LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS JUNE 2023



Lord Byron - the focus of the 2023 Lower Halstow Poetry and Arts
Festival on 10 June 2023

Compiled, edited and published for the village on behalf of St Margaret's Church

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

4 June 2023 - 8am, Quiet Communion with Rev Nick Carpenter

11 June 2023 - 10am, Family Worship with Rev Jacky Davis

18 June 2023 - 10am, Communion with Rev Jacky Davis and Neville Emslie

25 June 2023 - 10am Family Worship with Rev Amanda Lane

Also there is always a Sunday online service at 10.30am on The Six YouTube which can be accessed at: https://bit.ly/3JykJ8W

Midweek service

We hold a short midweek service of Praise and Prayer in the church on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 10.30am. Prayers for the community, personal needs or illnesses and there is opportunity for prayer for yourself if you would like it All are welcome and you are invited to stay for tea/coffee after. Rev. Jacky Davis, 843189.

Altar Flower Rota

4 June 2023 - Yvonne

11June 2023 - Liz and Helen

18 June 2023 - Lynne and Helen

25 June 2023 - Lesley

ST MARGARET'S BEREAVEMENT COFFEE TIME

Just a reminder our meeting is still available to anyone who has had a sad loss of loved ones. We have great conversation, and laugh, but still remembering those who have passed away. It may feel difficult to walk through the door on your own, but be well assured, you will soon feel "at home". Please contact Jackie 07840 258665 for any queries. We even have a social secretary, who arranges day outings for us.

ELM FARM PICK YOUR OWN DAFFODILS

Elm farm pick your own daffodils raised £315. All monies raised has gone back into the village £200 to the newsletter and £115 to the village hall.

Many thanks Elm Farm

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

"And the times, they are a-changing ... " Many of us grew up with the songs of Bob Dylan. Recently, the Nobel Academy awarded him their Prize for Literature, feeling that his words struck chords in ways that resonated with our lives..

Recent years have seen all those lives changing in major ways. Nothing stands still. Some of these pressures seem new to the human race, whether as nations and peoples or as families and individuals. It can be hard to keep up with it all and find some place of peace and stability. We need strength, a sense of direction, and hope for a resolution to our anxieties.



It can seem strange to think that some wandering Middle East preacher from a long past century could have anything to do with what we face today. But his times also challenged everyone with change, uncertainty and danger. He put himself at the centre of all their stresses and conflicts, from the deeply personal to the national. Something about him attracted people to him and led them to centre their lives around him. He

offered and asked of them unconditional love for one another.

And today he still offers help for our inmost pains and sorrows. If he really was the person that those who were with him believed he was, then he can be a channel for the meaning of our lives today. As a follower of his wrote, we can "cast our cares on him" and find hope.

Sincerely, Revd Ron Partridge, Lower Halstow Depiction of Jesus by artist Bas Uterwijk based on typical faces in the region

LOWER HALSTOW'S NOVELTY DOG SHOW

An update from Kay Howard-Challis:

The Dog Show was successful, and although the weather was doubtful, the rain held off, so enabling people with their dogs, to come along. There were a lot of comments, that the rosettes were truly beautiful, and the King Charles Medals were also gratefully received. We tried to make sure that all the children had a medal, so if we saw a child without one, they were asked If they wanted one, and the answer was always, 'yes please'.

We had quite a few new people, who had come along, some as far as Gatwick and Essex, they were so impressed with our Lower Halstow Novelty Dog Show, that they are certainly coming next year. Thank you to Pat Perret, Julia, Sophy, Pop Up Cafe, Kerry Gardener and Keith Howard-Challis, without yourselves the show could not have taken place, thank you again. Also a huge thank you to Mark and Gemma Stevens for providing the bales of straw, they were needed for the Dog Races, which was so enjoyed by all the competitors, again thank you both.

And again, a big thank you, to all who came, you too certainly helped to make The Dog Show such a success.

And remember. everyone took The Best In Show Dog, home.

RUMMIKUB GROUP - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

From Emily Bartlett:

A small Rummikub group meets ONCE a MONTH at my house, 1pm-3pm on the 1st THURSDAY of the month - the next session will be on 1 June 2023. Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

THE THREE TUNS - LIVE MUSIC, FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2023

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in June. There will be live music in the pub from 9pm on Friday 2 June 2023 by J & T Duo.

LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL

Unfortunately due to the few, who use the Village Hall's tea towels, that we had found used tea towels left, dirty and smelly in a washing up bowl, therefore, we are now asking EVERYONE WHO USES THE HALL, TO PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TEA TOWELS AND TAKE THEM HOME AFTERWARDS. Kay Howard-Challis, Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Booking Clerk.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

An update from Judy Telford:

Nightingales have been heard and occasionally seen in at least four places on the Brickie, Cuckoo has been seen and heard. Common Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats and Reed Buntings have been heard - our summer visitors are coming back. Flowers are starting to appear and a few butterflies and bees have been seen although Spring is slow starting this year.

For anyone interested in moths we intend running a moth trap on the evening of 29th June and a follow up walk on Friday 30th, if you would like to attend please contact me for details.

I have a long list of thanks; a huge one to Sam and Paul at the Oak Grove for letting us use their lovely venue for free. To Michael and Amanda van der Straaten for doing an amazing job organising the Spring Ball which was a great success and raised almost £1,500 for the Brickfield. To George Peters for giving an excellent talk at the Friend's AGM, raising almost £100 to split between the Friends and St Margarets. To Jackie Swift and friends who helped with the setting up and the catering for this event. Who would have thought an AGM would be so popular? LOL! Thanks to the kind lady who gave us a generous donation and to all those who donated shingle for path repairs. Please do NOT dump mud / brick rubble onto the paths, if you have anything which you think may be suitable for repairs please consult the PC or the FotB Committee before dumping it. Some mud and rubble has appeared and it may have to be removed as it is unsuitable for path repair, particularly in that spot.

Next work party Sunday 11 June 2023 meeting at 10am at the Lapwing Drive entrance to the Brickfields. Will be mostly light pruning and litter picking with a possible walk round to see what's happening with the flora and fauna and discuss future plans.

If you are on Facebook we have a page; Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields on which we share news and history plus the natural world on the site. Otherwise we can be contacted by email; friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 1, 15 and 29 June 2023

MOBILITY ITEMS

A temporary home has been found for the village mobility items, a minimum of 24 hours notice is needed at present and the contact details are: Jackie Swift 842749 or Dawn Drury 842688

KEEP FIT GROUP

A friendly group of ladies meet for walks on Monday/Wednesday evenings from the Memorial Hall. For more information call Liz on 842272.

LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS

All are welcome.

Starting at 10am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brickfields, and usually there will be two walks on offer; a brisk 2 hour walk and a one and a half/two hour walk at a more moderate pace (the slower walk will have opportunities for an earlier detour if the distance is longer than some walkers can manage). Walkers who want to go faster can, but will be asked to wait for the rest of the group at suitable points, as currently happens, this way we can be inclusive of everyone. A short walk will be available for up to one hour if people request it in advance, please contact Margaret on 07964 067915 to arrange it.

The first Monday of every month when we walk to the golf club we will still have two walks, one taking the shortest route possible, arriving first and therefore being served first. Sturdy walking shoes/boots and a waterproof jacket are recommended.

Please phone Margaret on 843927 for more information

LOWER HALSTOW POETRY AND ARTS FESTIVAL - SATURDAY, 10 JUNE 2023, 10AM - 4PM

Everyone is welcome to come along and entrance to this fun event is completely free!

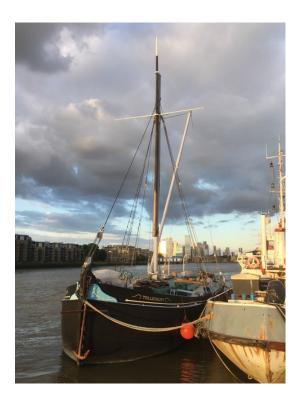
This year's Poetry and Arts Festival is taking place on Saturday 10 June 2023 from 10am to 4pm in the church. Join us to discover Byron's connection to our village and so much more!

Highlights will be:

- Poems, pictures and more from the children of Lower Halstow Primary School
- Children's craft activities
- Free books for every child from the Festival's Treasure Chest
- Talks by:
 - George Peters on what Stangate Creek would have looked like when Byron's body was taken there for quarantine
 - Carina Jacobs on Byron's animals
 - Cllr Mike Baldock on the cultural impact of Lord Byron
- A video of George Peters reading Byron's Darkness
- Photos taken by villagers, many from unusual perspectives
- Open mic session
- Wonderful refreshments, organised by the church ladies
- Free tour of the "new" barge in the dock, the Tollesbury

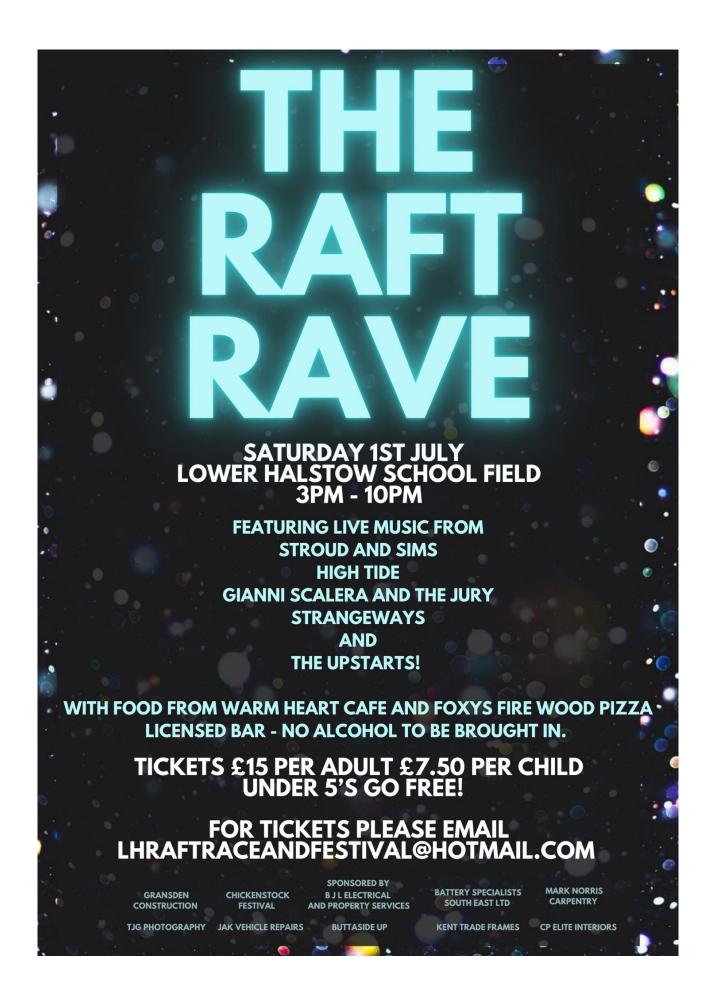
Do you have a favourite poem? Or write your own poetry? Would you like to tell a story? Register now for a slot at our open mic session carinaj65@outlook.com

Tollesbury before she docked at Lower Halstow









FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S, LOWER HALSTOW SOCIAL CLUB - TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM

SMILE MALAWI

Come and find out about the amazing achievement of the charity Smile Malawi, celebrating 20 years.

Memorial Hall, 7.30pm – 9pm.

Refreshments will be available. Raffle. Entry £4 Enquiries to Liz Mouland 842272

FACEBOOK PAGE FOR GARDENERS

A friendly group for anyone interested in green-fingered hobbies such as gardening, allotments, fruit and veg growing, house plants and flower arranging. Everyone welcome including absolute beginners. Please search on Facebook for Our Lower Halstow and Upchurch Community for Gardeners and Growers.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Swale Food Bank is supported by the Trussell Trust which provides food and toiletries in Swale and surrounding areas. This is run in partnership with local churches including St. Margaret's of Lower Halstow part of "The Six" .The aim is to provide 3 days emergency food and support to local people referred to the Food Bank in a crisis.The collection point in Lower Halstow is 34 Crouch Hill Court. Please place any food/toiletry items in grey box by garage, or if money in an envelope marked "Food Bank" into letter box

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The penultimate term of the year has already got off to a busy start!



Our Year 5 class headed off for a day at Leeds Castle, they enjoyed dressing up in period costume and participating in role-play as occupants of the castle. They also had a tour of the castle and grounds and completed various workshops to help them with their understanding of monarchs – several of the children said it was their best primary school trip so far.

Meanwhile Year 3 were very busy as they managed to squeeze two trips in. Firstly, they headed off to Horton Kirby to complete a fieldwork trip at

the river. They focused on the physical features of the river, played Pooh Sticks, looked at how the physical and human features have changed over time and even got to look at the permeability of rocks under the microscope. The following week they headed off to the Living Land at the Detling Showground, here they learnt about different aspects of farming and country living, they came back from both trips with lots of stories to tell.





We were very excited to hear that we had won an award from some we did during the last academic year on being smart with money. Due to the number of workshops that took place in Lower Halstow School, we were awarded the HSBC Smart Money award and for our efforts, we received a beautiful glass trophy.

Now that the weather has turned warmer and a bit drier, we have managed to get outside for quite a few sporting events. Firstly, our Year 5 pupils took their Level 1 and 2 Bikeability course and all successfully passed; they were awarded with Bikeability certificates and badges certifying that they were able to ride safely in the school grounds and on the roads around the village.

A group of Year 3 and 4 girls attended the Big Football event for girls; this was open to all schools in Swale. The girls took part in a variety of ball skills and fitness activities to raise the profile of women's football.



As a whole school, we took part in this year's TCS marathon; every child in the school made a pledge to run the mile, which could be anytime in Term 5. We all managed to get out and complete the run in order to be part of the TCS World Record attempt of the most children



completing the mini marathon in one month. We have got our fingers crossed that we helped to break that record!

A key highlight of this term was the work the school completed on being Eco friendly. Every class made a pledge of something they were going to do in order to help look after our environment. Year 5 and 6 focused on turning lights and appliances off when they are not needed/being used. Year 1 and 4 completed litter picks around the school; Year 1 also created a recycling box for all their paper and card. Year 2 have started composting their fruit scraps from their morning break. As a whole school, at lunchtimes we are now separating our food waste from the packets etc. that can be recycled. Everyone is working so hard to look after our environment.

It was an important term for our Year 6 pupils as they sat their SATs tests. They all tried so hard and we were really proud at how hard they have worked in the lead up to these assessments. We have the agonising wait for the results now, which will not come out until July.

The SATs week ended in style as we held a party to celebrate the end of the SATs as well as the Coronation of King Charles III. Despite the wind and rain there was still a lovely atmosphere in the hall, which was decorated with bunting and flags. The children ate lots of party food, listened to music through the ages, sang God Save the King and played traditional party games.

We have fitted so much in so far this term but there is still lots to look

forward to in the forthcoming weeks.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council wishes to remind everyone that the lighting of bonfires on any part of the Brickfields, which is owned by the Parish Council is prohibited. It poses a serious fire risk not only to surrounding trees and shrubs, but to our wildlife habitats as well.

Dog walkers please pick up your dog waste and deposit it in one of the many dog waste bins provided on the brickfields and around our village.

An Overview of Lower Halstow Parish Council Achievements for the year 2022/23

- The 20mph limit throughout the village has been agreed and we are waiting for installation of signage.
- Sea Wall repairs have been carried out and new signage added.
- Boat contracts reviewed and in place, dock repairs and electronics extended, new buoys and signage. A further vessel is now docked there (as well as the Edith May).
- A handrail and path have been added at the recreation ground, new football and basketball nets installed, all playground equipment serviced and roundabout repaired. Games table donated, logs laid around Gibbs amenity area to prevent unauthorised access of vehicles.
- Regular liaison between Lower Halstow Parish Council and Friends of the Brickfields and a new kissing gate installed.
- The bench at memorial wood repaired.
- Jubilee Festival held with support of the Jubilee Group, an oak tree
 has been planted at Britannia Green and a memorial plaque
 installed.
- All the village Allotments at three sites around the village and the residents' car park (Westfield car park) maintained and run.
- The village defibrillator repaired and serviced (located at Three Tuns).
- Noticeboards by the old post office are being replaced and "Lower Halstow" sign is in the process of being revamped.
- Our dedicated litter picker employed to keep the village tidy. Grass cutting of Gibbs, the burial ground, recreation field, Village Green and Britannia Green arranged. Dog bags supplied at dog bin locations.
- Anti-slip pads on Gibbs bridge.
- Church Path resurfaced.
- Dedicated hedges and signage maintained.
- Bridle Path prohibition notices installed at Church Path and Heron Close.

- Planning Applications discussed monthly.
- The Parish Council are currently in the process of trying to purchase the" Ransom Strip" by the Brickfields as well as Gibbs Field, so they can be used more effectively by the village.
- Maintenance of lighting in village overseen by Lower Halstow Parish Council.
- Dog Show arranged on the village recreation ground.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Parish Council website (https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home) where you will find notices of local road closures, Parish Council policies, agendas and Minutes amongst other things. The Parish Council will post some items on the Village Facebook group, but this is not their main method to inform residents and it is not monitored by the council. Please contact the Clerk via email: clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or on 01760 336459 if you have any queries.

RECYCLING

In her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue, Lynne Morris can now only recycle:

Dental products Cheese wrappers Used stamps

No more medication blister packs as Superdrug will no longer take bulk donations. Small donations can be made individually at Superdrug, Sittingbourne.

A thank you from Lynne - thank you for all your donations over the years, we've kept a massive amount out of landfill and made small monetary donations to many charities at the same time.

And a big thank you to Lynne for everything she has done and continues to do.

LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM

Lower Halstow Yacht Club has a live weather station and webcam looking out over the creek. It is on the yacht club website and is open to everyone weather.lhyc.org.uk

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES: HALLOWEEN DISCO:

Thursday, 26 October 2023

SANTA SATURDAY:

Saturday, 9 December 2023



CONTENT

Please note that the editor is not responsible for any inaccuracies which may occur in items from contributors. Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments or corrections if necessary) as submitted.

The editor has to assume that the contributors have checked their facts. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct.

ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS

If you would like to advertise in the Village News minimum suggested donations are:

Full page £10 per month, Half page £5 per month, Quarter page - £2.50 per month.

All monies received go towards the cost of printing the newsletters. Everything else is done free of charge by volunteers.

The PCC reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable

The deadline for the July 2023 Village News is noon on 12 June 2023

Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to ransleyfamily@gmail.com

CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

If you notice any information is out of date, if anything has changed, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on ransleyfamily@gmail.com or call 843871

Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Lloyd Chapman, lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk Roger Clark, 430324, rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

0800 144 8848, citizens advice.org.uk

Cricket Club

Mark Stevens, 842090

Dog Warden

Daytime 417850 Out of hours 07795 237479

Flood Wardens

Kay Howard-Challis, 844408, kayhelen2017@outlook.com Abbie Dowell, abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com

Friends of the Brickfield

friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

Judo Club

Jon 07944 755036

Kent Wildlife Trust

01622 662012

KCC Potholes

03000 418187

Kent County Councillor

Mike Baldock, 471139, 07522 442964, mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Gordon Henderson, 423199, www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk

Memorial Hall

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com Bookings Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, LHNWatch1@gmail.com, 07894 792802, Facebook - Search Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

NHS

111

Noise nuisance

Daytime 417850 Out of hours 07881 817601

Parish Council

Parish Clerk, Ann Smith, clerk.lhpc@gmail.com, 01760 336459, https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish council-17855/home

PCSO

Kirsty Linge, call 101 or report online for non emergency issues

Playgroup

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

Police

General enquiries, 01622 690690, kent.police.uk Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

Samaritans

116 123 - free number day or night; email jo@samaritans.org (response time 24 hours

School

842344, https://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk/

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Richard Sutehall, lowerhalstow.gsl@sittingbournescouts.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls

John Mustoo, 843681, Mick Porter, Secretary, 484345

St Margaret's Church

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329 PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688 Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 842749

Swale Borough Council

Main office, 424341

The Three Tuns

842840, www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk, info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

Village News

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757 Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, ransleyfamily@gmail.com, 07771817152

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

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19 The Street, Lower Halstow
Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email: edenwood@sjpp.co.uk
Website: www.edenwoodwealth.com

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage

SJP APPROVED 10/03/2023



Upholstery and Furniture Painting Service

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