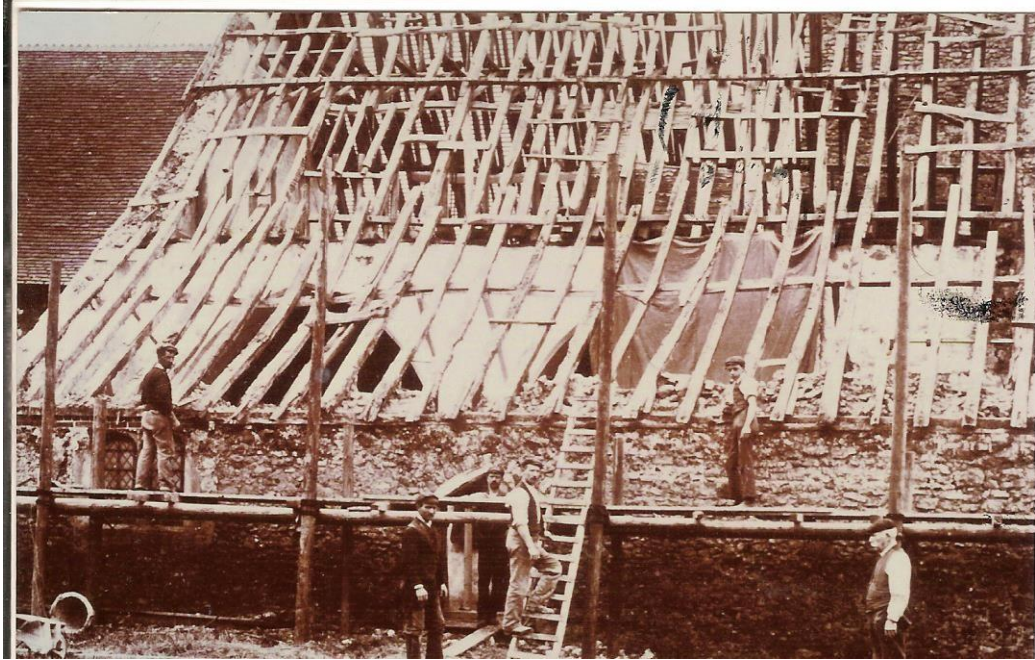


LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

JUNE 2017



110 YEARS AGO

At the beginning of the 20th century it was found that St. Margaret's church needed extensive repairs to the walls and the roof of the nave. During the summer months of 1907 the tiles of the roof and their supporting timbers were removed. The decaying timbers were replaced and the original tiles reinstated

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN JUNE

Sunday 4th June PENTECOST

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

10.30 a.m. Benefice Communion at Newington

Sunday 11th June

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 18th June

10.00 a.m. Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 21st June

7.30 p.m. Hush

Sunday 25th June

10.00 a.m. Family Time with refreshments

The service starts at **10.15 a.m.**

5.30 p.m. Ignite

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

June: 4th Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo; 11th Ursula Aylward;
18th Georgina Kindred; 25th Liz Moulard.

July: 2nd Yvonne Quigley; Ann Smith.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON MONDAY 12th JUNE.

*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 JUNE and other dates for your diary.

(A note from the editor.... Now I am no longer active around the village there are items of news I don't either know or pick up, so please do email me if you have any items for the diary or other information. I can't get to the phone very quickly these days, so it is better to email if you can.)

Friday 2nd June **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the **Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Games include euchre, scrabble, rummymcub, whist and many card and board games. Cost £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Saturday 3rd June **LOWER HALSTOW 6th ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW** at the **Memorial Hall. Registration 10.00 a.m., judging starts at 11.00 a.m, Entry £2.00 per dog per class.** Rosettes 1st, 2nd and 3rd for all classes. Trophies for Best and Reserve Best in Show.

Classes are :- Fancy Dress, Puppy, The Happiest, The Most Handsome, The Prettiest, Owner and Dog Look-a-Like, and Veteran. Weather permitting: Agility Fastest Time Agility Funniest, Dog Races. Rosette for The Dog That The Judge Would Like to Take Home. There will be stalls for the PDSA and further funds will be for the Over 60's Christmas Party. There will also be tea, coffee squash, hot sausage rolls and cakes served during the Show.

Tuesday 6th June **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 June **Breakfast Club** at **St. Margaret's Church**. As usual the session will start at 9.30 a.m. and conclude at 11.30 a.m. All Primary school children, 4+ to 11 years, are welcome to attend. As usual a continental style breakfast is followed by games and activities linked to a Biblical theme. Come along and give it a try. You will be most welcome. For further details contact Liz Hadley(842654), Becky Ridley (841028) or Hilary Gates (841632).

Sunday 11th June **Lower Halstow Yacht club** (Sheerness Road) will hold its **Annual Charity Race** followed by a BBQ, subject to weather conditions. **Start time on the club slipway is 12.30 p.m. for a race start of 1.30 p.m.** A £5 donation from participants for the event will be gratefully received and will go to a cancer charity.

The club is a self help organisation and has members with a broad variety of water activity craft including canoe, dinghy, day-sailer, cruiser, fishing boats and of course yachts.

Members volunteer the use of their boats for this annual event so come and join us and experience some time on the water.

Phone Graham Osborne (hon.sec) 01634 324517 to book a place or [for](#) more detail.

Friday 16th June **YOUTH GROUP** at **St.Margaret's Church, 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.** Please remember we meet in the church during the summer months. 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 24th June **WHIST DRIVE** in the **Memorial Hall** at **7.30 p.m.** **Entry £3.00**, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 25th June PCSO John Cork will be outside the Memorial Hall at 2.00 p.m. to meet any residents who would like to talk to him.

Tuesday 27th June Lower Halstow GARDENING CLUB Come along at 7.30 p.m. to hear Alison Ruyter, from Kent Wildlife Trust, talking about 'Medway's Living Landscape.' Visitors welcome! An interesting talk and refreshments for only £1.50. Raffle costs 50p per strip. We hope you will be able to come along and enjoy an evening with us.

Sunday 10th September The Lower Halstow Gardening Club Visit to RHS Wisley is now full, which is great. It's great value, so hardly a surprise that we now have a waiting list.

REGULAR DATES

Ladies Do-It-Yourself Keep Fit We meet regularly on a Monday evening in the village; for six weeks we will be having a movement and dance teacher for Medau sessions. These are lots of fun, fantastic music and a great way to increase fitness. These sessions will cost £5 per person and places are limited. When we are not having a medau evening, sessions are £2 and in the summer they are free! If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Liz on 07730893747 / 01795 842272.

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 and 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 or Jo on 841642.

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

What do you see?

A few years ago I was witness to two separate burglaries and had to give statements to the police. What had I seen? Recalling the timeline and detail was, on the face of it, straightforward but at an identity parade several weeks later I found I was unable to pick out the chief suspect or accomplices. What do you see? This is a question God asks of prophets Jeremiah and Amos in the Old Testament books which bear their respective names.

Their various answers are interesting: "... a branch of an almond tree", "... a boiling pot", "... figs", "... a plumb line.", "... a basket of summer fruit." God's voice replies to tell Jeremiah and Amos what

these seemingly ordinary everyday objects show us about God – and so are the beginnings of theological reflection and a model for us today...

The first warm(ish!) day of the year caught me a little by surprise. Walking through Hartlip village in late February I noticed for the first time this spring, crocuses, miniature daffodils, birdsong and buds. It was as if God was saying, “Yes, it has been a long winter but I have been here, in the midst of you all along.” Next to the churchyard the sound of school children playing in their lunch break added to the sense of outrageous, abundant life – a joy to be alive.

Paying attention to our surroundings was a recurring theme of one of my tutors at theological college: he encouraged his students to “notice what you notice”. I’ve tried to do this, whether to ask questions of others and of God, to be more alert to words, signs, sounds and smells, and to be a more conscientious listener.

God has plenty to show us when we open our eyes and pay attention to what is around us, whether in the joy of creation, blatant injustices we have become accustomed to, the needs of our neighbours, or opportunities for community life inviting a response. So what about you, what do you see?

Deacon Pru Cahill

THANK YOU from Jackie Swift

On my retirement as churchwarden to St. Margarets Church I have so many people to thank. Firstly Pauline Stevens, Tricia Carr and Alan Swift, being the mature members of St Margaret’s. Their help and guidance has been invaluable. Many thanks go to the people of the village, for sewing, knitting, cake making etc.. Thank you to Liz Mouland for her work in keeping the “Friends of St Margaret’s” going, with all her fund raising. Thank you to the P.C.C., and I now wish them well for their new challenge. The vicars have always been ready to guide and support me, so thank you to Rev. Julian, Rev. Mark, Rev Ron, and the clergy team.

Thank you for all the kind words I have received, making me feel quite humble

Finally I wish the two new churchwardens, Chris Mayes and David Hadley, a successful and enjoyable term of office. Please do support them and your village church.

Another thank you from Pauline Stevens. I didn’t know that the scouts would be at the St. George’s day service at St. Margaret’s, which was my last day as organist there. It was a lovely surprise and I thought it so appropriate because all but the three first years of my teaching life were spent at Lower Halstow school where I enjoyed the company of children for 50 years. I have many happy memories of both the school and St. Margaret’s, mostly of hilarious times when things didn’t always go according to plan. Thank you for the kind words written on the card given to me. What a way to go!

THANK YOU from Liz Mouland

Dear Everyone,

I hope like me you were all delighted with the turn out on Saturday 29th April in support of our first sale of the year. Again we welcomed new faces - which is really pleasing; but it is also lovely to welcome regular faces too.

We also had new helpers so please do pass on our thanks to those who were new to this.

As you know the primary object of these events is to have the doors of the church open, and that money raised is an added bonus. Given the concerns of the treasurer at the APCC meeting, it is pleasing to note that the refreshments received their highest total to date, £105, and the overall sum was £312.

On that basis, I think we can confidently go ahead with a summer sale at the beginning of July, before the school holidays, as well as our usual Christmas sale in November.

Thank you very very much for all your support and help.

At the A.P.C. meeting concern about the church income was raised. If anybody is interested, perhaps 'Friends' could organize a quiz night in the church and a film night? Let me know how you feel.

Thank you again. Liz

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 Mrs Ann Smith, 11 Cumberland Drive, Tel: 01795 842908

email clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

Council Vacancy There is a vacancy on Lower Halstow Parish Council. Anyone interested in becoming a Councillor should send their details to the Clerk with a short CV including a brief statement of the skills and interests you feel you could contribute to the work of the Council. If you require any further information or wish to apply for the position please contact the clerk at clerk.lhpc@gmail.com. Closing date for applications is Friday 23rd June 2017.

Best front Garden Competition Following the success of last year, the Parish Council plans to hold another Best Front Garden Competition, and now is the time to start planning on how to make your own front garden a 2017 winner! As with last year, judging will take place throughout July and prizes will be awarded in August by members of the Parish Council. Again, we will be presenting Dobbies vouchers worth £50, £25 and £10 to the best three. Every front garden in the parish, large or small, will be automatically entered, provided it can be clearly seen from a public road or path. That little extra effort could well be worth your while and will certainly give pleasure to those passing by, while making our village a more beautiful place in which to live. Happy gardening! Sue Hartfree.

From Your Lower Halstow Flood Wardens

We would appreciate your kind assistance in our quest to prevent any future flooding within our village. If you know of any blocked road drains near you please report it, either by telephone on 03000419191 Monday to Friday, or email [<http://www.kent.gov.uk/>]www.kent.gov.uk, then go to Road/Travel, on to Report a Problem, then report the problem (i.e. blocked drain) as instructed. Calling all land owners with OPEN drainage on their land, please make sure they are kept clear at all times.

Although we have just had the driest winter for a long time, heavy down-pours for just a few days can lead to flooding within the Halstow village, so please be diligent with the above requests.

Thank you - Roger Elkington, Karen Thorpe and Kay Howard-Challis,

Lower Halstow Memorial Hall will be holding its **Annual General Meeting on the 11th July at 7.30 p.m.** All welcome. As usual we are looking for new committee members and helpers to help shape the village hall and be more connected; it does not take up too much time (1-2 hours a month). Anyone who uses the hall on a regular basis can have a representative on the committee, so please can I have any nominations from any representatives. I would especially like to hear from the Gardening Club which at present does

not have a voice on the running of the hall.

If you need further information please contact Kerry on 842234 or by email lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com

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

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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

Chris Mayes (churchwarden) cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com 841425

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 JULY
VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON MONDAY 12th JUNE.**

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!