

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS August 2022



Photo kindly supplied by Dawn Drury
**Compiled, edited and published for the village on behalf of
St Margaret's Church**

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

7 August - 8am Communion

14 August - 10am, Family Worship

21 August - 10am, Family Communion

28 August - 10am, Family Worship

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

Altar Flower Rota

1 August - Yvonne

8 August - Lesley

15 August- Gillian

22 August - Eileen

29 August - Liz

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear friends

The news at the moment seems almost unrelentingly gloomy. What's the best response; ignore it, or resolve to do what we can to make the world a better place?

There are clearly going to be real anxieties for many with the spiralling cost of gas and electricity, and price rises across the spectrum. And that is likely to become more of a problem as time goes on. Is there anything we can do? Or do we just wring our hands?

I would suggest we can all support initiatives to help the most vulnerable, such as the local foodbank. Our churches are collection points for the foodbank; just a few bits added regularly to your shopping, if you are able, can make a huge difference to those living on the edge. They are also able to accept financial donations: look at the website swale.foodbank.org.uk

Also a huge issue is that of migration. We must all have seen the images of desperate people trying to cross the Channel in flimsy boats, risking their lives and being exploited by people smugglers. There is a good deal of really unpleasant stuff spouted on social media and in

some newspapers, which tends to ignore the humanity of these desperate people. Because no-one would willingly take such risks unless they were truly, absolutely, desperate. Many have fled real danger, poverty and apparent hopelessness, and seek refuge in a country which has always had a reputation for fair dealing and opportunity. Shouldn't we be proud of that? And those who seek to come to the UK are often the kind of people we need – ambitious, eager to study, learn, establish good careers and build networks of family and friends. If you're unconvinced, look at care4calais.org and read the stories of some of those the charity works with.

Then there's the government's stated of 'Build Back Greener' after the pandemic (not that it has gone away...). Where is that taking us? And do we have any power at all? As I write we are in the middle of a heatwave which we know will cause real distress to many, particularly those who don't have access to outside green spaces, and we are told extreme weather is going to become a greater challenge in coming years. There are places in the world where people face far greater challenges than us, and they be less well-equipped to deal with them. Can we do anything, or do we just feel helpless?

Well, we are all consumers, and we have the power to use our choices wisely. We can make small differences in our behaviour. If you are a driver, don't sit with the engine idling – especially with the aircon on – it uses fuel, worsens pollution – and is counter to advice in the Highway Code. We can use our consumer power to require producers to adopt greener practices. There is so much information available if we look! | Greener choices in all areas can make a difference.

This might all seem a bit of a romp through current issues, and you might wonder what is its place in this letter. For me, faith has to be completely embedded in the whole of life. There is no 'religion-shaped box' in my life. All that I have learned over the years leads me to the inescapable conclusion that Christians are called upon to be active in society, active in campaigning and active in speaking out for justice for all, especially those who are most vulnerable.

God loves each of us; he loves all his creation, whether humanity, the animal kingdom, or the plants and natural environment. Our role is to reflect that love, to live that love, and to love that spark of God in all things. And when we do that, we can also be set free to see the good that is there, the joy in small – and large things.

Every blessing

Amanda Lane, Associate Priest with The Six

ST MARGARET'S BEREAVEMENT COFFEE TIME

Every Thursday in August 10am to 12 noon 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.

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.

LOWER HALSTOW POETRY FESTIVAL - CANCELLED

The Lower Halstow Poetry Committee have reluctantly decided to cancel this year's festival which was due to take place on Saturday 20 August 2022 at St Margaret's Church, due to family bereavements. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this causes and we are determined to make next year's festival even bigger and better as a result.

STORYTELLING EVENING - FRIDAY 19 AUGUST 2022

Although the Poetry Festival has been cancelled, the storytelling evening at The Three Tuns will still go ahead on Friday 19 August 2022 from 7pm to 10pm, so please come along and join us to listen and/or tell tales, legends, anecdotes, life stories, poems or any other form of story

telling. The evening will be started off by professional storytellers Matt and Becca from Pretending People.



It would be helpful if we had some idea of numbers so please message me on carinaj65outlook.com or 07899951044 if you'd like to guarantee a slot.

THE THREE TUNS BEER FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 27, SUNDAY 28 AND MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2022

20 Kent Ales and a wide selection of Ciders

Music Line Up is

Saturday

2pm Alice Band, 8pm Where's Brian

Sunday

2pm Brad Pittance & The Pirates, 8pm KT & The Beats

Monday

2.30pm The Chillbillies

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 11 and 25 August 2022.

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 PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Solar Farm meeting

The Parish Council will be holding a consultation meeting between the developers of the solar farm to include members of the public on **Friday 29 July 2022** at 7.00pm - 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall. This will give villagers a chance to have their say and ask any questions.

Games trailer and football cage

In collaboration with Lower Halstow's PCSO, Kirsty Linge, a games trailer and football cage has been booked to come to the Recreation Ground on Wednesday 27 July between 1.30 and 3.30pm and also on Monday 8 August between 10.30am and 12.30pm. It will be staffed by PCSOs and Brogdale staff as well as the games trailer owner. Everyone is welcome but will be asked to leave if there is any unacceptable behaviour.

Parish Council meeting

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 6 September 2022, as there is no meeting in August.

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.

Jubilee Tree

The new oak tree which was planted for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is doing well



Lower Halstow Parish Council's website provides a wealth of information

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home/?>

preview=e3277b7cbc194cee8dd5580b9b87877b

MEMORIAL HALL UPDATES

From Kay Howard-Challis:

Pastor Mayowa of The RCCG Prince of Peace would like to thank the Lower Halstow Community and St. Margaret's Church, who showed us love and that they were received very warmly on the Sunday during the Queens's Platinum Jubilee Village Event.

Unfortunately Covid is still in the Village, so we still have to be diligent in maintaining a clean Village Hall, therefore, cleaning and mopping the floor must stay in place for EVERYONE who uses the hall, for quite a few months, if not years.

The hall provides all who uses the hall, disinfectant sprays, wipes and floor cleaning facilities, this is because when you first go into the hall you know that it is as Covid free as possible, and that you do not have to clean the hall before your event, so it is imperative that EVERYONE after their own event, cleans the hall thoroughly, so keeping the hall free from Covid as much as possible, thank you all, in advance for your co-operation.

Sorry But A Moan:- I found a bundle of tea towels on top of the microwave, unfortunately I could not decipher which were clean and which were dirty, and there were also two hanging on the handle of the wooden trolley. Obviously I took them all home, washed them and returned them to the drawer allocated for them. If you use the tea towels please afterwards take them home, wash them and return them either direct to me or put them back. The hall committee is pleased to let you all use the hall's facilities, but please keep the hall clean and tidy, Covid has not gone away, as various people within the Village are very aware of, so please keep the hall Covid clean, so that the next people after yourself find it equally Covid clean as you have found it, there should always be cleaning materials to fulfil this request, thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

POP UP CAFE - SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2022

KENT RIDE AND STRIDE - SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Time to plan your route!! This annual event is a huge success story which raises money directly for a church of your choice AND the Friends of Kent Churches charity which allocates all monies raised in grant form to churches needing financial help with the fabric of the building. The

task is to seek sponsorship from family and friends for the number of churches visited on the day. Participants can either walk, cycle, ride, run. Over 700 churches are open between 10am and 6pm. For sponsorship forms please contact Liz 01795 842272.

ANNUAL DOG SHOW - SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2022

Lower Halstow's 14th Annual Dog Show on Saturday 17 September 2022:

Registration at 12.00 noon and Judging will begin at 2.00pm

Classes at £1.00 each Entry are:

Fancy Dress for either Dog/Bitch,

Puppy 6-12 Months Dog,

Puppy 6-12 Months Bitch,

Happiest Dog/Bitch,

Most Handsome Dog,

The Prettiest Bitch,

Veteran Class Dog/Bitch 10 years or over,

Dog/Bitch and Owner Look-alike

Race for Small Dog/Bitch

Race for Medium Dog/Bitch

Race for Large Dog/Bitch

The Dog/Bitch that the Judge/Steward Would Like to Take Home

All Entrances that have come 1st - for Overall Winner

Prize Giving

More classes may be included, so I will give you a full itinerary in the September Village News

There should be a class suitable for everyone's Dog /Bitch to enter, Refreshments will be in the hall plus a PDSA Tables selling items, if you have an item suitable to sell on this table, please either bring it on the day or give me Kay 01795 844408 a call and I will collect it.

VINTAGE SINGALONG AND TALK - SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2-4PM

Come along to our fund raising afternoon in St Margaret's Church Vintage singalong with Rosie to enjoy some old songs. Another treat our village historian Mr George Peters, will be giving a talk on "Flora & Forna, Birds, Plants, of the Medway Estuary. Refreshments will be served.

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO OUR LOVELY VILLAGE CHURCH

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. Tickets on sale soon

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we come to the end of another academic year, I am pleased to say that the latter part of this year has been a little more normal! Following Covid curtailing many of our normal school events in the previous two years, this year we have been able to open our doors and welcome parents and visitors back in for the majority of the school events, it has been lovely being together again.



In my last school update, I outlined the events in our Charities week, at the time we were still counting the money however I can now share that we raised £255 for Kent Search and Rescue and £96 for The Evelina hospital who help care for several of our pupils who have long term medical conditions. Both charities were extremely grateful to our children and families for their support in fundraising for them.

The children in all year groups enjoyed a visit from the Astrodome as part of our Science week. They all had the opportunity to go inside the huge blow up planetarium and learn facts about space, the stars and rockets. Back in their classrooms, the children completed follow up work and some even created rockets to launch into space from the school field!

Rowan Class headed out to Wingham Wildlife Park in the last class trip of the year. The weather was lovely and sunny and the children had great fun seeing all the animals, as well as visiting a special dinosaur

exhibition as part of their history topic. A few weeks later, they put together a class assembly for parents all about what they had learnt and experienced at Wingham. We were very impressed by their confidence in presenting to an audience of adults.

Term 6 is an important term for our Year 6 pupils as they complete a number of activities to prepare them for secondary school and later life. They have completed two money and finance sessions delivered by The Family Trust, which aim to help the children understand basic budgeting, saving & spending. The children also had First Aid training to ensure that as they become more independent they are well equipped to face the wider world.

Newington CEP School pupils joined us for a 'World of Work' careers day hosted in our sports hall. Representatives from various jobs and careers including the Fire Service, the Prison Service, dress making, Belmont House Gardens, local government and horse care were just a few of the stalls. The children spent the morning touring the stalls, asking questions about what the jobs entail and trying out equipment.

After SATS, Year 6 pupils from both schools headed off to their residential trip to Kingswood; they took part in den building, bubble football, buggy building, climbing and archery to name just a few of the fun activities.

To ensure a smooth start to the new academic year in September, all children had the chance to meet their new teachers and teaching assistants and spent two mornings together completing activities and getting to know one another. Our Year 6 pupils also had the opportunity to spend some time in their new secondary school to help them familiarise themselves with the much larger buildings!

As part of our healthy living week, we were due a visit from European Championships 400m winner, Victoria Ohuruogu. However, at the last minute, Victoria was selected for the Commonwealth games so could not attend. Gianni Frankis, who was a Gold medallist at the European Championships in 110m Hurdles stepped in to put the children through their paces, completing fitness circuit training with the whole school, before delivering an inspirational assembly. The children asked some great questions and enjoyed the fitness training; I think they were ready for bed by the time they had finished though!

July is our 'try something new' month. In addition to other activities such as learning new languages, we invited Scott Ryan, a specialist outdoor chef, back to school to create some new dishes with the children: all cooked on an open fire. The dishes created were linked to periods in history that the children had studied throughout the year. This meant that the school grounds smelt lovely for several days but the best bit was eating their creations at the end!

On the last day of term the whole school again shared a Teddy Bears' picnic, which was the perfect way to celebrate the end of the school year and say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils.

There is a full programme of summer holidays activities at school, so you may see families coming and going still. Hopefully the glorious weather holds out and everyone can enjoy lots of lovely outdoor summer activities before the Autumn chill arrives.

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

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 September 2022 Village News is noon on
12 August 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

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843871

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

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