

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

MARCH 2017



**Ella Pawsey's Halstow friends wished her
a Happy 101st Birthday last month.**

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN MARCH

Wednesday 1st March ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30 p.m. Communion at Upchurch

Sunday 5th March

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

Sunday 12th March

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Sunday 19th March

10.00 a.m. Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 26th MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.00 a.m. Family Time with refreshments

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

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

March: No flowers in Lent.

April 2nd : No flowers in Lent

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SUNDAY 12th MARCH.

*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 MARCH 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 or Jo on 841642.

Friday 3rd March **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the **Memorial Hall, 2.00 p.m – 4.00 p.m.**

We play whist, rummy, euchre, scrabble and most card or board games. Price of £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Tuesday 7th March **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 11th March **QUIZ NIGHT** at the **Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. £5.00 per person with teams of 6 or under at £5.00 per person.** Please bring your own supper and beverage.

Friday 17th March **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 on 07730893747

Sunday 26th March **MOTHERING SUNDAY SPECIAL SERVICE AT ST. MARGARET’S, 10.00 a.m.**

A message from Jackie Swift

Thinking of Mothering Sunday, when I was a child living in Bredhurst, before the Sunday service. mums and children would go to the woods and collect wild flowers. In those days it was primroses and violets, to be made up into little posies. It was a tradition in the village, with many people attending the Mothering Sunday service. The church side sadly seems to have dwindled since then, so we would like to remind all of you that St. Margaret’s has a very welcoming service planned - making “things” for the children, songs we know, refreshments, and, maybe, a glass of sherry. Please do bring along older ones in our families or perhaps a neighbour, who can remember Mothering Sunday but who has been missing out on this special day. We would be delighted if you could put this date in your diaries and help to keep these old traditions, and our church, going, and we would be so pleased if you came along to join us.

(You may find it daunting to find the church door closed because the weather is inclement or the wind blowing. If I reach the church door, with no-one else in sight, it always surprises me to find such activity and warmth inside, so don’t be wary of coming in. We are there.)

... and finally some information from Hilary Gates

Today churchgoers tend to worship at their nearest parish church or ‘daughter’ church. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return home once a year to attend a service at their original home or ‘mother’ church. It became the custom that each year in the middle of Lent everyone would visit their ‘mother’ church, and this became an occasion for family reunions when children, often as young as ten years old and who were working away from home, returned home for the day to attend a

service at their 'mother' church. This led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants or apprentices, to be given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked home along the country lanes children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or to give their mothers as a small gift.

Tuesday, 28th March. LOWER HALSTOW GARDENING CLUB at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be **Roy Ingleton** who is giving a talk on '**Crime and Punishment in Bygone Kent**'. As a retired policeman he is well informed on this subject and it promises to be an interesting and unusual talk. We very much welcome visitors, costing only £1.50 which includes refreshments. There will also be a raffle. We look forward to seeing you.

Saturday 1st April WHIST DRIVE (*this is the March Whist Drive!*) in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 29th April WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.

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.

PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS The daffodils in the orchard in front of Elm Farm house (no-through-road off Vicarage Lane) are an old, late-flowering variety but they are usually in bloom by the end of March when they will be available to anyone who would like to support church funds by posting a donation in Elm Farm house front door letter box. This year the first £50 will be donated to St. Margaret's Flower Fund and the rest to the church Heating Fund. Pick as many daffodils as you like, but, as always, remember that there may be poorly sheep and lambs in this orchard, so we ask that you shut the gate if you find it closed, keep children away from sheep and lambs and please don't bring dogs into the orchard.

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

The Parish Council is currently promoting a 'Village Spring Clean' as a step towards enhancing the appearance of Lower Halstow. To achieve this end, we're asking everyone to join in and spend a little time in tidying and weeding their front gardens, cutting back any overgrown shrubs and trees, and also by removing rubbish and unused builders' materials etc. We do hope that all members of the community will join us in making our village a more a more attractive place in which to live.

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
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

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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

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 APRIL VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SUNDAY 12th MARCH.

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!