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Harrietsham's Village Magazine

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December 2020

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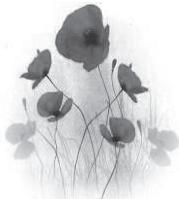
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From the Editor

Hi everyone,

You are probably receiving Network a little late this month. This is because of the lockdown, which was scheduled to end on Wednesday 2 December. As there is nothing in the diary, we felt that we should wait until after this date to deliver the magazine. At the time of writing, we have no knowledge of what happens next.

Our thanks go to Harrietsham History Society who have again provided us with something a little different, but very timely... See page 33.

Everyone at Network and on the Fish Scheme Committee wish you all the happiest Christmas you can have in this most unusual year.

We hope that 2021 will be a better year for everyone.

Stay safe.

Jan - 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

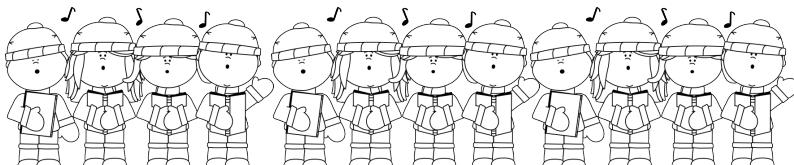
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Whilst every effort is made to include as wide a variety of information as possible each month, the editor reserves the right not to publish, or to edit, any item. The editor's decision is final. Responsibility for the information and views set out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

Letters sent anonymously will not be considered. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the officers or committee of the Fish Scheme.

Front cover: Denise Williams

Clipart on pages 7, 30, 31 and 38 from <https://www.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/christmas/black-white-christmas-carolers.html> and <https://www.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/christmas/black-white-mary-joseph.html>



Harrietsham Craft & Chat, Crafternoon and Knit, Crochet and Natter

All of the craft groups have been carrying on meeting albeit outdoors, subject to the weather and limited to groups of six. If the planned date turns out to be wet or windy, we reschedule and we've managed quite well up to now.

At Craft and Chat, we have completed the first part of the bejewelled beetles (the wings) and will be arranging other sessions to do the body and legs.



By the time this edition of Network comes out, we will have had our November's meetings where we will have made the boxes with metal embossed lids with Kim.



We are also planning a Christmas themed crafting session/party in December in groups of six. We will bring our own food and drink and I think we will definitely need the patio heaters by then. An earlier start will be necessary as it can be getting dark around 4pm at that time of the year. We have our thinking caps on to come up with some Christmas themed projects that we can do and intend to make the sessions as festive as we can.

At Knit, Crochet and Natter, another twiddlemuff got finished and we have enjoyed seeing the various projects we each have been working on.

We are managing really well with our individual crafting height tables two metres apart and on occasions where we have had to get slightly closer for demonstration purposes, we have worn masks during the demos. We are liberal with the disinfectant for cleaning tables, chairs, etc, and do everything we possibly can to keep everyone safe but we are definitely looking forward to the time when we can meet indoors again as one whole group.

Wishing everyone the best Christmas that they can have and hoping for a better year in 2021.

If you have any questions about our groups, please contact 01622 851885.

Hazel Roots



Christmas images from the church of St John the Baptist



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Harrietsham Gardening Society

Following on from last month's report, we are still unable to hold meetings due to the current crisis. We have, however, fixed the meeting dates for next year. Due to congestion of clubs and societies looking for regular dates we have had to change our nights to the third Monday of every month. This begins in January 2021 and all members will be regularly reminded before each meeting. The Annual Show is scheduled for Saturday 4 September 2021. Anyone requiring further information should contact any member of the committee. In the meantime, please keep an eye on the Top Tips page further in this magazine which will keep you up to speed on what you should be doing each month in the garden or on the allotment.

In the absence of the meetings the committee wish you all as good a Christmas as you can have and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Michael Flawn

Harrietsham in Bloom

Our AGM was held in October, virtually by Zoom, as sadly we were not able to meet personally due to the Covid restrictions.



The planters have been cleared of summer bedding and replanted with tulips for a spring display. Our volunteers have been very busy as K.C.C. donated 10,000 daffodil bulbs to replace those lost in the verges due to the road improvements through the village. It was hard work for the volunteers as hundreds of holes needed digging out. We were grateful to Tony Bell who came to help with his auger which was very helpful. Credit must go to everyone involved in this mammoth task.

The Chairman and committee wish to thank everyone who supported H.I.B. during 2020, particularly our local businesses, Harrietsham Parish Council, our wonderful volunteers, the venues that accommodate collecting boxes and villagers that pop their donations into them.

By the time you read this we may well be in lockdown again making Christmas very different.

We wish you Seasons Greetings and a safe and healthy New Year.

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Harrietsham History Society

We hope you will find the article on page 33 regarding the plague of 1578 of interest. This was part of a Newsletter recently received from Kent Archives.

Peter Brown

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club.

In my news for October, I was hoping that we would be playing bowls by now, but that was not to be. We are still here and still waiting for the "Safe Bowling Certificate" from the English Short Mat Bowls Association (ESMBA). Progress is very slow and frustrating. I have looked up the meaning of the word "frustrating" and the explanation that seems to fit in my case is as follows. "Frustration is the prevention of the progress, success or fulfilment of something you are unable to change or achieve". This frustration can be compared with the same feeling you get when hitting the block in the middle of the mat when you are sure you have played the perfect wood. I have been trying hard to get our club bowling again, but circumstances have conspired against that. The initial ESMBA Risk Assessment Form that I completed did not contain enough detail as the form gave no clue as to how much was required, This was hopefully put right after a meeting with the Kent County Short Mat Bowls Safeguarding Officer to whom further paperwork was posted on 17th October. Unfortunately, at this time he had travelled to Wales because of family problems and planned to take up his Safeguarding Duties when he returned, which was to be 26/27th of Oct. Let's hope I have better news to report in the January issue of the Network.

All the best and stay well.

Phil Gooda (Chairman)

Young at Heart 60+ and Len Valley Community Club

We hope that in 2021 or as soon as we can, we will organise some meetings. So please be patient and stay safe. We wish you all a

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year

from **Nina and Jenny** to all the gang. Tel:Jenny 01622859208 Nina 01622851970

Night Safety

As a driver who goes out early morning and late evening, can I please ask that those walking in the dark wear some hi viz clothing or at least light clothing. Also the highway code recommends that you walk facing the oncoming traffic.

**BE SAFE BE BRIGHT- WEAR SOMETHING LIGHT
WEAR SOMETHING WHITE AT NIGHT**

Peter Bowler

Harrietsham Fish Scheme Helping Hands

Lift Organisation

Update – New Scheme



We are pleased that there is now in place a new scheme set up for essential lifts for appointments for Harrietsham residents. Arrangements have been agreed with the Involve Community Transport Volunteer team to provide these lifts, there will be a small charge for residents wishing to use this service payable directly to Involve Community Transport.

To use the new scheme residents should contact Andrew & Felicity Rogers in the normal way to make a booking. You will then receive a call from the Involve Community Transport Coordinator confirming details of the lift arrangement and the cost. We are hoping the cost can be minimised by giving plenty of advance notification of when lifts are required. All the volunteer drivers for Involve Community Transport are set up to cope with the Covid 19 restrictions and hopefully will be able to continue providing an ongoing service during these difficult times.

Andrew & Felicity Rogers (859352) Lift Co-ordinators

Harrietsham Village Hall Trust

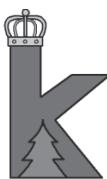
Thank you, Harrietsham Parish Council, for your very generous grant towards the installation of our new boiler. It's very much appreciated in these difficult times. Finances are low with only a few bookings. Baby and Toddler and Karate have both decided not to run any more sessions until the virus is under control. PLEASE NOTE THE HALL IS NOW CLOSED UNTIL NEW YEAR.

Hopefully, there will be some more clubs coming back in 2021.

The Trust still needs a secretary to take the minutes at our meetings once a month so if you are interested please contact me on chair@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

We hope you all have a nice Christmas, please keep safe and we look forward in seeing you all again in the new year.

Steve Brown



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IT'S CHRISTMAS - KEEP IT REAL

Jackie Bevan shares with us this lovely poem written by her Mum aged 90! It is topical because it's time to plant new bulbs for next spring. Jackie says 'Mum only ever wrote poetry when the spirit moved her. Either she was happy about something, found something very funny, or was angry about something. Infinite variety!'

The Hailsham Vicarage Daffodils

I wandered, venturing out around
My new home, here in Hailsham town.
The bustling High Street left behind,
I saw the churchyard path unwind.
The steeple-shaking bells at rest,
No people in their Sunday best.
A kissing gate of bygone age
Led me on to the Vicarage,
And there, with gift of inward eye
Back through the years my thoughts could fly.
I paused, and saw a lady there
Kneeling, her head bent as if at prayer.
No, she was gardening, hands a-toil
Deep in the dark rich Sussex soil.
With brisk decisive hands she placed
Each bulb in its appointed place.
All through the winter months they'll lie
'neath ice and snow and leaden sky.
Then when their Maker says it's time,
Up to the light their shoots will climb
To tell mankind the winter's chill
Has passed, "I'm here, the daffodil".

Not all the greedy wannabees
Aflame with their technologies,
Who rush about this planet Earth
And slave to bring about it's dearth
Could make, and nor they ever will,
One purely perfect daffodil.

"Beside the path, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze",
They're here for me to drink my fill,
The Hailsham Vicarage daffodils.

Sylvia Westley (age 90)

Local Churches

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St John the Baptist

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For details of services see p.19

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Church of the Good Shepherd

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Holydays Mass 7pm

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

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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.

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For all church services please see information on pages 19 and 21

Len Valley Benefice Service Times

Everyone is always welcome to any of our services or events

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news
Isaiah 52: 7a

Sunday 6 December

- 9.30 am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion
11.00 am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

Sunday 13 December

- 9.30 am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion
9.30 am Lenham: Christmas-themed Breakfast Service
11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
3.30 pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 20 December

- 9.30 am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast Service
11.00 am Harrietsham: Family Crib Service (*Ticketed)
11.00 am Lenham: Family Crib Service (*Ticketed)

Christmas Eve: Thursday 24 December

- 11.15 pm** Harrietsham: Midnight Communion (*Ticketed)

Christmas Day: Friday 25 December

- 10.00 am** Boughton Malherbe: Christmas Holy Communion
10.00 am Lenham: Christmas Holy Communion (*Ticketed)
10.00 am Ulcombe: Christmas Holy Communion

Sunday 27 December

- 9.30 am** Boughton Malherbe: Sung Morning Prayer
9.30 am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

***Ticketing:** To request a free ticket (needed to ensure Covid19-distancing), please email churchoffice@lvb.org.uk after 13 December or collect from an earlier service.

We are also planning an

Online Carol Service

to lift our spirits.

Look out for details on our Facebook page, noticeboards
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Let's make it go Viral and keep Covid at bay!

Cont'd on page 21

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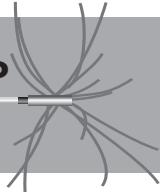
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Len Valley Benefice Service Times

(cont'd from page 19)

Our weekly online services will also continue throughout December. Please contact churchoffice@lvb.org.uk or 01622 850604 if you would like to receive the weekly email with the links to our Sunday worship.

For service times at other churches, please confirm days and times with your church. The information given on page 18 is pre-coronavirus.

Deadlines for January 2021 Network

Tues 1 December 2020 12 noon advertising deadline for January Network

Tues 1 December 2020 12 noon copy deadline for January Network

Operation Sunshine

What is Operation Sunshine?

Operation Sunshine is a Folkestone based charity, supported by churches all over Kent, Devon, France and Andorra. Helped by individuals and groups, it sends much needed clothing, food, medical equipment, tools, sewing machines, blankets, soap, toiletries and other necessities to Africa and elsewhere for those in need.

What does Operation Sunshine do?

Goods received are sorted, packed and stored at Capel-le-Ferne awaiting shipment. Similar work goes on in Tavistock, Devon. Other groups and individuals work at home, collecting, sewing, knitting and repairing items. Many help with fund-raising and prayer makes a vital contribution to the work.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this charity during 2020.

Season's Greetings to you all. Stay safe

Audrey Joy M.B.E. local contact 01622 850806

Harrietsham Network

Local Directory

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 851173

Captain Graham Cuthbert 01795 886365

Bible Reading Fellowship

Co-ordinator Mrs J Bevan 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 859692

Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 859829

Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

Family History

Enquiries Mr F Long 850863

Flower Guild

Parish Church Mrs R Long 850863

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 850806

Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

Harrietsham Social Club

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

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 851075

Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 850657

Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 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 Association	Mr David Naghi	07970 626829
PTFA (Harrietsham School)		
Chairman	James Reed	harrietshamppta@gmail.com
Pre-school	Susan Taylor	07897821399 harrietshampreschoolmanager@gmail.com
Rainbows		
Leader	Kate Davies	07971 254029/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	Miss Denise Williams	859410
Wives Group		
Leader	Katherin Daking	850652
Women's Institute		
Secretary	Mrs J Tabrett	859224

Public Services and Emergencies

Doctors' Surgery (for either Lenham or 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

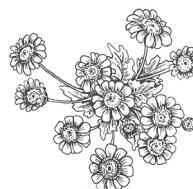
Top Tips from Harrietsham Gardening Society

Well December is here already and winter is about to bite. Before it well and truly does, try and protect any plants you've lovingly grown which may be susceptible to frost damage. For example, clumping plants grown in pots together will provide some protection. Alternatively, or as well as, wrapping in bubble wrap or heavy duty fleece works well but might not look very attractive. As for plants grown in borders, covering the roots with leaf mould or compost will help, especially if you intend to leave dahlias and gladioli out in the ground where space inside in a spare bedroom, shed or garage may be short – it can be worth the risk. A covering of straw or an old carpet over parsnips and carrots will also help harvesting when the ground may otherwise be frozen. Another worthwhile job now is to dig up a crown of rhubarb, or buy one, and plant it in a pot in a greenhouse, then cover it with an old dustbin or even a black bin liner supported on canes which will give some really sweet and tender young stems in early spring. If snow does occur knock it off hedges and shrubs before the weight of it breaks them down, which is another reason for doing some hard pruning and hedge cutting in the dormant period. Generally shrubs subject to wind-rock should be reduced by about one third to avoid a hole being created where the shrub or tree rocks to and fro, which could fill with water or conversely allow roots to dry out later next year.

On another note keep checking over stored apples, squash, onions, potatoes and so on to remove any with signs of rot. Similarly, to avoid carry over of brown rot on apples from one year to another remove every single apple from fruit trees and the ground and dispose of them.

It's good to have a few outdoor jobs to keep warm, raking leaves and stuffing them into perforated bin liners will provide an excellent source of leaf mould in a year or two and if you're feeling really energetic a goodforking of the lawn will help with drainage and aeration.

Whilst you're doing all those repetitious winter jobs it's often helpful, like the seven dwarfs to sing a little song while you're working. As it's almost the festive season have a go at the one below, sung to the tune of Jingle bells of course. It makes a change from the one you hear continuously in normal years in the shops from the middle of August. Go on, the more you sing it the easier it scans and Gareth Malone would be proud of you. In fact, rumour has it the Parish council are adopting this as their anthem, to be sung before each meeting.



Chorus: (Jingle bells.....)

Oh, Harrietsham, Harrietsham,
that's the place to be
Bowls to bowl and bells to ring
And healthy walks with Marjorie
Harrietsham, Harrietsham,
that's the place to be
You're so lucky you can join
The Gardening Society

Verse 1

Leave at Junction seven,
Of the noisy motorway,
Straight on along the road,
A20 all the way
Round the bends at Leeds
And past the Park Gate
Not too far past the railway bridge
Or you've left it too late

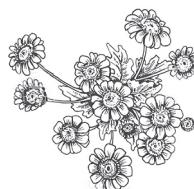
Chorus (2)

Oh Harrietsham, Harrietsham,
that's the place to be
Bowls to bowl and bells to ring
Awaiting Network eagerly
Harrietsham, Harrietsham,
that's the place to be
You're so lucky you can join
The Gardening Society

Back to more mundane matters, a gentle reminder not to forget to sow, in a heated propagator, your onions on Christmas day, tomatoes on Boxing day and a few Little gem lettuce whenever you need another excuse to disappear for a short while.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a successful gardening new year.

Harrietsham Gardening Society





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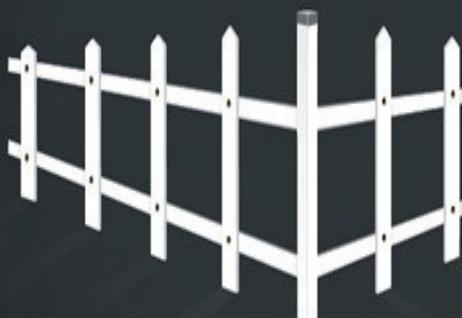
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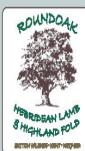
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Christian Message Murder Club special: who stole Christmas?

I love the Christmas film, “The Grinch” because of the way it subtly mocks the excessiveness of Christmas. But although I write this in October, I fear that this year, Christmas may be a very different celebration to normal. Will we be able to meet in family groups or even see all our family at all? For those with relatives abroad, it’s nearly unimaginable. And as for church services, for our most popular services, you’ll need a ticket beforehand (albeit a free one) so that we know that we can manage the numbers.

Well for a murder whodunit, it’s a poor plot, because we know the culprit. Two new words (coronavirus and Covid) have entered all of our vocabularies, but they are not welcome there at all!

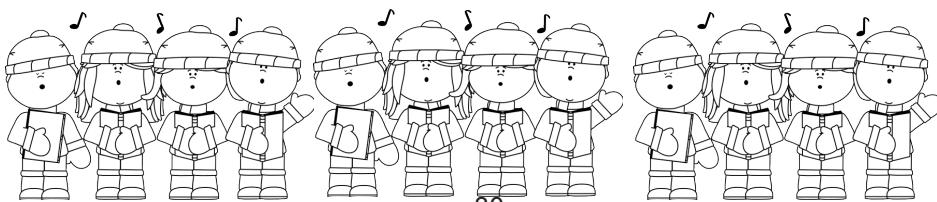
I don’t want to minimise the pain of distant Christmases this year, but I have to say that we might have a chance to recapture the original spirit of Christmas. Were there celebrations for the first Christmas? Absolutely! Did families all get together? Yes, but Mary and Joseph seem to have been shunned because of that “outrageous” bump on Mary’s tummy (that was nothing to do with Christmas indulgence!). Were presents shared? Yes, but they came from strangers not doting families. And the tree, and the cards, and the decorations, and the chocolate, and the brussels sprouts, and the cake and pudding, and the brandy and port and beer and wine. No, none of that. We can enjoy it, but it wasn’t in the original script.

Actually, if Christmas is quieter this year, it may give us opportunities in new ways. It may make us more sensitive to those in our communities who need a helping hand, or a friendly face, or an ear to listen. Might it help us appreciate what we do have? And it may give us space to remember the absolute wonder of the baby whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. The baby whom Christians recognise to be God. God as a baby! There’s an amazing thought.

Come and join us in our much-slimmed-down service schedule: but remember you might need to get a ticket first! (The shepherds and magi didn’t have to, I know!)

God bless you all, and let’s look out for each other this Christmas.

Revd. John P. Huggins (01622 850280)



Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

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100 Club Lottery Draw

Result of the Forty-seventh draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club

As all the social events in the village have ceased because of Covid19, the 100 Club draw was made on 10 October 2020 at Little Hatch by Denise Williams under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator)

127 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £127

First prize £63.50 – number 61 – Janice Brockwell

Second prize £38.10 – number 22 – Brian and Angela Gatland

Third prize £25.40 – number 2 – Sally Tong

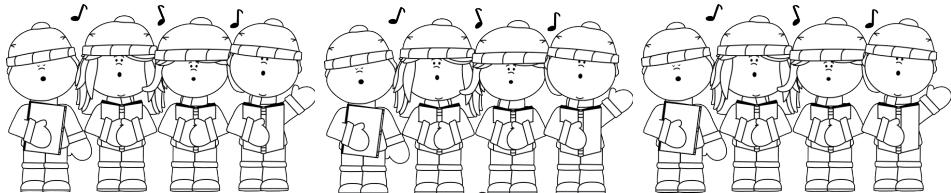
For further information and details of how to become a member of the ever-growing 100 Club to help with the upkeep of our church - contact the Administrator, Chris Roots at 100club@friendsofstjohn.org

Christmas Cards

The Friends of St John's have Christmas Cards for sale again this year and a new card featuring the west tower of Harrietsham Church in the snow. (Photograph courtesy of Kim Frazer). If you need any last minute cards why not support your local church charity. These are only £3 per pack of five (+ £1.50p postage if you live outside of the village). Any orders will be delivered to your door. Please contact Audrey Joy 01622 850806 or Denise Williams 01622 859410 or email: secretary@friendsofstjohn.org. All profits will go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.

The Friends of St. John's Committee would like to thank its members for their continued support throughout the year, despite there not being any fundraising events, other than the 100 Club Lottery due to Covid restrictions.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and stay safe.



Harrietsham Network

Extracts from ‘Discovering Harrietsham’

If you haven’t already, be sure to get your free copy of this very informative new leaflet from local stores, Post Office, Harrietsham Station, St. John’s Church, Salon 62 and BP garage. Get your copy for an excellent guide to the beauty spots and places of interest in and around Harrietsham

4 Prehistoric enclosure

A circular cropmark in this field was investigated by Kent Archaeology Field School in 2012. This revealed a circular enclosure within a rectangular enclosure and a possible field system. This feature is believed to date back to about 2500 BC. Could it have served as a ritual earthwork? It has been referred to as Harrietsham Henge! Please note there is no public access to the site.

5 Tong’s Meadow

Here the footpath passes through an area with diverse grassland. You’ll see a variety of different wild flowers growing in spring and summer, including pyramidal orchids (pictured right).



Explore the village and its surrounding countryside...

- Teers Meadow
- Woodlands Walk
- Glebe Field and the Church
- Pilgrim’s Way
- Other wildlife and heritage sites

Contact Harrietsham Parish Council :

www.harrietshampc.org.uk 01622 850089

This leaflet was produced as part of the Teers Meadow project and has been supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Leaflet produced by Clarity Interpretation
www.clarityinterpretation.com
07827 797327



The Plague of 1578

A document of 1578 from the parish archives of Harrietsham (catalogue ref. (P173/7/1) giving instructions for combatting the plague makes an interesting comparison with regulations in the year of Covid-19.

It takes the form of a proclamation to churchwardens by commissioners acting for Queen Elizabeth I that must have been sent out to many parishes, though Harrietsham is the only parish in Kent that we know to have preserved its copy (and indeed we have not traced a copy beyond the county). It refers to a book of orders and medicinal remedies, printed on the Queen's instruction, which the churchwardens must acquire and keep for reference in the parish church, and of which they must enforce observance. The British Library holds copies of a pamphlet corresponding to this description, but apparently in no edition earlier than 1592.

The unenviable task of inspecting the bodies of the dead and determining the cause of death would fall to "two honest women of good yeeres" chosen by the churchwardens and wisest parishioners. Though without medical qualifications for this duty, they would receive between them (from the deceased's assets if possible) a shilling each time they identified a victim of plague, and fourpence for fatalities otherwise diagnosed. The plague victims should be buried as far as possible from inhabited homes, in graves at least 6 feet deep.

Justices of the peace should be immediately informed of a house harbouring the plague or suspected of it. A white withy should be fastened to the exterior of houses and displayed for 40 days after a plague death. Every person venturing outside from such houses must display for the same period some black lace if wearing a white hat, cap or kerchief, or white lace on black headgear. Those who refused to comply with these orders should be referred to the commissioners for punishment. The year 1578 is not noted for a widespread outbreak of plague, such as 'the sweat' of summer 1551, or the influenza in 1558 that had devastated the ranks of Queen Mary's elderly Catholic clergy. The date these instructions were issued, 29 December, suggests the 1578 outbreak was a pneumonic or airborne virus rather than a bubonic plague which spread in humid weather. Sporadic epidemics could hit rural areas at almost any time: probably local recurrences of earlier, more widespread, viruses – and, if so, in a pattern we might now heed. Contemporaries might have attributed them to the wrath of God, but the fact that some parishes might be decimated by them, while neighbouring parishes might escape entirely, suggests that strategies of 'self-isolating' and 'local lockdowns' were well understood and deployed.

Our present measures for 'self-isolating', 'social distancing', and 'testing and tracing' may differ in detail. But in so far as the Harrietsham churchwardens were required to implement strategies for combatting a virus when no vaccine was available, their situation was the same. To this degree the present crisis is hardly 'unprecedented'.

Mark Ballard

Kent Archive and Local History Service
original publication:

<https://www.kentarchives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Issue-19-Autumn-2020.pdf>

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Harrietsham Community Speedwatch Group

Following the article in the September issue of Network, nine volunteers came forward and have since been trained on how Speedwatch works. A big thank you to all our new volunteers – Andrea, Angela, David, Debra, Lesley, Peter, Philip, Ray and Tony – all now known as Group Operators.

Our very first session had to be under the supervision of Alan Watson, the Community Speedwatch Manager at Kent Police, so that we could carry out our practical Speedwatch training. This session was held on Monday 26 October at 10am, with five of our volunteers attending and using the equipment that we share with Platt's Heath CSW Group. Alan provided the Group with hi-vis jackets, which must be worn when on Speedwatch duties. He then went on to teach us how to use the equipment itself and gave us tips on how to operate by the road side safely. I never realised just how important a tuning fork plays in Speedwatch activities!

Peter, one of our volunteers, reported back that he was “amazed at the fact that just standing in our hi-vis jackets had such a dramatic effect on the speed of vehicles” along the Ashford Road.

Now that five of us have trained as operators in both the theory of Speedwatch and how to use the equipment, the Group can function independently as the fully trained operators can train others. This means that we can carry out Speedwatch sessions whenever we wish without external supervision, but still knowing that we have the backing of Kent Police when and if we need it.

It is never too late to come and join us – we are always looking for volunteers as the more we have, the greater the impact we can have to reduce the average speed along the Ashford Road (and other roads in the village if thought necessary) and improve road safety in our village. Can you spare a few hours occasionally to help reduce speeding and improve road safety? If so, come and join us!

Remember, the aim of Community Speedwatch is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

If you would like to join the group – register at www.communityspeedwatch.org

For more information, either visit www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch, contact **chris-roots@outlook.com** or ring 01622 851885

Chris Roots

Hams Productions



Due to COVID we have had to take the heartbreaking decision to cancel the pantomime in 2021. We are all incredibly disappointed, but we all recognise that the safety of our fantastic audiences and our cast must take priority at this time.

On a happier note we are making plans to bring you a summer show that will lift your mood and be suitable for the whole family. Please keep in touch with our latest news by going to www.hamsproductions.org.

Our last panto was "Sleeping Beauty", and we had some fantastic reviews from you, our lovely audience. We had 568 people come and see 3 performances at Lenham Community Centre and a great time was had by both the audiences and cast, who love what they do.

If you are aged 12 or over and you want to get involved either on stage or behind the scenes with future productions, then we would be happy to put your name on our cast/team mailing list for upcoming shows, simply send an email to chair@hamsproductions.org and we will add you to our list.

We can't wait to welcome you back to future productions. See you all soon.

David Penny – Chair HAMS Productions

Old Fashioned Mulled Wine

Serves about 6 people. A traditional recipe for a delicious, warming brew

1 large (1 litre) bottle of Spanish red wine
10 fl. oz (250ml) ginger ale or cold strained tea
1 orange, stuck with 10 cloves
3 cinnamon sticks or 1 teaspoon (5ml spoon) cinnamon powder
2 teaspoons (2 x 5ml spoon) mixed spice
4 oz. (100 g) brown sugar
Large wineglass brandy or whisky or rum

Put all ingredients in a pan and heat thoroughly, without boiling, for about half an hour. Before serving add the brandy, whisky or rum.

Denise Williams

Harrietsham and Lenham Villages Community Support

An enormous ‘thank you’ goes to Tom and Janetta Sams, Martin Sherwood and their amazing team of volunteers who have provided so many people with help and support throughout the Covid 19 pandemic of 2020.

The community support team’s contact details are as follows:

www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk

Telephone: 01622 859412

We have a message from the team about... MASKS.

‘STILL... there are a small number of people in our community who think it’s OK to visit shops without masks.

Clearly it is not.

It is unfair on the staff and to others to blatantly break the law in this way. Whether it is out of ignorance, selfishness or some benign belief in personal freedom, it is reprehensible. It is not acceptable and, to repeat ourselves, it is an illegal act. It needs total condemnation. It may ultimately spread the virus, put someone into hospital, and potentially kill someone’.

Please wear your masks...

Financially...

The community support team still rely on our community fund to allow the day to day service to function. For those unaware it was pump primed by Lenham Storage and it is topped up by voluntary donations we receive from our community. The fund previously was used to facilitate the Lenham Festival and Harrietsham’s Big Lunch. Any donations are still gratefully received. **Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Residents Association (HELPERS), sort code 08 92 99 Account 65271434**, or alternatively a cheque made out to that organisation and arrange for collection

Maidstone Food Bank.

This operates from Knightrider Street and is a lifeline to so many through the Covid 19 outbreak. Our volunteers continue to deliver local surplus to this much needed facility. The Food Bank has been very important to local residents and volunteers and we urgently need people to make food available for collection on Tuesdays that can be collected by volunteers. Contact 01622 859412.

Alternatively, if you shop at Harrietsham & Lenham Coops there are food bank containers near to the check outs.

A blast from the past.... **Gypsy Tart**

This is as the recipe appeared in the September 1970 Network: -

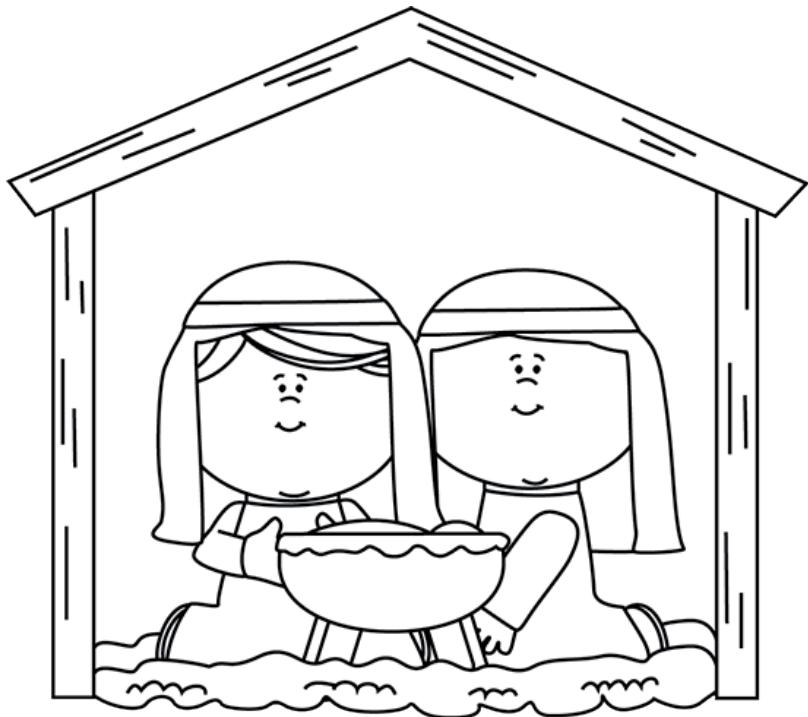
Now mums, this is the recipe you must try as the children at the school all clamour for the tart when it is on the menu!

Bake blind a pastry case in a shallow tin using ½ lb flour, ¼ lb margarine and ¼ lb lard, (or you could use ready rolled shortcrust pastry).

Filling – 1 small tin evaporated milk, 9 oz soft brown sugar whisk together until thick and creamy. Pour into the pastry case and return to moderate oven until set.

Network extract supplied by **Peter Brown...** original source unknown

This was my favourite desert at school! Does anyone know how they made the 'shaving cream' that went with it... Yummie! Ed



*Peace on earth and Goodwill to all men.
Happy Christmas everyone.*



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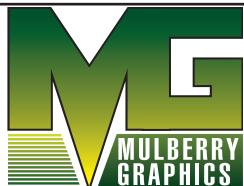
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