

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS JULY 2023

the return of
**THE LOWER HALSTOW
RAFT RACE!**

**SATURDAY 1ST JULY
REGISTRATION FROM 10AM - RACES FROM 11AM
£60 PER RAFT - MAXIMUM 6 PEOPLE PER RAFT.
RAFTS MUST BE HOME MADE WITH NO ENGINES!
ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 13 AND SIGN A WAIVER.**



followed by
THE RAFT RAVE!

**2:30 - 10PM
LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD,
SCHOOL LANE, ME9 7ES
TICKETS: ADULT - £15, CHILD - £7.50, UNDER 5'S - FREE!**



**&
THE UPSTARTS!**

GET TICKETS NOW AT LHRAFTRACEANDFESTIVAL@HOTMAIL.COM

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

(*2 July 2023 - 10.30am Benefice Communion Service at St Mary the Virgin Upchurch with Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkes 2023)

9 July 2023 - 10am Family Worship with Andrea Staniforth

16 July 2023 - 10am Communion with Rev Jacky Davis

23 July 2023 - 10am Family Worship with Rev Nick Carpenter

30 July 2023 - 10am Communion with Rev Jacky Davis

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 SERVICES

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

2 July 2023 - Gillian

9 July 2023 - Eileen

16 July 2023 - Georgina

23 July 2023 - Yvonne

30 July 2023 - Liz and Helen

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.

CRAFT MORNING, TUESDAY 25 JULY 2023, 10AM TO 12PM

Craft Morning at St Margaret's Church on 25 July 10-12am. The theme this time is Jesus and water. We will be including crafts and fun for all ages. Refreshments included. Donations welcome.

All are welcome to come.

THANK YOUS

From Jackie Swift:

The church always likes to acknowledge and thank people for their help and kindness. Firstly, we thank Bradley Jacobs for his generous help in repairing the music system. Such a great job successfully completed. Following on, Chris and David for their hard work in removing ivy around the church building, Peter for his odd jobs. Always remembering the ladies who help with the cleaning. Michelle for years of putting out the bins. The ladies who help serving tea, for visitors. Not forgetting Dawn and Jo, for their roles on the PCC, and the PCC members. Lastly, the clergy, for their dedication. All in all, the church could not function without all the people behind the scenes. Your name may not have been mentioned but you know who you are, and so do we. Many blessings to you all.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

I hope by the time you read this that summer will have arrived. As I write this in June half term the temperature is nothing like it should be. Taking the grandchildren to Faversham outdoor pool was not the experience it should have been.

When you read this in July, Wimbledon will probably be over and Holiday season started. For me it will be a busy time of Weddings, Baptisms, and the Golf season. Golf courses will have firm running fairways and greens where the ball just keeps on rolling. Barbeques will be fired up and beer, Rose/ white wine and Gin sales will be on the rise. Beach trips and social occasions in the garden may be the things that become a focus during the warmer weather. With the unreliability of our

weather many people will feel the need to make hay while the sun shines and take advantage of every good weather day that comes along.

And why not after the isolation and hardships of Covid 19 and the economic difficulties caused by the fuel and food price issues, that have been a consequence of the Ukraine war.

For many this is ongoing, due to long Covid or grief due to losing loved ones. The financial crisis may be affecting many, that thinking about a holiday or having spare money to have people round may feel unrealistic.

The summer can have the affect of raising our mood with the warmth and natural beauty of nature surrounding us. However, some may find the heat and the hay fever season a bit of a trial.

Jesus in Johns Gospel said he had come so that we could have life and have it in abundance. This may look very different to each one of us as we are all different and have different likes and needs.

Whatever you like to do in the summer I hope you will find it enjoyable and that it enhances your life and those you love or care for. I remember as a child going on a weekly ticket down to the seaside towns of the Kent coast. It was all we could afford but I remember those holidays with as much fondness as trips to Spain or Greece. Remember to enjoy the beauty that is in your back garden and the area around you. Sometimes the best things in life are free.

Blessings

Rev Nick

AND SOME MORE THANK YOUS

More from Jackie Swift:

I must not forget the Village News people, Gill the editor, who puts together our monthly “goings on” which is so important for our village life. Glenda, who coordinates the magazines, and then delivers them to

the various people who kindly pops them in our doors. A great team. So many thanks.

The Poetry Festival - This year Lord Byron - a very colourful poet
A great day, which was organised by Carina and her team. The weather was perfect and the day went well. Stories were told, poems were read, books to read, and even a television to watch. Cllr Mike Baldock always supports the Festival (and the village), and last of all refreshments were served. Well done everyone.

And a big thank you to Jackie who does so much for our village. Gill

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 6 July 2023. Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

THE THREE TUNS - BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL, AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in July.

Save the date for the Annual Beer and Cider Festival from Saturday 26 August to Bank Holiday Monday 28 August 2023.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

An update from Judy Telford:

The very dry summer last year coupled with the cool northerly winds we've had for weeks have been bad for our insects, very few bees and butterflies about, hopefully the warmer weather will see a few more emerging. There are a few young birds about now so please keep your dogs under close control to avoid disturbing the babies.

We are in the middle of another prolonged dry period so please, please do not light fires nor have barbecues on the Brickfield. The signs at the gates are pretty clear but still we see piles of ash on the site, sooner or

later there'll be another wildfire and maybe someone hurt or property damaged.

On a lighter note, the flower plot behind the War Memorial is beginning to look like a flower plot at last, shows what the site would be like if we didn't have so many rabbits! If you are walking on the Brickie please take time to go and look at the flowers and the many different grasses growing inside the fenced off area behind the memorial.

Our next work party will be on Sunday 9 July 2023, meet at 10am at the gate at the end of Lapwing Drive. All welcome and if you don't feel you are able to help just come along and chat to us, see what we do and find out our plans for the future.

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 or on 07486 530068

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 13 and 27 July 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 local 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

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

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.

THE RETURN OF THE LOWER HALSTOW RAFT RACE

BACK AFTER 21 YEARS!

**SATURDAY 1ST JULY
LOWER HALSTOW BRICKFIELDS
REGISTRATION FROM 10AM
RACES FROM 11AM**

£60 PER RAFT

MAXIMUM 6 PER RAFT

RAFTS MUST BE HOME MADE WITH NO ENGINES.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 18

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN A WAIVER

FAILURE TO COMPLETE WAIVER MEANS YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE



**TO BOOK YOUR RAFT, PLEASE EMAIL
LHRAFTRACEANDFESTIVAL@HOTMAIL.COM**

SPONSORED BY:



THE RAFT RAVE

**SATURDAY 1ST JULY
LOWER HALSTOW SCHOOL FIELD
3PM - 10PM**

**FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM
STROUD AND SIMS
HIGH TIDE
GIANNI SCALERA AND THE JURY
STRANGWAYS
AND
THE UPSTARTS!**

**WITH FOOD FROM WARM HEART CAFE AND FOXYS FIRE WOOD PIZZA
LICENSED BAR - NO ALCOHOL TO BE BROUGHT IN.**

**TICKETS £15 PER ADULT £7.50 PER CHILD
UNDER 5'S GO FREE!**

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LOWER HALSTOW



GARAGE

SALE

SATURDAY 8TH JULY 2023

9.00AM – 1.00PM



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**£5.00 PITCH FEE DONATION TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH COMMUNITY FUNDS. CONTACT RICHARD
ASBURY - LHNWATCH1@GMAIL.COM**

**TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - MEMORIAL HALL, TUESDAY 25 JULY
2023, 7.30 TO 9PM**

**THE SPIRIT OF INVICTA
BOB OGLEY**

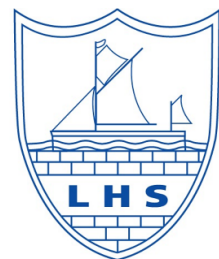
This is a story about the county of Kent and why the motto for the county is Invicta. This talk takes us through the highlights of the 20th century from flying machines and sporting victories to archaeological discoveries and engineering achievements; a few major scandals, chilling disasters, artistic triumphs and dramatic moments in the most exciting and dramatic century Kent has ever known.

Refreshments will be available. Raffle. Entry £4

*The Tuesday Social Club is part of Friends of St Margaret's Church,
Lower Halstow. For more information call Liz 01795 842272*

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The whole school have been thinking about being charitable this term and have planned and led a range of fundraising activities to support two charities of their choice. Each class chose some charities that meant something to them and then the school council voted on their favourites. Lower Halstow School chose to support Cancer Research UK and the World Wildlife Fund. Each class decided on what they would do to raise money. The events included 'Break the Rules' days, a cake sale, a sponsored run and a lemonade sale. The proceeds are still being counted however, each class was proud of what they had achieved.



Acorn Class (Year R) visited Curly's Farm on the Isle of Sheppey and tried their hand at being farmers for the day. They learnt what it takes to care for the livestock, where our food comes from and engaged in lots of hands on learning activities, including feeding the animals. Meanwhile our Year 6 children attended a Safety in Action event at Swallows Leisure centre – the aim was to make them aware of staying safe as they head off to their secondary schools.

To celebrate the end of the Year 2 'special tests', the children in Willow class enjoyed an afternoon of reading with their families in the school hall. Many books were enjoyed and a few snacks made it even more special.

The Summer terms are great for sporting events and this term kicked off (excuse the pun) by some of our Year 6 children entering a Tag Rugby competition in which they all came back with medals! We were very proud of their sportsmanship and how well they represented our school. We look forward to many more sporting events this term.

Willow Class feature:

Willow class have had an amazing term so far! They have all enjoyed writing their own poems inspired by Lord Byron ready to be displayed in the church as part of the Lower Halstow Poetry Festival. They wrote all about the seasons and what they might see and do in each season. Amelie's favourite season was Summer as it reminded her of the colours pink, yellow, orange and red. Alice liked Winter as it reminded her of the colours pastel blue, white, sky blue, muted purple and navy. Priscilla's favourite thing this term was the lemonade stand. The children made their own lemonade and then sold it after school to raise money for WWF as part of the school's Charity Week. They had to create their own posters, research recipes and carefully consider the pricing. Dylan told us that we needed to have water, lemons, cups, honey and sugar. Willow added that we need "strawberries and raspberries for strawberry lemonade" which Christopher thought should be called 'Strawberry-ade'.

The children have started a wonderful topic based around Kenya, they have had great fun comparing the village in 'Lila and the Secret of the Rain' with our village, Lower Halstow.

Willow class have had a fabulous year and cannot believe it is Term 6 already! They've learnt so much and cannot wait for the adventures of Year 3.'

Michelle Crowe, Head of School

LOWER HALSTOW SCARECROW TRAIL 2023

Message from Judy Haynes:

The scarecrow trail is back and will be running from Friday 20th to Sunday 29th October. The theme this year is Heroes and Heroines, Fact or Fiction. If you would like to build a scarecrow, or host a scarecrow in

your garden, then please register your interest by dropping us an email at the address below. We'll send over a link to the registration form closer to the time.

There is a small change this year as the main organisers have children in their final year of school. To ensure the continuation of the trail, it has been agreed with the school that the scarecrow trail can break away into its own community group. Funds will still be donated to the school. If you are associated with the village, and are interested in joining the new community group, then please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. Our new email address is lowerhalstowscarecrows@gmail.com . Thanks for your ongoing support.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

To mark the King's coronation, the Parish Council has purchased an Alder tree. As the tree is just a sapling it will be planted during the winter months in its final position near the Jubilee oak tree.

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.

FUNDRAISE FOR KSS THIS SUMMER

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) delivers world-leading pre-hospital emergency care 24/7 to the 4.8 million people who live in its region – plus the many millions more who travel through this area, which has some of the busiest roads in the country. Its crews of pilots, doctors and paramedics responded to 3,224 incidents in 2022, the charity's busiest year in its 33-year history.

Each year, the charity must raise £16.6M – equivalent to £45K per day - to operate its life-saving service, with 87% of its total income raised through the generosity of its supporters. Throughout the year, KSS organises a number of different fundraising events and, this summer, there are lots of opportunities to take part and help the life-saving charity raise vital funds.

Cuppa for your Crew

This summer, why not host a Cuppa for your Crew by bringing together friends and family for a cuppa and slice of something nice? Whether you host a coffee morning or bake sale stall - at home, work or as part of a community group – each sweet treat sold and cuppa consumed will help KSS to keep flying and save lives.

100 miles in July

Can you cover 100 miles in a month and raise money for your local air ambulance charity? You have the whole of July to complete the miles in any way you want, from roller skating to running, swimming to skipping, paddle-boarding to power walking - it's up to you! Team up with family or friends and split the miles between you or complete your miles solo.

KSS Ride

Returning for its third year on Sunday 20 August, KSS Ride offers horse riders the opportunity to enjoy an eight-mile hack through the beautiful woodland and farmland of the Bilsington Priory Estate in Kent whilst raising funds. Pre-booking is required: aakss.org/kssride

Lauren Simmons, Head of Events at KSS, said: "Every pound raised by taking part in our fundraising events makes a real difference, helping us to ensure we can be there for the most critically ill patients in their hour of need. On behalf of KSS, a very big thank you to everyone who supports us. We could not do what we do without you."

For further information: aakss.org.uk

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 DATE 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 items for the August 2023 Village News is noon on
12 July 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, citizensadvice.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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SJP APPROVED 10/03/2023

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