

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS May 2023



*Our own village “king” Aaron
Photo kindly supplied by Glenda Tress*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

7 May 2023 - 4pm, Songs of Praise and tea

14 May 2023 - 10am, Morning Fellowship

21 May 2023 - 10am, Family Communion

28 May 2023 - 10.30am, Benefice outdoor Communion at Newington*

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

7 May 2023 - Lesley

14 May 2023 - Gillian

21 May 2023 - Eileen

28 May 2023 - Georgina

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

OLD AND NEW

The distinction between old and new is something which troubles both the world we live in today and the church. Have you ever noticed, for example, that products can be advertised in quite contradictory ways? Sometimes we're encouraged to buy something because it's 'new' - the latest thing, you've never seen anything like it before. And sometimes we encouraged to buy something because it's just like things used to be, it's traditional, what your grandparents would have known.

For instance, we live in a society that is constantly buying and throwing away mobiles, as if they are two for a penny. Just because they do not have the latest features. Yet turn on the television and you discover people longing for antiques, distressed furniture and fireplaces in their homes. As a society, we can't decide whether old or new is best.

And in a way this has also filtered into the life of many churches. For example, in worship we often divide ourselves up according to whether we like a traditional or a contemporary approach. Equally we avoid using the Old Testament as a text for preaching because we think it is superseded by the new and then at other times we cling to an 'old' commentary of the Bible even though scholars have found for us important new insights. I think sometimes in churches we marginalise those who are 'older' and long only for new and younger people to join us – but equally sometimes we are desperately frightened of anything new.

So how do we respond? Well it is always tempting to choose one or the other, either to hold on to the comfort and reassurance of the past or to sweep it away in a grand step into the unknown.

Yet, from a Christian perspective I think we always need the old as well as the new. It is easy for people who live today to think those who lived before us simply are old fashioned and thus have no understanding of what it is like to live in a rapidly changing society. But they have wisdom to pass on to us and it would be unwise to ignore it. Of course, there

are also times when it would be foolish to place “old wine into new wineskins”. In a way, what I am trying to say is that on one hand we need to be strongly rooted in the traditions of our faith and denomination, but also we need to be open to the Holy Spirit who constantly questions and renews it. We are called to make faith and life new again in our day - but not, I think, by turning away from all that is past.

Imagine that all the people who have ever worshipped in our churches, served in our community were here today - there would be thousands of them with many different experiences and stories to tell. And in a way they are here - part of our community, part of who we are now. But our faithfulness to their witness lies in responding to the Gospel with integrity for our own times - while never letting go of their hands. This is what we need to do as we walk together discerning through prayer, listening, and consultation what God’s has in mind for our churches and Communities we serve.

Every Blessing
Revd Robin Selmes

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

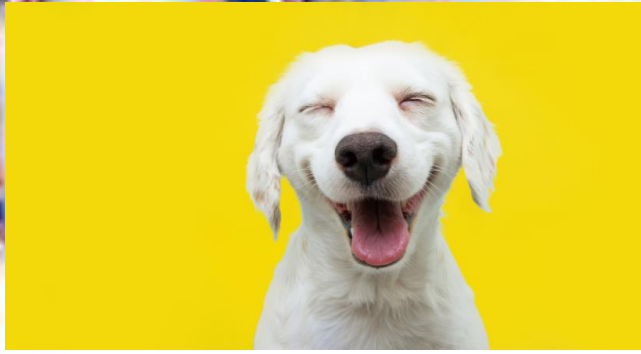
Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in May.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 4 and 18 May 2023



LOWER HALSTOW 15TH ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW

MONDAY 8TH MAY ON LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE GREEN



Judge:

Keith Howard-Challis
MBE

Steward:

Kerry Gardner

REFRESHMENTS FROM
THE POP-UP CAFE

FUND RAISING STALL
FOR PDSA

CLASSES:

FANCY DRESS

VETERAN

MOST HANDSOME
DOG

PRETTIEST BITCH

HAPPIEST DOG /
BITCH

DOG & OWNER
LOOK-ALIKE

PUPPY (6-12
MONTHS)

AND MANY MORE

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE HALL

REGISTRATION FROM 9AM

JUDGING STARTS 12 NOON

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 walks on Monday evenings from the Memorial Hall. For more information call Liz on 842272.

LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS

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.

THANK YOUS

From Jackie Swift:

A big thank you to Richard and the Neighbourhood Watch lovely people, who treated the village to so many things. A talk from Swale Borough Council on advice for cutting costs, and giving a lot of very useful items for our homes. A porch full of food items, which was donated (whoever worked hard to obtain these) THANK YOU. Giving us lovely soup, cakes etc. A few of us now are on our own, we are so grateful.

The Ladies of the Village.

Another lovely treat, for us older folk in the village. We all say thank you for the lovely food presented to us. Everything they did was so homely.

We met up with friends who we had not seen for some time. So very much appreciated, thanks to the great team.

From Vicky Govier:

Magnificent Seven - Everyone enjoyed the April get together, good food superbly presented. The tables were beautifully decorated, complete with fresh daffodils for us to take home. The good atmosphere brought together villagers who had lost contact due to the last couple of years chaos that we all experienced. It was a great/kind idea girls. Well done!!

From Kerry Ward:

Thank you all for your support and attendance at the Easter Event. We had 370 ducks racing and 160 children take part in the scavenger hunt. It was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves in the sunshine and thanks to all those how helped make it a success.

Also if there is anyone who wishes to volunteer to help out with the music festival on 1 July 2023, any help would be appreciated.

**FRIENDS OF ST MARGARET'S, LOWER HALSTOW SOCIAL CLUB -
TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023, 7.30 TO 9PM**

Bargemaster Tales

stories from over 20 years of Edith May
being based at Lower Halstow, featuring the highs and lows of
maintaining a 117 year old Thames barge and the triumphs and
disasters of sailing the East Coast's rivers and creeks. Ed and Geoff
Gransden will share some of their memories, including sneaking into the
Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant and how they came to appear
ignominiously on BBC Breakfast news!

Memorial Hall

7.30pm – 9pm.

Refreshments will be available. Raffle. Entry £4
Enquiries to Liz Mouland 842272

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.

THE RETURN OF THE LOWER HALSTOW RAFT RACE

BACK AFTER 21 YEARS!

**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.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 18

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN A WAIVER

FAILURE TO COMPLETE WAIVER MEANS YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE



**TO BOOK YOUR RAFT, PLEASE EMAIL
LHRAFTRACEANDFESTIVAL@HOTMAIL.COM**

SPONSORED BY:



THE RAFT RAVE

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

**FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM
STROUD AND SIMS
HIGH TIDE
GIANNI SCALERA AND THE JURY
STRANGWAYS
AND
THE UPSTARTS!**

**WITH FOOD FROM WARM HEART CAFE AND FOXYS FIRE WOOD PIZZA
LICENSED BAR - NO ALCOHOL TO BE BROUGHT IN.**

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

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

GRANDSEN
CONSTRUCTION

CHICKENSTOCK
FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY
B J L ELECTRICAL
AND PROPERTY SERVICES

BATTERY SPECIALISTS
SOUTH EAST LTD

MARK NORRIS
CARPENTRY

TJG PHOTOGRAPHY

JAK VEHICLE REPAIRS

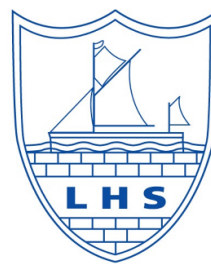
BUTTASIDE UP

KENT TRADE FRAMES

CP ELITE INTERIORS

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The end of Term 4 finished as it started – full of learning, fun and excitement. One of the end of term highlights was the arrival of 12 eggs in an incubator. The children enjoyed keeping watch and seeing the eggs hatch. They all had a chance to hold a chick before they were returned to their farm ready to explore the big wide world. From our office Mrs Deevoy and I enjoyed listening to the conversations between the children as they visited the chicks hearing comments such as, ‘I think they are on newspaper to keep their feet warm’ and ‘next week will they fly out of their box and around the room?’ ‘I wish I was a chick!’ The chicks certainly put a smile on everyone’s face, young and old.



We celebrated National Science week by focusing on science in the world around us, with the children participating in experiments involving sweets in water, how sound travels, changing milk into butter and the effect of bacteria on bread to name but a few.

For Comic Relief, we all wore red clothes and some children also chose to paint their noses red. We raised £133.17 from the donations on the gate which will go towards worthwhile causes in this country and abroad.

Maple and Hawthorn (Year 3 and Year 4) invited their parents in to watch their class assemblies. Year 4 kicked off with an assembly featuring facts about Anglo Saxons and they also entertained us with their times table rap and dance. It was very catchy and went round and round our heads for the rest of the day! The following week, Year 3 performed their assembly starting with facts about Romans – the highlight was seeing their decorated Roman shields as part of an impressive army formation display.

Year 4 also found time to head out on a trip to Kent Life for a Viking Experience, where they participated in a day of workshops focused on the Viking way of life. They visited a Viking market and made a lucet cord. They also discovered how the Vikings fared in their life at sea, and what they got up to as fearsome raiders!

Our term ended with a lovely Easter Service led by John Guest. The children shared prayers and Bible readings, reading beautifully, but the highlight was definitely the singing of Spring Chicken which is always a popular request!

On behalf of everyone at Lower Halstow School, we hope you had a happy and peaceful Easter.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School



LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council are very pleased to announce that the Environment Agency have completed the repair to the Sea Wall. The damaged gate has also been replaced at the entrance. However, regrettably it has been reported that digging into the new sea wall has already taken place, which is a criminal offence and if witnessed please report it to the Police on 101.



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.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS

Wednesday 22 February - at a well attended Social Evening the Club celebrated its 22nd anniversary and the cake was cut by two founder members, John Mustoo and Pat Perrett. The Club started as an offshoot of the Hall, becoming a constitutional club in 2013. Membership stands at 20 with a good attendance on Mondays but we could do with more players on Wednesdays, especially locals.

23 March - the final match was played at Halstow (Swale League) against Newington, the top team. Results 11-3 win for the home side. Although winning all our home games those away were lost at bigger margins with the possibility we might be relegated, depending on the number of teams relegated/promoted per division.

Kemsley Friday Triples - the Halstow team led by Team Captain, Bill Robinson did well coming second out of 10, being presented with a cup. They also came second in the one day competition.

Easter Lunch 1 April - Club members were pleased to meet up with Joan Cotterill who celebrated 100 years in February 2023. Joan was a club

founder member and played in league matches at 93. She has happy memories of her times in Lower Halstow and playing with the Club.

John Mustoo

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

KSS  **AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY**
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Volunteers needed!

Your local Air Ambulance Charity needs more volunteers

We need help with

- Store Collecting
- Event support
- Public speaking
- Office support
- Managing collecting boxes

Scan me 



Support our life-saving work and join our team today
volunteering@aakss.org.uk

Charity no. 1021367

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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 June 2023 Village News is noon on
12 May 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,

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

J&S TREE CARE

Your local trusted tree surgeon

Tree & Hedge Specialist

*Stump Removal • Chipper Hire
Reductions • Pruning
Felling & Dismantling*

07501 831 471

**ALL MAJOR CREDIT AND
DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**



find us on 

J&S TREE CARE

YOUR LOCAL TRUSTED TREE SURGEON

FOR ALL YOUR TREE & HEDGES NEEDS

*Professional Tree & hedge Service
That Is Safe, Efficient & Affordable
Friendly & Honest Approach
Competitive Rates, Fully Insured
We Guarantee Your Satisfaction
Trusted To Provide The Best Possible Service
For Free Estimate And Advice Call Jack*

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

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



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](https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheVintageHausShop) then search for the TheVintageHausShop**

Repurposed. Recycled. Reloved.