

# **LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS October 2022**



*Photo kindly supplied by Ellis Devine  
of Dugee, a rhea from Happy Pants Ranch*

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

## **SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S**

2 October - 8am, Quiet Communion  
                  4pm, Harvest Tea  
9 October - 10am, Family Worship  
16 October - 10am, Communion  
23 October - 10am, Fellowship  
30 October - 10am, Communion

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 are now holding 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 of course for the Royal Family will all be included 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**

2 October - Gillian  
9 October - Eileen  
16 October - Liz  
23 October - Georgina  
30 October - Yvonne

## **ST MARGARET'S BEREAVEMENT COFFEE TIME**

Every Thursday in September 10am to 12noon bereavement coffee time in the church. We have been open for a while 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

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear friends

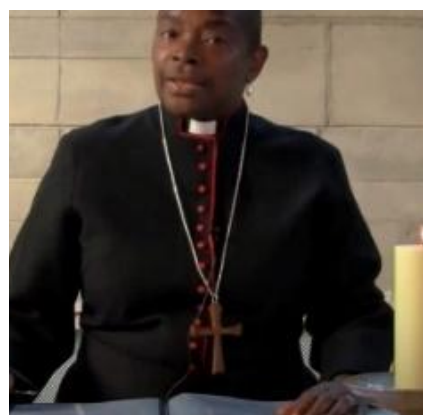
“Where were you when you heard? Do you remember what you were doing?” This was one of those moments we remember forever. During the Thursday evening news, Buckingham Palace came onto the screen and Jenny exclaimed “Isn’t the flag at half-mast?” A moment later, BBC presenter Huw Edwards gave us the news that we had come both to fear and expect, as Her Majesty’s health had recently seemed to be failing.

We wondered how it was that, only two days earlier, she had received Liz Truss, inviting her to be the 15th prime minister to form a government during her 70-year reign. Then a thought occurred to me:



It was her well known devotion to the duties of her position. This validation of the very process of government was basic to her role and she was determined to carry it out one more time. It was as though she thought that she must not leave the country she had served without a clearly authorised government in charge.

In her tribute to the Queen, Bishop Rose of Dover recalled the poem the young Elizabeth had recited to her father when she was 13: ‘... put your hand into the hand if God; that shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.’ And that faith and trust sustained Queen Elizabeth herself through all the years and trials of her own long reign.



And one of the dozen US presidents whom she met during that reign, President Joseph R Biden, recalled her letter to the American people in condolence after the 9/11 tragedy. She had shared these words: ‘Grief is

the price we pay for love.' And now we grieve, joined by many around the world, because she was loved, and we love her still.

Yours faithfully,

Revd Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain (retired)

### **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.

### **OCCASIONAL HELPERS WANTED - 1ST LOWER HALSTOW CUBS**

From Akela Richard Sutehall:

To ensure the future of the village cubs group, new occasional helpers are needed for the Thursday evening sessions. You need no special qualifications or experience; your role would simply be to help the cubs to have fun. You would need to have a DBS check which we would arrange.

Please do think about this carefully. We will organise a rota once we know how many volunteers we have and of course the evenings would fit around you.

If you think you could help, contact Richard -  
cubslowerhalstow@yahoo.com  
richard.sutehall@sittingbournescouts.org.uk

### **RUMMIKUB GROUP - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH**

From Emily Bartlett:

I have started a small Rummikub group up ONCE a MONTH at my house, this will be between 1pm & 3pm on the 1st THURSDAY of the month. Beginners are welcome as two of us can teach you. For more information call 841139.

## **MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

MOPE (Men Only PE) are looking for new players, we play volleyball on Monday evenings (7-8pm) in Lower Halstow School sports hall. Mope is currently men aged between 45 and 65 but any age is welcome and levels of fitness.

The first session is free and then £4 after that. For more details contact Tony on 07482 786656

## **FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS**

From Judy Telford:

Autumn has arrived, some much needed rain has damped down the fire risk on the Brickfield, thankfully.

There is so much fruit on the trees this year you may have to duck briefly when you walk the paths - besides being lovely to see it all provides food for our wildlife so I am reluctant to cut it back until the fruit has dropped.

We have three work party dates booked; Friday 30 September, Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October, hoping to do some reed bed maintenance on at least one of those days so we need loads of help, please come if you can. We meet at the Lapwing Drive entrance at 10 am might even have biscuits or cake on offer!

Could I please ask all the dog walkers to keep an eye on your dogs and pick up their mess, there are bins at all three village gates so you don't have to carry it very far. The paths are maintained by volunteers for everyone's benefit and it's not very pleasant to have to scrape dog mess off our shoes and our equipment, nor is it our responsibility to pick up after your dogs even though we often do. While I am having a moan, sorry folks! Could you please groom your dogs at home rather than leaving unsightly piles of dog hair laying about? It takes ages to rot down and disappear, thanks.

Thank you to everyone who has helped so far this year, litter picking, pruning, joining in at work parties and ewww, poo picking!

Don't forget to keep up with our news on our Facebook page; Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields.

Contact us on [friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com)

## **M2 JUNCTION 5 STOCKBURY ROUNDABOUT**

Statement from National Highways in early September 2022:

We'll soon be starting work on the new slip roads, and to do this safely, we'll be closing the eastbound (coastbound) entry and exit slips between the M2 and A249 from 12 September 2022 until 13 January 2023.

This means you will not be able to access Stockbury roundabout from the M2 eastbound or join the M2 eastbound from Stockbury roundabout.

We know there's never a good time to complete this kind of work at a busy junction like this, and understand these closures will cause disruption to journeys, for which we apologise. We've been working closely with the local authorities and emergency services to plan how we do this work, and we'll be avoiding the main summer holiday peak. Closing the slip roads is the safest approach and causes least disruption, as it reduces the amount of time traffic management will be in place to complete this work and decreases the risk of incidents.

In January 2023, both slip roads will re-open. Access from the M2 eastbound to the A249 northbound (towards Sittingbourne) will temporarily be via the Stockbury roundabout, until the dedicated slip opens in Spring 2023.

### **Diversion routes**

To join the M2 eastbound during the closures, use the M2 westbound from Stockbury roundabout to travel to junction 4 and return. This will add approximately 10-12 minutes onto the journey time.

Drivers travelling eastbound (towards the coast) will need to leave the M2 at junction 3 and use the A229, M20 and A249 to reach the Stockbury roundabout. This will add approximately 15 minutes onto the journey time. If you miss junction 3, they can travel to junction 6 and return to junction 5 from the west, which will add a further 25 minutes.

We'll be working with the local authorities and emergency services to monitor the impact these closures have on the surrounding roads so we can make any necessary changes.

### Oad Street

We'll also be reclosing Oad Street between the A249 and Woodgate Lane from 5 September until Monday 10 October, to finish our widening work started in the earlier this year.

We've reviewed how we complete the remainder of our work and have reduced this closure to five weeks, minimising the impact to drivers and the community. Drivers travelling on the A249 northbound from Maidstone will need to cross the Stockbury roundabout, continue north on the A249, use Key Street roundabout, take the exit for the A2, and use Borden Lane to access Oad Street.

To access the A249 southbound from Oad Street or Pett Lane will need to use the same route in reverse to access the A249 south of Stockbury roundabout. There will be no through access to the A249 from Oad Street or Pett Lane.

The businesses on Oad Street, such as the café and the butchers, will remain open as usual.





## **BIG MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING/AFTERNOON - FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 2022**

A reminder to please come along and join us at St. Margaret's Church between 10am and 4pm on Friday 7 October 2022 and help us raise much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. We would love to equal or even exceed last year's total of £725.15.

Why not pop in and enjoy a morning coffee and cake, a soup lunch or afternoon tea and take a look at what else is on offer!

We are still collecting jewellery, nearly new bric-a-brac (no clothes thank you), and of course we need cakes and goodies! Non food donations can be received prior to the event and edible donations nearer the day or on the day.

They will be gratefully received by Liz Hadley at 14 Curlew Avenue or Jacky Davis at Mill House (next to the Three Tuns).

We look forward to seeing you!



## **AUCTION OF PROMISES - FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 2022**

Looking for truly original and unique Christmas gifts? A home cooked meal for 2 with wine, bags of logs, help with your garden etc, etc!!

Find them at the Charity Auction of Promises organised by the Lower Halstow Poetry and Arts Festival Committee on Friday 7 October 2022, 7-10pm in the Memorial Hall. All proceeds will go to village organisations/activities.

Please book your tickets in advance and bring your own drinks and snacks. Tickets are £2 per person and include one free raffle ticket and can be ordered from Cheyenne via Facebook or by calling 07933 551216.

It will be a fun evening for you to bid on pledges donated by local people and businesses. Christmas hampers will be raffled and there will be some card games so bring some cash and your cheque books!

If you are able to donate a promise or product, or have unwanted Experience/Red Letter Days vouchers Cheyenne would be very happy to hear from you.

## **LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 11 OCTOBER 2022**

Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 11 October 2022 in the hall at 7.15pm. All villagers are welcome to attend.

## **CRAFT MORNING - SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2022**

St Margaret's Church are having a craft morning on Saturday 22 October 2022 at the church, 10am - 12noon.

All welcome. Come along and have a go



## **LOWER HALSTOW SCARECROW TRAIL- 21-30 OCTOBER 2022**

The Scarecrow Trail will run from 3pm on Friday 21 October to 4pm on Sunday 30 October 2022. If you would like to build and display a scarecrow, or if you don't want to build one but are happy to display one (built by someone else), then please contact the school PTA on [lowerhalstowpta@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowpta@gmail.com) for details on how to register. Everyone is invited to take part, not just school families.



The Scarecrow Trail is in aid of Lower Halstow School and all money raised goes to help the children. Donations can be made through our website at <https://lowerhalstowpta.wixsite.com/scarecrows> or in person by contacting us .

Thanks for taking part, we can't wait to see your scarecrows!

Lower Halstow School PTA

Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/LowerHalstowScarecrows/>

Donate at: <https://lowerhalstowpta.wixsite.com/scarecrows>

There is no cost to walk the scarecrow trail or to download the map. All we ask is that you make a small donation at <https://lowerhalstowpta.wixsite.com/scarecrows> if you have fun.

## **THE THREE TUNS - FANCY DRESS HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Fancy Dress Halloween Party on Saturday 29 October 2022 with live music from 8pm with "Band from the Shed"

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in October.

## **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 6 and 20 October 2022.

## **BLYTHESWOOD CARE - SHOEBOX APPEAL**

With this newsletter you should receive a leaflet about what you can put in your shoebox for someone who has nothing. If you feel you cannot do a whole box please feel free to drop off a few items (especially Essential Items) to the collection points around the village.

## **VILLAGE 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.

## **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

## **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 Brick Fields, and 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.

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.

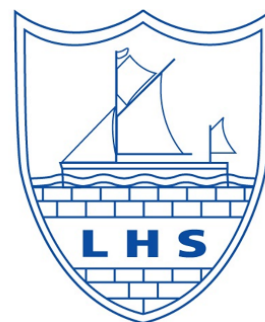
Please phone Margaret on 843927 for more information.

## **LADIES DIY KEEP FIT**

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

## **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Everyone in school has enjoyed the first week back after the Summer holidays, catching up with friends and adults too. The week started off hot and sunny with a real summer feel but ended with lots of heavy rain! We are all gradually getting back into the routine of school life. It has been lovely to welcome several new staff to our Lower Halstow team too.



Teddy, the school dog, enjoyed being back in school as well. He spent time in Acorn Class with our new reception children giving them a very friendly, waggy welcome to the school. They were able to ask questions about him and offer strokes, and some lucky children also got to feed him one of his favourite treats.

Meanwhile, in Year 6, several children sat the Kent Test. They all tried so hard and completed the papers with confidence. Regardless of the outcomes we are proud of them and the great young people they are becoming.

On the first Friday it was lovely to be back in the hall all together for our Friday Celebration assembly. Various children were awarded prizes for starting the term off well with hard work, good behaviour and a positive attitude. Our values of Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Perseverance have been evident all week, particularly with some pupils helping those children who have taken longer to settle.

We are looking forward to all the exciting activities that are planned for this term including: various trips, scooter training, new after-school clubs, harvest festival, school photos and the Macmillan Coffee morning to name but a few.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School

## **LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES**

### **20mph Zone Update**

The Parish Council have met with the Highways team, virtually, to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan, as the original team that agreed to it some time ago have now been replaced with a new team. There is, unfortunately, some disagreement as to where the 40, 30 and 20mph limits will start in Breach Lane and the road markings and signage have not been finalised. The Parish Council continues to negotiate with KCC Highways and would hope that the Highways team will visit the site for a more accurate understanding of the requirements.

### **Seawall Update**

The Parish Council have received an email from the Environment Agency which is very disappointing, as they had previously said that work to repair the seawall would commence in September. They now want to carry out further work to understand the extent of the proposed defence works for Lower Halstow village and the detailed impacts of implementing the No Active Intervention policy (NAI) at the Brickfields. As this section of defence is at imminent risk of collapse, the Medway Estuary and Swale programme board has decided to proceed with a short-term "rip rap" (armourstone) repair to the Brickfields frontage to give them time to carry out these investigations. They currently anticipate that the Environment Agency will assess this whole frontage again in more detail from 2025 onwards. The short-term repairs are not a permanent fix and the NAI policy is likely to be implemented in the future, depending on the results of future investigations. They now estimate that the short term repairs will begin in November. The Parish Council will continue to communicate with the Environment Agency on behalf of the residents.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 4 October 2022.

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.



## FREE DOOR STICKERS

Information received from the Parish Clerk:

Since 2019 Able Community Care has given out, free, almost 80,000 of the above door stickers to older and disabled people who do not wish to answer the door to strangers.

Able Community Care is a nationwide, live-in care provider which was established in 1980. Originally, we just gave out door stickers to our clients, but the demand has grown and since then we have received requests for the door stickers from around the UK.



If you would like to receive any door stickers to give out to older or disabled people you know, please email to: [info@ablecommunitycare.com](mailto:info@ablecommunitycare.com) with how many you would like to receive and an address to send them to. (No addresses will be kept or passed on) [www.ablecommunitycare.com](http://www.ablecommunitycare.com)

## FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

### POP UP CAFE - 5 NOVEMBER 2022

The next Pop Up Cafe will be on Saturday 5 November 2022, 10.30am to 1.30pm in the Memorial Hall (there is no pop up cafe in October)

### ADULT QUIZ NIGHT - 11 NOVEMBER 2022

Adult quiz night raising funds for Lower Halstow Beaver & Cub Group, kindly put together by Michael Van der Straaten, on Friday, 11 November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. £5 per person entry, 6 people per table. Take your own drinks and snacks. Raffle on the night. Contact [kerry.tress@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kerry.tress@hotmail.co.uk) to book.

### BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WITH SANTA - 3 DECEMBER 2022

Tickets will be on sale for that from 10am Sunday 16 October

## 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 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](http://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.

### **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 November 2022 Village News is noon on  
12 October 2022**

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

**Scouts, Cubs and Beavers**

Lisa Joiner, gslowerhalstow@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](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),  
843871

**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

## **MIDKENT IT SOLUTIONS**

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

[www.midkentit.co.uk](http://www.midkentit.co.uk), 01634 912105/07542795078,  
[enquiries@midkentit.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@midkentit.co.uk)

Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and  
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**Michael van der Straaten**  
**Chartered Financial Planner**  
**Edenwood Wealth Management**

19 The Street, Lower Halstow  
Contact me on 07824 392342 or  
Email: [edenwood@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:edenwood@sjpp.co.uk)  
Website: [www.edenwoodwealth.com](http://www.edenwoodwealth.com)

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