

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS January 2023



*Wintery view from the Sea Wall
photo kindly supplied by Mandy Parker*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

1 January 2023 - 10.30am, Benefice Communion

8 January 2023 - 10am, Family Worship

15 January 2023 - 10am, Family Communion

22 January 2023 - 10am, Family Worship

29 January 2023 - 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>

Midweek service

We hold a short midweek service of Praise and Prayer in the church on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 10.30am.

Prayers for the community, personal needs or illnesses and there is opportunity for prayer for yourself if you would like it. All are welcome and you are invited to stay for tea/coffee after. Rev. Jacky Davis, 843189.

Altar Flower Rota

1 January 2023 - Liz

8 January 2023 - Lesley

15 January 2023 - Lynne and Liz

22 January 2023 - Gilian

29 January 2023 - Eileen

ST MARGARET'S BEREAVEMENT COFFEE TIME

Just a reminder our meeting is still available to anyone who has had a sad loss of loved ones. We have great conversation, and laugh, but still remembering those who have passed away. It may feel difficult to walk through the door on your own, but be well assured, you will soon feel "at home". Please contact Jackie 07840 258665 for any queries. We even have a social secretary, who arranges day outings for us.

HELP WANTED WITH CLEANING AT ST MARGARET'S

A plea to anyone who has an hour to spare (approximately weekly) to clean the toilet and kitchen at St Margaret's. Two friends can be together to do it? Or even cleaning the church. We have a rota, but we would always welcome more help. Michelle who we gratefully thank for the years of cleaning the toilet and kitchen, has finally had to retire from the job. We also thank the ladies who clean the brass, the ladies who help to keep the church clean. Not forgetting the very talented ladies who arrange the flowers. Our church needs kind help to keep it going. Please get in touch with Jackie Swift 07840 258665.

FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends – Listening: it's both a talent and an aspect of character. The ability to listen is a professional necessity for many, but it is really a life necessity for all of us. There has been so much turmoil around us in the past year, so much that puts pressure on each of us, and so much that can disturb our lives and even our relationships.

In the midst of all of this, we need to keep our focus on this one skill and disposition – the determination to keep listening to each other. When this slips, those who are trying to speak can lose heart and difficulties can deepen without remedy.

But we can see a remedy for this, as in so much of life, in the behaviour of Jesus in his own ministry. He too could find it frustrating that his followers could so often fail to listen to what he was actually trying to get them to see, understand and do. At the same time, he himself listened to those who came to him, looking for some release from the things that burdened them. He would sometimes ask, "What do you want me to do for you?" He would leave them free to unload their needs as they saw them and experienced them, rather than prescribing or imposing himself on them.

When we find ourselves in any situation where difficulties and disagreements seem to be getting in the way, perhaps asking that question can help to restore relationships and understanding. "What do

you need? What are you trying to say? What can I do to help? Please tell me – I am listening.”

God’s love be with us, in us, and through us for each other in the coming year.

Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain (retired)
Lower Halstow

TRICIA CARR - IN MEMORY



It is with saddened hearts that we are letting village friends know that Tricia Carr passed away on the evening of the 30 November 2022. Our mother was known to many in the village, having lived in Crouch Hill House for over fifty years. Whilst in the early years she was a successful businesswoman, and probably rarely seen by church parishioners or neighbours, her later years were active in village and church life. And although throughout her adult life she was extremely busy with the company, she remained dedicated to her children - and as they arrived, she thoroughly enjoyed and was always there for her grandchildren.

Our mother had grown-up with a Christian mother. There is no doubt that her introduction to St Margaret's church, later in life, led her to develop a living faith in Christ. Being a member of the church led to her establishing many close friends, including Pauline Stevens. Indeed, Pauline and our mother struck up a wonderful friendship; they had such contagious fun which pivoted on church services, especially the Christmas ones.

All of us as children were called upon to assist our mother in 'saving the local Memorial Hospital from closure' many years ago. For us younger ones, that was the first introduction to being 'an activist' or 'doing good works'! Amongst many of her activist projects, or good community work, our mother served as: Church Warden, a local Independent Councillor, Campaigner against a landfill site, and Organizer of the Christian lady's breakfast (men were allowed!) on Saturdays in the Upchurch Golf club. Indeed, there were many daily charitable and other kind things our mother did for us all.

In short: our mother was deeply loved and loving. She was extremely humorous and fun-loving - she was a wise, stoic, and hugely generous character. We are and will continue to deeply miss her. We give thanks for her life.

The funeral will be held in St Margaret's of Antioch on Friday the 6 January 2023 at 11.00am. There will be a cup of tea and light refreshments at her home, Crouch Hill House, afterwards.

For those of you who are able to travel, there will be a 'Celebration of Tricia's Life' starting promptly at 12.30pm until 4pm which will be held at The Coniston Hotel, 70 London Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1NT, where you may enjoy some light refreshments, share a few tales of Tricia's rich life, Hear speeches from some of her family and friends and have the opportunity to write in the book of condolence. Everyone is welcome.

JOAN COTTERILL - 100th BIRTHDAY

From Glenys Lovell:

For those who remember Joan Cotterill. On 29 November 2022 she celebrated her 100th Birthday!

She lived in the village for many years, in Burntwick Drive (twice) and then in Landrail. She now lives at Blair Park Care Home in Milton. She had a lovely day.

She got her telegram from the King and her photo in the local paper too!



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU

I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy 2023.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who organises activities and events in the village, who offers help, or stops to have a friendly chat. I feel we are very lucky to live in such a kind and caring community. Gill

RUMMIKUB GROUP - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

From Emily Bartlett:

I have started a small Rummikub group up ONCE a MONTH at my house, 1pm & 3pm on the 1st THURSDAY of the month - 5 January 2023. Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

WINTER WARMER - SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2023, 12 NOON TO 2PM

Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch will be hosting a WINTER WARMER event on 21 January. This is at the Memorial Hall from 12.00 Noon to 2.00pm. A FREE hot lunch of soup and bread will be available and hot drinks and cakes.

All are welcome. Whilst pre-registering isn't necessary, it would be good to have an idea of numbers for catering. Please email LHNWatch1@gmail.com

**FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S, LOWER HALSTOW SOCIAL CLUB -
24 JANUARY 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM**

From Liz Mouland:

Do join us at the first meeting of this new venture.

Our speaker for the evening is Tina from **Thorne Hedgehog Rescue**

Tuesday 24 January 2023

Memorial Hall

7.30pm – 9pm.

Refreshments will be available. Raffle. Entry £5

Enquiries to Liz Mouland 01795 842272

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in January.

Chris, Carol and their team will all their customers a Happy New Year.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 12 January and 26 January 2023.

MOBILITY ITEMS

A temporary home has been found for the village mobility items, a minimum of 24 hours notice is needed at present and the contact details are: Jackie Swift 842749 or Dawn Drury 842688



Lower Halstow Residents

Your Neighbourhood Watch gives you...

Soup Sunday

A Lunch of Hot soup and Bread will be available for delivery for anyone struggling with the cost of living.



- * This is open to Lower Halstow Residents only.
- * Please register by e-mailing LHNWatch1@gmail.com
- * Please pass this information on to any neighbours who may not have social media.

** Neighbourhood Watch is about supporting our community. If you want to be part of our Help network, please contact us.



FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

The Scandinavian Thrushes have arrived, lots of Redwings and Fieldfares feasting on the berries. Hoping to see some Waxwings now the weather is colder but they don't get this far every year. Creek is full of duck and waders, well worth popping along for a look an hour or so before high tide. Google Sheerness tide times if you don't know when the tides are high.

December's work party was cancelled due to the weather, our next planned date is 8 January 2023. Meeting at 10 am, Lapwing Drive entrance gate as usual. Please feel free to come along and chat, see what we do, hear the plans we have, you don't need to do anything if you don't feel able to. As always if you would like to do something in your own time, rather than at a work party, please get in touch.

Happy New Year everyone and thanks to all the people who help make our Brickie the special place it is.

Don't forget to keep up with our news on our Facebook page; Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields.

Contact us on friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS

We have changed our name and are no longer part of the Health Walks programme. We are now Lower Halstow Walkers, and all are welcome. Starting at 10am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brick Fields, 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.

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.

SPRING BALL - 28 APRIL 2023

The Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields are pleased to announce the

Friday 28 April 2023, 7pm to 11pm

The Oak Grove , Twinney Wharf, Susan's Lane, Upchurch ME9 7HA

Tickets £22.50

Ticket price includes a chilli, with veggie option and sides, with live music from the fabulous Zac Schultz gang and a disco.

The Oak Grove features a heated giant safari tent , beautiful grounds, a fully licenced bar and overnight parking if required

This event was originally scheduled for Spring 2020 and then postponed to Autumn 2020 but Covid eventually forced us to cancel. Both events sold out completely so we are expecting (and hoping) the same will happen again so please book early top avoid disappointment. All profits will go to support the work of the Friends who work tirelessly, year round, to preserve and improve this precious part of all our lives. Be part of what promises to be a famous village get together !

email mstraaten@aol.com to reserve your tickets

DIY KEEP FIT GROUP

A friendly group of ladies meet for varied exercise on Wednesday evenings in the School Hall at 7pm. For more information call Liz on 842272.

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

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It really feels like we are in Winter now as the weather has turned colder and the nativity rehearsals and preparations are in full swing in the run up to Christmas.



We have fitted a lot in already this term! In November Year 3 were archaeologists for the day and spent their time uncovering artefacts and fossils then identifying each piece they found. Meanwhile Year 6 experienced a day at the Houses of Parliament in London; they had a tour around the Palace of Westminster and considered democracy and the rule of law as they spoke to various representatives from the House.

Our Year 5 and 6 boys' football league team have had a very successful start to the season managing to win or draw all 3 of their matches so far – we are really proud of them.



The PTA held their annual shopping event, which included a range of beautiful craft stalls to help people with present ideas in the run up to Christmas. It was lovely to see people from the village there as well. The PTA also ran a Christmas Fair for the children, this featured a range of

games including the bottle tombola, lucky dip, hoopla and the secret gift room where the children had a chance to purchase gifts for their family.

December started with the annual creation of the Christingles; the children were reminded of the meaning behind the elements of the Christingle, this was also followed up in an assembly on Advent from Reverend Julian. In the same week, the whole school were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Family Trust who performed 'The King', a version of the Christmas Story.



At the end of that week the whole school also took part in a sponsored Santa Run, despite the wet weather, they donned their Santa hats (provided by the PTA), dodged the showers and completed as many laps of the Daily Mile track as they could. We are still counting up the amount raised but everyone enjoyed the event, including singing along to the Christmas songs as they ran.

Our Year 1 and 2 children visited the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury where they watched a performance of 'Under the Frozen Moon'. After the performance they had the opportunity to ask the actors questions which they had prepared back in school. It really was a fantastic experience to be able to watch live theatre. Year R also headed off to the theatre, however they went to the Brook Theatre in Chatham to see 'The Lighthouse Cat's Christmas Adventure'. Again it was an amazing experience for the children.

It is hard to believe that there are only 2 weeks left before we break up for the Christmas holidays. We still have the Year R, 1 and 2 Nativity performance, Christmas dinner and parties and a special visit from that man in red to fit in – along with all our usual learning!

Everyone at Lower Halstow School would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

December Class feature – Year R Acorn Class

The theme in Acorn Class this term has been 'storytelling'. We have enjoyed traditional tales such as The Little Red Hen, where we became bakers and baked our own bread. We then read The Gingerbread Man and made our own Gingerbread Men from delicious gingerbread playdough. Later on we retold the story of Goldilocks and the Three bears and acted it out using musical instruments.

Here are some comments from Acorn Class about their first two terms in school:

"I liked lunchtimes because I see my Year 6 buddy" - Cody

"I liked learning about the Gingerbread Man. He ran out of the oven and away!" - Leo

"I liked doing Maths because I like counting. I liked looking for shapes too." - Spencer

"I liked going in the Home Corner to play Mums and Dads." - Ella

Michelle Crowe, Head of School

VILLAGE 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.

LOWER HALSTOW LOCAL NATURE FACEBOOK GROUP

A group for everyone interested in the nature and wildlife that we enjoy in our area. Please feel free to join in and chat about what you see in your garden, around the village and in the local area (except The Brickfields as that has its own page). Search Facebook for Lower Halstow Local Nature.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS

Last three matches:

Away - Queenborough Magpies , last 13-1. Drawing the last and by 2 shots in the 4's

Away - Kemsley, losing 8-6 a good performance for an away game

Home - Kemsley, winning 11-3, losing the triples and drawing one double

We now have 4 matches left to play 3 home and 1 away.

Kemsley Triples - the triples team, at the half way point, are still in second position but the top side are the home team Kemsley Bashers.

We celebrated our Christmas lunch at Upchurch Golf Club with 20 people attending.

We urgently require more players on Wednesdays to keep the evening viable, an increase of 2/4 players would make all the difference.

Report by John Mustoo, 843681, Secretary Mick Porter, 484345.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council would like to inform residents that the Village Sign will shortly be taken down and transported to a local, traditional sign writer for renovation.

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Greening Lower Halstow:

Latest drop off for real trees is Saturday 7 January 2023 at the hard-standing next to Memorial Hall. Trees will be chipped and used on the Brickfields.

RECYCLING

In her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue, Lynne Morris is recycling medication blister packs (please make sure there are no personal details on the packs), Ferrero Roche packaging, cheese packets, toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, floss containers, used stamps, egg cartons, beauty soft plastics, marigold gloves and used pens. Also foil (deflated) balloons and banners

Everything is collected and recycled for various charities and kept out of landfill.

LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM

Lower Halstow Yacht Club has a live weather station and webcam looking out over the creek updating every 15 minutes. It is on the yacht club website and is open to everyone weather.lhyc.org.uk

FUTURE DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:

DUCK RACE

Saturday, 8 April 2023

LOWER HALSTOW POETRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, 10 June 2023

RAFT RACE

Saturday, 1 July 2023

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 the February 2023 Village News is noon on
12 January 2023**

**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 843871**

Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Corrie Woodford, corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk

Roger Clark, 430324, rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

0800 144 8848, citizens advice.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

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>

PCSO

Kirsty Linge, kirsty.linge@kent.police.uk, call 101 or report online for non emergency issues

Playgroup

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

Police

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, <http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk/>

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Richard Sutehall, lowerhalstow.gsl@sittingbournescouts.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls

John Mustoo, 843681, Mick Porter, Secretary, 484345

St Margaret's Church

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329

PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688

Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 842749

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, 843871

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

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.uniquelyoursflowers.co.uk> or call Liz on 07730 893747

MIDKENT IT SOLUTIONS

Local village IT engineer available to help with all your IT needs, including PC/laptop repairs, wifi/network issues, printers, software, anti-virus, office 365 licenses, Windows 10 upgrades and much more.

www.midkentit.co.uk, 01634 912105/07542795078,
enquiries@midkentit.co.uk

Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and Investment Planning & Mortgages

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

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage

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embroidery and garment printing

professional custom clothing
and lovely personalised gifts

vintagehaus@mail.com

no order too small upholstery service available

07588 505539