

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

OCTOBER 2015



Arranging a display of the school's produce in the church.

HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND AT ST. MARGARET'S
Sunday 11th October FAMILY COMMUNION at 10.30 a.m.
Monday 12th October HARVEST AUCTION at 7.30 p.m.

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN OCTOBER

Sunday 4th October

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

Sunday 11th October HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

Sunday 18th October

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship

4.00 p.m. Evensong (please note change of time)

Sunday 25th October

10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. **FAMILY TIME**

Refreshments at 10.00 a.m.

The service (with a baptism this month)

starts at 10.30 a.m.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

October: 4th Yvonne Quigley; 11th Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo;

18th Ursula Aylward; 25th Denise & Faye Balban;

November 1st Georgina Kindred.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER.**

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)

or pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com

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

IT'S BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN We at St. Margaret's have been supporting this charity since 2003. You will find a leaflet enclosed with this Village News telling you what is needed and where the boxes will be going, although the political situation has probably changed since they were printed. Please try to fill a box. They are so desperately needed, and so very much appreciated. The deadline date is the **6th NOVEMBER**. Una, 2 Cumberland Drive, or Jackie 48, School Lane, will be pleased to see you, with your boxes. THANK YOU. Jackie Swift.

Saturday 26th September ... from Kay ... **CANCELLATION of THE GREEN ROCK RIVER BAND.** I am so disappointed and sorry, but this event had to be cancelled because of lack of people requesting tickets. So, if you would like to, please give me a call on 01795 844408 for me to put through your letter box a survey asking what you and your families would like as entertainment in 2016.

VILLAGE DIARY FOR OCTOBER and other dates for your diary.

Friday 2nd October **GAMES AFTERNOON** at the Memorial Hall between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** which includes Scrabble, Rummy, Whist, Euchre and many more card or board games. We charge £1.50 for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits, and you will receive a very warm welcome

Saturday 3rd October Calling all Primary School Children (4+ to 11 years) **BREAKFAST CLUB at St. Margaret's Church begins again between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.**

Come along and enjoy a delicious breakfast of waffles, pancakes and toast with a choice of toppings, accompanied by fresh apple. Following a lively introduction, you can take part in a variety of games and activities linked to the morning's or orange juice.

Bible based theme. The session concludes with a time when we share our achievements, celebrate birthdays and pray for those we love, before gathering all the things made to take home.

Children need to be accompanied to and from the church by a responsible adult but are well supervised by a sufficient number of adults while there. All involved are looking forward to seeing some 'old faces' but eager to welcome newcomers.

Any queries to Liz Hadley (842654), Becky Ridley or Hilary Gates, (841632).

Saturday 3rd October **WHIST DRIVE** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30 p.m. £3.00.** Everyone welcome.

LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS

Our dates for October are:

Monday 5th October – creating Christmas Stockings

Wednesday 14th October – Village pennants and Christmas bunting

Wednesday 28th October – Christmas fabric spiral decorations

Please feel welcome to come and join us. We charge £1 per meeting which goes towards materials.

You can see photos of our achievements on our Facebook page at Lower Halstow Crafters.

For further details contact Sue on 841730 or email sue.e.mumford@btinternet.com or Margaret on 843100.

Tuesday 6th October **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.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Our next events are:

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

Friday 9th October – 2.00pm

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

Tuesday 27th October - 9.30am

Village Walks 1st and 3rd Friday - Village Hall, 10.00 a.m.

Outings: Wednesday Friday 16th October Gurdwana Temple, Gravesend

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

Saturday 10th October The Memorial Hall Committee are holding a **QUIZ NIGHT** with **tables of 6. Tickets are £5.00 each**, which includes a ploughman's-type supper. The time is **7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.** There is a bottle of wine for each winning team member. Please bring your own beverage for the evening.

Sunday 11th October **HARVEST FESTIVAL at St. Margaret's church at 10.30 a.m.**

Monday 12th October **HARVEST AUCTION at St. Margaret's church at 7.30 p.m.**

You are all invited to join us and to thank God with us for our harvest at our special service on Sunday 11th October. Gifts of produce - tins, packets, bought or grown in our gardens - are all welcome and can be presented at the altar.

We will also be remembering those who are not so lucky. That is why we auction all our produce the next day, Monday 12th October at 7.30 p.m. All the proceeds this year will be given to the Salvation Army. The auction is informal and you are welcome to come and go as you please. We aim to finish at 8.30 p.m. or soon after. Children, especially the older ones, are very welcome. We find that they enjoy being useful and helping out as runners. So come and join us and bring a big bag with you.

Wednesday 14th October **UNWANTED TEXTILE COLLECTION** To raise funds, the Scout Group will be making a house to house collection. Please have a sort out of unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, household textiles - we welcome donations in any condition. Textiles only please - we cannot take any other items. Thank you for your support.

Thursday 22nd October **COFFEE STOP in St Margaret's Church. 9.30 a.m. - 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.

Sunday 25th October **FAMILY TIME at St. Margaret's at 10.00 a.m. The service starts at 10.30 a.m.** when there will again be a baptism. We hope to welcome all our regular visitors, the baptism family, and anyone who would like to join us. The Rev. Julian likes to keep this service for all ages short.

Tuesday 27th October **GARDENING CLUB'S** October meeting will be **at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.** Our guest speaker is Mr David Fleck and he will be giving an informative talk on his work at the **Woodland Trust.** We try to offer a variety of topics and themes at our meetings and hope you will join us there. Visitors £1 and refreshments 25p.

Saturday 31st October **WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. £3.00.** Everyone welcome.

Sunday 8th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY. This year's service will be at **10.30 a.m. in the Church**, when we can all remember and honour those from the village who have lost their lives in past wars.

Whilst we focus on those named on the Memorials, we do want to also include those known or connected to present residents. Please contact Alan Swift (01795842749 or alswift@dsl.pipex.com) with details of anyone you would like mentioned.

Saturday 21st November The Memorial Hall Committee are holding **the Lower Halstow's WINTER WONDERLAND MARKET.** We are supporting The PDSA Animals Trust and Dream Flights for terminally ill children.

The Market opens at 10.00 a.m. with stalls including cheeses, cakes, toys and Indian food. There will be displays every hour, for example a Sugar Craft display, and, hopefully, a Tai Chi display. The Market will be closing at 4.00 p.m. with **The Salvation Army's Band** playing carols for us all to join in. A full itinerary will be in the next Village News.

Friday 27th November Scout Group QUIZ, 8.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. Tables of 6 at £5 per head.

Table snacks provided, please bring your own drinks. We value your support in raising much needed funds for the young people who attend the Scout Group. Our quizzes are always a fun night out, run by Mike who organises the pub quizzes too. To book a table call Mick on 842587.

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.**

IT HAS BEEN A SAD TIME FOR LOWER HALSTOW RECENTLY Ken Stevens died at the end of July, and then Margaret Goatman on 1st August followed by Anne Busbridge on 18th August. Those of you who knew her may not have heard that Jinny Lowe, who, until recently, lived at Church Cottage and owned the Old Reed Bed Studio, died on 28th August.

Margaret and Anne were members of the Lower Halstow Short Mat Bowls Club, and John Mustoo has contributed the following ... Marge was a founder member of the club in 2007 and rarely missed a session. She was a regular member of the league team and could be relied upon in tight situations.

Anne joined not long after and was renowned for bowling a wobbler which invariably ended up near the jack. Anne was modest about her abilities and would not play in the league, but played in friendly matches. Both of them loved their bowls. It was an important part of their lives and not to be missed. Life goes on, but they will always be in our thoughts.

THE PRINTING OF VILLAGE NEWS

For the last ten years Village News has been printed at the MCPR Printing Unit at Gillingham Methodist Church. Cyril Berry, who runs the unit, used to do the printing himself, but found that it was becoming too much for him. Our Rev. Ron Partridge negotiated a deal that allowed Ron to do the printing helped by Tony Russell. When Ron went to America in 2008 Tony carried on assisted by Bill Mason, with Cyril still in charge of the printing unit. Last month we learned that Cyril was retiring. No-one is willing to take on the running of the Printing Unit, so it will be closing at the end of this year. As we have been using the Unit regularly Cyril offered us a package deal for the equipment, which includes the printer, stapling machine, inks and paper, for £300. This was too good an offer to refuse. Tony and Jackie Swift have measured the space in the vestry and found that we could accommodate it, so from the beginning of next year Village News will be printed in Halstow.

Is there a carpenter in the village who would like to help? The printing machine needs a sturdy table/bench and it has been suggested that perhaps someone in the village would like to leave his/her mark in the church by making this table (to specific measurements), which could be donated in memory of a relative/friend. If you are interested please would you contact Jackie Swift at 48 School Lane (842749). She would need to know within the next fortnight (i.e. before 14th October) because we hope to have installed the equipment before December.

SALVATION ARMY APPEAL ... from Jackie Swift You may remember earlier in the year, I made a plea, working with the Salvation Army, for items for the people who are caught up in HUMAN TRAFFICKING. This request is not to be confused with refugees or illegal immigrants, etc. These people especially young girls have been lied to and understand that they will be given a better life in the U.K., but we all know the reasons behind this. The Salvation Army have just received a 3 year contract to deal with this problem and need your help in providing every-day items that are needed. These items required are not difficult or too expensive. Shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, and general toiletries, new underwear (these girls are on the small side), tights (warm ones), jumpers etc. I think we all know what daily items we need. Items are also needed for young men - if possible new clothes or those in perfect condition, razors, shaving foam etc. Please help if you can, even in a small way. The response last time was overwhelming. Any queries, please ask me. Drop off any items you may wish to give at 48 School Lane, or in the church when we are open. Thank you all in anticipation. Jackie Swift.

HOME-START – SITTINGBOURNE & SHEPPEY Home-Start is seeking parents to train as volunteers to support families with children under 5 years living in Sittingbourne, Isle of Sheppey and local villages. Our volunteers offer practical help with the children and share their knowledge of family life and local resources for families. If you are a parent or grandparent and would like to know more please contact us on 01795 429007 or email home-startsitt@btconnect.com. Mandy Gambell, administrator.

LOWER HALSTOW 100 YEARS AGO - notes taken from the East Kent Gazette

It was a quiet month in Halstow because no mention was made of the village. However

Other notable October dates in history (compiled by Bill):

- 1910 13th First airship crossing of Channel – landed at Wormwood Scrubs.
- 22nd Dr. Crippen sentenced to death for murder.
- 1915 23rd Death of cricketer W.G.Grace.
- 1920 20th King George V approved the burial of the unknown warrior at Westminster Abbey on Armistice Day.
- 20th & 28th Mrs. Pankhurst charged with sedition and subsequently jailed for six months.
- 1925 16th Security pact signed at Locarno by Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy.
- 1930 16th Decision made to build 'the 'Maginot line' in France.
- 1940 Battle of the Atlantic said to have started with 5 armoured raiders and 'U' boats now operating out of France.
- 21st Most intensive bombing raid on Berlin to date – lasted 4 hours.

- 1945 7th 17 000 on strike for more pay.
 14th 43 000 dockers now on strike for 24 shillings (£1.25) per day. Over 6000 troops used to unload fruit ships.
- 1950 4th Centenary of the bowler hat.
- 1960 21st Launch of HMS Dreadnought, Britain's first nuclear submarine.
- 1965 7th Post office Tower opened- then the tallest building in Britain.
 19th British Petroleum announce the find of first major oilfield in the North Sea, within the British sector.
- 1975 30th Report that 6.5 million elm trees have been destroyed by Dutch Elm disease.
- 1980 8th British Leyland launch the mini metro.

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

FUNTON BRICKWORKS PLANNING APPLICATION ... *contributed by Allyson Beerstecher, 12 Lapwing Drive.*

After seeing the article in the June issue of the Village News regarding the plans for 55 homes to be built on the old Funton Brickworks, I contacted the planning office at Swale Borough Council and although the date for comments had passed I was still allowed to write in with my comments. I kept my objections brief (one page) stating the lack of doctors and school places and the unsafe country unlit roads, with 110 plus cars driving through the village.

I received a letter, which informed me that I was allowed to speak at the planning meeting if I wished, and I decided I would speak. I was given 3 minutes, and I practised with a stopwatch and ended the speech at 2:45 minutes. Although I was nervous, I was also anxious that the views of the village should be known, and the vote was 11:6 in favour of the planning officer's report, which was to refuse the planning permission on a number of grounds. The full planning report can be viewed on the Swale planning portal and the minutes were available from 14th September <http://www.swale.gov.uk/search-for-or-comment-on-an-application/>

The view of some of the councillors were that something must be done with the Funton site; however 55 homes is not the solution, but I fear developers will come back with a plan of fewer homes and this may pass the planning committee stage. The votes were not unanimous by any means. So what can you do? Well you have already started by reading this Village News, and as the Parish Council have to be informed about plans in their locality, any further plans will be known to the Parish Council. Write in with your objections. It does not have to be technical, 'I object to the proposed building plans as it is out of place with the rural locality' is a valid objection, so is the lack of school and GP places.

Operation Stack gave a taste of the misery of additional traffic through the village, and this will be a permanent fact of life if homes are built on the old Funton site. I urge everyone to keep an eye on plans for that site, and write and object, however there is an issue of what to do with the site and this also has to be addressed sooner or later.

LOWER HALSTOW SHORT MAT BOWLS The Lapwings are still in Division 2. We start the season with three games away on the 8th and 20th October and then 1st October against Stockbury, Bredgar A and Newington Reds. The season ends on 18th March with Woodpeckers (A). There have been several rule changes which could prove interesting. One is aimed at reducing home team advantage and the other allowing exceptional use of substitutes when a team finds problems in raising a side. With the relegations and promotions the League appears to be stronger this year

FOR SALE – Cox 22' motor boat. New 13.5bhp Beta Marine engine. Moored at Lower Halstow Yacht Club, 2 berths, a galley with a 2 ring hob and grill, separate flushing toilet cubicle and a large 4 person cockpit. The boat was used for local fishing trips and family days out, but a health condition means that we can no longer make use of the boat. £7,500. Photos available. For more information and to view call Will Ransley on 01795 843871, or 07889 600677 or email ransleyprojects@gmail.com

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.

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: thestitchistsews@gmail.com, text/phone my mob: 07813084051 phone: 01795 555853 Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

COUNSELLING SERVICE Fully qualified BACP registered local Counsellor (including depression and anxiety). Concession fees available. Home visits may be possible after initial assessment. Contact Jodie Sturges **07950 487 560** or email Jodie.sturges@btinternet.com

MOBILE 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 £15 first set (normally £20).

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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

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

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 NOVEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER.

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!

