

# LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS April 2022



*Daffodils at St Margaret's  
Photo kindly supplied by Pam Shephard*

## **SERVICES AT ST MARGARET'S**

3 April - 8am, Communion

10 April - 10am, Family Worship, Palm Sunday

17 April - 6am, Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service at the water's edge  
followed by communion in the church (there will also be  
10am Communion at Newington and Upchurch)

24 April - 10am, Family Worship

Holy Week - other dates may be added, check Facebook for details.

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

### **Altar Flower Rota**

16 April, Easter Saturday - all volunteers meet at 9.30am

24 April - Gillian

1 May - Eileen

### **St Margaret's Bereavement Coffee Time**

Every Thursday in March 10am to 12 noon bereavement coffee time in the church. We have been open for a few months now. So, anyone who feels they would like to come into the church, for a chat, a prayer, a quiet time. You may feel it's hard to walk through the door, but you would be very welcome. We just chat, our gentlemen are full of history and stories, a time to listen, and join in and feel at home. Give Jackie a call to reassure you. 07840258665.

### **Easter Craft Morning - Saturday 9 April 2022**

Message from Hilary Gates:

Easter Craft Morning at St Margaret's Church, 10am to 12noon, Saturday 9 April 2022 everyone is welcome, children and adults. Come along and have a go at making Easter crafts - painting, cooking, decorations. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits. Free event, all welcome.

## **URGENT - HELP NEEDED, MOBILITY ITEMS**

**For many years Ursula has very kindly stored mobility items which can be borrowed by anyone who might need them in the village.**

**Unfortunately Ursula is no longer able to continue to store them and it looks as if this valuable resource will have to stop.**

**Can you help? Are you able to store these items to keep them in the village? Please call Ursula 842924 or Gill on 843871 if you can help. Thank you**

### **THE THREE TUNS**

The pub will remain closed on Tuesdays again in April.

The monthly pub quizzes are very popular and the March quiz £240 raised for the Ukrainian Red Cross Appeal. The pub team send massive thanks to everyone who attends and to Michael van der Straaten for his time in preparing and presenting the quiz.

### **POP-UP COMMUNITY CAFE - SATURDAY, 2 APRIL**

Message from Jane Summers:

Lower Halstow Memorial Hall

10.30 - 1.30 pm Saturday 2 April 2022

Come along for a coffee, cake and a chat. Time to relax with a newspaper, bring a book to exchange and enjoy time with friends.

### **LADIES DIY KEEP FIT**

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

### **BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS**

If you would like to share any of this type of news with everyone in future editions of the Village News please email brief details to [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or pop written details round to 16 Cumberland Drive.

## **DAFFODILS - PICK YOUR OWN**

The Stevens family is happy for daffodils to be picked at Elm Farm again this year. The daffodils are in the orchard opposite the farm house up the farm track off Vicarage Lane. Please make sure you close the gate and put your donation in the front door letter box of the farm house.

Last year a record amount of £690 was raised and the family split it between 2 local causes - the memorial hall and the Village News. Huge thanks to all of the Stevens family.

## **CRISP PACKET RECYCLING**

THANK YOU for recycling your crisp packets!

As flexible plastics can now be recycled via more than 3,500 supermarket collections points, the Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme will close in April 2022.

Please drop off your flat empty packets to 34 Crouch Hill Court by **3 April 2022** so we can send them to TerraCycle before the scheme closes.

Plastic Free Lower Halstow

## **FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELDS**

St Margaret's Church and the Friends of the Brickfield present;

## **BRICKFIELDS AND BARGES**

A talk by George Peters

St Margaret's Church on Friday 8 April 2022 at 7pm

Tickets £5 to include wine and nibbles, to book contact;  
friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com or telephone 07486 530068

During the evening there will be a chat regarding our sea wall and a very brief AGM for the Friends of the Brickfield

Any profits will be shared between St Margarets and the Friends.

# SATURDAY 16TH APRIL - THE GIBBS, LOWER HALSTOW

EVENT  
RUNNING  
11AM - 3PM  
RACE  
BEGINS AT  
1PM

ANYONE CAN JOIN IN THE FUN!  
REGISTER WITH  
KERRY WARD OR RICHARD  
ASBURY  
KERRY.TRESS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

## Scavenger Hunt & Duck Race

£3 TO REGISTER  
INCLUDES;

MAY BUY  
ADDITIONAL  
DUCKS FOR £1

- CODE BREAKER SHEET, COLOURING PAGE AND PENCILS
  - EASTER EGG AND CERTIFICATE ON COMPLETION PRESENTED BY THE EASTER BUNNY
  - 1 ENTRY FOR THE DUCK RACE
- \*\*RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE WILL BE GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL DUCK ENTRY\*\***

£50 PRIZE  
FOR THE  
WINNING  
DUCK!



## **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 stops outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 7 and 21 April 2022.

## **HEALTH WALKS**

Start at 10am 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 items were received from the parish council for this month

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**

We've only completed 2 weeks of Term 4 but it has been jam packed with learning and several special events! We recognised the special date of 22.2.22 by having a 'Twos day - Choose day' where children were allowed to break the school rules, for example, by



coming to school in non-uniform, wearing make-up and nail varnish or bringing in an unhealthy snack for break-time. The children paid 50p for each rule that was broken and all monies went to our PTA ready to put towards a tyre play area for the school which is their current fundraising project.

This term saw the start of Year 5 swimming lessons as part of the key stage 2 national curriculum. There were a few nerves initially, however now the children look forward to their trip to the swimming baths each Wednesday. Hopefully when they get assessed later on in the swimming course there will be certificates heading their way. We aim to have all our pupils complete self-rescue as well as swim the minimum 25 metres due to the village's proximity to water.

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, we held our annual pancake races. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us this year and we had to move the races indoors. Good fun was still had by everyone, with Rochester House being crowned as this year's champion pancake runners and flippers! Lots of pupil also took part in a sponsored flip at home.

One of the most exciting events so far this term was Book Week. The children took part in a variety of activities that culminated in a class book quiz on the Friday. Other activities included the Masked Reader competition where school staff recorded themselves reading excerpts from books and poems and the children had to guess which voice belonged to which member of staff. There was also a book swap where children exchanged books from home with other second hand books brought in by their classmates. There was also lots of time for relaxing and enjoying a good book. The week wouldn't have been complete without the traditional dressing up on World Book Day; there were some amazing, creative costumes including traditional fairy tale characters along with some more contemporary book characters. If you want to see the costumes, these can be viewed online on our Twitter page, search for us using our Twitter handle which is @lowerhalstowsch.

There are still lots more events planned for this term including a visit from an artist, the official opening of our school art gallery, Comic Relief Day and a visit from Kent Search and Rescue.

Michelle Crowe, Head of School

## **RECYCLING**

In her collection boxes outside 1 Curlew Avenue again Lynne Morris is 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.

## **MORE RECYCLING**

Nescafe dolce gusto coffee pods can be taken to Kelly Brown at 19 School Lane

## **PASTORAL LETTER**

### **Easter Hope**

We have been living in unprecedented times which none of us have ever experienced before. As I write, I am very conscious of the reality and depth of human suffering – both on an international scale with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the coronavirus which has claimed thousands of lives around the world. This has raised the question as to where God is in it all. I mean if God is so closely involved in creation, how are viruses, earthquakes and wars possible? Why does God allow suffering?

For people who are involved in terrible suffering, there is really no answer and all one can do is to share their pain in the context of belief in a loving God who holds them in His arms. Ultimately the question of human suffering is a divine mystery which will become clear after death when we will no longer see it through humanities tinted glasses but see clearly face to face.

However, for those of us not so personally involved and who struggle to justify our faith with family and friends, there are several things to be said.

Firstly, I firmly believe that God does NOT make people sick; and God does NOT want people to suffer. We can see this by looking at the life of Jesus. He healed the sick. He Cured people. He did not make them sick! But why, then, are so many in pain?

There is no good or easy answer when tragedies occur. But to try and understand, we must step back and look at the big picture. In that God gave humans free will and unfortunately people will choose to do bad things. God is not into controlling people's lives. If God was merely to control everyone's actions, feelings and responses that would take away our rights as individuals. He had to allow us the freedom to sin. Yet, on the other hand God does not want us to conform to the patterns of this world instead he wants to renew our minds by the Holy Spirit. As our minds are transformed into the likeness of Christ, the more the ways of the world behaviour and thought are pushed out of us.

Whilst God may not interfere with free will he does not leave us to suffer on our own, He is fully involved in His world and, I believe, fully suffers with each human person. That involvement is supremely seen in Jesus – God actually became a suffering human being with us and, although he was an innocent and righteous man, he suffered more than anyone else who ever lived, dying for humanities sin upon the cross. So in answer to the question, where is God in all the suffering? Well right at the heart of it, holding the hand of the person crushed by the falling rumble. Wiping away the tears of those who are grieving.

These thoughts I have shared with you I have believed for a long time and is the only way I can cope with devastating natural disasters, the death or suffering of Children and the pain of bereavement. However, as I have listened to people and read many articles in the last few years, I have come to a further insight. That as people turn to God in their suffering, He can work with them to transform the suffering and to bring new life and hope out of what seemed to be death and desolation. This is what Christian hope is rooted in, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Real hope is found in Easter because after every Good Friday there is always an Easter and Easter is about hope and restoration. The last two years has reminded us of how fragile and fleeting life is. But hope reminds us that we will one day be reunited with those we love. Death does not last forever. Jesus has conquered death and the grave! And through this it gives us HOPE for better things.

Easter is also a glimpse of eternity. Though this world is no longer perfect, as God intended it to be; He will create a perfect world for us in heaven where there will no longer be any tears, pain, or suffering; and "death will be swallowed up in victory." Why? Because God will ultimately get rid of everything that is not HIS. Suffering, sin, pain, tears and death are not HIS

We may not know what our earthly future holds but we have HOPE that all suffering will be relieved when we go to spend eternity with God.

Rev Robin Selmes  
Hartlip Methodist Minster

### **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>

### **CONTENT**

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.

### **ADVERTISING IN THE VILLAGE NEWS**

If you would like to advertise in the Village News minimum suggested donations are:

Full page £10 per month

Half page £5 per month

Quarter page - £2.50 per month

All monies received go towards the cost of printing the newsletters. Everything else is done free of charge by volunteers.

The PCC reserves the right to exclude adverts if they appear unsuitable.

**The deadline for the May 2022 Village News is noon on  
12 April 2022**

**Please email items for inclusion as early as possible to  
[ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com)**

# LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD

## WATCH NEWS – MARCH 2022

A STRONG COMMUNITY  
UNITED TOGETHER



### HEADLINE NEWS

- There was a single report in February of a male seen several times in the morning on the green between Burntwick and Cumberland Drive. It was reported that the male was looking at people in the upstairs windows and watching them while they were getting ready.
- Traffic and Parking around the school has worsened and options to enforce no parking areas are in discussion. Please Park responsibly to ensure the safety of children arriving and leaving the school.
- The PCSO Team continue to visit the village daily as part of their patrols.
- The All-Inclusive Community Activity Bench has reached its fundraising milestone and has now been ordered with installation anticipated in May. The Neighbourhood Watch would like to thank everyone who donated and has made this possible. We look forward to a great summer and to everyone being able to enjoy it.

Anti-Social Behaviour can be reported to:

|                  |  |                              |
|------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Noise Complaints | <a href="http://swale.gov.uk">swale.gov.uk</a>   | or 01795 417575              |
| Bonfires         | <a href="http://swale.gov.uk">swale.gov.uk</a>   | or 01795 417575              |
| Dog Fouling      | <a href="http://swale.gov.uk">swale.gov.uk</a>   |                              |
| Dog Warden       | <a href="http://swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare">swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare</a> | 01795 417850 or 07795 237479 |

Residents are encouraged to report any on-going issues but in the first instance an amicable solution with your neighbours is better. Please be aware that noise complaints generally apply after 11.00pm.

The Sea Wall is deteriorating rapidly due to a combination of bottle diggers and high spring tides. It is imperative that bottle digging into the sea wall is stopped. Please report any instances to the PCSO or neighbourhood watch so that the offenders can be stopped.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>                   |  | 999  |
| <b>NON-EMERGENCY POLICE</b>                 | www.kent.police.uk – Webchat Service   | or 101   |
| <b>PCSO</b>                                 | Kirsty Linge<br>kirsty.linge@kent.police.uk  | 07772 226114   |
| <b>DOG WARDEN</b>                           | swale.gov.uk/dogs-and-animal-welfare   | 01795 417850 or<br>07795 237479                              |
| <b>RURAL TASK FORCE</b>                     | rural.task.force@kent.police.uk<br>Inspector Dave Smith<br>Rural Sergeant Darren Walshaw<br>Rural Crime Co-ordinator Doug<br>Robertson | 07528 989095<br>07800 675376<br>07870 252185<br>07972 004587 |
| <b>NEIGHBOURHOOD<br/>WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</b> | Richard Asbury<br>LHNWatch1@gmail.com  | 07894 792802   |
| <b>FACEBOOK SEARCH -</b>                    | Lower Halstow Neighbourhood Watch  | and Join the Group   |

## YOUR LHNW ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

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

Be the first to find out what's  
happening in **your area**

My Community Voice is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police.



## **CONTACTS**

(Telephone numbers are 01795 unless otherwise stated)

**out of date, if anything has changed, or you would like something else included, please let Gill know on [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com) or call 843871**

### **Borough Councillors for Bobbing, Lower Halstow & Iwade**

Corrie Woodford, [corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk](mailto:corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk)

Roger Clark, 430324, [rogerclark@swale.gov.uk](mailto:rogerclark@swale.gov.uk)

### **Citizens Advice**

0800 144 8848, [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://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](mailto:kayhelen2017@outlook.com)

Abbie Dowell [abbie\\_mcdowell@hotmail.com](mailto:abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.com)

### **Friends of the Brickfield**

[friendsofthebrickfields@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament**

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

**Memorial Hall**

Chairman, Keith Howard-Challis, 844408, [lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhalstowhall@gmail.com)  
Bookings Kay Howard-Challis, 844408

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Co-ordinator, Richard Asbury, [LHNWatch1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:clerk.lhpc@gmail.com), 01760 336459,  
<https://www.hugofox.com/community/lower-halstow-parish-council-17855/home>

**PCSO**

Kirsty Linge, 07772 226114, [kirsty.linge@kent.police.uk](mailto:kirsty.linge@kent.police.uk)

**Playgroup**

Heather Salisbury, 07984 613532

**Police**

General enquiries, 01622 690690, [kent.police.uk](http://kent.police.uk)

Neighbourhood Watch 01634 792131

**Samaritans**

116 123 - free number day or night; email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto: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](http://www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk),

[info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk)

**Village News**

Distribution, Glenda Tress, 843757

Items for inclusion send to Gill Ransley, [ransleyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ransleyfamily@gmail.com),  
843871

**Yacht Club**

Dave Quigley, 841242

## **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.uniquelyoursflowers.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](http://www.midkentit.co.uk), 01634 912105/07542795078,  
[enquiries@midkentit.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@midkentit.co.uk)

Experienced Financial Adviser offering Pension and Investment Planning & Mortgages

**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](mailto:edenwood@sjpp.co.uk)  
Website: [www.edenwoodwealth.com](http://www.edenwoodwealth.com)

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