

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS November 2021



*Photo of one the Memorial Wood soldiers.
Photo kindly supplied by Glenda Tress*

November Services at St Margaret's

7 November - 10.30 am Joint Service with The Six at St. Mary's Newington

14 November - 10.30 am Remembrance Service

21 November - 10am Family Communion

28 November - 10am Family Worship

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

Altar Flower Rota

7 November - Cheyenne

14 November - Gillian

21 November - Eileen

28 November - Rebecca

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you so much to everyone who has had us in your thoughts and prayers these past few months. It has meant a lot to us to have such a caring village community. We are so happy to announce that our beautiful baby boy, Elliott Samuel Thomas Bromley was born safely on Tuesday 12 October at 10.27am, weighing 6lb 14oz. We are completely and utterly in love with him! Claire & Sam Bromley x

MOBILITY ITEMS

St. Margaret's Church has a selection of Mobility Items, to borrow for emergencies or long term loans. Please call Ursula 842924 or Tricia 842419

THE THREE TUNS

The next pub quiz will be on Wednesday 3 November 2021, bookings only and a maximum of 6 per team/table.

The Three Tuns Christmas Market will be held on Wednesday 24 November 2021, 4pm to 8pm.

LOWER HALSTOW SCARECROW TRAIL 2021

The Scarecrow Trail in October, to raise funds for Lower Halstow School was great fun. Donations can still be made through the website at <https://lowerhalstowpta.wixsite.com/scarecrows>.

NEW RUNNING TRACK AT LOWER HALSTOW SCHOOL - COMMUNITY USE

The school have had a new running track installed on the school field. If any community walking/jogging/running groups would like to use the track for free outside of school hours, particularly during the winter months when exercising in the lanes is a little more risky, then please get in touch with the school office office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk or call 01795 842344 to speak to Mrs Hogg the school business manager to make arrangements.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORTMAT BOWLS - UPDATE

At long last it seems like things are beginning to return to normal, Monday Afternoons and Wednesday Evenings are now in full swing and are becoming more popular as the weeks pass. Aside from the need to 'Sterilise' at the end of every evening, the games have been very enjoyable. Our Membership is growing and we have welcomed several new members since we started up again following Lockdown. We seem to be popular which is lovely.

We all enjoy our sociable Club nights very much. There are some of us who also choose to play as a Team in the Swale League our Team name is Lower Halstow Lapwings. We have entered our Team this season and have now played our first Home Match, (we play on a different night) against Sheppey Seagulls, which we won convincingly 12 points to 2.

Aside from enjoying our Bowls, we hold social events throughout the year, where spouses are also welcome. In the near future we have our Christmas Lunch at Upchurch Golf Club on Sunday 12th December followed, just before Christmas, on Wednesday 22nd December by our Club night Christmas Soiree where we all provide a contribution to a Christmas Buffet. We play Bowls for an hour and then we spend the remainder of the evening eating, drinking and playing games. We also

hold a Birthday Buffet in the Spring and a BBQ in the Summer each year.

If you are interested in joining us, we play in the Village Hall on Monday afternoons 2pm-4pm and also on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Come along and try us out. No kit necessary, just flat soled shoes. We have all you need here. We offer 2 free trial sessions before asking you to join.. Membership is £10 per year. Members Subs are £2 per session. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits at half time are included. Call 01795 842376 (Glen) or just come along to see for yourself.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

As we all know, things have been very difficult over the last 18 months and Christmas 2021 in Lower Halstow is no different. A Christmas celebration for our Seniors is being reinstated this year although inevitably on a reduced scale. A two course Christmas turkey dinner with a vegetarian option followed by a dessert, tea/coffee and mince pies has been arranged at The Three Tuns. This will take place on Wednesday 1st December at 12 midday, lunch being served at 12.30 pm.

There will be a limit on numbers that can be accommodated in the pub so places will be offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. In line with the increase in the retirement age, the invitation is offered to anyone in the village aged 66 or over. It is understood that this is a little different from what has been organised in previous years but hopefully it will be appreciated that resources are limited. A welcome drink will be included and a full bar will be available for more drinks. Confirmation of your place at the table is requested as very early as possible. Please let me know either by ringing me on 843002 or putting a note through my door at 10 The Street.

Joyce Clarke

GOSPEL CHOIR, NATIVITY SERVICE - SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2021

Invitation to everyone in the village via Kay Howard-Challis:

The Gospel Choir of RCCG Prince of Peace, invites you to their special nativity service on Sunday, 6 December 2021 in the Memorial Hall at 2pm. Afterwards there will be sandwiches, tea and cake. There is no charge, just enjoy their beautiful voices.

Places need to be booked as there are limited seats due to Covid restrictions, please call Kay Howard-Challis on 844408, or email kayhelen2017@outlook.com

CHARITY CRISP PACKET RECYCLING

We are collecting Crisp Packets for recycling - please drop off at 34 Crouch Hill Court. All brands accepted, preferably flat. Plastic Free Lower Halstow

MORE RECYCLING

The wonderful Lynne Morris has now extended her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue. She is now 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.

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

LADIES DIY KEEP FIT

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

FOODBANK 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. Margarets 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 POETRY FESTIVAL

The Lower Halstow Poetry Committee are busy planning next year's festival and we have decided to make Lord Byron our central focus. His body was brought back to Lower Halstow following his death in Greece in 1824. Who would have thought our little village had such illustrious connections?! Save the dates for 19 and 20 August 2022.

AUCTION OF PROMISES, FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2021, 7.30PM

The Poetry Festival Committee are organising an AUCTION OF PROMISES to take place on Friday, 26 November 2021 in the Memorial Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Carina Jacobs at carinaj65@outlook.com or 01795842022 or 07899951044 at the cost of £3 per person. All profits will support village causes.

We have some amazing pledges already (Tuns vouchers, beauty therapies, hair vouchers, chauffeuring services, help with genealogy, childcare, Memorial Hall hire, life story recording, 11 plus practice days, a ton of logs and a framed photograph of a village scene, brickfields walk and talk with George Peters etc) but we really need a few more please. Could you perhaps offer to babysit, dog sit, cook a meal, do some homework or gardening, take someone out for a day trip or to do their shopping perhaps?

On the night, please come along and enjoy a great evening, bring a bottle and grab yourself some unique and thoughtful Christmas gifts at very reasonable prices.

MEMORIAL HALL - UPDATE

From Kay - Hall's booking clerk:

The Lower Halstow Memorial Hall is now up and running with lots of bookings, practically every day up to the end of the year it is booked. There are only a few Saturdays vacant, so if you want that family get together, child's Birthday Party, Wedding Reception, Christening venue or any other occasion, please contact Kay either by phone 01795 844408, mobile 07941681244 or email me at kayhelen2017@outlook.com.

If you look on Lower Halstow's website you will see how beautiful the hall can look for that very special occasion. We have white chair covers, organza bows in pink, blue, peach and lilac, we also have white table covers for all the table so that you can add your own theme's colour, and

I can honestly say that when the hall is dressed up it look fantastic, just see for yourselves - www.lowerhalstowhall.co.uk

On most Sundays from 10.00am to 12.00pm we have a Pentecostal Church Service with Gospel singing, please feel free to join in. I am hoping that there will be an evening where their Gospel Choir may entertain the Village this Christmas, if so, I will let you know in the December Village News.

Whilst we have had this long period of unused Village Hall, except for The Treasure Chest Children's Nursery, the Committee have been hard at work arranging the updating of the hall and finding funds to assist the hall upkeep. The hall toilets have been completely renewed with heated hand blowers etc., so with the updated kitchen, the hall facilities are now, I hope, to most peoples approval.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will be stopping outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 4 and 18 November then, 2 and 16 December 2021.

HEALTH WALKS

Start at 10.00 am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brick Fields, and there are usually three walks on offer; a leisurely 1 hour walk, a leisurely 1.5 hour walk, and a brisk 2 hour walk. Sturdy walking shoes/boots and a waterproof jacket are recommended. Please phone Margaret on 843927 for more information.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Speed surveys are being done around the village in respect of the Parish Council's bid for a 20 mph zone for Lower Halstow. The next meeting is 2 November 2021. Ann, the Parish Clerk has also said that the school are asking for donations of gardening materials for their gardening club such as forks trowels and small watering cans

In September Local Member of Parliament, Gordon Henderson, came to visit our village this month at the request of the Parish Council to see the rapid erosion of a 150 metre stretch of the sea wall.

Mr Henderson was met by Parish Councillors Keith Howard-Challis, Tina Portman and Bob Telford from Friends of the Brickfield. Also joining them was local councillor Mike Baldock. Mr Henderson was shown the

historic dock site, where the iconic Edith May, sailing barge, is moored before walking around the Brickfields, a beautiful area and designated local wildlife site used by many families, walkers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Councillors and Mr Telford discussed with Mr Henderson that should the sea wall breach between 1-2 years, as predicted in the Herrington report dated 2020, it will pose a serious threat to the dock, Brickfields and may cause disruption to local roads and low lying areas. This will have a major impact on our village, local wildlife, biodiversity, and land will be permanently lost. Mr Henderson agreed to contact the Environment Agency for a response.

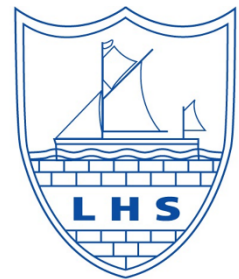
Lower Halstow Parish Council's website provides a wealth of information <https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home/?preview=e3277b7cbc194cee8dd5580b9b87877b>

LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM

Lower Halstow Yacht Club has a live weather station and webcam looking out over the creek updating currently every 15 minutes. It's on the yacht club website and is open to everyone <https://weather.lhyc.org.uk>

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It feels like Lower Halstow School has almost fully returned to normal now with so many activities and events taking place this term. Activities that we previously took for granted as being the 'norm' are now back up and running. This includes the school tuck shop run by our Year 6 pupils with the support from our PTA, whole school assemblies, Year 5 and 6 swimming and face to face School Council meetings. Our 'buddy' system where our oldest pupils support our newest pupils in settling in has also been re-established.



Our first event of the year was our Macmillan Coffee Morning; the number of cakes and biscuits donated was phenomenal. We had so many donations that Year 5 and 6 have been continuing to sell them after school every Friday. It was lovely to welcome families into the school for a cake and a cuppa whilst raising money for a worthwhile cause. On the same day we also officially opened our school 'Daily Mile' running track by holding a Race for Life event. The weather was gloriously warm and sunny and every child completed as many laps as

they could manage whilst another class cheered them on. We raised an impressive £573.76 for these two events. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations.

The following week we held our annual Harvest Festival; it was so lovely to be able to join together in the hall for this event and we are lucky to have such a large, well ventilated space. The theme was rainbows and each class dressed in a colour of the rainbow whilst donating food of the same colour. The children shared poems, prayers and autumn descriptions during the service which was led by Rev Amanda. All the donations of food were taken to the church to be blessed and then sent on to the Swale Food Bank.

Year 6 pupils were the first class to head out on a school trip this year. They went for a team building day at the Creed Activity centre in Teynham. At the centre they experienced climbing, problem solving tasks, archery and other adventurous activities, despite the wet weather, good fun was had by all, including the staff!

Meanwhile back in school the rest of the children celebrated Rockstars and Robots day to promote our times tables and number bonds computing program. Everyone came dressed as a Rockstar and great competitive fun was had by everyone as the Key Stage 2 children challenged each other to times tables 'battles'.

Year 3 pupils headed off to the Museum of Kent Life at Maidstone to experience a Stone Age themed day linked to their learning in history. They learnt about weapons, farmers, tribes, burials and cave paintings through various interactive sessions throughout the day.

We have fitted so much into this term, including lots of outdoor learning due to the lovely weather. Looking ahead there is lots more exciting learning to come with activities, events and trips planned for Term 2, which we look forward to sharing with you.

Miss Crowe

PASTORAL LETTER

Reflection on God's word Psalm 107:1-16 - Best of all is God is with us

Give thanks to the Lord – that is what we hear often from the pulpit, scripture readings or when sing our beloved hymns. The harvest Sundays are full of giving thanks for all that is provided on our tables, but we also think of things which we have in general. Bearing in mind our latest experience with the pandemic season we are ever so thankful for the NHS, front line workers, and infrastructure and lately for fuel tank drivers. There are so many things we can give thanks for. The text of the psalm we have as a scripture reading for this reflection begins with an exhortation to give thanks to the Lord and then it describes quite a lot of perils on the journey to find help, and comfort.

What really jumps out from this text is that we not only give thanks for what we already have but mainly for the guidance provided to us by God through difficult seasons of life. The guidance is divine and it can often look illogical, irrelevant and most of the time we would not choose the path we have to go by. The quote from Isaiah 55:8 (but for more context read verses 6 to 11) which is repeatedly quoted in other biblical texts comes to mind: *“my plans are not your plans, nor are your ways my ways says the Lord”*

God's presence is the best of all we have as John Wesley stated. His very last words before the end of his life full of the struggle to save souls, debating with theologians and forming the movement which gave new life to the church of his time. He lifted his hands while lying on his bed and said: *“the best of all is that God is with us”*. The knowledge that God is with you can carry you through all that this world throws at you. That knowledge doesn't jump out at you instantly but perhaps takes time as you learn to trust to God. So let's celebrate the harvest of all things in our lives because God has blessed us richly. AMEN

Read through the lyrics of Andrew Pratt's hymn stf 610 The best of all is God is with us

Best of all is God is with us,
God will hold and never fail.
Keep that truth when storms are raging,
God remains though faith is frail.

Best of all is God is with us,

life goes on and needs are met,
God is strongest in our weakness.
Love renews, will not forget.

Best of all is God is with us,
hearts are challenged, strangely warmed,
faith is deepened, courage strengthened,
grace received and hope reformed.

Best of all is God is with us,
in our joy and through our pain,
till that final acclamation:
life is Christ, and death is gain'.

Best of all is God is with us
as we scale eternal heights,
love grows stronger, undiminished;
earth grows dim by heaven's lights.

LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS – OCTOBER 2021

A STRONG COMMUNITY
UNITED TOGETHER



YOUR ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Breach Lane	Diane Harris, Michael Porter
Burntwick Drive	Amy Lundie
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 Moulard
The Street	Cheyenne Hayward
Vicarage Lane	Rachel Parker
Wardwell Lane	Keith Howard Challis
Westmoreland Drive	Kerry Ward

Halloween

If you want to take part in the festivities, please display a pumpkin or decorate your house.



Trick or Treaters – please be respectful and only visit the houses that are taking part. It's a fun time for kids big and small but can be very difficult for the vulnerable or frail.

Posters saying "No Tricks or Treats Here" are available from the PCSO/Kent Police. Please respect and check on your neighbours.

Headline News

Read all about it....

- There were **No Reports** in the period.
- The PCSO Team continue to visit the village daily as part of their patrols.
- Minutes of the monthly meeting will be available on the Facebook group or by contacting your road representative.
- With the clocks changing and darker evenings
**** Be Burglar Aware ****
 Try not to appear out, leave a light or lamp on, lock your windows.

USEFUL CONTACTS

EMERGENCY SERVICES		999
NON EMERGENCY POLICE	www.kent.police.uk – Website Chat Service	or 101
PCSO	Lee Fennell Lee.Fennell@kent.police.uk	07929 376822
DOG WARDEN	swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare	01795 417850 or 07795 237479
RURAL TASK FORCE	rural.task.force@kent.police.uk Inspector Dave Smith Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw Rural Crime Co-ordinator Doug Robertson	07528 989095 07800 675376 07870 252185 07972 004587
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR	Richard Asbury LHNWatch1@gmail.com	07894 792802
FACEBOOK SEARCH -	Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch and Join the Group

CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

Some details may be 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, 844404, kayhelen2017@outlook.com

Abbie Dowell abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.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

Lee Fennell, 07929 376822, lee.fennell@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, 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

Email: LowerHalstowChurch@outlook.com

Swale Borough Council

Main office, 424341

The Three Tuns

842840, www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk,

info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

Village News

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

**The deadline for the December 2021 Village News is noon on
12 November 2021**

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to
ransleyfamily@gmail.com**

The PCC reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable.

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.

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, 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