

# LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS APRIL & MAY 2025



*Photo of the finishing line for the Duck Race, photo kindly supplied  
by Glenda Tress*

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

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

6 April 2025 - 8am, Quiet Communion, Rev Ron Partridge

13 April 2025, Palm Sunday - 10am, Morning Worship, Teresa Parker

20 April 2025, Easter Day - 6am, Sunrise service and Communion - Rev Julian Staniforth and George Hulme

27 April 2025 - 10am, Family Worship, Lis Willmet

\*4 May 2025 - 10.30am, Benefice service at St Mary's Newington - farewell to Rev Julian and Andrea

11 May 2025 - 10am, Morning Worship

18 May 2025 - 10am, Family Worship

25 May 2025 - 10am, Communion, Rev Amanda Lane

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**

20 April 2025 - Team

4 May 2025 - Lynne

18 May 2025 - Helen

## **St Margaret's Church, Easter Craft Morning - Friday 11 April 2025 10-12am ,All Welcome**

From Hilary Gates and team:

We aim to use as much recycled items for craft as possible. Mainly aimed at children but adults are welcome to come and play.

Refreshments available. Donations welcome. Just for Fun.

We will also be doing craft at Cornerstone Cafe in Newington Church on Thursday 10 April 2025.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Dear Friends

On the 20th of April we celebrate Easter Sunday, the high spot of the Church calendar. It's when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Arriving at Easter Sunday, we must first get through Good Friday, the day when Jesus was crucified.

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St. Michael & All Angels' Church Hartlip has many interesting stained-glass windows. On opposing sides of the nave, you can find two triptychs. The north series show important scenes from the life of Jesus: his conception, baptism, and resurrection. On the south side, the series of windows show the crucifixion. The left-hand panel shows Mary, the mother of Jesus, with Mary Magdalene; and on the right are his disciples Peter and John. All are focussed on the dying Jesus. As onlookers, we are witnesses to this terrible event.

In the central section of the crucifixion triptych, the picture is divided horizontally into two parts. Above is a blue sky with a sun and a moon. Below that, is an apple tree bearing many apples, representing the temptation of Eve and the introduction of evil into the world. This crucifixion image may be demonstrating the evil within mankind has fastened Jesus, God amongst us, to the cross and killed him. As an onlooker, we can choose to turn and walk away, or to turn and realise that the Way of Jesus, a way of living based on love and compassion, forgiveness, inclusion, peace, and generosity, is how we will find fulfilment in life. And we can choose to walk that path.

Walking that path of life, is what the resurrection section of the triptych on the north wall is all about. See? The apparently thin and dried up tree in the picture is flowering. Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.  
George Hulme, Lay Minister (Reader)



# COMMUNITY CAFE

Memorial Hall

First Saturday of the Month

11.30am – 2.30pm



## VE 80 DAY CELEBRATIONS - 8 MAY 2025



From Steve Gates: On 8 May 2025, we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Our nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a reminder of the resilience and unity that defines our country. To mark the occasion Beacons will be lit across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and UK Overseas Territories—and at 9.30pm we will be lighting our Beacon at the Brickfield Dock. Music from the era will be provided by DJ Rod, and refreshments will be available from the Edith

May from around 8pm.

Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built peace

## FOOD BANK - Easter Eggs

From Hilary Gates:

The Food Bank are collecting Easter Eggs for those families who find it hard to afford to buy them. If you would like to donate any, please leave in grey box outside 34 Crouch Hill Court. Thank you.

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A vibrant poster for an Easter event. The background is a bright blue sky with sun rays. At the top, there's a border of green grass and white daisies. In the center, a wooden crate is overflowing with green grass, pink and blue flowers, and several colorful Easter eggs (blue and white stripes, pink with white polka dots, and multi-colored stripes). Two large pink bunny ears are also visible. A butterfly is flying in the sky. The text is arranged around these central elements.

**SATURDAY 19TH APRIL - THE GIBBS,  
LOWER HALSTOW 12 - 3PM**

**RIVERS  
RODENT  
AND  
REPTILE  
HANDLING  
CORNER**

**EASTER**  
*Scavenger Hunt  
& Duck Race*

**DUCKS  
£1.00 EACH**

**RACE AT  
3PM**

**£50 1ST  
PRIZE**

**HUNT £5.00 PP, INCLUDES:**

- LARGE EASTER EGG AND CERTIFICATE**
- CODE BREAKER SHEET, COLOURING SHEET AND PENCILS**
- FREE ACCESS TO THE REPTILES AND RODENTS HANDLING CORNER**

**TO BOOK E-MAIL [LHNWATCH1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LHNWATCH1@GMAIL.COM)  
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**

## **THANK YOU**

From the Village News Team:

A big thank you to the Parish Council for its donation to the Village News to help towards printing. The plan is to produce and print 6 times a year for February, April, June, August, October and December

Another big thank you to Chris Barlow for delivering the newsletters to Landrail for many years, we wish her and Jack every happiness in their new home. Also thank you to Paul Still for offering to take over her round. Our volunteers are a great asset to our village life. Thank you.

## **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 3 and 17 April and 1, 15 and 29 May 2025

## **TACKLING LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION**

From Cllr Mike Baldock:

I have been working on a project that I am really enthusiastic about, and which I hope will benefit a lot of people and communities in our areas.

Did you know being lonely and isolated is more dangerous to your health than 15 cigarettes a day? Loneliness and social isolation are silent killers that can affect many people, and for many years I have been trying to get local authorities to take it seriously. Last year I was finally able to get Swale Borough Council to incorporate the issue in their Corporate Plan, and hopefully get some developments up and running later this year. However, here in Swale West I thought it was important to start the ball rolling as soon as possible, and having met the Parish Councils across the area, with a presentation from Conservative former Candidate Aisha Cuthbert, who had worked on a similar project in Bromley, there was a lot of enthusiasm and support from the parishes.

Consequently, I have set up a website [www.swalewestcommunityhub.org.uk](http://www.swalewestcommunityhub.org.uk) that contains local events in our parishes. The only requirement for an event to be included is that there must be contact details so someone interested in attending but who has no one to go with will be met at the event and introduced to other people. Already several local Parishes and groups are starting such events, and several pubs have offered to help people interested in coming to quizzes etc find people they can sit with and get to know. We are looking to develop this further with chat benches being introduced, and investigating ways by which people who cannot drive can get lifts. This will not be a quick process but one which hopefully will grow and grow, so that we can help all sections of our communities feel included and valued.

If you have any events you would like to advertise, or would like to help out in any way, please contact me on [cllrmikebaldock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cllrmikebaldock@yahoo.co.uk)

### **NEW FOR APRIL**

**Monday 7 April 2025**

### **THE TUNELESS CHOIR – LOWER HALSTOW**

Sing like there is no one listening! Do come and join us for a fun evening! What is The Tuneless Choir I hear you ask?? It is a real thing, a group of people of all ages who just enjoy singing for the pure joy and fun of it regardless of how well you sing. We are starting a Tuneless Choir right here in Lower Halstow. We anticipate this being very popular so please do book a place!

Memorial Hall, School Lane

7.15 – 8.00pm

£5.00 per person

Contact Liz 842272 for more information

[www.tunelesschoir.com/join-another-tuneless-choir/lower-halstow/](http://www.tunelesschoir.com/join-another-tuneless-choir/lower-halstow/)

## **PICK YOUR OWN DAFFODILS**

From the Stevens family:

PYO daffodils at Elm Farm. Donations can be posted through the farm house porch door. All proceeds donated back to village activities. No dogs please.

## **THE THREE TUNS**

We continue to be closed on Tuesdays

The First Wednesday of the month is our Charity Quiz night, please email [info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk) to book a table

We have **Live Music with Dave LA from 5pm on Easter Sunday 20 April**

Contact for more details and reservations on 842840  
[www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk)

## **THE TUESDAY SOCIAL**

Tuesday 29 April 2025

7.30pm

**SHAKE ME UP SALLY**

The wonderful folk quartet return to us for a great evening's entertainment. It is anticipated that this will be a very popular evening, booking your seat is recommended.

Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow

Refreshments. **£5** per person entry on the door. Raffle.

Phone Liz on 842272

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

## **BUS SERVICES IN LOWER HALSTOW -Service 327/328**

(SD = School Day, SH = School Holiday)

We thought it might be useful to have information about bus times for the village, this summary was created with lots of help from Julia Dunphy. For details of stops etc look at [chalkwell.co.uk](http://chalkwell.co.uk)

*Monday to Friday, not Bank Holidays*

Sittingbourne to Chatham

7.20 (SD), 7.30 (SH), 9.35, 12.30, 15.32 (SD), 16.02 (SD), 17.50

Chatham to Sittingbourne

7.38 (SH), 7.39 (SD), 9.26, 13.24 (SH), 13.34 (SD), 15.53 (SH), 16.13 (SD), 18.28

*Saturdays*

Sittingbourne to Chatham

7.45, 12.55, 15.35

Chatham to Sittingbourne

9.08, 14.37, 17.17

## **THE TUESDAY SOCIAL**

Tuesday 27 May 2025

7.30pm

Fraud Protection

A helpful and informative presentation by Fraud Prevention officer  
Sophie Day.

Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow

Refreshments. £4 per person entry on the door. Raffle.

Phone Liz on 842272

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

## CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless its a mobile number or otherwise stated) If you notice any information is out of date, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on ransleyfamily@gmail.com or call 07771 817152

**Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade** -Lloyd Chapman, lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk, Roger Clark, 430324, rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

**Brickfields** - Judy Telford, 07486 530068, friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

**Cricket Club** - Mark Stevens, 07950318576

**Dog Warden** - Daytime 417850. Out of hours 07795 237479

**Flood Wardens** - Kay Howard-Challis, 844408, howardchallisk@gmail.com , Abbie Dowell, abbie\_mcdowell@hotmail.com

**Food Bank Donations** - leave any food/toiletries items in grey box at 34 Crouch Hill Court. Place any money in an envelope marked "Food Bank" into letter box

**Judo Club** - Jon 07944 755036

**KCC Potholes** - 03000 418187

**Kent County Councillor** - Mike Baldock, 471139, 07522 442964, mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk

**Member of Parliament** - Kevin McKenna, kevin.mckenna.mp@parliament.uk, 07519 087522

**Memorial Hall** - Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com Bookings, Kay Howard-Challis, 844408, howardchallisk@gmail.com

**Mobility Items** - to borrow or donate, call Tony Clark 07977 566097, Dawn 842688 or Jackie 07840 258665.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, LHNWatch1@gmail.com, 07894 792802, Facebook - Search Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

**Noise nuisance** - Daytime 417850. Out of hours 07881 817601

**Parish Council** - Parish Clerk, Ann Smith, clerk.lhpc@gmail.com, 01760 336459, www.lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk Meetings are on first Tuesday of the month

**Playgroup** - Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

**Police** - PC Phil Clemens: philip.clemens@kent.police.uk General enquiries, 01622 690690, kent.police.uk Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

**Samaritans** - 116 123 - free number day or night;

**School** - 842344, <https://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk/>

**Scouts, Cubs and Beavers** - Ria Smith, Group Scout Leader, ria.smithuk@gmail.com

**Short Mat Bowls** - John Mustoo, 843681, Mick Porter, Secretary, 713120

**St Margaret's Church** - Rev. Julian Staniforth 227329, PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury 842688, Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift 078402 58665

**Swale Borough Council** - Main office, 424341

**The Three Tuns** - 842840, [www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk), info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

**Village News** - Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757 Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, ransleyfamily@gmail.com, 07771 817152

**Walkers (Lower Halstow Walkers)** 10am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the Brickfields end of Lapwing Drive, a brisk 2 hour walk or a one and a half/2 hour walk at a more moderate pace. Call Margaret on 843927 for more information.

**Wildlife Rescues** -Lenham Hedgehog Rescue 07932 383552, Columbines Wildlife Care 07738 573818/07738 515263, Thorne Hedgehog Rescue 07825 952201, Kent Wildlife Rescue 07824 893399

**Yacht Club** - Dave Quigley, 841242

## **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Despite the frosty mornings Term 4 has seen the first signs of Spring appear and we have started to enjoy all the activities that take place at this time of year.



At the end of January, Lower Halstow School were inspected by Ofsted and our report was published on the 5th March, if you are interested in reading about what the inspectors saw on their visit please visit the Ofsted website. Search - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted

This term our Year 2 – 6 children have been lucky enough to have received cricket coaching through the Chance to Shine cricket coaching scheme. Every week we welcome Tom, our Kent Cricket Club coach into the school to teach skills and techniques essential to cricket. The sessions include elements of fundamental cricket skills, movement patterns, sportsmanship, as well as a life-skills focus for each session including teamwork, resilience and perseverance.

One of the highlights of this term was World Book Day. From Sponge Bob to footballers, gymnasts to horsewomen and of course a sprinkling of Harry Potter characters, all could be found at Lower Halstow School. The day began with a whole school book quiz where houses competed against one another to answer book related questions, with Rochester House being crowned as the overall winners. During the day the children also completed a range of activities based around the text 'Float' by Daniel Myares. The teachers even swapped classes and read books to different year groups. It was an amazing day that really epitomised the love of books that children at Lower Halstow School have.

We still have lots of events planned for the last 4 weeks left of the term including Science Week, Parents' Evenings and various Easter activities so we have a busy time ahead.

*Rowan Class, Year 1 have really enjoyed exploring their local area and looking at the physical and human features of Lower Halstow. We have had the support of some lovely local volunteers who have given us advice and joined us for the walks. You may see us out and about as our Geography unit continues and Spring arrives!*

*The class have been exploring ways that we could help our community. The Friends of the Brickfields are disappointed to report that there is a big increase in dog mess in Lower Halstow. The children have designed posters to remind dog owners about their responsibility. Look out for the posters on lamp posts in the village soon!*

Lower Halstow Village News  
April and May 2025

**The deadline for items for the June 2025 Village News is noon on  
10 May 2025**

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

### **ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS**

If you would like to advertise in the Village News donations are requested. Minimum suggested donations are - Full page £15 per edition, half page £7.50 per edition and quarter page £3.75 per edition. 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

**Upchurch Choral Society Invite You to**

**Come and Sing Choral Classics**

**Saturday 3 May 2025, 10.30am to 4pm**

**St Mary's Church, Horsham Lane, Upchurch ME9 7AL**

Try singing 'I Was Glad' by Parry, 'Ave Verum' by Mozart and other beautiful choral classics led by accomplished Music Director Francesca Massey and accompanist Janet Stone.

Finish the day with a short concert open to the public.

Fees: £15 (includes music hire, tea, coffee) for day's singing, £2 admission to concert at 3.30pm.

Contact Liz Walters 01634 61897 or email [kbl.walters@talk21.com](mailto:kbl.walters@talk21.com) for further details and application form (advance booking required).



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**SJP Approved 18/2/2025**

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**Helen: 07482 045091 / Elaine: 07864 757979**

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# The Edge Studios

DARTFORD - SITTINGBOURNE - LOWER HALSTOW



## LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL

WEDNESDAYS

4.15-4.45-Baby Ballerinas

4.45-5.30-Grade2 Ballet(6-10yrs)

5.30-6.15- Junior HipHop (6yrs+)

6.15-7pm-Senior HipHop (10yrs+)

EMAIL- [EDGE\\_STUDIOS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:EDGE_STUDIOS@YAHOO.COM) - 07537166684

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Email: [printroom@swale.gov.uk](mailto:printroom@swale.gov.uk)

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