

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS JANUARY 2025

HELP NEEDED TO KEEP THE VILLAGE NEWS

Please see pages 8 & 9 for more information

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

(5 January 2025 - Benefice service at Hartlip so no service at St Margaret's)

12 January 2025 - 10am, Family Worship

19 January 2025 - 10am, Communion

26 January 2025 - 10am, Family Worship

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 January 2025 - Helen

12 January 2025 - Gillian

19 January 2025 - Lynne

26 January 2025 - Yvonne

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

A new year is never a matter of indifference, just another day. Another cycle in the life of the world, it heralds ... what? A birthday signifies new beginnings, a chance to assess our own lives – where we have been, what we have reached, and where we might go. A new year is a kind of collective birthday for all of us. Whatever calendar we use, a new year must be much the same – the past is divided from future, and we all move on in anticipation of what is to come.

Anticipation? Mixed with hope or anxious thought? Our lives will always present challenges. The fading months of this last year have seen us faced with lots of them, both as nations and as individuals. It looks like there may be more challenges on the way. What about our own lives? Our families, friendships, homes and jobs?

The Future? We have to go there, whatever it brings. And it's good to go there with others to provide the support we need to get along, to get by, and get through. For all of us, there is someone who has promised never to leave us, who promised us his peace and strength. "Put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." As Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age".

Blessings

Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain (retired)

Quoted: "The Gate of the Year" by Minnie Haskins and Matthew 28:20

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.

RUMMIKUB GROUP

A small Rummikub group meets ONCE a MONTH at Emily Bartlett's house, 1pm-3pm, the next session will be on Thursday 9 January 2025. Beginners are welcome 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 9 and 23 January 2025.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

Another year almost over already and the wildlife on the Brickie is hunkered down for the winter although there are a few Robins, Long-tailed Tits and Bluetits about at the moment. There's still lots to see on the Estuary with many over-wintering birds feeding on the mudflats, the best time to see these is an hour or so before and after high tide. If you are unsure of the tide times they can easily be found on-line; search for Sheerness Tide Times.

Friends of the Brickfields have been busy keeping paths open all year, We have had the trees thinned out a bit along the Avenue in the hope that the Orchids will return when there is more light getting through. We have finally managed to get the bund wall installed around the reed bed which should help to keep the path drier in that area and also help to conserve the reed bed. On that subject, I must say a huge thank you to all the kind people who rallied round on Sunday 1st to clear the area

ready for the digger to get started - I'm sorry we cut the timing a bit fine!

As the year ends I'd like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers who turn out regularly and uncomplainingly (mostly!) to help with the various tasks on the site, we couldn't manage without you. Too many to mention but I would like to thank Alan Beattie in particular for putting up with me on the Committee for around ten years and for his help at work parties. I've no idea why he doesn't come back for the day to help though...

Next work party will, probably, be on the **11 January 2025**.

The FotB committee would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

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

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!

**The Tuesday Social
Tuesday 28 January 2025**

7.30pm

Join us for a
'Not To Be Taken Too Seriously'
Fun Quiz

All welcome £4 entry per person

Refreshments Raffle

For more information call Liz 07730893747

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

KAY HOWARD CHALLIS - NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Kay who is the booking secretary for the Memorial Hall and a Flood Warden has a new email address - howardchallisk@gmail.com

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

There is definitely an air of festivity and excitement at Lower Halstow School, with many eager children now counting down the days until the special day! We have fitted such a lot in already this term.



The School Council helped have the final vote on what we would do for Children in Need this year; we had a 'Break the Rules' day. The children broke a range of school rules, including wearing make-up, nail varnish, tattoos and non-uniform as well as bringing in an unhealthy snack for break time in return for a donation towards the worthwhile charity - as a school we managed to raise £261.09 for Children in Need!

We had a visit from the Music Band 'Rocksteady' who performed a range of rock songs to the children, this was followed by the children

having the opportunity to get involved with various children being brave enough to sing and play the drums, guitar or piano. It was such a success that we have now created our own school band. Watch out – there may be future pop stars in our mix!

Once we hit December, the Christmas activities really started in earnest. The Year 1 and 2 children performed their Christmas nativity 'A Midwife Crisis' to the rest of the school and then their families. It was an enjoyable and memorable performance which you can read more about in the contribution from Year 2 below. The Year R children also took to the stage for their first time and performed a range of Christmas songs to their families. They did amazingly as all the songs were accompanied by signing as well; they even sang one song in a round! Everyone left the hall with a smile on their face that afternoon. The Friends of Lower Halstow School (FOLHS) were also on hand and provided hot drinks and a mince pie following the three performances.

Year 2, Willow Class feature:

Everyone at Lower Halstow Primary School has been feeling very festive. Not only because of Christmas decorations going up around the school and twinkly magic arriving to all the classrooms, but the build up to the School Nativity has been very exciting with everyone learning new songs and practising lines and dance routines whilst looking amazing in their costumes.

We all put our best foot forward for our school Santa run, gaining rosy cheeks and raising money for our fabulous Friends of Lower Halstow School. The whole school also took part with children and staff donning their Santa hats (provided by the FOLHS), and completed as many laps of the Daily Mile track in 15 minutes as they could. We are still counting the amount raised but everyone enjoyed the event, including singing along to the Christmas songs as they ran.

Our school Christmas Fayre was a big success! There were many lovely stalls selling a variety of things, which the children enjoyed going to peruse and buy exciting things from. Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping to make the event possible. Don't just take my word for it, this is what the children thought:

'It was really good fun' Betsy

'The hall looked really pretty and Christmassy' Annabelle

'The fair was very cool' Harley

It is hard to believe that, at the time of writing this, we are less than 3 weeks from the big day! We still have a few Christmassy events left to fit in before the end of term, these include a visit to St Margaret's church for our carol service, our Christmas dinner, class parties and a special visit from that man in red – 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.

Michelle Crowe

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS

From John Mustoo:

After the disappointing Home Match against Tunstall being lost under the change in the way aggregate is accounted for, scored 3.5 - 2.5 games (1 point). The Away Match Sheppey Seagulls on 4 December was a resounding win with 4.5-1.5/3 points with the singles and doubles matches being won 4-0. The Home Team staged a recovery in the Triples and Fours 1.5-0.5. But with only 4 Teams in the Division avoiding relegation is going to be difficult. The Club celebrated Christmas at The Three Tuns on 8 December with 27 members and friends enjoying excellent meals. Playing teams - we have changed the Wednesday evening to Thursday at 1.45pm as a trial to even out attendance. Bill's Buddies Tuesday Morning League are now in 3rd position playing stiffer opposition.



Memorial Hall – Friday 28 February 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@gmail.com

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 February 2025 Village News is noon on 12 January 2025

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

HELP NEEDED PLEASE

For the last couple of years, the very lovely Paul from Iwade has very, very kindly printed the Village News for us each month. Sadly Paul is not able to continue and the printing quotes we have obtained are too high for us to sustain production.

So we need to find new support to print the Village News, or possibly go online or stop producing it altogether.

If you think you might like to sponsor the printing of the Village News; print it or offer any other help the team would love to hear from you. Or if you have any other suggestions.

We have resisted just going online as some residents do not find that helpful or accessible.

Please send any offers of help to ransleyfamily@gmail.com

Thank you

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Want to try something new in the New Year?

Upchurch Choral Society are always happy to welcome new members. We are a four voice part choir and rehearse on Fridays in St Mary's Church, Upchurch. Rehearsals will resume on 7 February, 7.45 – 9.15pm for a concert on Sunday 11 May to mark 80th anniversary of VE Day.

There are no auditions and you don't have to be able to read music.

If you're interested give me a call on 01634 361897, Liz Walters, secretary UCS

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