

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024



*Colin the duck supporting Team GB - what will he be wearing when the children go back to school in September?
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

8 September 2024 - 10am, Family Worship

15 September 2024 - 10am, Communion

22 September 2024 - 10am, Family Worship

29 September 2024 - 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>

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

1 September 2024 - Liz

8 September 2024 - Yvonne

15 September 2024 - Georgina

22 September 2024 - Helen

29 September 2024 - Gillian

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

I am writing this at the beginning of August as the Olympic Games are being played out – and I am struck, as always, at the exceptionally high level of ambition, commitment, determination, and sacrifice that is made – and required - by each of the competitors. There is such a hunger to do the best and to be the best – even to surpass the best. I do wonder what drives people to such amazing lengths - what defeats, disappointments, hardships and injuries are endured along the way - and I wonder what encouragement and support is needed to sustain the effort and the vision. I have to say that I have been delighted to see how those participating will congratulate – and commiserate - with each other – despite the intensity of their competitiveness.

Of course most of us are never going to become Olympians. Our life triumphs may seem very humble and ordinary in comparison. But we will each have our own hopes and dreams. And we will each have a variety of gifts and strengths that will shape us and give us purpose. Often our gifts and strengths are to be used in conjunction with the

people we find ourselves living and working alongside – who will have their own gifts and strengths that will complement ours. We do need each other. And we so need people around us who offer encouragement and loving care and who keep things in perspective for us as we journey through life.

I am also very aware as I write - for the September magazine – that we are in the month that heralds the end of the summer holidays and the start of the new academic year. Children and young people will be starting or returning to education - and school and college staff will be starting or returning to work. It is often a time of adjustment – getting used to new routines, tasks and timetables - and of settling in, particularly with new students and teachers. It can be an anxious time for some, an exciting time for others. But maybe it can also be a time of exploration and opportunity – a time for discovering those personal gifts and strengths (and weaknesses) and of finding out how these might fit in with the gifts and strengths (and weaknesses) of others. It can certainly be a time of learning how to work together – to be patient and tolerant and understanding of each other. It can be a time of building up each community into something good.

As I started writing I was reminded of the verse from the bible that says, “Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12.1b). The author means the race – or perhaps the pathway - that is our Christian journey – the one that God has called us to. It is the race of our life - and we are told to stay focused on Jesus – and to be like Jesus. So as we travel we need to use our God-given gifts and strengths and we need to remain alert to the others that we “run” alongside – relying on them for encouragement and support just as we, in turn, give loving care back to them.

I hope that you will enjoy all the opportunities that come your way.

With every blessing
Lis Willmet, Lay Reader

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES ANNUAL RIDE AND STRIDE - SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 10AM TO 6PM

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of The Friends of Kent Churches, a charity which exists purely to give financial support to all churches in Kent to preserve these buildings for future generations. In the 75 years over £10million has been raised. ALL the money raised from the Annual Ride and Stride is given back to the churches of Kent - 50% of your sponsorship is given directly to the church of your choice and 50% goes into the county pot to help large projects such as the tower at St Mary's, Upchurch.

It is a simple but effective event. The idea is you seek sponsorship for the number of churches you can visit on the day.

There are literally hundreds of churches open to welcome you, sign your form and offer you sustenance. You can cycle, walk, ride a horse or drive your classic car!! A great route is the round trip between all six churches within our Benefice.

Volunteers can also be sponsored for church sitting - this entails welcoming visitors and offering refreshments - provided by St Margaret's. Sponsorship for this is for how many hours you would like to offer on the day, the maximum being 8 hours.

Why not make this year the year to get involved!? For more details and sponsorship forms call Liz 842272.

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 Thursday 5 September 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 5 and 19 September 2024

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

There will be no organised work party in September - giving you all a break before the hard work of winter starts! If you take a walk on the Brickie please take secateurs with you and cut back any bramble, etc., that's hanging over the path. That would be a big help, thanks.

As always, the reed bed will be cut in early October and we would love lots of help clearing it - more on this in the next newsletter.

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

THE TUESDAY SOCIAL

Tuesday 24 September 2024

7.30pm

Join us for an insight into the Hulked, Soundwalk Project
Presented by Anna Brathwaite

All welcome Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow, ME9 7ES £4
entry Refreshments Raffle

For more information call Liz 07730893747

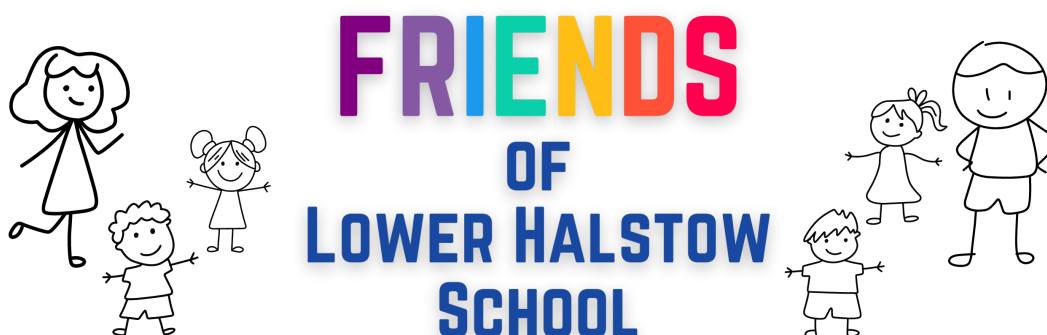
HULKED SOUNDWALK - OPEN DAY, SATURDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2024, 10AM TO 4PM

Join the Hulked Team for this open day, experience the soundwalk, meet the artists etc. Head to the dock and the Edith May sailing barge to join in the fun.

THE VILLAGE BEACON AT THE BRICKFIELDS

From Steve Gates:

As you may be aware the post top caught fire after the D-Day 80 commemorations. The Beacon Basket has been removed (thanks Shoun Bearup) for safety and minor modification, and the post will be lowered slightly, before the Beacon is reinstated to mark VE80 in May 2025.



FRIENDS OF LOWER HALSTOW SCHOOL

We are delighted to announce there is a new Friends of Lower Halstow School group! We look forward to working with the local community throughout the school year to raise funds to support our village school. Please visit friendsoflhs.org.uk for up-to-date information.

SCARECROW TRAIL 2024

The Scarecrow Trail is back for 2024! It will run from 3pm on Thurs 24 Oct until 4pm on Sun 3 Nov, and the theme this year is 'Animals; fact or fiction!' Please visit friendsoflhs.org.uk for more information and to register.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meet in the Memorial Hall, School Lane at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

CHANGES TO THE VILLAGE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2024

To reduce the cost of printing the Village News and the time that it takes the very lovely Paul to do that printing as an unpaid volunteer some changes have been made to this Village News. Please keep the pull out "Keep me safe - contact numbers and village information".

This will probably be printed twice a year, with any other changes being highlighted in the Village News.

Thank you

THE HISTORY OF UPCHURCH TALK - ST MARY'S CHURCH, UPCHURCH, SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2024, 7PM

A talk at St Mary's, Upchurch - tickets £5 on the door, children free. All proceeds will be for the Bell Tower Restoration Fund.

THANK YOU TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

From Rob Smith:

Walking around the Village I noticed how smart the Village greens (Next to the Hall) & the Gibbs looked, having had the grass cut & with the new seating installed.

Both areas look very appealing. Well done the PC for keeping our Village such a nice place to live!"

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 October 2024 Village News is noon on 12 September 2024.

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to
ransleyfamily@gmail.com**



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