

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

JANUARY 2016



**A double-decker bus on the 64/65 bus route which went from
Lower Halstow to the Isle of Grain between 1964 and 1975.**

There were 18 buses daily from Monday to Friday,
17 on Saturday and 7 on Sunday – see Parish Council notes.
*The complete story of the bus service in Lower Halstow is told in detail in
'The Story of Lower Halstow' available in the church or from
Pauline Stevens at Elm Farm, £5.00 for church funds.*

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN JANUARY

Please note a change in the times.

Sunday 3rd January

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

Sunday 10th January

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 17th January

10.00 a.m. Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 24th January

10.00 a.m. Family Time

Refreshments at 10.00 a.m.

The service starts at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 31st January

10.30 a.m. Benefice Communion Service at Halstow

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

January 3rd Georgina Kindred; 10th Maggie Mills & Fiona Harrington

17th Liz Moulard; 24th Yvonne Quigley;

31st Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo.

February 7th Ursula Aylward.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY VILLAGE NEWS

IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY.

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)

or pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

*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.

Tuesday 5th 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.

Wednesday 6th January Last day for CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Bring real Christmas Trees to the playing field. Greening Lower Halstow has arranged for Shaun of Treecraft to kindly chip and reuse on the Brickfields.

Friday 8th January GAMES AFTERNOON at the Memorial Hall between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** Come and enjoy playing Rummikub, Whist, Scrabble, Euchre and Dominos, or any other card or board game. £1.50 each, which includes a cup of tea/coffee plus biscuits. Or you just might want a cup of tea etc. in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Saturday 9th January *The Memorial Hall Committee* are holding a **FAMILY BARN DANCE**, which starts at 7.00p.m. for 7.30 p.m. when dancing begins until about 10.00 p.m. **The tickets cost £5.00 adult and £3.00 young folk** 16 years old and below. Please be aware that already the tickets for this event are going like hot cakes and there is a limit on the number of dancers, so please prearrange your tickets by calling Kay on 01795 844408

LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS

Our dates for the start of the new year are:

Wednesday 13th January - Create a garden in a bottle!

Wednesday 27th January - Easter themed knitting

Monday 1st February – 10 minute block quilting

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 8th January 2.00 p.m. Members free; Guests £2

Coffee Morning : Tuesday 26th January 9.30 a.m. Members £1.50; Guests £2

Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 12th January 9.45 am

Outing: Thursday 28th January Sikh Guru Nanak, Gravesend

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

New Age Kurling 2.00 pm **Monday 4th January**

Thursday 28th January THE BRIDGE COFFEE STOP There will be **no Coffee Stop in January**. We will look forward to welcoming you when we reopen on Thursday 25th February, weather permitting. Thank you to all our faithful customers who visit throughout the year, and to all those who bake for us. We really appreciate you all!

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

Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” The reading above is written to the Jewish people; some are in exile in Babylon whilst others are living in an occupied country under enemy rule and oppression. The Prophet tells them to forget the former things and not to dwell on the past. God is going to do something new; free them from captivity. This year we also need to look for the promises of God. It is quite easy as we begin a new year to make new year resolutions and decide to make changes in our lives (i.e. go to the gym), yet never quite succeed. Perhaps it is time, in 2016, to forget former things which no longer benefit us and to stop dwelling on the past. Of course, we can still benefit from the past, as long as we don't dwell on it, and it can help us to shape God's future. However, if your life feels like a bit of a wasteland and wilderness look for God's signs of hope in your life this new year. If you pray to God, he is ready to do something new in your life and to pour streams of living water into the driest places of your soul. He sent Jesus that we might have life in the full. Yours in Christ, Rev Dr Gary Watt, Newington Methodist Church.

A NEW YEAR THANK YOU

THANK YOU on behalf of all of us to our churchwarden, Jackie Swift. Churchwardens work hard for the church, but so much of it is done behind the scenes that most of us don't appreciate just how much time and effort has been spent. We all expect the church to be welcoming and warm at this time of the year. Somebody has to organise the welcome and somebody has to get to a cold church early to put the heating on and get things ready. That somebody is Jackie, who also has to organise the welcome and be there for visitors at baptisms, weddings and other occasions. She gives up so much time for us. Thank you Jackie.

THANK YOU so much to Ursula Aylward and her helpers for once again organising a most enjoyable Over 60s' Christmas Tea Party. This now-traditional event began in 1984 when the Teens' Club, led by Ray Gurr and Ian Stride, organised a Pensioners' Tea Party and it became an annual event. Ray carried on when Ian moved away until sadly he died in 1995. Brian and Beryl Crisp carried on the event, in Ray's memory, until 2008 when they were no longer able to do so. Shirley Hogan, assisted by Ursula, took over and it became the 'Over 60s' Christmas Tea Party. Sadly Shirley died in 2013 and Ursula took up the challenge. If you are new to the village and would like to enter into traditional village life make sure you put your name down for the next Christmas. I noticed this last time that the younger 'Over 60s' were looking a little older, so I'll try to remember to mention this in October,

when Ursula asks for names, in the hope that some of you younger 'Over 60s' will come along to rejuvenate us.

We must all remember that these events don't organise and pay for themselves. Both Hall and refreshments need funding read on

Thank you and a message from Ursula ... Thank you to Mother and Father Christmas, my little elf, Isobel, and all my helpers, and special thank you to Joyce Clark who went shopping with me and without whose help I couldn't have done anything this year. We had a lot of fun and pleasure with the preparations, so a big thank you to you all. If this event is to continue I really do need more support with the fund-raising at my Coffee Afternoon and Cheese and Wine Evening. Best wishes and a very happy, healthy new year to everyone. Ursula.

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

Burial Ground The Council are continuing the work to improve the burial ground and will shortly be undertaking crown and width reduction on the holly and conifer trees, following permission from the Borough Council. It is anticipated that the work on the bank will also be scheduled early this year.

327 Bus Service Chalkwell coaches are not proving helpful in discussions about re-instating the lost services to the village. However, the Parish, Borough and County Councillors are meeting to discuss other ways of improving public transport in the village. Parishioners will be kept up to date through Village News.

Parish Support Warden **Are you passionate, enthusiastic and up for a new challenge?** Do you like meeting new people, want to learn new skills and provide valuable support to local residents? Kent County Council is piloting a new exciting Volunteer Support Warden role located in selected areas making a real difference to local communities. We are delighted that **Lower Halstow** has been selected as one of the pilot areas, and would encourage anyone interested in volunteering for this important role to contact Community Wardens on 03000 413455 or visit kent.gov.uk/communitywardens for more information. The Parish Clerk will also be able to provide more information, Closing date for applications is 1st February 2016.

MEMORIAL HALL

First and foremost The Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Committee would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year.

On behalf of all of The Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Committee, a huge thank you to all who helped the Lower Halstow Winter Wonderland Christmas Market to be such a success.

First we had the Paula Buxton Dancing Studio who gave such a fantastic opening to this event; thank you Paula and all your troupe too.

They were followed by Father and Mother Christmas who made all the children so thrilled to see them; thank you Dave and Sue for arranging them.

Our Tai Chi class demonstration was next, where even Father Christmas joined in. A big thank you to David and Maria, and also for helping to keep us fit.

An enormous thank you to Georgina who showed us how to make gorgeous pom poms from just tissue paper. Not only were the children enthralled, but the adults too.

As you were aware we were also collecting for two charities, Dream Flights for terminally ill children and the PDSA for sick animals. Through the grand effort of the Lower Halstow Cubs, Mrs. and Miss Galaxy and Jill Peters we were able to give both Charities £100.00 each. They were both so grateful.

All the stalls looked very festive. Thank you all for such an effort, but the one that caught the judges eye was the Church Stall, who received a basket of Christmas Cheer.

Vicky Smith must be given a special thank you for collecting some super prizes.
If I have left anyone out please forgive me Kay Social Secretary.

We have just created a Facebook group for the Hall. The group name is Lower Halstow Memorial Hall and it would be lovely if you could join and stay up to date with forthcoming events.

2015 POPPY APPEAL Thank you to all villagers who contributed to the Poppy Appeal. We raised, from individuals and local businesses, £442.78. A special thank you to Carina Jacobs and Keren McMillan who undertook house to house collections. Margaret Milsted-Williamson, Local Honorary Organiser.

FOR SALE Westerly 21/Warwick. Kittiwake. This has been a great boat for me to learn the art of sailing. She is a safe, reliable and tidy sailer. Totally dry. New foresail roller reefing. Raymarine autohelm, Lowrance chart plotter, Nasa sounder and DSC radio. Johnson 5hp outboard motor with long range tank and battery charging. Gimbled two ring cooker, sink and drainer. Portaloo. Ashore and paid for until 2nd April. £3500 ono. Phone 01795 844294.

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.

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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

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.**

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VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 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!