

**LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS**

JANUARY 2017



THIRTY YEARS AGO

**On 12th January 1987 it began snowing.
When it stopped two days later the snow was so deep
that the roads were impassable and for a while
there was no way in or out of the village.
Paths and side roads had to be cleared by hand,
and the resulting heaps of snow took two weeks to disappear completely.**

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN JANUARY

Sunday 1st January

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

Sunday 8th January

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 15th January

10.00 a.m. Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 22nd January

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

Sunday 29th January

10.30 a.m. Benefice Communion at Hartlip

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

January: 1st Liz Mouland; 8th Yvonne Quigley
15th Ann Smith; 22nd Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo;
29th Ursula Aylward.

February: 5th Georgina Kindred.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON THURSDAY 12th JANUARY

*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 JANUARY and other dates for your diary.

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, 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.

Tuesday 3rd January **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 6th January **GAMES AFTERNOON** in the **Memorial Hall** between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** Games include whist, scrabble, rummy and euchre. £1.50, which includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits, There is no joining fee, so come along and enjoy a warm and welcome afternoon.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Monthly Meeting: **Friday 13th January** **2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

Coffee Morning : **Tuesday 24th January** **9.30 a.m.** Members £1.00; Guests £2

Ten Pin Bowling: **Tuesday 10th January** **9.45 a.m.** , Pentagon, Chatham

Table Tennis: **Tuesday 10th January** **2.00 p.m.**

Tuesday 24th January **2.00 p.m.**

Line Dancing: **Wednesday 11th January** **10.30 a.m.**

Wednesday 18th January **10.30 a.m.**

Walks: **1st & 3rd Fridays** - Village Hall **9.30 a.m.**

Kurling: **Monday 9th January** **2.00 p.m.**

Friday 27th January **2.00 p.m.**

Petanque: **Tuesday, 17th January** **1.00 pm.** River Valley Golf Club

Saturday 7th January **CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**. Shaun from Treecraft has volunteered to recycle our real Christmas trees. Arranged by Greening Lower Halstow who will be on hand to assist, **bring trees to playing field by 2.00 p.m.**

Saturday 7th January a **NEW YEAR FAMILY BARN DANCE** at the **Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.** Dancing starts at 7.30 p.m. with Ralph as our Barn Dance caller. **£5.00 per adult and £2.50 per child under 14 years old.** Come and enjoy our Family New Year Barn Dance, which was so popular last year. Please bring your own supper and beverage. See you there. To book tickets call Kay on 01795 844408.

Saturday 14th January Our first **BREAKFAST CLUB** of 2017 is at **St. Margaret’s Church on Saturday 14th January**. This year we shall again be meeting on the **2nd Saturday of the month**. Each session starts at 9.30am and lasts for 2 hours so children need to be collected by parents/carers at **11.30 a.m.** We cater for all Primary school children, 4+ to 11 years, but we are lucky enough to have some of our now slightly older regular attenders coming along to help. The morning starts with a continental style breakfast, followed by games and activities linked to a Bible based theme. We would love to see some ‘new faces’ as well as welcoming back our ‘regulars’. For further details contact Liz Hadley(842654), Becky Ridley (841028) or Hilary Gates (841632).

Friday 20th January YOUTH GROUP, 5.30 p.m to 7.00 p.m. All welcome, from age 11 up. This group is very informal, with a choice of things to do or not, ranging from watching a DVD, perfecting indoor putting skills, art and craft or badminton. Naturally, there are refreshments too! For more information contact the Youth Group Team: 07730893747

Saturday 28th January WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome. (There will be no whist drive in December)

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 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.

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.

PASTORAL LETTER

Happy New Year

A few weeks ago my Mum made the comment that she had stopped listening to the late news because she had realised that she was going to bed feeling anxious and distressed having heard nothing but bad things about people and how they dealt with each other, and tales of gloom about the world in general. We reflected together that the news is often disturbing and that it is easy to develop what may be a distorted view.

Very soon after this conversation I went to a folk concert to hear Martyn Joseph. For those of you who may never have heard of him he plays guitar – brilliantly – and sings - and many of his songs convey a protest against inequalities and social injustice. The content of his songs made me remember the conversation with my Mum and I was reflecting again that humanity can be cruel, greedy, intolerant, prejudiced, un-forgiving

Then Martyn Joseph made the comment that despite how the world may seem, despite how other people's actions may make us feel, despite the situations that we may find ourselves in, there is so much in life that is good, and so many people who make a difference.

Martyn Joseph is a Christian, although he did not, at that concert, say that it is God who makes the difference in people and situations. Nevertheless as I sat there listening to him and reflecting on his words I gave thanks that it is God who is the source of all good things, and that God sent Jesus because he loved the world and that it is Jesus in people who makes a difference.

I gave thanks that God remains as active in his world today as he has ever been, and that through Jesus he offers humanity a way to peace and healing - through loving and respecting others, through living as a good neighbour, through standing up for social justice....

Perhaps as we start the New Year we can look with God's compassionate heart at the world and all its people, and have new hope that in and through Jesus things may be different.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful 2017. Lis Willmet, Lay Reader.

MORE CHANGE AT ST. MARGARET'S

Some of you will already know that Jackie Swift is retiring as churchwarden at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is held in April. We will therefore be looking for a new churchwarden. Every

church should really have two, but since 1998 we have had only one person prepared to take on the job, although for short periods of time they have had help.

Not everyone realises how the church is cared for, but basically it is the churchwardens backed and supported by the parochial Church Council. The duties of churchwardens can be found on the internet. They sound formidable, but it also says that **churchwardens are not expected to do everything themselves**, but to make sure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks. With the clergy, they share the administration of the Parish, and in the care of the church buildings.

They are the legal owners of all the movable property of the Church - they are responsible for the maintenance, safekeeping and availability of all the consecrated and unconsecrated goods and ornaments; They have the right in law to remove from the Church and/or Churchyard anyone who is causing a disturbance or who threatens to do so. In this regard, they are assisted by the Sidesmen. They are members of the Parochial Church Council ex-officio.

They are responsible for all things financial but normally this is delegated to the treasurer.

They promote the whole mission of the church, which is pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Remember, no-one expect the churchwardens to operate on their own. There is always the backing and support of the Parochial Church Council.

We have been so lucky at St. Margaret's since 1998 when we have had three dedicated lady churchwardens in succession. The first was Jane Pitcher who left in 2002 to live in Scotland. Tricia Carr took her place and brought our church into the 21st century by overseeing the installation of the kitchen and toilet, keeping up with the rules and regulations regarding handicapped persons and health and safety, and then introducing chairs at the back of the church so that it became possible to have informal coffee mornings etc. Jackie Swift followed her and has worked diligently to promote the social side of church life. They have had short intervals when they have had a companion church warden, but for the most part have done the work single handed.

We have all been guilty of taking them for granted. When you go to church, whether it be for a Sunday service, a baptism or a wedding, you expect it to find that someone has unlocked the building, put the fires on if necessary and generally prepared for whatever service is to take place. Some churches have a special person – a vergger – who does these tasks, but at St. Margaret's it has been the churchwarden with sidespersons helping at the Sunday services. In Tricia's time as churchwarden there was help with the baptisms and weddings, but by the time Jackie became churchwarden there has been no such help and she has, for the most part, coped single-handedly.

You have probably guessed what is coming now. We need a churchwarden. We really ought to have two. Remember, churchwardens are not expected to do everything themselves, but to make sure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks. Last month we asked for help on the Parochial Church Council. We now ask that anyone who cares about St. Margaret's comes forward to offer help, however little that may be. Could you, for instance, assist at baptisms? There are so many ways in which a small amount of help would mean so much. A little help is worth far more than a lot of sympathy.

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.

THANK YOU so much to Ursula and her team of helpers who organised the Over 60's Christmas party in December. Once again, it was a most enjoyable occasion with good company and excellent refreshments. In particular, Ursula deserves a special mention because she recently celebrated her 80th birthday and it isn't as easy to get around as it used to be. I should know! Pauline Stevens.

2016 POPPY APPEAL. We raised £648.00 this year. A big thank you to all the villagers who gave to the Poppy Appeal this year, and to Carina Jacobs and Keren McMillan who undertook the house to house collections. Margaret Milsted-Williamson.

THANK YOU I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone involved in the Auction of Promises that took place on November 11th. We raised an incredible £4,000 on the night and coupled

with an extremely generous donation of £1,000 by Maria Dickson in memory of her husband Graham, the final total was just over £5,000. This is all due to the many people who donated fantastic pledges, bid on those pledges and contributed to the raffle. All proceeds from this event went to the breast scanner machine needed at Medway Maritime to eliminate the six week wait patients currently have to endure to find out if their cancer has spread. If anyone would like more information on this cause please contact me on 01795 842022. Carina

IS THERE A PHILATELIST IN THE VILLAGE? I have been given some stamps by my brother-in-law and I don't know if they are of any value. I don't want to take them to a dealer as I shall probably be fleeced nor do I wish to donate them to a charity as I think someone may make a personal profit from them. I do not want anything for the stamps, just to know that they have gone to someone locally. If there is any value in them perhaps the recipient would like to make a donation to the Church or Memorial Hall.
Diana, 01795 842444.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Mrs Ann Smith, 11 Cumberland Drive, Tel: 01795 842908
email clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

It has been reported at the Parish Council meeting that three boys have been playing in the middle of road at various places around the village, on their pushbikes, in the dark with no lights. This is an extremely dangerous activity both for the children and for drivers concerned.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS (Lapwings)

We are now at the half-way point in the season, having played 5 games with 3 wins, 1 drawn and 1 lost. It would seem that we will again be in contention for promotion at the end of the season with Eastling Cherries and Borden Eagles. Unlike many teams, we are lucky to have a reserve of players in the event of illness etc. Most of our club players are capable of playing to League standard. The club meets twice a week. New players are welcome and bowls are available until players find what suits them. Come and give it a try. John Mustoo.

VINYL RECORDS, CDs, AND CASSETTE TAPES URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Fenner Frost Foundation is a newly-formed charity (1167049) that will be opening a record shop in Sittingbourne High Street. The purpose of the shop is to advance the skills and education of young adults with a learning disability. Here they will be involved in all aspects of running a shop. They will be assisted to identify and source stock, serve customers, handle money and undertake general shop duties. If you have any records, tapes, or CD's that you would be willing to donate please contact Alison on 01795 843357 or 07881278689 for collection.

SUN PIER HOUSE - Enjoy riverside views, homemade cake and light lunches at this award-winning Gallery & Tearoom. Open 10am – 4pm, Tuesdays - Sundays, Sun Pier House, Medway Street, Chatham, ME4 4HF. Free parking for Tearoom customers. No disabled access. For further information please contact us 01634 812 805

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, phone: 01795 555853
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Contact me on 07824 392342 or

Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk

Website : www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk

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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

The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794

Jackie Swift (churchwarden) 842749

Pauline Stevens (PCC secretary) 842028

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 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

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

PCSO 46056708 John Cork, email 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

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 (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.

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 FEBRUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON THURSDAY 12th JANUARY

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!