

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

DECEMBER 2014



Celebrate Christmas at St. Margaret's church

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| CHRISTINGLE SERVICE | Sunday 14th December at 3.00 p.m. |
| CAROL SERVICE | Sunday 21st December at 3.00 p.m. |
| CRIB SERVICE | Wednesday 24th December at 5.30 p.m. |
| MIDNIGHT MASS | Wednesday 24th December at 11.30 p.m. |

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN DECEMBER

Sunday 7th December

8.00 a.m. Traditional B.C.P. Spoken Communion
6.00 p.m. Praise Communion

Sunday 14th December

10.30 a.m. Family Communion
Refreshments afterwards
3.00 p.m. **CHRISTINGLE & TOY SERVICE**

Sunday 21st December

10.30 a.m. Morning Praise
Refreshments afterwards
3.00 p.m. **CAROL SERVICE**

Wednesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30 p.m. Crib Service
11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m. Family Communion

Sunday 28th December

10.30 a.m. Benefice Communion at Upchurch
Followed by Bring & Share Lunch

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

December 7th Pauline Stevens; 14th Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo
21st Christmas; 28th Ursula Aylward.
January 4th Denise & Faye Balban

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER.**

E MAIL ADDRESS pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

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

VILLAGE DIARY FOR DECEMBER and other dates for your diary.

Monday 1st December Lower Halstow Crafters

As the year draws to a close we are busily completing our various Christmas projects. In 2014 we have had a go at many different crafts, some more successfully than others but all good fun and shared with a lovely group of ladies. We have done sewing, knitting, crochet, rag rugging, bag making and patchwork, jewellery making, mosaics, glass painting and deco patch and look forward to 2015 with enthusiasm to see what else we can achieve.

We continue to meet on the first Monday of the month and every alternate Wednesday. So if you would like to join us, whatever your ability or interest, you will be made most welcome. Future dates will be as follows:- Monday Dec 1st Wednesday December 10th Wednesdays January 7th and 21st and Monday February 2nd. For more details you can contact either Margaret on 01795 843100 email Blenerrow@firenet.uk.net or Barbara on 07788871772 email barbaracastleptn@aol.co.uk or visit the face book page for Lower Halstow Crafters.

A Happy Christmas and Enjoyable New Year to all.

Tuesday 2nd December PARISH COUNCIL MEETING in the **MEMORIAL HALL**. Parish Council meetings commence at **7.00 p.m.** for a public open time, followed by the Parish Council business.

Friday 5th December CHRISTMAS SPECIAL GAMES AFTERNOON. You are all so welcome to join us at the Memorial Hall from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. There is no joining fee, just £1.50 for a mince pie or biscuits with a cup of tea/coffee. The games include Whist, Rummikub, Eucre, Dominos, Scrabble and many other board or card games, or you may want to just have a chat with friends in a warm environment. See you there.

Wednesday December 10th EARLIER DEADLINE FOR VILLAGE NEWS so that we can have it printed and ready before Christmas week.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association) Our membership has now reached 150, so up to our limit. However, if you do know of someone who is interested in joining encourage them to put their names on our waiting list.

Our next events are:

Monthly Meeting (2nd Friday of the month) Members Free; Guests £2.00

Friday 12th December 2.00pm Christmas special by ticket only.

Coffee Mornings (4th Tuesday of the month) (Members £1.50; Guests £2.00)

Tuesday 23rd December 9.30am until 12.30pm

Village Walks (1st and 3rd Friday)

Outings **Thursday 11th December** Winchester Christmas Market

Thursday 22nd January 2015 Jersey Boys, Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Annual Subscription £15.

David Powell – Chairman davidrpowell5@hotmail.co.uk 01795-843550

Sunday 13th December CHRISTINGLE AND TOY SERVICE at 3.00 p.m. in St. Margaret's church. Come and experience the joy of Christmas and receive the candle-lit orange. Watch the Christmas Story come to life, and join in the carol singing with us all. Mince pies and coffee afterwards. This is for all ages. Please keep a close watch on the children as lighted candles are used.

We invite you to supply a new toy for the Salvation Army to distribute locally in Swale. Any age. Even teens' gifts are gratefully received, as they, too, long to receive. There are many needy people, right on our doorsteps.

Thursday 18th December CHRISTMAS SPECIAL COFFEE STOP a week earlier than usual in St Margaret's Church. 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. (and every fourth Thursday in the month). We serve hot or

cold drinks, cakes, toasted sandwiches and home-made savouries etc. at very reasonable prices, in the beautiful setting of our ancient village church. Everyone welcome.

Friday 19th December **Candle-lit COFFEE AND CAROLS in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.** Come and enjoy singing your favourite carols (you choose), hear some Christmas tales and enjoy hot mince pies and coffee at half time. Children and adults all very welcome. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

Sunday 21st December **CAROL SERVICE in St. Margaret's Church at 3.00 p.m.** This is an informal service to which all are welcome, particularly children. The Christmas story will be told, carols will be sung and there will be a children's nativity tableau. Come and join us in celebrating the birthday of Jesus with our customary crackers and special cake.

WANTED - **Shepherds for our children's tableau.** Costumes are provided for any child who would like to take part. If you have a toy lamb please could it come along too.

Sunday 21st December **CHRISTMAS STORYTELLING on the Edith May** - A Family Christmas Treat!

The Friends of the Brickfields are hosting an evening of Seasonal Storytelling with Wide Eyed Theatre company. There will be **two sessions, at 4.30pm and 6.30pm**, and the stories are suitable for children aged six and over. The Edith May galley will be open on the day, selling drinks, delicious cakes and snacks.

Tickets are only £5 each on a first come first served basis, and we do ask that each booking includes one adult. Tickets available from Michael van der Straaten at 19 The Street, Lower Halstow, ME9 7DR with cheques payable to The Friends of The Lower Halstow Brickfields. Please indicate which session you would prefer (we will try and accommodate you!) and include your email address for us to send you your tickets. Any profits will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Brickfields.
Michael van der Straaten

Monday 22nd December **Health Walks** Unfortunately no leader is available for the walk on Monday 22nd December. Regular walkers are welcome to walk as a group on the 22nd as an 'unofficial Health Walk'. New walkers are always welcome. Come and join us on 5th January 2015. A Merry Christmas to you all. Margaret 01795 843927

Wednesday 24th December **Christmas Eve 'A TIME FOR QUIET' 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm.**

The church will be open for anyone who might like to call in for an opportunity of some quiet before the joyous hustle and bustle of Christmas Day. Please feel free to pop along to spend some time in the quiet space of St.Margaret's to either just be still for a moment or two, to light a candle for a loved one or simply to share a tea or coffee with us. Please note this is not a formal service and you are welcome to pop in at anytime during the hour.

Wednesday 24th December **CRIB SERVICE in St. Margaret's church at 5.30 p.m.** with the Rev. Julian. Come and help him to build up the Christmas scene, sing carols and enjoy the candle-light.

Wednesday 24th December **MIDNIGHT MASS in St. Margaret's at 11.30 p.m.** A special candle-lit Christmas Communion led by the Rev. Jacky.

REGULAR DATES

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 Monday 1.00 p.m. **THE LIBRARY VAN** calls at **Lower Halstow** outside the **Memorial Hall.**

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.

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 fourth Thursday of every month THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP in St. MARGARET'S CHURCH, 9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

THE REV. JACKY You may not have heard the news that the Rev. Jacky Davis will be leaving us soon to take up a post in a church in Western Australia. Those of us who have worked with her at St. Margaret's will miss her inspiration and enthusiasm and will be sorry to see her go, but we wish her well and know that others will be able to benefit from her ministry as we have done.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Alan Swift would like to thank all those who took part in the Remembrance Service. The scouts and cubs played a significant part in the service. The flag bearers were: Kieran South - Union Flag; Shaylee Norton and Byron Rosa - flag bearers; Josh Jempson - scout flag; Katie Nasthaly - cub flag; Stephen Nastaly - beaver flag.

The prayers were said by Maia Fullalove (scout prayer) and Sophie Gull (cub prayer). The Inquisitive Child was read by Ellie Hope and Rose Ridley, and The Soldier's Final Inspection was read by Oliver Tribe. Callum Pearce and Isabelle Lane laid the crosses and Poppy Ridley and Oliver Tribe laid the wreath. They all performed these duties excellently, and thank you to all the scouts and cubs who were there to support them.

The collection raised £305, which will be sent to the local branch of SAAFA.

Thank you also to all the church helpers. This service would not be possible without a great team.

May we never forget those who gave their lives, so that we are here today. Alan Swift.

and from the congregation ... Thank you, Alan, for all the time and trouble you took to ensure that our Remembrance Service was a moving and memorable occasion.

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

LOWER HALSTOW 100 YEARS AGO notes taken from the East Kent Gazette.

December 1914

Lower Halstow soldier's heroism Cpl. W. Bunting, son of W. Bunting, who keeps The Sun in the Wood, and who had worked for Eastwoods, faced certain death carrying out orders to get reinforcements and more ammunition. A week later he was wounded in the foot by a bullet and was invalided home to England. He is now in Netley hospital and is expected at Lower Halstow shortly.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Christine Fordham, 18 Cumberland Drive, Lower Halstow. Tel: 01795 844060, or email clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

Christmas Tree A new permanent Christmas tree has been planted this year, kindly paid for by County Councillor Lee Burgess through the KCC Community Funds. The lighting up ceremony will take place on Saturday 6th December at 6.15pm on the Village Green, with mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome.

Parking Issues The Council have asked Parking Enforcement Officers to visit the village to ensure that anyone infringing the byelaws or parking dangerously is dealt with accordingly.

Itinerant Traders There have been a number of itinerant traders calling on homes in the village recently. Householders are advised to check out any traders credentials and if appropriate seek other quotes from recognised companies. If you have any concerns about a caller please call the Police on 101

Policing Policy The new Community Policing model means Police will concentrate their efforts on areas where problems have been reported. Parishioners are urged to report any issues to ensure that Police time is allocated to the village if required.

MY VILLAGE TRADES

We are three Lower Halstow trades-people launching a quarterly directory of all traders who live in Lower Halstow and which will be issued to all households, being inserted in Village News, probably starting from February 2015.

The idea is to let everyone in the village know where to go if they prefer to employ a local person rather than taking 'pot luck' with the Yellow Pages or the internet, as well as providing an opportunity for our local trades-people to meet and help each other in future. To support the directory, we will also be launching a dedicated website which will provide further details of what trades are on offer within Lower Halstow and (if applicable) a link to traders' own websites. Any trade can apply to be in the directory and we are happy to hear from full time professionals, part timers as well as hobbyists and clubs. In fact the only golden rule is that you must live in the village!

We will need to make a modest annual charge in order to cover the running costs, but we will donate all profits towards the running costs of Village News.

At this stage, we only need to know if you would like to include your trade, hobby or club in the directory, so we know we have enough interest to make the idea viable.

All we need you to do is email myvillagetrades@outlook.com with your name and the type of business you run to show your interest.

Ben, Michael & Nick

MISSING CAT Esme went missing on Thursday 30th October. He normally lives with his mum, brother and sisters (Lulu, Spike, George and Kitty) and his human owner in the Crouch Hill Court area, Lower Halstow.

Esme is a large, tall, lean, all black neutered male cat who has a very long tail. He is a homey cat who likes his home comforts and has never gone missing before. Esme has no distinct markings, he is not micro chipped, he is 6 1/2 years old and does not wear a collar. Esme would not normally go to anyone else but me, he is wary of people, but not vicious. Please call 01795 841718. Thank you so much

YOUR LOCAL 'BEST ONE' VILLAGE SHOP IN BURNTWICK DRIVE – now under new management. Opening times are: Monday - Saturday 7.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. Sunday: 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. All your daily needs including milk, bread, newspapers and magazines. We are doing our best to give you good service.

NEED A TAXI? Call Charlie, your local independent taxi, on 07920 113 860 or 01795 506100. Fully licensed and insured.

GUITAR TUITION: For all levels and styles in a relaxed atmosphere. Call Jeremy on 01795 842620.

DO YOU NEED AN EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE BUILDER? I'm available for small and medium jobs - repairs, alterations and refurbishments, from hanging a door to fitting a new kitchen or bathroom. Contact Bill Ransley on 07889 600677 or 01795 843871.

PHOTO SERVICES If you have damaged or faded treasured photos, I can repair them by scanning and digital restoration. Other photo services include printing from negatives, slides and digital files with photo enhancement, archiving onto CD/DVD and bespoke picture framing. I can also provide

advice on your printing or PC problems. Contact Tony Fordham on 01795 844060 or mobile 07791 992734.

AVON CALLING For your new brochure call Kay on 07941681244.

MR. DIG-IT'S GARDEN SERVICE (formerly Lower Halstow) For one-off or regular visits call Peter on 01634 574676 or 07787 813 512.

FABULOUS FINGERTIPS Manicures, pedicures, gel polish, gel nail extensions. Fully insured. Home service available. Call Tanya on 843362 or 07876 458021 www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk

ALISON'S ALTERATIONS If it can be sewn, I'll sew it! Fix, alter, replace, zips, buttons, rips, linings, badges, smaller or larger (if possible), clothing bags, soft furnishings and house-hold linens. email: creativesewing@live.co.uk text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles

PLUMBER & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Safe registered
COMPLETE BATHROOMS SUPPLIED & FITTED
R. H .PARKER LTD
Worcester, Bosch and Valient boilers supplied and installed
from as little as £1600 with 5 & 7 year warrantee options
Kestrel's, 100 School Lane, Lower Halstow
Daniel Parker (01795) 843361 Steve Parker
07771 333084 No call out charge 07879 883153

Experienced Financial Advisor offering Pensions and Investment planning

Michael van der Straaten FPFS
Chartered Financial Planner
19 The Street, Lower Halstow
Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk
Website : www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk

Advertising rates: £1 per line for those which are for personal gain, but at the same time constitute news or provide a service for villagers. £2 per line for other commercial adverts. The P.C.C. 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 reports and news from contributors. Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments and corrections if necessary) as handed in. The editor has to assume that contributors have checked their facts and that the news is correct. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct – telephone numbers are listed on the back page.

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. Jacky Davis 842557

Jackie Swift (churchwarden) 842749

Pauline Stevens (PCC secretary) 842028

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com

Memorial Hall new bookings (Jill Peters) 844054

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

Playgroup (Heather Salisbury) 01634 233182

Yacht Club (Dave Quigley) 01795 841242

Judo Club (Jon) 07944755036.

The Parish Clerk (Christine Fordham) 844060

PCSO 57932 Matthew Link, Lower Halstow & Iwade,

101 or 01795 419116 matthew.link@kent.pnn.police.uk

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Swale Borough Council (Main office) 424341

Swale Borough Councillor for Lower Halstow & Iwade (Ben Stokes) 476979

County Councillor (Roger Truelove) roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk 425445

County Councillor (Lee Burgess) LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk

M.P. Gordon Henderson 423199 www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau 0870 1212105

Police (general enquiries) 01622 690690

Neighbourhood Watch (John Haddaway) 01634 792131

Dog Warden 077952 37479

Noise nuisance 417850 (out-of-hours 07881817601)

N.H.S. 111

Parish Council Website: 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 JANUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER.

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)

or pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

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