

**LOWER HALSTOW**  
**VILLAGE NEWS**

**MARCH 2014**

Photo by John Knight

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

## SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN MARCH

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

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

6.00 p.m. Praise Communion

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist and Ashing at Upchurch

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

10.30 a.m. Welcome service

*Refreshments afterwards*

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

7.00 p.m. Induction and Licensing of

The Rev. Julian Staniforth at Newington

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

10.30 a.m. Morning Praise

*Refreshments afterwards*

4.00 p.m. Evensong

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

*Refreshments afterwards.*

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Family Service

*Refreshments afterwards.*

### ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

March: 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz Mouland.

No flowers in Lent

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL VILLAGE NEWS  
IS NOON ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH.**

**E MAIL ADDRESS [Pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto: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 MARCH** and other dates for your diary.

**Note from the editor.** When saving emails for Village News to my Village News folder my computer is now frequently telling me that the item has already been saved. On more than one occasion I have believed this, which would account for missing items which have not been included in Village News simply because they were not in the folder when I checked to see that I had included all that had been sent to me. The problem has arisen because more and more contributors are using 'Village News' or 'For Village News' as a subject for their email. It would help tremendously if the subject could be relevant to the content of the email rather than the fact that it is for Village News.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March** **BREAKFAST CLUB in the church at 9.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m.** We invite all junior school children to join us for a mixture of a yummy breakfast, followed by a Bible theme which is then translated into craft, art, model making, story and game. We look forward to welcoming you all. Any queries: Revd. Jacky 01795 842557 or Liz on 01795 842654.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March** **INDOOR CRAFT AND BOOT FAIR** at the Lower Halstow **Memorial Hall** **between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.** Tables cost £6.50 each plus a Bargain Board costing £1.50 for each advertisement (this is for items too large to bring to the hall). Brunch and Teas etc. will be available. For telephone bookings call Kay on 01795 844408 or Lynne on 01795 843679. A very warm welcome awaits all.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** **DOMALEE AFTERNOON TEA** at **2.00pm in the Memorial Hall**. Entry is £1.50. There is always a generous raffle and Hoy Bingo (great fun and quick to play). Come and join us.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March** **TALES FROM THE BARGEMASTER** on board the **Edith May** (end of Lapwing Drive) **6.00 p.m.**

Geoff, the master of the historic Thames Barge, the Edith May will give a talk on the history and restoration of the Edith May and the new arrival, the Westmoreland, which is currently moored in Lower Halstow Creek. Entry £5, to include tea/coffee and cake. All proceeds to go to the Friends of the Brickfields. Tickets from the Edith May itself (visit the barge or email a reservation at [info@edithmaybargecharter.co.uk](mailto:info@edithmaybargecharter.co.uk)) or call Judy Telford on 0792 6354232 or 01795 844058.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** The Revd Julian Staniforth, currently serving near Whitstable, is to be installed as the new rector of the Benefice of the Six, which includes this village. The service will be held at Newington Church at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome to attend, as we greet Julian and Andrea Staniforth on the start of a new chapter in the life of our churches and the villages that they serve.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March** **CASH BINGO** for all held in the Lower Halstow Memorial Hall between 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. It is free to enter, and then £1.00 per bingo card, all bingo money collected per game, 50% going towards the upkeep of the Village Hall and 50% going to the winner or winners (this is on each full house bingo game). We are hoping to have about 6 or more separate games of a full house during one afternoon. Do come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun, maybe you might be a lucky winner. Tea/coffee and a biscuit @ 50p will be available.

**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March** **GARDENING CLUB** We will be meeting in the **Memorial Hall** **commencing at 7.30 p.m.** We have a speaker, Ms. Janet Bryant, coming to give a talk on 'The Thrifty Gardener'. We should come away with lots of ideas on how we can be more thrifty in our own gardens. Guests are very welcome to join us for the evening for £1 and refreshments are 25p. A raffle will be held.

We are arranging a day outing to **Arundel Castle and Grounds**. This will be on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> June**. We will travel by Chalkwell Coaches, leaving the village at **9.00 a.m.** and leaving for the return journey at 4.30 p.m. The cost for the day is **£25 per person** which includes the coach travel and a Gold entry ticket to Arundel Castle and Grounds. We have some seats available for non-members and if you would like to book seats please contact Yvonne Griffin, 2 Burntwick Drive, tel. no. 844294, with a £5 deposit for seat. We look forward to an enjoyable day out.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March COFFEE STOP in St Margaret's Church. 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.** and every fourth Thursday in the month. If you haven't visited us before, a warm welcome awaits, with hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and savouries, toasted sandwiches etc. There are toys, books and activities for toddlers in the children's corner, and we also have a high chair. So why not come and check us out - we'd love to meet you. From the Coffee Stop Team.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March MOTHERING SUNDAY** Although this is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, it has been decided that all 6 of our churches will hold their own service that day. Lower Halstow's will be at **10.30 a.m.** with gifts for all mums. Please bring your mum or mum figure with you to the service (and grandmas) and let us thank God for them all. Lots of children's participation and lovely refreshments after! Come and be spoiled!

### **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.**

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**Our new rector** We look forward to welcoming our new Rector, Julian Staniforth, who, whilst overall in charge of our six churches, will be living in Newington at the newly named 'Rectory' in Church Lane. There will be a special service to licence him by the Bishop on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March in Newington Church. You are all welcome to join us!

Rain has caused major disruption country-wide. We have had rain-related problems here, some visible but others unknown generally and therefore given no thought. Jackie Swift, one of our churchwardens, tells us ...

A gentleman had requested to be buried in the countryside - no better place than Lower Halstow. When Terry the grave digger, a very dedicated and experienced man, started to dig the grave, he got so far, only to find water was coming in, so he decided to stop. He returned two days later on the day of the burial to complete his task, but the water was still coming in fast. He managed to complete the digging of the grave, but had to bale out the water frantically - bucket after bucket. This he did without complaining, being a professional and caring person, and finished bailing only seconds before the service at the graveside was due to start. Thanks to his care and dedication the service was able to take place with dignity.

## **POWER CUT AT CHRISTMAS** ... A message from the Rev. Jacky ...

### **Information for you all who suffered power cuts over Christmas**

We can all reclaim £75.00 per household for the power cuts on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day which in Lower Halstow started at 4.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and finished at 8.30 a.m. Christmas morning. The number to ring is 0800 028 4587, (UK powernetworks). You have to wait for the usual 'blurb' to finish and then a rather muffled message talking about the recent storms and how claims are being dealt with, but that is not this claim. Wait to speak to an advisor.....I waited for 2 minutes. This is a special claim for all those who had no power for all or part of Christmas Eve/Christmas Day which we suffered here in Lower Halstow, and that is why they are offering this compensation - because it was Christmas! You can also go online to [ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://ukpowernetworks.co.uk) to claim. I did it by phone and it was very easy and they are perfectly willing to accept the claims. I was told to expect a cheque within 10 days. I asked how long we have to claim and the young man said that it was probably 3 months but it could be extended. Please pass this on to all whom you know had these power cuts over Christmas, especially any of our older folk.

**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, tel: 01795 844060, or email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

**Sunday Bus Service** The Sunday bus service is to be withdrawn at the end of March. The service is heavily subsidised and the service has fallen a victim to budget cuts by KCC. The Parish Council are in touch with the County Council about the issue, but the prospects of getting the service re-instated are limited.

**Memorial Wood** The response to the idea of a Memorial Wood has been positive. The Council will be consulting with the Friends of the Brickfields on the way ahead for the project.

**Parking on verges** There have been a number of concerns about cars being parked on the grass verges in the village. The verges in the centre of the village have been planted with bulbs and residents are asked to ensure that they and their visitors park considerately. The Council have asked the Police for advice on how to deal with offending vehicles.

**Breach Lane** Motorists are advised that the carriageway on the left hand bend, just past Westfield cottages, when heading towards the A2, is in a vulnerable state. KCC are dealing with the matter, but due care and attention is recommended when heading out of the village.

**Diary of Village Events** The Parish Council would like to maintain a diary of village events on the Council website, to aid collaboration and avoid clashes. Please email details to the Clerk of any events planned for the next year for inclusion in the diary.

**Annual Meeting of the Parish** The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall.

**County Councillor Surgery** Cllr Lee Burgess will be holding a surgery on Monday 24 March from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. at The Three Tuns for any residents who wish to raise concerns or queries.

## **THE BRICKFIELD**

There are very few wild spaces left in Kent but we are lucky enough to have one right on our doorstep, a place for us all to enjoy. 67% of village residents taking part in a survey said they valued the nature / wildness and 27% the peace and quiet - a place to escape the noise and hustle.

A number of birds think the same. We have several species here which are in rapid decline in this country; birds such as the chiffchaff, willow warbler, nightingales and the whitethroats all of which nest on or near the ground. We have moorhens, reed warblers and water rails nesting among the reeds. Other birds such as cuckoos and turtle doves come here every summer to breed, all need our help to survive, hence the work the Friends group have undertaken to improve habitat as well as keep the paths open for people from the village to use.

The Brickie is also, understandably, a favourite place for dog walkers but we do need to look after the

wild life too so please could you keep your dogs on the paths and out of the cover, from mid - April until August? Please also be considerate towards other Brickfields users - keep your dogs under control and please, please pick their mess up. Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfield.

### **BRICKFIELD TO BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2014**

There will be a guided daytrip from the village to the Somme area on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July. This will be an opportunity for anyone who wants to know about the Great War and see the ground on which the most famous battle in British history was fought.

Leaving from The Three Tuns, we will head down to the Channel on a luxury coach for a crossing in the tunnel. As we travel south east from Calais we will see the Loos and Arras battlefields, arriving in the Somme area just before lunch time. We will start at Pozieres and the huge Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselles which erupted at the start of the battle on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. After some lunch we will visit the imposing Thiepval Memorial. Here we will see the names of John Baseden and Samuel Crane inscribed among the 73,000 who died and have no known graves.

Then we'll see some original trenches in Thiepval Wood as the custodian of Ulster Tower guides us through the 3 month struggle to take the village and Schwaben Redoubt

We'll then travel along the line of advance towards Bapaume and see the Butte de Warlencourt where the battle ended in November.

One of our villagers, Edward Smith, was mortally wounded at Gueudecourt in October 1916. Armed with trench maps, GPS and war diaries we will walk across the battlefield to see why the attack failed on this now peaceful spot. The last 2 visits to this battlefield have revealed a German bayonet and a Lee Enfield rifle.

On our journey we will pay our respects to villagers Charles Whitnell and Thomas Sifleet by laying wreaths at their graves.

We will arrive back at The Tuns in the evening to finish the day with a toast to the men of Lower Halstow who fought during the Great War.

All the areas visited will be easily accessible with a minimal amount of walking over easy ground (not muddy fields!).

The cost will be £45 per person and a £20 deposit is required when booking. If there is any surplus it will be donated to the Friends of the Brickfields.

For details please contact Mick Mills at either 21 Crouch Hill Court, [eastkent@live.co.uk](mailto:eastkent@live.co.uk) or 01795 842177. Bookings can also be made at The Three Tuns.

### **WESTMORELAND TRUST**

The Westmoreland has been moved from her berth at Otterham to the Edith May's mooring buoy in Lower Halstow creek. We are now urgently raising funds to cover the cost of the tow and insurance. If you can help please contact 01634 365343.

The Heads of Terms agreement has been signed by the Parish Council at their February meeting and Westmoreland will lay on the mooring until the Lease Agreement has been drafted and signed.

### **PHOTOS NEEDED** - request from the editor.

It would be helpful to have a supply of photos which could be used for the cover of Village News at different times of the year. They can be sent to Pauline at [pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com). It would also be helpful to have photos taken after the recent gales and heavy rain. We already have photos of the flooded cricket pitch, but would welcome any taken at the seawall etc.

### **MEMORIAL HALL**

Despite the weather there were nine tables at the Quiz on 8<sup>th</sup> February. It was an enjoyable evening with the Question Master, Steve Gates, having to contend with a boisterous crowd, especially when it came to the answer being in miles or kilometres. The date for the next Quiz will be arranged in either May or June.

### **LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS**

The Club celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, attended by 18 players. The cake was, as usual, decorated by Sylvia Smitherman and our oldest member and life vice president Wyn Smith cut the cake. Wyn joined in the first year and, until she suffered a shoulder injury, was one of our best players.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February the Lapwings played Newington Nomads A losing 12 – 2. This was rather disappointing because in the Singles and Doubles we were leading at the half way point, losing in close results. It was a different story in the Triples and Fours where the home-side advantage allowed them to build up the head and it was difficult to find a way through to the jack. Result: lost 5 games to 1, points 12 – 2, aggregate **Tony**

**PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS** The daffodils in the orchard in front of Elm Farm house (no-through road off Vicarage Lane) are generally in bloom at the end of March or early April. They are available to anyone who would like to support church funds by posting a donation in the front door letter box. This year we need to supplement the Flower Fund so that we can ensure there will be funds available to the altar flower ladies when they have to purchase flowers for the church. 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.

**YOUR LOCAL 'BEST ONE' VILLAGE SHOP IN BURNTWICK DRIVE** Opening times are now: **Monday: Saturday 7.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. Sunday: 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.**

**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.

**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](mailto:creativesewing@live.co.uk) text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853  
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles

**NEED A RELIABLE LOCAL CLEANER?** I am a mature lady living locally, with many years experience as a cleaner. Testimonials available. Call Bernice on 07756 326694

**CHILDREN'S BALLET & TAP CLASSES** at the Memorial Hall. Book your FREE TRIAL with Miss Steph on 07898207973".

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Email : [michael.vanderstraaten@sjpg.co.uk](mailto:michael.vanderstraaten@sjpg.co.uk)

Website : [www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk](http://www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk)

**IWADE PHARMACY** Iwade Village centre, Iwade, ME9 8SH. Tel no: 01795 439368. Fax no.01795 477641.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am - 6.30pm (closed for lunch 1.30pm – 2.00pm)

Saturday 9.00am -1.00pm. Sunday – closed.

**Advertising rates:** £1 per line for those which are for personal gain, but at the same time constitute news or provide a service for villagers. £2 per line for other commercial adverts. The P.C.C. reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable.

**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. Jacky Davis 842557

Jackie Swift (churchwarden) 842749

Liz Hadley (churchwarden) 842654

Pauline Stevens (PCC secretary) 842028

Memorial Hall (John Mustoo) 843681

[lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

Memorial Hall new bookings (Jill Peters) 844054

The school 842344

The Three Tuns 842840

Mother & Toddler Group 843792

Short Mat Bowls (John Mustoo) 843681

Cricket Club (Mark Stevens) 842090

Beaver Cub Scout Group (Dave Giles) 843193

[1stlowerhalstowscouts@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 (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. Direct 0845 4647  
Parish Council Website: [www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://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 WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> 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!