

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS MARCH 2024



Duck Race 2023, photo kindly supplied by Kerry Ward

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

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

*3 March 2024 - 10.30am Benefice Communion Service at Uplift in Upchurch Village Hall

10 March 2024 - 10am Mothering Sunday Morning Worship**

17 March 2024 - 10am Communion

24 March 2024 - 10am Palm Sunday Family Worship

29 March 2024 - 11am Good Friday Outdoor Act of Worship and walk
- 3pm Reflective time in church

31 March 2024 - 6am Easter Sunday Sunrise Service following by Communion in church

**There will be mid-morning Communion services at 10.00am on Easter Sunday in Upchurch & Newington*

Also there is always a Sunday online service at 10.30am on The Six YouTube which can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3JykJ8W>

****MOTHERING SUNDAY 10.00 am**

We all like to remember Mothering Sunday, where we can? A reminder our church is having the annual service for all the family. Some of us may not know the origin of this service, so come and find out. The service will be simple for everyone to join in. During the service flowers will given to children and anyone who would just like a small bunch (usually daffodils). Then stay for refreshments and a chat.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

No flowers in Lent

31 March 2024 - Team

CRAFT MORNING - TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024

St Margaret's Church will be having the Craft Morning on 9 April from 10-12 am. The theme of the day will be "What happened after Easter". Any one is welcome to come and play.

Refreshments available.

Donations welcome.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

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

RAINBOW CAFE - EVERYONE WELCOME

St Mary's Church, Upchurch 2pm to 4.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Children's snack deal £1
Homemade cakes and savouries and hot drinks.
Children's crafts and storytelling.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

In the Christian year we are now well into Lent. Lent represents the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before starting his ministry and it is also the time that will lead us to Good Friday and the ending of his earthly ministry by his death on the cross.

Lent is traditionally a time for prayer and repentance - a time for reflection and response. It is a time for drawing nearer to God. Lent can, then, be a special and intentional time for being more open to God. And yet God is with us all the time – wanting us to be more aware of his presence and to his being at work in our lives.

At the beginning of the year I had the sense that God was encouraging me to be more observant and to really take note of the things going on around me but I also felt that he wanted me to interpret and understand them from a new and different perspective. I would like to share an example of this.

At the end of January I attended a meeting and as it drew to a close someone enquired what the date of the next meeting would be. There was a moment of silence and then one lady got out her diary and gave the answer. She commented that she liked to be well organised and so had written down every date when we would be meeting for the whole of the year. I smiled and nodded - I had also done this. I really like to

know what I'm going to be doing. I like to have a sense of being in control. But then someone else said, "Why would you do that? For myself I find it much better to simply take each day as it comes....."

I wonder how that comment makes you feel. It rather shook me! My initial thought was that going with the flow in that way would lead to complete chaos and that I would no longer feel in control - but I also knew that I couldn't ignore what had been said and that God was teaching me something important. For I had to acknowledge that while being organised and in control is helpful, particularly in seeing and managing the bigger picture, it can also mean that I miss out on what God is doing in, and through, and around me, in any one particular moment.

I felt that this was a moment of being drawn closer to God – of knowing his presence and his blessing. And this can happen in so many different ways – in a chance meeting, in friendship, in a wise word, in a beautiful view, in creativity.....

So I hope that you do have a meaningful Lent. But I also hope that you discover God at work in your life in new and wonderful ways. I hope that you will draw closer to him. I hope that you become more mindful. I hope that you know his presence with you and receive many blessings and that you arrive at 31st March - Easter Day - able to know and celebrate the joy of the risen Lord.

With every blessing,
Lis

MOBILITY ITEMS

From Jackie Swift:

Under the umbrella of St. Margaret's, we hold a selection of mobility items, which can be borrowed in emergencies. If any one has any items they wish to donate for "lending out" our very kind gentleman Mr Tony Clark, will collect and deliver. Tony's No. 07977 566097. Dawn's No. 842688. Jackie's No. 07840 258665. Thank you

RUMMIKUB GROUP - 1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

A small Rummikub group meets ONCE a MONTH at Emily Bartlett's house, 1pm-3pm on the 1st THURSDAY of the month - the next session will be on 7 March 2024. Beginners are welcome as two people can teach you. For more information call 841139.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. The next dates are Thursdays 7 and 21 March 2024.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

Signs of Spring appearing on the Brickie, Cuckoo Pint leaves unfurling, Goat (Pussy) Willow starting to show its grey furry flowers, birds singing, catkins on the Hazels. Looks like this dull, drab winter is finally leaving us. Let's hope it doesn't snow next week now I've written this!

Our next work party will be on a Saturday for a change, hope to see some different faces. We'll be meeting near the Lapwing Drive gate at 10 a.m. on **Saturday 9 March**. Still lots to do before the nesting season gets underway so please help if you can.

Information and updates are available on the Facebook page. To get in touch email friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com or ring 07486 530068

LOWER HALSTOW WALKERS All are welcome.

Starting at 10am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brickfields, and usually 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. A short walk will be available for up to one hour if people request it in advance, please contact Margaret on 07964 067915 to arrange it.

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



WARM SPACE

**SATURDAY 9TH MARCH
NOON to 2.00PM
MEMORIAL HALL**

The heating will be on, the kettle will be on...

Hot Soup, Fresh Bread and Cakes will be available.

Everything is Free! Everyone is Welcome

A Grab and Go Food Bank has kindly been sponsored.

There will be a FREE raffle for a hooded blanket to help keep someone cosy this winter.

Come along and meet your Neighbourhood Watch representatives, PC Jez Chittim and special invited guests. We want to know how we can best assist the community and we need your help.



We look forward to meeting you soon.

LHNWatch1@gmail.com

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH - THE GIBBS, LOWER HALSTOW

FAYRE RUNNING

12 - 3PM

HUNT RUNNING

12 - 2PM

RACE BEGINS AT

3PM

DUCKS £1
EACH. MAY BUY
AS MANY AS
YOU WISH

RIVER WILL BE HERE
WITH HIS RODENT
AND REPTILE
HANDLING CORNER



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ANYONE CAN JOIN IN THE FUN!

REGISTER WITH

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KERRY.TRESS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

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£50 PRIZE
FOR THE
WINNING
DUCK!

£5 TO REGISTER INCLUDES;

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- EASTER EGG AND CERTIFICATE ON COMPLETION PRESENTED BY THE EASTER BUNNY
- FREE ACCESS TO THE REPTILES & RODENTS

- BUTLERS BUTTIES SERVING HOT FOOD
- JULIES CAKES & BAKES
- MOTHER NATURE ROCKS
- ICE CREAMS



THE TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB - TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024

– Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow

Two Rivers With ‘Shake Me Up Sally’

Singing the story of the Thames and the Medway

Rivers are a rich source of stories and narratives. ‘Two Rivers’ gathers songs that take a journey through space and time, to tell the stories of the people who have lived and worked along the banks of the two mighty iconic rivers that have dominated our local landscape. Performed by ‘Shake Me Up Sally’ – a collaboration of Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter, singer songwriters, both born and raised in the towns that took their name from the River Medway, which ebbs and flows through many of their songs; and Capella (Tony and Lesley Petty), traditional folk singers, originally from Woolwich in the banks of the Thames, they have a great affinity with the working river and its communities. You can expect a musical confluence of two rivers, delivered by four talented performers.

Memorial Hall, School Lane, ME9 7ES

7.30pm – 9pm

£4 entry on the door

Refreshments

Raffle

Contact Liz 842272

FREE SUNDAY ROAST DINNERS

The Neighbourhood Watch are happy to provide a Sunday Roast Dinner to anyone in need of assistance. Please contact Richard Asbury by phone or message on 07894 792802, on facebook messenger or by emailing LHNWatch1@gmail.com "

PICK YOUR OWN DAFFODILS

P.Y.O daffodils at Elm Farm hopefully ready in time for Easter.

Donations can be posted through the farmhouse door opposite and all proceeds go back into the village. No dogs please many thanks The Stevens family

Join us for an egg-citing day of joy and laughter!



Horsham Lakes

Presents:

Easter Family Fun Day

MONDAY 1st APRIL 2024

Horsham Lake, Upchurch, ME97AL



Lots of Fun Activities and Prizes to Win!

- ─ **Intro to Fishing Sessions: Must be prebooked**
- ─ **Feed the Ducks**
- ─ **Raffle**
- ─ **Food and Drinks Vendors**
- ─ **Ice Cream Van**
- ─ **Scavenger hut for the Kids**

For more information
contact
amacklini@hotmail.co.uk

www.horshamlakeupchurch.co.uk

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays in 2024

KEEP FIT GROUP

A friendly group of ladies meet for DIY keep fit on Monday evenings, 7-8pm in the Memorial Hall. For more information call Liz on 842272.

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 ANNUAL DOG SHOW PDSA STALL

From Kay and Keith Howard-Challis:

We are looking forward to our Annual Dog Show, which is to be held in June, the date etc. will be in a Village News nearer the time.

Every year we hold a PSDA stall at the Dog Show kindly run by Julia and Sophie, therefore, if you have any good as new Dog or Animal items for the stall, please either bring them early on the day, or Keith or myself will store them for you. Many thanks.

D-DAY 80 - THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2024

From Steve Gates:

The 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day. To mark this occasion the village is encouraged to join together at the dock in the evening. The Beacon will be lit at 9.15pm on to commemorate one of the most momentous achievements in living memory.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF VACANCY

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

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

If no petition is received within that time, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-opting a person onto the Parish Council.

Persons wishing to be considered for this appointment should apply in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

Written applications should be made to the Clerk at the following address: Amberley, 5 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 2EA or by e-mail: clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

Ann Smith

A I Smith
Clerk to Lower Halstow Parish Council

Dated: 8th February 2024

There have been several reports recently of dogs chasing and attacking livestock in fields in and around our village. Sadly, after one attack three pregnant sheep had to be put down. Please can all dog owners keep dogs securely on a lead when walking their dogs through any public right of way. Thank you.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Friends of the Brickfield and all the many volunteers who come together each month and give their time to look after and maintain the Brickfield site.

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 or on 01760 336459 if you have any queries.

LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM

Lower Halstow Yacht Club has a live weather station and webcam looking out over the creek. It is on the yacht club website and is open to everyone weather.lhyc.org.uk

WANTED

Lower Halstow School are recruiting for an adhoc lunch cover supervisor, someone who would be prepared to be available to cover at short notice or for planned absences.

If you are interested please email the school office for more details.

office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Despite the long Winter days, Lower Halstow School continues to be a hive of activity, with so much fitted into the new year already.

The sporting fixtures are beginning to filter through and so we were very pleased to have received our new school sports kits, sponsored by BJL

Electrical. The children can't wait to attend an event looking super smart in their new kit. Thank you to BJL Electrical for sponsoring our kits.



Several classes have headed out and about on various school trips.

Year 1 visited the Edith May barge and Year 3 took a train to Rochester and visited the Cathedral, Guildhall Museum, and even climbed all the steps to the top of the castle!

On Friday 26 January Lower Halstow took part in the annual RSPB Bird watch, the whole school headed out and took up position at various points around the school. With pens, clipboards and cameras at the ready, they waited quietly to observe and tally the birds that were spotted in the Lower Halstow School grounds. They managed to see: sparrows, blackbirds, crows and pied wagtails.

One of our themed weeks this term was 'Maths Week' with our focus being on shape. Every class focused on a range of shapes and looked at their properties. Miss Holderness then created a whole school Maths display using the shape characters that the classes had all created, along with facts that each class had learnt.

The PTA have been a busy bunch as always and organised a Valentine's disco for the children. This was well attended and the children enjoyed dancing, eating snacks and purchasing trinkets. As usual, some of our Lower Halstow School Alumni came back to help, serving hot dogs and drinks.

As Shrove Tuesday falls in half term this year, we decided to hold our annual Pancake races at the end of this term. The whole school enjoyed

the races that took place with the children competing against one another in their House Teams. The children gradually mastered flipping and running simultaneously! A few pancakes were lost on the way; however, Dover House were crowned winners at the end of the morning having won the most races.

Year 5, Beech Class feature:

This term Beech class have been learning about Earth and Space. More specifically in English, the children have been looking into the 'Hidden Figures' book that describes the exceptional people behind John Glenn's orbit of the Earth.

Following the theme of Earth and Space, Beech class's assembly was set in our solar system. The children did an amazing job of sharing facts as they travelled from planet to planet in their tin foil spaceship. Most of the class agreed that the best part of their assembly was the ending because everyone could be together on stage. The class also enjoyed using real props in the assembly as it made the play feel more professional. Henry even made specific props like crisps so he could mime eating them in the scene! Afterwards, as a reward for their amazing efforts, the class tried freeze-dried space food, similar to the items that would be used in real space missions.

In other subjects, Cleo mentioned that the class has also been learning about Ancient Greece and multiplication. One of her favourite facts in History has been that Spartans were encouraged to steal because it was valued as a skill! Lara continued by talking about this term's focus artist, saying that, "I like Yaakov's art because it is abstract and can sometimes be like an optical illusion." Evie and Sylvie also liked the artist this term, stating that, "The colours and repeating patterns look really beautiful".

Michelle Crowe, Head of School



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 items for the April 2024 Village News is noon on
12 March 2024.**

**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 07771 817152

Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Lloyd Chapman, lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk

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

Brickfields

Judy Telford, 07486 530068, friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

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, kayhelen2017@outlook.com

Mentalk Health Sittingbourne

mentalk-health.org

Neighbourhood Police Officer

PC Jez Chittim, jez.chittim@kent.police.uk, no direct phone number call 101 or 999 in an emergency

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

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, <https://www.lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk/>

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Ria Smith, Group Scout Leader, ria.smithuk@gmail.com

Short Mat Bowls

John Mustoo, 843681, Mick Porter, Secretary, 713120

St Margaret's Church

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329

PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688

Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 078402 58665

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,
07771 817152

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

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repayments on your mortgage

SJP APPROVED 10/03/2023

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