

# LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS APRIL 2024



*Pick your own daffodils, Elm Farm,  
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**

7 April 2024 - 8am Quiet Communion

14 April 2024 - 10am Family Worship

21 April 2024 - 10am Communion

28 April 2024 - 10am Family Worship

Also there is always a Sunday online service at 10.30am on The Six YouTube which can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3JykJ8W>

## **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

7 April 2024 - Lynne

14 April 2024 - Yvonne

21 April 2024 - Georgina

28 April 2024 - Helen

## **FLOWERS IN MEMORY**

The flower ladies at Friends of St Margaret's are very happy to create an arrangement in memory of a loved one. This is a new initiative for 2024.

You may either buy the flowers direct and pass them on to the co-ordinator or you can make a donation towards the cost of the flowers. We will then create a beautiful pedestal in church with a little card to say who the flowers are in memory of.

For further information please contact Liz 842272.

## **CRAFT MORNING - TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024**

St Margaret's Church will be having the Craft Morning on 9 April from 10-12 am. The theme of the day will be "What happened after Easter". Any one is welcome to come and play.

Refreshments available.

Donations welcome.

## **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](mailto: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: "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?"**

*"Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"* Such are the words that will ring out every Sunday morning now across the world in this Easter season throughout this month of April. For like Christmas, Easter is not just a day. It is a period when Christians acknowledge the impact of the risen Jesus, not just transforming the lives of his followers then but transforming the world ever since.

This same Jesus had been executed and buried just a few days before. Yet there he stood amongst his friends unmistakably alive, having overcome death. Even the worst thing that anyone could do to another to silence them, by putting them to death, could not prevail. Is this why in recent times the Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, a professed Christian, was able to face into his ordeal and eventual death at the hands of Putin's brutal regime? Even death could not hold him.

Christians speak of this as being the greatest day in history. Even as I write these words, I'm sure that there will be some thinking, *"really?"* Yes, really. For it is not just Christians who say this. For the historian Tom Holland, himself a non-believer, identifies how the values of Western societies have been formed by the disruptive impact of the Christian faith itself rooted in Jesus' resurrection. Where else did our assumptions about *"loving your neighbour"*, *"going the extra mile"* and being a *"good Samaritan"* come from? They condition our responses to

situations such as Gaza, Ukraine and the plight of asylum-seekers and refugees. The prevailing cultural attitudes of ancient times were turned completely on their head. As Holland himself observes in his own words *“it is, to coin a phrase, the greatest story ever told”*\*.

Many found Jesus’ teaching tough because it was not what they wanted or expected. He asked his follower Peter at different times, *“who do you say I am”* and *“are you going to leave too?”* He replied, *“Lord, to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God”*.

What about you? Who do you say he is? Not sure? Have questions? Then come and explore them with us.

Blessings

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth, Rector of The Six benefice

\*Dominion by Tom Holland

## **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 4 April 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 4 and 18 April 2024.

## **FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS**

The Friends of the Brickfields AGM in on Saturday 13 April 2024 on the Edith May at 7.30pm see Page 7 of this Village News for more information.

No date has been set for the next Work Party so look out on Facebook for more information.

Information and updates are available on the Facebook page - Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields. To get in touch email [friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com) or ring 07486 530068

## **LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS**

**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.

## **PICK YOUR OWN DAFFODILS**

P.Y.O daffodils at Elm Farm. Donations can be posted through the farmhouse door opposite and all proceeds go back into the village. No dogs please many thanks The Stevens family

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](mailto:amacklin1@hotmail.co.uk)

## **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.

## Friends of the Brickfields AGM 2024

Come and join us for an illustrated talk

### Nature on our doorstep

by Janey Hinton

The Edith May

7.30 pm Saturday 13th April

Tickets £5 to include wine

And light refreshments.

Please book tickets in advance but pay at the door:

[friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com)

Judy Telford 07486 530068

Janey Hinton 07957 920544

**THE TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2024  
MEMORIAL HALL, 7.30PM TO 9PM**

The Story and Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein  
an entertaining presentation by Dean Caston

Please do join us for a fun and informative evening.  
Memorial Hall, School Lane

£4 entry on the door   Refreshments   Raffle  
Contact Liz 842272

**BLOCKED DRAINS**

If you know of a blocked drain near you, please contact your Lower Halstow Flood Wardens

Kay Howard-Challis [kayhelen2017@outlook.com](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com) or

Abbie Dowell on [abbie\\_mcdowell@hotmail.com](mailto:abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com)

We will do our best to get them cleared, but please give clear indications of where they are.

**THE THREE TUNS**

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in 2024.

Saturday, 13 April 2024 - Live Music from The Klicks at 8pm

Monday, 29 April 2024 - I An evening of Magic - Close Up Magic provided table side. Cheese & Meat Platters and 1/2 Bottle Wine per person £35 per head. Booking essential.

**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

## D-DAY 80 - THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2024

From Steve Gates:

The Beacon at the Brickfields Dock will be lit to mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at 9.15pm on 6 June 2024.

If there are any D-Day Veterans residing in the village who would be interested in taking part in the event as VIPs please contact Steve on 841632



**ART EXHIBITION AND CRAFT FAIR, ST MARYS CHURCH,  
UPCHURCH - 14/15/16 JUNE 2024**

Please email [elspethbaecke@gmail.com](mailto:elspethbaecke@gmail.com) for more details or to reserve a stand.

All in aid of the church tower fund

**LOWER HALSTOW ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW - 15 JUNE 2024**

From Kay and Keith Howard-Challis:

Registration 9.00am    Judging Starts 12 noon

If on the day is not good weather, it will still take place, in the Village Hall. We are having additional classes as requested, which will include children, a full list of classes will be in the May's Village News. Look forward to seeing you there.

Please don't forget the PDSA stall at the Dog Show

Any items suitable, good as new, will be gratefully received.

Either bring early on the day or Keith or myself will store them for you. -

Thank you.

Any messages please contact me – [kayhelen2017@outlook.com](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

**LOST PROPERTY, MEMORIAL HALL**

From Kay Howard-Challis:

I have been handed in two items that must belong to someone in the Village.

If you have lost anything within the Village Hall, please contact me – Kay Howard-Challis 844408 or email [kayhelen2017@outlook.com](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

I am sure the owner will be pleased to have them returned.

**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](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com) or on 01760 336459 if you have any queries.

## **LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**

### **NOTICE OF VACANCY**

NOTICE is hereby given that two vacancies have occurred in the membership of the above Parish Council.

Under the Local Government Act 1972, ten electors can petition for an election by writing to the Proper Officer at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT within 14 working days of the date of this Notice.

If no petition is received within that time, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-opting a person onto the Parish Council.

Persons wishing to be considered for this appointment should apply in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

Written applications should be made to the Clerk at the following address: Amberley, 5 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 2EA or by e-mail: [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

**Ann Smith**

A I Smith  
Clerk to Lower Halstow Parish Council

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

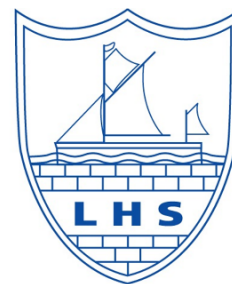
## **LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM**

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](http://weather.lhyc.org.uk)

## **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Lower Halstow Primary School

Term 4 has seen the first signs of Spring appear, in between the rain showers, and we have started to enjoy all the activities that take place at this time of year.



This term Year 5 started their block of 12 swimming sessions at Sheerness Swimming Pool. This follows the Government's expectation that swimming and water safety lessons are taught to all primary school children. By the end of primary school each pupil is required to be able to swim 25 metres unaided and use a range of strokes effectively. They have enjoyed their first few sessions and are already gaining confidence in the water and improving their technique.

Year 6 took part in a Team building day which aimed to build their resilience and encourage them to work together as a team to solve a variety of logical and physical challenges where children were required to plan, communicate, work together and stay motivated to solve the problem.

There are few weeks in the school calendar that are more exciting than Book Week. The week got off to a great start when author, Monty Marsh, visited every class to read excerpts from his books, talk about the process of writing a book and answer questions from the children. In addition to this the children have enjoyed taking part in a bingo book quiz at home, bringing in a book from home to swap with other children in the class and dressing up as our favourite character for World Book Day. The week ended with a whole school Book Quiz in which representatives from each house went head to head to be the speediest at answering questions about texts that they had studied in class, this

year Hever House were crowned the winners. We had some brilliant costumes on World Book Day which included Mary Poppins, Alice in Wonderland, several Harry Potters and a beautiful Angelina Ballerina to name just a few.

We still have lots of events planned for the last 3 weeks left of the term including Science Week, a class assembly and various Easter activities so we have a busy time ahead.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School







# Wanted

Following our previous Year 6 pupils leaving us last July we, in turn, lost several of our long serving PTFA members, including the Chairperson and Treasurer. The Lower Halstow School PTFA do a fantastic job of raising money for the school and we are currently recruiting new members, you don't have to have children at the school! We especially need someone who would be prepared to be our treasurer. If you are interested in being part of our PTFA please e-mail the school office for more details: [office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk). Alternatively, the AGM is on 19.4.24 at 2.15pm if you would like to come along and meet us.

## **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 May 2024 Village News is noon on  
12 April 2024.**

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to  
[ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or call 07771 817152**

### **Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade**

Lloyd Chapman, [lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk](mailto:lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk)

Roger Clark, 430324, [rogerclark@swale.gov.uk](mailto:rogerclark@swale.gov.uk)

### **Brickfields**

Judy Telford, 07486 530068, [friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com)

### **Citizens Advice**

0800 144 8848, [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://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](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

Abbie Dowell, [abbie\\_mcdowell@hotmail.com](mailto:abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com)

### **Friends of the Brickfield**

[friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament**

Gordon Henderson, 423199, [www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk](http://www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk)

**Memorial Hall**

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)  
Bookings Kay Howard-Challis, 844408, [kayhelen2017@outlook.com](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

**Mentalk Health Sittingbourne**

[mentalk-health.org](http://mentalk-health.org)

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, [LHNWatch1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com), 01760 336459,  
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>

**Playgroup**

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

**Police**

PC Phil Clemens

[philip.clemens@kent.police.uk](mailto:philip.clemens@kent.police.uk)

General enquiries, 01622 690690, [kent.police.uk](http://kent.police.uk)

Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

**Samaritans**

116 123 - free number day or night; email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto: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](mailto:ria.smithuk@gmail.com)

**Short Mat Bowls**

John Mustoo, 843681, Mick Porter, Secretary, 713120

**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](http://www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk),

[info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk)

**Village News**

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com),

07771 817152

**Yacht Club**

Dave Quigley, 841242

Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and Investment planning.

**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](http://www.edenwoodwealth.com)

**SJP Approved 21/02/2024**

## **J&S TREE CARE**

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Trusted To Provide The Best Possible Service  
For Free Estimate And Advice Call Jack*

*[jstreecare01@gmail.com](mailto:jstreecare01@gmail.com)*



## **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

### **BC WINDOW CLEANING LTD**

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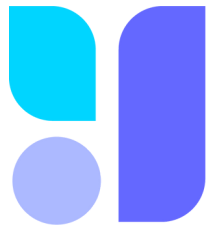
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## **EQUIPMENT, TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR SALE DUE TO BUILDER'S RETIREMENT**

Numerous good quality tools, equipment and materials available - over 150 different items, including:

Power tools - Festool Mitre Saw, Hilti TE25 110V, Elu TGS 173 110V flip over table saw, Arbotech AS 170 110V, nail guns and many more tools

Aluminium extension ladders, steps, ridge hooks and ridge ladder

Woodturning - chisels, salt and pepper grinder kits, books

Tiling - tile cutters (manual and electric), Ditramat, trowels etc

Drill bits - large range of sizes from 5mm to 150mm diameter

Acrow props

Drain cleaning rods with attachments

Wheelbarrow (Fort heavy duty) yellow

Materials - steel lintels, concrete lintel, rainwater fittings in brown, black and white, various plumbing and electrical bits

Email [ransleyprojects@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyprojects@gmail.com) to ask for full list of items, or call 07889 600677 with any queries. Photos are available of many items.

