

**LOWER HALSTOW  
VILLAGE NEWS**

**AUGUST 2017**



**A Lower Halstow school group  
circa 1908 (see page 2)**

*Compiled, edited and published for the village by*  
**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH**

## SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN AUGUST

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August

8.00 a.m. Traditional B.C.P. Spoken Communion

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August

10.00 a.m. **No service due to lack of clergy.**  
Morning Worship at Upchurch – 10.00.a.m.  
Sung Communion at Newington - 10.00 a.m.

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August

10.00 a.m. Communion  
4.00 p.m. Evensong

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

7.30 p.m. Hush

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August

10.00 a.m. Family Time with refreshments  
The service starts at **10.15 a.m.**

There are **morning prayers at St Margaret's Church at 8.15 a.m. every Tuesday morning.**  
All are welcome to come and join in. Chris Mayes – churchwarden.

### ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

**August:** 6<sup>th</sup> Liz Mouland; 13<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Quigley;  
20<sup>th</sup> Ann Smith; 27<sup>th</sup> Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo;

**September:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Ursula Aylward.

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.**

*HERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE BEFORE YOU  
SEND YOUR NEWS. IT HELPS TO SEND IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.*

**Cover photo** Contrasting with the cover photo last month of all the children in the school in 1967, this photo is one of a set of five showing groups of children c. 1908. There are over thirty in each group, so the number of pupils totalled around 170. Each group shows the range of ages from below 5 years to over 12 years, and why they were grouped in this way is unknown. The headmaster was Frank Datson who is shown here on the right with his wife, also a teacher at the school, beside him. He was appointed in 1897, 130 years ago, and possibly these photos were taken to mark the end of his 20<sup>th</sup> year at Lower Halstow. A plan of the school drawn in 1908 shows only three classrooms – a large 'schoolroom', a slightly smaller infants classroom and a classroom less than half the size of the 'schoolroom', so how so many children were accommodated is a mystery. The school leaving age was raised in 1899 to 12 years, but some of the children look older than this.

**VILLAGE DIARY FOR AUGUST** and other dates for your diary.

*(A note from the editor.... Now I am no longer active around the village there are items of news I don't either know or pick up, so please do email me if you have any items for the diary or other information. I can't get to the phone very quickly these days, so it is better to email if you can.)*

**Sunday 30th July** Annual Lower Halstow **TREASURE HUNT**

Teams of any size welcome, suitable for all ages and no pre booking required. Just visit us in the **garden of the THREE TUNS between 11.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.** to collect your map and clues.

**Entry is £5 per team and the winners of the hamper will be announced at 5.00 p.m.**

You can complete the hunt in your own time; you just need to hand in **your answer sheet back at the pub by 4.45 p.m.** The hunt should take you between an hour and an hour and a half, and visits various locations around the village and the Brickfields.

**The THREE TUNS will be running a barbeque in the garden as well as the usual Sunday lunch menu. Proceeds this year will be split between the Friends of the Brickfields and the Fenner Frost Foundation**, which provides work experience for local young adults with special education needs. Our thanks go to Lower Halstow's trade directory, MyVillageTrades, for helping with this year's event.

If you have any questions call Michael on 07824 392342

**Friday 4th August** **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the **Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Games include euchre, scrabble, rummucub, whist and many card and board games. Cost £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

**Saturday 19th August** **URSULA'S CHEESE AND WINE EVENING** at **7 Burntwick Drive** from **7.00 p.m.** All welcome. Proceeds towards the Over 60's Christmas Party.

**Saturday 19th August** *The Memorial Hall Committee's* **FAMILY BARN DANCE**. **Entrance fees are £5.00 per adults and £2.50 for youngsters 12 years and under. Please bring your own supper and beverage. The doors open at 7.00 p.m. and dancing begins at 7.30 p.m.** Tickets for this event please contact Kay on 01795 844408. See you there.

**Saturday 26th August** **WHIST DRIVE** in the **Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

**Friday 1st September** *Memorial Hall Committee's* **Games Afternoon.**

**Tuesday 5th September** **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING at 7.00 pm.** There is no Parish Council meeting in August.

**Saturday 9th September** **BREAKFAST CLUB** There will be **no Breakfast Club during August.** All Primary school children, (4+ to 11 years), are welcome to attend. Come along and give it a try. You will be most welcome. For further details contact Liz Hadley(842654), Becky Ridley (841028) or Hilary Gates (841632).

**Saturday 9th September** *The Memorial Hall Committee* **VILLAGE SUMMER FETE, 12 noon until 4.00 p.m.**

We are holding **competitions for Flower Arranging and Home Grown Vegetables.**

The classes for Flower Arranging will be: 1. Look at me. 2. Dinner for two. 3. I'm in the hedgerows. The classes for the Home Grown Vegetables will be: 1. Just right. 2. The funniest/oddest shape.

3. One for the pot.

**Exhibitors can arrange their flowers and/or produce from 9.00 a.m., to be completed by 11.00 a.m. Judging will begin at 11.15 a.m.** There will be two judges, who will give rosettes to first, second and third in each Class, plus a 'keep' plaque and a returnable trophy for the overall Flower arrangement and a 'keep' plaque and a returnable trophy for the Home Grown Vegetables Competition. Both trophies were donated from our St. Margaret's Church, and a member of the church will **present the Trophies at 4.00 p.m.**

The Summer Fete will include an array of Craft Stalls, a Coconut Shy, a Tombola, The U.K's Mrs. Galaxy (she will be collecting money for the PDSA and DREAM FLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN), delicious Indian food, home-made cakes, a Puzzle Stall, a Grand Prize Raffle, a Hot Dogs and Burger BBQ, Refreshments and many more fun packed stalls. **The Grand Raffle will be drawn at 4.00 p.m.** Can't wait, see you there. Kay.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September** **The Lower Halstow Gardening Club Visit to RHS Wisley** is now full, which is great. It's great value, so hardly a surprise that we now have a waiting list.

**Thursday 28th September** **Let's Change Lives with Every Slice!**

Following last year's fantastic response to the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support we are planning to repeat the fundraiser this year. We shall again host it at **St.**

**Margaret's Church.** Any offers of cakes or help on the day will be very gratefully received.

For further details please contact: Liz Hadley 842654, Jackie Swift 842749 or Una Mayes 841425.

**Look out for more detailed information in September's Village News.**

## **REGULAR DATES**

**Ladies Do-It-Yourself Keep Fit** We meet regularly on a Monday evening in the village; for six weeks we will be having a movement and dance teacher for Medau sessions. These are lots of fun, fantastic music and a great way to increase fitness. These sessions will cost £5 per person and places are limited. When we are not having a medau evening, sessions are £2 and in the summer they are free! If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Liz on 07730893747 / 01795 842272.

## **LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS**

We meet on the first Monday of each month and two Wednesdays in the month. Our meetings are informal and fun and open to all (including people who do not live in the village), whether you are an experienced crafter or a complete beginner. We enjoy learning new crafts and sharing ideas – recently we have experimented with 'mock' stained glass, remembrance poppies, decopatching vases etc, flower arranging, chicken scratch embroidery, jewellery, decorating wine bottles and gift bags, card making, creating a garden in a bottle, 10 minute block quilting and tissue pom poms. You can see photos of our achievements on our Facebook page at Lower Halstow Crafters.

Please feel welcome to come and join us. We meet between 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. and charge £1 per meeting which goes towards materials. For further details of dates, topics and venues please contact Janet on 842706 or Jo on 841642.

**Every Monday 10.00 a.m.** Free **HEALTH WALKS** starting from the main entrance to The Brick Fields. A brisk walk of up to two hours on mainly flat ground. Sturdy shoes and a rain coat recommended.

**Every two weeks on THURSDAYS THE LIBRARY VAN** calls at **Lower Halstow** outside the **Memorial Hall at 12.15 p.m.** Queries to van driver or 03000 413131.

**Every Monday** **SHORT MAT BOWLS 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.** in the **Memorial Hall**

**Every Wednesday** **SHORT MAT BOWLS 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.** in the **Memorial Hall**

**Every first Wednesday of the month** **QUIZ NIGHT** at **The Three Tuns.**

**Every third Wednesday of the Month** **CHARITY BINGO** at **The Three Tuns.**

**Not quite a regular date** – Usually every fourth Tuesday of January, February March, April, July, September and October Gardening Club meets in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. We have speakers who come to the Hall and give a talk on a variety of topics. These will always be published beforehand in the Newsletter and visitors are always very welcome.

### **THE ST. MARGARET'S CRAFT FAIRS**

*For some years now Liz Moulard has organised successful Craft Fairs at St. Margaret's church. After the fair held in July she sent the following email to her helpers:*

Dear Everyone,

Please can I start first by thanking you all so much for all the different ways that you help with these events; everybody plays a key role and together we form an amazing team. I appreciate that not everybody can be at every event but just knowing that there is a willingness among you all to help is the reason for our success.

We did not have the usual number of visitors but I was particularly pleased to see four new faces, people who had not been able to visit St Margaret's before - so that was really super. It was also great that the lady from East Grinstead had travelled up again to mark the anniversary of the wedding in St. Margaret's of her grandparents back in July 1946 - she recalled how Pauline showed her the entry in the register when she first visited one of our little sales a couple of years ago - she follows us on the website, which is useful to know.

As you know, making any money is a by-product to these events and because the numbers were down I had not expected a great financial result; however, the visitors that we had came with very generous hearts - the refreshments took £81, which is one of the best results. I really do think that the donations system there is working so well and added to the sales table we raised £203, which was a very pleasant surprise.

So thank you again very much for all the support you give St. Margaret's. Liz.

*I am sure that, over the years, we have all appreciated Liz's wonderful organisational skills, and also the amount of time she has spent getting all the stalls together. **Thank you Liz for all your hard work and dedication.***

Coincidentally, Ann Smith, Clerk to the Parish Council, received an email from Anne Hill, the lady from Eastbourne mentioned by Liz, who writes:

*'On Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July my husband and I left home in East Grinstead, West Sussex and drove to Lower Halstow in order to attend the Fête in the church.*

*My mother, Joyce Durrant, grew up in the village at Mill House where her parents, Albert and Queenie Durrant, ran a fruit farm during the 1930's and into the 1940's. Joyce worked in Chatham Dockyard during World War II and it was while she was there that she met my father, Frank Summers, at a dance. His ship had been torpedoed and had put into Chatham for repairs. By this time France had fallen and Frank had been given the choice of joining de Gaulle's Free French Forces or taking British nationality and joining the Royal Navy. He chose the latter option and was advised to change his name for fear of reprisals to his family back in France. Frank had been born Fernand Schneider, just to the north of Dunkerque.*

*On 20 July 1946 Joyce and Frank were married in St Margaret's, Lower Halstow, and as their wedding anniversary is approaching, we brought a flower arrangement with us which we were able to place in the church. This meant a lot to me.*

*In addition to buying a bird box, a pen, a pot of honey, two fruit crumbles and some greetings cards, I was very pleased to be able to buy a copy of Pauline Stevens' book on Lower Halstow and take some photographs of the framed Parish Church Almanack. My grandfather's name appears as Section Leader of the Home Guard and an Air Raid Warden, while my mother's name appears in the list of First Aid Party members and the W.V.S.*

*We were sitting having a cup of tea and a piece of delicious cake when we were approached by a lady who told us she went to school in East Grinstead and lived in Forest Row, the next village along from us. We had a good chat with her. We also very much enjoyed speaking to the lovely lady who was in charge of the teas – I so wish I had asked her name!*

*I have never lived in Lower Halstow but I feel a great affinity to the village and the welcoming people who live there. We left with many more happy memories. Anne Hill.'*

You never know what life has in store, and if you've never been to one of the Craft Fairs why not go along to St. Margaret's to the next one. There is absolutely no pressure to buy or have a cup of tea. You won't even have to make conversation to strangers if you prefer not to. You can just walk in, have a look round and leave quietly if you wish. You never know - you may be in for a pleasant surprise and get to know people you've never met before. Give it a try.

**THE FENNER FROST FOUNDATION'S RECORD SHOP** (RPM) has now been open for almost a year.

It is staffed by ten adults with learning disabilities who work 1, 2 or 3 days a week. We have been lucky to secure a grant from KCC for £1000 and raised £800 at a fundraising quiz night.

The Three Tuns Treasure Hunt on 30th July has kindly chosen to donate half of the money raised to our charity too.

It has been a fantastic year, watching our students grow in confidence and support each other in their learning. We regularly post videos of our students working on our Facebook page which gives a good overview of what we are all about.

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that has donated vinyl records, c.d.s, cassette tapes and DVDs. It is very much appreciated.

Any further donations are always welcome and can be collected by phoning 07551843177 or 01795 843357.

Our shop is located at 51 High Street Sittingbourne ME10 4AW and open Tuesday to Friday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Pop in to see us, our students will make you most welcome.

**The Fenner Frost Foundation. Charity No: 1167049. Tel No: 07551 843177**

**Website: [www.fennerfrostfoundation.org.uk](http://www.fennerfrostfoundation.org.uk)**

**MOBILITY AIDS** St. Margaret's has items in excellent condition, i.e. wheelchairs, commode, etc. These are available for emergency borrowing, We are always pleased when the church can help in the community. Please contact Tricia 01795 842419, Jackie 01795 842749 or Ursula 01795 842924.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Kay and Keith and their dog team for the generous contribution to the Over 60s' Christmas Party. It is much appreciated. Ursula Aylward.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk** Mrs Ann Smith, 11 Cumberland Drive, Tel: 01795 842908

email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

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Contact me on 07824 392342 or

Email : [michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk)

Website : [www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk](http://www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk)

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**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

(01795 unless otherwise stated)

*If you find that any of these numbers is no longer in use  
please let Pauline know on 842028*

The Rev. Julian Staniforth 227329

The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794

Chris Mayes (churchwarden) [cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com](mailto:cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com) 841425

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

Memorial Hall new bookings (Kay Howard Challis) 844408

The school 842344

The Three Tuns 842840

Short Mat Bowls (John Mustoo) 843681

Cricket Club (Mark Stevens) 842090

Beaver Cub Scout Group (Dave Giles) 843193 [1stlowerhalstowscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stlowerhalstowscouts@gmail.com)

Playgroup (Heather Salisbury) 01634 233182

Yacht Club (Dave Quigley) 01795 841242

Judo Club (Jon) 07944755036.

The Parish Clerk (Ann Smith) 842908 email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

PCSO 46056708 John Cork, email [john.cork@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.cork@kent.pnn.police.uk) Telephone: 101

Swale Borough Council (Main office) 424341

Swale Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Ben Stokes 476979 [benstokes@swale.gov.uk](mailto:benstokes@swale.gov.uk)

Duncan Dewar-Whalley 07889 808871 [duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk](mailto:duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk)

County Councillor Roger Truelove 425445 [roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk)

County Councillor Lee Burgess [LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk](mailto:LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk)

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

Citizen's Advice Bureau 0870 1212105  
Police (general enquiries) 01622 690690  
Neighbourhood Watch (Erin Scott) 01634 792131  
Dog Warden 077952 37479  
Noise nuisance 417850 (out-of-hours 07881817601)  
K.C.C. Highways potholes 03000 418187  
N.H.S. 111  
Parish Council Website: [www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk).

If you would like your name and number added, or you would like to suggest another useful number, please contact Pauline Stevens on 842028.

**If any number changes, or you are no longer a contact person, please let Pauline know.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE SEPTEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.**

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)  
or [pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com)

Please remember – if we don't receive your news, we can't print it!