VILLAGE NEWS APRIL 2023



Inaugural Duck Race
Easter 2022
Photo kindly supplied by Kerry Ward

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

2 April 2023 - 8am, Quiet Communion

9 April 2023, Easter Sunday - 6am, Sunrise and Communion

16 April 2023 - 10am, Communion

23 April 2023 - 10am, Worship and APCM

30 April 2023 - 10am, Communion

Plus during Holy Week:

3 April 2023

7pm, as it is Holy Week, there will be an evening Compline service lasting about 30 minutes

7 April 2023, Good Friday

10am, Join us on the green beside the Memorial Hall, School Lane. For a short service followed by a walk to the church carrying the Cross, when we will finish our service in the church, and invite you all to stay for hot cross buns, tea and coffee. Any queries - Jacky Davis 07733851074. Jackie Swift 07840258665 8 April 2023 - 6.30pm, Vigil Service

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

8 April 2023, Easter Saturday - Team 16 April 2023 - Yvonne 23 April 2023 - Liz 30 April 2023 - Lynne

CRAFT MORNING, TUESDAY 4 APRIL, 10AM TO 12 NOON

The next Craft Morning at St Margaret's Church is on Tuesday 4 April 10am - 12am.

This will be themed on Easter with activities for all ages.

We hope you will come and join in.

Refreshments provided.

No charge but a donation welcome.

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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Let me be as gold"

In the current TV series "The Gold" about the Brinks Mat robbery, there is a scene where the stolen pure gold is smelted and mixed with other metals. For the gold is too pure to sell on the open market, but when mixed with other metals its true value can be disguised.

There's something sad in that scene, not just in seeing such pure gold being tarnished by sheer human greed, but in the impact on the lives of those involved in that robbery. For the life they hoped for from that theft doesn't become reality. Something beautiful, rather like Paradise Lost, is destroyed and tarnished; not just the gold, in but human lives wasted. Isn't that true for so much in the world, in our lives? Just look around. How easily we tarnish God's good gifts, the beauty of this planet we share and the potential of each human life?

This season of Lent started with the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert where the mettle of his character and calling was thoroughly tested, smelted if you like. In the cauldron of those days in the wilderness when the sense of hunger was real, the shortcuts to self-

serving power, wealth and significance were seductively laid before him. Yet as Jesus resists the temptation for these things to divert the course of his life and mission, what emerges from this desert smelting is a life that is like pure, untarnished gold.

What is the point of giving up things for Lent? Giving up something like chocolate may help us shed a few pounds (in weight & money!). Yet is this not in fact a time when God calls us to shed much more, to let him smelt our lives, so that the true gold in our hearts may emerge? Is this not a time when we allow God to help us let go of those unhelpful habits, attitudes and behaviours, that may bind us preventing us from living fruitfully as he always intended us to live? Will we let God purify our hearts so we may be as gold?

Blessings

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth, Rector of The Six

PICK YOUR OWN DAFFODILS, ELM FARM

Pick your own daffodils open again this year at Elm Farm opposite the farm house.

Donations can be posted through the letter box front porch of farm house, all monies raised are distributed back into the village. No dogs

Many thanks Elm Farm

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 - the next session will be on 4 May 2023 (no session in April).

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

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

Spring is here although it does not seem like it as I write this. A Butterfly and a Buff-tailed Bumble Bee were spotted on the Brickfield when we had a couple of warm days recently, White and Red Dead Nettles in flower along with Hazel, Alder and Sallow trees, new life emerging. Listen for the Cuckoos arriving mid April and the Nightingales shortly after.

The nesting season is underway with birds getting territorial so we will be stopping major conservation jobs for the summer. However, we plan to continue meeting on the second Sunday of the month, there is always pruning and litter picking to do and we plan to hold walks identifying the flora and fauna on the site.

Dates for your diaries:

9 April 2023 Work Party, meeting 10am, Lapwing Drive entrance

21 April 2023 Our AGM, same format as last year - a short AGM followed by George Peters giving an illustrated talk on the Medway Prison Hulks after which there will be refreshments and the opportunity to chat to the FotB Committee. 7.30pm at St Margaret's Church. Tickets £5, please book in advance as this helps with the catering. Contact Judy Telford on 07486 530063 or email friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

28 April 2023 The Spring Ball at the Oak Grove, our major fund raiser. Contact Michael van der Straaten for details (see more details later in this newsletter).

As always thanks are due to all the volunteers that help to make the Brickfields such a special place. Hope to see you all at the AGM!

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

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS AGM And an illustrated talk

The Medway Prison Hulks by George Peters

St Margaret's Church
Friday 21 April 2023
7.30pm
Tickets £5 to include wine
And light refreshments.

Please book tickets in advance by email from friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com or from Judy Telford 07486 530068.

FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S, LOWER HALSTOW SOCIAL CLUB - TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM

Frozen Medway 1895, 1947 and 1963

This month's talk centres on how the Medway towns fared during the three most severe winters of the past 120 years. It is accompanied by over 60 slides. This promises to be another very interesting evening and relevant to Lower Halstow being so close to the Medway.

Tuesday 25 April 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 April.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 6 and 20 April 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 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.



ST MARY'S BELL TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT

Please join us at a

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION



in St Mary's church Upchurch on 21/22/23 April 2023

Open daily from 10am to 4pm

Local Photographers & Camera Club Displays

TICKETS £5.00 ON THE DOOR including hot drink and vote slip CHILDREN FREE

If you are a photographer and would like to exhibit please contact Elspeth on elspethbaecke@gmail.com

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE FOR THE BELL TOWER RESTORATION FUND

Meanwhile please feel free to donate at justgiving.com/campaign/upchurchbelltower

SPRING BALL: LAST FEW TICKETS!!

The Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields are pleased to announce the

Spring Ball 2023 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.

The Oak Grove features a heated giant safari tent, beautiful grounds, a fully licensed 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 ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW - KING CHARLES 111 CORONATION, MONDAY 8 MAY 2023, 9AM START

At Lower Halstow Hall and Green on Monday 8 May 2023

Judge Keith Howard-Challis and Steward Kerry Gardener

Registration from: - 9am

Judging Starts at:- 12 noon

Classes:-

Fancy Dress Dog or Bitch (maybe with The Coronation in mind)

Puppy Dog (6 months to 12 months)

Puppy Bitch (6 months to 12 months)

Senior Dog or Bitch (10 years and over)

Happiest Dog or Bitch

The Prettiest Bitch

The Most Hansom Dog

The Dog or Bitch and Owner Look Alike

The Dog or Bitch The Judge /The Steward would like to take home

If not TOO HOT OR RAINING:-

Race for Small Dogs Race for Medium Dogs Race for Large Dogs

ALL FIRST PLACED DOGS OR BITCH – The Over All Winner and Reserve in Show

PDSA – RAFFLE AND STALL = run by Julia and Sophie The Numbers will be called - after the Dog Show

THE POP UP CAFE – will be open

Please enjoy the rest of the afternoon on the Green

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. Entrance to this fun event is completely free! Join us to discover Byron's connection to our village and so much more!

Do you have a favourite poem? Or write your own poetry? Would you like to tell a story? Register now for a slot at our open mic session carinaj65@outlook.com

Also, a call out to all the wonderful photographers in the village:

We are looking to make a collection of photographs of our beautiful village to display at the Poetry and Arts Festival.

We are particularly interested in interesting and unusual views of the village that perhaps a lot of people may not have seen! This could be a shot from an unexpected angle, or maybe a view from a window in your house etc.

Please email your photos to: giles1407@hotmail.com

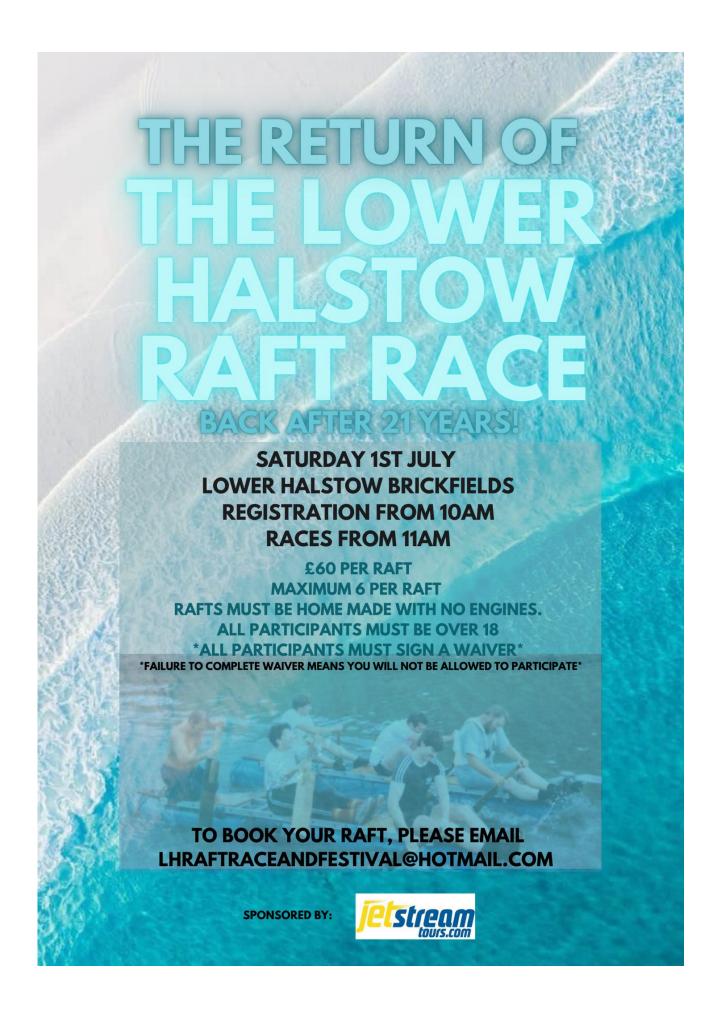
FOOD BANK DONATIONS

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

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 PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 4 has seen the first signs of Spring appear and all the activities that take place at this time of year. The whole school enjoyed the annual Pancake Races that took place on Shrove Tuesday. The children competed against one another in their House Teams. The children gradually mastered flipping and running simultaneously! A few pancakes were lost on the way, however Hever House were crowned winners at the end of the afternoon having won the most races.

Mrs Saxton took a group of Key Stage 2 children to Belmont House in Faversham where they helped to plant trees and Aeoniums. They also enjoyed getting lost in the maze and exploring the grounds in which they found a 500 year old Yew tree! They will be returning later on in the year to see how their plants and trees are progressing as well as assisting the gardeners more around the grounds.

This term Year 5 started their block of 12 swimming sessions at Sheerness Swimming Pool. This follows the Government's expectation that swimming and water safety lessons are taught to all primary school children. By the end of primary school each pupil is required to be able to swim 25 metres unaided and use a range of strokes effectively. They have enjoyed their first few sessions and are already gaining confidence in the water and improving their technique.

There are few weeks in the school calendar that are more exciting than Book Week. The children have enjoyed taking part in a bingo book quiz at home, bringing in a book from home to swap with other children in the class and dressing up as our favourite character for World Book Day. The week ended with a whole school Book Quiz in which representatives from each house went head to head to be the speediest at answering questions about texts that they had studied in class. We had some brilliant costumes on World Book Day which included Mary Poppins, several Harry Potters and a great Gangster Granny to name just a few.

We still have lots of events planned for the last 3 weeks left of the term including Science Week, class assemblies, trips and various Easter activities so we have a busy time ahead.

Year 3, Maple Class feature:

Maple Class have had a superb term. Our Roman Britain topic got off to a great start with a Roman workshop visit from Roz at Maidstone museum. The children enjoyed studying the Roman objects and using their skills of historical deduction to infer what they may have been used for. They also reasoned whether they were replica items or historical artefacts.

Lily commented 'I learnt that the Roman army always started marching with their right hand first because it was bad luck to start on the left'.

Ben said 'I enjoyed learning about the games the Roman children played like 'knucklebone".

We are currently designing and creating our own Roman shields ready to simulate the battle formations that made the Roman army so successful! All this work will culminate in an assembly to the parents to share the children's learning this term - we can't wait!

Michelle Crowe, Head of School



LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council would like to remind everyone:
Bottle digging on the sea wall is a criminal offence and offenders will be prosecuted and also the lighting of bonfires on any part of the Brickfields, which is owned by the Parish Council is prohibited. It poses a serious fire risk not only to surrounding trees and shrubs, but to our wildlife habitats as well.

Kent County Council has updated its Digital Information for Adult Social Care Services as follows:

Home | Connect to Support | Kent – This is our digital front door, promoting self-help options for anyone that wishes to look for information, advice, and guidance as well as community assets and care directory information. We have also linked the Personal Assistants website directly from here for those in receipt of direct payments wishing to employ their own PA. This site also allows PAs to advertise their vacancies.

Adult social care - Kent County Council — Our information sited here informs anyone of our Statutory Duties in line with the Care Act 2014 and all other related legislation. This will also help inform people about our services, what we do, and how to contact us if they need further support.

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

WELLBEING CALLS FROM MID KENT MIND

Recently, MKM received some funding from Swale Borough Council to provide Wellbeing Calls to residents in the area – so we are keen to

expand awareness of this offering so that anyone across Swale has the opportunity to reach out for support.

'Wellbeing Calls' are a blanket support offering – meaning they provide a safe space where someone can call us to seek advice around anything impacting their mental health or wellbeing. This may be advice around money and mental health, or may be that they are feeling uncertain about the future so want the chance to offload. These calls are designed to work around what someone would like to discuss – with up to five follow-up calls available.

I've attached a poster with more details, and you can also find more details on our website: https://www.maidstonemind.org/give-us-a-call/. I would encourage you to please share with residents and get them to get in touch. A lot of people are struggling currently – but they don't have to struggle alone.



If this speaks to you, speak to us.

Mid Kent Mind are providing a safe and confidential space where you can talk about whatever you may be experiencing currently. Whether the cost of living is worrying you, or something else is on your mind, our Wellbeing Workers are here to listen to you and provide you with practical advice and guidance around things you can do to look after your mental health and wellbeing.

To learn more, visit www.maidstonemind.org/give-us-a-call or scan the QR Code.



FUTURE DATES 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 May 2023 Village News is noon on 12 April 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, citizens advice.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, 07771817152

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.

No job too small. Find me on Facebook or at https:// www.uniquelyyoursflowers.co.uk or call Liz on 07730 893747



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jstreecare01@gmail.com



Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and Investment Planning & Mortgages

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

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage

SJP APPROVED 10/03/2023



Upholstery and Furniture Painting Service

Do you have an unloved item of furniture that needs a new lease of life?

If so, then I offer an upholstery and painting service.

To find out more, please contact Sandra on 07588 505539

or email me at vintagehaus@mail.com

Why not visit my Etsy shop for more gifts and inspiration at Etsy.com then search for the TheVintageHausShop

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