

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS JULY 2022



*Jubilee exhibition at St Margaret's
Photo kindly supplied by Clare Drury*

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

3 July - no service at St Margaret's

10 July - 10am, Family Worship

17 July - 10am, Family Communion

24 July - 10am, Family Worship

31 July - 10am Communion

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

Altar Flower Rota

3 July - Eileen

10 July - Cheyenne

17 July - Rebecca

24 July - Liz

31 July - Georgina

St Margaret's Bereavement Coffee Time

Every Thursday in July 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.

ELM FARM DAFFODILS

Message from the Stevens family:

Thanks to everyone's donations we raised £394.67 which has all gone back into the village

£200 to the village newsletter

£100 to the jubilee celebrations and

£100 to the village hall

On behalf of the village I'd like to say thank you to the Stevens family for continuing with the pick your own daffodils and for their generosity towards village activities.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much to the Parish Council for a very generous donation towards the costs of printing the Village News. It was greatly appreciated.

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.

POP-UP COMMUNITY CAFE - Saturday 2 July 2022

The pop up cafe will be open again on Saturday 2 July, 10.30am to 1.30pm in Lower Halstow Memorial Hall. 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.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELD

Summer has finally arrived and the Brickfield is well worth a visit, Wild Roses, Elder, the blue of Viper's Bugloss not to mention a spectacular clump of white Oxeye daisies in the little flower plot behind the Memorial. Worth a walk around for all the scents of summer.

We had a display at the Church as part of the Jubilee celebrations; a 'then and now' collection of photographs and a little history. If anyone has any old photos of the Brickworks or any other relevant material, we'd love to borrow them to copy and add to our collection. One day we may have enough to start a web site with all the history of the site. If you are on Facebook please join our page; Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields and also don't forget our sister page; Lower Halstow Local Nature for all those sightings around the village and local area. Post those photos!

Friends of the Brickfield can be contacted via our Facebook page or email; friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

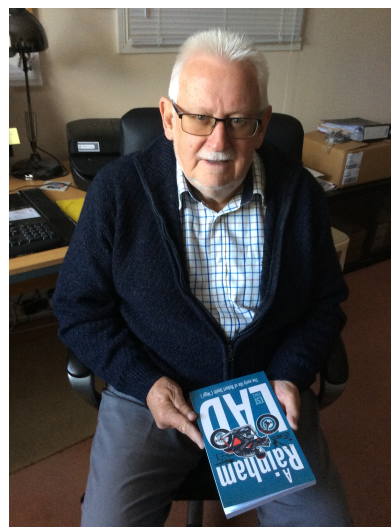
BOOK SIGNING BY LOCAL AUTHOR: Saturday 9 July 2022

Rob Smith will be signing copies of his latest book

"A RAINHAM LAD" in the Lower Halstow Memorial Hall between 11am-2pm on Saturday 9 July.

10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

His other books will additionally be on sale, and are also available on "Amazon" or at Sunburst Books in Rainham.



THE THREE TUNS

Sunday 10 July, Village Treasure Hunt.

Registration at the pub from 11am last team out by 3pm.

Winners announced at 5pm.

Live Music by Taylor Clark 4-7pm

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays again in July.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 14 and 28 July 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

LADIES DIY KEEP FIT

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

7th Annual Lower Halstow

Treasure Hunt

Sunday 10th July

Explore the village, solve the clues, and win a Luxury Hamper!

No need to pre-book; just form a team of friends and family, & visit us in the

Three Tuns Garden

anytime between 11.00 am and 3pm to register and collect your treasure map.



The hunt should take about an hour and half and is suitable for all ages.

Live music in the Garden from 4pm,

winners announced at 5pm

Entry £8 per team

Proceeds to go to the Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields

LOWER HALSTOW POETRY FESTIVAL - FRIDAY 19 AND SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2022

The Lower Halstow Poetry and Arts Committee are looking forward to welcoming you to two free events this year.

On Friday 19 August there will be a Storytelling evening in the Three Tuns. Do you have a wonderful story to tell? Fact or fiction we'd love to hear it! No need to book just come along on the evening. Two professional storytellers will be in attendance to help us kick off this session which will be a great start to the Festival.

On Saturday 20 August the Poetry Festival returns to our beautiful St Margaret's Church. This year we will be focusing on Lord Byron who, quite remarkably, also had a connection to our village. There will be lots of activities for children this year. The school is going to be involved and the poetry open mic session returns after it's wonderful success last year. There will be a recording of George Peters reciting Darkness by Lord Byron and George will also do a live rendition at the Festival.

We would like to make the festival as accessible as possible so if anyone needs support to attend please contact Gill on 843871 or email ransleyfamily@gmail.com

We are asking again for volunteers who would like to record a line from "She Walks in Beauty" a truly romantic poem by Byron who led a very colourful life indeed. Please let Carina Jacobs know if you would like to be included carina65@outlook.com, 07899 951044

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.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Jubilee Celebrations

The Jubilee four day celebrations went well and it was nice to see so many people from our village enjoying themselves.

Thank you not only to the Jubilee team but the army of volunteers who gave their time and support helping to set up numerous events and assisted in clearing up afterwards. A special thank you to a local paramedic and first aider who provided medical cover for Lighting of the Beacon and the Street Party on Sunday.

The school and scouts provided extra tables and chairs and thank you to the Steven's family who made a donation to the Jubilee.

Jubilee Tree

Our beautiful pin oak tree is now in leaf and growing well. We have marked the tree's presence with a plaque celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The tree is sited opposite the Three Tuns public house.

Parish Council Minutes

The Parish Council Minutes, which record all decisions made (and are a summary of the meetings, as the Minutes are not verbatim) are to be found on the Parish Council website. If anyone should wish to be sent a hard copy in the post please contact the Clerk.

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

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

From Kerry Ward:

Thank you to everyone that came along and joined in with our jubilee celebrations, what a fantastic few days we had!

Celebrations started off on the Thursday with the lighting of the beacon on the brickfields, accompanied by the piper. This was attended by in

the region of 200-300 people which was an amazing turnout! Well done to Steve Gates, Karen Thorpe & Pete for setting this up and the volunteers who made sure everyone stayed safe.

Friday and Saturday saw a wonderful exhibition in the church with a delve into 70 years of Lower Halstow. It was lovely to be able to see the history of the village and the families that live here. The highlight of this was a talk by George Peters whose tales capture everyone's attention. As always, thank you to Jackie Swift and her team of helpers who were on hand providing cake and refreshments for all.

Friday night we had a Royal race night run by the village Cub & Beaver group. This began with the singing of the national anthem and was a fun filled event with greyhound, horse and sheep racing as well as the famous cheese rolling! A fantastic night that raised valuable funds for the group.

Saturday evening there was a singalong with David Scott celebrating music from the last 70 years. There was also short quizzes and bingo games to keep everyone entertained. Thanks to Hilary Gates for a great event.

Sunday was the big street party day and what a day it was!! And how lucky were we with the weather!!

Thank you to those that answered our cry for help and turned up at 7am to begin erecting gazebos, tents and moving tables around, your help was much appreciated! As it was for those that stayed at the end of the day to help us pack up!

It was such a great day i don't know where to even start...!

It was lovely to see everyone young and old enjoying the activities that we provided.

Thank you to Bob Portman, Simon Giles and Mila for keeping us entertained throughout the afternoon with the live music and for letting us use your equipment. Thank you to the Beaver Cub group who let us have the steel band that they had previously booked and paid for in lockdown to entertain us throughout the day. Thank you also for all turning up first thing to parade from the brickfields to open the event with such enthusiasm. You all looked very smart.

Thank you to Tina Portman for getting the grants which allowed us to purchase lanyards, decorations, bunting, fruit, crowns, etc for the

children as well as covering payments for the climbing wall and reptile show.

Thank you to everyone that supported our easter duck race & scavenger hunt - the funds raised from this allowed us to contribute to the street party for the face painter, delivery of the climbing wall and arts and crafts in the activity tent as well as the photo-booth tent!

Julie Neville you did an amazing job with the village bake off competition. This was a huge hit and I'm sure this could become a yearly thing! Well done to all those that entered and the winners:
Adult cakes - joint winners Carole Marsh and Vicki Giles & runner up Amy Lundie

Child cakes - winner Alice Towell & runner up Evie Njie

Adult traybakes winner Stacey Marsh & runner up Aysen Higgins

Child traybakes winner Hannah Leeke

Thank you to our judges, Aaron Ward, Carol Haines, Jackie Davis and Gemma Stevens.

Thank you, Michael Porter & Carol Inquieti, for setting up and running the fancy dress competition. Some great entries and well done to the winners.

Well done to everyone that built their own soapboxes and took part in the race. There were some scary moments! Well done to the winner and everyone that took part, they all looked amazing!!

A big thank you also to Mel Bradford and Lauren for running our first aid tent and covering all the events for us. Luckily there were only a few incidents that needed their help, and we are very grateful you were there!

Dave Giles did a great job of organising and running all of the races and keeping them going when we faced a delay on the soapbox race, some of those videos were the highlight of the day!

Thank you Jane Summers for running a delicious pop up cafe.

Thank you also to Gemma and Mark for the donation towards running of the day.

I hope I haven't missed anyone out, if I have its because there were so many people, and the 4 days just are a bit of a blur! Thank you everyone!

The biggest thanks of all, however, goes out to the Jubilee Committee who spent many, many, hours planning, organising, and running the events (they were the people in hi vis & on the radios who looked extremely stressed on the day)

Tina Portman. Richard Asbury. Glenda Tress. Dave Giles. Maria Giles. Luke Ward. Along with Jackie Swift. Julie Neville. Hilary Gates. Steve Gates. Michael Porter. Carol Inqueiti.

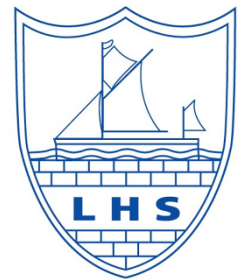
DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Halloween Disco - Thursday 27 October 2022

Breakfast and Lunch with Santa - Saturday 3 December 2022

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The excitement in Term 5 continued right to the very end.



Year 5 managed to get out to Leeds Castle for the day; they visited the exhibition 'The Field of the Cloth of Gold'. They completed workshops based on monarchs and the traditional clothing worn during different periods in history. They also toured the castle and enjoyed the grounds. The children especially enjoyed dressing up as characters from the castle and re-enacting scenes from the past.

Following our visit from the artist Jane Ford, we received an invitation to attend an exhibition where her work was on display along with several other artists who focus on a range of media. A select group of children who have a particular flare for art attended the exhibition at the Tythe Barn and got to speak to several of the artists who were there. Despite the heavy rain, a great morning was had by everyone.

During the term the children were busy learning special jubilee songs as well as practising the National Anthem. They made flags and bunting and learnt facts about the Queen throughout her 70-year reign. We celebrated the end of term in style by having a Platinum Jubilee Street Party on the playground.

The weather was kind to us and everyone had great fun on the day as we sung to members of the local community in a special assembly. This was followed by a playground street party where we all enjoyed cakes, strawberries and squash whilst listening to a range of music from the Queen's reign. The afternoon ended with a game of 'Jubilee Heads and Tails' both for children and then the staff – there was a lot of cheering and one of our youngest pupils won the Jubilee Medal! It was lovely to be able to welcome the community into school and we hope to be able to do this more in future as restrictions have stopped.

Term 6 has already got off to a flying start with our charities week. The children all chose charities to raise money for and each class planned an event to see how much money they could raise for their chosen charity. During the first week we have had sponsored fun runs, daily mile walks, break the rules events as well as a free-time session that the children have paid to attend. We are still counting up the pennies but we are hoping that The Family Trust, The Evelina Hospital and The Kent Search and Rescue team will be pleased with our efforts!

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

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends,

'... think on these things.' – Paul to the Philippians Ch 4: v 8
Life has been handing us lots of challenges lately. I'm tempted to start listing them, but I'll spare us. There is a very real risk to health of allowing all the troubles of the world to weigh us down. My wife and children have been warning me about this recently, as I'm an avid

Facebook debater with transatlantic connections and wide interests – lots of turbulent waters to navigate, while trying not to be overwhelmed.

At the same time, there are sources of ordinary human enjoyment to turn to. If we have any relationships, hobbies, or interests that are waiting for renewal or refreshing, now is the time – family, friends, neighbours, people at work, or anyone just met along the way. Faith and fellowship can be great healers and sustainers, whether communally or just in quiet meditation. Or just walking around our villages, paths, and byways.

Like so many devices we depend on, we also need ‘charging up’ to rise to the challenges that are bound to come. And all these things aren’t just the ‘fillers’ in between the big events. In the end, they are telling us simply that ‘it is good to be’, and we can find that goodness around us by deliberately paying attention to it.

In preaching or study, I’ve used various Bible translations, but the poetry and power of the King James Version can’t be denied:

‘... whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.’

In hope and love ...

Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain, retired

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.

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 August 2022 Village News is noon on
12 July 2022**

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

CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

If you notice any information is out of date, if anything has changed, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on ransleyfamily@gmail.com or call 843871

Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Corrie Woodford, corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk

Roger Clark, 430324, rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

0800 144 8848, 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/>

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,

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

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

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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