

LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014



**Kath Tress and Ella Pawsey cut the ribbon
to open the Reflections of Lower Halstow 1914 weekend.**

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th September

8.00 a.m. Traditional B.C.P. Spoken Communion
6.00 p.m. Praise Communion

Sunday 14th September

10.30 a.m. Family Communion
Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 21st September

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

Sunday 28th September

10.30 a.m. Welcome 'Doughnut' Service
Doughnuts and tea/coffee afterwards.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

September: 7th Jackie Swift and Joan Mustoo; 14th Ursula Aylward
21st Ann Chesson; 28th Liz Moulard.
October: 5th Yvonne Quigley

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER VILLAGE NEWS
IS NOON ON FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER.**

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 SEPTEMBER and other dates for your diary.

Tuesday 2nd September **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 Parish Council will be debating the provision and design of a Memorial Wood on the Brickfields site at this meeting** and will welcome parishioners' views on the proposal either to the Clerk in advance, or on the night.

Lower Halstow Crafters For September we will be looking ahead to Christmas and making items for the festive season. We are going to make a rag rug style garland as one project and a table runner or mats for another, plus other smaller items i.e. decorations, cards, gifts etc. So if that appeals to you then please join us. We have had a small change in our meetings as **we are now only going to meet on the 1st Monday of the month** at Teresa's home, for the predominantly needlework class.

Wednesdays remain the same, meeting alternate weeks. Dates as follows:-

Wednesdays 3rd and 17th September and October 1st

If you would like to join us you would be very welcome and can obtain more details by calling Margaret on 01795 843100 email Blenmerrow@firenet.uk.net or Barbara on 07788871772 email barbaracastleptn@aol.co.uk

Thursday 4th September **DOMALEE AFTERNOON TEA at 2.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.**

Come and enjoy homemade cakes and tea and meet up with old friends and make new ones. These teas are held on the first Thursday of each month in aid of local charities and as well as a lovely tea we have a raffle and play Hoy Bingo. Young mums and dads and little ones are always welcome, so we'd love you to come and join us. Entry is £1.50.

Friday 5th September **MEMORIAL HALL GAMES AFTERNOON from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

Please come along and join in this enjoyable afternoon. Games include Rummikub, Whist, Scrabble, Dominoes, Cribbage, Euchre and any other game except Bridge. Should you not be able to play these games there is always someone to teach you, or you don't have to play at all, just have a chat and a cup of tea/coffee with your friends. There is no joining fee, just £1.50 per person which includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits and a very warm welcome.

Saturday 6th September **BREAKFAST CLUB PLUS in the church from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.**

September sees the start of a new term and a new year for Breakfast Club Plus. All junior school children are invited to join us for a fun day with plenty to learn about and to enjoy. First is a yummy breakfast and fruit juice, and then our Bible teaching which is used as the theme for our craft work, art, modelling, acting and playing. We finish with group prayers and a time of sharing. All junior school children, from the youngest to the top class, are invited regardless of which school you attend. All CRB checked, and we have a first Aider too. A warm welcome awaits you all. Parents need not stay, but please sign your child in and collect again at 11.30 a.m.

Saturday 13th September **KENT CHURCHES ANNUAL RIDE AND STRIDE 10.00 a.m.**

– **6.00 p.m.** This is a popular event with hundreds of churches throughout Kent open to welcome walkers and cyclists. The money raised by sponsored participants is divided equally between a church of your choice and the main Friends of Kent Churches Fund, which is then used in grant form for certain projects in churches county wide. Sponsor forms are available in the church, open most Sundays at 10.30a.m. or from Liz Moulard (eamouland@gmail.com; tel: 842272).

Tuesday, 23rd September GARDENING CLUB We will be meeting in the Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. We have a speaker, Mr. Fleck, coming to give a talk on ‘**The Woodland Trust**’. The Trust does a great deal to preserve our woodlands for future generations and it would be very interesting to understand how this is undertaken. Guests are very welcome to join us for the evening for £1 and refreshments are 25p. A raffle will be held.

From the editor: Thank you to Gardening Club for a generous donation to Village News funds.

Thursday 25th September 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 27th September PRODUCE SALE and CRAFTS, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., St.Margaret's Church.

Please join us at arguably the prettiest location around for a wide range of home grown and home made produce and crafts including jewellery, pens, wood work, needle work, cards and honey. Refreshments available and warm welcome guaranteed! www.thesix.org.uk

Sunday 28th September The usual Welcome Service will be a special **DOUGHNUT SERVICE** at **St. Margaret’s at 10.30 a.m.** Come and enjoy doughnuts and tea/coffee with us after the service.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Our membership has now risen to 137, against our upper limit of 150.

Our next events are:

Monthly Meetings (2nd Friday of the month) Friday 12th September, 2.00 p.m. (Members free; Guests £2.00.)

Coffee Mornings (4th Tuesday of the month) Tuesday 23rd September, 9.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. (Members £1.50; Guests £2.00.)

Outing Thursday 11th September - Trip to Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham

New members welcome. Annual Subscription £15.

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

Friday 3rd October GAMES AFTERNOON 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Saturday 4th October Memorial Hall Committee QUIZ NIGHT at a **NEW STARTING TIME of 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**, still with teams of 6 and a midway Ploughman's type refreshments. Please bring your own beverage.

Saturday 11th October Memorial Hall Committee BARN DANCE.

As we have a limited amount of room for this event at the Memorial Hall, to avoid disappointment please book your tickets early by contacting Kay on 01795 844408.

Sunday 12th October HARVEST FESTIVAL, 10.30 a.m. at St. Margaret’s, details next month.

Monday 13th October AUCTION OIF THE HARVEST PRODUCE in St. Margaret’s at 7.30 p.m. Details next month.

Friday 7th November GAMES AFTERNOON 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Saturday 22nd November The Snow Queen will open the Memorial Hall Committee’s **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

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.**

REFLECTIONS OF LOWER HALSTOW - 1914

What a wonderful and memorable weekend we had. Back in January the P.C.C. were thinking of social occasions at St. Margaret's with a view to fund-raising and it was decided that it was about time we had another Flower Festival. Liz and Pauline offered to organise it, and decided that August would be a convenient month. At the same time Alan was hoping to organise an exhibition in the church relating to the beginning of the 1st World War. The result was that the Flower Festival was set aside in favour of a combined approach, and the idea of Reflections of Lower Halstow in 1914 was born. Jackie (Alan's wife and churchwarden) joined the team and arranged for Mick Mills to give a talk about the battlefield and Chris and Denise, the 'Singing Ladies', to sing a selection of wartime songs. She also organised a team of helpers to make and serve refreshments and welcome visitors. We are so grateful to them because hospitality is a major factor to a successful occasion, which it undoubtedly proved to be. We were overwhelmed with the number of visitors to the church over the weekend of 2nd – 4th August, and the fact that 81 persons attended the closing service spoke volumes.

It was an event that will long be remembered for many reasons, and now we are looking ahead to four years' time when we will be commemorating the end of the war. We hope our displays of photographs and items of interest will have inspired some of you to search out family photos and memorabilia, because in four years time it won't be just Lower Halstow we will be thinking about, but the wider community – and we have already started thinking. If you have any photos or memorabilia that can be photocopied, or even loaned at the time, we would be more than grateful if you could contact us whenever it is convenient for you – Alan Swift at 48 School Lane, tel: 842749. Liz Mouland at Great Barksore Farm, tel: 842272 and Pauline Stevens at Elm Farm, tel: 842028. To keep your memories alive there will be an item each month in Village News for the next four years featuring the events which were recorded in the East Kent Gazette 100 years ago plus news from the battlefield.

*We had so many helpers over the weekend, and we do hope that some of you who are new to helping out might like to join us more often. The following is a message from Liz Mouland who takes care of the **Friends of St. Margaret's** We have a great team of volunteers that help in a myriad of ways with the events and life of the church. We are always happy to welcome new helpers. The activities are wide ranging including cleaning, leaflet distribution in the village, flower arranging, refreshments to name just a few. We all lead very busy lives and many people are often wary of volunteering in case the commitment becomes too demanding. This is not the case with us. Simply stating a wish to help as and when possible is perfect, and we work on the principle 'many hands make light work'. We are aware that many people are very fond of the church and enjoy helping out but prefer not to be included in regular worship, so if you too would like to join our band of helpers please do get in touch. Please*

contact either Jackie Swift, church warden; Pauline Stevens, editor (pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com) or Liz Mouland Friends of St.Margaret's (eamouland@gmail.com).

We have an immediate need for friends. We have lost two of our valued altar flower ladies. Anna Slade has moved and Ann Smith's working circumstances have changed. Thank you both for all you have done in the time you were with us. Would anyone like to join our very small team of seven? You don't have to have had classes in flower arranging, simply a love of flowers, and, if you think you aren't up to the challenge, believe you me you learn by just doing the job. The altar flower lady should really only do just that – one arrangement at the altar, but mostly we find that there are flowers that can be used for a second week and we place them by the pulpit. All you need is for someone to show you what we do and how to do it. We are optimistic that, following all the help given over our World War 1 weekend, someone (or two) will feel that they could help us in this way. Please phone Pauline on 842028 and either she or one of the team will show you what is involved. It would be so encouraging even if only one person takes up the challenge. We have a special flower fund to help with the purchase of flowers.

The editor apologises for inadvertently omitting the following item from last month's Village News.

THNAK YOU Bill Shephard would like to thank all those people who bought plants from him at his Plant Sale in Curlew Avenue in aid of St. Margaret's Church. On the 14th June, he raised **£400**. A big THANK YOU to all those people who came out on such a dismal day and supported the Shephard family. Bill (86) has been selling plants in aid of St. Margaret's at the last two church fetes and this year he decided to have another go. He started selling flowers in the late spring and was delighted to have raised the grand total of £1,061 for our local church.

Bill Shephard is truly a Friend of St. Margaret's and we are so grateful to him.

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

September 1914

Edward Castle, butcher and farmer, was the first person in Kent to be prosecuted for American gooseberry mildew, having sent some infected fruit to London for sale. The order (*regarding notification*) had been in force for seven years, but he said he didn't know it had to be notified. The penalty was not very heavy because of the war.

The Hospital Show at the Three Tuns raised £9 for St. Barts at Rochester. (*These shows took place in front of the Three Tuns at the roadside. How times have changed.*)

The Cottage Gardeners' Annual Show was abandoned due to the war, but it was decided to continue with the monthly shows.

The barge Landrail was 'disastrously done down' and the captain and mate drowned.

ON THE BATTLEFRONT

Although not on the Church Plaque, but included in the East Kent Gazette Roll of Honour for Lower Halstow May 1915, **John Whitenall (Whitnall)** was the first village casualty. Serving in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, he was killed in action 16 September 1914, age 28, and is buried in Vailly British Cemetery.

John, son of Daniel and Harriet Whitnell - (the surname spelling does change) was baptized in Saint Margaret's on 1 Aug 1886 and was one of nine children. The family worked in the Brickfield and lived at Frog Farm and then in New Row, Halstow. (*Later named Shockfield and then numbered 11 – 25 School Lane.*) By 1911 John had enlisted and was serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Scots in South Africa.

At the outbreak of War, the 1st Battalion was back in England and embarked as part of the 3rd Division, British Expeditionary Force, landing at Le Havre 14 August 1914. They were quickly deployed to Mons and in the fighting that followed in the Battle of the Aisne, John Whitenall (as he was known in the army) lost his life. He was one of the few awarded the Mons Star, together with The British War and Victory Medals.

Leading Stoker Harry Beanland, drowned when HMS Aboukir was sunk 20 September 1914, on first examination, seems not to have any connection with the village. He was born in Leyland, Lancashire, 5 June 1883 and he began his working life in the local cotton mills. On 12 November 1901

he enlisted into the Royal Navy, HMS Pembroke (Chatham). He is remembered on the Naval War Memorial, Great Lines, Chatham. He was aged 31. Whilst on shore leave, he must have met up with his future wife Winnifred (Simmonds) daughter of blacksmith John Simmonds of Bredgar. They were married in 1904, had two boys Wilfred and Patrick and in 1911 they were living at 6 Stafford Street Gillingham. Later, for the name to be on the Memorial, it must be assumed they came to live in the village. Between 1901 and 1913, when he joined the Royal Navy Reserve, Harry served on a number of well-known ships among them Scylla, Leviathan and Black Price. He was recalled 2nd August 1914 to join Aboukir. On 22 September HMS Aboukir, with HMS Hogue and HMS Cressy, was on patrol in the North Sea, when she was torpedoed by the German U Boat U9, sinking very quickly. Both the Cressy and the Hogue closed to take off survivors but were themselves both sunk by the remaining torpedoes of U9. 1459 were lost in this one action, mostly from this area, all being Chatham Ships.

AROUND KENT WITH ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH

In July Rosemary Dellar, editor of St Margaret's church, Rainham, magazine, attended our morning Sunday service. She was writing a series of articles for the Rainham Parish Magazine about the churches in Kent dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch. Here is part of her article about Lower Halstow:-

'St Margaret's at Lower Halstow, although only a mile or so away (*from Rainham*), is in the diocese of Canterbury, just as Rainham used to be when it shared a parish magazine with Newington. Now it is one of six churches in a benefice composed of Stockbury, Hartlip, Iwade, Newington, Lower Halstow and Upchurch.....

There is a service at 10.30 am on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays at Lower Halstow (often involving a dash from celebrating at Upchurch for Rev'd Jacky) but on the fifth Sunday the six parishes unite for an all-age service at one of their churches. The 1662 Prayer Book is used for the monthly Evensong, and also at the 8.00 a.m. Communion once month. Their hymn book is Songs of Fellowship, offering a choice of over 1100 hymns and worship songs!

Lower Halstow Church is very friendly: every Saturday during the summer it opens its doors to walkers along the riverside and other visitors, so that they can explore the ancient building and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee. The church is also open every fourth Thursday morning, when there are homemade cakes, sandwiches and savouries as well as drinks on offer. Toddlers are welcome, for the children's corner has a wealth of toys, books and other activities to encourage them to feel at home in God's house.

There is much else to see inside the church, and it's also pleasant to wander along the shore and through the old brickfield area. The 327 bus runs to Lower Halstow - why not pay a visit?'

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Flagpole Survey It has been suggested that the village should have a flagpole and we want to know your views. We have set up a very short online survey which is accessible through the parish website <http://www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk>. or directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KS87KWR>. You can also contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. The survey will remain open until midnight on September 30th 2014.

LOWER HALSTOW FRIENDS OF THE PARK

SAFETY FIRST - Our Lower Halstow children come first. They have a great new play area and a CCTV camera to make sure we have given them and visiting children the right to play safely. The CCTV cameras are there for any footage to be viewed only if there is an incident, and only the Parish Council Clerk has ability to access the footage. Any enquiries please call the Parish Council on

07506044219. If there is a crime committed please call **101** or **01795 419116** and **07506044219**, but if an incident is happening call **999**.

There are a few people we would like to thank very much indeed. They are Cllr. Lee Burgess, Cllr. Roger Truelove and Cllr. Ben Stokes, who all provided most of the finances for the CCTV. The Best One Village Shop and the Three Tuns Pub both provided much needed monies. Bradley Jacobs of BJL Electrical and Kevin Bromley, Dave and Billy of Scan Fire Security all provided the equipment etc. for the actual CCTV at a considerably low cost. Without any of your generosity, we could not have this much need safety facility. Another thank you for the Parish Council's clerk, Christine Fordham, who sorted out all the regulations required. Again a big thank you from the Lower Halstow Friends of the Park.

YOUR LOCAL 'BEST ONE' VILLAGE SHOP IN BURNTWICK DRIVE – now under new management. 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.

HAIR AT HOME LISA POLLY Over 30 years experience. Love to Perm, Colour etc. Gents and OAP haircuts. 07986644567 or 01795 843936

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

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Chartered Financial Planner

19 The Street, Lower Halstow

Contact me on 07824 392342 or

Email : michael.vanderstraaten@sipp.co.uk

Website : 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

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. Direct 0845 4647

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 OCTOBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER.

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!