

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS December 2023



*Lunch with Santa 2022
photo kindly supplied by Glenda Tress*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

**2 December 2023 - 6pm, Lighting the Christmas tree, with carol singing. (On the Green, by the bus stop)*

3 December 2023 - 8am Quiet Communion

- 3pm Christingle Service - Please join us for our Candle Lit Carol and Gift service. An ancient and traditional service to thank God for Jesus in song, in story and giving a gift (if you can) for those who have very little. We invite you to bring a Christmas gift (unwrapped) for any age. Then to receive from us, a Christingle orange decorated with sweets, and a candle. We look forward to welcoming you.

10 December 2023 - 3pm Traditional Family Carol Service

17 December 2023 - 10am Family Communion

24 December 2023 - 10am Crib Service, come and relive the Christmas Story, we have costumes or simple bring your own ? Come and share in the telling and the action of that first Christmas! Help us to build a stable scene and share it together.

Led by Rev. Jacky.

- 11.20pm Midnight Mass with Communion

25 December 2023 - 10am Communion, come and celebrate with us! Sing your favourite carols and bring your favourite Christmas present to share with us. For all ages.

31 December 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>

QUIET CHRISTMAS

Sunday 24 December 2024 - Christmas Eve

St Margaret's Church will be open between 1.30pm and 3pm for

anyone to come along and enjoy a moment of still before the busyness of Christmas Day. You are welcome to come and light a candle in memory of a loved one, or as a prayer for peace in a world of conflict.

You are welcome to just come and sit awhile, to be still or to have a friendly chat. The kettle will be on.

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 December 2023 - Eileen
10 December 2023 - Georgina
17 December 2023 - Liz, Lynne and Helen
24 December 2023 -
31 December 2023 - Yvonne

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS CRAFT MORNING - FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2023, 10AM TO 12 NOON

St Margarets Church Christmas Craft Morning
Friday 22 December 2023, 10am to 12 noon.
Crafts and fun for all ages. Refreshments included.
All welcome to come
Donations welcome.

RAINBOW CAFE - EVERYONE WELCOME

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God opens a way when there seems no way

Have you ever faced a situation that just seemed impossible? Where there was no obvious way forward? Is this in fact your current reality?

This has been our experience in recent weeks when helping Lesley, a missionary who was living in Uganda. She had broken her femur in January and had been living in pain for eight months as she could not afford an operation there. There were several hurdles overcome in bringing her back to the UK. But this week we hit another barrier. She was ready to be discharged at the end of her hospital rehabilitation but had nowhere to go, with no obvious options at all.

We prayed and then sent out an email to those on our contact list on Thursday seeking urgent help, not knowing what might be possible. Yet later that same day we received an amazing generous offer from someone to use their house, while they are out of the country, for as long as she needs. Someone else also generously offered sharing their house, simply because they could not see Lesley being homeless.

In the circumstances, we can only say that the Lord made a way when no way seemed possible. We couldn't help saying "praise the Lord!" In Matthew 19.26 we read, "there are some things people cannot do, but God can do anything". This is the promise we trusted in and held onto despite all. In this instance the way forward emerged quickly. But in writing these words I am painfully aware that this doesn't always happen in the way or timescale we would wish. Sometimes all we can do is press on, looking to the Lord and trusting.

Soon we will be marking Advent in preparation for the Christmas season. 2000 years ago, people were looking for freedom from oppressive rulers. Some still have that same hope today. In sending Jesus as Emmanuel (God with us) the Lord opened the way to new life free from sin (our innate tendency to go our own way rather than God's) through the power of sacrificial love shown on the cross at Easter. This

tells us that God has been and is always making a way where there seems no other possible way to bring life, peace, and hope.

What seems impossible in your life right now? Will you invite Jesus to be your way today?

Blessings

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth, Rector of The Six benefice

REMEMBRANCE CHURCH SERVICE

From Jackie Swift:

It was so encouraging to see so many people and children at the Remembrance Service, the Cubs and Beavers did their village so proud. Thanking all those who made the service possible, starting with Rev. Chris Shipley, who conducted a very meaningful service. The readers, and not forgetting the refreshment ladies. David who provided the music.

Many thanks everyone.

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

Who doesn't love a **Sunday Roast...**

With the weather getting colder and food inflation at record highs, the Neighbourhood watch is starting a Sunday Dinner Scheme. If you are cooking for one or a family struggling we want to help.

Please contact Richard Asbury to discuss the options and see what we can do.



Richard Asbury
Find me on
facebook messenger
or email
LHNWatch1@gmail.com
or call/text 07894 792802

New Year New You

Kick-start pilates in 2024

Starting Friday 5 January

- 9.15am Mat work class
- 10.15am Mat work class
- 6 week course £48
- Small classes
- All abilities and levels

JOIN US

LOWER HALSTOW

VILLAGE HALL

Sign up today with Fit Pilates:
alisonexercise@gmail.com

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY

From Margaret Milsted-Williamson:

This year our party will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19 December, 2-5pm.

We are returning once again to past times with afternoon tea and musical accompaniment in the background. The party is free, but raffle tickets will be on sale.

This invitation is offered to all over 66 (current retirement age) who live in Lower Halstow. We can seat about 50 people and so places are offered on a 'first-come' basis. To this end please confirm your place by letting Margaret know at maglou1@yahoo.co.uk or by putting your name on a piece of paper and posting it me at, 1 The Green (the old post office).

Margaret Milsted-Williamson & Alan Beattie

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB

There is no December meeting

Friends of St Margaret's would like to thank everybody for their support, we look forward to our next meeting in January 2024.

We wish you all a peace filled and joy filled Christmas.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next date is Thursday, 14 December 2023. There is no service on 28 December 2023.

THE THREE TUNS

From Carol Haines:

We continue to close on Tuesdays throughout December with the exception of Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December 2023.

Open Christmas day 12pm - 4pm drinks only

Open Boxing day 11am - 8pm, kitchen open 12pm-5pm

Open New Year's Eve normal hours

Open New Year's day 11am - 8pm, kitchen open 12pm- 5pm

We wish everyone a merry Christmas from Chris and Carol and the Three Tuns Team

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

DRAINS AND FLOODED AREAS

From Kay Howard-Challis, one of the Flood Wardens:

Now that winter is definitely upon us, flooded areas due to blocked drains in particular, will cause problems. So please do not forget to notify me by email - kayhelen2017@outlook.com - if you know of any drains blocked or areas that flood during a heavy down pour of rain. When you send the locations, please be accurate with the exact drain in question, then I will be accurate with your drain in question, when I contact Kent County Council

Please send your own name and email address, so I can let you know any notifications and numbers.

And if there are any ongoing blocked areas, that I have already been notified of, but they have not been unblocked, please tell me those too.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

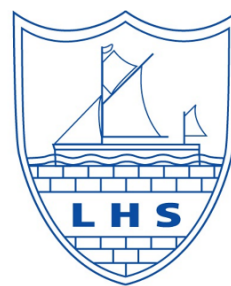
No items this month

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



As we reached the end of October we rounded off the end of Term 1 with some exciting activities. The PTA organised a very successful end of term disco; much fun was had dancing, eating hotdogs and other tasty treats, as well as purchasing a range of spooky Halloween trinkets. In school we relaunched the Times Table Rockstars program with a Rockstars day. Everyone came to school dressed as a Rockstar and Miss Holderness set a boys versus girls' challenge which concluded at the end of the first week of Term 2. The boys won hands down with the final scores being recorded as Boys – 525, Girls - 183. Better luck next time girls!

Term 2 got off to a busy start when The Dogs Trust paid us a visit and led a whole school assembly all about being safe around dogs, the Key Stage 2 children then all received a workshop about dog safety, dog breeds and the role of the Dogs Trust.

The annual Scarecrow Trail around the village was as successful as usual with many families travelling to the village to join in with the trail. Given the theme this year was Heroes and Heroines, the school decided to make their scarecrow in memory of Queen Elizabeth II. Mrs Saxton and her team of helpers did a fantastic job of creating her. We were really pleased that she managed to survive the wind and rain that arrived for the half term holiday. Teddy, the school dog, loved going for a walk and looking at the various scarecrows. Thank you to all the local residents who created a scarecrow or gave up their garden to host one, we really appreciate your support and have received comments from far and wide about how welcoming the village was to all the visitors.

Our annual activities for Remembrance took place with Year 6 all creating a remembrance poppy for each child in the school to take home. Each poppy represented someone who had given their life to fight for the country. Assemblies and class activities also took place as we made time to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

Year 2 Willow Class Feature:

Within their poetry unit, Willow class have focussed on Autumn acrostic and firework shape poems. They learnt and practised alliteration, similes and noun phrases, here are two examples of their acrostic poems:

*Apples are ripe.
Under trees are leaves.
Trees' leaves are falling.
Underground, worms live.
Migration is happening.
Nuts are falling.
by Alfred*

*Animals going to hibernate.
Umbrella.
The apples are starting to fall.
Under leaves.
Many colours.
Nuts that fall.
by Johnathon*

Michelle Crowe, Head of School



LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



WARM SPACE

SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY
MEMORIAL HALL

The heating will be on, the kettle will be on, a Lunch of hot soup and bread donated by the Neighbourhood Watch will be available.

Everything is Free!

A Grab and Go Food Station has kindly been sponsored.

There will be a FREE raffle for a hooded blanket to help keep someone cosy this winter.

Come along and meet your Neighbourhood Watch representatives and special invited guests. We want to know how we can best assist the community and we need your help.



We look forward to meeting you soon.

LHNWatch1@gmail.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 January 2024 Village News is noon on 12 December 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



**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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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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