

**LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS
February 2023**



Photo kindly supplied by Gemma Stevens

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

5 February 2023 - 8am, Quiet Communion

12 February 2023 - 10am, Family Worship

19 February 2023 - 10am, Communion

26 February 2023 - 10am, Family Worship

22 February 2023 is Ash Wednesday. There will not be a service at St Margaret's this year but there will be services at 10.30am at St Mary's Upchurch, 10.30am All Saints Iwade and 7pm St Michael's Hartlip for anyone who wishes to attend.

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

5 February 2023 - Georgina

12 February 2023 - Lynne

19 February 2023 - Liz

22 February 2023 - Ash Wednesday

No flowers during Lent

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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear friends

Gloom, doom, despair and despondency. Does that seem a fair description of how a glance at our world might seem right now? As I write, deep in January, the weather is gloomy, the sparkle of Christmas has passed, many people are suffering from flu and viruses, war continues to rage in Ukraine and the best the news has managed this week is that the UK isn't actually in recession because so much beer was drunk during the World Cup. Not exactly cheering, or a source for great optimism!

So is it time to withdraw, wringing our hands at the hopelessness of it all, and accepting there is no hope? I don't think so. In the midst of the darkness there are many signs of hope; it's just that sometimes we need to look for them!

The climate crisis is, quite frankly, terrifying in its intensity and implications for so many people, even now. And yet there are glimmers of hope. The hole in the ozone layer, which posed such a threat throughout the 1980s, has been gradually repairing, and is likely to be largely recovered by 2040, thanks to the 1989 Montreal Protocol, an international agreement which helped eliminate 99% of ozone-depleting chemicals. A remarkable, and widely unnoticed,

result, which must bring hope. A serious threat was internationally recognised, action was taken, and the result is of immense importance to the whole of humanity. And surely, if that can be done in this area, there is hope for other threats facing our planet.

During 2022, more than a quarter of the UK's grid electricity came from wind power; in one day on late December, more than half the electricity was wind-powered. Technology around renewable energy is exciting and fast-moving, a real source of hope.

Our precious NHS is facing appalling pressures, but in the field of healthcare the advances are astonishing, with major breakthroughs in the treatment of Alzheimer's and cancer announced in recent months.

There is no reason for us to become mired in hopelessness; there are signs of hope. And somehow these make me feel it is worth making a fuss to protect and rebuild those areas of life where the pressures are so damaging, such as the state of the NHS and other public services, and our environment.

And of course, we have the hope that came into the world at Christmas, not in a tinselled, gift-wrapped bauble of sparkly inconsequence, to be packed away once the festivities are over, but as the Son of God, our friend, brother, Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Light shining in the darkness. Who calls on us to be light in the darkness.

Let's shine!

Every blessing
Amanda

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 - 2 February 2023. Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

**FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S, LOWER HALSTOW SOCIAL CLUB -
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM**

From Liz Mouland:

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

Our speaker for the evening is

Mary Smith – A Schoolgirl's War

Superb talk and fascinating insights into life at
Maidstone Girls' Grammar School during
the Second World War

Tuesday 28 February 2023

Memorial Hall

7.30pm – 9pm.

Refreshments will be available. Raffle. Entry £4

Enquiries to Liz Mouland 842272

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in February, except for Tuesday 14 February 2023, Valentine's Day when it will be open for normal hours but the evening service will be bookings only for the Valentine's Day Menu which will be £80 per couple.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

February Fill-dyke seems to have come early this year, the Brickie is a sea of mud and the paths almost all now slippery, take care!

If anyone is landscaping their garden and has any granite chips, pea shingle, beach pebbles they don't want please think of the Friends - we can always use small amounts for path repairs.

The Environment Agency are planning on starting to repair the sea wall at the end of January, please be aware of the heavy plant moving about the eastern and northern sides of the Brickie.

Our next work party will be on Sunday 12 February 2023, we will be hedge cutting and thinning out some trees along The Avenue to try and encourage the orchids to return. All welcome - plenty to do! Please bring gloves and secateurs, loppers or a pruning saw if you have them, if not I'm sure we can find you something to use. Meeting at the Lapwing Drive entrance at 10am as usual.

If you are on Facebook please visit our page - Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields and if you enjoy nature and would like to know what you can see further afield please look for our sister page; Lower Halstow Local Nature.

Contact us on friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY

From Margaret Milsted-Williamson and Alan Beattie:

40 villagers joined the party on 17 December 2022, and I am pleased to say that we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon of chatter, food, and music.

Without the support from the following people and groups, we wouldn't be able to put on such a party, thank you all very much:

Les Stevens and his daffodils - long may they flower

Lower Halstow Poetry Festival

Local Councillors - Corrie Woodford and Roger Clark

Morrisons at Sittingbourne for the raffle prize and delicious food

Locals who donated raffle prizes of eggs, honey, and alcohol

And our lovely village hall and band of volunteers

Thank you all.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 9 and 23 February 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 Neighbourhood Watch

FREE Warm Space Lunch Event

Saturday 18th February 2023

12 noon - 2.00 pm

Memorial Hall – Lower Halstow

The heating will be on, the kettle will be on, a Lunch of hot soup and bread donated by the Neighbourhood Watch will be available, along with various community information for you to access. Everything is Free!

-

Come along and meet your Neighbourhood Watch representatives and special invited guests. We want to know how we can best assist the community and we need your help.

-

There will be a FREE raffle for a hooded blanket to help keep someone cosy this winter.

-

Any questions, please Email: LHNWatch1@gmail.com



We look forward to meeting you soon.



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.



FREE LUNCH FOR PENSIONERS - SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2023

We are 7 local ladies who wish to give something back to our community and we are organising our first event for 2023.

We would like to invite pensioners who are resident in Lower Halstow to join us for a free Easter 2 course lunch.

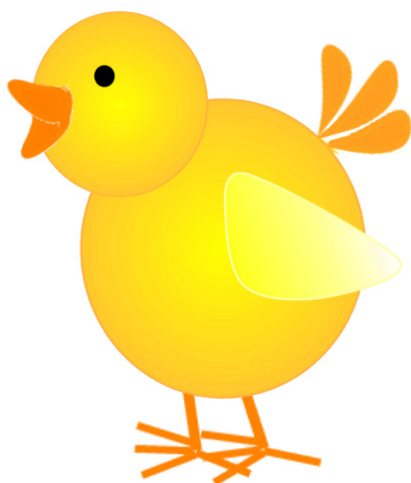
Date and time: Saturday 1 April 2023 at 1pm

Venue: The Memorial Hall

Choice of main meal: Cottage Pie or Gardeners Pie (vegetarian) with vegetables

Choice of desserts: Syrup Sponge Pudding and custard or Rice Pudding
Tea, coffee and water (please feel free to bring your own drinks)

Bookings are essential - please book your place by telephone/text to 07740 781550 or 07814 182603 by Friday 3 March 2023



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 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.

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 Spring Ball on 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 to 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

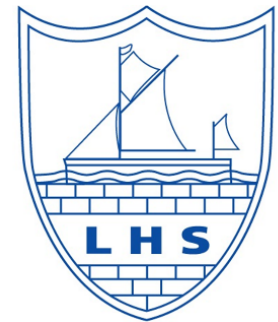
A friendly group of ladies meet for varied exercise on Wednesday evenings in the School Hall at 7pm. For more information call Liz on 842272.

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

Happy New Year from everyone at Lower Halstow School!



As we enter a new year we also start a new term, the children have only been back for a week and a half but it has already been a busy time. The children have thought about their new year's resolutions and what they are focusing on this year. New targets have been set and the children are focused and ready for their learning. This term the children also get the chance to review the 2 personal development goals they set themselves back in September. For some this is learning to tie their shoelaces or riding a bike, for others it's learning an instrument. Some have already been successful!



Teddy, the school dog, was back in too and spent his days listening to pupils read, fetching balls and then being brushed and pampered whilst the children chatted to Mrs Saxton.

Our Year 5 pupils have started the year by writing replies to their German pen-friends. They have enjoyed reading their last letters which arrived during the Christmas break and have responded with tales of their Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Year 6 have been busy creating pastel artwork in the style of Pablo Picasso, they studied work by the famous artist and then created pieces of their own. Some of their pieces have even been added to the school art gallery.



Year 4, Hawthorn Class feature:

Hawthorn Class had a productive end to last year! They learnt about electricity in Science, multiplication and division in Maths and they

thoroughly enjoyed their Ancient Egypt topic in History, especially when they visited the Maidstone Museum and saw a real mummy! The term was also filled with lots of Christmas activities including making crafts, having a Christmas dinner and decorating the class with Christmas decorations. They even had an elf sent all the way from the North Pole!



Hawthorn Class have had a positive start to Term 3 – they managed to win Groot (our school mascot) for the best attendance so far this term, so are busy writing in his diary describing all the learning he is joining in with. The class are looking forward to learning about the Anglo-Saxons this term and have started their new class text called ‘Anglo-Saxon Boy’.

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 PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Sea wall

The Parish Council are pleased to report that the Environment Agency have recently been in contact and confirmed that the much needed repairs to our sea wall will commence in February. Further updated information, in due course, will be made available on our website.

Parking

The Parish Council urges residents to park their vehicles with mindfulness. Consider how you would feel if an emergency vehicle could not get to you or yours in time because parked cars are causing an obstruction. Make sure your road is not a "Dead End"

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.

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: YACHT CLUB PRESENTATION/TALK - ISLANDS OF THE MEDWAY BY ADAM TAYLOR

Friday, 17 March 2023 in the Memorial Hall at 8pm

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 March 2023 Village News is noon on
12 February 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, 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

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.uniquelyyoursflowers.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
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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

SJP APPROVED 07/04/2022



embroidery and garment printing

professional custom clothing
and lovely personalised gifts

vintagehaus@mail.com

no order too small upholstery service available

07588 505539