

LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS December 2021



*Christmas Fun in 2020
Photo kindly supplied by Kerry Ward*

DECEMBER SERVICES

5 December

10am Christingle and Gift Service

St Margaret's invite you all to come along, it's a time to give little Gifts (unwrapped) toys, or a grown up gift. These kind donations will (as always) go to the Salvation Army, in Sittingbourne, where they are gratefully received.

ALSO its Christingle time, learn about the meaning of the story which starts off with an orange. A time for all the family to enjoy. With coffee and mince pies.

12 December

10am Morning Worship

19 December

10am Family Communion

4pm Carol Service, an enjoyable time singing our favourite carols. Stay for a cup of tea and cake.

Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve

1.30 to 3pm Quiet Christmas, St Margaret's will be open for you to spend some time away from the hustle and bustle. A warm welcome, light music, hot drinks and mince pies will be available. Come and light a candle. Come and be still. Come and chat. Stay for as long as you wish.

5.30pm Crib Service, a time for children to think about the story of Jesus' birth. An appropriate start to Christmas

11.30pm Midnight Communion, a popular service for the start to Christmas.

Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day

10am Family Communion,

Sunday 26 December, Boxing Day - 10.30am Benefice Communion at Hartlip (no service at St Margaret's)

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

St Margaret's Every Thursday morning in December

The church will be open 10am to 12noon, come for a chat, enjoy a coffee or tea with a cake. Little Urn will be waiting.

Saturday 18 December 10am to 12noon St Margaret's Church Craft Morning

Children with maybe an adult too. Join Hilary and her helpers in a craft making morning. Join Hilary and see what she had in mind for the morning?

Altar Flower Rota

5 December - Georgina

12 December - Liz and Jennifer

19 December - Yvonne

26 December - Lesley

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

FRIENDS OF THE BRICKFIELD, 4 DECEMBER 2021

We will be having a work party on the morning of Saturday 4 December, if you would like some fresh air and exercise before the Christmas rush gets underway please come along to the Lapwing Drive gate at 10am. There will be a plentiful supply of mince pies for all the workers.

GOSPEL CHOIR, NATIVITY SERVICE - SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021

Invitation to everyone in the village via Kay Howard-Challis:

The Gospel Choir of RCCG Prince of Peace, invites you to their special nativity service on Sunday, 5 December 2021 in the Memorial Hall at 2pm. Afterwards there will be sandwiches, tea and cake. There is no charge, just enjoy their beautiful voices.

Places need to be booked as there are limited seats due to Covid restrictions, please call Kay Howard-Challis on 844408, or email kayhelen2017@outlook.com

FATHER CHRISTMAS IS BACK

Father Christmas will be touring the village again this year on Friday 17 December (if the weather is not kind he will move his appearance to Monday 20 or Tuesday 21 December 2021. Sweets will be handed out to children. More details will be on the Village News Facebook page nearer the time.

THE THREE TUNS

The pub will be open 7 days a week throughout December but will be closing on Tuesdays again in January.

The next pub quiz will be on Wednesday 29 December 2021, bookings only and a maximum of 6 per team/table. There will not be a quiz in January but it will return in February 2022.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2021

Thank you all who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal. Despite having no house-house collections the village raised £292.08 from boxes sited at The Three Tuns, The Village shop, and the School. Pupils from the school collected a massive amount of money, £178.11. Thank you.

After several years as the local Poppy Appeal Organiser, I am looking to hand it over to another volunteer. If you are interested please contact me for details, by phone on 84397 or by email maglou1@yahoo.co.uk

Margaret Milsted-Williamson

HALLOWEEN DISCO

The disco organised by Kerry Ward and company and she has provided the following update:

The Halloween disco was attended by 90 children and their parents who all had a great time! It was nice to be back and we raised £340 for Lower Halstow Beaver & Cub Scout group. Thank you to everyone that came and supported us.

DOGS

The following reminder has been requested by a village resident “if you have dogs that continuously bark when let out at certain times of the day this is still classed as nuisance noise and can be reported to the council who will take action. It is not fair for people that works shifts or have children and are woken up early in the morning or late at night due to the barking. Thank you”

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. 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.

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

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. Margarets 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

MEMORIAL HALL - UPDATE

From Kay - Hall's booking clerk:

The Hall is now up and running, with many bookings for Weddings and Family Parties, some even during the week, but we are keeping an eye on this dreadful Covid 19 situation, so wear a mask if you would prefer to, we do also have some requests and that is to wipe down your chair and tables with disinfectant supplied wipes, and if requested, please disinfect the floor, we all want to use the hall knowing that it is thoroughly clean before we arrive.

On a lighter note, we are still running the Games Afternoon every first and third Friday of each month, starting at 2.00pm, the games include Rummikub and Euchre plus a new Puzzle Board, donated by the Hall's Committee, it only costs £1.50 each and that includes a cup of tea/ coffee biscuits and a warm welcome, and please don't worry if you do not know how to play these games, we can teach you.

Dates for your diary, Lunch with Santa is on Saturday 4 December and is fully booked, Sunday 5 December a Nativity Service with The Gospel Choir of RCCG Prince of Peace, afterwards there will be sandwiches, tea and cake, there is no charge, so just come and enjoy their beautiful voices, to book a seat please contact Kay on 01795 844408 or kayhelen2017@outlook.com.

If you would like your occasion to look special please go to the Lower Halstow Village web page and see for yourselves how the hall looks with the white table cloths, white chair covers and bows, for further information please contact Kay on 01795 844408 or kayhelen2017@outlook.com.

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library will be stopping outside the Memorial Hall fortnightly. The next dates are Thursdays 2 and 16 December 2021 and then 13 and 27 January 2022

HEALTH WALKS

Start at 10.00 am every Monday, including Bank Holidays, from the end of Lapwing Drive, by the Brick Fields, and from December 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

Statement from the Parish Council

The Parish Council have agreed with the amended planning permission (orchard removed).

Due to the stream being moved back to its original position and encased in brick work, plant machinery is then unable to gain access to the top end of the garden, from the front of the property for landscaping. The Parish Council has agreed to allow a gap in the brambles on the Gibbs Amenity land to be cut, to allow access for plant machinery to carry out the landscaping work, which should be done in dry and fine conditions and using boards to protect the land. The applicant has agreed to inform

the Parish Council when plant machinery is due onsite with all risk assessments done and recommendations carried out.

In respect to the orchard itself, the Gibbs land is not the property of the Parish Council (as per the agreement between E L Gibbs and the Parish Council 1988) and as such, the Parish Council cannot give permission for the orchard.

This was agreed unanimously at the Parish Council monthly meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021.

Parish Clerk
3rd November 2021

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

Term 1 certainly ended as it started - in a flurry of activities and excitement!



One of the things that we have missed during Covid times is entering and participating in sports competitions, therefore we were very excited to take part in the Year 2 and 3 Tag Rugby competition at Sittingbourne Rugby Club. The children who participated represented the school well and won many of their games – we were very proud of their efforts and the certificates that they were awarded. We also took some of our Year 5 and 6 children to a Football tournament at the Oasis Academy. We took part in 3 very competitive matches; drawing two of these. Our team showed excellent teamwork and good sportsmanship and were all awarded a certificate for their participation.

We held a safety week just before the October break; during this the children focused on safety on the roads, railways and internet as well as stranger danger. The younger children compared the sound of an electric car to a petrol car to help them be safer pedestrians whilst Year 5 and 6 visited the Margate Railway Safety Centre where they learnt about travelling by train and being safe near railway lines and crossings. The children in Year 1 and 2 took part in scooter training where they

learnt about how to ride their scooters safely, they even went out into the village to practise!

Term 2 got off to a flying start when the whole school visited the Edith May sailing barge; this was as part of our Heritage month where various members of the school shared memories, photos, food and memorabilia from their ancestors. On the Edith May barge the children were given a tour and a brief history of the barge through the years. We also received lots of old photos of the school via the village Facebook group which we have printed to keep for future pupils of the school!

Year 4 were especially busy as they had two trips in one week! They visited Horton Kirby to complete their river studies, as it was postponed when the class had to self-isolate in the summer and they also took a trip to The Museum of Kent Life where they experienced a day in the life of an Anglo Saxon.

Meanwhile back in school Year 3 and 5 enjoyed drama workshops focusing on Dinosaurs and Fossils and the Ancient Greeks. Great fun was had by all – you can see photos from these events and others on twitter, just follow the link: <https://twitter.com/lowerhalstowsch>
On Remembrance Day, our school council were proud to represent the school again at the Brickfields Remembrance Service. Year 6 created a ‘poppy curtain’ on the school gates and special assemblies were held throughout the week for all year groups.

With 5 more weeks to go in this term we still have such a lot to fit in before we break up for Christmas.

Miss Crowe

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>

PASTORAL LETTER

So here we are in December already. I wonder how you are feeling this year about Christmas – and the lead up to Christmas. I wonder how you feel about Christmas anyway – what it means to you.

Of course last year, in the middle of making our preparations, our plans were stopped in their tracks by the second lockdown. Much of what we had hoped for in our Christmas celebrating had to be changed. I wonder if this is affecting how people are feeling now. I have heard many people talking about the need to be together with family and friends – and that the being together with those they love is the special gift – they don't require anything else.

This may not be your reality. For many this is a season that is approached with dread - or with sadness. You may yourself be living through a difficult time right now. You may be aware that others are struggling. As we peer out at our world – as we try to make sense of what is going on around us - near and far – we are aware of so much need.

So what do we do? How do we live through December - the month of bare trees and cold days, the winter solstice and the longest night – of homelessness and poverty - of Christmas carols and nativity plays and the celebration of the birth of Jesus?

For Christians, the days leading up to Christmas – known as the season of Advent - are a time of waiting and preparing, of longing and hoping.

So I wonder for all of us if December could be a time for slowing down and reflecting, for looking and listening, for considering the needs of others and the needs of creation. Maybe it can be a month of giving and sharing, of being loved and cared for, of being surprised and amazed and of offering thanks and praise.

I wish you every blessing and pray that you may know God's peace and joy,

Lis Willmet, Lay Reader

LOWER HALSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH NEWS – NOVEMBER 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

Wishing you a Merry Christmas from LHNW

With the holiday season approaching it is even more important to stay vigilant. Thieves are more likely to target properties and outbuildings in December and January searching for hidden gifts, new bikes etc.

Please keep all valuable items out of sight and do not store them in easy target areas like sheds and outbuildings. Burglars don't have a conscience.

Headline News

Read all about it....

- There were 4 Reports in the period.
- 1 report of trespass for the purpose of metal detecting on private land
- 1 report of Hare Coursing.
- Two Reports are relating to animals including a dog bite and a loose horse.
- The PCSO Team continue to visit the village daily as part of their patrols.
- Minutes of the monthly meeting will be available on the Facebook group or by contacting your road representative.

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, 844404, kayhelen2017@outlook.com

Abbie Dowell abbie_mcdowell@hotmail.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

Email: LowerHalstowChurch@outlook.com

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 January 2022 Village News is noon on
12 December 2021**

**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

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
Website: www.edenwoodwealth.com

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