

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS MARCH 2023



*A buff tail bumble bee on a Goat Willow at the Brickfields
Photo kindly supplied by Judy Telford*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

*5 March 2023 - 10.30am, Benefice Communion, St Mary's Newington
12 March 2023 - 10am, Family Worship
19 March 2023 - 10am, Mothering Sunday Communion
26 March 2023 - 10am, Fellowship

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

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.

LENT LUNCH - FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2023, 12 - 2PM

Now we are able, our churches will be holding lent lunches, through Lent. St. Margaret's lent lunch will be on Friday 3 March 2023. Hot soup and bread. A short time of worship. Raising funds for Christian Aid, through donations. Please try to support St. Margaret's in helping, to help others.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

I notice, as I write this in early February, that there are already signs of spring beginning to appear. Those first bulbs always surprise me and always make me smile – perhaps because they inevitably put in an appearance at a time when the weather is quite often cold and bleak and new growth would seem to be impossible – and fool-hardy. Yet nature is so amazing and resilient. And the new growth offers us a sense of hope.

As you read this it will be March and spring should be well under way. I hope you are being bombarded by all the wonders and joys that this brings.

Also underway will be Lent – traditionally the Christian season of penitence and self-discipline. In the weeks leading up to Easter we are encouraged to review and reflect. At first glance this does not seem to offer anything to smile about but Lent can also offer us a time for potential new growth, new hope, new joy.

I am currently in the process of helping a family member to declutter prior to their moving house. You have possibly experienced the same phenomenon – sorting and sifting through cupboards and containers and every other possible hidey hole. And the resulting challenge of making decisions about whether to keep or throw out. Is the item still used or useful? Will it really ever be used again?

As we have worked there's been a lot of reminiscing and remembering. It's being a good, though emotional, experience. But we've also understood that underlying the tidying up and the throwing away has been the question about why we accumulate so much "stuff" and why we hang on to things when they are no longer useful? There's been a growing awareness that perhaps we are called to simplify our lives.

I think this is what God does in us as we turn to him during Lent. He encourages us to simplify – to get rid of those things – habits, prejudices

etc - that we have clung to but which we no longer need and are no longer useful. God wants us to be less busy, less frantic and less stressed and to live with more freedom, more hope and more joy.

So I pray that you might find that this month is a time for de-cluttering and that God might surprise you.

With every blessing,
Lis Willmet

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

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

Spring is on its way, look out for the Goat Willows coming into flower - those soft grey fluffy flowers which turn either yellow (male flowers) or green (female flowers) when the pollen is released. Early Bumble Bees love these and the area around the trees can get quite noisy with all their buzzing.

Looking ahead we have several events planned - the Spring Ball, Nightingale walks, Flower walks, Moth trapping, Tree I.D. walk etc., etc.. Our AGM is being planned and we hope to have a similar format to last year's; a talk and refreshments too, details to be confirmed.

The March work party will be on **Sunday 12 March 2023**, meeting at 10am at the Lapwing Drive entrance to the Brickfield as usual. Please come and help if you can.

If you are on Facebook we have a page; Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields on which we share news and history plus the natural world on

the site. For those keen on nature please also join our sister page; Lower Halstow Local Nature on which we share photos and other info relating to the local area. Otherwise we can be contacted by email; friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

YACHT CLUB PRESENTATION/TALK - ISLANDS OF THE MEDWAY BY ADAM TAYLOR, FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2003, MEMORIAL HALL AT 8PM

The yacht Club will be hosting a presentation by Adam Taylor on the Medway Islands. Adam is a keen canoeist with 15 years' experience in many places including the back country of Ontario and the lakes of Finland and Sweden, but it is the islands and marshes of the Medway estuary where his heart is.

Adam's presentation draws on many sources: census records, photos, Victorian technical plans, personal experience and several trips to the National Archives. We will also take a close-up look at some of the flora and fauna of this wilderness that is the Medway estuary.

The talk will be at the Memorial Hall, 8pm, Friday 17 March.2023 Open to anyone for a £1 donation to the RNLI.

Email the club at event@lhyc.org.uk so we have an idea of numbers.

adt77@mail.com 07863400343'."/>

Islands of the Medway Estuary

Come and explore the once inhabited islands of the Medway Estuary, enter the shipwreck of a WW1 German submarine, discover the abandoned Victorian forts and find out where the Samphire grows.

A chance to learn about the Medway islands without getting your feet wet!

A presentation by Adam Taylor adt77@mail.com 07863400343

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

'Newington: A Roman Service Station?'

This month's talk centres on the 2018-2019 excavation at what is now Watling Place in Newington where archaeologists uncovered a small Roman town in a remarkable state of preservation. What the team discovered has considerably added to what was known about the Roman occupation in this area. This promises to be a very interesting evening and relevant to Lower Halstow as the Romans settled within the village area.

Tuesday 28 March 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 March.

MOBILE LIBRARY

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

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.



Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

FREE Warm Space Lunch Event

Saturday 18th March 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. Everything is Free!

A Grab and Go Food Station has kindly been sponsored by the Upchurch Support Network.

A representative from the Fuel and Water Service has kindly agreed to attend and will be giving away FREE energy saving products. Please register in advance to receive a FREE energy pack worth up to £50.

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

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.



Email: LHNWatch1@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you soon.



Supported by
Kent County Council's
Helping Hands Scheme





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 all Lower Halstow Residents.
- * For more information e-mail 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.
- ** This initiative is supported by a KCC grant sponsored by Cllr Mike Baldock and a grant from the Neighbourhood Watch.

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.

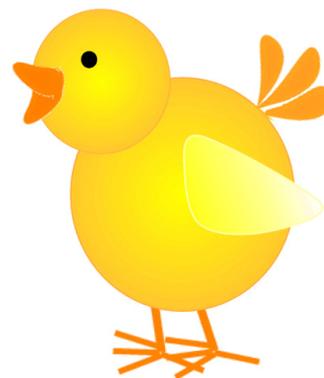
Date and time: Saturday 1 April 2023 at 1pm

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. A short walk will be available for up to one hour if people request it in advance, please contact Margaret on 07964 067915 to arrange it.

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.

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL - THE GIBBS, LOWER HALSTOW

HUNT RUNNING
12 - 3PM
RACE BEGINS
AT 3PM

ANYONE CAN JOIN IN THE FUN!
REGISTER WITH
KERRY WARD OR RICHARD
ASBURY
KERRY.TRESS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK



Scavenger Hunt & Duck Race

DUCKS £1
EACH. MAY BUY
AS MANY AS
YOU WISH



£50 PRIZE
FOR THE
WINNING
DUCK!

£3 TO REGISTER INCLUDES;

- CODE BREAKER SHEET, COLOURING PAGE AND PENCILS
- EASTER EGG AND CERTIFICATE ON COMPLETION PRESENTED BY THE EASTER BUNNY

Made with EasterMyWall.com

SPRING BALL - FRIDAY, 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

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

LOWER HALSTOW POETRY AND ARTS FESTIVAL - SATURDAY, 10 JUNE 2023, 10AM - 4PM

This year's Poetry and Arts Festival is to take place on Saturday 10 June 2023 from 10am to 4pm in the church and we are very pleased to announce that the wonderful band of ladies from St Margaret's will once again be providing delicious refreshments and a selection of sweet and savoury snacks for a discretionary donation towards church funds.

Entrance to this fun event is completely free!

This year's focus is the notorious 'mad, bad and dangerous' to know poet, Lord Byron. Did you know his body was brought into Stangate Creek following his untimely death in Greece? Another rather intriguing literary connection to our little village being that Coleridge also came ashore to give thanks in the church. Join us to find out about his life, listen to George Peters' wonderful rendition of one of his incredible works and join in with lots of other activities as well as arts and crafts and storytelling for the children. Watch out for more details in the coming weeks.

Any enquiries: carinaj65@outlook.com

AFTER 21 YEARS .. IT'S BACK! THE LOWER HALSTOW RAFT RACE

**SATURDAY 1ST JULY
LOWER HALSTOW BRICKFIELDS
REGISTRATION FROM 10AM
RACES FROM 11AM**

**£60 PER RAFT
MAXIMUM 6 PER RAFT
RAFTS MUST BE HOME MADE WITH NO
ENGINES.**

***WAIVER MUST BE COMPLETED*
PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 18**

*FAILURE TO COMPLETE WAIVER MEANS
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE EMAIL LHRAFTRACEANDFESTIVAL@HOTMAIL.COM

THE RAFT RAVE

**SATURDAY 1ST JULY
LOWER HALSTOW SCHOOL FIELD
3PM - 10PM**

**LIVE MUSIC
FOOD
ICE CREAM VAN
STALLS
AND LOTS MORE!**

**TICKETS £15 PER ADULT £7.50 PER CHILD
UNDER 5'S GO FREE!**

**FOR TICKETS PLEASE EMAIL
LHRAFTRACEANDFESTIVAL@HOTMAIL.COM**

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

Despite the cold weather in January, Lower Halstow School has still been a hive of activity inside. The whole school were treated to a pantomime called Jack, Jill and the Beanstalk followed by a special 'Magic Bean' dinner. A great day was had by all, even the adults joined in with the 'it's behind you' chants. To celebrate Chinese New Year, the children in Acorn class created dragon masks and had a special Chinese New Year banquet. Some of the children really got the hang of using chopsticks – not bad for four year olds!



Several classes have headed out and about on various school trips. Year 1 visited the Edith May Barge (more about that below) and Year 3 took a train to Rochester and visited the Cathedral, Guildhall Museum,

and even climbed all the steps to the top of the castle! Year 2 spent a day at Leeds Castle investigating the grounds and castle as well as dressing up and acting out a story, while Year 5 enjoyed a performance of Hamlet at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury with some members of the class being invited to join the actors on stage.





In the sports department our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team have been winning several matches and have been gradually moving up the league table. Our younger junior pupils in Year 3 and 4 participated in an indoor 'Sports Hall' competition and came runners up.

The PTA have been a busy bunch as always and organised a Valentine's disco for the children. This was well attended and the children enjoyed dancing, eating snacks and purchasing trinkets. As usual, some of our Lower Halstow School Alumni came back to help, serving hot dogs and drinks.

Year 1, Rowan Class feature:

Rowan Class have had a very busy term, we have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs as part of our English lessons and even planned and created a 'dinosaur dinner' in DT! This term we have studied the artist Michelle Reader and created our own animal sculptures made out of recycling. They all look amazing! However, the highlight of the term has been our local history topic. We have been learning about the brickfields and barges. We really enjoyed our local walk to St Margaret's Church and our trip to the Edith May where skipper Ed told us all about the barges at Lower Halstow Docks and the brickfields along the estuary. After our visit, we had a go at making our very own bricks, it was hard work and we think the brick-makers at the brickfields must have been very tired at the end of the day!

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

Coronation

To celebrate King Charles III Coronation on Monday 8 May 2023 (Bank Holiday) there will be a dog show and picnic held on the Recreation Ground and Memorial Hall. The Parish Council understands that the School is organising a street party. If anyone has any further ideas or suggestions on celebrations that they would like to take part in on the bank holiday please contact the Parish Council Clerk at: clerk.lhpc@gmail.com or phone 01760 336459 and leave a message.

Horse riders

Would horse riders please be advised that there are no Bridle paths in Lower Halstow, this includes Church Path.

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

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX (KSS) NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) needs your support! Having just announced that 2022 was the busiest year in its 33-year history – the life-saving charity responded to 3,224 incidents last year, with 1,353 call outs in Kent - KSS is urgently seeking to recruit more volunteers in order to help with more events and activities in the coming year.

The charity, which provides world-leading pre-hospital emergency care 24/7, currently has over 150 volunteers who help with a wide range of activities including managing collection boxes, marshalling at events, speaking at community events, office tasks and more. Volunteers offer a few hours on an occasional basis or regular hours each month.

Bridget Pepper, from the KSS Volunteer Development Team said, “Our volunteers are highly valued members of Team KSS, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donates their time to support us. Over the last year, KSS has benefited from over 4,000 hours of support from volunteers and our volunteers were involved with raising or collecting over £250,000 on our behalf.”

“This year, with demand for our service at an all-time high and the need to raise even more funds due to the increased costs of operating our

service, we need to recruit more volunteers and we have lots of opportunities available to suit people of all ages and abilities.”

“Alongside providing our charity with critical support, volunteers enjoy many benefits from working with us, including meeting new people, attending events and feeling a sense of pride in supporting an incredible charity in their local community.”

“We hope people from across the communities we serve will get in touch with us and find out more about how they can get involved. We really appreciate all the support we receive.”

KSS is an independent charity. It costs £16.6M a year or £45K per day to operate its world leading, life-saving service. This is a significant increase from the £15.2M required in 2022. 87% of KSS’s total income is raised through the incredible generosity of its supporters and 10% through NHS commissioning funds. If you are interested in finding out more about being a KSS volunteer, please contact volunteering@akss.org.uk or visit www.akss.org.uk



FUTURE DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:

HALLOWEEN DISCO:

Thursday, 26 October 2023

SANTA SATURDAY:

Saturday, 9 December 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 April 2023 Village News is noon on
12 March 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, 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, <https://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.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.

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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

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Website: www.edenwoodwealth.com

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jstrecare01@gmail.com

