

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS November 2023



*Remembrance Sunday at St Margaret's, 12 November 2023 at 10.30am
Photo supplied by Jackie Swift and Pam Shephard*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

*5 November 2023 - 10.30am, *Benefice Service at St Michael's Hartlip*
12 November 2023 - 10.30am, Remembrance Sunday
19 November 2023 - 10am, Communion
26 November 2023 - 10am, Family Worship

Remembrance Sunday

St. Margaret's will be holding our annual Remembrance Service. The church invites all who are able to attend, to remember those who gave their lives in past wars for their country, especially those in our village, not forgetting the people of our new and wider community. We always look forward to the Cubs and Beavers joining in the service, which is so important for children to respect the Remembrance Sunday meaning. The service will be taken by Rev. Chris Shipley. We like to follow the service with a time for a chat, especially with Mick Mills, who maybe able to help with any queries? Including our coffee and refreshments.

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

5 November 2023 - Lynne
12 November 2023 - Remembrance, Liz and Helen
19 November 2023 - Lesley
26 November 2023 - Gillian

RAINBOW CAFE - EVERYONE WELCOME

St Mary's Church, Newington 2pm to 4.30pm on Thursdays 9 November and 14 December 2023. Children's snack deal £1
Homemade cakes and savouries and hot drinks.
Children's crafts and storytelling.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear friends

November means different things to different people. Children will be excited about the fireworks on November the 5th. The artwork and build up to this at school. They will be getting more excited as December and the run up towards Christmas day.

For others it will be dark and cold. A time to snuggle into duvets and wrap up in warm clothing. Some may find the lack of light a challenge to their day. Trying to pack the working day into less and less daylight. Others may find the lack of light clinically depressing. The fireworks that are so beautiful for many, are a curse to the pet owner and their pets. For those working from home they will see the heating bills going up. It is also a time when we remember those that have been lost in war. Many of us will not have had the experience of the loss of someone in war and yet quite rightly we will remember them. As I am writing this the war in Ukraine is still rolling on costing hundreds of Thousands of lives. The conflict in Gaza has just started and I pray it has quickly ended. All of this adds to the darkness that can surround and sometimes seems overpowering.

There is a hope that we can put our trust in. As we move towards Christmas, we remember a light that shines in the Darkness. A light that dispels the darkness. That light was brought to us in the birth or incarnation of a baby called Jesus. He also was born into hard and dark times of war and brutality.

He walked about among us and pitched his tent in the midst of the people he came to love and save.

Whether people of faith or not, I hope we will find the light that we need to guide us through.

Reverend Nick

MOBILITY ITEMS

From Jackie Swift:

Under the umbrella of St. Margaret's, we hold a selection of mobility items, which can be borrowed in emergencies. If any one has any items they wish to donate for "lending out" our very kind gentleman Mr Tony Clark, will collect and deliver. Tony's No. 07977 566097. Dawn's No. 842688. Jackie's No. 07840258665. Thank you

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

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, MEMORIAL WOOD, BRICKFIELDS - SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 10.45AM

From Peter Froggatt:

The annual Remembrance Service will be held at the Memorial Wood on the Brickfields on Saturday 11 November 2023 at 10.45am. The nearest access is at the very end of Heron Drive.

This service is in addition to the Remembrance Sunday service in the Church on 12 November 2023.

THE MEMORIAL WOOD, BRICKFIELDS

Have you visited the wonderful Memorial Wood here in the village?

This is how the memorial looked when the poppies were blooming in wildlife patch in summer 2023:



Photo kindly supplied by Alan Beattie

And this is when it was started back in September 2014, (with left to right) - Ed van der Straaten, Martin Murray, George Peters, Sean Branchett and Michael van der Straaten:



Photo kindly supplied by Amanda van der Straaten

BLYTHESWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

From Hilary Gates:

The shoe boxes from this area are destined to be delivered to UKRAINE. We are hoping to exceed last year's target of 55 boxes so every little helps.

The essential items are:-

toothbrush and toothpaste, hat/gloves/scarf, soap, underwear/socks/tights, small toy (new), sweets (best before no earlier than 31 March 2024). If you have no shoebox just a bag will do.

Collection points are:-

Jackie, 48 School Lane

Hilary, 34 Crouch Hill Court

Emily, 32 Burntwick Drive

Liz, 14 Curlew Avenue

Una, 2 Cumberland Drive

St Margarets Church when open

Queries Hilary 841632

Last collection 10 November 2023

THANK YOU

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

An update from Judy Telford:

Firstly, a huge thank you to those people who turned out to help with our reed bed cut, well done everybody. Cutting the reeds on a rotational basis is very important to keep the bed healthy. We try to cut one fifth every autumn so that every part has been cut over a five year period. We will be starting at the other end again next October!

There will be a short service at the War Memorial at 10.45a.m. on Saturday 11 November, all welcome. Access is easiest via the far end of Heron Close but there is very limited car parking there so please walk if you can..

Next work party will be on Sunday 12 November 2023, meet at the entrance gate at the end of Lapwing Drive at 10am

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



© CanStockPhoto.com

Memorial Hall – Friday 10 November 2023, 7.30pm

Please join us for a fun evening with legendary quiz master

Michael van der Straaten

**Fundraising for Lower Halstow Scout
Group**

**Tables of 6, pay £5.00 per person on the night – book
with Kerry.Tress@hotmail.co.uk**

**Raffle, heads and tails, bring your own drinks and
snacks**

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - 28 NOVEMBER 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM - CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The Tuesday Social Club - Christmas Social
Tuesday 28 November 2023
Memorial Hall
7.30 - 9pm
Do join us for a fun evening with singing hosted by
David Scott.
Raffle and Refreshments
£4 entry.
For more details call Liz 842272
The Tuesday Social Club supports
Friends of St Margaret's Church

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 2, 16 and 30 November 2023

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in November 2023.

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

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY

From Margaret Milsted-Williamson:

A note for your diary, this year our Seniors Christmas party will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19 December 2023, 2.00-5.00pm. Further information will be published in the December edition of the Village News.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE FLOOD WARDEN

The 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 SHORT MAT BOWLS

From John Mustoo:

After completion of the afternoon's bowling on 9 October 2023, the 10th AGM was held commencing at 4pm. It was attended by 18 members. The Club was formed in 2001 by John Mustoo and John Rigby, the Chairman/Secretary of the Hall Committee. In 2013 the Club became independent of the Hall and has since been run as a Constitutional Club. The existing committee was re-elected en bloc with the exception of the Treasurer Colin Prior, who after 5 years in post felt it was time to stand down. David Homes agreed to stand and was elected. Colin gave his report for the year and he was roundly applauded for his efforts.

Team Captain, Bill Robinson said it was not all bad news. Sadly we were relegated to Division 3 but by the narrowest of margins with the bottom two teams being relegated and the top two being promoted there was scope for a return to Division 3. We had lost two experienced players but had recruited five new players who were showing rapid signs of improvement. So it should prove to be an interesting year.

At the completion of the meeting John Mustoo, Pat Perret and Colin Prior were elected as Honorary Life Vice-Presidents in recognition of their contribution of the success of the Club.

The Club has provisionally booked 3 December 2023 for the Christmas meal.



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

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Hedges, shrubs and trees.

As autumn is upon us, please can we remind owners to cut back any of their hedges, shrubs or trees that are growing over or encroaching a public footpath or pavement. The overgrown foliage could cause an injury to passers by or prevent pedestrians, pushchairs and mobility scooters from accessing the pavements or footpaths. It is an offence under the 1980 Highways Act to cause an obstruction to any public right of way (pavements). Thank you.

Camping on the brickfield.

During the summer months there were reports of several adults setting up camps on the brickfield. Several were openly lighting fires to cook food and the campers left behind a lot of rubbish on site. Camping on any part of the brickfield is not allowed as it's a serious fire risk not only to our village but to the surrounding shrubs and trees as well as the local wildlife, some that are on the red list of an endangered species. If you see anyone camping please report it promptly to the police on 101.

Digging on the brickfield.

Following updated advice given by our local police digging and removing any item on any part of the brickfield is considered as theft and anyone caught could face criminal charges.

The Parish Council is looking to update the local signage to make this message clearer.

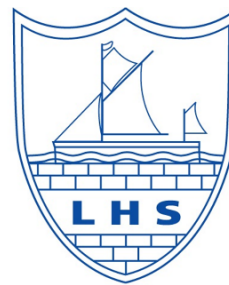
Don't forget to keep an eye on the Parish Council website (<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>) where you will find notices of local road closures, Parish Council policies, agendas and Minutes amongst other things. The Parish Council will post some items on the 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

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The weather has been lovely this term and this has enabled us to be outside as much as possible, learning, playing and making the most of the warm temperatures. We gathered together to celebrate our harvest festival with a lovely service from Reverend Julian. Each class wore a different colour of the rainbow and brought in a food donation to match - all of the food was donated to the Swale Food Bank.



The whole school celebrated Safety week; Year 5 headed off to the Railway Safety Centre at Margate where they learnt about how to keep safe near railways through interactive workshops and activities. Meanwhile back in school our Year 1 and 2 children learnt how to be safe when riding their scooters. They even got to head out around the local area to practise what they had learnt.

In the meantime, several Year 6 children sat the Kent Test. They all tried so hard and completed the papers with confidence. Regardless of the outcomes we are proud of them and the great young people they are becoming.

Some of our Year 2 and 3 children participated in the Sittingbourne Rugby Club's Tag Rugby Festival – great fun was had by all and they were delighted with their certificate and medal. For most of these children it was their first chance at representing our school in a sporting event, however their behaviour was impeccable and we were really proud of each and every one of them.

Our Year 6 pupils had a great team building day at the Creed Outdoor Adventure Centre, they spent the day climbing, doing archery and completing various outdoor challenges in teams. Their resilience was certainly put to the test however it was lovely to see the children try something new and achieve something they didn't think they were able to do.

Lower Halstow School teamed up with local villagers to organise and raise money through a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Our families were very generous in their donations of cakes and biscuits and it was lovely to see so many families and members of the local community join us on the day, it truly was a community event. Thank you to all those who supported it, we managed to raise £149.18 for this very worthwhile charity.

Year 6 Oak Class Feature:

Oak class have had a great start to their final year in primary school.

They started their year with being introduced to their buddies.

Calum: Every day for a whole term we spend our break and lunchtimes with our Reception buddies. We play games, do the Daily Mile, colour and on Fridays dance! Buddies are fun to play with especially when they run around. The buddies love looking at the horses. We teach them 'please and thank you' as well as making sure that they learn the school rules. We all love spending time with the little ones and have lots of fun. They do tire us out but we love the job of being their buddies.

Issac: The Maidstone Museum came to school to show us some Victorian artefacts. These included: a dunce's hat, a range of toys and items that Victorian children would have used in school. Some of the artefacts were once vibrant but now have faded colours. We were told about lots of different jobs that Victorian children would have done. One of the jobs was a chimney sweep which was so dangerous that many children died because they either got stuck in the chimney or their lungs got damaged because of the soot. We are lucky that we do not live in those times.

Lucy: We were the first class to trial the Moki fitness trackers which are a device that counts your steps. They are a bracelet that you wear on your wrist. Each day you scan the device and then wear it all day. At the end of the day we scan them again to see how many steps we have done. Harry did the most steps in four days - 65,000!

Florence: Our first school trip was a blast! We went to Creed Outdoor Learning Centre. We took a train from Newington Station to Teynham and once we were there we took part in: archery, where some people hit the bull's eye; campfire making and den building; the climbing wall, it was very tall but lots of people made it to the top; high ropes, we had to jump off a tree! We rushed to the train station only to find that our train had been cancelled and we had to wait an hour for the next one. Most people just sat and waited but a group of us played card games with Miss Brougham.

Mia: The Macmillan Coffee Morning was so fun! There were tea and coffee and not to mention all the delicious cakes and the people who came were lovely too, there was even a baby that stole the show. I want to say thank you to everyone who came and sent in donations and a special thank you to the governor that sent us such a lovely thank you card.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School





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 December 2023 Village News is noon on 12 November 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

Ria Smith, Group Scout Leader, ria.smithuk@gmail.com

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

DID SOMEONE SAY CAKE?

Traditional homemade cakes baked fresh for you,
so come taste the difference.

Taking orders for Christmas cakes now with or without marzipan and Icing. If Christmas cake is not your favourite then why not choose your fave cake to enjoy.

Contact me for more details and follow me on fb & Instagram

Hevie68@sky.com 07393869538

Fb Hevs Homemade Cakes Insta Hevie68

Registered with 5 Stars

Gift Vouchers also available



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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