

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS MAY 2024



*The lovely little library opposite the church,
take a book, leave a book*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

5 May 2024 - 8am Quiet Communion, Rev Amanda Lane

12 May 2024 - 10am Morning Worship and APCM, Rev Nick Carpenter

**19 May 2024 - 10.30am Pentecost - Benefice Communion in the orchard at St Mary's Newington*

26 May 2024 - 10am Family Worship, Teresa Parker

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

5 May 2024 - Gillian

12 May 2024 - Lynne

19 May 2024 - Liz

26 May 2024 - Eileen

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 on 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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear friends

As I write, the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the air is full of the sounds of lawn mowers, trimmers and power tools as people get out into the garden and start to get things ready for the coming warmer months.

Our gardens can be a real source of joy: a space where we can enjoy the fresh air, get our hands dirty and relax. There is masses of research and anecdotal evidence which supports what we probably all know – gardening, and being outside, are good for us. Gardening can increase our levels of physical activity, which is beneficial, and time in a green environment has been shown to reduce stress and improve wellbeing. Many of us are fortunate enough to have that outside space, living as we do in villages, or we have places nearby where we can enjoy the glories of creation.

A well-cared for garden, filled with plants, can be such a source of joy. Flowering plants bring colour and beauty, and growing vegetables and fruit can be hugely satisfying. But I believe we need to garden in harmony with nature, not in opposition to it.

I was really disturbed when I was at one of our local supermarkets the other day to see just one small shelf dedicated to products for those seeking to garden with respect for nature, while there were five shelves of packets and bottles containing substances promising to kill ants, slugs, snails, weeds, moss, and all manner of things. Do we really need to douse our gardens with what are, essentially, poisons? Why are we so obsessed with control and neatness?

There are many ways we can garden in harmony with nature, from planting for pollinators – the most obvious being honey bees, but there are many other insects which pollinate – to providing plants with seed heads for birds, water features which encourage all kinds of wildlife and companion planting, which establishes groups of plants that are beneficial to each other. A lovely example of this is planting nasturtiums

near brassicas – cabbage white butterflies will lay their eggs on the nasturtiums, rather than on your precious veg. And fennel attracts hoverflies, which prey on aphids. Garden to encourage hedgehogs – they love to feast on slugs and snails!

God created this beautiful planet of ours, and it is possible for us to co-exist with all manner of creatures, and weeds, rather than simply controlling and destroying things that seem to us to be out of place. And if we spend less time wrestling with nature, maybe we can have a little more time to just 'be' in the natural world and appreciate its variety and complexity.

Enjoy the blessings of creation this spring!
Rev Amanda

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.

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 2 May 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 2 and 16 May 2024.

WE ARE SO LUCKY!

From Rob Smith

“On my walk along the Sea Wall last week, on a bright sunny day, I was reminded how lucky we are to live in Lower Halstow.

We live in this lovely Village as yet unspoilt, and we sometimes forget this; and take our surroundings for granted.

The Village remains a little haven in this area, with lovely walks, pretty scenery, sea-scape views & abundant wildlife.

To maintain this environment requires hard work on a continual basis.

I would like to mention & thank some of the people/groups who spend so much of their time to preserve our haven.

The Parish Council (think of the Dock repairs for example).

The Friends of the Brickfields (particularly Judy, Bob & Karen, who maintain this Environment for us all to enjoy).

Our lovely Church, which is the Centre of our Village; and all those concerned who work tirelessly to ensure that it continues to be there for us all.

We have an excellent School & playgroup & various vibrant activities including: Short Mat bowls, Cubs Clubs, Yacht Club, Neighbourhood Watch, and the Tuesday Club, to name a few.

We also have a great Pub, the best food for miles! Chris & Carol do a great job organising activities.

So, I would like to thank in particular:

Keith & Kay Howard- Challis (PC Chair & Flood Warden) Judy, Bob & Karen (FoB as explained)

Jackie Swift for all her help & activities .Margaret for her Village walks.

John Mustoo (short mat bowls)

Elm Farm (Stevens family.) Providing lovely fresh fruit & the Daffodil charity.

Sean Branchett, keeps the Village trees safe & tidy,

Alf Smith- General Maintenance work.

No least the "Village News" team who keep us all "posted"
Other families(amongst the many) that provide invaluable help include:
Mick & Dawn Drury, the Tress family, Steve & Hilary Gates, all real stalwarts!

Sadly, we no longer have a Post Office & our bus Service leaves much to be desired; but these are examples of how a Village can deteriorate if we drop our guard.

I apologise for those that I have not mentioned,(but I could easily have named half of the Village-- that's why we succeed).

So, keep up the good work that keeps OUR village the Beautiful & safe place in which we live.

Thanks to you all.

Rob Smith (Local resident for many years)".

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From the Friends Committee - Janey Hinton, Dave Horne, Alan Beattie, Karen Thorpe, Tina Portman and Judy Telford:

Listen out for the Nightingales and Cuckoos this month, watch for the House Martins collecting mud by the Draw Dock - summer is coming.

The next work party will be on Saturday 11 May 2024, hopefully. Any change to this date will be notified on our Facebook page.

Last but not least: We are sad to announce that one of our founder members - Bob Telford - has passed away. Bob served on the committee for some time during our early years and was a constant support to us all, continuing to beaver away in the background and doing his Victor Meldrew impressions even after resigning when he got too busy with other projects. Among many things he managed to persuade the hardcore suppliers to come and resurface the car park after they had supplied the wrong materials (he had great powers of persuasion). He bought himself a pedestrian brush cutter and used it to great effect keeping the Brickfield paths open and tidy all summer. He spent some time collating information and helping to create a formal

presentation to help our case with the Environment Agency re the sea wall repairs, backing up Councillor Tina Portman's good work.

Thank you Bob, we'll miss you.

Information and updates are available on the Facebook page - Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields. To get in touch email 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.

DAFFODILS

Elm Farm daffodils raised £315. All monies gone back into the village £200 to the village newsletter and £115 to the village hall. Many thanks Elm Farm

KEEP FIT GROUP

A friendly group of ladies meet for local walks on Monday evenings, outside the Memorial Hall. For more information call Liz on 842272.

**THE TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024
MEMORIAL HALL, 7.30PM TO 9PM**

An intriguing talk by renowned local author, Helen Allinson
Life In the Kentish Victorian Workhouse

Please do join us for an informative evening.
Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow, ME9 7ES

£4 entry on the door Refreshments Raffle
Contact Liz 842272

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in 2024.

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 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. In 1944 Operation Overlord saw around 4,000 ships and landing craft set down about 132,500 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

The bravery and sacrifice of those people in securing the peace and freedom we enjoy today will be observed by the lighting of beacons around the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

The village is encouraged to join together as our Beacon at The Brickfields in Lower Halstow is lit at 9.15pm on 6 June 2024, to commemorate this momentous achievement.

Appropriate music and light refreshments will available from 8pm on the evening.



LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

From John Mustoo:

On 14 February 2024 we celebrated our 23rd anniversary. Over the years there have been a number of changes with people moving on. But we have been fortunate and replacements have come forward to ensure that the Club continues to flourish and has a strong core of village people. Initiated by John Mustoo, Chairman and John Rigby, Secretary. To generate a group of people with a vested interest of improving the hall facilities which at the time were somewhat run down. Over a period of 10 years each person paid £2 per session, of which £1.75 went to the hall funds. Attendance could vary from 6-16 which generated thousands of pounds over and above normal hire rates. Contributing to the hall efforts to raise funds for improvements. In 2012 the Club became independent and paid a regular users fee. For 2 years there were 2 teams in the Swale League using the hall on 110 occasions per year.

Swale Winter League - we had hopes of winning Division 3 but were piped at the post , 1 point behind the winners. This was under the new scoring system of 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 point for losing, irrespective if the is 6-0 or 4-2. This does truly reflect the endeavours of the losing side. We anticipate that coming second we will be promoted to Division 2. Bill Robinson and Joy Russel entered the Swale Pairs Competition loosing in the final to a very experienced team from Division 1.

We can still accept new players on Monday afternoons 2-4pm but have more capacity on Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Look forward to seeing you. John Mustoo 843681

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 ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW, SCHOOL LANE, ME9 7EA- 15 JUNE 2024

From Kay and Keith Howard-Challis:

If the Weather is Raining the Show will be held in Lower Halstow Memorial Hall

Registration from 9.00am - Judging Begins at 12.00noon
Rosettes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Classes:-

Fancy Dress

Dog & Owner Look-alike

Most Handsome Dog

Prettiest Bitch

Puppy 3 month to 1 year

Veteran Dog or Bitch 7 Years Plus

Happiest Dog or Bitch

Scruffiest Dog or Bitch

Rescued Dog or Bitch

Mixed Breeds Dog or Bitch

Pedigree Dog or Bitch

Brace of Dogs (not necessarily same breed but look a-like)

A Child showing Their Dog or Bitch – under 12 years Old

Dog or Bitch Judge and Steward would like to take home

Races:-

Very Small Dog or Bitch

Small Dog or Bitch

Medium Dog or Bitch

Large Dog or Bitch

The Overall Winner (All Dogs or Bitches That Have Come 1st In Their Class)

PDSA STALL – Held at the Novelty Dog Show

Please donate any nearly new or new items for the PDSA Stall
By leaving items at 2 Elm Place, Wardwell Lane, Lower Halstow.
Or we can collect, just phone 844408 (if out please leave a message).

Or, please bring them early on the day

May I say a big thank you, to anyone who has already kindly donated items for the PDSA Stall, as we are so grateful.

Any messages please contact me – kayhelen2017@outlook.com

LOST PROPERTY, MEMORIAL HALL

From Kay Howard-Challis:

I have been handed in two (maybe precious) items lost within the Memorial Hall in February 2024.

Please contact me – Kay Howard-Challis Hall Booking Clerk on either 844408 (if out please leave a message) or email kayhelen2017@outlook.com

ST MARY'S BELL TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT

Please join us at an

ART EXHIBITION & CRAFT FAIR



to be held in

St Mary's church

on 14/15/16 June 2024

Open daily from 10.30am to 4pm

Local Artists, crafters & sale of Works



**TICKETS £3 ON THE DOOR
CHILDREN FREE**

If you would like to have a stand/stall please contact

elspethbaecke@gmail.com

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE FOR
THE BELL TOWER RESTORATION FUND**

Meanwhile please donate whatever you can afford at
[justgiving.com/campaign/upchurchbelltower](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/upchurchbelltower)
or send a cheque to Upchurch Parochial Church Council
c/o Elspeth Baecke 4 Bedfont house, Holywell Lane, Upchurch ME9 7HN

LOWER HALSTOW



GARAGE

SALE

SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024

10.00AM – 2.00PM



Made with PosterMyWall.com

**£5.00 PITCH FEE DONATION TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY FUNDS.**

SORT CODE 30-98-97 : ACCOUNT 60816762

**PLEASE EMAIL RICHARD - LHNWATCH1@GMAIL.COM
WITH YOUR ADDRESS FOR THE MAP**

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Inconsiderate parking

There have been a number of concerns raised recently about drivers parking up on our pavements, on corners by junctions and on grass verges around our village. This has impacted on notably the elderly, families with young children and those who have special needs or difficulty with mobility. Some villages have reported being unable to walk along some public footpaths and have been forced to walk in the road because many vehicles are causing obstructions. This is unacceptable and a health and safety risk to our most vulnerable groups. Please be mindful where you park and consider the needs of pedestrians.

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.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF VACANCY

NOTICE is hereby given that a vacancy 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

Ann Smith

A I Smith
Clerk to Lower Halstow Parish Council

Dated: 11th April 2024

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children of Lower Halstow School managed to squeeze a lot into the last few weeks of Term 4!



As well as the events detailed below we are very excited to now have an additional learning space which has been built, in the form of our new log cabin, which we have fondly named 'The Lodge'. This extra space will be used for interventions, speech and language sessions as well as a quiet space for time out. The floor will be laid over Easter and the children are excited about heading in to see what it is like inside next term. Thanks to the money donated from the Scarecrow trail we have managed to purchase a range of furniture, beanbags and toadstool seats to make the Lodge an inviting space for everyone.

Science week was a real hit with everyone! A range of experiments took place in school with children choosing to do additional testing at home. One of the themes was adaptation; for this the children created specially adapted moths that camouflaged themselves in various places around the school.

We joined in with the national fundraising for Comic Relief; the School Council voted to wear non-uniform in order to raise money, several children also donned their red noses for the day. We raised £178.74 from the donations on the gate, which will go towards worthwhile causes in this country and abroad.

Year 4 also found time to head out on a trip to Kent Life for an Egyptian Experience, where they participated in a day of workshops focused on what life was like in Egyptian times. They learnt dances to perform to the Pharaoh, wrote healing spells to Sekhmet, built pyramids and learnt about how the Egyptians prepared for the journey to the afterlife – a great day was had by all!

Our term ended with a lovely Easter Service at St Margaret's Church led by John Guest. The children shared prayers and Bible readings, reading

beautifully, but the highlight was definitely the singing of Spring Chicken which is always a popular request!

An annual tradition at the end of the term is for the children to have a visit from our very own Easter bunny, aka, Teddy the school dog in disguise. This year the real Easter bunny also accompanied him! The PTFA bought a chocolate egg, chick or bunny for every child. The children loved seeing Teddy dressed up and were pleased to receive their chocolate treat!

Year 3, Maple Class feature:

Maple Class has had a very busy term learning all about Roman Britain. We decided to use this as the focus for our class assembly. We created Roman shields and practised their fighting formations such as 'the tortoise' and 'the wedge'. It was clear to see why the Roman army was so successful! In art, we have studied how the sculptor Anthony Gormley uses concrete, iron, clay and wire to show the connection between humans and the space around them. We enjoyed creating our own representations of people using wire. Looking forward to next term, we are excited to be involved in a six-week local environmental project with Wild Estuary. We will be learning to recognise different plant and animal species native to our estuary and learning about the impacts of climate change and what can be done to protect the estuary and its wildlife.

On behalf of everyone at Lower Halstow School, we would like to wish you a happy and peaceful Easter.

Michelle Crowe

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 June 2024 Village News is noon on
12 May 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, kayhelen2017@outlook.com

Mentalk Health Sittingbourne

mentalk-health.org

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

PC Phil Clemens

philip.clemens@kent.police.uk

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, 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,

info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

Village News

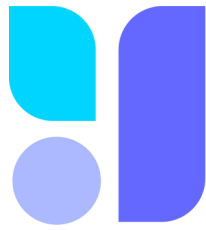
Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, ransleyfamily@gmail.com,

07771 817152

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242



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jstreecare01@gmail.com





Joe Robinson

Painting and decorating, uPVC spraying and more, please contact us for more info.

07713 464218

JR_Coatings@hotmail.com

Facebook and Instagram :
Jr Coatings



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

SJP Approved 21/02/2024

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