

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS October 2023



*A beautiful Rowan tree at the Memorial Wood
Photo supplied by Judy Telford*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

- 1 October 2023 - 8am, Quiet Communion
- 8 October 2023 - 10am, Family Worship (Harvest)
- 15 October 2023 - 10am, Communion
- 22 October 2023 - 10am, Family Worship
- 29 October 2023 - 10am, Communion

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

- 1 October 2023 - Lesley
- 8 October 2023 - Gillian
- 15 October 2023 - Eileen
- 22 October 2023 - Georgina
- 29 October 2023 - Yvonne

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When We Return from Holiday.

The summer season with holiday trips is behind us. Of course there are still many opportunities in autumn to get to places and enjoy less heat and less people around, but summer and school holidays are still pivotal for many.

Every summer we go to Slovakia and spend two weeks with my side of the family and friends. We catch up, go fishing, eat mountains of ice cream and local food, travel for next to nothing on public transport, see the mountains (not those made of ice cream) and converse in the local dialect, having lots of laughs and making memories. The weather is

unpredictable as ever but most of the time we get some tan. This year my 10 year old daughter discovered the power of waterslides and thoroughly enjoyed the scariest ones. It is great to hear your daughter say: “daddy, thank you that you pushed me to try this, it made my day and I love it”. Normally children realise the importance of our pushes later in life and hate them at the time.

On the way back from holiday I was making a mental list of things I have to do, and a thought sneaked in. Something like: “why do I go back?” Back to everyday routine, working and not inevitably seeing the full picture and impact of the energy I put in as a minister in the church. I wonder if other professions tend to ask this classic question on their return from holiday. Perhaps worries about money, relationships and unfulfilled commitments and promises are more real and although we switched off for a while they are waiting for us and we are anxious. Back to the lion’s den? Passing the obvious benefits like it is good to be back to normal, it is good to sleep in my own bed and cook my own meal this question wants a more meaningful answer.

It is like a test and helps us to reflect on the question about how happy our life is, and how meaningful a life we live. Or perhaps it leads us to realise that we need a change. Having no one simple answer I just got on with the tasks. Preparing the Sunday service, the story from Genesis 45:1-15 came as the lectionary reading. Reading through it, one particular sentence struck me and I want to share it.

“Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves...”

verse 5

A lot of things we do with the best intentions can often turn out with no effect, unnoticed or misinterpreted. We can feel weary and tired and coming back to our everyday tasks can be harder than we thought. But this story is pointing out that there is more than we see and even understand and if we remain responsive to what God whispers into our conscience it will take a right turn and we will share the joy with him. I wish you all a fresh start and good speed into the new season.

Robert Zachar

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

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

ST MARGARETS CHURCH CRAFT MORNING - TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2024, 10AM TO 12 NOON

Crafts and fun for all ages. Refreshments included. All are welcome to come. Donations welcome.

BLYTHESWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

From Hilary Gates:

Thank you again for considering to do a shoebox or even just a box or bag. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty.

The shoeboxes will bring so much joy and hope to them this Christmas. If you can just add to your shopping toothbrush and toothpaste, hat/gloves/scarf, soap, underwear/socks/tights, small toy, sweets we can box these for you. Just drop them at one of the collection points or contact Hilary 841632 to be picked up.

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



JOIN KERRY & CREW FOR OUR ANNUAL VILLAGE
HALLOWEEN PARTY!!

THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER, 2023
17:00 - 17:50 QUIETER MUSIC, LIGHTS UP, FAMILY
FUN.

18:00 - 20:00 LIGHTS DOWN, MUSIC UP,
HALLOWEEN FUN

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE HALL. £3 ENTRY. A PARENT TO
STAY PLS TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE SUPERVISION.
SWEETS, SNACKS, HOTDOGS, GLOW & HALLOWEEN
RELATED ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL CHARGE.
NO PROFIT - ALL MONIES MADE GO BACK INTO THE
VILLAGE GROUPS

For tickets contact Kerry Ward - kerry.tress@hotmail.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

An update from Judy Telford:

Autumn has arrived in spite of the 30 degree heat this week. Rowans, Brambles and Roses all laden with fruit, the Brickie is putting on a fabulous display at the moment. Winter migrants are starting to arrive, summer birds disappearing fast. Winter is on its way.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the planned walk with Derek Tutt owing to the weather conditions, hopefully we can rearrange this shortly. We hope to have more walks and talks in the future to spread the word about how special our site is. Watch this space! Details will also be on our Facebook page.

Our October work party is the big one - the reed bed cut - which will be on 14 October 2023. If anyone is free to help stack reeds during the preceding few days please get in touch with me for details. We really need lots of help with this one as the reed bed is a relatively rare habitat and worth conserving.

I would like to thank Chris and Carol at the Three Tuns for their generous donation to the Friends of the Brickfields and for hosting the two fund raising events at the Beer Festival. Thank you Michael van der Straaten for organising the silent disco and the raffle at the Tuns, we really appreciate it. I would also like to thank Kerry Ward and her Village Events team for their donation from the profits of the Raft Race and Rave. All money raised and donated is spent on the Brickie - tools, fuel and improvements to the site for the benefit of people who visit and the local wildlife we share the site with.

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

LOWER HALSTOW SCARECROW TRAIL 2023 - FRIDAY 20 - SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

Message from Judy Haynes:

Registration is now open for the 2023 village scarecrow trail. If you would like to build a scarecrow, or volunteer your garden to host one, then please contact us and we'll send a link to the registration form. We are also looking for sponsors and prize donations. If any businesses would like a copy of our sponsorship pack, or can donate a prize, then please drop us an email.

Our email address is lowerhalstowscarecrows@gmail.com . Thank you for your support.

The Lower Halstow Scarecrow Trail 2023 will be running from Friday 20 to Sunday 29 October 2023

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM

Tuesday 31 October 2023

The Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Join us for a fascinating introduction to and insight into the ongoing work of the CWGC given by Mick Mills

Entry £4 Refreshments Raffle

For further information call Liz 842272

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 5 and 19 October 2023

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in October.

There will be a Fancy Dress Halloween Party on Saturday 28 October 2023 with music by Concrete Igloos.

The Christmas Market will be on Wednesday 29 November 2023, 5 - 9pm

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

RAFT RACE AND RAFT RAVE 2023

Message from Kerry and team:

I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone that supported this event. It was the first raft race after 23 years and a first for the festival. A few learning curves but overall it was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves! More importantly we were able to donate some much needed funds to some local groups - Lower Halstow School, 1st Halstow beaver and cub groups, Friends of the Brickfields, St Margaret's Church, The Memorial Hall, the pensioners party and this year's Breakfast and Lunch with Santa! So many local people will benefit from this.

We have decided as a team that we will be running another raft race next year (date to be announced as soon as we have confirmed tide times) and another music festival sometime in 2025!

A huge thank you to our sponsors, Gransden Construction Ltd, BJL Electrical and Property Services, Chickenstock Festival, TJG Photography, JAK Vehicle Repairs, Buttaside Up, Battery Specialist South East Ltd, Kent Trade Frames, Mark Norris Carpentry, CP Elite

Interiors, Nevitech IT Solutions, LKS Fabrication, Sean Branchett - Treecraft, Little Potters, RJ Barnes, Sean Freeman our local lad who gave his time to perform our last set, the yacht club volunteers & Shaun Branchett and Clare Drury who stepped in to save the day. Finally thank you to the rest of the team - Simon & Sophie Giles, Maria & Dave Giles, Glenda Tress, Tina Portman, Bradley Jacobs and Luke Ward. Good job!

KEEP FIT GROUP

A friendly group of ladies meet for DIY keep fit on Monday evenings, 7-8pm in the Memorial Hall. For more information call Liz on 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

RECYCLING

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

Dental products
Cheese wrappers
Used stamps

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

MESSAGE FROM THE FLOOD WARDEN

The Autumn and Winter is just around the corner, so when walking the dog or just having a stroll around our Village, please take note of any drains that are blocked, or any area you know that rain water collects unnecessarily, then when you have made a note of where it is, email me on kayhelen2017@outlook.com, I will contact KCC, I will then reply to your email, informing you of the KCC's number and when they hope to carry out the clearing.

Again, if there is anything known to you, and particularly before a known area FLOODS within our Village, please let us know, so that it can be dealt with as a priority.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 3 October 2023 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

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.

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



2023 SANTA EVENT

BREAKFAST **LUNCH**
9:30am - 11:30am 12:30pm - 14:30pm

**INC BREAKFAST/LUNCH & A DRINK//VISIT TO
SANTA//GIFT//SNOW ZONE BATTLE ARENA//DECORATE
A BISCUIT//ARTS & CRAFTS//REINDEER FOOD &
MORE....**

CHILDREN £10
SAT 9th DECEMBER

Tickets are very limited - email
Kerry.fress@hotmail.co.uk if u don't have access to
village Facebook page. 1st come basis for booking

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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 November 2023 Village News is noon on 12 October 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

Brickfields

Judy Telford, 07486 530068, friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

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

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



the vintage haus
Lower Halstow

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**

Repurposed. Recycled. Reloved.

Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and
Investment Planning & Mortgages

Michael van der Straaten
Chartered Financial Planner
Edenwood Wealth Management

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

BC WINDOW CLEANING LTD

Based in Upchurch
WINDOW CLEANING
GUTTER CLEANING
CONSERVATORY CLEANING
FASCIA AND SOFFIT CLEANING
DRIVE/PATIO CLEANING
HOUSE ROOF DE-MOSSING

07738834782 - 01634 926911

Info@bcwindowcleaning.co.uk

www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk

HEN WEEKEND

Chicken boarding

 Enquiries - 07999193919

 Hen Weekend Chicken Boarding

Your local hen hotel, ducks also welcome

5* all inclusive accommodation