

# 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 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW

## MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:LHRAFTRACEANDFESTIVAL@HOTMAIL.COM)**

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## **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](mailto: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](http://weather.lhyc.org.uk)



# Volunteers needed!

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## 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](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or call 843871**

### **Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade**

Corrie Woodford, [corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk](mailto:corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk)

Roger Clark, 430324, [rogerclark@swale.gov.uk](mailto:rogerclark@swale.gov.uk)

### **Citizens Advice**

0800 144 8848, [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://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](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

Abbie Dowell, [abbie\\_mcdowell@hotmail.com](mailto:abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com)

### **Friends of the Brickfield**

[friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament**

Gordon Henderson, 423199, [www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk](http://www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk)

**Memorial Hall**

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)  
Bookings Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, [LHNWatch1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://kent.police.uk)

Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

**Samaritans**

116 123 - free number day or night; email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto: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](http://www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk),

[info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk)

**Village News**

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com),

07771817152

**Yacht Club**

Dave Quigley, 841242

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*[jstreecare01@gmail.com](mailto:jstreecare01@gmail.com)*



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**Chartered Financial Planner**  
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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)

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SJP APPROVED 10/03/2023

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