

# LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS JUNE & JULY 2026



*Photo of Thames Barges returning to the village in 2025  
taken by Chris Jones*

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

Lower Halstow Village News  
June & July 2026

## SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

7 June 2026	- 8am, Quiet Communion
14 June 2026	- 10am, Morning Worship
21 June 2026	- 10am, Communion
28 June 2026	- 10am, Morning Worship
*5 July 2026	- 10.30am, Combined Communion at Upchurch
12 July 2026	- 10am, Morning Worship
19 July 2026	- 10am, Communion
26 July 2026	- 10am, Morning Worship

\*Services at other churches

## ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

7 June 2026	- Lynne
14 June 2026	- Helen
21 June 2026	- Georgina
28 June 2026	- Gillian
5 July 2026	- Yvonne
12 July 2026	- Eileen
19 July 2026	- Liz
26 July 2026	- Lynne

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 11 and 25 June and 9 and 23 July 2026.



Memorial Hall – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – doors at 7.15pm

Please join us for a **fun evening for all** with bingo caller Jim

**Fundraising for Lower Halstow Scout Group**

Pay on the night - £3 for first 2 books and £1 book thereafter

Prizes galore! Dabbers provided

Book your places with [ria.smithuk@gmail.com](mailto:ria.smithuk@gmail.com)

Raffle, bring your own drinks and snacks

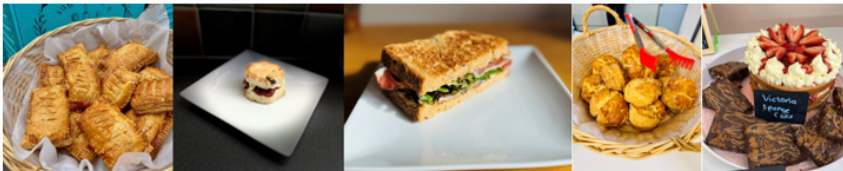
Tea, coffee and cake on sale too

# COMMUNITY CAFE

Memorial Hall

Second Saturday of the Month

11.30am – 2.30pm



## **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

As Term 5 has got underway, Lower Halstow Primary School have been enjoying the welcome return of brighter days and the opportunity to make the most of learning both indoors and outside. Although the weather has continued to be unpredictable at times, the changing season has brought a renewed sense of energy across the school, with children fully embracing the variety of activities on offer.



The whole school supported Comic Relief this year through donations and participation in our “Bring a Bear” day. Children enjoyed exchanging cakes and biscuits as part of the fun, helping to create a wonderful sense of community and generosity. This event was selected by our School Council following a pupil vote, and we are delighted to share that together we raised an impressive £184.17 for this very worthwhile cause. Opportunities like this help our children understand how small actions can make a meaningful difference to the wider world.

Our wonderful Friends of Lower Halstow School, brought extra joy to the children at Easter by generously providing a chocolate egg for every pupil. The highlight of the day was the special delivery. Our much-loved school dog, Teddy, took on the role of the Easter Bunny, delighting everyone as he helped distribute the treats. This year, he was joined by Georgie the Cockerpoo, who made a surprise appearance dressed as a Spring lamb, adding even more excitement to the occasion. Together, they visited each class, spreading smiles along the way. The children were thrilled with their Easter gifts and thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations. We are very grateful to the Friends of Lower Halstow School for their continued support.

The Key Stage 2 Easter Service was a lovely, fitting way to bring Term 4 to a close. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Key Stage 2 Easter service at St Margaret’s Church such a special occasion.

Lower Halstow Village News  
June & July 2026

The service was led by John Guest, and we are very grateful to Jackie Swift for kindly opening the church and ensuring it was warm and welcoming for all. The children and staff enjoyed singing a range of songs, from well-loved classics to the much-anticipated annual favourite, Spring Chicken. The service also included Bible readings and prayers, which were thoughtfully and confidently delivered by the children.

A key focus this term has been outdoor learning. With Spring well established, many classes have enjoyed taking lessons beyond the classroom, using the school grounds to support learning across the curriculum. We are delighted to share that our school has been awarded the Silver Wilder Kent Award in recognition of our commitment to being environmentally friendly. This achievement reflects the hard work and enthusiasm of our pupils, particularly our dedicated Eco Ambassadors, who have played a key role in leading initiatives across the school. Over the past year, the children have taken part in litter picks, carried out energy-saving actions around the school and have learnt more about how they can help protect the environment. They have also been busy planting trees, bulbs and plants to encourage wildlife, as well as collecting rainwater and exploring sustainable ways to care for our surroundings. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and of the positive impact they are making. This award is a wonderful recognition of their commitment to helping care for the natural world.

Physical activity has also played an important role this term. Pupils have taken part in a range of sporting activities, developing teamwork, resilience and confidence. Whether practising core skills in PE lessons or taking part in friendly challenges during playtimes, the enthusiasm of the children has been clear to see. These opportunities help reinforce the importance of staying active and working together. We were proud to join thousands of schools across the country in taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools. Pupils embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm, running, jogging or walking their way through two miles. There were plenty of rosy cheeks and out-of-breath moments, but

even more smiles as each child crossed the finish line. Every effort was celebrated, with all children taking part and receiving a certificate. In total, 198 pupils, along with many members of staff, joined in. The school was full of excitement, with posters displayed and bunting decorating the running track to create a real event atmosphere.

As we move further into the Summer term, there is plenty to look forward to, including upcoming events, learning experiences and whole-school activities. Term 5 has already been filled with purposeful learning and happy moments, and the children have shown great enthusiasm as they make the most of this busy and enjoyable time of year.

Michelle Crowe  
Head of School



Lower Halstow Village News  
June & July 2026

**LOWER HALSTOW YACHT CLUB - CHARITY YACHT RACE,  
SATURDAY 30 MAY 2026**

A charity race at the Lower Halstow yacht club is planned for Saturday 30 May, High Water is at 13.00, so anyone interested should arrive at the club between 10.30 and 11am at the latest.

Please wear something suitable eg trainers, fleece, waterproof. If you have a life jacket that would help, but there are visitors spares in the club hut.

We ask for £10 per head, kids under 18 go free. All contributions are going to Macmillan's Cancer Support.

Some in the village will remember it was an annual event pre covid so please come along and enjoy.

If you want to see what we have and do at the club before you decide, google Lower Halstow Yacht Club sailing.

Let me know if you have any queries or wish to book some places,  
Michael 07823 406266

**LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT TRUST**

From Kerry Gardner:

Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Management Trust are looking for a New Chairman. This is a voluntary position, it would involve attending a bi-monthly meeting, overseeing the Secretary, Treasurer and Booking Secretary, helping with the smooth running of a very busy village hall.

We are also looking for volunteers for the Committee; no experience necessary.

If you feel you can help, please email Kerry at  
[Lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:Lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

## **PASTORAL LETTER**

Dear Friends

Sometimes, all the practical questions lead back to the heavy ones. With all the struggles we may face, and with all the wonders around us – once in a while, we may reflect on these two questions: What is all this about? And why am I here? Or to put it another way – Who is God? And what does God want of me?

C. S. Lewis, author of the Narnia stories, was also a friend of Tolkien. They would often compare notes on their work and may have reflected on the heart of the matter in the stories they were creating.

In both Narnia and The Lord of the Rings, “the heart of the matter” is both “Who do we serve? What must we do? During his early life, Lewis was an atheist. At some point, he decided that the Universe had to have an explanation. Why is it here at all? He concluded that there must be a God, but God seemed to have a say in how we lived. So Lewis tells us that he fell on his knees and gave himself to God, not yet knowing much about who God was or what God wanted of him.

For Lewis (eventually), and for Christians, those two questions come into focus in Christ – Jesus is said to be the answer to both questions: what is God like, and what does God want of us? Among all the allegiances being promoted around us these days, for Christians, there is one ultimate test – is it calling us to be more like Jesus? More like God is? More like God wants us to be? Everything else in life follows from how we answer those questions.

Yours faithfully

Ron Partridge, minister and priest (retired)

Lower Halstow

## **FRIENDS OF ST.MARGARET'S CHURCH, LOWER HALSTOW**

**The Tuesday Social - 30 June 2026, 7.30pm - 9pm**

Do join us for a fascinating talk

“Herbs for Health”

Herbs - a growing interest.

Presented by Mandy Rickard

Mandy has over 25 years experience as a medical herbalist and aromatherapist , growing and using herbs for her practice and running workshops teaching adults and children how to use herbs at home . She will chat about her experiences both growing and using herbs, bring a few plants to see and smell, and hopefully inspire us to spread a little more greenery in our lives! Time for questions after.

Memorial Hall, School Lane , Lower Halstow

ME9 7ES

£4 entry on the door

Refreshments

Raffle

Contact Liz 842272

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

### **HAPPY HOUR ALL AGE SINGING GROUP**

No experience needed. You don't have to be able to sing.

1 and 15 June and 6 and 20 July 2026, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

We spend an hour, twice a month

just singing for the joy of it. We will have a go at some contemporary songs and gospel songs.

£3 per family or £2 for an individual to help pay for the hall.

Under 16's please have an adult drop you off and pick you up

Under 12's will need an adult to stay for the singing.

Memorial Hall, School Lane, Lower Halstow, ME9 7ES

Contact: Liz (07730893747)

Gill (gilliangay99@yahoo.co.uk)

**FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S, LOWER HALSTOW**  
**The Tuesday Social - 28 July 2026,**  
**7.30pm – 9pm**

Join us for a fascinating insight into the life of a Royal Family  
Protection Officer  
presented by Richard Griffen  
Memorial Hall, School Lane, ME9 7ES

£5 entry on the door      Refreshments      Raffle

Contact Liz 842272



Firstly, FoLHS would love to thank the wider community for their ongoing support. Your spare change in The Village Shop and The Three Tuns has now totalled over £150 in just one year! This money funds half of our TasteEd sessions for every child in the school! Thank you to Joyce, Chris and Carol and their brilliant staff teams for always supporting FoLHS.

Our Spring Term has been quieter than usual, unfortunately the unpredictable weather meant we had to cancel our Picnic on the Playground. Hopefully, this will return for 2027!

We have been working away behind the scenes planning for our very busy Summer Term. We have our coffee morning for new Year R parents, our Leaver's Disco and an exciting project underway as part of the schools 150th Anniversary celebrations!

Our Summer Fair is on Friday 10 July 2026, open to everyone from 3.15-5pm, on the school field. This year we are hoping to secure a sponsor for the event, we have a great package available in return! We are also looking for stall holders that compliment the existing activities. If you are interested in sponsorship, or having a stall, please contact us via email or Facebook.

Finally, our AGM takes place at 2pm on Friday 3 July 2026, at Lower Halstow School. We are a "Friends of" charity, so we welcome the wider community to attend, alongside our school families and staff. Please email us to confirm a place, this allows us to cater for everyone.

To stay up to date please follow us on Facebook (Friends of Lower Halstow School). To contact us please email [hello@friendsoflhs.org.uk](mailto:hello@friendsoflhs.org.uk) or leave a message with the School Office and we will come back to you.

## **FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS**

From Judy Telford:

The Brickfield has come alive, Spring / early Summer has definitely arrived. Hawthorn is past its best now and the Wild Roses just starting to flower, by the time you read this they will be putting on a show. Summer migrants have arrived; Cuckoo calling, Reed Warblers and Blackcaps singing and, best of all, Nightingales and a Turtle Dove! There have been at least two Nightingales singing their hearts out recently and, possibly, another one or two present on the Brickie but it's difficult to tell as they don't all sing at once, I sometimes think they are following me about just to make me think there's more of them! Great to have them back every year.

In spite of a steadily diminishing number of Committee members we have decided to hold an AGM this year. It is provisionally booked for 19 June 2026, will be held on Edith May and will follow the usual format; a short AGM (promise!) followed by food, wine and a talk about Tiller and Wheel given by Ed Gransden. Tickets need to be booked in advance please either by messaging/ringing me on 07486 530068 or emailing

friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com Cost to be decided at our next committee meeting but will be around £5 or £6 Look us up on Facebook - Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields or keep an eye out for the poster on the Lapwing Drive entrance for final details.

With summer comes extra work keeping the paths clear, more help required, please. Instead of relying on a very small number of volunteers how about taking your secateurs with you when you walk your dog? Even a few moments snipping back foliage in passing will help. Better still, if you have a sickle or reap hook (my preference is for a Japanese Rice Harvester, oh yes there is such a thing) cut back some nettles, it's a very satisfying task - just think of something you hate and get swinging that arm.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who cleans up after their dog(s), I've noticed there is much less mess these days, thank you. We now need to persuade SBC to get the bins emptied more regularly! I know the PC are working on this.

## **THE THREE TUNS**

We continue to be closed on Tuesdays.

Friday 22 May 2026, 8pm – Live Music from LKG trio

Wednesday 3 June 2026 - Quiz Night, Book your team

Friday 26 June 2026, 7.30pm – Live Music with Georgia Waters

(Date for your diary - Annual Beer Festival, Bank Holiday Weekend 29, 30 and 31 August 2026)

Thank you for all your ongoing support.  
Chris, Carol & Team

Lower Halstow Village News  
June & July 2026

## **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL - 150 YEAR CELEBRATION**

From Ms Crowe, Head of School:

*Dear Residents of Lower Halstow,*

*We are delighted to invite members of our local community to join us in celebrating a very special milestone — the 150th birthday of Lower Halstow School.*

*To mark this occasion, we will be hosting a warm and welcoming evening at the school. Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy tea and coffee, meet members of our current staff, and take part in a guided tour of the school as it stands today.*

*If you are interested in attending, we kindly ask you to express your interest by contacting the school office ([office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk)) This will allow us to gauge interest in such an event and set an appropriate date in September 2026 to coincide with our anniversary.*

*As part of the celebrations, we are also creating a commemorative electronic booklet that will capture the rich history of the school since it was founded in 1876. We would love to include memories, stories or reflections from members of the community who have a connection to the school.*

*If you would like to share your memories, please submit them to the school office either by hand or via email by 30th June. In particular if you have details of the names of any headteachers between 1976 and 2004 as we have a gap in our list between Miss Stanes and Mrs Portnoi.*

*We very much hope you can join us in celebrating this important occasion and helping us honour the school's long-standing place within the community.*

## **LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**

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

### **Dog owners.**

There have been some recent reports of dogs running loose near livestock and chasing pregnant sheep. This has caused a lot of anxiety and distress to livestock as well as the farmers. Please ensure that your dog is kept on a short lead at all times whilst walking near all livestock.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026**

**LOWER HALSTOW ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW**

LOWER HALSTOW

KENT

ME9 7ES

\*\*\* RAIN OR SHINE \*\*\*

Registration 11am in the Hall ----- Judging Begins At 12.00  
Noon

JUDGE: KERRY GARDNER

STEWARD: JEMMA GARDNER

Rosettes for 1st 2nd and 3rd

### **Classes**

Fancy Dress

Dog and Owner Look-alike

Most Handsome Dog

Prettiest Bitch

Young Puppies - 3 months to 6 months Dog or Bitch

Young Puppies - 6 months to 12 months Dog or Bitch

Veteran - 7 years old Dog or Bitch

Happiest Dog or Bitch

Lower Halstow Village News  
June & July 2026

Scruffiest Dog or Bitch  
Best Rescue Dog or Bitch  
Best Pedigree Dog or Bitch  
Best Brace of Dogs (not necessarily the same breed, but look alike)  
Child - Under 12 years old to show their Dog or Bitch  
Dog or Bitch, the Judge and Steward would like to take home  
Races - weather permitting  
Very Small Dog or Bitch  
Small Dog or Bitch  
Medium Dog or Bitch  
Large Dog or Bitch  
Over all Winner - All Dogs That Have Come 1st In Their Class

Fundraising for PDSA \*\*\*\*\*  
Refreshments available

**PDSA ITEMS FOR LOWER HALSTOW ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW - 5 SEPTEMBER 2026**

From Kay Howard-Challis:

We are holding our Annual Novelty Dog Show on Saturday 5th September 2026, and we will be including a PDSA stall, if you have any, good as new items to donate for the stall, please can you either, leave them outside 2, Elm Place, Wardwell Lane LH, or bring them on the day, or if preferred, we can collect, the contact email address for collection is [howardchallisk@gmail.com](mailto:howardchallisk@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

## CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless 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](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or call 07771 817152

**Brickfields** - Judy Telford, 07486 530068,  
[friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com)

**Cricket Club** - Mark Stevens, 07950318576

**Dog Warden** - Daytime 417850. Out of hours 383099 option 2

**Flood Warden** - Kay Howard-Challis, 844408,  
[howardchallisk@gmail.com](mailto:howardchallisk@gmail.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](mailto:richard.palmer@kent.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament** - Kevin McKenna,  
[kevin.mckenna.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kevin.mckenna.mp@parliament.uk), 07519 087522

**Memorial Hall** - Bookings email [lhnhallbookings@outlook.com](mailto:lhnhallbookings@outlook.com)

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

**Neighbourhood Watch** - Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury,  
[LHNWatch1@gmail.com](mailto:LHNWatch1@gmail.com), 07894 792802, Facebook - Search Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

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

**Parish Council** - Parish Clerk, Mandy Archer, answer phone 844558  
[parishclerk@lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lowerhalstowparishcouncil.gov.uk) Meetings are on first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

**Playgroup** - Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

**Police** - PC Adam Blakeman, [adam.blakeman@kent.police.uk](mailto:adam.blakeman@kent.police.uk)

General enquiries, 01622 690690, [kent.police.uk](http://kent.police.uk) Neighbourhood Watch  
01634 792131

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

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

office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk

**Cubs and Beavers** - Ria Smith, Group Scout Leader,

ria.smithuk@gmail.com

**Short Mat Bowls** - Mick Porter, Secretary, 713120

**St Margaret's Church** - Rev. Amanda Lane, Priest in Charge 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](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

**The deadline for items for the August & September 2026 Village News is noon on 10 July 2026**

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto: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

## **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](mailto:Info@bcwindowcleaning.co.Uk)

[Www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk](http://Www.bcwindowcleaning.co.uk)

### **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**

**ULTIMATE**  
 • LANDSCAPING •  
 PAVING & SLABBING

★★★★★

**BEFORE** • • **AFTER**

FREE QUOTE

★★★★★

Google

★★★★★

f

🎵

**07880 362694**

[www.ultimatelandscapingltd.com](http://www.ultimatelandscapingltd.com)

# Copper Forge

*Plumbing and Maintenance*

**14 years experience**

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

RADIATOR INSTALLATIONS

PLUMBING REPAIRS

GENERAL HANDYMAN



Contact Adam

07383836142

Email

[copperforgeplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:copperforgeplumbing@gmail.com)

Visit

[www.copperforgeplumbing.com](http://www.copperforgeplumbing.com)





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](mailto:edenwood@sjpp.co.uk)

Website: [www.edenwoodwealth.com](http://www.edenwoodwealth.com)

**SJP Approved 05/02/2026**



## More photos from school events



**Printed by the Print Section, Swale Borough Council  
Email: [printroom@swale.gov.uk](mailto:printroom@swale.gov.uk)**