

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS DECEMBER 2024



Painting by Ann Chesson

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

- 1 December 2024 - 8am, Quiet Communion
- 3pm, Christingle Gift Service*
- 8 December 2024 - 3pm, Carol Service
- 15 December 2024 - 10am, Communion
- 22 December 2024 - 10am, Communion
- 24 December 2024 - 3pm, Crib Service
- 11.30pm, Communion
- 25 December 2024 - 10am, Communion
- 29 December 2024 - 10am, Communion

*our annual Christingle service, come and find out the meaning of a Christingle? It's a time to donate, good quality toys, and gifts. These will be taken to the Salvation Army the next day, who gratefully receive our gifts. Thanking you. Stay after the service for a cup of tea and cake.

Christmas Eve Quiet Christmas 1pm - 2.30pm. A time to escape the hustle and bustle of Christmas, sit a while, light a candle, enjoy being still

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 December 2024 - Eileen
- 8 December 2024 - Yvonne
- 15 December 2024 - Team
- 22 December 2024 - Liz
- 29 December 2024 - Georgina

JUST FOR FUN - SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2024, 2 - 4PM

St Margaret's Church will be running a craft afternoon on Sunday 22 December 2024, 2-4pm. Activities will be child based but adults are welcome. We try to use as much recycled items as possible.

Refreshments available.

Donations accepted towards costs.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What is Greatness?

Embedded in the slogan used by the US President-elect is the word "great". Yet what do he & others around him mean by this? Is this for the many or the few?

We often now see the acronym GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) applied to the achievements of significant sportsmen in their different sports. So, in football there are debates about whether it is Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo, but what about Pele and Maradona? Who gets to decide? Not the players themselves. Yet the boxer Cassius Clay (before he became Muhammad Ali) famously stated "I am the Greatest" as part of putting down his opponent Sonny Liston before their fight, although he did go on to make his point by winning the fight.

Yet it seems that self-proclaimed "greatness" can be about expressing a sense of self-serving superiority, arrogance with power and authority over others, rather than for others. Sadly, this can lead to violent conflict and war, as either an individual or system seeks to impose their will on and lord it over others. Is that really what "greatness" is all about, the subjugation of others? We see this being played out currently in different parts of the world as certain leaders vie for power with people just trying to live their lives, but paying the price, with their lives, homes and communities being devastated.

So, back to the question of who decides who is great or the greatest? Jesus said, "whoever wants to become great, is to first serve others" Mark 11.43-44 in response to the desire for assumed power and

significance on the part of two of his disciples James & John. He told them, in no uncertain terms, how even he “did not come to be served but to serve”. Such thinking is challenging. It was then and remains so today. For our assumptions about greatness are turned on their head. It is not about power and might, but about humility and service.

On Remembrance Day we remembered those who gave their lives in service for a "land fit for heroes". Surely the claim to greatness of any land or society is measured by how the least are looked after. For Jesus said "whatever you do for the least, you did for me" Matthew 25.40. What better way for us today to continue to honour the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in war, than in serving others especially the more vulnerable in our midst. For in so doing, it is Jesus we are serving.

Blessings

Julian,

Rev Julian Staniforth, Rector of The Six

SSAFA, THE ARMED FORCES CHARITY

From Jackie Swift:

A Big thank you to our village for their generous donations to SSAFA, after our Remembrance Service we raised another £321.00, making a total of £932.59. I am waiting for a thank you certificate from SSAFA. Many thanks everyone.

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 December 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 date is Thursday 12 December 2024.

COFFEE AND CAROLS - FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2024, 7.30PM TO 9PM

A fun evening in the Memorial Hall choosing your favourite carols. A good sing song. With mince pies and sausage rolls.

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE - SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024, 6PM

Watch the turn on of the Christmas lights on the Green and sing a few carols

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS - WORK PARTY, SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 10AM

From Judy Telford:

Some of you may have noticed some odd-looking holes in the cut area of the reed bed, this was a test dig to look at the viability of creating a bund wall to help retain the water in the reed bed. This will have the dual benefit of keeping the path dry in winter and keeping the reed bed wetter for longer. The test was successful so please be aware that there will soon be a digger moving along the middle path (Pipe path/Fire Break) first thing in the morning and late afternoon for three to four days. I will put a notice on the main entrance and also post on Facebook Village News when I have the dates confirmed. Take care of your children and dogs if you are in the area.

We will also be thinning some of the trees near the Avenue shortly, hopefully this will encourage the Orchids to return as well as improving the general habitat.

Please keep cleaning up after your dogs even though the dog waste bin has been removed!

December's Work Party will be on **Saturday 7 December 2024**, a week earlier than usual, there will be mince pies, of course, it being that time of year. Meet at the gate at the end of Lapwing Drive at 10am.

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

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 or by putting your name on a piece of paper and posting it me at, 1 The Green (the old post office).



This year's Scarecrow Trail raised a fantastic £1,412 for the Friends of Lower Halstow School! Thank you very much to everyone who took part, donated, sponsored and visited the Trail.

THE THREE TUNS

Although The Three Tuns remains closed on Tuesdays we will be open on Tuesday 24 December and Tuesday 31 December.

THE TUESDAY SOCIAL

We wish you all a joy filled and peace filled Christmas. We do not meet in December but will resume with a 'not to be taken too seriously' fun quiz in January.

Thank you all so much for your support this year.

God bless.

The Tuesday Social is a fundraising event for St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow

MEMORIAL HALL - Your Important Dates for 2025

From Kay Howard-Challis - Booking Secretary for Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust:

If you would like to use the Lower Halstow Memorial Hall for your important function, please book early, as sadly, I have disappointed many Lower Halstow people who live in our Village over this last year, therefore, I would like to remind everyone to please book early for 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to send my sincere Seasonal Greetings to All.

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of a busy first term we enjoyed a few whole school activities to round off Heritage month as well as some fund raising for the Dogs Trust who had paid us a visit earlier in the term. As part of our Heritage month celebrations several parents joined us in school to share some of their favourite family games. Various classics were brought in and played, with discussions taking place about traditional family games.



The children were joined by Teddy and Georgie (the school dogs) for a sponsored walk to raise money for The Dogs Trust. The whole school participated in the 'Paw Patrol Stroll' with the younger children making

masks of their favourite Paw Patrol characters to wear whilst they walked. The children had 20 minutes to complete as many laps of the Daily Mile track as they could. We raised £612.50 in donations as well as blankets and accessories: we are sure that the charity will be pleased with our efforts.

The annual Scarecrow Trail around the village was as successful as usual with many families travelling to the village to join in with the trail. The theme this year was famous animals (fact or fiction), with this in mind we decided that we would make a scarecrow of Teddy, our school dog. Mrs Beer and her team of helpers did a fantastic job of creating him. Mr Saunders even made a special dog house to keep him dry in the rain. The 'real' Teddy, loved walking around Lower Halstow looking at the various scarecrows and smelling them wherever possible! Thank you to all the local residents who created a scarecrow or gave up their garden to host one, we really appreciate your support and have received comments from far and wide about how welcoming the village was to all the visitors.

Our annual activities for Remembrance took place with Year 6 all creating a colourful display for the gate, this was a beautiful and thought-provoking sight for everyone to enjoy as they arrived at school. Miss Crowe, Mrs Beer and the Year 2 – 6 school councillors represented the school at the Brickfields Memorial service. Meanwhile back in school the children participated in a two minute silence, class assemblies and activities as we made time to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.



LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Removal of Dog Waste Bins by Swale Borough Council

The Parish Council was not informed that removal of dog waste bins was going to take place. The rationale was dog waste bins were to be removed that were next to litter bins already in place, but it has been noted that this has not been the case in Heron Close. Swale Borough Councillor, Mike Baldock was at the last Parish Council meeting and so is aware. If there are any further issues, please contact the Clerk and I will pass them on to Cllr Baldock. Please note that it is acceptable and, indeed encouraged to put bagged dog waste into normal litter bins.

Allotments

There are a few allotment plots available at the Memorial Hall Site and at Tutt's site, at very reasonable rates. If you are interested in growing your own vegetables, fruit and flowers, now is the time to get the ground prepared and ready for the planting season in the Spring. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

Parish Council New Website

The Parish Council are pleased to say that they have a new website. Take a look: <https://www.lowerhalstow.org>. You will find lots of information, including Minutes, Agendas, local road closure notices and much more.

..And Finally

If you would like to give a little back to your community, perhaps you would like to consider applying to be a Parish Councillor. There is currently a vacancy. Contact the Clerk for further details at: clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or leave a message on 01760 336459

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall.

COMMUNITY CAFE

4TH JANUARY

11.30AM – 2.30PM

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING - SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025

From Steve Gates:

Shaun and the gang from Treecraft have again kindly offered to shred and recycle our Christmas Trees.

Bring trees to the hardstanding next to the Memorial Hall before Sunday 5 January 2025.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS

From John Mustoo:

The recently acquired mats (almost new) have improved the playing surface greatly. But in the Swale League it makes it easier for the Away Team and the points difference will be harder to achieve. Much reduced League with only 6 games to play . First match Tunstall Away on 20 November 2024. Tuesday morning league “Bill’s Bashers” are top at present. Not Bill Robinson’s choice of name by the way. The Christmas Lunch is at the Three Tuns in December.

New Players - we have a good following on Mondays but the Wednesday evening could accept more players. Come along and give it a try.

Running the London Marathon 2025
and Fundraising for Pancreatic Cancer
UK!



CHARITY

PUB QUIZ

Wednesday
8TH JAN

The Three Tuns, Lower
Halstow (ME9 7DY)
19:00 for 19:30 start

£5
per person
Teams of 4-6
people

Please contact Amelia 07896 681177 to
register your team!



Memorial Hall – Friday 10th January 7.30pm

Please join us for a fun evening with legendary quizmaster

Michael van der Straaten

Fundraising for Lower Halstow Scout Group

Tables of 6, pay £5.00 per person on the night – book with ria.smithuk@hotmail.co.uk

Raffle, heads and tails, bring your own drinks and snacks

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 January 2025 Village News is noon on 12 December 2024.

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



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