

# LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS NOVEMBER 2024



*Photo of the 2023 Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Wood,  
kindly supplied by Alan Beattie*

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

## **SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S**

10 November 2024 - 10.30am, Remembrance Service

St Margaret's would like to invite you to our annual Remembrance Service. Always well supported, with the village young Beavers and Cubs, who take part in the service. Followed by refreshments.

17 November 2024 - 10am, Family Communion

24 November 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**

3 November 2024 - Georgina

10 November 2024 - Helen

17 November 2024 - Gillian

24 November 2024 - Lynne

30 November 2024 - Liz

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

From Peter Froggatt:

I intend to run a Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Wood on the Brickfields on Monday 11 November 2024 at 10.45am.

The closest access to the Memorial Wood is at the very end of Heron Close. All are welcome.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Dear friends

It's good to gather with others of a like mind, relaxing together and sharing stories and ideas; not to mention eating good food prepared by others, and enjoying lovely surroundings! Rev Julian and I had just such an opportunity when we gathered with nearly a hundred clergy from around the diocese for a conference entitled Together in Prayer.

Prayer is not some kind of specialist and exclusive work just for those who are in ministry. The reality is that prayer is – or should be – the fuel

that gives life to our Christian faith, however we express that faith. It's communication with God, in both directions, and like any relationship it requires time and effort.

It's not just a case of reeling off a shopping list of our requirements and waiting for God to get on and fulfil our every desire, nor is it prescriptive and something we get grades for!

On the Saturday evening we had a speaker familiar to many in The Six: Hugh Nelson, formerly our curate, and now Acting Bishop of Truro. Hugh openly admitted he sometimes struggles with prayer, but made it clear that's not a reason to give up! Rather, we need to be willing to wrestle. Sometimes, prayer is just about turning up, and can be as simple – or challenging perhaps - as sitting in silence before God.

We had a speaker, Gemma Simmonds, a sister from the Congregation of Jesus, who was inspiring, entertaining and challenging. Prayer, and the Christian life, said Sister Gemma, is not a performance-related activity; rather, we need to be willing to be open to God, laying aside any pretence we carry around. We don't need to be competent, or particularly holy, or clever, to be loved by God. It's far more important to be completely ourselves. We are so used to putting on a face in the world, to hide our emotions, to pretend we are more in control than we are, or better than we feel. There is absolutely no need for us to pretend with God; in fact, it's a waste of time!. As Sister Gemma said, God sees beneath our mask and loves what he sees. Even if we hide it from ourselves!

Prayer is a time to lay aside pretence, to stop striving, to be open and vulnerable, to listen and learn as well as speak. It's such an amazing thing to do, it's sad we spend so little time doing it!

We don't have to be in a particular place, or sit or kneel in a particular way, or use special complicated language; as Hugh said, we just need to show up and do it! Particular disciplines of time, or place, or structure can be helpful. We're all different. It's a question of finding out what

works for each of us and then perhaps we can experience prayer as sunbathing, as former Archbishop Rowan Williams describes it. Perhaps not an image that would occur to most of us!

But prayer should be about getting closer to the one who loves us most, and tuning in to what God wants for each of us. May you find God's blessings in that relationship of openness and vulnerability.

Every blessing

Rev Amanda

### **NEVILLE HENDY**

From Pam Shephard and Jackie Swift:

A big thank you to everyone who came to Neville Hendy's funeral on Friday 13 September 2024. It was so lovely to see the church so full and £225 was raised in his memory for the Wisdom Hospice. Neville passed away from pancreatic cancer on Tuesday 20 August 2024. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.

### **LADY ON THE BRICKFIELDS**

From Sharon:

Just a little note regarding our homeless lady camping on the Brickfields. After working closely with Sam and the relevant authorities over the past few weeks, along with lots of prayers from people during our services at St Margaret's. Our prayers have at last been answered, we have successfully secured a permanent place for Sam and her therapy cat. The good news is that she is moving to pastures new. After all her lonely desperate and dark days the Lord Jesus has shone a light into her darkness. Our people within the village, especially the owner of the shop, have show her great kindness and Sam told me that she has never felt as safe anywhere before. Our village and caring people are unique and our wonderful church is a warm and welcoming place. Sam and I were dancing for joy when we finally got a result and both thanked the Lord for making the impossible possible. I am sure we will wish Sam

and her cat a happy and brighter future. Thanks again everyone for your kindness and prayers.

### **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 7 November 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 14 and 28 November 2024

### **BLYTHESWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL**

The last day to drop off your Blytheswood Shoe Box Appeal donations is Wednesday 6 November 2024. If you are not able to get to a collection point please call Hilary on 841632 and she will arrange for it to be picked up.

### **THE TUESDAY SOCIAL**

Tuesday 26 November 2024

7.30 - 9pm

The Christmas Social

Do join us for an entertaining evening with music

hosted by David Scott

All welcome

Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow, ME9 7ES

£4 entry on the door Refreshments Raffle

Contact Liz 842272

(The Tuesday Social is an informal event in support  
of St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow)



The Friends of Lower Halstow School Scarecrow Trail will run from 3pm on Thursday 24 October until 4pm on Sunday 3 November 2024, and the theme this year is '**Animals; fact or fiction**'! Please visit [friendsoflhs.org.uk](http://friendsoflhs.org.uk) for more information.

## **COMMUNITY CAFE**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**NOON to 2.00PM**

**MEMORIAL HALL**



### **THE THREE TUNS**

Christmas Market at the pub on Wednesday 27 November 2024 4-8pm

### **MEMORIAL HALL**

The hall is now practically fully booked for the weekends until the New Year, so please would anyone who would like to use the hall during 2025 at the weekend, please let me know soonest, as we hate to disappoint any Village Family.

Please also note that Sundays are now always booked, as the Pentecostal Church are using the hall every Sunday morning, and the only chance for our cleaner to do a deep clean, is on a Sunday afternoon.

Kay Howard-Challis - Booking Secretary for Lower Halstow Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall Management Committee are holding its **Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday 12 November 2024 in the hall at 7.15 pm. All villagers are welcome to attend.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sunday 1 December, 3pm - CHRISTINGLE and GIFT SERVICE

Friday 6 December, 7pm - COFFEE and CAROLS MEMORIAL HALL

Saturday 7 December, 6pm ON THE GREEN

Lighting the Christmas tree

Sunday 8 December, 3pm St. MARGARET'S CHURCH Carol Service

Further information in the December Village News.

### **SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY - FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2024**

From Margaret Milsted-Williamson and Chris Horne:

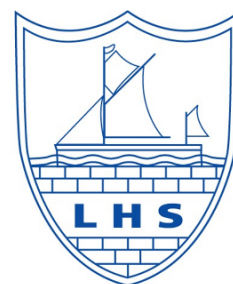
This year our party will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 20 December, 2.00-5.00pm.

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](mailto: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).

### **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Despite the weather being a bit on the wet and gloomy side we have still had a lovely term learning, playing and making the most of being back together as a school. We have enjoyed welcoming our new Reception children to the school and Year 6 have demonstrated how mature and caring they are by being their buddies and helping them to settle into the routines of school.



We gathered together to celebrate our annual harvest festival with a lovely service from Reverend Julian. Each class wore a different colour of the rainbow and brought in a food donation to match - all of the food was donated to the Swale Food Bank. We collected 135.65kg of food and they were very grateful for our donation. We joined together to sing some harvest themed songs with the favourite being 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'.

The whole school celebrated Safety week; Phil from The Dogs Trust paid us a visit and led a whole school assembly all about being safe around dogs, the children then all received a workshop about dog safety, dog breeds and the role of the Dogs Trust. In the same week Year 5 headed off to the Railway Safety Centre at Margate where they learnt about how to keep safe near railways through interactive workshops and activities. Meanwhile back in school our Year 1 and 2 children learnt how to be safe when riding their scooters. It was unfortunately a very wet event however they all came back in smiling after achieving the objectives of the session. They even got to head out around the local area to practise what they had learnt.

Some of our Year 6 children sat the Kent Test. They all tried so hard and completed the papers with confidence. Regardless of the outcomes we are proud of them and the great young people they are becoming, they really are a Year 6 who set an amazing example to the rest of the school.

Some of our Year 2 and 3 children participated in the Sittingbourne Rugby Club's Tag Rugby Festival – great fun was had by all and they were delighted with their certificate and medal. For most of these children it was their first chance at representing our school in a sporting event, however their behaviour was impeccable and we were really proud of each and every one of them.

Our Year 6 pupils had a great team building day at the Creed Outdoor Adventure Centre, they spent the day climbing, doing archery and

completing various outdoor challenges in teams. Their resilience was certainly put to the test however it was lovely to see the children try something new and achieve something they didn't think they were able to do.

Year 5 Beech Class Feature:

As part of the school's Safety Week, Beech class travelled by train to Margate where they took part in a rail safety workshop. The children were given lots of ideas on how to stay safe near and on the railways. I think that the highlight of the trip was eating their lunch on the train!

Quotes from children:

*The train safety trip was inspiring.*

*I like to learn about the safety and to make sure I am safe on the railway.*

*I really liked travelling by the train to get there.*

Harvest festival is always popular with the children and this year was no different. The year 5 children wrote poems that celebrated the time of year with lots of references to the weather, harvest and hot chocolate. The class voted for their three favourites which were read out in the assembly. The class looked very smart dressed in various tones of pink as part of our rainbow themed harvest celebrations. All our families were very generous with their contributions to our harvest table which were donated to the Swale Foodbank.

Quotes from children:

*It was really good seeing all the colours of the rainbow whilst I read my poem.*

*I think that it is good that we are donating food to the foodbank as no one should be without food.*

*The food looked tasty and everyone looked great in all the different colours.*

Many of our children have been inspired by the professionals that came to school as part of our 'Meet the Experts' session. The children had lots of questions for a plethora of experts. From nurses to authors,

firefighters to farmers, policemen to road builders everyone was asked about what their job entailed and why they would recommend it as a profession.

Quotes from children:

*It was fun to learn about the different jobs people did.*

*It was interesting talking to and finding out what their jobs involved. We got to try out a stethoscope!*

Our final event that the children have enjoyed was once again a whole school activity, as each of the classes visited the Edith May sailing barge, moored at Lower Halstow as part of our Heritage Month activities. They learned all about the history of the barge and the links between Lower Halstow and barges. Whilst below decks they were able to ask about what life had been like for those sailing around the coast, transporting goods both locally and around Britain.

Quotes from children:

*I really enjoyed learning about the items such as the anchor buoy and fog horn that the skipper showed us.*

*It was fascinating hearing about all the animals the skipper had seen when out on the boat and all his stories about the barge.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Halstow



The Purpose of Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Here in Lower Halstow, we are proud to be part of the Scouting community along with 13 other groups within the Sittingbourne and Milton District, which in turn is part of Kent Scouts. Since 1974, we have survived with support of our amazing parents and volunteers, enabling our young people to learn practical life skills and experience things they might not otherwise know about; all by having fun and feeling a sense of community.

We are guided by the following Scouting values:

**Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.**

**Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.**

**Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.**

**Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.**

**Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.**

If you are interested in joining our team, this does not need to be on a weekly basis i.e. once every 2/3/4 weeks, whatever you are able to do, please contact [Ria.smith@sittingbournescouts.org.uk](mailto:Ria.smith@sittingbournescouts.org.uk). All volunteers are required to be DBS checked and cleared to ensure the safety of our young people



Photo of Ria Smith receiving her award for completing her Group Lead Volunteer training for 1st Lower Halstow Scout Group. Pictured here with Scouts District Lead Volunteer Thomas Manktelow.

## 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 December 2024 Village News is noon on 12 November 2024.

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



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Pantomime Tickets (2) Jack & Beanstalk

Meal for 2 - The Crown

£20-Voucher The Three Tuns

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