

**LOWER HALSTOW**  
**VILLAGE NEWS**  
**JULY 2016**

**The Westmoreland**  
See page 7

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

## **SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN JULY**

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

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

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July SEA SUNDAY**

**10.00 a.m.** Morning Worship

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**10.00 a.m.** Communion

**4.00 p.m.** Evensong

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

**10.00 a.m.** Family Time with refreshments

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

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

**10.30 a.m.** Benefice Open Air All-age Communion at Upchurch

### **ALTAR FLOWER ROTA**

**July:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Maggie Mills & Fiona Harrington; 10<sup>th</sup> Liz Mouland;

17<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Quigley; 24<sup>th</sup> Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo;

31<sup>st</sup> Ursula Aylward.

**August:** 7<sup>th</sup> Georgina Kindred

## **THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY.**

*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 JULY** and other dates for your diary.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** The Friends of Lower Halstow Primary School are holding a **SUMMER FETE** from **11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.** All proceeds will go to the school to benefit the children who attend. There will be lots of games, BBQ and bar, so very family friendly!

**LOWER HALSTOW CRAFTERS**

Our meetings are informal and fun and open to all, whether you are an experienced crafter or a complete beginner. We enjoy learning new crafts and sharing ideas. 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. You can see photos of our achievements on our Facebook page at Lower Halstow Crafters. For further details and venues contact Sue on 841730 or email sue.e.mumford@btinternet.com or Margaret on 843100

**Dates for July are: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July; Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July; Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** **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)

**Monthly Meeting: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

**Coffee Morning : Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 9.30 a.m.** Members £1.50; Guests £2

**Ten Pin Bowling: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 9.45 am**

**Walks: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays - Village Hall 9.30 am**

**Boules: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2.00 p.m.**

**Kurling: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2.00 p.m.**

**Bingo Quiz: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 p.m.**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July** **Calling all Primary School Children (4+ to 11years). BREAKFAST CLUB** at **St. Margaret's Church between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.** Come along and enjoy a breakfast of waffles, pancakes and toast accompanied by fresh apple or orange juice.

Following a lively introduction, you can take part in a variety of games and activities linked to the morning's 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 look forward to greeting our 'regulars' but newcomers are always welcome.

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

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July** *Memorial Hall Committee* **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NOVELTY DOG SHOW.**

**Registration at 10.00 a.m. on the day. Judging begins at 11.00 a.m.**

The Show includes fancy dress, the happiest dog/bitch, most handsome dog, prettiest bitch, owner and dog/bitch look-alike. Agility course and new dog races. Rosettes for all 1sts, 2nds and 3rds and trophies for over-all winners.

We will also be having a fund-raising Bring & Buy stall for the PDSA., and the monies collected will go to the Over 60s Christmas function.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July** **Lower Halstow Memorial Hall committee** will be holding their **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 7.30 p.m.** All welcome. As usual we are looking for new Committee members and helpers to help shape the Hall and be more connected; it does not take up too much time ( 1 - 2 hours a month). Anyone who uses the hall on a regular basis can have a representative on the Committee, so can I have any nominations from any representatives. I would especially like to hear from the Scouts and Gardening Club who at present do not have a voice on the running of the hall. If

you need further information please contact Kerry on 842234 or by email [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July YOUTH GROUP at ST.MARGARET'S CHURCH, 5.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.**

Still time to help shape what you would like. All youngsters from 11 years + welcome. What's on offer - variety of activities, DVDs and, of course, refreshments! And all for free.....The Youth Group Team. For more information call or text Liz on 07730893747.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July Lower Halstow Yacht club (Sheerness Road) will hold its ANNUAL CHARITY RACE starting at 10.45 a.m. in aid of a cancer charity. We meet on the slipway at 9.30 a.m.**

A donation of £5 per person participating would be gratefully received. The 'race' will be followed by a B-B-Q subject to weather conditions. All donations go to the charity. Members volunteer the use of their boats for this annual event so come and join us and experience some time on the water.

The yacht club is a friendly, self-help organisation and has members with a broad variety of water activities including canoe/kayak, sailing dinghy, day-sailer, cruiser, assorted fishing boats and sailing boats to 33 feet. If you would like to try out a particular type of craft mentioned above or join sailing boats for the 'race' then please speak to Graham Osborne (hon.sec) 01634 324517 to book a place or for more details.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July Lower Halstow TREASURE HUNT from the Three Tuns garden.**

Form a team of friends and/or family, collect your treasure map from the pub, and follow the clues around our village. The hunt is all outdoors and is suitable for all ages.

No need to pre book; just visit the Three Tuns pub garden **between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.**, register your team and collect your map.

The hunt begins and ends at the pub and should take between an hour and an hour and a half. The prize for the winning team will be announced at 5.00 p.m. and the prize is a luxury hamper; if more than one team solves all the clues then there will be a draw to decide the winners.

**Entry £5 per team;** proceeds to be split equally between the Friends of the Brickfields and the Westmoreland Trust

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July PRODUCE SALE & CRAFTS at St.Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

Please join us at arguably the prettiest location around at this popular event 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!

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July Ursula's annual CREAM TEAS from 3.00 p.m. at 7 Burntwick Drive, entry £3.00, in aid of the Over 60s' Christmas party. All welcome. Bring the sunshine with you!**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome.**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August The Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Committee is hosting a JAZZ NIGHT with 'DR. JAZZ', The Swinging Traditional Dixieland Jazz Band. Opening 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Tickets £9.00 each. Please bring your own beverage. To order your tickets call Kay on 01795 844409**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September FAMILY BARN DANCE in the Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Dancing begins at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5.00 each for adults. Under 14-year-olds £3.00 each. Bring your own beverage and supper. For tickets call Kay on 01795 844408.**

**Saturday 22nd October QUIZ NIGHT in the Memorial Hall, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.** Quiz begins at 7.30 p.m. **Tables of 6 - £5.00 per person**, which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Please bring your own beverage. To book call Kay on 01795 844408

**Saturday November 26th Grand CHRISTMAS MARKET, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. to be opened by ??? Big Secret!!!** (More information nearer the time).

### **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 time is due to change soon) **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.

### **PASTORAL LETTER**

Hero worship – probably we all have our heroes. One local hero of mine is The Whistling Postman, Dale Howting. You may have seen him sitting astride his stationary bicycle, with its big, black charity box, on Friday or Saturday in Sittingbourne High Street or in Homebase. Weather, health, and holidays permitting, he tries not to let a day pass without going out somewhere on his mission. Originally, Dale was a postman who whistled loudly and cheerfully as he cycled around his route. But a complaint led to the Post Office instructing him to maintain silence on one section of his circuit. The resulting notoriety eventually gave rise to the lifelong charity drive of The Whistling Postman. Over the years, his goal became to collect £250,000 before his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He reached his charity target in August 2014, and his target birthday in September of that year. He had been honoured in 2012 by carrying the Olympic Torch for Sittingbourne, carrying it into Birchington-on-sea. In May 2013, he presented the torch to the Mayor of Swale to be on permanent display. But all this hasn't slowed him down. On Fridays and Saturdays, you can still see him, cheerful and friendly, at one of his accustomed posts. During the Queen's Birthday Celebrations, he was out in fine style, his bicycle bedecked with the Union Jack, and with all four national flags. Dale is still going strong, not giving up his mission, just because one goal was reached, but reaching out for more. He is a real, living example of St Paul's teachings – to be constant in well doing, and never to think you have done it all, but to press on to win the final crown. God grant Dale many more years of bringing cheer to the High Street, and charity to all the good causes he supports.

### **UGANDAN PROJECT**

At a benefice churchwardens' meeting Jackie Swift, our churchwarden, learned of a project that Lesley Ambrose, who grew up in Hartlip, is working on with deprived children in Uganda. As a result Lower Halstow Parochial Church Council, and therefore our church, has donated towards Lesley's urgent needs, and Jackie has received the following letter:

*Dear Jackie,*

*It was so good to meet you at last and I was so grateful for the warm and loving welcome I received from you all. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to share about God's work in Uganda and thankful that people were so willing to help us. On behalf of our church I want to convey my thanks to you and Lower Halstow church for your generous donation of £103 pounds towards the children's meals. David and Andrew have now purchased the saucepan, charcoal and stove plus mugs. We plan to give the children porridge after their club next Saturday.*

*I know that the children in Lower Halstow and Upchurch would like to link with our children. We will have to work on the writing and exchange of letters and pictures.*

*You may have heard that I received a wonderful welcome at the airport when 10 of our children ran up to give me hugs. The children plus five adults all managed to squeeze into one taxi. We also had a rousing service on Wednesday evening and I was able to report on all that I had done. Everyone was very happy and grateful to God for my safe return. The children ate all the biscuits I had brought and blew up their new footballs. It was good to be back.*

*Thank you again so very much, you are making a big difference to the lives of our children. We will keep you updated on our progress and hope to send some pictures. With our love, Lesley.*

**THE QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY** was celebrated in the village over the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. On the evening of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> the Keep Fit ladies and Friends of St. Margaret organised a Sing-along with pictures and details of the Queen's life. This was put together by Liz Mouland and Pam Shepherd, and compered by Will Ransley. Thank you to you all for a most enjoyable evening, which has inspired us to commemorate the centenary in 2018 of ending of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in a similar way. On the Saturday the Parish Council led by Christine Fordham organised a family Fun Afternoon, which was appreciated and enjoyed by all, although the weather could have been better. Then on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> an afternoon social time was held in St. Margaret's church, when a church full of people enjoyed tea and cakes organised by Jackie Swift and her helpers, which included the cubs, who waited on us hand and foot. We were entertained by Chris and Denise who sang many well-known songs and also by the cubs and Chris Mayes, who told us about his time with the Royal Horse Guards and how he had attended various royal occasions. We had a life-sized cardboard cut-out of the Queen, and visitors could have their photo taken with her. The afternoon ended with a short service, with the cubs providing the prayers. Thank you so much to all who decorated the church, made the refreshments, served the tea and washed up afterwards.

It was a weekend to remember, and several people, including some from outside the village, commented that it shows what a good and strong community spirit exists in Halstow. There are so many people to say thank you to and my words are inadequate, but your hard work was really appreciated. Pauline Stevens, on behalf of us all.

*.... and just received the following from Tricia Carr*

**The Queen's Thanksgiving Tea Party and Short Service** of thanksgiving was held in St Margaret's Church on Sunday, 12th June. It was organised by Jackie Swift, our Church Warden and her many lovely helpers, with copious delicious sandwiches, sausage rolls and wonderful cakes,(including one cleverly decorated with the Union Jack) and cream teas. The whole church was decked out with red, white and blue bunting made by skilful local people, balloons and many patriotic decoration and statistics, also a screen was set up near the organ with film of the Queen's life. The two lady singers were as usual a delight, taking us through songs over the last 90 years and encouraging us to 'sing along' creating a sense of community and a warm atmosphere. The cubs not only treated us to some interesting history of the scouts story but also renewed their vows, said the prayers for the service and doubled as waiters. Chris Mayes gave us some interesting snippets from his time in the Royal Horse Guards, when he emphasised the endless hours that the Queen has spent, on her feet, in the saddle and always faultlessly performing her duties, often from early morning until late evening. During the afternoon many people had their photo taken next to the life size cut out of her Majesty in pride of place on the chancel steps. The Rev Mark took the short service and afterwards there was a glass of bubbly and a toast to the Queen, when we all sang happy birthday.

**Having previously been our Church Warden for some years in the first part of the 21st Century I know how much effort one has to put into organising such events and I am absolutely sure that the efforts of Jackie and her team on Sunday were fantastic and that I speak for all those who joined our celebrations and had such a memorable and enjoyable afternoon.**

*P.S. from the editor.* Only a few of us knew that Jackie had to be at the church well before 1.00 p.m. to assist at a baptism. Jackie, you're a star!

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Clerk** Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July the Parish Clerk for Lower Halstow will be Mrs Ann Smith, 11 Cumberland Drive, Tel: 01795 842908 email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

**Flash Flooding** In view of the recent heavy rains, residents are asked that if they cover the drains to prevent the ducklings falling down, that they ensure that the cover is water permeable. There have been a number of incidents of flooding to garages etc, as the drains are covered by carpet and the water is running down to the lowest point of the road.

## **BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION**

Don't forget that, during July, members of the Parish Council will be searching for Lower Halstow's best front gardens, so it's time to add those finishing touches! Every front garden, visible from the path or road, is automatically entered, so with just a little extra effort you could be a winner! The results will be announced in August and Dobbies vouchers of £50, £25 and £10 will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Happy gardening! Sue Hartfree.

## **FRIENDS OF THE WESTMORELAND**

The restoration of the Westmoreland Sailing Barge is gathering pace, with a submission for lottery funding about to be made. In the meantime the Westmoreland Trust is looking for villagers who'd like to become Friends of the Westmoreland, as this exciting project still needs our help to meet ongoing costs, such as insuring the barge.

### **What does it mean to be a Friend of the Westmoreland?**

- \* We will keep you up to date with developments on the restoration project via email newsletters
- \* Invitation to Friends-only Open Days during restoration so you can see the project developing yourselves
- \* Discounts on events once the Westmoreland is restored
- \* Once the Barge is restored, Friends who've been with us over 2 years can have their name(s) engraved in a permanent display on the Westmorland

We aim to add further benefits as the project progresses.

### **What is the Cost?**

£2 per month for individuals and £3 per month for families (living at the same address).

### **What do I need to do next?**

Just email us at [friends@westmorelandtrust.co.uk](mailto:friends@westmorelandtrust.co.uk) with your name(s) and address.

## **VINYL RECORDS, CDs, AND CASSETTE TAPES URGENTLY REQUIRED**

The Fenner Frost Foundation is a newly-formed charity (1167049) that will be opening a record shop in Sittingbourne High Street. The purpose of the shop is to advance the skills and education of young adults with a learning disability. Here they will be involved in all aspects of running a shop. They will be assisted to identify and source stock, serve customers, handle money and undertake general shop duties. If you have any records, tapes, or CD's that you would be willing to donate please contact Alison on 01795 843357 or 07881278689 for collection.

## **THE VILLAGE SHOP IS NOW OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

Groceries, a bakery, a paypoint, a cash machine, frozen and chilled food, household items, spirits and wine, alcohol and beers, medicine, newspapers, stationery. 01795 844630

**SUN PIER HOUSE** - Enjoy riverside views, homemade cake and light lunches at this award-winning Gallery & Tearoom. Open 10am – 4pm, Tuesdays - Sundays, Sun Pier House, Medway Street, Chatham, ME4 4HF. Free parking for Tearoom customers. No disabled access. For further information please contact us 01634 812 805

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:thestitchistsews@gmail.com), phone: 01795 555853  
Also WANTED – vintage clothing and textiles.

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Email : [michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:michael.vanderstraaten@sjpp.co.uk)

Website : [www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

PCSO 56826 Matthew Link, Lower Halstow & Iwade,

Tel: 101 or email [matthew.link@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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](mailto:benstokes@swale.gov.uk)

Duncan Dewar-Whalley 07889 808871 [duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk](mailto:duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk)

County Councillor Roger Truelove 425445 [roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk)

County Councillor Lee Burgess LeeBurgess@kent.gov.uk

M.P. Gordon Henderson 423199 [www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk](http://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)

K.C.C. Highways potholes 03000 418187

N.H.S. 111

Parish Council Website: [www.lowerhalstowpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://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 AUGUST VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY.**

Items for inclusion to Pauline at Elm Farm (842028)

or [pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:pauline.elmfarm@btconnect.com)

Please remember – if we don't receive your news, we can't print it!