

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

MAY 2015



Photo by Nigel Randell

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN MAY

Sunday 3rd May

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

Sunday 10th May

10.30 a.m. Family Communion
Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 17th May

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship
Refreshments afterwards
6.30 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 24th May PENTECOST

10.30 a.m. Joint Communion Service at Newington
Out of doors in the orchard.

Sunday 31st May

10.30 a.m. All-age worship at Halstow jointly with Newington
Refreshments afterwards

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

May 3rd Liz Moulard; 10th Yvonne Quigley
17th Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo; 24th Ursula Aylward;
31st Denise & Fay Balban.
June 7th Georgina Kindred.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12th MAY.

*HERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE BEFORE YOU
SEND YOUR NEWS. IT HELPS TO SEND IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.*

CHRISTIAN AID 2015 For some years now we have been including a Christian Aid envelope in the May edition of Village News. Christian Aid is a charity which focuses on those living in dire poverty and more information can be found on the envelope. We hope you will feel able to make a donation no matter how small. Envelopes can be put through the letter box of Jackie Swift at 48 School Lane or Pauline Stevens at Elm Farm, just off Vicarage Lane, or bring it to the church during one of our services. Every penny will help and thank you so much.

VILLAGE DIARY FOR MAY and other dates for your diary.

Friday 1st May **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the Memorial Hall from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.. Come and join in with Rummicub, Whist, Scrabble, Euchre, Dominoes and many other card or board games. £1.50 for a cup of tea/coffee/biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Every Thursday in May **TAI CHI CLASS** in the Memorial Hall.. Due to the wonderful response we now have a full class.

LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS NEWS

Spring is an inspirational time of year and with many craft fairs to visit it is a good time to get new ideas for our future meetings. In April we made Easter chickens and had a go at making tea cup candles. We also had a look at making the pennants for the village and Japanese patchwork. All great fun.

Our dates for May are 6th when we are going to revisit card making techniques and **on the 20th** we will do some beadwork and jewellery making.

On June 1st we will be having another look at the village pennants.

Looking forward, we are going to do some shell mosaics and deco patch boxes.

All details can be found on our website along with pictures of our achievements.

We are a friendly group of ladies who have a like interest and enjoy each other's company. If you would like to come along you will be made most welcome.

For further details contact Margaret on 843100 or email blenmerrow@firenet.uk.net or Barbara on 01634 786922.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Our next events are:

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

Friday 8th May – 2.00pm

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

Tuesday 26th May 9.30am until 12.30pm

Village Walks 1st and 3rd Friday

Outings: Friday 15th May Little Venice & Camden Lock

Wednesday 3rd June 6.00 p.m. Kentish Lady

Birthday Party: Friday 8th May at 7.00 p.m.

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

Friday 8th May **SCOUT GROUP QUIZ NIGHT** - a fun and friendly quiz night **in the Memorial Hall at 8.00 p.m.** Tables of 6, £5 per head - raffle, snacks provided, bring your own drink. Call Mick on 842587 to book. Please help us raise funds to support the young people of our village.

Saturday 9th May *Memorial Hall Committee* **FAMILY BARN DANCE in the Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.,** with Ralph as our caller. Remember to bring your own supper and beverages. For tickets at £5.00 per person please call Kay on 01795 844408.

Saturday 16th May Yvonne's Plant Sale. Come along to **10 The Street** between **10.00 a.m. and 12 noon**, where you can buy a variety of lovely plants at very reasonable prices. All proceeds go to Lower Halstow Gardening Club.

Monday 18th May 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 28th May 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 30th May WHIST DRIVE in the **Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. £3.00.** Everyone welcome.

Saturday 6th June YOU ARE INVITED to SATURDAY BREAKFAST at **9.00 a.m. in Lower Halstow Memorial Hall.**

There have been so many people who attended the breakfasts we used to enjoy for many years at the Golf Club in Upchurch that we have been seeking a way to start them up again. So on Saturday 6th June there will be a full English cooked breakfast, or a Continental Breakfast followed by a Christian speaker. This is following the format we enjoyed at the Golf Club. There will be tablecloths and we will be waited on, other than queuing up, table by table, for our breakfast as we did previously. Both men and women, also families, are welcome. We are hoping we can cover the costs with a ticket price of **£5.00 per person. To enable us to purchase the groceries etc., we have to please ask you to book and pay for your ticket by Tuesday the 2nd of June.** We look forward to meeting up with you and hope that this will be successful and that we will be able to be continue on a regular basis. Please ring **Tricia on 01795 842419 or Jackie on 01795 842749.**

Sunday 14th June Lower Halstow Yacht club (Sheerness Road) will hold its **ANNUAL CHARITY RACE** at **10.30 a.m.** in aid of **McMillan Nurses. Meet on the slipway at 9.30 a.m.**

A donation for the charity of £5 per person participating would be gratefully received to cover the 'race' and a B-B-Q after, subject to weather conditions.

The yacht club is a friendly, self-help organisation and has members with a broad variety of water activities from canoe, dinghy, day-sailer, cruiser, fishing boats and yachts to 33 feet.

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 details.

Friday/Saturday June 19th/20th Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Committee is holding an **Open Friday Evening and Saturday Day, showing how our hall is a great venue for wedding breakfasts, birthday parties, business conventions and Craft Fairs etc.**

Sunday 28th June - There are still a few spaces on this year's **Gardening Club trip to Audley End House & Gardens, Essex.** The coach leaves Lower Halstow - The Green at 9.00 a.m. and the cost is £25 including coach and entry to the house and gardens. The house is English Heritage, so any EH members would only need to pay for the cost of the coach - £13. If you are interested, please phone Yvonne on 844294.

Saturday July 4th THE LOWER HALSTOW ANNUAL DOG SHOW in aid of Lower Halstow's Over Sixty's Christmas Tea. Details next month.

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

Dear Friends

Choose this day! It means this is the day that a choice will be asked of you. And we have all passed through so many days when a choice confronted us, and the choice we made has meant all the difference to our lives and the lives of those around us. Sometimes we have a choice, and sometimes it may be that we had no choice, but circumstances made the choice for us.

This coming month, we will all be asked to make serious choices. They will determine the course of the nation for years to come. Throughout the Bible, in story after story, people are asked to make a choice, for or against the highest calling that they can rise to, for or against self or God and others. Whatever choice we make in the coming election, let us try to make it guided by the highest ideals and hopes we may have for this country, for the best that the country can be or offer to all of us. Whatever happens, whoever governs us, it cannot work for any of us unless it works for all of us.

With best hopes and wishes for everyone,

Revd Ron Partridge, Lower Halstow.

LOWER HALSTOW 100 YEARS AGO

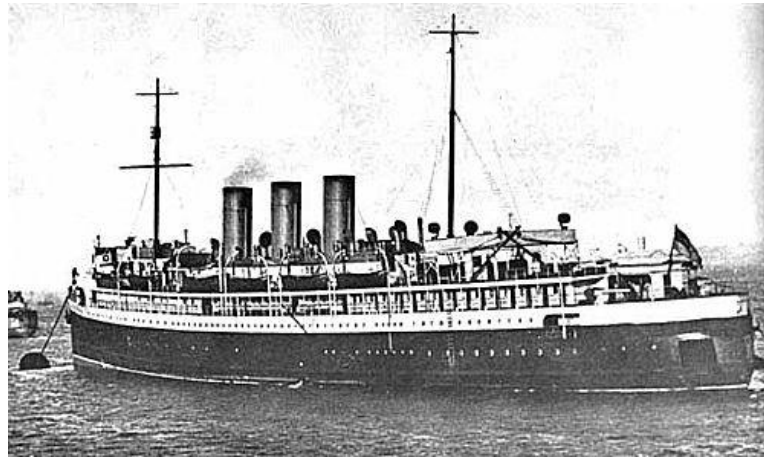
Up until now the War may have seemed remote to those living in Lower Halstow. Casualties had been regular servicemen, but the death of George Watts who was lost his life when HMS Princess Irene exploded at the head of Stangate Creek on Thursday 27 May 1915, brought the War right into the Village.

George Watts, born 1892, son of George and Sarah Watts, lived at Tiptree and then 21 Breach Lane, was a brickfield labourer. He married Lilian Robinson in 1914, moving to Shortlands Road Sittingbourne. Early in 1915 he commenced work at Sheerness Dockyard and it was as a skilled dockyard labourer he was on board the Princess Irene. The East Kent Gazette reports that he left his wife early that morning, having taken a cup of tea to his young wife, before catching the train for the last time... When the noise of the explosion was heard, although not knowing what it was, Mrs Watts exclaimed "Oh my George".

The Princess Irene was a Canadian Pacific liner converted for mine laying, and when the explosion occurred mines were being loaded and primed. There was only one survivor, a stoker found in the floating debris. 273 officers and men together with 76 civilians perished. Fragments from the explosion were scattered over a very wide area, some being found in Rainham and windows were shattered in Sittingbourne. Alfred Gulvin from Rainham, master of the barge Messenger which had just cast off after unloading mines, had a lucky escape as the barge was damaged and sunk, but he, with the mate managed to get into the barge boat and row back to Otterham.

George Watts is commemorated on the Church Memorial and as well as on the Princess Irene Memorial at Sheerness. Sadly the tragedy was echoed in the Second World War, when Thomas Godman also employed in HM Dockyard, lost his life when HMS Sirdar struck a mine in Codes Reach Iwade. Two civilians – dockyard workers and both from the village, were killed almost in sight of the village.

Interestingly, the next three baptisms at the Church after the destruction of HMS Irene, all featured the name - Gladys Irene Jordan, Irene Rose Dunk and Irene May Gilbert



HMS Princess Irene

HUMAN TRAFFICKING Jackie Swift would like to thank all those who gave bags of items for the people caught up in the Human Trafficking and who are taken to safe houses. The Salvation Army were very grateful. May I remind you, of the things most needed: personal toiletries, body wash, soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, new underwear (ladie's and children's), writing paper, pens. T. shirts, brushes, combs, shampoo, new towels - just vital daily needs. The Salvation Army were accepting various other things given, but at the moment they cannot store any more bags. Thank you again, Jackie, 48 School Lane.

PICK-YOUR-OWN DAFFODILS Thank you so much for your generosity. Donations this year totalled £220. St. Margaret's Flower Fund will receive £100 and the Heating Fund £120. Pauline Stevens.

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

Mobile Phone Coverage If you have found that your mobile phone coverage at home is poor, you may find it worthwhile complaining to your supplier. Providing you have broadband, they can supply a signal booster which could help. You may need to persevere and go through some seemingly pointless tests but persistence should pay off. Often you will only be asked to pay postage (though your provider may try and charge you for the equipment - whether you pay this is up to you). Obviously there are no guarantees that you will succeed but it is worth a try. Remember though, if you do not have broadband this solution will not work. The Parish Council does not endorse any particular mobile phone provider or guarantee that this solution will work for you, as signal problems can be due to other causes.

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL We are looking for a self-employed experienced cleaner to clean the hall twice a week during term time. Please could you contact Sue Mumford on 01795 841730 for further information if you are interested in this role.

GUITAR TUITION: For all levels and styles in a relaxed atmosphere. Call Jeremy on 01795 842620.

FABULOUS FINGERTIPS Manicures, pedicures, gel polish, gel nail extensions. Fully insured. Home service available. Call Tanya on 843362 or 07876 458021 www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk

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.

GELLUX NAIL TECHNICIAN Fully trained and insured. Gel nails/toenails will last up to 15 days - over 20 colours! Please call Hayley to book an appointment 07411686090. Special offer at the moment £18 (normally £20).

ALAN'S GARDENING SERVICES No job too small. Ring 01634 371832 or 07715292991.

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

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Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk
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

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 JUNE VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12th MAY.

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!