 2017	Stuart Robinson	Curiosities of London
14th December 2017	Wilf Lower	Last Days of the Music Hall

Tea, coffee and raffle
All visitors welcome £2.50

HALARA

Halling Active Retirement Association

My goodness, this year like last, is flying by,
 Christmas will be here - in a blink of an eye.
 But before the Yuletide season can arrive,
 At our Club we still have loads of fun to derive,
 From: Games, Bowls, Coach Trips and a Coffee Morning,
 To: Outings and Ten-pin Bowling – there's just no time for yawning!
 We've Dancing, a Quiz and a Cream Tea,
 You can, if you want, be as busy – as a preverbal bee!
 Or just relax and listen to our Speakers – you see!
 Talks on all kinds of topics, not much is taboo!
 There's bound to be something to interest you.
 Oh yes, Rambles - that's another thing we do.
 Well, more like a gentle amble with a nice lunch,
 I can honestly say we're a real friendly bunch,
 If it rains on our Rambles we head straight for the pub!
 Do come along and meet the members of our Active Retirement Club.
 You must be over fifty, semi or retired,
 And want to enjoy yourself is all that's required.
 Our group activities may fit you like a glove or a barrel!
 Just give our Secretary a call – her name is Carole!

Ring 01634 716 049
Preferably in the daytime.

At the June meeting Halling Active Retirement Members had a very special visitor – Her Majesty the Queen, or rather a very good look alike! Not a person but a life-size cardboard cut-out. It added fun to the Cream Tea afternoon and after tea the members sang along to favourite songs from the 40s & 50s. The entertainer was Tricia Court who insisted on curtsying to The Queen before each song. Six members also donned masks of the Royal Family, Terry Nunn is seen here as Prince Charles.



2016

30 SEPTEMBER
GEORGE WILDRIDGE

Talk: London Stranger than Fiction

28 OCTOBER
FISH & CHIP LUNCH

Bingo – time permitting

25 NOVEMBER
HALARA PLAYERS ENTERTAIN

Fun in house entertainment from our Drama Group members

DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Venue: Cobdown Sports & Social Club
 Aylesford (Date, time & cost to be advised)

2017

27 JANUARY
INDOOR GAMES

Break-into the New Year with Indoor Games

24 FEBRUARY
QUIZ

A Fun in-house Quiz for members and visitors

31 MARCH
ALAN HAINES

Talk: Kick up the Sixties

28 APRIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual Subscription due

Dementia Awareness

DATES FOR 2016:

- Wednesday 14th September
- Wednesday 28th September
- Wednesday 12th October
- Wednesday 26th October
- Wednesday 9th November
- Wednesday 23rd November
- Wednesday 14th December
- Wednesday 11th January



Lisa Paterson is a local business owner who lives in Halling, she is the Director of Care Simplified Ltd and is working in partnership with the charity Dementia Friends and is raising dementia awareness. She will be holding awareness sessions for the Halling community over the next few months and everyone is welcome to join her for free to become a dementia friend too! Lisa will be approaching local business and community facilities to inform them of the benefits of raising awareness and how they can help to make Halling a recognised dementia friendly community. Lisa brings with her 16 years of knowledge and expertise within the Care Industry, her service offers unbiased advice to help others make informed choices with regards elderly care options. The dementia awareness sessions will be scheduled soon so please keep a look out for these dates in the next addition or visit www.caresimplified.co.uk you can of course contact Lisa on 01634 241488 or 07749968821 for more information.



Dementia Cafe

An opportunity for individuals with memory loss and their caregivers to meet together for mutual support and fellowship.

...

Come and join us for coffee, chat, and a light lunch in a relaxed atmosphere where your worries and concerns can be talked over.

...

We ask for a contribution of £2:50 per session to cover the cost of lunch and refreshments.

...

There will also be activities, including some based on cognitive stimulation therapy, and guest speakers.

Dementia Social & Support Group

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday

11am~1.30pm

Christ Church Hall
Malling Rd, Snodland

For further information on The Dementia Cafe please contact :

Sue Brooks 01634 241350 (10am-8pm)
June Wright 01634 241005 (10am – 8pm)

Useful Links:

- www.dementiawebkentandmedway.org.uk
- www.dementiauk.org
- www.ageuk.org.uk

We would like to bring to your attention a **new free service for the residents of Medway** which enables them to test their risk potential from getting **type 2 diabetes**. Many people are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes without realising it. From the NHS viewpoint the growth of type 2 diabetes is a major concern and already accounts for around 10% of the budget - and it is likely to grow.

We all know that **prevention is better than cure** and so we are keen that as many people as possible take this [free test](#) to assess their risk and then if appropriate sign up to the free programmes that we are offering to help combat the type 2 diabetes threat.

Our Website is <http://www.medwaydiabetes.co.uk>
The free test page is <http://www.medwaydiabetes.co.uk/are-you-at-risk/>
Details about the programme can be found at <http://www.medwaydiabetes.co.uk/our-programme/>



Court Farm News

After selling numerous sculptures at the well-known Wyndcliffe Court Sculpture Gardens in Wales, Cuxtonian Ellen Cooper is now exhibiting at Court Farm's FENCE GALLERY.



Ellen's artwork is exceptional in its stylistic range and free spirited expressions of animal lives and the capricious souls of farm creatures.

Explore her interpretation of horses, dogs, cats and chickens at play - be astonished by the lifelike sculptures of foxes, cattle and crows!

Children's **ACTIVITY SHEETS** have been created for the display so that the whole family can enjoy this

remarkable art show that Court Farm is fortunate to be able to provide the community for the next three months outdoors in the sunflower field, in the barn (Picnic Area & Pop Up Cinema space) and in our farm shop, the Butchery & Country Larder.



Don't forget, enter your photo of Ellen's artworks at the FENCE GALLERY in Court Farm's Annual Amateur Photography Competition on Facebook.com/courtfarminkent Photo comp is under EVENTS & ends 31/10/16.



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Halling Garden Society

May I prescribe a leisurely look through the latest seed catalogues – We can arrange for you to get 50% - that's half price- if you order from Dobies (Which Best Buy) using our club order forms which carry our Society number. Ring Pat on 01634240480 or Matthew on 01634727424 if you need a copy of the catalogue and form. The catalogue is available on line at www.dobies.co.uk where you will find a larger choice. You can order online but need the club number to get any discount. You can order as many or as few packets as you wish so you don't have to have a large garden or an allotment to join us.

Those with new gardens or new to the area may not know of our activities so this is our chance to introduce ourselves as your local club for all things garden related. We welcome all-comers to join us. Subscriptions are the massive amount of £3 per year. This entitles you to free entry to our 2 shows in April and September, Show Schedules, talks when arranged, updates by email of any related events or offers that we hear about in the South east, and as already mentioned, 50% discount on seeds from Dobies and anything else we arrange during the year. It also gives you contact with likeminded people, some of whom have been gardening in this area for more than 40 years so know the conditions well.

To find out more, look on our facebook page, Parish Council page or ring the numbers mentioned above as we are happy to help and a friendly bunch!!



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Sacha Dodd, 22 Low Meadow, Halling, Rochester



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James Watts has been a member of the local community in Halling for the past 31 years and takes an active role in producing his parish magazine for St Michael and All Angels Cuxton and St John the Baptist Halling, as well as working for Age UK Medway for 13 years as a driver of the mini buses. Although James has reached retirement age he is still happily driving the customers from their homes to Age UK Medway, The Chris Ellis Centre, and safely returning them on a daily basis. As part of the centre's activities, James has appeared as a Wild West Sheriff, Santa Claus, a wise man, an ugly sister and more recently in a tutu as a ballet dancer during themed events and Christmas productions. As the oldest member of the Age UK Medway team, James is a great advocate for showing people that there is no age limit to what you can do. James is highly thought of by all those that use the Chris Ellis Centre and champions that Age UK Medway is the "go to place" for people who need help.



The Chris Ellis Centre catchment area covers Rochester, Strood and Hoo, as well as Cuxton and Allhallows. If you are interested in finding out more you can contact us on 01634 724745 or email seniorstrood@ageukmedway.org.uk



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YOUR ARTICLE/ADVERT BY:
18th NOVEMBER 2016**

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*Parish Office, Halling Community Centre
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IDB805187 06/13

UPPER HALLING JUBILEE HALL WINDOWS FUND

Meet and Greet a REPTILE Day

have your picture taken for £1

Saturday 10th September

1pm to 4pm



Hook A Duck

Refreshments

TOMBOLA

Treasure Map



SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS IN YOUR AREA? DON'T SHRUG IT OFF, REPORT IT!

GARDEN SECURITY

As we spend more time in the garden over the summer and enjoy the lovely weather, here are some tips on garden security. Think about ways you can prevent an opportunist burglar targeting your home and outbuildings. What items do you have in your garden, can you protect them in any way?

- Look at your boundaries - do you have overgrown hedges that can be reduced in size? By doing so, this will help deter unwanted visitors from entering the garden and using any overgrown hedges and bushes as cover. If you have fences, consider increasing their height by adding trellis fences. By doing so, the trellis can make it more difficult to climb over the fence.
- Use shrubs with thorns as hedging. They can also be used to grow over fences and walls therefore making it almost impossible for someone to climb over. Ask your local garden centre for advice and suggestions for suitable plants, but be careful which ones you choose if you have young children or pets.
- Consider gravel pathways and/or drives, as gravel makes a noise when walked or driven on which may deter an opportunist thief.
- Fit suitable heavy duty locks to sheds and garages, so the burglars cannot break in and access tools which they could use to gain entry into your home. Don't forget to also fit locks to rear and side gates. If you have ladders store these in a garage or outbuilding if possible and not in the garden. If you do have to leave them outside, fix them to something solid using a chain and padlock so they cannot be used to gain entry into your home.
- Security mark all garden tools and other tools such as drills, etc., also bikes and anything else of value. This will make it easier for the police to return any items recovered from a burglary. Mark your property with your postcode and house number and make a note of where you marked the item. At the same time keep a note of any serial or model numbers, manufacturer's name, colour of the item and any distinguishing marks. Also take photographs of valuable items.
- If you have a wheelie bin these can be used to climb on and gain access to your property. Store them securely and away from buildings, perhaps consider using a padlock and chain so they cannot be moved.
- Fit security alarms on sheds, garages and outbuildings. Install security lights with sensors in the garden, by paths and driveways as a preventative measure. Simple shed alarms are available for purchase from the office and a small quantity will be available at the A.G.M. in September.

Neighbourhood Watch Office: **MEDWAY POLICE STATION**
Purser Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1NE

Police Emergency : 999

Police Non-Emergency – 101

For free home safety advice or to see if you're eligible for a free home safety visit, please call 0800 923 7000



Pokémon GO: Fun and exercise on your phone, but know the facts

It seems that the whole world's gone crazy for Pokémon GO - the game on your phone which combines the online and real worlds ... 'augmented reality' as the experts call it.



Well, it's certainly a way to kill time, while health and fitness fans tell us it's a great way for adults and children alike to get valuable exercise: a video game that makes you walk around instead of sitting in front of a computer or game console.

On the other hand, no doubt you'll have heard about some of the negative aspects of the game, like the potential to cause injury to yourself or others - or a road traffic accident - by not paying attention when crossing the road, inadvertently trespassing on private land and getting stranded in dangerous places (most notably Weston-super-Mare Pier when the tide was coming in).

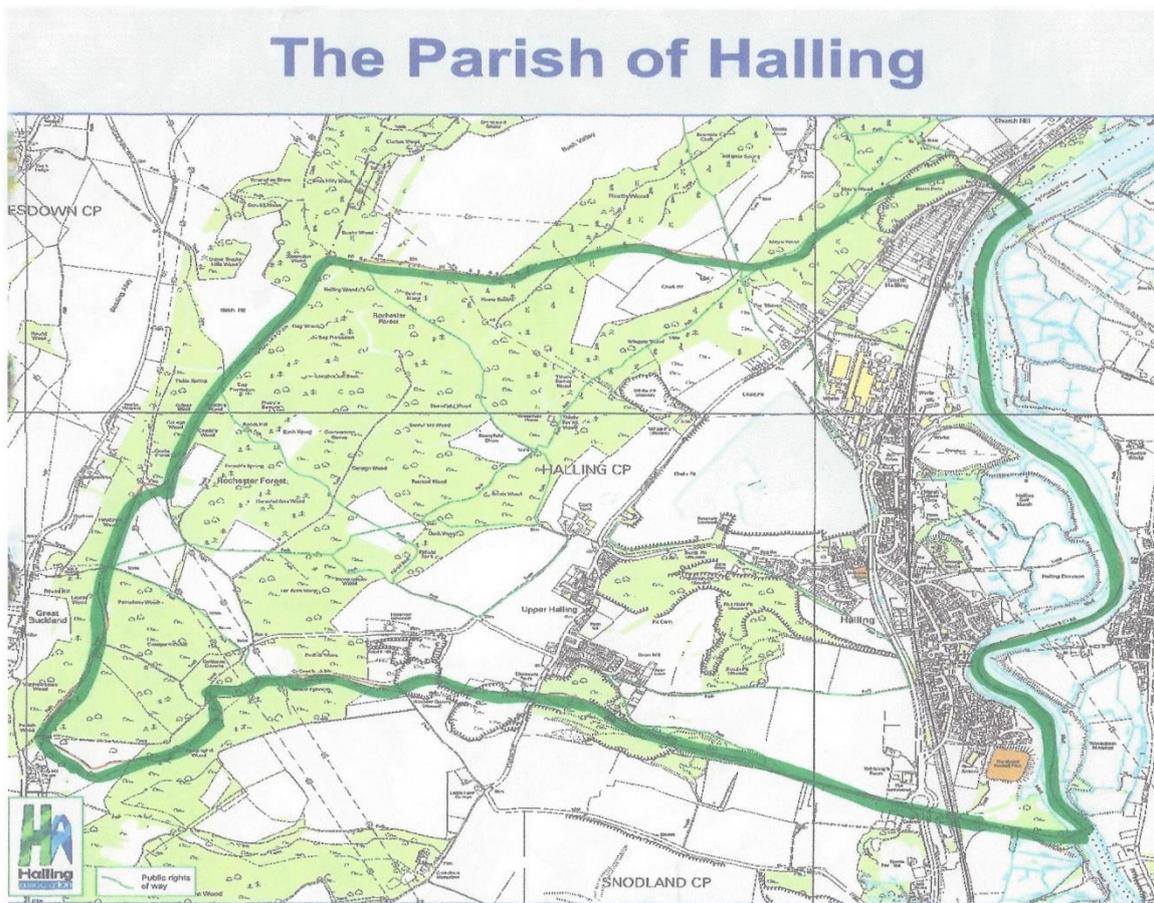
Unfortunately, there are some more sinister dangers as well. Before the game was officially released in the UK, the NSPCC demanded that its makers (Nintendo) introduce features to protect children, warning that predators could lure unsuspecting children to 'beacon' locations. But Nintendo released the game regardless. It's not just kids that are at risk from this kind of threat; adults, including vulnerable people, could also receive this kind of unwelcome attention.

Less obvious but still the case, is that the game's developer Niantic - a major shareholder of whom is Google's parent company - can collect data including your username, location, email address, IP address and the previous web page you were using. What are they going to do with all that data? Plus ... the game features in-app purchases such as Poké Balls which you make as you progress. So the costs of playing could start mounting up.

Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association asked Get Safe Online for some advice we can pass on to you as a player and/or a parent, and this is what they said:

- Be aware of your surroundings such as traffic, pedestrians, obstacles and private property when playing.
- Don't play while you're driving... it's an offence just like texting or dialling your phone.
- If you're a parent or have other responsibility for children, talk to them about the dangers of being lured to unknown locations, as well as playing safely in their surroundings.
- Keep track of in-app purchases and don't let your enthusiasm run away with you.
- Make sure you're aware of how your data may be used and shared.

ALWAYS ASK FOR ID WHEN ANSWERING THE DOOR TO CALLERS



Have your say:

We appreciate not everyone can attend PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS where matters can be raised by residents under parishioners' question time.

The Parish Office is open on Mon and Friday mornings and 9.30 – 4pm Wednesdays for you to call in with any issues you need the Clerk to pass on to the Councillors.

Alternatively, you can email us on hallingclerk@btconnect.com, or write your questions below and return to us at the office in the Community Centre and your comments will be passed on.

There are 7 notice boards around the village which are updated regularly with village information and also you can read what's going on, on our website WWW.HALLING-PC.CO.UK.

Please remember your Councillors act for you voluntarily in the interest of the village as a whole.

To Bill Swan
Clerk to Halling Parish Council
The Community Centre, 93 High Street, Lower Halling, Rochester ME2 1BS

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TO : Halling Parish Council, Clerk

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