

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS
OCTOBER 2017



Pauline Stevens

10th April 1935 to 14th September 2017

See page 5

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN OCTOBER

Sunday 1st October 8.00 a.m.

Traditional B.C.P. Spoken Communion

Sunday 8th October Harvest Festival

10.00 a.m. Harvest Festival Service (see page 4)

Sunday 15th October

10.00 a.m. Communion 4.00 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 18th October 7.30 p.m.

Hush

Sunday 22nd October

10.00 a.m. Family Time with refreshments

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

There are morning prayers at St Margaret's Church at **8.15 a.m. every Tuesday morning**. All are welcome to come and join in.

Chris Mayes – churchwarden.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

October:

- 1st Georgina Kindred
- 8th Liz Mouland
- 15th Yvonne Quigley
- 22nd Ann Smith
- 29th Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo

November:

- 5th Ursula Aylward

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

E MAIL ADDRESS 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 OCTOBER and other dates for your diary.

Thursday 28th September St. Margaret's Church **9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Macmillan:**

'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'

Following last year's magnificent response, (as a village we raised £617.20), we are repeating the event this year and are really hoping that we can match or even better this result!

Just a reminder that Macmillan, which is a registered charity, works alongside the NHS in England, to provide medical, emotional, practical and financial support as well as campaigning for better cancer care and because cancer affects more than just those facing it they are there for friends and family too. Statistics show that one in three of us will face cancer. The money we raise will help Macmillan make sure that:

'No one has to face it alone.'

So please, please come along sometime on Thursday 28th September. We will be so pleased to see you and I'm sure there will be lots of delicious cakes or savouries to choose from!

To find out more about Macmillan Cancer Support visit the website at macmillan.org.uk

Saturday 30th September Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfield Will be meeting at the Lapwing Drive entrance at **10.30 a.m.** The Friends of the Brickfields are a small group of volunteers who carry out conservation work and keep the Brickfield paths clear all year round. We are having some work parties this Autumn to cut back the vegetation further making the paths easier to maintain in the Summer growth period. Our next ones are on Saturday 30th September and Saturday 4th November, meeting at the Lapwing Drive entrance at 10.30 a.m. If you are able to help, even for just half an hour, you would be very welcome, please bring gloves, secateurs, shears, anything you feel would be useful.

Refreshments will be available.

Any queries, or if you would like to help in your own time, please contact Judy Telford on 01795 844058.

Tuesday 3rd 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.

Friday 6th October GAMES AFTERNOON at the Memorial Hall, **2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.** Games include euchre, scrabble, rummucub, whist and many card and board games. Cost £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Sunday 8th October HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE - **10.00 a.m.** at St Margaret's Church. Please bring food gifts for the Sunday service and bags and cash for the auction. Donations will be made to Christian Aid and Leslie Ambrose's work in Africa.

Monday 9th October HARVEST AUCTION **7.00 p.m.** at the church.

Thursday 12th October Mother and Toddlers Group will meet again at St Margaret's Church from **1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** The group is informal with refreshments for parents and children, child minding fathers and grandparents are welcome. For more information contact - Una Mayes (841425) or Liz Hadley (842654)

Saturday 14th October BREAKFAST CLUB at St. Margaret's Church **9.30-11.30 a.m.** Aimed at Primary School children and following a continental style breakfast we link games and activities to a Bible based theme. We would love to see some new faces as well as welcoming back our 'regulars'. For more information please contact: Liz Hadley (842654), Hilary Gates (841632) or Becky Ridley (841028).

Friday 20th October 5.30 – 700 p.m. St Margaret's Youth Group will be meeting in the Memorial Hall for the next six months as the dark nights are now upon us. Come along and have some chill out time; 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, get creative or just watch!. Refreshments as usual and all for free. All welcome from age 11 up. For more information contact The Youth Group Team on 07730893747.

Saturday 21st October WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at **7.30 p.m.** Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome. (one week early as hall not available on 28th)

Tuesday 24th October Lower Halstow Gardening Club - Come along at **7:30 p.m.** to hear Liz Mouland's enlightening presentation on 'Floral Christmas Decorations for the Home.' Visitors welcome! Lots of interesting ideas for the festive period includes refreshments for only £1.50. Raffle costs 50p per strip. We hope you will be able to come along and enjoy an evening with us.

Friday 3rd November Deadline for Blythwood Christmas shoe boxes

Saturday 4th November Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfield Will be meeting at the Lapwing Drive entrance at **10.30 a.m.** REGULAR DATES Ladies Do-It-Yourself Keep Fit We meet regularly on a Monday evening in the village; for six weeks we will be having a movement and dance teacher for Medau sessions. These are lots of fun, fantastic music and a great way to increase fitness. These sessions will cost £5 per person and places are limited. When we are not having a Medau evening, sessions are £2 and in the summer they are free! If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Liz on 07730893747 / 01795 842272.

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 and 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.

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.

Every third Wednesday of the Month CHARITY BINGO 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.

To everyone who knew and loved her – Pauline Stevens

Pauline was involved in the life of Lower Halstow in more ways than can easily be counted or recounted in a few words – all aspects of farm and village, of church and school. Jenny and I have known her and her family for as long as we have lived in the village. Her editorship of the Village News, from the days when it was run off on a Roneo in Upchurch vicarage to the modern world of word processing, which she mastered without obvious difficulty, meant that she had a finger on the pulse of every activity in the village. The history of the village, which she and Midge Boswell produced, is a monument of detailed scholarship and narrative. Her devotion to the village was expressed in other ways. She played the organ in church for virtually every wedding and funeral held there, without ever accepting a fee. She was also one of the few who knew how to ring all three church bells on her own for any wedding she played for. Jenny knew her as a real ‘plants-woman’, who knew and loved her garden with a passionate devotion. Pauline was passionate, in her own quiet, strong and steady way, about everything and everyone she loved. We will miss her very much, and she remains pervasively and permanently a part of us all and of the village she loved. Ron and Jenny Partridge

Sometimes someone special comes into our lives and then that special someone leaves us. Pauline has left us. You wouldn’t be reading this now if it wasn’t that Pauline created and developed the newsletter, from a single sheet of paper monthly distributed as the Church News to a booklet renamed the Village News which you are holding now. This is just one piece of tangible evidence of the countless ways in which Pauline devotedly and lovingly supported and contributed to our village. She edited the contents from the day it started, always keeping in mind that it should be freely given by our church. We are blessed in our church that we will be able to continue producing, with the wonderful volunteers already printing and distributing. Long may we continue this precious part of Pauline’s legacy. Then there were the Harvest Auctions. Absolutely unforgettable and I’m sure the “runners” will remember them well, as we who attended always will. Such wonderful happy memories of an irreplaceable lady.

Now safely in the arms of the Lord who allowed us to know this special person. We will miss you. Tricia Carr

I am so very sad to hear of the news of dear Pauline’s death. She will be so very sadly missed by Pauline’s family especially and her hundreds of friends and acquaintances who have so enjoyed her presence over the years. Truly a light has gone out in Lower Halstow that will not be replaced. Her life has covered so many areas and her tenacity for work and her many interests in life have spurred many into taking the time to investigate, to read, to learn far more of any one subject than was first attempted. The organ in Lower Halstow church has already stood silent for a while I know, because of Pauline’s failing health, and I fear it will stand silent for longer now. Her playing at all kinds of services, regular worship, weddings, funerals, festivals and including many children’s services and school services and, going back further, to the time of the Acorn Club when Pauline would play anything we asked her to have all left precious memories to me and to many others. Pauline, I salute you and may you now be enjoying the greatest kind of music! That of the whole company of heaven singing praises to the Lord. God bless you and keep you. Rev Jacky Davis .. Western Australia.

When I was a very young teenager I met Pauline who was several years older than me. Pauline was living in Newington and at 16 she used to cycle to our church to play the organ. Pauline met and married Les Stevens and came to live at Elm Farm and, as both Pauline and I were very regular

church goes (2 services every Sunday) we got to know each other extremely well. We became friends, most particularly when I helped her research and put together the book on Lower Halstow published in 1999. It was hard work, great fun and the book is still able to be purchased at St Margaret's church. My dear friend Pauline I will miss you always and God Bless you. Midge Boswell

I have only known Pauline for a few years, but she has made a lasting impression on me and I am sure all who knew her. She was a lively and spritely lady who lovingly contributed so much to the church and to her local communities. She was always young at heart, meticulously efficient in every undertaking, with a great sense of humour and with the ability to embrace new ideas. Rev. Julian Staniforth.

These are just some of the tributes I have received via Clare for inclusion in this newsletter. I apologise for those I left out and that I have had to edit these to get them in. The following article is the last entry Pauline sent for this newsletter. Despite her problems she was, as always, thinking of others. Tony Russell.

THANK YOU to all those who sent me get well cards and wishes when I was in Medway Hospital recently, where I received first class and dedicated care from all the nurses. I was full with admiration for them, on their feet all day long for 12 hour shifts, and how they manage to keep going all day and night is astonishing. One hears so much criticism on the television, but it certainly does not apply to them.

Thank you again Pauline

The Cinnamon Trust

is a national charity for people aged 60 and over. The Disabled / Terminally ill and their PETS. Our primary aim is to help people and their pets stay together. We assist with pet related tasks such as pet care. Feeding all pets if needed / short-term fostering (When someone needs to go into hospital or respite). We also do Dog walking If you are not well enough to do this. While we are based in Cornwall our wonderful volunteers cover most parts of the UK. Please do not Hesitate to get in touch with us if you need our help or wish to volunteer. As we are a charity we are truly grateful for any help you can give. The Cinnamon Trust will be having a fund raising stall at the Christmas Bazaar on Nov 25th. where more information will be available. THE CINNAMON TRUST 01736 757900 Open Mon -Fri 9am to 5pm.

IT'S BLYTHWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX TIME AGAIN.

As usual, you will find a leaflet enclosed with this Village News telling you about the project which we at St. Margaret's church have been supporting since 2003. These boxes are desperately needed and so much appreciated by the recipients in deprived and troubled areas. The deadline date is November 3rd, and we will be including this in the November Village News. Una Mayes at 2 Cumberland Drive, Jackie Swift at 48 School Lane or Liz Hadley at 14 Curlew Avenue, will be pleased to see you with your shoe box. Or they may be taken to the church. With thanks Una Mayes

Reminiscing Lower Halstow's W.I.

I have been given a scrap book made up by Connie Johnson. Connie's family passed it to Emily, and then to me. Tony, who prints our Village News, is the son of Mrs Dorothy Russell, who started up our W.I. There are lots of photographs especially the German trip, organised by Ursula. But lots more of great interest. A good time to have a reminisce over a cup of tea. Sadly, some faces are not with us, but we can remember them. Please get in touch with me to arrange an afternoon of us old W.I. members. Jackie Swift, 48 School Lane. 01795 842749.

CCTV

Following the successful recovery of stolen property by a local resident using CCTV amassed from various cameras situated in the village, a proposal has been put forward to compile a register of all those who have CCTV, and would be willing to share footage in the event of a crime. This idea has been presented to the parish council for consideration and an email has been sent to our PCSO. I also intend to correspond with Neighbourhood Watch. It appears that most routes in and out of the village are presently covered by CCTV and quite a few of the roads have some coverage. It could be a huge deterrent to would be criminals if our village became known as having almost blanket coverage. In order to gauge residents' opinions and the level of interest, I would be grateful if anyone who may be willing to take part could either email me on carinajacobs65@hotmail.co.uk or phone me on 01795 842022. Carina Jacobs

Lower Halstow Short Mat Bowls Club

The club held its 4th AGM as a constitutional club on Monday 4th September. The Lapwings commence the season on Tuesday 17th October against Newington. this will be a learning curve with none of our players having previously played in the 1st Div. Short mat Bowls is a social game and your enjoyment improves with playing on a regular basis. Come along and join us at our Monday afternoon or Wednesday evening sessions.. John Mustoo

The Parish Clerk (Ann Smith) 842908 email clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

It has been reported to the Parish Council that there has been vandalism at the Memorial Hall site allotments and also at the Burial Ground. It would be appreciated if all residents could be vigilant and report anything that they witness in this respect to the PCSO or telephone the Police on 101.

Best Front Garden Competition

Many thanks to all the gardeners who worked so hard and succeeded in making our village a more attractive place. There were so many more lovely front gardens this year that choosing the best three was certainly not an easy task, but after much deliberation, a decision was made and the results were as follows :-

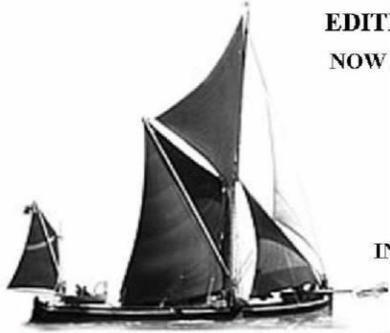
- 1st Ursula Aylward, 7, Burntwick Drive
- 2nd Sue and Martin Doyle, Eastwold, Vicarage Lane
- 3rd Barbara and Gordon Dye, Fortune Lodge, School Lane

The following gardens were highly commended:-

5 Westfield Cottages, 8 Landrail Road, 5 Cumberland Drive, 14 Cumberland Drive, 17 Cumberland Drive, 88 School Lane, 9 School Lane, 3 School Lane, 11 The Street, 9 Westfield Cottages
Congratulations to all of them! Sue Hartfree

FOR SALE lockup garage in Landrail Road. Offers in the region of £7500 together with seller's legal fees N Child 0781 4946249

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MR. DIG-IT'S GARDEN SERVICE (formerly Lower Halstow) For one-off or regular visits **call Peter on 01634 574676 or 07787 813 512.**

Experienced Financial Adviser 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**

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (01795 unless otherwise stated)

If you find that any of these numbers is no longer in use

please let Tony know on 842738

The Rev. Julian Staniforth 227329
The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794
Chris Mayes (churchwarden) cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com 841425
David Hadley (churchwarden) david.hadley@btinternet.com 842654
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 Mike Whiting mike.whiting@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 Tony Russell on 842738 or email sevenseaview@btinternet.com If any number changes, or you are no longer a contact person, please let Tony know.

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