

**LOWER HALSTOW
VILLAGE NEWS
January 2022**

*Wishing you all a very
happy and healthy 2022*

Some thanks to start the year:

*for all the wonderful festive lights that cheered up
the village*

for the pensioners party

for the Hide and “Snow” Peek trail around the village

*for all the Christmas activities organised by Kerry Ward
and her wonderful helpers*

*for all of the kind things that people did to help their
friends, neighbours and good causes
throughout the year*

SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S

(2 January 2022, 10.30am - Benefice Communion at Upchurch)

9 January 2022, 10.30am - Family Worship

16 January 2022, 10am - Communion

23 January 2022, 10.30am - Family Worship

30 January 2022, 10am - Communion

Also there is always a Sunday online service at 10.30am on The Six YouTube

Altar Flower Rota

2 January - Cheyenne

9 January - Gillian

16 January - Eileen

23 January - Rebecca

30 January - Georgina

MOBILITY ITEMS

St. Margaret's Church has a selection of Mobility Items, to borrow for emergencies or long term loans. Please call Ursula 842924 or Tricia 842419

HELP NEEDED WITH STORAGE

The need for new storage for the mobility equipment kept for use by the village is becoming more urgent. Unfortunately the items currently stored In Ursula Aylward's garage require a new home as work needs to be done to the garage. The items currently available and which will need new storage include wheelchairs, a toilet surround/frame and a shower seat. This is such a valuable resource for our village could you help with storage please? Call Ursula on 842924 for more information and/or let her know that you'd like to help.

THE THREE TUNS

No pub quiz in January, it will return in February 2022. The pub will be closing on Tuesdays again in January.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Leave real Christmas Trees on the hard standing next to the Memorial Hall by Friday 9 January 2022.

Thanks to Shaun Branchett (Treecraft) for volunteering to chip for the Brickfields. Greening Lower Halstow

CHRISTMAS THANKS FROM VILLAGERS

Message from Jackie Swift:

Thanking Joyce Clark, not forgetting Alan, who gave us older members of the village a wonderful afternoon in the Three Tuns, we were so spoilt. A great Christmas lunch, and presents. All the organising is quite hard work, but it really "paid off", so we all say a BIG THANK YOU.

Thanking all the people who gave such lovely gifts, for the Salvation Army. Most were received in St. Margaret's church in the service of Christingle and Gift service, and some at my house. Every year I go absolutely loaded up in my car to Sittingbourne. The lady who receives them at the Salvation Army, is so grateful, and they will all go to well deserving families.

And a message from Bill Robinson:

Seniors Christmas Lunch

I'm sure I speak for all those who attended this year's village Seniors Christmas Lunch in the Three Tuns when I say what a good time was had by all.

A Big Thank You to Joyce Clarke and all her helpers including the staff of the Three Tuns for their hard work which made it such a success.

Thank You

Bill and Elaine

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS

Message from Judy Telford:

We will be having two work parties in January, Saturday 15 and Friday 21, meeting at 10am at the Lapwing Drive entrance. That's definitely 10am, I apologise for the confusion last time, I put the wrong time on our Facebook page. Please come and help if you can spare an hour or two.

If you are interested in what we are doing on the Brickfield, its history or would like to see photos of the natural world we share there please join

us on Facebook, to find us search for Friends of the Lower Halstow Brickfields

For more information email us on friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

LADIES DIY KEEP FIT

A friendly group of ladies meet for exercise on Monday evenings. For more information call Liz on 842272

FOODBANK DONATIONS

Swale Food Bank is supported by the Trussell Trust which provides food and toiletries in Swale and surrounding areas. This is run in partnership with local churches including St. Margaret's of Lower Halstow part of "The Six". The aim is to provide 3 days emergency food and support to local people referred to the Food Bank in a crisis.

The collection point in Lower Halstow is 34 Crouch Hill Court. Please place any food/toiletry items in grey box by garage, or if money in an envelope marked "Food Bank" into letter box

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will be stopping outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 13 and 27 January 2022 and then 10 and 24 February 2022.

HEALTH WALKS

Start at 10.00 am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brick Fields, and there will be two walks on offer; a leisurely 1 hour walk and a brisk 2 hour walk. Walkers who want to go faster can, but will be asked to wait for the rest of the group at suitable points, as currently happens, this way we can be inclusive of everyone.

The first Monday of every month when we walk to the golf club we will still have two walks, one taking the shortest route possible, arriving first and therefore being served first.

Sturdy walking shoes/boots and a waterproof jacket are recommended. Please phone Margaret on 843927 for more information.

LOWER HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

No item was received from the Parish Council for this month's edition.

Lower Halstow Parish Council's website provides a wealth of information <https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home/?preview=e3277b7cbc194cee8dd5580b9b87877b>

LOWER HALSTOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

As predicted in our last newsletter article we have certainly had a busy Term 2 at Lower Halstow School in the run up to Christmas. Unfortunately, after staying Covid free for so long at the school, several of our Year 1 and 4 children tested positive this term so we had to add in extra isolation measures for those classes. We didn't let this dampen our spirits though, as we kept as many events running as we could, adapting to virtual events where needed.



The school council decided that we would raise money for Children in Need by coming to school wearing our pyjamas again. This is clearly a popular choice! After school, Year 5 and 6 held a cake sale to raise further funds, everyone had a great day.

Our PTA ran a very successful Christmas shopping evening with stalls offering everything from cakes to candles and personalised plates. It was very well attended with a steady stream all evening and it was lovely to see people from the village pop in as well. They have already been asked to run one next year!

Year 5 performed their class assembly to parents and entertained us with facts and songs about the Ancient Greeks. This was a great way to celebrate their learning even with all the parents wearing masks and social distancing in line with the new national guidance.

To help cheer up patients in Medway hospital over Christmas, each class created artwork for displaying in the wards. We hope the patients love fake snow and glitter and that the snowflakes, Christmas characters and scenes spread a little festive cheer. The hospital has shared photos with us of the artwork in place and it does look very cheerful!

At the start of December we all created Christingles ready for a special Christingle service. This ended up being a virtual service and Miss Crowe made a gigantic Christingle. We closed all the blinds in the

classrooms and created a lovely atmosphere for lighting the Christingle candles. Families also donated loose change for the Children's Society who provided the candles for us.

We couldn't have a Grotto, but Father Christmas and his elf made a surprise visit to the school and visited every classroom with a present for each child. There was such excitement as the children heard the jingle of his bells during our Celebration Assembly.

The term finished with Reception and Year 2 Nativity performances to parents, it was so lovely to come together again to enjoy this. Everyone wrapped up warm as we had the doors open! We also enjoyed Christmas dinner and parties in each class which really got us in the mood for Christmas.

We would like to wish the school community and the residents of Lower Halstow a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Miss Crowe

CHARITY CRISP PACKET RECYCLING

We are collecting Crisp Packets for recycling - please drop off at 34 Crouch Hill Court. All brands accepted, preferably flat.
Plastic Free Lower Halstow

RECYCLING

Lynne Morris has extended her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue again. She is now recycling medication blister packs (please make sure there are no personal details on the packs), Ferrero Roche packaging, cheese packets, toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, floss containers, used stamps, egg cartons and used pens. Also foil (deflated) balloons and banners

Everything is collected and recycled for various charities and kept out of landfill.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends – It would be good, in a way, to be able to write a general message for ordinary daily life. But that might not be helpful in facing the world around us as it is. As I write this, the impact on our Christmas celebrations is still not clear. I hope that we have been able to get together with those our families, to join in festivities with our friends and

neighbours, and generally to be free again. But these days, a month can be a very long time.

Any uncertain times can bring us to the challenge of being the best that we can be – for ourselves, for those around us, for all of us. It looks like the battle we are all engaged in may not be coming to any clear and final end, at least not for a while yet. We need to keep doing all we can to protect and support each other. We need to keep up our hope that we can get through all this together. Prayer is not an alternative to action. It's a source of strength and hope that helps us to go on, even when we can't see very far ahead. All I can do is to offer that same hope in the words I used the last time I wrote:

May the love of God heal, strengthen and guide us through all we are passing through.

With best wishes and prayer for God's blessing,
Ron Partridge, curate and chaplain (retired)
Lower Halstow

LIVE WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM

Lower Halstow Yacht Club has a live weather station and webcam looking out over the creek updating currently every 15 minutes. It's on the yacht club website and is open to everyone
<https://weather.lhyc.org.uk>

VILLAGE NEWS - CAN YOU HELP WITH PRINTING PLEASE?

For the last few months Glenda and I have been trying to get to grips with the copier, collator and folder/stapler in the church vestry so that we can print the 525 copies of the Village News which are needed every month. We have spent many hours each month in the church vestry as the machines are full of character, can be challenging, will only print one side of paper at a time and turn the cover photos into black blobs! We have decided that it is time for us to ask for some help.

Can anyone help please? Ideally to print the Village News each month on a more modern machine, or sponsor the Village News to be printed by a commercial printer or make a donation. Alternatively would someone like to take on the job of printing on the existing machines each month? All offers, suggestions gratefully received.

Thank you, Gill 843871, ransleyfamily@gmail.com

LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS – DECEMBER 2021

A STRONG COMMUNITY
UNITED TOGETHER



YOUR ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Breach Lane	Diane Harris, Michael Porter
Burntwick Drive	Amy Lundie
Crouch Hill Court	Tony Roberts
Cumberland Drive	Glenda Tress, Chris Mayes
Curlew Avenue	Richard Asbury
Heron Close	Peter Fullalove
Landrail Road	Dave Giles
Lapwing Drive	Lynne Morris
School Lane	Clare Jane, Dawn Nickolls, Audrey Robins
Sheerness Road	Liz Moulard
The Street	Cheyenne Hayward
Vicarage Lane	Rachel Parker
Wardwell Lane	Keith Howard Challis
Westmoreland Drive	Kerry Ward

With the holiday season upon us it is important to stay vigilant. Thieves are more likely to target properties and outbuildings in December and January. Please keep all valuable items out of sight. Please remember that packaging on bin day shows potential thieves a new computer/tv etc. so dispose of them carefully.

Headline News

Read all about it....

- There were 2 Reports in the period.
- 1 report of Hare Coursing.
- 1 report of an abandoned vehicle which was found on investigation to belong to a resident.
- The PCSO Team continue to visit the village daily as part of their patrols.
- The monthly meeting for December 2021 was cancelled and we hope to run these again from January 2022.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy 2022
from Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

USEFUL CONTACTS

EMERGENCY SERVICES		999
NON EMERGENCY POLICE	www.kent.police.uk – Website Chat Service	or 101
PCSO	Lee Fennell Lee.Fennell@kent.police.uk	07929 376822
DOG WARDEN	swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare	01795 417850 or 07795 237479
RURAL TASK FORCE	rural.task.force@kent.police.uk Inspector Dave Smith Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw Rural Crime Co-ordinator Doug Robertson	07528 989095 07800 675376 07870 252185 07972 004587
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR	Richard Asbury LHNWatch1@gmail.com	07894 792802
FACEBOOK SEARCH -	Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch and Join the Group

CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

Some details may be out of date, if anything has changed, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on ransleyfamily@gmail.com or call 843871

Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade

Corrie Woodford, corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk

Roger Clark, 430324, rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

0800 144 8848, citizensadvice.org.uk

Cricket Club

Mark Stevens, 842090

Dog Warden

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07795 237479

Flood Wardens

Kay Howard-Challis, 844408, kayhelen2017@outlook.com

Abbie Dowell abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com

Friends of the Brickfield

friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com

Judo Club

Jon 07944 755036

Kent Wildlife Trust

01622 662012

KCC Potholes

03000 418187

Kent County Councillor

Mike Baldock, 471139, 07522 442964, mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Gordon Henderson, 423199, www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk

Memorial Hall

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com
Bookings, Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, LHNWatch1@gmail.com, 07894 792802,
Facebook - Search Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch

NHS

111

Noise nuisance

Daytime 417850

Out of hours 07881 817601

Parish Council

Parish Clerk, Ann Smith, clerk.lhpc@gmail.com, 01760 336459,
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>

PCSO

Lee Fennell, 07929 376822, lee.fennell@kent.police.uk

Playgroup

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

Police

General enquiries, 01622 690690, kent.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

Samaritans

116 123 - free number day or night; email jo@samaritans.org (response time 24 hours)

School

842344, <http://www.lowerhalstowandnewington.org.uk/>

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Lisa Joiner, gslowerhalstow@yahoo.com

Short Mat Bowls

John Mustoo, 843681, Glenys Lovell, Acting Secretary, 842376

St Margaret's Church

Rev. Julian Staniforth, 227329

PCC Secretary, Dawn Drury, 842688

Church Enquiries, Jackie Swift, 842749

Swale Borough Council

Main office, 424341

The Three Tuns

842840, www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk,

info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

Village News

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Yacht Club

Dave Quigley, 841242

**The deadline for the February 2022 Village News is noon on
12 January 2022**

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to
ransleyfamily@gmail.com**

The PCC 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 items from contributors. Contributions are printed (usually with only minor adjustments or corrections if necessary) as submitted. The editor has to assume that the contributors have checked their facts. If you have any queries or complaints please contact the relevant organisation direct.

UNIQUELY YOURS FLOWERS AND MORE

A village based flower arranging business offering flowers and crafts for all occasions, tailored to meet your needs.

No job too small. Find me on Facebook or at <https://www.uniquelyyoursflowers.co.uk> or call Liz on 07730 893747

MIDKENT IT SOLUTIONS

Local village IT engineer available to help with all your IT needs, including PC/laptop repairs, wifi/network issues, printers, software, anti-virus, office 365 licenses, Windows 10 upgrades and much more.

www.midkentit.co.uk, 01634 912105/07542795078,
enquiries@midkentit.co.uk

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Michael van der Straaten
Chartered Financial Planner
Edenwood Wealth Management
19 The Street, Lower Halstow
Contact me on 07824 392342 or
Email: edenwood@sjpp.co.uk
Website: www.edenwoodwealth.com

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your Mortgage