

**LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS
NOVEMBER 2016**



The memorial corner in St. Margaret's church.

**We will remember them at the
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
at St. Margaret's Church
Sunday 13th November at 10.30 a.m.**

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

SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th November

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

Sunday 13th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Service of Remembrance

Sunday 20th November

10.00 a.m. Communion

4.00 p.m. Evensong

Sunday 27th November

10.00 a.m. Family Time with refreshments

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

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA

November: 6th Georgina Kindred; 13th Liz Mouland;
20th Yvonne Quigley; 27th Ann Smith.

December 4th Jackie Swift & Joan Mustoo.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER

*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 NOVEMBER and other dates for your diary.

Tuesday 1st November **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.

TWO DEADLINE DATES:

Friday 4th November **DEADLINE FOR LETTING URSULA KNOW IF YOU ARE OVER 60 AND WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE OVER 60s' CHRISTMAS PARTY ON SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER AT 3.00 p.m. IN THE MEMORIAL HALL.** Ursula needs to know by this date so that she can send the invitations and make all the arrangements. She can be contacted at 7 Burntwick Drive or tel: 842924. (*Editor's note – a traditional village occasion not to be missed if you are eligible. If you haven't been before then come and join us*)

Friday 4th November **DEADLINE DATE FOR BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOXES.**

Una, 2 Cumberland Drive, Jackie 48 School Lane, or Liz, 14 Curlew Avenue, will be pleased to see you with your boxes.

Friday 4th November **GAMES AFTERNOON** in the **Memorial Hall** between **2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.** The games include Rummy, Euchre, Whist and Scrabble and the cost is £1.50 which includes a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. There is no joining fee, so come along and join in. You would be so welcome.

UpARA (Upchurch Active Retirement Association)

Monthly Meeting: **Friday 11th November** **2.00 p.m.** Members free; Guests £2

Coffee Morning : **Tuesday 22nd November** **9.30 a.m.** Members £1.00; Guests £2

Ten Pin Bowling: **Tuesday 8th November** **9.45 a.m.**

Wednesday 9th November **KENTARA** Tournament, Gravesend.

Walks: **1st & 3rd Fridays** - Village Hall **9.30 a.m.**

Boules: **Tuesday 15th November** **1.00 p.m.**

Kurling: **Monday 7th November** **2.00 p.m.**

Friday 25th November **2.00 p.m.**

Friday 11th November **Lower Halstow Brickfields Memorial Wood** **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE** at **10.30 a.m.**

There is to be a Remembrance Day service held at the War Memorial in the newly-established Memorial Wood. This is in addition to, and not instead of, the service in the Church on Remembrance Sunday.

You may recall, that the Memorial Wood was planted in the area of the Brickfields known as the Beanfield, as part of the WW1 Centenary and encompasses a small memorial built from bricks recovered from the Brickfields inscribed with the names of the men from the village who gave their lives.

This year has been designated Somme 100 by the Royal British Legion as the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, so this service is being held as part of that theme.

The closest access to the Memorial Wood is at the very end of Heron Drive, so if you are coming by car please park considerately and do not block the turning circle. Access is of course also available from the end of Lapwing Drive, so again please park considerately.

If the weather is against us, the Church Warden has kindly offered to open the Church.

Peter Froggatt, Chairman Friends of Lower Halstow Brickfields.

Friday 11th November **AUCTION OF PROMISES** in **UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL** 8.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m. So far we have bouncy castle hire, colour cut and blow dry, horse riding, dog walking, babysitting, cleaning, jet ski experience, Christmas gift wrapping service, tutoring sessions etc. This is to raise funds for a scanner appeal at Medway Hospital to help breast cancer patients avoid lengthy waits and to cut out the need for further surgeries. We are looking for pledges to auction on the night. Do you have a service or a talent you could donate? Would you be willing to teach someone to use a computer, play an instrument, learn to draw etc? Maybe you are a tradesperson who is able to offer a service such as carpentry, decorating, gardening. We are also collecting donations of bottles of drink, chocolates and toiletries so that we can make up hampers. To pledge or register an interest in tickets for the night, please phone Carina on 01795 842022, text 07899951044 or email carinajacobs65@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you,

Saturday 12th November **BREAKFAST CLUB** Come along to **St. Margaret's Church** from **9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.** and start to prepare for Christmas.

As usual we shall start with breakfast and then learn how Mary and Joseph heard the news of Jesus' imminent birth. Activities will then be linked to this theme and include things to make and games to play. If you are at Primary school we would love to see you. Come along and participate and let us know what you think and what you would like to be included in future sessions. Contact Liz Hadley 842654, Becky Ridley 841028 or Hilary Gates 841632 for more details.

Sunday 13th November **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE** in **St. Margaret's church** at **10.30 a.m.** Our Scout Troop will be present and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend.

The year 1916, generally brings to mind the Somme, but here in Lower Halstow, the impact was more from the introduction of conscription in March, as it had become obvious that it was not possible to continue fighting relying on voluntary recruits. By this time those from the village, buoyed with pride and patriotism, who had volunteered from the village, were on active service and dying in the trenches. In March 1916, all single men between 18 and 41 years of age (later, in May, extended to married men), became liable for call up. By 1918 there was scarcely a village family who did not have someone (and many had four, five and even six) on active service. Sadly some of the conscripts did not return.

In the Second World War, conscription was universal. We must not forget those who paid the ultimate price. and also those that served. As in previous years, although obviously at our Service, we concentrate on those from the village, we also to mention those with connections to the congregation.

If you would like a relative's name to be read out please get in touch. Mick Mills has previously had a list, but unfortunately will not be with us this year so it would be appreciated if you could advise Alan Swift (842749).

Friday 18th November *St Margaret's Church* **YOUTH GROUP.**

Now that the nights are drawing in and the colder evenings are upon us, the youth group will be **meeting in the Memorial Hall.** This month we will meet on November 18th and then December 9th. We meet **at 5.30 p.m.** for an hour and a half. We have a variety of games and craft activities, refreshments and a DVD on the go! The group is open to 11 years and up.

For more information call Liz on 07730893747.

St Margaret's Youth Group Team

Saturday 19th November **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR** at **St. Margaret's Church, 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.** Refreshments available.

Join us at our popular Christmas sale, with a wide range of crafts, gifts and home baking, including jewellery, needlework, fountain pens, cards, local honey and woodwork. We look forward to welcoming you!

Friday 25th November *Scout Group* **QUIZ NIGHT, 8.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.** A fun and friendly quiz, delivered by the brilliant Michael van der Straaten on behalf of the Group, raising funds to support the young people of our village. Bring your own drinks.

Table snacks provided. To book a table (6 per team at £5 a head) call Mick on 842587

Saturday November 26th Grand CHRISTMAS MARKET, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., and opened by the ICE QUEEN. Father Christmas will be there later. The raffle, which closes the market at 3.00 p.m., will include a Meat Raffle in aid of Dream Flights and will be assisted by Mrs. and Miss Galaxy. **HAPPY ENDINGS RESCUE** will be having a stall at the market and will have new and second-hand items for sale. This is a local animal rescue charity. They have many different animals looking for new homes and they also attend local schools with some of the animals. Please come and support them. We will also have a collection box if you wish to donate.

Saturday 26th November CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry £3.00, includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. Everyone welcome. (There will be no whist drive in December, the next one will be on Saturday 28th January 2017)

Friday 2nd December Memorial Hall Committee - our Christmas Special Games Afternoon 2.00 to 4.00pm, do join us.

Sunday 11th December CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at St. Margaret's church, 3.00 p.m.

Friday 16th December COFFEE AND CAROLS in the Memorial Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 18th December CAROL SERVICE at St. Margaret's church, 3.00 p.m.

Saturday 24th December CRIB SERVICE at St. Margaret's church, 5.30 p.m.

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 two weeks on THURSDAYS (13th October) 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.

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

Dear friends,

As I write, the sun is lower in the sky than it's been for months, we've had a couple of frosts, harvest festivals are past and the days are getting shorter. We've even had the central heating on at home and our cat is deigning to spend the evening indoors rather than patrolling her beat outside.

The autumn is a season of such beauty, as the sun in the morning and late afternoon turns everything golden and the leaves turn to fabulous shades of red, yellow and orange. I find myself unable to resist collecting conkers, even though I'm unlikely to be engaging in conker fights; they are just so beautiful, with their smooth, shiny skins.

And when I look at all this beauty, I never cease to give thanks for the glory of God in creation. That glory is on so many scales; the magnificence of an autumn sunset, filling the sky, or the sweep of a landscape wreathed in morning mist, right down to the intricate patterns on leaves and frosted cobwebs, no two the same. All this speaks of a Creator who takes joy in His creation, a creation which

includes each of us. We too are, in the words of the psalmist, 'fearfully and wonderfully made', by a God who knows us and loves us completely.

But it's easy not to see this beauty, to be overwhelmed by the misery which seems to dominate our news reports, the problems so many of us face in our daily lives. It is true, there is much in our world that causes us to grieve and rage, but there is also much beauty. Those things that are wrong cause grief to our loving Father; it is not for evil that we were created. Humanity does so much to mar the creation of which we are stewards, whether it is through war and conflict, greed or jealousy. And there is much suffering caused by natural disasters, by poverty and illness.

But beauty is still there, if we open our eyes to it. Let us do all we can to love all that is beautiful, in creation and in the lives around us, but let each of us also do our best, as individuals and communities, to find ways in which others can also enjoy that beauty, and flourish as our brothers and sisters, children of a loving heavenly Father.

Wishing you every blessing, Rev'd Amanda.

A BIG THANK YOU to the village and the wider community. In just one a week we raised just over £1000 for charity. It began in the church on Friday 23rd September with the generosity of the school, supported by parents, at their Harvest Festival service when the church was full with all who could squeeze in. This was followed by the church Harvest Festival service on the 25th, which again was well supported. Then the big Auction Sale, in the church on the 26th, when the auctioneer, as usual, was Les Stevens, loyally assisted by Pauline his wife who keeps Les clued up with the items. Over the weekend we raised £420. On the following Thursday the Macmillan Coffee Day, also held in the church, raised over £600. Thank you to everyone. Jackie Swift.

Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning/Afternoon: Thursday 29th September

What a fantastic day we had at St. Margaret's Church. The response from the village was amazing-wonderful cakes and savouries donated and lots of visitors to eat them! Many, many thanks to all who baked, came and helped in any way. Jackie and I were really overwhelmed by your generosity and readiness to be involved. Now, together with a late donation, we have raised a total of **£617.20 !!!!**

A great statement that as a village we are eager that **'No-one should face cancer alone'**.

A special 'thank you' to 'Barrows' of Sittingbourne, who donated the cake for the 'Spotty Cake' competition and to our local Co-op store in Upchurch who gave us a generous selection of cakes and tartlets. Thank you all so much. Liz Hadley.

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. The items that the church keep for anyone to borrow, mainly wheelchairs, periodically need a little service so ...

WANTED URGENTLY - a willing person, with a few hours to spare now and then, to look at the equipment and make sure they are in good working order, sometimes pumping up tyres and checking the wheels etc. These items are frequently being borrowed for a short time. If anyone is out there we would be very grateful for a little help. Jackie Swift – tel: 8427499

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Mrs Ann Smith, 11 Cumberland Drive, Tel: 01795 842908

email clerk.lhpc@gmail.com

What does your Parish Council do?

Lower Halstow Parish Council is the first tier of government for the parish of Lower Halstow and is committed to working together with the residents of Lower Halstow for the benefit of the parish. It is a statutory body and has wide ranging powers and interests, one of which is to give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish. It is a focus for action and lobbying on roads, village facilities, the environment and other issues that may arise.

Lower Halstow Parish Council is responsible for providing and maintaining such services as allotments, the Brickfields and other amenity areas, burial ground, street cleaning, street lighting and some other services. The Parish Council works with Swale Borough Council.

The Council has 7 elected councillors and one part-time employee, the Clerk, who carries out the administration and financial duties, and to whom any enquiries should be made.

Full Council Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August when usually no meeting is held. Notices of meetings are posted on the notice boards in the village and are open for all village residents to attend.

LOWER HALSTOW MEMORIAL HALL We are in urgent need of a new treasurer. Our present Treasurer is moving house. It will only take 1 - 2 hours per month. We would like to get a person in position before the present treasurer moves so she can show them the ropes. Interested? Please email Kerry at lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com or telephone on (01795) 842234. We are also looking for new Committee members.

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.

Email to the editor Thank you so much for adding our donation item to the village newsletter for the past few months. Would it be possible for you to mention a very big thank you to all the generous people that have kindly donated their vinyl records , CDs and tapes. Our shop , RPM (Reaching People through Music) is now ready to open on 24th October at 51 High Street Sittingbourne and we are looking forward to being able to give our young adults with learning disabilities the opportunity to gain real work experience to move them onto paid employment. Thank you again.

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

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, phone: 01795 555853
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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

The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794

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 (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 Roger Truelove 425445 roger.truelove@kent.gov.uk

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 (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 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 DECEMBER VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER.

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!