

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016



**Congratulations to Ella Pawsey
who celebrates her 100th birthday on February 10th.**

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN FEBRUARY

Sunday 7th February

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

Wednesday 10th February ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30 p.m. Benefice service at Lower Halstow

Sunday 14th February

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 21st February

10.00 a.m. Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 28th February

10.00 a.m. Family Time

Refreshments at 10.00 a.m.

The service starts at 10.30 a.m.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

February 7th Ursula Aylward. NO FLOWERS IN LENT

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY.**

*HERE 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 FEBRUARY and other dates for your diary.

Saturday 30th January WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE EDITH MAY SAILING BARGE -- Book your tickets now!

Sunday January 31st at 5.00 p.m. **The Chetney Marsh Lazaret** - a talk on local history tales of plague, pestilence and corruption, presented by George Peters.

Sunday February 28th at 5.00 p.m. **Further Tales From the Bargemaster** - a talk on Thames barges and bargemen, past and present with Geoff Gransden.

Entry for the talks, which includes tea/coffee and cake, is £5 for each talk, but only £8 if you will be attending both.

Saturday 13th February at 7.00 pm **FOLK AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHT**

Songs old and new, featuring new talent in the intimate setting of the Edith May. Entry £8.

Tickets from the Edith May itself, email a reservation at info@edithmaybargecharter.co.uk, or call Mike on 07824 392342

Tuesday 2nd February **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 February **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the Memorial Hall between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** No joining fee, just £1.50 for a great game of Rummikub, Euchre, Scrabble or maybe a chat with a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

Saturday 6th February **Calling all Primary School Children (4+ to 11years). BREAKFAST CLUB** at St. Margaret's Church between **9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.** Come along and enjoy a breakfast of waffles, pancakes and toast accompanied by fresh apple or orange juice.

Following a lively introduction, you can take part in a variety of games and activities linked to the morning's Bible based theme. The session concludes with a time when we share our achievements, celebrate birthdays and pray for those we love, before gathering all the things made to take home. Children need to be accompanied to and from the church by a responsible adult but are well supervised by a sufficient number of adults while there.

All involved look forward to greeting our 'regulars' but newcomers are always welcome.

Any queries to Liz Hadley (842654), Becky Ridley or Hilary Gates, (841632).

LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS

Monday 1st February – 10 minute block quilting

Wednesday 10th February – Card making

Wednesday 24th February – Jewellery making

Our meetings are informal and fun and open to all, whether you are an experienced crafter or a complete beginner. We enjoy learning new crafts and sharing ideas. 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. You can see photos of our achievements on our Facebook page at Lower Halstow Crafters.

For further details and venues contact Sue on 841730 or email sue.e.mumford@btinternet.com or Margaret on 843100

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Monthly Meeting: **Friday 12th February** **2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

Coffee Morning : **Tuesday 23rd February** **9.30 a.m.** Members £1.50; Guests £2

Ten Pin Bowling: **Tuesday 9th February** 9.45 am

Outing: **Saturday 27th February** Kew Gardens Orchid Festival

Walks 1st & 3rd Fridays - Village Hall 9.30 am

New Age Kurling 2.00 pm Monday 1st February and Friday 26th February

Tuesday 23rd February **GARDENING CLUB** at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. The talk this month is 'The History of the Royal Variety Performance' and our guest speaker is Mr Dean Caston. Please come and join us if you can. The Gardening Club try to offer a variety of topics and themes at their fourth Tuesday in the month meetings. Visitors always welcome. Cost £1 plus refreshments at 25p.

Thursday 25th February **THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP** 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 11th March *Scout group* **RACE NIGHT** in the Memorial Hall. **Doors open at 7.00p.m.** Join us for a fun family evening and help raise funds for the Scout Group. Bring your own drinks and snacks. To book, phone Mick on 842587- only £1 per person (£2 on the door). Your support is appreciated.

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.**

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends

What difference does faith in God make to life today? How can I know peace in life? What happens when we die? Is God there for me? At many different moments in life we can find ourselves with questions about life, and looking for answers to such questions that we all face. The Christian faith faces into these deep issues of life. Christians have met to worship God and grapple with these questions at churches in this area for hundreds of years. Throughout numerous turbulent times in our history, people there have found faith and strength for living.

We continue to do so still today, meeting week-by-week throughout the year, as a community of people drawn from all backgrounds seeking to be there for one another, seeking to encounter the love of God, as revealed to us by Jesus Christ, and knowing our lives changed. We believe in God who is Love, who accepts us as we are, who walks with us in life, who transforms us to be all we were called to be. In short we are about "seeing lives transformed through encounter with Jesus".

The Benefice of The Six, six village churches to the west of Sittingbourne with seven diverse congregations, offers a range of different services, different service styles - formal & informal; traditional & contemporary - details of which are given each month in village magazines or on our website.

We invite you to join us, to share with us in this journey of faith and life. If you would like to try us out why not come to any of the services, social occasions, or special events which we announce in print or on-line. So do join us, do get in touch with us for we are here to serve you. Come as you are -

everyone is welcome.

With sincere good wishes, Revd Julian Staniforth, Rector.

CONGRATULATIONS love and best wishes to Ella Pawsey who celebrates her 100th birthday on February 10th. Ella was born in Lower Halstow and has lived here all her life, taking a full part in village activities, including St. Margaret's church where she has been a regular member of the congregation. In this photo, which shows the Memorial Committee in 1968, Ella is seated first left.



WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO HELP with brass cleaning in the church?

The two ladies who have cleaned the brass in the church for many years, are thinking about giving up. Its usually done approximately once a month and it doesn't take long. Maybe two people together, like Margaret and Lynne, who cleaned on a Monday morning. Please give it some thought. Ring Jackie 842749, just to find out more, but it is really very easy and satisfying.

VILLAGE NEWS begins a new chapter in its career this month by being printed in Lower Halstow. Thank you to Tony and Angela Russell, Bill Mason and David Stevens who collected the equipment from Gillingham Methodist Church and installed it in the vestry in St. Margaret's church where it looks very much at home.

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

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Council Precept The January meeting of the Council included discussions on the amount of precept required to cover expenditure in the next financial year. Councillors decided on an increase in

the precept equivalent to approximately 74p per month for an average band D property. Councillors are considering undertaking some small projects within the village to help ameliorate the parking difficulties at Westfield Cottages and around the Three Tuns, also to improve the maintenance programme in the burial ground as well as to investigate upgrading the village footway lighting to LED lanterns. These projects are in addition to the on-going maintenance of the open spaces, allotments, burial ground, lights and play area that the Council already undertakes.

Brickfields A small memorial has been placed on the Brickfields to mark the site of some ashes. The Council does not consider the Brickfields an appropriate place for such a memorial and would be grateful if the memorial could be removed as soon as possible. The Council will arrange for the removal of the memorial during March if required.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS We celebrated Christmas with a game of Short Mat Skittles devised by Denis Stewart. It was good fun with the usual surprise winner in this instance being Joan Cotterill.

The Annual Meeting has been moved to February with the Club's birthday on the 15th.

The Lapwings made an early start with our fixtures and it is difficult to see how the season will end. On Thursday 19th December we played Hernhill Beeches A and lost every game, ends 4 – 5 against with the exception of one singles, 5 – 4, but shots were 38 – 78 against with too many 3 or 4 against. It wasn't a bad result considering most of their players played in the 1st Division last season.

We were pleased to welcome two new members to our ranks after Christmas. John Mustoo.

FOR SALE – Cox 22' motor boat. New 13.5bhp Beta Marine engine. Moored at Lower Halstow Yacht Club, 2 berths, a galley with a 2 ring hob and grill, separate flushing toilet cubicle and a large 4 person cockpit. The boat was used for local fishing trips and family days out, but a health condition means that we can no longer make use of the boat. £7,500. Photos available. For more information and to view call Will Ransley on 01795 843871, or 07889 600677 or email ransleyprojects@gmail.com

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.

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.

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: thestitchistsews@gmail.com, text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

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

WANTED Workshop and outside Space. Village-based small business looking for workshop and outside space for storage. 01795 842612 / 07795 174707.

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 Adviser 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. Julian Staniforth 227329

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 Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Ben Stokes 476979 benstokes@swale.gov.uk

Duncan Dewar-Whalley 07889 808871 duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk

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

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 MARCH
VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY.**

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!