

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS SEPTEMBER 2023



*Our beautifully restored village sign
Photo taken by Martin Szabo*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

*3 September 2023 - 10.30am The Six Communion at St Mary the Virgin
Newington with Rev Julian Staniforth

10 September 2023 - 10am Family Worship with Lis Willmet

17 September 2023 - 10am Communion with Rev Jacky Davis

24 September 2023 - 10am Family Worship with Rev Julian Staniforth

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

3 September 2023 - Georgina

10 September 2023 - Yvonne

17 September 2023 - Liz

24 September 2023 - Lynne

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES, ANNUAL RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 9 September 2023, 10am - 6 pm

This is a great fundraising opportunity for St Margaret's Church and
all churches within the county. The idea is you get sponsorship for the
number of churches you can visit on the day. There are literally
hundreds of churches open to welcome you, sign your form and offer
you sustenance. A great ride is the round trip between all six churches
within our Benefice. For more details and sponsorship forms call Liz on
842272.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

So we are now in September. For me this month represents autumn ... and the new school year ... and also (just so you know) my wedding anniversary.

For me September's changeable weather has become associated with those particular life events. So in early September whenever there is a day of mistiness and a smell of damp in the air I remember, age 11, walking in to my new school for the first day of term. Despite the dreary weather and my feeling of trepidation, I know that the day itself went well. I remember that I was in a class with two of my friends, that the form teacher was welcoming and that I had managed not to get lost. The memory is a good one. And then on really wet days in mid-September I recall that the day before our wedding it rained torrentially. We wondered if we would all be soaked to the skin - and we had an umbrella at the ready expecting the worst. But the wedding day itself turned out to be warm and sunny – and wonderful.

September then is a time of year that is linked in my mind with change and new starts, and with that internal tension of nervousness and excitement and “what ifs”. But it is also a time that is associated with hopefulness.

Hopefulness offers us a sense of being positive as we look ahead despite what may be going on in our lives. As Christians we worship a God of hope – and as we trust in Jesus we can know, in faith, that all will be well – no matter what.

At the beginning of August I went to New Wine for a day. New Wine is a Christian organisation that has an annual conference which, this year, was held at Detling. On the day the sunny weather I expect in August was completely absent. I spared a thought for all the people camping on a showground that was being battered by wind and rain. But the camaraderie was great. The worship was amazing. And the message delivered reminded me again that we always have hope – that God

knows us and loves us and is with us. He offers us amazing opportunities. And the best is yet to come.

So for all of you who are experiencing change, who are starting something new, who have children about to go to a new school, who are getting married.... "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13 NIV)

With love and blessings,
Lis

GOOD LUCK

From Glenda Tress:

How lovely it was to see the school leavers parading round the village on their last day of school, with lots of villagers cheering them on and wishing them luck as they went past. Good luck to them all at their new school and also the little acorns as they start their journey into big school.

A THANK YOU

From Rob Smith:

Congratulations to ALL involved with the Village News, it is an excellent reflection of "whats on" in the Village, and it is expertly produced. We appreciate it and look forward to it coming through our doors!

(Thank you for your kind words Rob, from everyone involved in getting the Village News to all homes in the village)

RUMMIKUB GROUP - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

A small Rummikub group meets ONCE a MONTH at Emily Bartlett's house, 1pm-3pm on the 1st THURSDAY of the month - the next session will be on 7 September 2023. Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

An update from Judy Telford:

Autumn seems well and truly on its way, Blackberries ripening, Hips and Haws changing colour, Rowan trees laden with berries, where did that summer go?

Derek Tutt will be leading a walk around the site on Saturday, 9 September 2023, meeting at the Lapwing Drive entrance at 10.30 a.m. As I'm sure most of you know, Derek is very knowledgeable regarding local nature and is always interesting to listen to. The walk is free to attend but there will be an opportunity for voluntary donations at the end of the session. All welcome, come along and find out more about this amazing little nature reserve.

Thanks to a recent very generous donation from a lovely lady we have bought a new (very expensive) battery for our brush cutter.

Our next work party will be on Sunday 10 September, meeting at Lapwing Drive entrance at 10 a.m. The following one will be the all hands on deck reed bed cut and burn on Saturday 14 October 2023. Doesn't seem five minutes since the last one!

Don't forget our Facebook page for all the latest news. To get in touch email friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com or ring me 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 7 and 21 September 2023

KEEP FIT GROUP

A friendly group of ladies will be meeting for DIY keep fit on Monday evenings 7-8pm in the Memorial Hall from 11 September 2023. For more information call Liz on 842272.

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

**TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, TUESDAY
26 SEPTEMBER 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM**

Tuesday 26 September 2023
The Memorial Hall at 7.30pm
The Old Forge War Time House
a talk by Jacqui and Steve Leppert

A fascinating insight into a local household in the early 1940s,
giving a brief history of the Old Forge and how life may have
been lived there during WWII.

Entry £4 Refreshments Raffle
For further information call Liz 842272

**COMMUNITY MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING -
FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2023, LOWER HALSTOW
SCHOOL, 8.50AM TO 10.10AM**

The village school would like to invite everyone to their
community coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan.

Some of the children will be involved in serving the cakes
and coffee and also offering school tours.

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in September.

LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS - MONDAYS,10AM

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 SCARECROW TRAIL 2023

Message from Judy Haynes:

The Lower Halstow Scarecrow Trail 2023 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. It is free to take part. This year, we are introducing more prize categories to ensure that your talents are fully recognised and rewarded.

We are also looking for sponsors. If you are a business who is interested in sponsoring the event in some way, please get in touch. Our new email address is lowerhalstowscarecrows@gmail.com . Thanks for your ongoing support.

BLACK SACKS

From Kay Howard-Challis:

It has been observed that people, dump black sacks of rubbish, next to Village litter bins.

These bins are for people and children with sweet wrappers etc., NOT LARGE BLACK SACKS WITH, WHO KNOWS WHAT IN THEM.

In particular, a 'Lady 'pulled up, got out of her car, and proceeded to take two black sacks of rubbish out of her car, and dumped them beside the litter bin in Landrail Road, and then drove off, her registration number was taken down, it, THIS TIME, it was not reported to the POLICE . If she or anyone, seen dumping any sort of rubbish within our Village, they will be reported to the Police, where, as I understand, a heavy bill will be demanded.
SO DON'T DO IT.

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.)

LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL - AGM, TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.15PM

The hall will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 10 October 2023 at 7.15 pm prompt.

All villagers are welcome (please note the hall is not run by the Parish Council it is run by the Trustees). For any queries please email lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

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.

KENT POLICE ANNUAL SURVEY 2023

From the office of the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner:

We have launched our annual consultation about the performance of Kent Police and crime levels in local areas. It's an anonymous survey, it will take about 5 minutes to complete and it is important, because the Commissioner uses the data to challenge the Chief Constable and hold him to account. It also informs him about crime in local areas etc.

You can find the survey at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KentPolicingSurvey2023/>



**Do you trust Kent
Police?**



**Take part in our Annual
Policing Survey**

POEM FOUND BY VICKY GOVIER

WAS LIFE REALLY LIKE THAT?

*We went and we married, a long time ago;
We worked for long hours and wages were low;
No TVs, no wireless, no bath, times were hard;
Just a cold water tap and a walk up the yard.*

*No holidays for us, no posh carpets on floors,
But we'd coal on the fire and we didn't lock doors.*

*Our children arrived (no pill in those days)
And we brought them up without any state aid.*

*They were quite safe to go and play in the park
And old folk could go for a walk after dark,
No valium, no drugs and no LSD,
We cured most ills with a good cup of tea.*

*But if you were sick you were treated at once,
Not "fill up that form and come back in six months".
No vandals, no muggings - there was nothing to rob -
And we felt quite rich with a couple of bob.*

*People were happier in those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkmen and paper boys would whistle and sing;
A night at the pictures was our one mad fling.*

*We all get our share of trouble and strife.
We just have to face it - that's the pattern of life.
But now we're alone and look back through the years,
We don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears.
We remember the blessings, our home and our love,
And that we've shared them together, I thank God above*

Author unknown



NEW SCHOOL-START WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER



@HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

FORGE LANE ,

UPCHURCH

ME97AE

CONTACT US-

EDGE_STUDIOS@YAHOO.COM

TIMETABLE

wednesdays

6-6.45pm- 6yrst+ Hip Hop

6.45-7.30-12yrst+ HipHop

Saturdays

9-9.45am- Baby Ballet 3yrst+

9.45-10.30- Boogie Beats Streetdance 3yrst+

10.30-11.30- Musical Theatre

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 October 2023 Village News is noon on 12 September 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 07771 817152

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 Police Officer

PC Jez Chittim, jez.chittim@kent.police.uk, no direct phone number call 101 or 999 in an emergency

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>

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, 078402 58665

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,

07771 817152

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

FROM THE ARCHIVES

All photos kindly supplied by Glenda Tress

Our village sign was first erected and unveiled in 2000 as part of celebrations for the millenium





Gifts were given to the oldest resident - Moses Croucher, the youngest resident - Terri Armfield and the resident who had lived in the village the longest - Ella Pawsey

UNIQUELY YOURS FLOWERS AND MORE

A village based flower arranging business offering flowers and crafts for all occasions, tailored to meet your needs.

No job too small. Find me on Facebook or at <https://www.uniquelyyoursflowers.co.uk> or call Liz on 07730 893747



**Upholstery and Furniture
Painting Service**

Do you have an unloved item of furniture that needs a new lease of life?
If so, then I offer an upholstery and painting service.
To find out more, please contact Sandra on 07588 505539
or email me at vintagehaus@mail.com

**Why not visit my Etsy shop for more gifts and inspiration at
[Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheVintageHausShop) then search for the TheVintageHausShop**

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Chartered Financial Planner
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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

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07738834782 - 01634 926911

Info@bcwindowcleaning.co.Uk

Www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk

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For Free Estimate And Advice Call Jack*

jstreecare01@gmail.com

