

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2025



Village History - Kath Tress, nee Gilbert, in her Women's Land Army and Timber Corps uniform outside 19 Westfield Cottages during the Second World War

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

5 October 2025 - 8am, Quiet Communion

12 October 2025 - 10am, Harvest Morning Worship

19 October 2025 - 10am, Communion

26 October 2025 - 10am, Morning Worship

*2 November 2025 - 10.30am, Benefice Communion at Iwade

**9 November 2025 - 10.30am, Remembrance Service

16 November 2025 - 10am, Communion

23 November 2025 - 10am, Morning Worship

*30 November 2025 - 10am, Benefice Communion at Upchurch

****Remembrance Sunday 10.30am, 9 November.**

From Jackie Swift:

Please come along to St. Margaret's Remembrance Service. It's a time to remember our Service Men who died fighting for our country. The Cubs and Beavers will be taking part with their prayers and poems. If anyone would like a Service Person mentioned in our Roll of Honour, please let Jackie know 07840 258665. Finishing with coffee and cakes, and a time for a chat.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

5 October 2025 - Helen

19 October 2025 - Georgina

2 November 2025 - Liz

16 November 2025 - Gillian

30 November 2025 - Yvonne

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

From Peter Froggatt:

I plan to run a Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Wood on the Brickfields on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 10.45am.

The closest access to the Memorial Wood is at the end of Heron Close.
All are welcome.

Lower Halstow Village News
Oct & Nov 2025

COMMUNITY CAFE

Memorial Hall

Second Saturday of the Month

11.30am – 2.30pm



LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's been a joy to welcome everyone back to Lower Halstow Primary after the summer holidays — even if the weather hasn't quite been on our side! The start of term has brought more than a few heavy showers, but that hasn't dampened the children's spirits as they've returned full of energy, smiles and stories to share.



We have given a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception Class children and their families. It's been especially lovely to meet our newest pupils, who are already settling in beautifully and beginning to learn our school routines with great enthusiasm. Their confidence is growing by the day and we're so proud of how well they've adapted to school life.

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that our Computer Suite has undergone a full refurbishment over the summer holidays! Thanks to the tireless work of Mr Saunders, our dedicated caretaker, and the generous support of the Friends of Lower Halstow, the space has been completely transformed. Their contributions have enabled us to purchase additional PCs, meaning there is now one computer per child — a fantastic step forward for our digital learning. The room has also been reconfigured with new desks to comfortably accommodate the extra equipment, and given a fresh new look with updated decor, smart new blinds, stylish

Lower Halstow Village News
Oct & Nov 2025

stools and modern flooring. It's already proving to be a wonderful learning environment, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped make this possible.

We're looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with learning, laughter and plenty of opportunities — hopefully with a little more sunshine along the way!

Michelle Crowe.





To book please email Kerry with your child's/children's names
Kerry.tress@hotmail.co.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 2, 16 and 30 October and 13 and 27 November 2025.



The Friends of Lower Halstow School's annual Scarecrow Trail will be on from Friday 17 - Sunday 26 October and the theme this year is MUSIC ICONS!

You can register your scarecrow now on our website, and more information regarding sponsoring and donating will be shared on our website and social media accounts soon.

All proceeds go directly to supporting the pupils at Lower Halstow School.

The Friends' Christmas Shopping Evening will be on Thursday 11 December. We are now booking stall holders - if you would like to have a stall please email us ASAP.

Thank you!

Rachael & Lucy

FoLHS Co-Chairs

<https://friendsoflhs.org.uk>

If you would like to contact us, our website is <https://friendsoflhs.org.uk> and we are on Facebook and Instagram using the handle @friendsoflowerhalstowschool

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

Autumn has arrived with a bang, trees are laden with fruit and it all looks beautiful (can you tell this is my favourite time of year?). Along with the mellow fruitfulness comes a long list of jobs! We are very short of willing hands these days so anyone who feels they can spare an hour or so, please contact me.

If anyone is confident with a brush cutter we are in desperate need of help to cut a section of reed bed in the next week or two.

Our next work party will be on the 12 October, meeting at the Lapwing Drive gate as usual, 10.30am. The following one is likely to be 9 November. There may be another date to burn reeds, if we can get enough cut! Hope to see more folks out there helping.

Judy

07486 530068

FOOD FOR THOUGHT/PASTORAL LETTER

Lost treasures, based on Luke 15:1-10

“Where are my keys, I lost my mobile, I do not know where my wallet is”. These are just things, yet the list of things we have lost and will surely lose in time to come is endless. Sometimes we have to lose something so God can give us something better. Very often the loss of property is frustrating but losses on a deeper level - people we love, pets which became our friends, they are hard. Grief becomes our companion for a long time. But life must go on and time helps us to recover. Perhaps the empty space will be filled with something meaningful, but it is a dangerous season and a broken heart is vulnerable to the powers beyond us. As we search to numb the pain too often we find alcohol, drugs, grudges, regrets and that is the road to self-destruction. We are very complex and complicated creatures and unfortunately there is no department in hospital that can give proper treatment. In fact it often feels like there is nobody who understands us. So it comes that we can even lose ourselves. I am reminded of old tales

Lower Halstow Village News
Oct & Nov 2025

of how people could sell their soul to the devil and live a prosperous life but when the end comes they have to pay the price.

A better way is to humble ourselves and call for help which comes from the brighter side. Know that God is on guard and searching for you in the hardest times too. These are the thoughts I can offer. Some lost things we find again in time and some lost people we can find too. Things and people do not disintegrate, dissolve in nothingness. They still are, we only happen to forget or lose the way or contact. This can comfort us. Jesus tells the story, an amazing story about the joy in heaven when people come back to God. When they are found. According to this parable we can actually ask God to go and search for what we have lost. We can also tell him that we feel lost, and he will set up a search party. It may be that the doorbell rings and a person will tell you what you need to hear. It may be that you will have to go on a long journey, something like Pilgrims progress just to find out who you are. But one thing is sure. If you are lost, or have lost something, God is the guy to speak to.

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.'

‘Or what woman having ten silver coins,* if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

Robert Zachar

LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL - BOOKINGS

Kaye Asbury has taken on the voluntary role of Booking Secretary for the hall. Contact can be made by emailing Kaye at lhmallbookings@outlook.com

Please be aware that the Booking Secretary is a volunteer and she will endeavour to respond to enquiries in a timely manner.

BLYTHESWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

With this Village News you should receive a leaflet about what you can put into your shoebox for someone who lives in extreme poverty. If you feel you cannot fill a box please feel free to drop a few items (especially Essentials) to the collection points round the village where you can also find a shoebox if needed.

By filling a shoebox with simple things, you can bring warmth, joy and hope this Christmas.

Collection points:-

Jackie, 48 School Lane

Hilary, 34 Crouch Hill Court

Emily, 32 Burntwick Drive

Liz, 14 Curlew Avenue

Una, 2 Cumberland Drive

St Margaret's Church

Queries Hilary 841632

Lower Halstow Village News
Oct & Nov 2025

THE TUESDAY SOCIAL - 28 OCTOBER 2025

Join us for an insightful talk from WWI
'Finding Captain Kesby - the mystery of a Buffs officer's burial'
by Mick Mills

Memorial Hall, School Lane, ME9 7ES

7.30pm – 9pm

£4 entry on the door Refreshments Raffle

Phone Liz on 842272

THE THREE TUNS

We continue to be closed on Tuesdays

Halloween Party with Fancy dress competition and live music from Musica Party Band from 8pm on Friday 31 October.

Christmas Craft Market on Wednesday 26 November 4pm-8pm.



Memorial Hall – Friday 21st November 7.30pm

Please join us for a fun evening with legendary quiz master

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

THE TUESDAY SOCIAL - 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Join us for a fun and informal
Christmas Social
- lighthearted, entertaining with singing
hosted by David Scott

Memorial Hall, School Lane, ME9 7ES
7.30pm – 9pm

£4 entry on the door Refreshments Raffle

Phone Liz on 842272

The Tuesday Socials are fundraising events
for St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow

OAP CHRISTMAS PARTY - FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 2025

A date for your diary. The village OAP party will be held during the afternoon on Friday 5 December. All villagers receiving the state pension are very welcome, further details will be given in the next Village News edition. Margaret 843927

BUS SERVICES IN LOWER HALSTOW - Services 327/328

(SD = School Day, SH = School Holiday)

This summary was created with lots of help from Julia Dunphy. For details of stops etc look at 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,

Chatham to Sittingbourne

9.08, 14.37, 17.17

Lower Halstow Village News
Oct & Nov 2025

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meetings are held in the Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Allotments

There are a few allotments available to rent. If you fancy having a go at growing your own vegetables, fruit and flowers please contact the the Parish Clerk in the first instance at
parishclerk@lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk

The fees, terms and conditions are on the Parish Council website where you will also find a host of other information:
<https://www.lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Job Vacancy

Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer - Lower Halstow Parish Council

- Location – Homeworking & attendance at monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month in Lower Halstow Memorial Hall is required, to undertake training as appropriate at other locations.
- Salary – above minimum wage – to be negotiated
- Hours – to be negotiated – likely 16 hours at the start
- How to Apply – Applications should be sent to alison.groves@lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Please include a concise CV along with a personal statement about your work experience (up to 250 words) and to demonstrate suitability for this role.
- Application deadline: 31 October 2025
- If successful in your application, you will be invited to interview

Lower Halstow Parish Council is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion for all individuals.

A Parish Clerk is responsible for supporting the Parish Council in its administrative, financial, and legal duties. This includes preparing agendas and minutes for meetings, ensuring compliance with relevant laws, managing the council's finances, and acting as a point of contact for the public.

The Parish Clerk is a crucial part of the parish council, providing essential support and expertise to ensure the council can effectively serve the community.

Detailed Responsibilities:

Administrative Support:

- Preparing agendas and minutes for all parish council meetings.
- Ensuring accurate record keeping of council proceedings.
- Managing correspondence and communication on behalf of the council.
- Maintaining council records, including property registers and legal documents.

Financial Management:

- Monitoring and managing the council's accounts.
- Preparing financial statements and reports.
- Ensuring compliance with financial regulations and procedures.

Legal Compliance:

- Ensuring that the council operates within the law and relevant regulations.
- Advising the council on legal matters and potential risks.
- Implementing council decisions and policies.

Public Relations and Communication:

- Acting as a point of contact for the public and other stakeholders.
- Communicating council decisions and information to the community.
- Representing the council at community events and meetings.

Other Duties:

- Managing council-owned property and assets.
- Supervising any staff employed by the council.
- Undertaking any other duties as required by the council.

Person Specification

- Good communication and interpersonal skills are essential.
- Enthusiastic, willing to participate, and be involved, in all matters arising in the Council's work.
- An awareness of the local community and matters which affect it, would be helpful.
- Able to work flexibly and independently, and as part of the team.
- Experience of administrative work, and dealing with the public and outside agencies.
- Familiar with the use of Word, Excel, Email, experience of administrative tasks and able to update LHPC website.
- Use of own phone and internet access essential. (a small allowance will be given in respect of these facilities).
- Attention to detail and able to meet deadlines; take own initiative where appropriate.
- Willing to attend training as required.

CONTACTS

(Telephone 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

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 - Richard Palmer, richard.Palmer@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 email lhmhallbookings@outlook.com

Mobility Items - to borrow items, call Tony Clark 07977 566097,
Dawn 07910339116 or Jackie 07840 258665 (there is no room for further donations)

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,
parishclerk@lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk 01760 336459,
www.lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk Meetings are on first Tuesday of the month at 7pm

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. Amanda Lane, Associate Priest for The
Six, 842478 or alternatively call 07778393231 and leave a message,
PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury 07910339116, Church Enquiries, Jackie
Swift 078402 58665

Swale Borough Council - Main office, 424341

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

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, 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

**The deadline for items for the December 2025 and January 2026
Village News is noon on 10 November 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

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

BC WINDOW CLEANING LTD

Based in Upchurch
WINDOW CLEANING
GUTTER CLEANING
CONSERVATORY CLEANING
FASCIA AND SOFFIT CLEANING
DRIVE/PATIO CLEANING
HOUSE ROOF DE-MOSSING

07738834782 - 01634 926911

Info@bcwindowcleaning.co.Uk

Www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk



Experienced Financial Adviser offering Retirement and Investment planning.

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

SJP Approved 18/2/2025

PDA Engraving



07540243845

Find us on Facebook

Laser engraved unique and personalised designs from custom coasters and keyrings to intricate artwork.

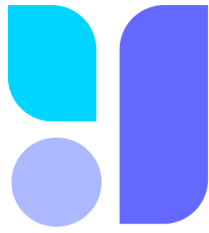
Our state-of-the-art laser engraving technology allows you to bring your imagination to life.

We can engrave, cut and score onto many materials - wood, glass, acrylic and most metals.

Ideal gifts for all occasions - Mother's Day, Father's Day, Weddings, Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day. Wall art, Pet tags, Door/Wall signs - the list goes on and on.

You think it we will create it, all made to order.

Find us on Facebook or contact 07540 243845



yomo
Your mortgage, your move

YOUR BRAND NEW MORTGAGE BROKERAGE!

With over 20 years combined experience our friendly advisors are on a mission to offer our clients a seamless end to end process.

How can we help you?

- First Time Buyer Mortgages
- Residential Remortgages
- Home Movers
- Buy to Let Mortgages incl Holiday Let, Air B&B, Portfolio Landlords, HMO
- Buy to Let Remortgaging
- Buy to Let Purchases
- Second Charge Mortgages
- Protection*
- Commercial, Bridge And Development Finance*



*Please note these products are not currently offered or advised on directly by Yomo Finance Ltd but we can refer you to a suitable professional to support with your requirements.

Get in touch with our team today:

01634 949555

info@WeAreYomo.co.uk



Think carefully before securing other debts against your home. Your home or property may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



You may be charged a fee for mortgage advice. The precise amount will depend on your circumstances but we estimate it will be £495.



Some forms of Buy to Let mortgages are not regulated by the FCA

Yomo Finance Limited is an appointed representative of The Right Mortgage Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered in the United Kingdom no.08130498. Registered Address: 70 St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands, B93 0NH



Gaslec



IS YOUR BOILER RELIABLE?

Do you need a reliable heating system this winter? We offer many services to make sure of this. Through our wide range of repairs and boiler replacements and power flushing.



OUR SERVICES

- Boiler fitting
- Repairs and Servicing
- Plumbing
- Raditors
- Heating controls
- Hot water cylinders

CONTACT US

01634 786564 

office@gaslec.net 

Gaslec.net 



The Edge Studios

DARTFORD - SITTINGBOURNE - LOWER HALSTOW



LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL

TUESDAYS

4.15-4.45-Boogie Beats-3yrs+
4.45-5.30- Grade 2 Ballet (6-11yrs)
5.30-6.15- Musical Theatre

WEDNESDAYS

4.15-4.45-Baby Ballerinas
4.45-5.30-Team (invite)
5.30-6.15- Junior HipHop (6yrs+)
6.15-7pm-Senior HipHop (10yrs+)
7-7.45- Contemporary (10yrs+)
7.45-8.30 Adult Tap

EMAIL - EDGE_STUDIOS@YAHOO.COM - 07537166684

Copper Forge

Plumbing and Maintenance

14 years experience

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

RADIATOR INSTALLATIONS

PLUMBING REPAIRS

GENERAL HANDYMAN



Contact Adam

07383836142

Email

copperforgeplumbing@gmail.com

Visit

www.copperforgeplumbing.com





Fully insured. Dry/Wet Cut £10-£15.
Blowdry/Set £13-£16. Cut and Set £15-£17
Colours/Perms £25-£35
Foils, complex colours or perms - price on consultation

**Printed by the Print Section, Swale Borough Council
Email: printroom@swale.gov.uk**