

# LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS

MARCH 2018



**“Birthday Girls” Ella and Suzanne, celebrating special birthdays**

*compiled, edited and published for the village by*  
**St. MARGARET’S CHURCH**

**SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S MARCH 2018**

**SUNDAY**            **4<sup>th</sup> March**

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

**SUNDAY**            **11<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.00 a.m**            **Family Time - MOTHERING SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY**            **18<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.00 a.m**            **Communion**

**4.00 p.m**            **Evensong**

**SUNDAY**            **25<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.00 a.m**            **Family Time PALM SUNDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**        **28<sup>th</sup> March**

**7.30 p.m**            **Contemplative Prayer**

**FRIDAY**            **30<sup>th</sup> March**        **GOOD FRIDAY**

**10.30 a.m**            **All Age Service**

**1.00 p.m**            **Hour at the Cross**

**SATURDAY**        **31<sup>st</sup> March**

**7.30 p.m**            **Light the Fire**

**Sunday**            **1<sup>st</sup> April**        **EASTER DAY**

**6.00 a.m**            **Sunrise Communion (on the waters edge then Communion in the church)**

**10. am**            **Family Communion**

**Tuesdays 8.15 a.m** **A short Morning Prayer time in the church. Any queries regarding the services please contact the churchwardens. Telephone Nos. on the back of the Village News.**

**NO FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH FOR LENT**

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL VILLAGE NEWS  
NOON ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Items for inclusion to Jackie at 48 School Lane (842749)  
E Mail [jswift48@googlemail.com](mailto:jswift48@googlemail.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 MARCH** and other dates for your diary.

**FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2.00pm to 4,00 pm GAMES AFTERNOON**

Games include: - Euchre, Whist, Rummy, and many other board games. £1.50 includes a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and a very warm welcome. Any queries contact Kay 01795 844408.

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH Quiz Night in Lower Halstow Memorial/Village Hall**

Time 7.00pm for 7.30 Tickets £6.00 per person which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Please bring your own Beverage.

**TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

7pm – 7.15pm. A time to voice your concerns, followed by the Meeting at 7.15pm

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH PARENT and TODDLERS GROUP 1 – 3 pm**

The Parent and Toddler group will be meeting again in St Margaret's Church, on Thursdays 8<sup>th</sup> March and **22<sup>nd</sup> March**. This is a friendly informal group for parents, carers and children to meet together. Refreshments will be provided for children and adults.

Further enquiries please contact Liz Hadley 01795 842654 or Una Mayes 01795 841425.

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 7 – 9PM MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE – NEW COMMUNITY GAMES EVENING followed by every second Friday in the month**

Families with 16 year olds and under, who ALL wish to play as a family. Single young adults of 16 plus, and adults, are eligible to join in. **GAMES INCLUDE** Chess (to a medium standard) Rummy, Euchre, Dominos, Cludo, Whist, Skip bow, Checkas, all the games mentioned, we have already available, but if there is Board games/Cards, not mentioned please feel free to bring them along with you. The only card game we feel unsuitable is Bridge, as it could be too noisy for the Bridge players. Also any game which includes money changing hands will be deemed as unsuitable. There is no joining fee just a charge per person of £2.00, on the night.

Families of four or more will be eligible to a discount, this includes Tea/Coffee, squash and biscuits.

**And of course a Lower Halstow's Very Warm Welcome**

**SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH BREAKFAST CLUB IN THE CHURCH 9.30 a,m – 11,30 a,m**

All primary school children are welcome to attend. The morning begins with a continental style breakfast. Followed by a selection of games and activities. As the next day is Mothering Sunday, we shall be thinking of our mothers by preparing a special gift for them. On the 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a special Mothering Sunday service in St. Margaret's, so, why not come along to join us on both occasions. For more information, Liz 01795 842654, Hilary 841632, Becky 841028.

**FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 5.30 – 7 pm St MARGARET'S YOUTH GROUP**

We will be meeting in the Hall, for the final time this winter, as the longer days are now approaching. 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. We ask for a nominal 50p donation. All welcome from age 11 up. For more information, please contact The Youth Team on 07730893747.

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 3 – 4 pm. POLICE SURGERY MEMORIAL HALL**

PCSO John Cork and a colleague will be available to listen to your criminal nuisances and any police problems in the village

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH WHIST DRIVE 7.30pm MEMORIAL HALL**

All welcome to enjoy a game of Whist. £3.00., to include refreshments and a raffle ticket.

**Please note every last Saturday in the month, there will be a Whist Drive. Except December.**

## **TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – LOWER HALSTOW GARDENING CLUB 7.30 PM**

Invite you to join them in the Memorial Hall, when our very own local beekeeper, DAVE QUIGLEY, will be talking about his experiences of the joys and perils of keeping bees, and of course the delicious honey they produce. Visitors £1.50., including refreshments. Do come and join us, it should “bee” a lovely interesting evening.

## **DATES TO NOTE FOR THE FUTURE MONTHS**

### **SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2 -4 pm. ST MARGARET’CRAFT FAIR**

We will be holding our first sale of the year and look forward to welcoming old friends and new. Do join us for a wide selection of local crafts, and possibly the prettiest location around. Refreshments available.

### **FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> MAY - THE CHURCH BENEFICE**

Is holding a **FAITH FOR LIFE**, Weekend, commencing with a social evening in Upchurch Village Hall. Saturday again in Upchurch, a full day of teaching, shared meals and times of fellowship. In the evening the event will have a guest speaker. **SUNDAY**, there will be a Benefice Communion @ St Mary’s Newington.

### **SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY – MEMORIAL HALL LINDY HOP DANCING**

A fun evening, please bring your own supper and drinks. £7.00., per person. Further details next month. Please contact Kay 01795 844408.

### **SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE NEWINGTON VICARAGE GARDEN**

BBQ, to raise funds for a local lady working in Uganda. Further details coming.

### **SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE – MEMORIAL HALL - Annual Dog Show.**

## **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 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**.

**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** **Time for weeding!**

It seems like winter just does not want to go away. Freezing temperatures, storm winds, dismal rainy days all seem to do their best to dampen our spirits as they assert their control.

At this time of the year the garden – often looks unkempt, untidy, uninspiring. In fact as I look at my garden it is hard to tell the difference between a good plant and a weed. Now the problems with Weeds is that they inhibit the growth and beauty of a garden. They can rob important nutrients from the plants that we're trying to grow. They can block the sunlight from reaching the plants, and they can create ugly distractions to the beauty of the garden that we're trying to look after or some cases create. And so in preparation for the arrival of new growth gardeners are busy pruning and weeding. Removing things that rob the plant of sun and nutrients.

Now I have always believed that the process of growing a garden relates to the life of faith. And if that is the case and using this analogy of weeding, I wonder, what are the things that prevent us from growing in our faith and being fruitful for God?

In the parable of the sower Jesus says that the seeds that fell among the thorns and weeds represent the people who hear God's word, but as they continue through life, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. God's desire is that we would produce an abundance of fruit for God's kingdom.

Yet as we know the weeds can get in the way of our fruitfulness for God. We can get so focused on the cares of the world, we can pay so much attention to the things that make us fleetingly happy that we just tune God out. We fill up our lives with so much other things that there's no place for God.

So we need to ask ourselves what are the "weeds" in our own individual lives that take time and energy and resources away from us and prevent us from connecting more deeply with God?

Another thing I've learned is that it's really easy to grow weeds? In fact, it takes absolutely no effort at all – I am an expert at it! I have learnt over time that if you do nothing, your garden will be full of weeds. Again, even if you pull them out weeds come back and so it is a continual process of pulling the weeds up until finally you get rid of them.

The life of faith is much the same way. We need to pay continual attention to our life of faith if we want to prevent the weeds from growing. We need to continually tend to our faith or else the weeds will choke away our experience of God and our ability to connect with God.

So as we enter Lent, a time for reflection, I leave again this question, what weeds in particular are preventing your growth in faith and your connection with God? What weeds do you need to pull?

I pray we will continue to grow in faith. As we do, God will give us the wisdom and strength to remove the weeds, so that we can bear fruit.

Every Blessing  
Rev Robin Selmes  
Hartlip Methodist Minister

**DAFFODILS at ELM FARM** – The Stevens family for many years have encouraged us to pick the daffodils. With the sad loss of Pauline, they would like this to continue, so please watch for the flowers to appear.

With sadness, the families and some of the village will say goodbye to two gentlemen, Mr Bill Ransley and Mr Gerald ( Tubby) Moss, who have recently passed away..

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Parish Clerk** (Ann Smith) 842908 email [clerk.lhpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com)

**The Village Shop** – A revised planning application has been submitted to convert the existing building into a shop, and 4 flats.

**FLY TIPPING** – Fly Tipping is unsociable and illegal, and heavy fines can be imposed. Instances have been reported in Crouch Hill Court, and behind the garages in Burntwick Drive. This will be expensive to clear, and the rubbish in Burntwick Drive, is likely to pollute the stream and/or cause flood problems, please be vigilant. Any instances please report to the PCSO or the Parish Clerk. (Telephone Nos on the back of the Village News).

### **THE COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Defibrillator is located in **THE THREE TUNS** smoking shelter accessible 24/7 via the car park.

**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 or Ursula 01795 842924.

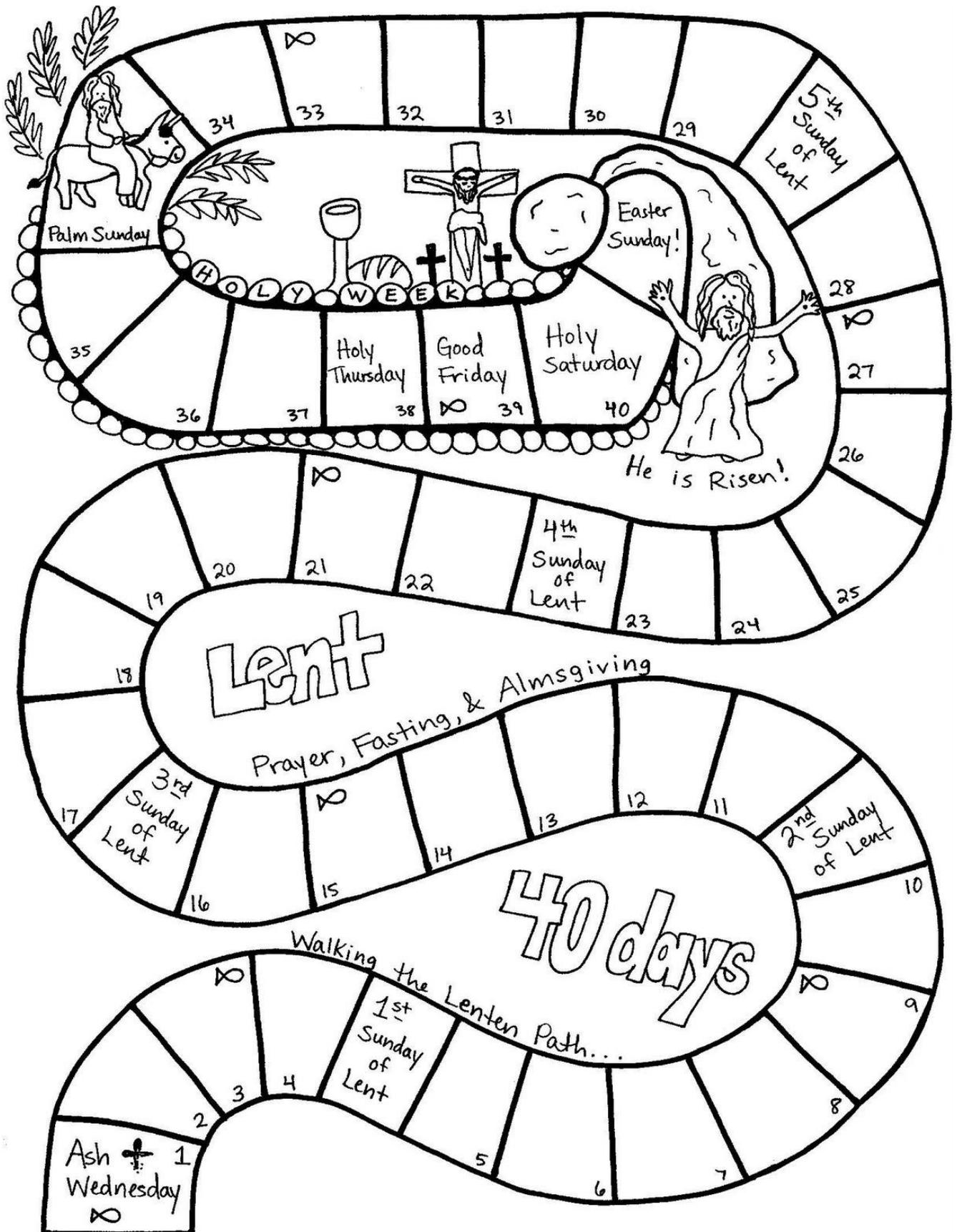
### **Dog Training in Lower Halstow Memorial/Village Hall**

I was asked for the Dog Training Times.

As Rachel does Dog Training for Puppies, Agility, and many other important types of Dog Training, I would like interested people to call Rachel on 07946584501, so that she can personally inform them of their particular training time. Kay Howard-Challis

### **After School Arts Workshop 4 p.m to 6 p.m**

With a local school teacher, 5 – 14 years. Payable in advance – places limited. Materials included or Bring your own. Please phone me for further enquiries. Cecilia Herrera, Elm Lodge, Wardwell Lane Lower Halstow - 01795 841278.



**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.

**FABULOUS FINGERTIPS** Manicures, pedicures, gel polish, gel nail extensions, reflexology and Indian Head massage. Fully insured. Call Tanya on 843362 or 07876 458021  
[www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk](http://www.fabulousfingertips.co.uk)

**BRIDGE** - Would anyone in the Lower Halstow area be interested in playing or learning to play Bridge, based on ACOL rules and playing socially. Please contact Lesley Aveline 07789 861836.

<b>Sailing Charters - Static Hire - Winter Tea Room</b>	
	<b>WINTER TEA ROOM</b>
	Open Saturday & Sunday 10.30 am. - 4.00 pm. MORNING COFFEE FRESHLY PREPARED LIGHT LUNCHES KENTISH CREAM TEAS SELECTION OF HOMEMADE SCONES DELICIOUS HOMEMADE CAKES EVENTS AND PARTY VENUE
<b>EDITH MAY</b> TRADING COMPANY	
<b>www.edithmay.com</b>	<b>Tel: 07875503926</b>

<p><b>PLUMBER &amp; HEATING ENGINEER</b> Gas Safe Registered</p> <p><b>COMPLETE BATHROOMS SUPPLIED &amp; FITTED</b> <b>R. H. PARKER LTD</b> Worcester, Bosch and Valient boilers supplied and installed from as little as £1600 with 5 &amp; 7 year warrantee options</p> <p>Kestrel's, 100 School Lane, Lower Halstow <b>Daniel Parker (01795) 843361 Steve Parker</b> <b>07771 333084 No call out charge 07879 883153</b></p>
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<p>Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pensions and Investment planning</p> <p><b>Michael van der Straaten FPFS</b> Chartered Financial Planner 19 The Street, Lower Halstow Contact me on 07824 392342 or Email : <a href="mailto:michael.vanderstraaten@sipp.co.uk">michael.vanderstraaten@sipp.co.uk</a> Website : <a href="http://www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk">www.michaelvanderstraaten.co.uk</a></p>
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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 Jackie know on 842749*

The Rev. Julian Staniforth 227329

The Rev. Mark Ham 01634 360794

Chris Mayes (churchwarden) [cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com](mailto:cmchwdnlh@btinternet.com) 841425

David Hadley (churchwarden) [david.hadley@btinternet.com](mailto:david.hadley@btinternet.com) 842654

Memorial Hall (chairman) Keith Howard Challis 844408 [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)

Memorial Hall new bookings (Kay Howard Challis) 844408

The school 842344

The Three Tuns 842840

Short Mat Bowls (John Mustoo) 843681

Crickets 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 46056708 John Cork, email [john.cork@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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](mailto:benstokes@swale.gov.uk)

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

County Councillor Mike Whiting [mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mike.whiting@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 (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](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 Jackie Swift on 842749.

**If any number changes, or you are no longer a contact person, please let Jackie know.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN APRIL VILLAGE NEWS IS NOON ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

Items for inclusion to Jackie at 48 School Lane (842749)

or [jswift48@googlemail.com](mailto:jswift48@googlemail.com)

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

**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.

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