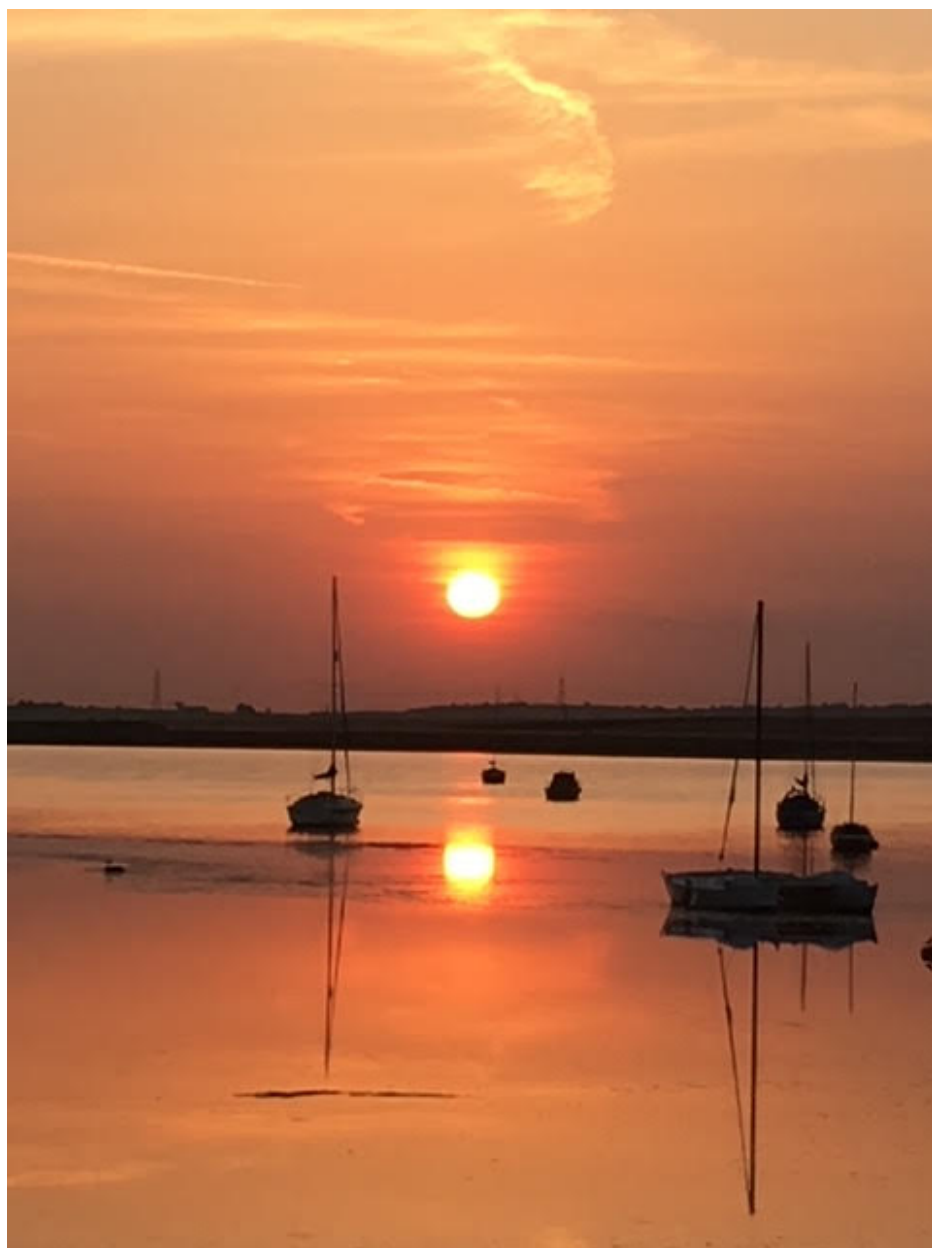


# **LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS June 2021**



*Photo kindly provided by Melvyn Theobald*

## **St. MARGARET'S CHURCH**

St. Margaret's Church, will be holding the annual APCM Meeting, at 10am Sunday 30 May. It will be held after the service. Please try to support our church, after the last year with only a rare service, St. Margaret's really needs our help. Its time to re-elect church wardens, and PCC members, and hear how our the finances are. Also future plans for the church.

### **June Services at St Margaret's**

10am Sunday 6 June - Morning Worship  
10am Sunday 20 June - Family Communion  
10am Sunday 27 June - Family Worship  
13 June no service, there will be a choice of services around "The Six"

### **Altar Flower Rota**

6 June - Georgina  
13 June - Liz  
20 June - Yvonne  
27 June - June Lesley

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Many congratulations to Stacey Coppack, Munshya and family on the safe arrival of their new baby daughter. Stacey has been doing a brilliant job getting the Village News printed every month. Thank you Stacey.

## **BOOT FAIR SAFARI/YARD SALE**

**Saturday 5 June 2021, 10am to 2pm**

Sell your unwanted items from the comfort of your own garden or drive. Maps of participating households will be downloadable from 1 June. For bookings contact Carina Jacobs, Carina65@outlook.com, 07899 951044.

£5 donation to Lower Halstow Poetry Festival suggested, to be paid to Carina or Maria Giles.

## **LOWER HALSTOW POETRY FESTIVAL**

Saturday 21 August at St Margaret's Church from 10am.

Free Admission, refreshments and cakes, children's workshop available.

Please come and celebrate Samuel Taylor Coleridge's connection to our beautiful church and village. Watch videos of villagers performing his most famous works, read his poems, take in the lovely art work inspired by pupils from Lower Halstow Primary school. Learn a little of the history of the village - imagine what Coleridge would have encountered when he came ashore following his voyages!

Why not pen your own poem to be hung on a poem tree, or recite your own personal favourite piece during an open mic session. We hope the day will be a small nod towards returning to normality and a great way to raise the profile of our village and meet up with friends and family. We very much look forward to welcoming you all.

For more details please contact Carina Jacobs [Carina65@outlook.com](mailto:Carina65@outlook.com), 07899 951044

## **FLOOD WARDENS**

There are three Lower Halstow Flood Wardens, myself Kay Howard-Challis, Abbie McDowell and Karen Thorpe. Our main purpose is to assist the village, if there should be any flooding. Primarily we want to prevent flooding in the first place, therefore, if you have a blocked drain near you, please let one of us know, so that we can contact the correct department to have it cleared, this will help with the surface water, and we would be most grateful to know when the drain has been cleared. We are automatically advised if there is an exceptional high tide, sea surge or any other potential excess of flood water within Lower Halstow, this is so that we can advise the relative households or buildings that they may be in danger of flooding.

Should you wish to contact us, our contact numbers/emails. are now permanently in the Village News under Flood Wardens

## **LADIES DIY KEEP FIT**

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

## **DAFFODILS**

Lots of daffodils were picked this spring at Elm Farm and £345 was given in donations. The Stevens family has very kindly donated this money to the Village News to help with the cost of paper and printing.

## **CHARITY CRISP PACKET RECYCLING**

We are collecting Crisp Packets for recycling - please drop off at 34 Crouch Hill Court. All brands accepted, preferably flat. So far 115kg recycled, raising £170.00 for Demelza House Plastic Free Lower Halstow

## **MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS AND PENS RECYCLING**

Lynne Morris has now put a plastic collection box outside 1 Curlew Avenue for clean and dry used pens and medication blister packs (please make sure there are no personal details on the packs). Money raised from the blister packs will go to Parkinson's UK and pens will go to Terracycle and be recycled.

## **MEMORIAL HALL**

The Village Hall is under the guidance of the A.C.R.E. (Action with Communities in Rural England) these people are the governing body for all rural Village Halls. At present they are saying that no recreational activities can take place until at least after 21 June 2021.

Just to inform you that the Treasure Chest Pre-School is a Government approved school, therefore, they have been given permission to go ahead to use the hall. The Government Polling Station use, has also been given permission, but with very strict cleaning rules etc. put in place.

We want of course to have the hall used by all the Village Clubs etc., a.s.a.p., but until at least after the 21 June, and even then, if we have not been given the green light, we will not be opening the Village Hall for any recreational activities, but we will be bringing you up to date in the future Village News.

Kind regards Village Hall Committee

## **SWALE 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

## **HEALTH WALKS**

Lower Halstow Health walks have re-started. Because we are an organised and official walking group we are exempt from the Rule of Six, but we have to keep social distance and refrain from walking if showing any signs of the COVID infection. We 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.

## **PUBLIC FOOTPATHS**

We are well served in this vicinity with access to lots of public footpaths, taking walkers to Upchurch, Iwade, Bobbing, Newington, Hartlip, and further afield. Please keep to the public footpaths and resist walking across fields and orchards, however tempting, that are not part of this system. If you come across a public footpath that is not accessible please report it to KCC online. Search the internet for *PROW Kent*, then go to *Report a problem on a right of way*. If problems are not reported they cannot be rectified.

Margaret, Local Footpath Officer for the Ramblers Association, 843927

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

What a very strange year it has been for all of us but hopefully things are looking up.

Something reassuring is that we have seen people in our village and across the country pulling together to care for each other in any way that they can. Life's challenges have been huge.

Lower Halstow Parish Council (LHPC) has operated virtual monthly meetings throughout Coronavirus Pandemic and the Hugofox website holds all details of what we discuss.

In case you missed it here are some of the achievements from LHPC for our village this last year: -

New trees and hedges have been planted in the village.

Our dedicated litter picker John has continued to keep our village clean and tidy.

A Roman coin was found on Parish Council land and now displayed in the British Museum.

Friends of The Brickfields (FOTB) organised a working party and continue to look after our much loved habitat. Storms damaged to 20 trees, which the FOTB made safe.

The noticeboard at Britannia Green blew down. A new one is being made and is almost ready.

Maintenance and cutting back of hedges in the Lower Halstow Burial Ground is done voluntarily by one of the Parish Councillors.

Bottle digging was a hot topic and Best Kept Garden competition was held.

The handrail at the Brickfields was replaced and steps repaired.

Planning applications in the village are examined on a regular basis.

20 is plenty and anti-idling campaign is being headed up by LHPC.

Southern Water was challenged regarding repairs and the disruption and noise caused by tankers.

Lower Halstow Parish Council formed a working group to submit a bid for the necessary funding for what was called the Gigabit Project or Full Fibre to Premises (FFTP) for connectivity for the whole village. On 21 January 2021 it was confirmed by Open Reach that sufficient vouchers had been redeemed and the project has now moved to the build phase.

Improvements were made to Westfield Car Park.

## **20MPH ZONE**

The Parish Council would like to ask whether you, the residents of Lower Halstow village, would take part in a survey, (which will be run by KCC Highways) regarding a 20mph zone throughout the village. We are awaiting to see if this is feasible with a KCC officer. Your feedback via email([clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)) or to: 11 Cumberland Drive, Lower Halstow, would be greatly appreciated.

Keith Howard-Challis, Chairman

## **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The library van is visiting the village once a month 1.50pm to 2.30pm on Thursdays. The next dates are Thursdays 3 June and 1 July 2021.

## **MOBILITY AIDS**

The church keep a selection of items to loan out, sometimes in emergencies. Please contact Jackie on 842749.

Also please let Jackie know if you have got a spare corner in your garage or shed, as more storage space is required.

## **LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The children returned from their Easter break keen to be back in school and eager to continue their learning. We are all really glad that things in school are starting to return to 'normal'; for example, this term we have restarted after school clubs with children being able to join in with tennis, multi sports, boxing, football, construction, photography and card games to name just a few.



Term 5 has also seen the start of a variety of extra reading programmes for many of our pupils. The Love2Read and Buster Acorns programmes have been well received by the children along with some of our regular community volunteer readers who give up their time to come in and read with the children. Our aim is to really foster a lifelong love of reading whilst also helping children to develop reading strategies and skills. We are very grateful for the time our volunteers give to the school; if you feel you have the time to volunteer to listen to children read or have a

different skill or hobby to share please do contact our school office by e-mailing them at [office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@lower-halstow.kent.sch.uk).

This term our Year 3 and 4 pupils have taken part in the virtual school athletics competition. The children competed in sprints, throwing and jumping and their data has been sent off to be compared with other local schools. We know that some of our pupils will be receiving bronze and silver certificates however we are looking forward to having our school points totalled up to see how we have done – we are keeping our fingers crossed!

Update provided by Miss Crowe, Head of School

## **SAVE OUR SEAWALL**

### **The Problem**

There's a small section of the sea wall (about 150 metres) at Lower Halstow that is unprotected and is disappearing at an alarming rate. It will be breached in 'One to two years' (survey Nov 2020 )

### **What's at Stake?**

This will sever the Saxon Shore Way a footpath used by walkers from all over Swale. It will mean that vehicular access to the rest of the wall will no longer be possible from Lower Halstow for maintenance and repair by the Environment Agency and Southern Water

It will endanger the Old Brickworks nature reserve, which the wall currently protects

### **The Solution**

The best solution would be to extend the stone blockwork that has successfully protected the rest of the wall, all the way to Twinney, for generations. If the cost proves too much, then a temporary solution using wooden posts combined with wooden hurdles could preserve the wall for several years whilst a more permanent solution is sought

### **What's the Cost?**

A temporary solution will cost around £20 000 and a permanent stone solution around ten times that

### **What's the next Step ?**

Raise awareness of the issue in the village and wider community, with elected local officials and public bodies to try and raise the necessary funding.

### **Did you know**

The sea wall was last breached in 1978 and caused the death of forty ewes. All of which were in-lamb



### **Did you know**

The Brickfields is home to Britain's rarest bumble bee , the Shrill Carder

### **Did you know**

This stretch of the sea wall will form part of the proposed 2800 mile long England Coast

### **Did you know**

You can find the rare Man Orchid on the Brickfields. Its so called because its flowers resemble tinymen!

### **Quotes**

The condition of the seawall at the North end of the Brickfields site is now in such a serious state of disrepair that an imminent failure is considered certain..... should no urgent action be taken the Brickfield site will certainly flood. *Keith Howard Challis, Chair, Lower Halstow Parish Council*

The brickfields is a valuable haven for wildlife:- the loss of the sea wall would impact rare plant species, red list birds and rare bumblebees. *Karen Thorpe Brickfields Conservation Officer*

Our Brickfield is a much loved asset to the village....The site is well used by walkers, birdwatchers, dog walkers, children playing and people who just want an escape to peace and quiet. It would be disastrous to lose it *Judy Telford, Chair, Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields*  
..there is a large area of the site at risk of flooding if the existing embankment were to fail (and) also permanent loss of land *Simon Herrington, Marine Surveyor*

How can you help? Please circulate this campaign to all you contacts. Sign the petition at [www.ipetitions.com/petition/seawall](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/seawall)

### **WALKING WITH GOD**

From Lis Willmet, Lay Reader

One of the activities that I have found a real blessing over the past several strange months of life has been going out for a walk. I have been able to walk from my house almost daily and have discovered so many local footpaths that I was not previously aware of. I know many of you will have done the same. I give thanks every day that I can go for a walk. And I don't know about you but for me walking out during lockdown gave a sense of purpose and structure. It offered a sense of escape. It made such a difference. Walking became a time of refreshment and re-energising – physically, psychologically and spiritually.

One of the pleasures of walking is being able to notice the seasons changing and to observe nature in all its glory. I became much more aware of the need to slow down and to take time – time to look around and really see what is there - and time to listen. As I write this at the beginning of May I am particularly aware of all the different shades of green in the trees as the leaves start to unfurl and all the various colours and scents of the fruit blossoms. I am also aware that the birds are continuously singing - and that I have heard a cuckoo. Walking has taught me how beneficial these things are – and how much of our wonderful world we miss when we are rushing through life.

I have also found that walking gives me time to reflect. Sometimes this is simply on what I see around me but there have also been moments when walking has offered me space to wrestle with various thoughts and to sift through various emotions. Often these thoughts and feelings have been the ones that feel weighty and problematic - but walking has offered the opportunity to look at them differently and to put things into a new perspective.

And I also pray as I walk, offering to God my praise and thanks for the created world and sharing with him my reflections on life. I have become so much more aware that he walks with me as my companion – drawing my attention to aspects of the world around me, and listening as I share with him my thoughts and feelings and my concerns.

And this is my prayer for you – that you can enjoy walking and that you may discover God walking with you - always close and always ready to listen

With every blessing  
Lis

### **FREE CHINA PLATES**

The church still have lots of spare dinner and tea plates. Please call Jackie on 842749 if you would like some

## **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](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or call 843871**

### **Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade**

Corrie Woodford, [corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk](mailto:corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk)

Roger Clark, 430324, [rogerclark@swale.gov.uk](mailto:rogerclark@swale.gov.uk)

### **Citizens Advice**

0800 144 8848, [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)

### **Cricket Club**

Mark Stevens, 842090

### **Dog Warden**

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07795 237479

### **Flood Wardens**

Kay Howard-Challis, 844404, [kayhelen2017@outlook.com](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

Abbie Dowell [abbie\\_mcdowell@hotmail.com](mailto:abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com)

### **Judo Club**

Jon 07944 755036

### **KCC Potholes**

03000 418187

### **Kent County Councillor**

Mike Baldock, 471139, 07522 442964, [mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk)

### **Member of Parliament**

Gordon Henderson, 423199, [www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk](http://www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk)

### **Memorial Hall**

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

Bookings, Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

**NHS**

111

**Noise nuisance**

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07881 817601

**Parish Council**

Parish Clerk, Ann Smith, 842908, clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

<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

**School**

842344, <http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk/>

**Scouts, Cubs and Beavers**

Lisa Joiner, lisa1hardwick@btinternet.com

**Short Mat Bowls**

John Mustoo, 843681

Neville, 842117

**St Margaret's Church**

PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688

Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 842749

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329

**Swale Borough Council**

Main office, 424341

**The Three Tuns**

842840

**Village News**

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

**Yacht Club**

Dave Quigley, 841242

**The deadline for the July 2021 Village News is noon on 12 June**

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to**

**[ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com)**

Advertising rates: £2 per one for adverts for personal gain but which also constitute news or provide a service to villagers. £3 per line for other commercial adverts. 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](http://www.midkentit.co.uk), 01634 912105/07542795078,  
[enquiries@midkentit.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@midkentit.co.uk)

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

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