

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS FEBRUARY 2024



Oyster catcher at the creek, photo kindly supplied by Janey Hinton

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

4 February 2024 - 8am Quiet Communion

11 February 2024 - 10am Family Worship

18 February 2024 - 10am Communion

25 February 2024 - 10am Family Worship

**14 February 2024 is Ash Wednesday, there will be an Ashing Communion service in Upchurch at 10am*

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

4 February 2024 - Yvonne

11 February 2024 - Liz and Helen

18 February 2024 - Lynne

25 February 2024 - Lesley

CELEBRATION FLOWERS

If you have a special celebration coming up and would like it marked in a special way, we can dedicate a pedestal in church with a card to mark the occasion. All you have to do is contact us two weeks before and tell us how much you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers, from as little as £5. Alternatively, you can buy the flowers and drop them off to one of the flower rota ladies. We will make a beautiful pedestal and add a card to mark the occasion.

For more information please contact Liz 842272.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

If you would like to share any of this type of news with everyone in future editions of the Village News please email brief details to ransleyfamily@gmail.com or pop written details round to 16 Cumberland Drive.

RAINBOW CAFE - EVERYONE WELCOME

St Mary's Church, Upchurch 2pm to 4.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Children's snack deal £1

Homemade cakes and savouries and hot drinks.

Children's crafts and storytelling.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear friends

This time of year can seem pretty dismal, with dark evenings and murky mornings, and spring still some way off. But the days are lengthening, and there are signs around us in February of the new life to come in the world around us. Snowdrops were always one of my dad's favourites – tiny, nodding flowers that really reward a closer look than the cursory glance we might give them!

And in February we mark the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, 14 February this year. Lent lasts for 40 days – not including Sundays – to remind Christians of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested by Satan at the beginning of his ministry.

On Ash Wednesday, there is the opportunity to be marked with the sign of the cross, in ash made from last year's palm crosses, on the forehead. This is a sign of penitence, of facing up to and seeking forgiveness for those things which are wrong in our lives, as we look to set these things aside and live more as God calls us to. There are those who see this as something negative, as contrary to seeking to live our lives in a positive way. However, I believe that facing up to our failings – and let's face it, we all have those! – with honesty and self-awareness, is the first step to moving on, rather than being tempted to wallow in guilt and self-defeat.

Freedom to become ever more the people God created us to be is a glorious freedom. I wouldn't claim that any of us get there in our lifetimes, but surely seeking to be more loving and Christ-like in our daily lives is a recipe for a better way of living. And by Christ-like I don't mean the awful Victorian image of 'gentle Jesus meek and mild'! This is the Jesus who was courageous, always ready to confront hypocrisy and injustice, who spoke up for those who couldn't speak for themselves, whose love for his Father and obedience to his will was complete. His closest friends – both male and female – were mostly ordinary working people, alongside those on the fringes of society who were rejected by the religious establishment. He clearly believed that all people were loved and valued by God and he lived that belief.

Ultimately of course he paid the price, and was betrayed, tortured and put to death in the most humiliating and painful way. But that series of brutal acts couldn't defeat God's love, and on the third day after his death Jesus was alive. He continued to appear to his disciples for several weeks, until his ascension to heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit, which turned his ragtag bunch of followers into a body of women and men who went on to spread his message and share his love.

So that's why we need to psychologically 'clear the decks' at the start of Lent, so we can spend time focussing on how we should be living out that call, and expressing that transformative love, in a world facing conflict, the climate crisis, environmental breakdown and injustice, alongside the personal burdens we all carry, which are part of human experience. And we can do it with real, deep joy in our hearts, knowing that nothing can defeat God's love, that we are never alone, and that whatever our struggles, Jesus is there beside us.

This Lent I intend to be enjoying the small beauties – like the snowdrops – looking for the light in the darkness and celebrating God's love.

Have a good Lent!
Every blessing
Rev Amanda

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. 07840 258665. 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 1 February 2024. Beginners are welcome as two people can teach you. For more information call 841139.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 8 and 22 February 2024.

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



WARM SPACE

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

NOON to 2.00PM

MEMORIAL HALL

The heating will be on, the kettle will be on...
Hot Soup, Fresh Bread and Cakes will be available.

Everything is Free!

A Grab and Go Food Bank 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

THE TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024

The Friends of St Margaret's Tuesday Social will be on Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 7.30 pm, in the Memorial Hall.

The Elizabeth Line - a talk by Elspeth Baecke

Elspeth Baecke is a Chartered Civil Engineer who retired in 2022 after a career in the rail industry spanning more than 4 decades. Her last 8 years were spent working for Transport for London on the Elizabeth Line, a brand new railway across London. She was responsible for accepting all the tunnels, bridges and structures from the Crossrail contractors for TfL, who were the ultimate owner of the line.

The Elizabeth Line has been a huge success since it opened in 2022 and Elspeth would like to show you some of the highlights of its construction, when it was the largest project in Europe, as well as how it can benefit your travel arrangements even though we live in Kent.

Tickets £4 on the door

Refreshments

Raffle

For more information call Liz on 842272

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in 2024

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

Lynne has now decided to stop collecting items for recycling.

Thank you Lynne for everything you have prevented going into landfill over the years

LOWER HALSTOW ANNUAL DOG SHOW PSDA STALL

From Kay and Keith Howard-Challis:

We are looking forward to our Annual Dog Show, which is to be held in June, the date etc. will be in a Village News nearer the time.

Every year we hold a PSDA stall at the Dog Show kindly run by Julia and Sophie, therefore, if you have any good as new Dog or Animal items for the stall, please either bring them early on the day, or Keith or myself will store them for you. Many thanks.

DOG MESS - PLEASE CLEAR IT UP

From a local resident:

A strong reminder, people are getting careless with not clearing up after their dogs. It is an offence, so please wherever you walk take your bags and dispose of them in the appropriate bins.

Thank you.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

Information and updates are available on the Facebook page. To get in touch email friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com or ring 07486 530068

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.



Made with PosterMyWall.com

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

LOWER HALSTOW EASTER FAIR, SCAVENGER HUNT AND DUCK RACE - SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2024

We are offering the opportunity for local businesses to join in with a stall selling their products or produce. We would appreciate a £10 donation to reserve your pitch at this well loved village event. Contact Kerry or Richard for more details and to book your pitch kerry.tress@hotmail.co.uk or lhwatch1@gmail.com



Photo from the 2023 Duck Race

Join us for an egg-citing day of joy and laughter!



Horsham Lakes

Presents:

Easter Family Fun Day

MONDAY 1st APRIL 2024

Horsham Lake, Upchurch, ME97AL



Lots of Fun Activities and Prizes to Win!



- Intro to Fishing Sessions: Must be prebooked
- Feed the Ducks
- Raffle
- Food and Drinks Vendors
- Ice Cream Van
- Scavenger hut for the Kids

For more information
contact
amacklin1@hotmail.co.uk

Image credit: iStockphoto.com

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

From Lower Halstow's Flood Warden

I would like to ask that all landowners within Lower Halstow, check that their land drains are excavated, enabling surface land water to flow to the estuary twice a day without hindrance. There are many sluice gates on landowners land, therefore, please can you check that they are all working properly, again helping the surface water to drain out to the estuary twice a day. The weather, as we are told, is getting warmer and wetter, and the surface water at present is causing concern, therefore, if everyone has assisted, by clearing all gullies and checking sluice gates, we are doing our level best to avoid flooding within the Village. Again to assist Lower Halstow Village if there are any blocked drains, to contact the Parish Clerk and I will attempt to have them cleared asap. We have at present an ongoing request with KCC, as a drain. that is very near a right of way, to be assessed, as the actual path itself may be the cause of the very blocked drain.

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

Happy New Year from everyone at Lower Halstow School!



As we enter a new year we also start a new term, the children have only been back for a week and a half, but they have quickly got back into their routine and are enjoying their new topics. The children have thought about their new year's resolutions and what they are focusing on this year. New targets have

been set and the children are focused and ready for their learning. The classes have many exciting events planned for this term including trips to the Edith-May barge and Rochester for Years 1 and 3, then Year R are also heading to Newington for a talk on Guide Dogs. Meanwhile back in school Year R, 2 and 4 will be participating in some drama workshops based on their current topics

Year 4, Hawthorn Class feature:

To bring an exciting end to 2023, Hawthorn Class produced several festive items with the idea of selling them to raise money. These items included a sock snowman, Rudolph the hot chocolate reindeer, a keepsake photo calendar and self-drawn fridge magnets. As a result of their hard work, they collectively managed to raise a whopping £125! As a class they discussed ideas on how to spend their hard-earned cash. The children decided they wanted a new furry edition to join Hawthorn Class. Fluffy, the Syrian hamster, has settled in very well and the children are very excited to have her over for a sleepover each weekend. Here are some comments from the children on their crafts and the new class pet:

"The hot chocolate was delicious, especially the marshmallows." - Nora

"I really enjoyed making the snowman, mine is so colourful." - Axel

"I love how we were able to make fridge magnets using glitter." -

Franklyn

"Fluffy is super cute, but she snores!" – Dolly-Rose

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 March 2024 Village News is noon on 12 February 2024. 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

Mentalk Health Sittingbourne

mentalk-health.org

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



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jstreecare01@gmail.com



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

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