

**LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS**

JANUARY 2015



**Best wishes to
the Rev. Jacky Davis
who will be leaving us soon
to take up a post in Western Australia.**

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN JANUARY

Sunday 4th January

10.30 a.m. Joint benefice Epiphany Sung Communion at Hartlip

PLEASE NOTE – THERE WILL BE NO

8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION OR

6.00 p.m. PRAISE COMMUNION.

Sunday 11th January

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 18th January

10.30 a.m. Morning Praise

Refreshments afterwards

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 25th January

10.30 a.m. Welcome service

Refreshments afterwards

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

January 4th Denise & Faye Balban; 11th Maggie Mills & Fiona Harrington

18th Liz Mouland; 25th Yvonne Quigley

February 1st Pauline Stevens.

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

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 JANUARY and other dates for your diary.

Friday 2nd January **GAMES AFTERNOON** in the Memorial Hall, **2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.** Our games include rummikub, euchre, dominoes, whist, scrabble and many other board or card games. There is no joining fee, and if you do not want to play just enjoy a chat and a cup of tea/coffee with biscuits with friends. A very warm welcome awaits all who attend.

Sunday 4th January **Reminder.** There will not be a Holy Communion service at St.Margaret's at **8.00 a.m.**

Sunday 4th January **CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING**

Greening Lower Halstow have arranged for Shaun to chip and reuse on the Brickfields. Bring real Christmas Trees to the playing field beside the Memorial Hall **before 12 noon.**

Tuesday 6th 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

Saturday 10th January Please join the Rev. Jacky for afternoon tea in the Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. We would like to wish Jacky God's Blessings, for her new ministry in Australia. Any queries, ask Jackie Swift, 48 School Lane, 01795 842749.

Wednesday 14th January **Lower Halstow Crafters News.**

We have spent a lovely year discovering unknown talents and are really looking forward to "getting stuck in" to 2015. The dates in the last newsletter have been amended and are as follows:-

Wednesday 14th January - Silk Painting

Wednesday 28th January - Informal

Monday 2nd February - Crochet

Wednesday 11th February - 'Liberty' bead necklaces

Wednesday 25th February - Informal

We will be meeting at 1.30 p.m. starting in January so we hope this will be a little easier for most folks and we look forward to having some new members join us.

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.

*Wishing Lower Halstow Crafters a Happy New Year and thanking the ladies for their kindness to St. Margaret's, by making little bags for the Christmas Christingle. They were very much appreciated.
Jackie Swift.*

UpARA (**Upchurch Active Retirement Association**) Our next events are:

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

Friday 9th January 2.00pm

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

Tuesday 27th January 9.30am until 12.30pm

Village Walks (1st and 3rd Friday)

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

Annual Subscription £15.

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

Thursday 22nd January **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.

Thursday 5th February On every **Thursday, starting from February 5th**, the Memorial Hall Committee are considering holding a **weekly Tai Chi class** for any ability from **2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.** The cost will be £5.00 per person per class. If you are interested please let Kay on 01795 844408 know. The time and date will be confirmed in the February Village News.

Saturday 21st February *Memorial Hall Committee* **QUIZ NIGHT, 7.00 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. start.** The charge will be **£5.00 per person** which includes a Ploughman's Supper. As usual, **teams of six and please bring your own beverage.**

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

On the first Sunday of every January (or nearest possible) the majority of Methodists, in the UK, carry on a tradition begun by John Wesley in 1755. The Covenant Service! This may seem like a strange obscure church tradition but it is relevant to us all as we begin a new year.

This idea of Covenant was basic to John Wesley's understanding of Christian discipleship. He saw the relationship with God in Covenant as being like a marriage between human beings (both as a community and as individuals) on the one side and God in Christ on the other (cf. Ephesians 5.21-33). The first Covenant Service, therefore, reflected the language of a marriage service e.g. The original prayer involved taking Christ as "my Head and Husband, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, for all times and conditions, to love, honour and obey thee before all others, and this to the death".

The covenant is not a contract between humans and God (e.g. provide services or goods) nor does it create a relationship with God. God has already freely made this relationship with him possible. Rather, the Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept a relationship with God and then seek to sustain it.

God loves us, even when we doubt or feel very far away. God pursues us, sent his Son to bring us into relationship with him and Jesus lay down his life that we might be God's children. This New Year, a relationship with God is available you just have to accept it.

In the Methodist baptism service there is a passage which declares that God not only knows us but loves us from the very beginning before we could ever know about it.

For you Jesus Christ came into the world;

For you he lived and showed God's love;

For you he suffered death on the cross;

For you he triumphed over death;
Rising to newness of life;
For you he prays at God's right hand;
All this for you,
Before you could know anything of it, in your baptism.
In the Methodist Covenant Prayer we accept God's love for us and recommit ourselves to God's will, whilst seeking to serve God with our whole life. We are putting the previous year behind us and entering a year of fresh faith and new opportunities.
Perhaps as you read this article you can stop and reflect on God's love for you and listen to God's voice. I have included the covenant prayer below to use in your devotions or to reflect upon.

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
**And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.**

God's blessing and a happy New Year. Rev Dr Gary Watt, Newington Methodist Church.

THANK YOU As always, because we print before Christmas week, we are unable to include accounts of the traditional Christmas events at St. Margaret's, but we know there will have been a lot of hard work among our Friends to make sure that the Christingle, Coffee and Carols and Carol Service take place with their usual hospitality and refreshments. Background work is often taken for granted, so thank you to all those of you who gave up your spare time to make Christingles, provide refreshments, serve tea/coffee etc. We couldn't manage without you.

ANTHONY LOWE Older village residents will remember Anthony Lowe who, until recently, lived at Church Cottage. It is with sadness that we have to tell you that he has died peacefully in a care home near Bath. Anthony and Jinny (Jean) came here in the late 1950s with their children, Edward, John, Catherine and Mary, when they rebuilt the derelict row of small cottages known as Church Cottages and made it into their second home. Eventually they left their town house in Blackheath to live here permanently. Anthony spent a good number of years on the Parish Council and Jinny established The Old Reed Bed Studios. A couple of years ago Jinny moved to Bath to be near Anthony. They were sadly missed by those of us who knew them, and now we send our love and sympathy to her and the family.

THANK YOU to Ursula Aylward and her team of helpers for organising the Over 60s' Christmas Tea Party. From the moment one came in the door it was obvious from the animated conversation that it was going to be an enjoyable event, and these events don't happen without a lot of forward planning and hard work. 61 people sat down the Hall to a delicious tea, and if you missed out this year, make a note to book your place next year. We always put a reminder in Village News. Thank you again, Ursula. We appreciate your dedication to this now-traditional village event.

... and thank you from Ursula to those attending the Party Once again, it was a very happy afternoon. A very big thank you for all the help I have had with shopping and food preparation, for my very happy band of helpers and Pauline for entertaining us. Have a healthy new year, Ursula.

THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR The Snow Queen arrived at 11.00 a.m. to open our Christmas Bazaar. Unfortunately she could not come on her trusty steed, Bambi, as it was raining, and Bambi does not like rain. She was welcomed by a wonderful reception of village children and adults, and as she left there was appreciative applause.

The atmosphere was full of Christmas cheer, everyone there making it a happy and special beginning to Christmas. Thank you all for your support. The Hall raised £117.00 for its upkeep, which was very gratefully received.

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*.

January 2nd A severe gale struck the estuaries of the Thames and Medway with great severity. Sad havoc was wrought among the barges by the gale which blew from the west to south west during the night. Some barges foundered, among them Osprey belonging to Eastwoods. Halstow brickworks was damaged. The fires in the continuous kilns had to be drawn and the engine stopped. Twelve electric cable poles were blown down cutting off the electricity supply (*in the brickfield*). The corrugated iron roof of the continuous kiln was lifted off by the force of the gale.

January 23rd The Working Men's Club held its A.G.M on Wednesday 13th when the vice-chairman, James Horsford, presided. The chairman, Frank Stevens of Boxted Farm, had recently died and it was said that this was not only a loss to the club but the whole parish. The balance sheet was very satisfactory. Receipts had totalled £306 8sh 9d while expenditure had amounted to only £251 19sh 6d.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS The Club celebrated Christmas with a lunch at the Tudor Rose – our thanks to social secretary, Pat Perrett.

With promotion to the 2nd Division of the Swale Winter League we are coming up against stronger opponents. Playing Bredgar of the 1st Division in a friendly we only had one win out of nine, but it was good experience. We then played Bysing Wood away, losing 14 – 0, shots 26 – 92, ends 17 – 37. We had a bad start in the singles and doubles losing all by a wide margin, but in triples and fours we started off by winning the first three ends, finishing with the same scores, 6 – 11. The triples winning 4 ends and the fours 5 ends was a big improvement. The next home game against Boughton should be a return to winning form. John Mustoo.

PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to the following for all their help:

Christmas Tree The Council would like to express their thanks to Shaun Branchett and the Stevens family for their help in planting the new Christmas tree, and to County Councillor Lee Burgess for providing a grant from his Community fund to buy the tree.

Friends of the Park The Friends of the Park are standing down after all their hard work fund raising for, and commissioning, the new play equipment. The Council are sure that villagers appreciate their efforts. Councillors are conscious of the effort and sacrifice of time and energy made by “the Friends” on behalf of the village and are very grateful.

Memorial Wood The unveiling of the new memorial and the planting of the trees was very well supported. The Council would like to thank the Friends of the Brickfields for the organisation of the trees and design of the memorial plinth, the school for allowing Year 6 children to take part and Chris

and Carol at the Three Tuns for their hospitality after the inaugural Tree Planting ceremony, as well as everyone who planted the trees.

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
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Kestrel's, 100 School Lane, Lower Halstow
Daniel Parker (01795) 843361 Steve Parker
07771 333084 No call out charge 07879 883153

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Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk
Website : 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

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 FEBRUARY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON MONDAY 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!