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April 2021

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Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine May 2021 deadlines

Thurs 1 April 2021 12 noon advertising deadline for May Network

Thurs 1 April 2021 12 noon copy deadline for May Network

We plan to be back in print on 1 May 2021, but just in case the unthinkable happens, please be aware that we always put Network on our website on 1st of each month.

Please send advertising contributions to advertising manager's address above.

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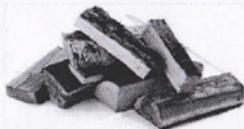
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Village Diary

Just a reminder that a Diary has been placed in the Post Office for anyone to put in any events which may happen in the village.

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From the Editor

Hello everyone,

My first time of editing the Network on my own. I hope I come up to Jan's standards. She does a great job.

Yet again another online version of Network. I hope everyone is keeping well and safe. Hopefully within the next few months our lives will get back to some sort of normal. At least the mornings and evenings are getting lighter and let's hope the days get warmer. I hope you all remembered to put your clocks forward at the end of last month.

Harrietsham Gardening Society have put in their Top Tips for the month for you budding gardeners – well worth a read. Now is the time of year to have a go at planting your own vegetables, particularly if you have moved into a new house with a fairly blank canvas garden. A few raised beds in a spare corner of your garden will get you on the road to being the next Alan Titchmarsh or Charlie Dimmock.

Unfortunately, the village hall is still closed to clubs and organisations, but so grateful we have a local Covid Vaccination Hub and the NHS is doing a great job. In April many of the over 70s will be getting their second Jab, including me—can't wait!!

I can't believe Easter has come round again so quickly. On behalf of the Chairman and Committee of the Fish Scheme and the Network team, I wish everyone a Happy Easter – don't eat too many Easter eggs!!

Denise Williams– Associate Network Editor

Please remember to email any photographs, articles of interest about Harrietsham, or recipes etc. that could be considered for inclusion to:

E-mail: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Whilst every effort is made to include as wide a variety of information as possible each month, the editor reserves the right not to publish, or to edit, any item. The editor's decision is final. Responsibility for the information and views set out in articles and notices in this publication lies entirely with the authors.

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Front Cover Photo: Roman Odintsov from Pexels

Harrietsham Network

Beating of the Bounds



As a relative newcomer to the village, I was fascinated to hear from Peter Brown, the Chairman of Harrietsham History Society, that Harrietsham residents take part in an event known as 'Beating of the Bounds'. It's a tradition that has been around for centuries and entails residents walking the boundaries of the village and ensuring that village boundary markers are clearly in place.

This usually takes place during Rogationtide, the fifth week after Easter, when villagers with the village priest and other dignitaries would walk the parish bounds. The bounds of Harrietsham, so I understand, are some 14 or 15 miles long and as you will see from the account on pages 9.10 &11, which was published in Network in March 1983, the walkers split into two groups, one group taking the southern route and the other the northern route to meet at a pre-arranged venue for refreshments and entertainment.

The article refers us back to Saxon times as the origin of the tradition and draws our attention to 975 and 987 when Pulfega and Aelfega shared the walk and created the tradition of two halves meeting at a set point. Harrietsham is also referred to as Heriagedeshamme and reminds me of the reason for the design of the History Society's logo shown above. Spelt, slightly differently, not unusual at that time, 'Heriagierdeshamme' means 'Heriagierde's water meadow. The meadows were probably in the area of the 'Osier Beds' (willow trees) which now lie beneath the M20m and CTRL to the south of the Alms Houses. The Domesday Book referred to mills in the area.



BEATING THE BOUNDS

The Beating of the Bounds on May 7th is a continuation of a tradition that dates back to Saxon times.

By the time of Kings Alfred and Aethelstan the ceremony of marking parish boundaries was important enough to be mentioned in royal laws and Ascension Day or during Rogation Week was becoming the traditional time of year for such an undertaking. Throughout the Middle Ages and into Tudor times the parish priest, the churchwardens and parochial officials would lead a group of boys, armed with green boughs, to each boundary marker in turn. Here the boys either beat the marker with their sticks or were themselves beaten by their elders; hence the name of the ceremony. This beating was done to ensure that the youths of the village would remember each marker and, if the beating were not overdone, survive as a witness to pass on the information to the next generation. This must be one of the earliest examples of applied psychology.

To compensate for the physical exertions of beating and being beaten, all who took part were entertained at a parish 'ale' or feast held immediately afterwards.

Rogationtide was appropriate for this activity as it was usual for the priest to beseech (Lat. ROGARE) a divine blessing on the parish lands for the ensuing harvest. Strangely this blessing was prohibited by an Injunction of Queen Elizabeth I, but the function continued until recent times in many parts of England as a semi-secular affair with the priest still playing a significant part.

Doubtless by Tudor times the bounds of Harrietsham had been beaten and the lands blessed countless times, since the earliest written reference to our village occurs in the will of two Saxons, Bytric and his wife Aelfwith. This is dated between 975 and 987 and decrees that two brothers, Pulfege and Aelfege should inherit specific parts of what was then referred to a "Herigeardeshanne". Pulfege was to have the 'inland' and Aelfege the 'outland'. It is not unreasonable to

suppose that these two set up suitable markers, with due ceremony, between the allotted portions. How closely these areas of land correspond to the present day parish is debatable, but it remains a fascinating possibility that parts of the line of our present parish may have been established for 1000 years or more.

Inevitably many changes have occurred in the detailed line of the parish boundary since Saxon times but in essence the area covered by the name Harrietsham probably remains much the same.

It is still not too late to put your name forward to take part in this jaunt although the list will be closed on April 5th. After that date a personal invitation will be issued by the organisers and marching orders given!

The earliest detailed records of Beating the Bounds in Harrietsham date back to 1759. The following is an extract of the directions which I thought some of you might recognise. The writer refers to Rads, which I believe is the unit of distance generally known as 'rods', and otherwise referred to as perches or poles. A 'rod' is a distance of approximately 5.5 yards or 5 metres.

4. Then down Stedehill Wood Hedge to the corner of the wood by Stony Hutts Marks H on a Beech stud.

Then down Stony Hutts at Right Angles to a certain lump of Stones in the Hedge Adjoyning Hogbarn Field and 13 Rads from the Corner of lower Redsell's an Elder Stud mark's H in the Hedge of the same place.

Then down the Hedge to the lower Corner of Hogbarn Field and marks on an Elder Stud at the Corner H.S.F.

Then turns the same Corner and goes up the Hedge between Hogbarn Land and Linacre Land till it comes to the Corner of Linacre Great Field and the Corner of Hogbarn Wood and marks H.F. on an Ash Stud in the Corner by the Road to Frinsted. 5.

The following account by a participator appears in the June 1983 Network.

BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Well, we did it! Saturday 7th May saw the Bounds of the Parish well and truly beaten. Some of the participants looked a little whacked too.

Around 40 walkers, in all shapes and sizes, did battle with the elements, brambles, mud and wire fences to mark new and hunt for old boundary marks. Both South and North of the village we were successful in finding ancient letters H and L carved in many a tree - along with other more personal engravings. However Ray Groves and John Bailey who are a couple of old bounders from 1931 soon interpreted for the younger generation.

Although the southern half of the boundary was thought to be shorter and more easily walked the river Len and its banks proved a sticking point and many a welly got stuck - to cries of "Don't leave me behind" and "When do we get our coffee break?"

All in all everyone felt refreshed by parts of Harrietsham that others cannot reach - Gaskin Wood, Hop Garden Field, Stony Huts and the Ruffets to name a few.

Despite some mechanical problems at the feast-site and the fact that the northern group took longer than expected, eventually everyone settled down at Green-Way Forstal for a very pleasant meal. Maypole dancers danced, the Mayor spoke but decided against opening the conveniences and Enid Betts was on hand to explain the historical exhibits.

Although in the short term the walkers had tiredness to remind them of their feat a commemorative booklet detailing the route and marks was given to each. So perhaps in less than a generation's time someone may suggest - "Lets do it again !"

11

The reference to 'the parts of Harrietsham that others cannot reach' strikes me as being a play on an advertising slogan that was in use for a certain beer. Golly, was that slogan really around 38 years ago?
"Let's do it again!" Now there's a thought.....

With grateful thanks to Peter Brown and Harrietsham History Society for the articles supplied from their archives.

There will be a follow up to this soon.



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Harrietsham Gardening Society



Unfortunately, we are still unable to meet as a group due to the seemingly interminable lockdown. However, it does appear that the end may be in sight.

Because of the uncertainties caused by the lockdown we have not yet been able to organise a suitable programme for when we resume.

We have had our Virtual Spring Show and the results will appear in next month's magazine.

With snow and rain, the weather has not been conducive to gardening, but hopefully we will be able to get stuck in soon.

I hope everyone is keeping well and that all will soon have been successfully 'jabbed' so that we can start mixing together once more.

David Oversby Chairman

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club



You may all know that we have suffered a further drawback to our return to playing bowls. As you will be aware Harrietsham Village Hall is being used by the NHS as a restroom for patients who have just had their Covid Vaccine in Harrietsham Surgery. The hall will therefore be closed to all club activities until at least September.

I am pleased to say that I have had replies from all but one club member to my letter that was sent to all of you which enquired if you were going to return to the club after such a long layoff. All of the replies gave a positive yes. It was a concern in many Short Mat Bowls Clubs that members would not return through a loss of interest, illness, age, or finding another hobby after such a long period of inactivity.

Finally, you will have noticed the logo heading these notes for our Bowls Club. This was the idea of the Network Editor, Jan Dijkstra-Caplan. I am sure you will agree that it quickly draws your eye and helps to advertise that Harrietsham has an active Short Mat Bowls Club.

I hope you all stay safe and well in preparation for when we can get back to bowling.

Phil Gooda Chairman/Secretary Harrietsham SMBC

Quiz

1. Who was the first British monarch to officially live at Buckingham Palace?
2. *The Caretaker*, *The Homecoming*, *Old Times* and *Betrayal* are among the works written by which Nobel Prize winning playwright?
3. Duncan Jones directed the movies *Moon*, *Source Code* and *Warcraft*. He is the son of which famous rock star?
4. What ingredient is wrapped in bacon when making devils on horseback?
5. How many candidates did Donald Trump defeat to win the Republican Party's nomination for the President of the United States in 2016?
6. What was the name of the shipping company that made *The Titanic*?
7. *Bend Sinister*, *Hex Enduction Hour*, *Live at the Witch Trials* and *The Frenz Experiment* are four of this cult band's 32 studio albums – who are they?
8. In 2018, Anya Shrubsole became the first female cricketer to do what?
9. What is the name of the voice-over artist who has narrated *Big Brother* since the show's premiere in 2000?
10. In what country was Osama bin Laden born?

Answers on Page 38

Harrietsham Whist Club

Just a note to let everyone know that the Whist Drives will not be taking place in the foreseeable future due to Covid restrictions and the Village Hall being used for Covid vaccinations. We will let you know as soon as we can when they will take place again.



Should anyone like a game of Whist — our friends at Kingswood may also be starting up their games hopefully in July 2021. They would welcome any new players and play on a Tuesday afternoon.

For any further information please contact me, Michael Gear, on 01622 859410.

Michael Gear

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Harrietsham Network

Little Acorns

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing, Boris has spoken!! and I am unable to hold my popular fundraiser for the J.P.K. Project. I usually manage to raise upwards of £1,000 at my Ploughmans, Pimms and Plants Garden Party. My sister, Jill Parker has continued throughout this ghastly pandemic to fundraise. Her mantra has always been "From Little Acorns Mighty Oaks May Grow".

The mighty oak is coming along really well, and she is very much hoping to start building the much needed accommodation this summer. There are 8 young adults on her waiting list and 4 of these are in critical need.

Please take a moment to click on the link below where you can find more information and maybe become once again one of our **Little Acorns**.

Thank you so much,

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Jackie Bevan

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Jill Parker

The JPK Sussex Project



The JPK Project has been formed to provide a much needed, supported living centre with training opportunities for people with a learning disability in Eastbourne and the surrounding area.

Our fundraising to date has enabled us to secure our fantastic site in Old Town, Eastbourne with a welcoming cafe, bakery and training facility. Training courses for our Students commenced through generous grants and community fundraising. Already, our Students have grown in confidence and self-esteem, they have all passed some of their initial training modules. We are now looking to becoming a Registered Training Facility.

In addition, The Old Town Café has become a focal point in supporting our local community, many of whom live alone in sheltered accommodation, build friendships.

New Supported Living Centre - The JPK Project cont'd

This has been designed to provide accommodation on-site in 8 flats for people who have a severe learning disability. The plans give individuality to each unit and incorporate a staff room for night cover. A separate communal area includes a kitchen, lounge and dining facilities. We will be able to support residents in preparing their own meals and helping them to mix, build friendships, and socialise.

The living accommodation has always been of prime importance. We are delighted to announce that we have already raised 65% of the total capital required and are applying for additional funds to raise more money. Unfortunately, the pandemic has meant our local fundraising initiatives have had to cease for the time being, so we are asking for your help online instead.

We already have 8 people on our waiting list to be accommodated and the majority of their carers are in their 70s and 80s. It is essential for people with a learning disability to be suitably housed before a crisis occurs. This enormous transition from living 'at home' to 'independent living' needs the support of their parent carers, otherwise if people with a learning disability were suddenly bereft of their parents and left 'in crisis', there would be no opportunity for the individual to choose where they would wish to live. They could be placed anywhere where there is a vacancy, possibly out of the county.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much to me and many families who are in need of this help.

Thank You

"Thank you to our editor, Jan, for keeping us so well informed through these difficult times"

"Thank you to our deliverers who make sure we get a printed copy by the beginning of each month. We will appreciate them all the more when they can safely resume."

Jackie Bevan x

A huge thank you to all involved with Harrietsham in Bloom for their tremendous effort in planting thousands of spring bulbs all around the village. The results of their hard work will surely lift all our spirits after the dull days of last winter.

From a grateful resident

Roddy & Sue Livingstone would like to thank Lesley Dack. Lesley has been an inspiration, especially in these difficult times of the pandemic.

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Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Vicar: Revd. John Huggins
01622 850280 vicar@lvb.org.uk
(Day off: Wednesday)

Assisting priests:

Revd. Anne Price 01622 924963
revanne@lvb.org.uk

Revd. Millie Hart 01622 297296
revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk

Curate: Revd. Charlotte Coles
07805092823 curate@lvb.org.uk

Readers:

Joan Drury 01622 853766

jdrury23@btinternet.com

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442

pamela@lvb.org.uk

Benefice Office:

Sarah Hills 01622 850604

ChurchOffice@lvb.org.uk

For details of services see p.23

United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

Minister: Rev Andrew Royal
Sunday Service at 10.30am with
creche. No evening service.
01622 686053

maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net

Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone

Minister: Bill Miller

Office: 01622 686013

Sunday Services at 10.30am with
creche, and at 6.30pm

www.maidatonebaptist.net

Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

Minister: Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard

45 St Lukes Avenue

Maidstone ME14 5AN

01622 752895

Sunday Service 10.30am

Church of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Land, off East Street,
Harrietsham

Parish Priest: Fr Geoffrey Pointer
Deacon: Rev Cyril Durbin 736100
Mass every Sunday at 8.45am and
Wednesday at 10.00am
Holydays Mass 7pm

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Button Lane, Bearsted 736100
Confessions, Saturday 5 – 5.30pm

Saturday Evening Mass 6pm

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Weekday Mass generally

Monday and Tuesday 7pm and Friday
10am

Holydays Mass 10am and 8pm

Pathways Church, Maidstone

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at
10.30am in Lenham Community Centre.
Wednesday and Thursday evenings in
homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

Church leaders: Johnny and Estelle
McCabe www.pathwayschurch.org.uk
Pathways Church is supported by
Jubilee Church, Maidstone

For all church services please see
information on page 23 or contact your
own church for up to date information.

Len Valley Benefice



Everybody is welcome

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Important – Please note:

Given the frequently changing national situation, please continue to check notice boards, website and Facebook for the latest information.

Our **Online Worship** will continue so please join us for our weekly service.

Traditional services can be accessed by searching for 'Len Valley Benefice YouTube' and then looking for the correct date.

Breakfast Church are meeting by Zoom beginning at 9.30am each Sunday.

Please email vicar@lvb.org.uk for the link.

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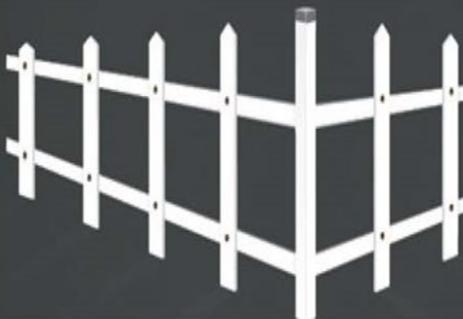
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Harrietsham in Bloom

Spring is arriving fast with some fine displays from the bulbs planted last Autumn – Pilgrim Percy looks particularly pleased with the mixed display of tulips and daffodils!



Many thanks to those who have continued to support HIB through the collection boxes in the local shops.

If you would like to help in any way with maintaining the planters please do get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support. Any enquiries please contact the Chairman on 859352.

Andrew Rogers

Public Services and Emergencies Directory

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Doctors' Surgery (Lenham and Harrietsham) | 01622 858341 |
| Dentist, Lenham | 01622 858204 |
| Dentaline (out of hours emergency treatment) | 01634 890300 |
| Saxon Warrior Pharmacy | 01622 858287 |
| Hospitals: | |
| Maidstone, ME16 9QQ | 01622 729000 |
| The Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury, TN2 4QJ | 01892 823535 |
| William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, TN24 0LZ | 01233 633331 |
| Councils: | |
| MP – Helen Whately | 01622 758053 |
| Kent County Council | 03000 41 41 41 |
| Maidstone Borough Council – all departments | 01622 602000 |
| Harrietsham Parish Council – Parish Clerk | 01622 850089 |
| Police: Emergencies only 999 | 101 |
| Non- emergencies Samaritans, 48, Grecian Street, Maidstone | 01622 674444 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau, 2, Bower Terrace, Maidstone | 01622 752420 |
| Childline | 0800 11 11 |
| KCC Children's Social Services | 03000 41 11 11 |
| KCC Adults Social Services | 03000 41 61 61 |

Deadlines for May 2021 Network

Thurs 1 April 2021 12 noon advertising deadline for May Network

Thurs 1 April 2021 12 noon copy deadline for May Network

Local Directory A-Ha

Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

Tutor Helen Easter 03000 412222/
www.helenbeeken.co.uk

Beaver Scouts

Leader Duncan Keenan 07768 926654

Bell Ringers

Captain Ken Leach 01622 851173
Captain Graham Cuthbert 01795 886365

Bible Reading Fellowship

Co-ordinator Mrs J Bevan 01622 859310

Booth and Baldwin Charity

Secretary email boothandbaldwin@hotmail.co.uk

Brownie Guides

Brown Owl Louise Ayres 07590 037693

Community Support

PCSO John Boyd 101

Conservative Association

Faversham Office 01622 758053

Countryways Quilters

And Stitchers Pamela Gillard 01233 879507

Craft and Chat/Crafternoon/

Knit Crochet and Natter Hazel Roots 01622 851885

Cricket Club

Chairman Mr A Hubble 01622 859692

Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 01622 859829

Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

Family History

Enquiries Mr F Long 01622 850863

Flower Guild

Parish Church Mrs R Long 01622 850863

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 01622 850806

Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 01622 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 01622 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary Jed Stone 07759 8771198/whipacres2@g.mail.com

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 01622 851075

Local Directory He-Z

Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 01622 850657

Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 01622 859412

Karate Club

Organiser Mr Lewin Tuckwell 07812 089304

Kent Community Warden Mr M Sherwood 07977 981993

Kent Messenger

“Your Local Pages”

Village correspondent Charlotte Lingard miss_lingard@hotmail.com

Lenham and Harrietsham Youth Hub

Contact Katie at KCC 01622 755044

Liberal Democrat Assoc. Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman James Reed harrietshamptfa@gmail.com

Pre-school Susan Taylor 07897821399harrietshampreschoolmanager@gmail.com

Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Royal British Legion

Branch Chairman Mr Barry Wood 850702/barry.wood1112@outlook.com

Safari Supper

Organiser Mr R Bevan 859310

Scouts

Group leader Mr E Seales 859829

Leader Mr N Still 880139

Short Mat Bowls

Chairman Phil Gooda 01622851217/p.gooda@btinternet.com

Tai Chi Class Angela Akast 07754454030/akast.a@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

Secretary Mrs K Daking 850652

The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

The Poppy Appeal

Organiser Richard Cast 07787476879/richardcast@btinternet.com

Ulcombe Pre-school

Chairperson Helen Leat 07511657828/
ulcombepreschool@live.co.uk

Village Hall

Chairman Steve Brown chair@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

Whist Club Denise Williams 859410

Wives Group

Leader Katherin Daking 850652

Women’s Institute

Secretary TBA

Crossword

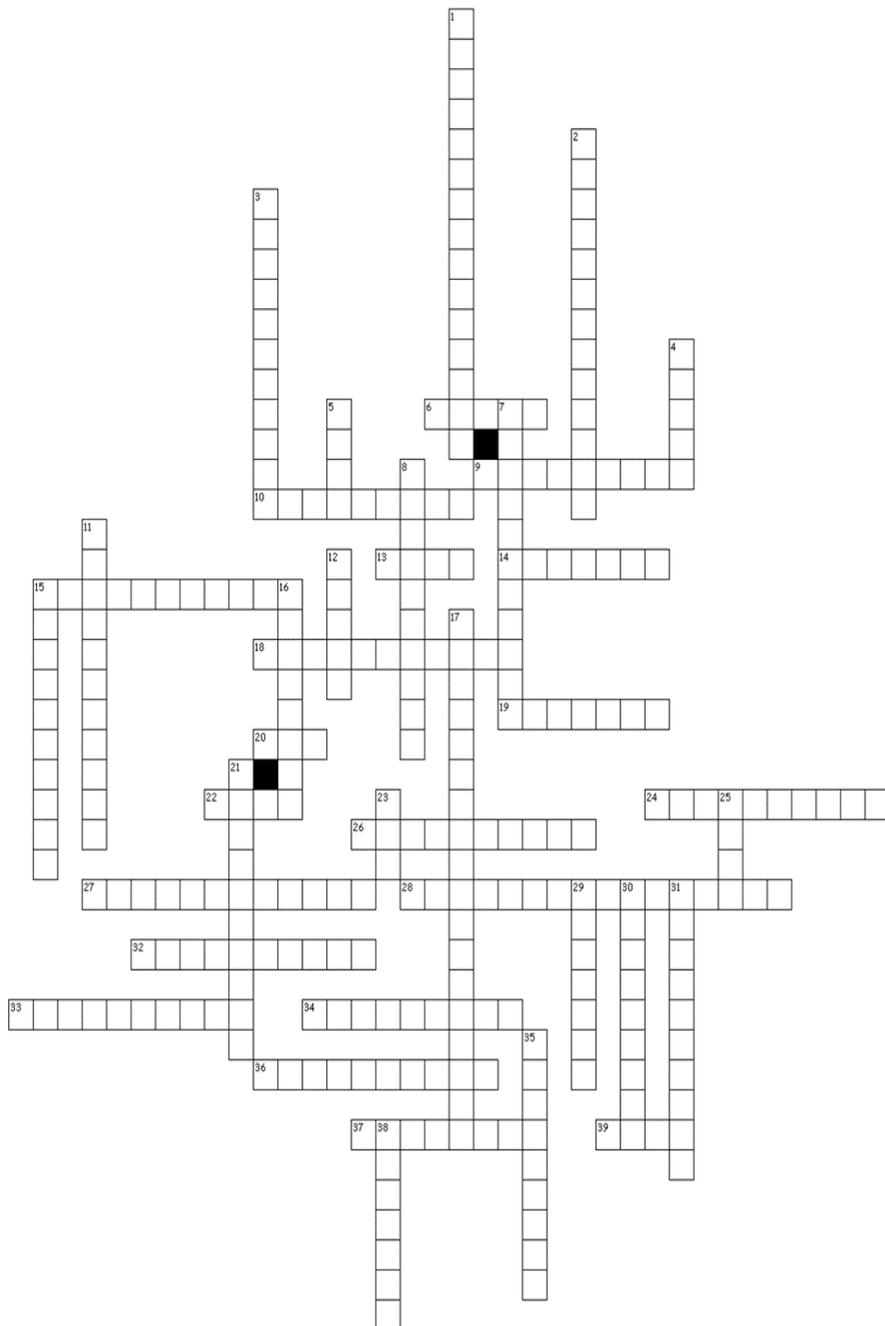
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR VILLAGE? All answers are people/ places connected with Harrietsham.

Across

6. SITS ALONG THE PILGRIMS WAY
9. AN MBE CHAIR
10. PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, DENISE
13. A MEADOW WITH A BITTEN TONGUE
14. CUDDLE THIS PRIEST-IN-CHARGE?
15. IS THIS TREASURER IN REVERSE?
18. HIRE THIS TO KEEP STEVE HAPPY
19. LOTS OF FRIENDS HERE
20. JANETTAS JEWELLERY
22. PET HOSPITAL
24. HELPFUL YOUNG LADIES WHEN LOST
26. NO MEN ALLOWED IN THIS CLUB
27. THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO FIND TEA
28. GET ALL YOUR TOP TIPS HERE
32. HISTORICAL FISH
33. STAMPED MON-FRI 0900-1300
34. SOMETHING FISHY HERE
36. THE HOME OF TENNIS AND CRICKET
37. DON'T FUDGE THE ANSWER TO THIS
39. TATTERED, FLYING NEAR THE OASTS

Down

1. A LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE
2. MIKE'S WIFE LICENSED TO READ
3. YOU'LL CRY AT THE STATE OF THIS
4. JOAN'S FRIEND ON HEALTHY WALKS
5. A ROW OF REALLY OLD HOUSES
7. TUNEFUL TUESDAY EVENINGS?
8. LOTS OF VEG GROWN HERE
11. DISTRIBUTION MANAGER FOR NETWORK
12. FOR BUDDING FRANCIS DRAKES
15. NO REDLANDS TILES HERE
16. SEVEN COLOURS AND A POT OF GOLD
17. EASIER TO SPELL EDITOR
21. NOT NORTH SOUTH OR EAST
23. SHORT FOR FLOWERS, ANDREW
25. GODDINGTON IS ONE OF THESE
29. YOUR ESSENTIAL MONTHLY READ
30. HARD WORK BIKING UP HERE
31. MAY HAVE HAD ROYALTY RESIDING
35. TINY TOTS AT ST JOHNS
38. DEAR ME, HOPE THIS REOPENS SOON





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Christian Message

Hope is a snowdrop

The days were dark
And our village was empty
We'd boarded up our windows
To keep the evil virus out.
Yet in our isolation we didn't feel safe.

The days were long
And our front doors were locked
We smiled to each other through our screens
To keep ourselves sane
Yet in our technology, we didn't feel loved.

The days were endless
And our diaries were purposeless
We planned holidays to come
To dream of having dreams
Yet in our dreaminess, we didn't have much hope.

And then the snowdrops came out.

It's been a wonderful year for snowdrops, and they have reminded us that we can hope, that change will come, that our prayers for a more normal time, even a new normal, will be answered.

Easter is all about hope. Jesus was dead. The God-like miracle worker, teacher extraordinaire had died. There was no hope. And then on day three the tomb was found empty and the disciples met a Jesus from beyond the grave. Hope was born. Here is hope for death and hope for life. Here is acceptance and forgiveness as white as a snowdrop.

Here is light on the darkest day. Take Courage - as the beer signs used to say!
(Are you too young to remember them?)

John P. Huggins (01622 850280)



Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

Registered Charity No. 1090622



Help Wanted

The committee of the Friends of St. John's Church Harrietsham is a very small committee and would very much like to recruit either some more volunteers to join our committee or just to help out at fundraising events. This may be in the form of helping to serve refreshments, washing up, making cakes and any other jobs that we could do with some help with. Obviously last year and for the most part of this year we have not been able to arrange any events which may be in the form of concerts, quizzes, cream teas, exhibitions etc. Once a month during winter we hold a Soup Saturday lunch and in summer a Ploughmans Platterday. If there is anyone out there who would be willing to help, please contact:-

Denise Williams email secretary@friendsofstjohn.org 01622 859410
Audrey Joy (Chair) 01622 850806

100 Club Lottery Draw

The result of the Fifty-second draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club made on 13 March 2021 at Hawkley Lodge and drawn by Hazel Roots is as follows:-

130 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £130

First prize £65.00 – number 73 – Robin and Verlie Mayes
Second prize £39.00 – number 66 – Elizabeth Welchman
Third prize £26.00 – number 105 – Janet and Brian Hall

For further information and details of how to become a member of this ever popular lottery, please contact Chris Roots administrator at 100club@friendsofstjohn.org

All profits will go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.

The Blacksmith's Arms, West Street

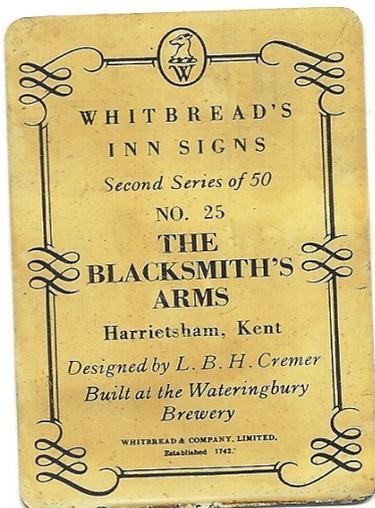


The Blacksmith's Arms was located on the south side of the road between Forge Meadow and The Wheelwrights. Built in the 1770's the property was formerly the 'Poorhouse' before it was purchased by Fremains Brewery and became the Blacksmith's Arms in 1893. The first licensee was a gentleman by the name of Frederick Barndew. The property remained a very popular drinking establishment apart from a one-year break in 1918 at the end of the 1st World War, with nine different landlords until 1975 when the Brewery sold it and it became a private residence, now known as Westmead. There is a copy of a photo showing the front of the pub on page 74 in our book, 'Harrietsham in Old Photographs & Postcards', together with the pub sign designed by Whitbread Inns. Unfortunately, we have not been able to confirm the names of the two people shown in the photo or the year which it was taken but believe it may have been the Landlord, L. W. Hope who took over the pub in 1969. It would be great if anyone could confirm if this is correct.

The village had at least one other public house at the end of the 19th Century, in East Street, called The Cherrytree Inn. This was located on the East side of the road near the Alms Houses just past the turning into Rectory Lane. The first Licensee in 1893 was Sarah Frost. This pub only lasted for a short time until February 1905 when it lost its licence. Whilst it was open it was very popular in the summer as people apparently came from all around to sit in the garden and drink the beer at 2d a pint.

We do not have any information on any other licenced properties in the village but there are several references in the archives at the Maidstone Library and Archive Centre of illegal brewing activities and one of these could well have been in Brenchley Cottage, Rectory Lane which is mentioned in the W.I. diary as existing as the Dark Angel pub in the late 19th century.

Harrietsham History Society





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Saturday 8.00 am - 10.30 pm

Sunday 11.00 am - 9.00 pm



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Top Tips from Harrietsham Gardening Society



April and May are my two favourite months, when there is all the promise of warm, longer days and everything is bursting into leaf and fresh new growth. Indeed, some may still be of the age when their fancy turns to love! Dappled sunlight through, for example, fresh new leaves on beech trees is, in my opinion, far better than stinky dry weed seed heads decorated with litter along roadsides in August. If you are new to the area or have a new garden it is worth having a walk around and see what does well in other gardens in your immediate locality. Harrietsham has quite a mix of soil types from chalky alkaline clays to acidic sands and you can save yourself a lot of cash and heartache by choosing appropriate plants, shrubs or trees. Also, it's a good idea buying plants, which generally come in containers, to stand these where you think they'll do best before planting them so that you can easily switch them around if you change your mind. In the same way, think about where you'll be sitting in the garden while your other half is working as you need a secluded location for your chair or lounge.

By the time you read this you can really get going in the vegetable garden. Early (new) potatoes can still be planted, as can maincrop. It's best, if you have space, to leave approx. 900mm between the rows so that you have plenty of soil to earth up with. Earthing-up encourages more potatoes, which are stem tubers, to form and also prevents them going green in the light if you have talked to them nicely and they are rewarding you by bursting out of the ground. Summer cabbages can be planted out as can onion sets. When weeding rows of onions, remember their roots spread only just below the surface so pulling weeds by hand rather than heavy hoeing will avoid damage. Seeds of cucumbers, squash, courgettes and runner beans can also be sown but these will need some protection from frost right through to the middle of May. As mentioned in previous months, if you haven't got much space you can grow most veg in containers on a patio or whatever so give some a go. It sounds crazy but climbing French beans and outdoor cucumbers can be grown in a hanging basket so use your imagination! It's best to leave sowing French beans and sweetcorn until May to ensure good germination. The only issue there is the need to regularly water as it's surprising how quickly things dry out. Inserting a plant pot or upside-down bottle with the bottom cut off will help to get water down to the roots where it's needed rather than it running off the soil as you water. It's usually safe to get tomatoes planted out in the greenhouse at the end of this month but it's surprising how much the temperature can vary so be prepared to open and close up morning and night.

Seeds of annual flowers can be scattered in weed-free flower beds now, lightly raked in and left to grow. This is a very rewarding and low-cost way of providing colour, which can be supplemented by annual bedding plants. Hanging baskets can be planted up and hung outside at the end of the month (although keep an eye open for a possible frost).

As things start to grow try to keep weeding constantly as it's far easier to garden little and often than do a blitz and think that's it for another month, because sadly it won't be. Finally, what you do now sets the scene for the whole of the summer, so happy gardening.

Harrietsham Network

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

6. PERCY
9. AUDREY JOY
10. WHIST CLUB
13. TONG
14. HUGGINS
15. MICHAEL GEAR
18. VILLAGE HALL
19. ST. JOHNS
20. TOM
22. VETS
24. GIRL GUIDES
26. WIVES GROUP
27. SAFARI SUPPER
28. GARDENING SOCIETY
33. POST OFFICE
34. TROUT FARM
36. BOOTH FIELD
37. BROWNIES
39. FLAG

DOWN

1. HARRIETSHAMITES
2. PAMELA CUERDEN
3. TEERS MEADOW
4. DARBY
5. ALMS
7. CHURCH BELLS
8. ALLOTMENTS
11. JACKIE BEVAN
12. BOWLS
15. MARLEY ROAD
16. RAINBOWS
17. JAN DIJKSTRA-CAPLAN
21. WEST STREET
25. LANE
29. NETWORK
30. STEDE HILL
31. COURT LODGE
35. PRESCHOOL
38. ROEBUCK

Answers to Quiz

1. Queen Victoria
2. Harold Pinter
3. David Bowie
4. Prunes
5. 16
6. The White Star Line
7. The Fall
8. Appear on the cover of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack
9. Marcus Bentley
10. Saudi Arabia

Len Valley Practice

Practice Covid Vaccination update

We have successfully vaccinated 36,450 patients in groups 1-9, registered with the Ridge PCN (Len Valley, Bearsted, Langley, Sutton Valence and Headcorn) and The Weald PCN.

We are now moving to 2nd vaccinations and most patients will have been given a date. We strongly advise patients to keep their appointment as we are unable to offer an alternative date* (**exception - admission to hospital*).

We have identified a number of patients that we have not been able to contact to offer the vaccine because their **contact details we hold are out of date**.

It is **extremely** important to ensure the details we hold for you are correct.

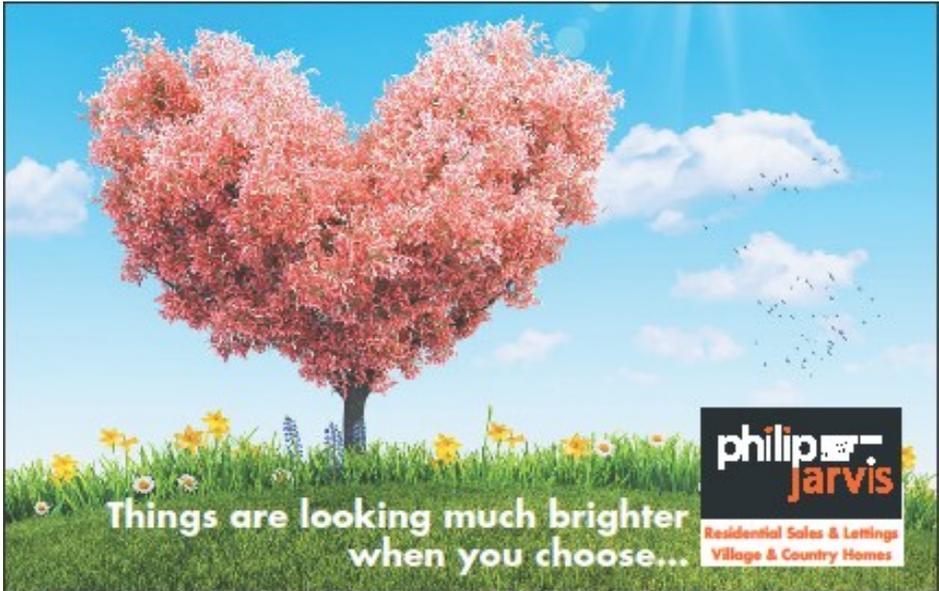
We are using text messaging more as result of the pandemic and have received positive feedback from patients. Type of messages sent; appointment reminders, Prescription notifications and review recalls. If you would like to receive these notifications please provide us with your mobile number. You can click the link [Update Address \(gpwebform.co.uk\)](https://gpwebform.co.uk) or update your details using our **online form** via our website www.lenvalleypractice.co.uk alternatively contact reception on 01622 858341 or email gp.g82093@nhs.net .

We would like say a big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers that have helped and supported the practice through the vaccination roll out, from contacting patients, data inputting and car park marshalling, each role is essential in ensuring the vaccination clinics were a success.



The next Issue of Network will be printed and delivered subject to Covid Guidelines and will also be available on our website on 1 May 2021

www.harrietshamfishscheme.org



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