VILLAGE NEWS May 2022



Fruit trees at Elm Farm
Photo kindly supplied by Melvyn Theobald

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

- 1 May no service at Lower Halstow. 10.30am Benefice Service at St Mary's, Newington
- 8 May 10am, Family Worship
- 15 May 10am, Communion with APCM
- 22 May 10am, Family Worship
- 29 May 10am, Informal fellowship gathering

Also there is always a Sunday online service at 10.30am on The Six YouTube

Altar Flower Rota

- 1 May Eileen
- 8 May Cheyenne
- 15 May Rebecca
- 22 May Liz
- 29 May Georgina

St Margaret's Bereavement Coffee Time

Every Thursday in May 10am to 12 noon bereavement coffee time in the church. We have been open for a few months now.So, anyone who feels they would like to come into the church, for a chat, a prayer, a quiet time. You may feel its hard to walk though the door, but you would be very welcome. We just chat, our gentlemen are full of history and stories, a time to listen, and join in and feel at home. Give Jackie a call to reassure you. 07840258665.

MOBILITY ITEMS

Sadly, as no one has been able to offer storage, the mobility items will no longer be available to the village.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

If you would like to share any of this type of news with everyone in future editions of the Village News please email brief details to ransleyfamily@gmail.com or pop written details round to 16 Cumberland Drive.

POP-UP COMMUNITY CAFE - SATURDAY, 7 MAY 2022

Message from Jane Summers:

Lower Halstow Memorial Hall

10.30 - 1.30pm Saturday 7 May 2022

Come along for a coffee, cake and a chat. Time to relax with a newspaper, bring a book to exchange and enjoy time with friends.

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays again in May.

Friday 29 April, The Zac Schulze Gang will be playing at the pub from 8.30pm. Thursday 26 May, "Kick up the Dust" will be making a return visit from America

On Thursday 2 June to start off the Jubilee Celebrations PJ & Rose will be playing in the evening.

LADIES DIY KEEP FIT

A friendly group of ladies meet for exercise on Monday evenings. For more information call Liz on 842272

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

From Judy Telford:

Work parties are over for the summer, AGM held last week, time to relax! Just a bit of pruning here and there to enable Bob to get his brush cutter around the path edges without catching his arms on the brambles. If you are out walking feel free to take secateurs with you and cut off anything which overhangs the paths.

Cuckoo arriving any day, Nightingales shortly after, listen out for them. Keep glancing up to the sky for the House Martins, Swallows and Swifts arriving.

It is a busy time of year for all our wildlife, please keep your dogs under close control to avoid disturbance.

EDITH MAY AND TILLER AND WHEEL UPDATE

Over the Winter and early Spring months, we have been busy restoring certain parts of our Thames Sailing Barge, Edith May, ready for a very busy but exciting sailing season. The full sailing schedule is being finalised and our free sailing experiences will soon be accessible for patrons to book. Look out for updates on our social media and Patreon page.

Due to our sailing season being so hectic, we will be attending only one Barge Match of the sailing season, the Medway, on the 21 May 2022.

We have also planned a River Pageant at Sun Pier in Chatham for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 4 June. There will be dozens of Barges, Smacks and Steam tugs parading along the River Medway; it will be a sight to behold and we are very much looking forward to it! For more information, visit our website.

Links to social media:

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/tillerandwheel/?hl=en

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/tillerandwheel

Twitter - https://mobile.twitter.com/tillerandwheel

Patreon - https://www.patreon.com/tillerandwheel

Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/

UCJn1qbDCkMxyrtLSalsZHnQ

MEMORIAL HALL

Update from Kay Howard-Challis – Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Booking Hall Clerk:

We have a Dog Training starting in the hall starting in May, if anyone is interested in teaching their dog, i.e socialising skills etc., please let me know and I will forward the Dog Trainer details.

We also have Dog Training for 'Sense Training', i.e if you are a diabetic, your dog will make you aware that you need your medication, if you would like more information I can forward the Dog Trainer's details.

I unfortunately have a moan because all the tea towels except for 2 have disappeared from the kitchen drawer, it is not a problem anyone using them, that is what they are for, but as the message in the tea towels drawer says 'if anyone uses the tea towels please take them home, wash/dry them and return them, either direct to the hall or give

them to me Kay Howard-Challis.'. I have replaced the tea towels in the drawer with new ones, but if they too are used, taken and not returned, then anyone who uses the kitchen and washes up, they must bring their own.

There are many biscuit tins left in the kitchen, if they are not claimed before the Children's summer break, the tins will be thrown away.

As Covid will be with us sadly for a long time, cleaning the hall after every event is still a necessity, because, when you first go into the hall, you do not what to have to clean the whole hall before your event, so cleaning the hall after your event is paramount.

WANTED - VOLUNTEER READING HEROES

The children of Lower Halstow School are looking for more Reading Heroes to come and listen to us read.

Can you spare 1-2 hours a week? Do you love books and reading?

Then you sound like the hero we need. We can't offer money, but we can put a smile on your face, provide you with a special spot in our library and express our gratitude with a very warm welcome.

The serious bit.

Reading fluently upon leaving primary school is a huge indicator of future success and significantly affects children's life chances. Our volunteers make a difference to the lives of the children they work with by giving them extra time to practise the reading skills we teach them in class, allowing them to start secondary school as confident, capable individuals.

If you think you can be someone's reading hero then please drop an email or call the school office to find out what's involved. office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk 01795 842344
Thank you.

JUBILEE WEEKEND - 2-5 JUNE 2022 St Margaret's

St. Margaret's will be open Friday 3 and Saturday 4 June 2022, approximately 11am-3pm. With refreshment and an Exhibition of old Lower Halstow, over the years. Please, if you have any thing you would like to display, please let me know. Thank you, Jackie, 48, School Lane. It should be a great Village weekend.

Children's Fancy Dress Parade, Sunday 5 June 2022

From Mick Porter:

There are no rules, and it is your choice on the design of the costume and whether to make or hire. The judges will be looking for originality, relevance and, mostly, FUN.

Each entrant will receive a memento of the occasion and prizes will be awarded to the winners. If there are enough entrants there may be two age-related parades.

Entry is FREE but so that we can plan, would you please register your child/children by sending the following info:-

Name

Age

Contact, phone and email

To

Mick Porter, 07765 400062, mickp2127@icloud.com.

Other Jubilee Events

Each home will receive a separate leaflet giving more details of all the exciting events planned throughout the Jubilee weekend.

SECOND LOWER HALSTOW POETRY FESTIVAL - 19-20 AUGUST 2022

As well as the Poetry Festival in the church on Saturday 20 August 2022, this year there will also be a Storytelling Session for adults at The Three Tuns on the evening of Friday 19 August led by professional storytellers Pretending People Theatre. There will be an open mic session so start getting your stories ready!

AUCTION OF PROMISES - 7 OCTOBER 2022

A date for your diary - the rearranged Auction of Promises will be held on the evening of Friday 7 October in the Memorial Hall, just in time to buy some fun Christmas presents! Funds to be raised for village organisations/activities.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 5 and 19 May 2022.

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

HEALTH WALKS

Start at 10am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brick Fields, and there will be two walks on offer; a leisurely 1 hour walk and a brisk 2 hour walk. 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.

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.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Portman has planted a red Oak tree to commemorate this year's Platinum Jubilee and recorded this on the Queen's Green Canopy Map. The tree is sited opposite the Three Tuns public house. A commemorative plaque designed by the British Legion will be placed at the site shortly.

Our Jubilee celebrations for the 2-5 June are underway with the support of 10 volunteers from our village. Two grants towards the project have been agreed from Kent County Council and Councillor Woodford. A summary of events include: Lighting of the Beacon; Scouts - Day at the

Races; an exhibition to celebrate 70 years of Lower Halstow (photographs wanted please). Also included is a Sing-a-Long session with piano; a special Church Service is planned and The Big Lunch (picnic) with live music, lots of family entertainment including a Bake Off competition, Tug of War, Fancy Dress, children's games plus, plus.

Sea wall

Our sea wall is eroding at an alarming rate and following storm Eunice in February further erosion was recorded. Members of the Parish Council met with an officer from Kent County Council's Public Rights of Way last month to inspect the wall and although the sea wall footpath that forms part of the Saxon Shore Way was not closed to the public the most dangerous areas of the wall were fenced off.

The Environment Agency was contacted and an urgent updated assessment of the sea wall requested. Representatives from that agency inspected the sea wall and said they were looking at a temporary repair (subject to funding). They have since re-visited the site and an update is awaited. The Environment Agency have previously confirmed that this month they plan to commence a detailed survey of the 150 metres stretch of sea wall to include the costs of repair and they will update the Parish Council once their survey is completed.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE OF VACANCY

NOTICE is hereby given that two vacancies occurred in the membership of the above Parish Council.

Under the Local Government Act 1972, ten electors can petition for an election by writing to the Proper Officer at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT within 14 working days of the date of this Notice.

If no petition is received within that time period, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-opting a person onto the Parish Council. Persons wishing to be considered for this appointment should apply in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Written applications should be made to the Clerk at the following address: c/o The Parish Clerk, Amberley, 5 The Street,

Sporle, King's Lynn Norfolk, PE32 2EA or by e-mail: clerk.lhpc@gmail.com Ann Smith

A I Smith Clerk to Lower Halstow Parish Council Dated: 11 April 2022

Lower Halstow Parish Council's website provides a wealth of information https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home/?preview=e3277b7cbc194cee8dd5580b9b87877b

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

One of most exciting events this term has been the opening of our School Art Gallery. We were lucky enough to be visited by the artist Jane Ford who officially cut the red ribbon for us. Jane brought along pieces of her own work and shared these with the children in a special assembly. The children were able to ask her questions and some children even managed to get her autograph! The children then spent the whole day creating artwork in the same style as Jane before finishing with an exhibition to parents at the end of the day. It was an extremely enjoyable day with the children really being able to show their creative flair.

The children participated in fund raising for Comic Relief where they came to school dressed in red. The red noses quickly sold out and the children enjoyed additional activities during the day including joke telling. The Year 1 Joke book produced some real smiles and groans with some traditional and modern jokes.

The children in Year R, 1 and 2 were visited by the Family Trust who performed a Puppet Show for them based on the Easter Story. The children enjoyed being entertained but were also reminded about the real story behind Easter, not just the chocolate eggs.

Kent Search and Rescue paid us all a visit along with their search and rescue dog, Bonnie. The children received a talk from the adults but the real highlight was watching Bonnie in action as she searched for children and members of staff around the school grounds. Bonnie was

really quick to find them and was rewarded by a quick play with her ball before she started searching again.

To help the children celebrate Mothers' Day, the whole School visited Elm Farm to pick daffodils, the sun shone and it was a perfect Spring Day for the trip. The children then tied up their bouquets to take home to their Mums, Nans, Aunties and other special people in their lives. The PTA also held a Mothers' Day shop after school for last minute gift buying.

Term 4 ended with the annual PTA Easter Egg hunt on the school grounds, they also organised an Easter chocolate raffle where lucky winners walked away with a chocolate hamper each.

On the last day of term the children were visited by the Easter bunny (aka Teddy the school dog) where they were all presented with a chocolate Easter egg kindly donated by the PTA. Whilst several more staff have been absent with COVID this term, we have really pulled together as a team to keep everything happening as planned. This term has certainly has been busy and challenging, but definitely one enjoyed by all.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School

RECYCLING

In her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue again 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 and used pens. Also foil (deflated) balloons and banners

Everything is collected and recycled for various charities and kept out of landfill.

MORE RECYCLING

Nescafe dolce gusto coffee pods can be taken to Kelly Brown at 19 School Lane

LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH NEWS – APRIL 2022

_____ A STRONG COMMUNITY _____ UNITED TOGETHER



HEADLINE NEWS

- There was a single police report in March of fishing wire being tied around the park and at the brickfields. No further lines of enquiry were identified.
- The PCSO Team continue to visit the village daily as part of their patrols.
- The All-Inclusive Community Activity Bench has reached its fundraising milestone and installation anticipated in May. The Neighbourhood Watch would like to thank everyone who donated and has made this possible. We look forward to a great summer and to everyone being able to enjoy it. The bench was used by many enjoying the Easter weekend at the Gibbs.
- We received a report of a dog attack. All reports of dogs being out of control or behaving in an aggressive or threatening manner should be reported to the dog warden. The contact details are:

Dog Warden swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare

01795 417850 or 07795 237479

Anti-Social Behaviour can be reported to:

Noise Complaints swale.gov.uk or 01795 417575 Bonfires swale.gov.uk or 01795 417575

Dog Fouling swale.gov.uk

Dog Warden swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare

01795 417850 or 07795 237479

Residents are encouraged to report any on-going issues but in the first instance an amicable solution with your neighbours is better. Please be aware that noise complaints generally apply after 11.00pm.

The Sea Wall is deteriorating rapidly due to a combination of bottle diggers and high spring tides. It is currently barriered for people's safety. It is imperative that bottle digging into the sea wall is stopped. Please report any instances to the PCSO or neighbourhood watch so that the offenders can be stopped.

USEFUL CONTACTS		
EMERGENCY SERVICES		999
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE	www.kent.police.uk – Webchat Service	or 101
PCSO	Kirsty Linge	07772 226114
	kirsty.linge@kent.police.uk	
DOG WARDEN	swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare	01795 417850 or
		07795 237479
RURAL TASK FORCE	rural.task.force@kent.police.uk	07528 989095
	Inspector Dave Smith	07800 675376
	Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw	07870 252185
	Rural Crime Co-ordinator Doug	07972 004587
	Robertson	
NEIGHBOURHOOD	Richard Asbury	
WATCH CO-ORDINATOR	LHNWatch1@gmail.com	07894 792802
FACEBOOK SEARCH -	Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch	and Join the Group

YOUR LHNW ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Breach Lane	Mick Porter
Burntwick Drive	Amy Lundie, Sue Still
Crouch Hill Court	Tony Roberts
Cumberland Drive	Glenda Tress, Chris Mayes
Curlew Avenue	Richard Asbury
Heron Close	Peter Fullalove
Landrail Road	Dave Giles
Lapwing Drive	Lynne Morris
School Lane	Clare Jane, Dawn Nickolls, Audrey Robins
Sheerness Road	Liz Mouland
The Street	Cheyenne Hayward
Vicarage Lane	Rachel Parker
Wardwell Lane	Keith Howard Challis
Westmoreland Drive	Kerry Ward

Be the first to find out what's happening in **your area**







PASTORAL LETTER

"Change my dear and it seems not a moment too soon" (Colin Baker's 6th Doctor Who)

Doctor Who is a program that thrives on change. With the TARDIS being able to travel in time and space, each new story is totally different in a new place and with a new set of cast members. Even the central cast change. This autumn; Jodie Whittaker, the 13th Doctor, will regenerate and a new Doctor will run headlong into the next adventure. It is this embracing of change that has meant at almost 60 years old Doctor Who holds the record for being the longest running science fiction TV show.

Life is full of transitions and change but it can be daunting. As my contract here comes to an end and I look towards moving to my next post. This comes with a sense of sadness; leaving here mixed with excitement for what is to come. Although any change can be hard; we can take comfort in the words of Jesus; "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." He will be with us supporting and sustaining us through all we have been and can ever go through.

Change is however necessary for life. I see this in the turn of the seasons. The spring flowers come out and our front garden becomes a riot of yellow. Then they become longer, and different flowers sprout up to replace them to feed and home the insects. I also see this when my boys grow and mature much as there is a little loss as my eldest goes to school or my youngest stops being a baby and rushes headlong into toddlerdom these are good things, the cycle of life turns. Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 says

There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

No matter how much we would like to keep things the same; safe and predictable, change will come and with God's support we find strength to meet it when it does. I will leave you with a quote from Matt Smith's 11th Doctor:

"Everything's got to end sometime. Otherwise, nothing would ever get started."

Simeon Nevell

EASTER DUCK RACE NEWS

Message from Kerry Ward:

Myself and Richard would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone that supported the Easter scavenger hunt and duck race. It was the first time there has been anything like this here and we really weren't sure if it would be popular or even if it would work! To our delight it went better than we ever imagined! We sold over 120 scavenger hunt packs and 300 ducks, as well as raffle tickets for an easter hamper kindly donated by Upchurch Co-op.

There was one definite clear winner and that £50 prize money was handed to Julie Neville along with a huge rubber duck! We also awarded the second and third place winners with chocolate bundles. It was so nice to see everyone together having fun and we hope to make this an annual event!

We also made £200 from the event that we will put towards our jubilee street party in June.







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

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.

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, 07772 226114, kirsty.linge@kent.police.uk

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, http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk/

Lower Halstow Village News -May 2022

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Lisa Joiner, gsllowerhalstow@yahoo.com

Short Mat Bowls

John Mustoo, 843681, Glenys Lovell, Acting Secretary, 842376

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, 843871

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

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 2022 Village News is noon on 12 May 2022
Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to ransleyfamily@gmail.com

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

MIDKENT IT SOLUTIONS

Local village IT engineer available to help with all your IT needs, including PC/laptop repairs, wifi/network issues, printers, software, antivirus, office 365 licenses, Windows 10 upgrades and much more.

www.midkentit.co.uk, 01634 912105/07542795078, enquiries@midkentit.co.uk

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