

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

MARCH 2015



Photo: Stephen Murphy

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN MARCH

Sunday 1st March

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

6.00 p.m. Informal Praise Communion

Sunday 8th March

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 15th March MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.00 a.m. Family Service

Special refreshments afterwards

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 22nd March

10.30 a.m. Welcome Service

Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 29th March PALM SUNDAY

10.00 a.m. Family Service

Refreshments afterwards

HOLY WEEK

Monday 30th March 7.30 p.m. Compline

Wednesday 1st April 7.30 p.m. Compline

Friday 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY

10.30 a.m. All-age Service. Walk of witness from Upchurch starting at 9.30a.m.

Saturday 4th April EASTER EVE

7.30 p.m. 'Light the Fire' service

Sunday 5th April EASTER DAY

6.00 a.m. Sunrise Service + Communion

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

April 5th Easter.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL VILLAGE NEWS

IS NOON ON THURSDAY 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.

Tuesday 3rd 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

THE CRAFT GROUP rounded off 2014 with a lovely lunch at The Thee Tuns, seems such a long time ago now. We got off to a cracking start in the new year with several new ladies joining us. In January we had a go at silk painting which proved very popular and rewarding as our items looked most professional. At the start of February we had a crochet work shop with those more experienced sharing their knowledge with those of us just starting out on the crochet ladder. We plan another such session in March. At our last meeting we made Liberty fabric necklaces which are most attractive and would make lovely gifts.

Our meeting on 2nd March has been cancelled so, with a slight reshuffle, our dates going forward are as follows:-

Wednesday 4th March - Easter chicken making - simple hand sewing or machine skills at sue's.

Wednesday 18th March - Crochet - all abilities at Margaret's

Monday 30th March - Informal meeting at Theresa's. Bring along anything you want to work on.

Wednesday 8th April - Candle making at Janet's.

Full details and pictures of our "achievements" can be found on our Facebook page at LH Crafters. If you would like to join us you will be most welcome. For more information contact Margaret on 01795 843100 or Babs on 01634 786922. Details of any materials needed will be emailed to our members so if you would like to take part please let us have your contact details in advance.

Thursday 5th March Lower Halstow's Memorial Hall Committee are delighted to be holding a **TAI CHI** demonstration by David Landers and his wife Maria **in the Memorial Hall from 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.** They will tell you a little of the history of Tai Chi and the health benefits Tai Chi can promote for all sorts of different disabilities. After this demonstration we are hoping to hold future Tai Chi classes each week in the Hall, so please come along to this free introductory class, and find out if it will benefit you.

Friday 6th March **GAMES AFTERNOON at the Memorial Hall from 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock.**

Games include Rummikub, Euchre, Whist, Scrabble, Dominoes and many other card or board games. No joining fee - just £1.50 for a cup of tea/coffee plus biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Sunday 15th March **MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE at 10.00 a.m. at St.**

Margaret's church. Welcome to our special service when we hope as many of you, especially families, will join us to say thank you for our mothers and those who care for us. The service will take no longer than an hour. We will be singing songs that you know and mothers will receive the traditional small bunch of flowers. In the past we have been delighted to include thoughts or poems written by the children about their mums, and we would like to do the same this year, but include adults as well as children, so if you would like to take part in the service in this way your contributions will be very welcome. Just bring them along with you. Please don't be put off by the thought of reading them aloud yourself. There are plenty of us who will do it for you. We will be having special refreshments after the service, including a glass of sherry as well as tea/coffee so please do come along and then go home with an especially warm feeling on a special day. Remember that we all need a little 'mothering'.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

As of 1st March annual subscriptions became due at £15, the same as last year. Obviously it is necessary to be fully paid up to maintain your membership. You can even pay early if you like! Hopefully everyone will sign up again, but if you decide not to continue with us it will be very helpful if you can let the committee know, as we do have a waiting list of over 30 people eager to join us.

Our next events are:

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

Friday 13th March – 2.00pm

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

Tuesday 24th March 9.30am until 12.30pm

Village Walks (1st and 3rd Friday)

Outing: Saturday, 21st March Thriplow Daffodil Festival

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

Tuesday 24th March GARDENING CLUB at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Victoria Golding and she will speak about 'Wildlife on your doorstep - the work of the Kent Wildlife Trust'. Visitors are always welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday 26th March 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.

Saturday 28th March A CRAFT and TABLE TOP MARKET is being held in them Memorial Hall starting at 11.00 a.m until 2.00 p.m. To book a table please call Kay on 01795 844408.

Tuesday 7th April Parish Council THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH will be held. Please put the date in your diary now and watch out for full details on the website or in the village notice-boards

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.**

WHY WOULD I WANT TO GO TO CHURCH?

What difference does faith in God make to life today? How can I know peace in life? What happens when we die? Is God there for me? At many different moments in life we can find ourselves with questions about life, and looking for answers to such questions that we all face. The Christian faith faces into these deep issues of life. Christians have met to worship God and grapple with these questions at St Margaret's Church in Lower Halstow for hundreds of years. Throughout numerous turbulent times in our history, people there have found faith and strength for living. We continue to do so still today, meeting week-by-week throughout the year, as a community of people drawn from all backgrounds seeking to be there for one another, seeking to encounter the love of God, as revealed to us by Jesus Christ, and knowing our lives changed. We believe in God who is Love, who accepts us as we are, who walks with us in life, who transforms us to be all we were called to be.

St Margaret's is part of the benefice of The Six, which consists of six village parishes in the surrounding area. The benefice offers a range of different services, different service styles - formal & informal; traditional & contemporary - details of which are given each month in the various magazines, and, for St Margaret's Church, Village News.

We invite you to join us, to share with us in this journey of faith and life. If you would like to try us out why not come to our informal monthly Welcome Service on the 4th Sunday at 10.30 a.m. or our Praise Communion at 6.00 p.m. on 1st March. So do join us, do get in touch with us for we are here to serve you. Come as you are. Everyone is welcome. Julian.

St. MARGARET'S CHURCH DESPERATELY NEEDS SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE OVER AS TREASURER. The Parochial Church Council are very concerned that there is no-one who can take over as treasurer from Alan Swift who has done an excellent job for a good number of years and will be retiring in the near future. We need a volunteer with knowledge of financial book-keeping who would be prepared to help us out. You wouldn't have to commit yourself to attending church services on a Sunday, although it helps tremendously to have some inside knowledge. We are hoping that there will be someone in the village who is unknown to us but has the welfare of the church at heart. If you can help us please could you contact Alan Swift (present treasurer) or Jackie Swift (churchwarden) at 48 School Lane, or telephone 842749.

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*.

March 13th. It is many years since the villagers of Lower Halstow have had the opportunity of listening to so good a concert as that which was given in the school on Wednesday. The proceeds will be used for the purchase of linen material for use in St. Barts. Hospital. The company of artistes came from Sittingbourne and Milton and included two singing stars of the 4th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Sergeant Major S. Bennett and Sergeant Major J. Hayes.

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Pavements are for People The Council, following complaints, have been reminding those who park on pavement near the Three Tuns that this is against the law. However Councillors have noted with concern that local residents appear to be parking on the pavements too. The Council are anxious that pavements should be kept clear for pedestrians. They will be asking the authorities to take this matter further, and residents will open themselves to prosecution if they continue to park on pavements. Please think carefully about where you park your car.

Elections – Your Village Needs You! Parish Council elections will be held in conjunction with national elections on Thursday 7th May. Anyone (18 or over) who is resident in the Parish, or has a business interest here, is entitled to stand for election. Nomination papers are available now from Swale Borough Council, Electoral Services, (417558). If you want to know more, there is an awareness event being held on 18 March at 6.30 p.m. at The Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham. Anyone is welcome to attend. The Clerk can answer any specific questions about this Parish Council.

Emergency Plan The Council are drawing up an Emergency Plan to facilitate local response to any village emergencies eg. severe weather conditions, power failures and similar events. Over the next few months Councillors will be seeking information about those in the village who are particularly vulnerable at such times. In the meantime the Council are creating a directory of villagers who own equipment that the Council could call on in an emergency eg. chainsaws, 4x4s, diggers, generators etc. Please contact the Clerk if you are able to help in this way.

Keep Lower Halstow Tidy! Parishioners are asked to help keep the village tidy, by putting litter in the bin and clearing up after dogs.

Poor Mobile Phone Reception? Please contact your supplier to encourage them to improve reception in the village.

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELD

Firstly, I would like say a big thank you to everybody who came to help plant the Memorial Wood. Eighty plus people turned up. We were totally unprepared for such a fantastic turn out. Thank you everyone, it was amazing!

We need your help again: We are having two work party mornings to widen some of the paths and generally tidy up before the nesting season starts. **We are meeting on Saturday February 28th and Saturday March 7th at 10.00 a.m. at the Lapwing Drive entrance.** If you can spare a couple of hours and would like to help please bring secateurs, saws, rakes, gloves, etc.. If you would like any further information please contact Judy Telford on 844058.

SITTINGBOURNE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Sittingbourne has had a museum since 1999 but still there are many people who either don't know about it or where to find it. Located at 67 East Street, Sittingbourne Heritage Museum is split over two levels and several rooms. The museum houses many objects from Sittingbourne and the surrounding villages, which have been donated or loaned by local residents and other museums. We are able to have regularly changing displays, as well as our more permanent features such as the cabinet of late medieval items rescued from the demolished public house 'The Plough', which once stood opposite the museum. During the winter we have overhauled our lower floor displays. So, even if you have visited before, there will be a host of new, as yet unseen, items from the museum's extensive collection. New this season are the 'Iwade Finds', which haven't been on show for some time. The museum reopened on February 21st (see times below). Entry is free!

There is also a small shop (also revamped) which sells local history books, including Pauline Stevens book on Lower Halstow and our own publications as well as smaller items. Our most recent book was a new edition of our popular 'Inns and Pubs of Sittingbourne'. As well as welcoming visitors, we also want people to join us too. Annual membership is very reasonable (contact us for details). A newsletter and magazine with articles of local historical interest and reduced entry to talks and events are some of the benefits of joining the museum. We always need new researchers and volunteers to staff our small museum. So if you have an interest in local history, please get in touch.

Opening Times:

Late February to April: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Saturdays 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

April to October: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Saturdays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

October and November: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Saturdays 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

December: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Address: Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, 67 East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 4BQ

Email: secretary@sittingbourne-museum.co.uk

Telephone: 07472 268388 (if there is no answer please leave a message and we'll call you back).

Website: www.sittingbourne-museum.co.uk

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ... *a message from Jackie Swift*

I am working with the Salvation Army to ask "the village" if you could put politics aside and help. People are being brought into our country by false promises and unpleasant other reasons, and they include little children and young pregnant women who come with nothing, their hope having been taken away, and now they have only what they stand up in. We are collecting items for children and ladies, which include new underwear, towels, flannels, toiletries, soap, body lotion, tooth paste and tooth brushes, hats, scarves, gloves. T shirts, brushes combs etc. even a note book and a pen. If we all gave just one item, we could make such a lot of difference. Thanking everyone in anticipation. Jackie Swift, 48 School Lane.

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:
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.

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
from as little as £1600 with 5 & 7 year warrantee options
Kestrel's, 100 School Lane, Lower Halstow
Daniel Parker (01795) 843361 Steve Parker
07771 333084 No call out charge 07879 883153

Experienced Financial Advisor offering Pensions and Investment planning

Michael van der Straaten FPFS
Chartered Financial Planner
19 The Street, Lower Halstow
Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk
Website : www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk

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. 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 APRIL VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON THURSDAY 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!