

December 2023

NETWORK
HARRIETSHAM'S
VILLAGE
MAGAZINE





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Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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Friday 1 December 2023 12 noon advertising and copy deadline for January Network.

In addition to printing the magazine and distributing it to all homes in the village, Network is uploaded to our website by the 1st of each month.

Please send advertising contributions to advert@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

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Message From the Editor

Happy Christmas from everyone at Harrietsham Fish Scheme. We hope you are able to celebrate with your family and friends, or if you do not celebrate, then you have a restful time.

Make sure you have a look at page 12 and 13 to read about the beautiful poppy displays across the village and thanks to those who have submitted photos for this. Well done to Hazel and the Craft Groups!

We have Round 2 of our monthly quiz on page 13. It is general knowledge this month, which I was a little better at.

On page 29 there is a poster for the Carol Concert in Harrietsham Church on Friday 8 December, definitely one not to be missed.

A huge thank you and well done to Eliza Perrett in Year 3 at Harrietsham Primary School who won the competition and had her artwork chosen to be on the front cover of this December issue. Well done to all those who took part and thank you to the staff who made it happen.

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

E-mail: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Whilst every effort has been made to include as wide a variety of information as possible, 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.

Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the officers or committee of the Fish Scheme.

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Harrietsham Gardening Society



The Gardening Society was treated to a very informative and enjoyable talk at our October meeting, given by Katherine Hook of 'Sloe Seductions'. The committee were a little nervous on making the booking but the residents of Harrietsham can clearly spell, they got the correct 'Sloe' and no contingent of shifty-looking, heavy breathing mac-wearers turned up expecting something a bit more risqué! Katherine's business relies on a burst of activity foraging for hundreds of pounds of sloes in the Autumn, which are then converted into sloe gin or sloe gin-flavoured chocolate truffles, or chocolates with a pure sloe gin centre. She explained the process from making the sloe gin to converting Belgian chocolate to the finished product which is all undertaken manually and is very time consuming. Samples were provided for members to enjoy; they were delicious and the products can be ordered on-line if you want to have a look at her website.

Also at the meeting Members were each provided with a pot and five Tete-a-tete narcissus bulbs. They will be planting these immediately into bulb fibre or a good compost, in two layers. Tete-a-tete are one of the best scented dwarf daffodils available and should produce 3 flowers per stem with stems about 8 inches high. They need to be kept away from heat and in the best light so as to provide a long cold growing season and should bloom next March or even earlier depending on our winter/spring. Members will be bringing these along to a meeting in Spring when we should have a brilliant display from which we will choose the best.

Angela Gatland, one of our Committee members, kindly brought along some apples for Members to taste, unusual but very flavoursome varieties which beat some of the more prolific but less appetising modern varieties.

As a new innovation the Committee have started to produce a list of topical jobs to be doing in the garden each month, with hints and tips on what to do now and also preparing for the months ahead. These are e-mailed to all Members; do consider joining and come along to the meetings with any questions or queries as there's bound to be someone who can help.

Thinking about it, there are a number of advantages to attending our meetings:

- In November to March we hold meetings in the afternoons which means you can turn your own heating off for at least 4 hours, what a saving!
- There is tea, biscuits and often cake available, with the opportunity to chat and make new friends.
- If you don't engage with a particular speaker there is the opportunity to meditate or practice the latest Mindfulness for your well-being,
- Parking at the Village Hall is free with no Payment by phone or App to contend with.
- The ratio of lovely eligible female to male members is about 5 to 1 so come along men!
- There is a real opportunity to learn more about all aspects of gardening free of charge, think what you would pay a solicitor or financial adviser!

Our next meeting is our Christmas Social at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 12 December; fun and games at this one. New members always welcome.

Harrietsham History Society



As we approach the end of 2023, the Harrietsham History Society would like to extend our warmest wishes for a joyful and peaceful festive season to all our members and the wider community.

Looking ahead to 2024, we have a fantastic line-up of talks and activities planned that promise to be both enlightening and enjoyable for history enthusiasts. The year kicks off with a special event you won't want to miss.

Talk on the History of Harrietsham

Mark your calendars for 11 January 2024, at 14:00 at Harrietsham Village Hall when Peter Brown will be hosting a talk on the history of Harrietsham. It's a journey through time that will help us understand the history of Harrietsham, its buildings and residents. We anticipate an engaging and informative discussion.

2024 Diary

11 January 2024 @ 1400 – HSS Talk – Village Hall

28 March 2024 @ 1400 – HSS Talk – Village Hall

20 September 2024 @ 1900 – HSS Talk – Village Hall

5 November 2024 @ 1400 – HSS Talk – Village Hall

Excursion to Chatham Dockyard

In addition to our talks, we are planning to have an exciting trip to the historic Chatham Dockyard in July (date tba), rest assured it's an experience that will transport you back in time to a period of maritime history. The trip will include a guided tour (funded by the Society) as well as access to the various experiences. Keep an eye on our website or future communications for the exact date. NB. Cost of entry to be paid for by each member.

Join the Harrietsham History Society

If you're not already a member of the Harrietsham History Society, we invite you to consider joining us on the day of Peter Brown's talk, January 11 2024. During this event, we will be accepting new members and collecting membership fees. Alternatively, you can contact our Chairman, whose email is chairmanhhs@gmail.com, for more information on how to become a member or renew your membership.

Books for Sale at Percival's Rest

Looking for unique and thoughtful Christmas presents? Look no further! Our society's books, brimming with historical insights, are available for purchase at Percival's Rest.

- Book 1 - Harrietsham – Old Photographs and Postcards - £10
- Book 2 - The Lost Lives of Harrietsham 1914 – 1918 - £10
- Harrietsham Times 1914 – 1918 – A Collection of News Articles - £5 (Free when purchased with Book 1 & Book 2)

Finally, if there are any website designers who would be able to assist with the redesign of the society's website, please get in touch.

Wishing you a joyous festive season and a history-filled 2024!

Harrietsham Network

Harrietsham In Bloom



Our AGM was held in October. Thankyou to everyone who attended. It is nice to feel our work is appreciated. However, it would have been even better if more people or sponsors had been there.

Our thanks to Mrs Glenda Dean for her generous donation to our funds. The planters, verges and Glebe field have now been planted by our very few volunteers. **Extra help would be very helpful.** If anyone cares to join us please contact Andrew Rogers (Chair).

Seasons' Greetings to everyone and wishing you all a safe and healthy new year. Any enquiries to Andrew Rogers (Chair) 01622 859352.

Audrey Joy MBE

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club



It has been some time since we have had any news for the Network, this is because we have been unable to organize any friendly games against other clubs. This has given our club captain a difficult time as he has learned of clubs we have played in the past not being able to get a team together due to a lack of numbers, or that their members no longer want to travel to games in the evening. However, his persistence paid off and we played an away game with Hempstead. This was a new venue for us having never played there before. We had only taken six players as there appeared to have been a mix-up with the numbers, but this did not spoil the enjoyment of the afternoon, and although we lost the game 21 shots to 29 we felt we had done quite well on strange mats. Hempstead is a big club having over 80 members, and the atmosphere was very friendly, so it is hoped we can arrange a return match at Harrietsham.

During October Harrietsham SMBC was well represented in a triples competition at Hawkinge. Three teams took part in a well-organised day, two of our teams lost in the quarter-finals and one in the semi-finals, so very well done to them all.

As for November, we have home and away matches to play against old friends and rivals Burham, so we look forward to that. We also have a return game at Headcorn. We have never played at Headcorn before so that should be an interesting afternoon as I imagine they will be looking out for revenge having lost their game at Harrietsham. Keep on enjoying your bowls.

Phil Gooda - Chairman/Secretary Harrietsham SMBC

Harrietsham Ladies Group

We had almost a full house at our November meeting in spite of a very wet and windy evening and our speaker Sue Flipping was delighted with the turn out.

Sue enthralled us with her stories of travelling to very exotic and wild places independently. She has a love of travel and as long as her first night away is booked in advance she then takes off on train, road or water to wherever she thinks will be interesting often for several months at a time. Obviously this is extremely brave but she is also very aware of the dangers of travelling on her own. Our next meeting will be our Christmas meal for members only.

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
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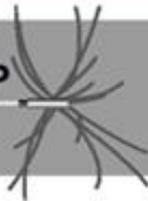
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Harrietsham Craft Groups



Following the autumn random acts of kindness, the craft groups were very busy making poppies to extend the village remembrance displays this year. Monies were raised to buy four trellises to cover in poppies for the outside of the church. £214.50 was raised in all which included cash donations of £26 from Harrietsham History Society and £20 from Glenda Dean. With these monies and a little more added to it we managed to buy two 4'x6' and two 3'x6' trellises, posts, spikes and fixings, two remembrance plaques and a roll of netting as we finished the one we bought last year. We then went on to knit and crochet LOTS of poppies to cover the trellises and, because the tree that we had the cascade on last year on the village green had died and had been removed we had to extend the cascade by 18 inches to fit the trunk of the other tree so yet more poppies were needed! Two of the trellises were placed one either side of the lychgate and the others one either side of the church porch. The displays on and around the font were put in place as last year. The wreath was added to by five beautiful felt poppies with beaded centres made by Stella who also helped by crocheting poppies for the cascade extension as did Lee. Additionally, we were kindly given some large poppies by Richard Cast two of which were attached to the lychgate.

Thanks must go to volunteers from Harrietsham in Bloom, Margaret Tuft and Terry McCann who helped with the setting up of the displays on the village green; to Antony and Mel Houston who used their flatbed truck to transport the larger trellises to the church and to Alan Riches who provided all the necessary tools and expertise for erecting the trellises at the church and Colin Weller who assisted. Thanks also to those who made videos and took photos of the displays and not least by far to those who worked so hard to knit and crochet poppies and/or attach them to the trellises. We have more plans for next year to extend the displays some more!



At Craft and Chat, we did a Halloween project and at our November evening meeting of Knit, Crochet and Craft we took a well-deserved break from making poppies. Jacky learned how to crochet and did very well at her first attempts, Kora learned how to do popcorn stitch, Lisa learned how to crochet a round and keep it flat and Keira is going to continue her crochet journey by starting a hat next time and learning how to read a pattern.

We always welcome new members. If you would like to know more or would like to join us please contact 01622 851885



Photos by Jan Dijkstra-Caplan, Kim Frazer and Susie Parr

Quiz Corner

Round 2: General knowledge

1. In the hit song , who was 'Billy Ray' ?
2. What animal's eye is larger than its brain ?
3. How many Von Trapp children were in 'The Sound of Music' ?
4. Approximately , what percentage of the world is said to be left handed ?
5. In what year was the guillotine last used in France ?
6. In which sport are left handed players banned ?
7. What is the only bird to drop its upper eyelid to blink ?
8. Bovine' is cow-like , but what animal is Hircine ?
9. What singing trio were originally called 'The Rattlesnakes' ?
10. Which number appears in the title of a Dickens' novel ?

Answers on page 17

Parish Council News

Santa's Grotto is back!

Santa is coming to Harrietsham again on Sunday 17 December 2023 and will once again be accompanied by Naughty Elf, so look out! If you would like to visit Santa, please contact Tim Griffiths via email on cllr.griffiths@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk. He is also contactable on the following number via text: 07793240529

Slots will be given in half hour sessions from 10 am until about 4pm, to reduce the number of people in one area at a time. There is only a limited number of spaces in each half hour session, so please accept our apologies if you do not get your exact time request. Make sure you bring some cash with you, as there will also be a couple of stall holders on the day. Tea and coffee refreshments will also be on sale and any donations will be gratefully received.

This event is free entry (with no fee to visit Santa) and toddlers/primary school aged children will receive a chocolate selection box. If you would like to give Santa or Naughty Elf a present to give your child, then please make sure you let the organisers know on the day.

This event is run by the Parish Council and we would like to thank everyone involved who will help to make this event enjoyable and safe.

The Great Tommy Sleep Out 2024

The Royal British Legion Industries, based in Aylesford Kent, is home to around 340 Veterans of all ages and their families including emergency accommodation and support for those who have left the services and found themselves homeless. Established in 1919 they are a separate Charity from the Royal British Legion and as such do not receive income from the Poppy Appeal.

Fundraising to provide the services to support our veterans is paramount and their headline event The Great Tommy Sleep Out happens in March every year. Everyone is asked to give up a night of comfort to sleep outside and last year thousands of people took part.

For **16 March 2024**, Harrietsham Parish Council has kindly agreed to a family village sleep out on the land behind the church leading up to Teers Meadow. The cost will be £10 per adult with children free and pre booking will be essential. For more information, please email paula.ray@rbli.co.uk. There will be further information in the Network magazine in the lead up to the evening.

Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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However, the Charity has limited funds available to provide monetary assistance to those people of Harrietsham who are worried about how they will pay all their bills. The Trustees believe that in the current financial crisis the Charity needs to be back in the limelight to help the people of Harrietsham.

If you are claiming benefits of any kind, or even if you are not, and want further help with your family finances, do write to us explaining how you are in need and requesting a Grant claim form to be sent to you.

We are at either: Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com
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We cannot guarantee to provide every applicant with money, but we do hope to help those with most need.

The Trustees of the Culpepper Charity are known to the publishers of this magazine..

Borough Council Corner

As the festive season approaches, we hope that residents can attend the community events organised and be with loved ones. Please remember those who live amongst us who may be isolated and lonely and give them our time and consideration.

Many will be thinking of others who are unable to celebrate in the way they would like because of wars, natural disasters and are suffering terrible hardships and grief.

The local plan consultation

This has now ended and we will await the Inspectors comments on the responses and how we move forward.

Reporting

We continue to report potholes, highway signs, overhanging foliage, trees etc to KCC. Fly tipping and road name signs to MBC and water leaks to South East Water.

We also report housing association issues regarding their land to the relevant associations

These are also copied to our Parish Clerks, Amanda in Harrietsham and Lisa in Lenham to avoid duplication. Please use the numbers below or report via website or contact us or the clerks directly on:

01622 829034 clerk@lenhamparishcouncil.org.uk

01622 850089 clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

MBC - 01622 60200 - <https://maidstone.gov.uk/>

KCC - 03000 41 91 91 - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

South East Water 0333 0000 365 - <https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/emergencies/report-a-leak/>

Tom & Janetta Sams

Harrietsham & Lenham Ward Councillors

01622 859412 07891901831

tomsamscllr7@gmail.com

Quiz Corner Answers

- Round Two: General Knowledge
1. The Son of a Preacher Man
 2. Ostrich
 3. Seven

4. 10%
5. 1977
6. Polo
7. Owl
8. Goat
9. The Bee Gees
10. A Tale of Two Cities

Candlelit Memories

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- CHRISTMAS MARKET STALLS

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Countryways Quilters and Stitchers

It's December and we're all rushing to get ready for the Holiday Season.

We do not have meetings in December, we're too busy with Christmas puds and mince pies. Let me wish you all a joyous December and we'll be back in January. If you would like to join us in 2024 contact me (see below) and I'll send you off a copy of our new program.

Come learn more about our stitching group and spend some quiet time stitching. Learn new skills and share old ones.

We have our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month except December and would love to see you. In January we meet on the 2nd and 16th. We meet usually in the Appleton room in the Lenham Community Centre from 1:30 to 4:30.

If you would like more information on our group or would like a copy of our 2024 Program please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 01233-877453 or e-mail moonbeamspinner@gmail.com

Pamela Gillard

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Harrietsham Network

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Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

Tutor - Amanda Thesiger Kent Adult Education amanda.thesiger@cls.education

Beaver Scouts

Leader Ann Seales 01622 859829

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 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 877453

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

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 01622 850806

Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 01622 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Andrea French 07901 667018

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 01622 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr M Avis chairmanhhs@gmail.com

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

Harrietsham Preschool Charlee Guy 07897 821399

Local Directory Ha-Z

Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary Jed Stone 07759 8771198/whipacres2@gmail.com

Harrietsham Ladies Group

(formerly Wives Group) Gill Whent 01622 859426

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 Rachel Slaughter harrietshamptfa@gmail.com

Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

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

The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

Ulcombe Preschool

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

Village Hall

Booking Clerk 07393 030409
bookingclerkhvh@outlook.com

Yoga

Helen Kacperok 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com

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Len Valley Benefice December 2023



Everybody is welcome

"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith"
Gal 3:26 (NRSV)

Sunday 3 December

- 9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
- 11.00am Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship
- 11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 6 December

- 9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 11.00am Prayers @ Chippendayle Lodge

Sunday 10 December

- 9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
- 11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion
- 11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
- 3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Saturday 16 December

- 3.00pm Lenham: **Messy Carols**
- 5.30pm Harrietsham: **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 17 December

- 9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 9.30am Lenham: Christmas Breakfast Church
- 11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
- 3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Carols by Candlelight**
- 5.30pm Lenham: **Carols by Candlelight**

Tuesday 19 December

- 7.00pm Ulcombe: **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 24 December

- 3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Crib Service**
- 11.15pm Lenham: **Midnight Holy Communion**
- 11.15pm Harrietsham: **Midnight Holy Communion**

Monday 25 December

- 10.00am Boughton Malherbe: **Christmas Holy Communion**
- 10.30am Ulcombe: **Christmas Holy Communion**
- 11.00am Harrietsham: **Christmas Holy Communion**
- 11.00am Lenham: **Christmas Holy Communion**

Sunday 31 December

- 11.00am Lenham: Benefice Christmas Carol Celebration



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Sunday 31st December 2023

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The Friends of the Church
of St John the Baptist,
Harrietsham

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Carol Singing at the Church

Once again, the Salvation Army are coming to Harrietsham church on Friday 8 December at 7pm for an hour of community carol singing to celebrate the festive season. Everyone is welcome to this FREE event. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available afterwards.

Soup Saturday / Ploughman's Platterday

There will be no Soup Saturday / Ploughman's Lunch at the church on Saturday 9 December as our volunteers will be resting after the Carol Singing the evening before! However, note in your diary that there will be a Soup Saturday, the first this winter, on Saturday 13 January 2024. See the next Network for details.

100 Club Lottery Results

The results of the Eighty-third Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 14 October 2023 by various diners at the Ploughman's Platter Saturday, under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

- First prize £82.00 - number 63 – John Hart;
- Second prize £49.20 – number 65 – John Spacey;
- Third prize £32.80 – number 144 – Pamela Flawn.

There were 164 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £164.

What is the 100 Club?

Although the 100 Club is about to start its 8th year, having had its first draw in December 2016, you may never have heard of it or how it works. Each member pays £2 per month for a Number which is entered into the monthly draw. Half of each subscription is added to the prize fund, half of which goes to the first Number drawn out. The second prize winner receives 30% of the prize fund whilst the remaining 20% is given as the third prize.

The 100 Club, the largest group in the village, has 60 members with around 160 Numbers entered in each monthly draw. Since its launch, the Club has raised just under £10,000 to help maintain "for the benefit of the public" the fabric of Harrietsham Church and grounds. If you would like further information or an application form to join the 100 Club, write to me at friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com or phone 859 885.

Christmas Cards

Finally, if you still haven't bought your Christmas cards this season – don't despair. We have a stock of assorted cards for sale at £2 for five cards and envelopes. These are available from Audrey Joy at 4 Chippendayle Drive – 01622 850 806. Whether you attend our events or not, do have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Readers:

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: Revd. Robert Zachar
117 Crossways
Sittingbourne
ME10 4RN
01795 422573
Sunday Service 10.30am

Church of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Lane, 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 evenings in homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

Church leaders: Ben and Kaat Doggett
info@pathwayschurch.org.uk
www.pathwayschurch.org.uk

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

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	01233 633331

Councils:

MP - Helen Whately	01622 758053
Kent County Council	03000 414141
Maidstone Borough Council - all departments	01622 602000
Harrietsham Parish Council - Parish Clerk	01622 850089

Police:

Emergencies only	999
Non emergencies	101

Samaritans, 48 Grecian Street, Maidstone	01622 674444
Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Bower Terrace, Maidstone	0808 2505704
Childline	0800 1111
KCC Children's Social Services	03000 411111
KCC Adult Social Services	03000 416161



The Len Valley Active Retirement Association Lenara

What a summer! Now we are all gearing up for Christmas. I am happy to say that our membership continues to increase. We now have over 170 members so we must be doing something right.

In July we went to Potters in Norfolk, an all-inclusive holiday resort specialising in “short breaks for active adults”. It is probably best known to us older generation as the place that hosts the annual World Indoor Bowls Championships which is on TV each year. It is set in extensive grounds that stretch down to the sea and, as we were mostly blessed with excellent weather, many of us enjoyed walks down to the cliff top and beach.

As an alternative to all the sports activities the entertainments team kept you busy throughout the day if you wished with a wide variety of fun activities, quizzes, music games and workshops. And the fun didn't stop in the evenings as after dinner the stage was set for show time with outstanding west end style shows every night.

We also had a lovely day out to Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. Lots of interesting things to look at. It brought back lots of childhood memories.

Our speakers included Alan Haines who gave us a hilarious talk about the Baby Boomer generation. We hope to get him back again next year. We have had a great Fun and Games afternoon and an interesting talk about Road Safety. We had a great time at Sittingbourne Greyhound Racing which included a Sunday lunch. Some were losers and some were winners! We enjoyed another of our Mystery Tours to Brighton. In September our speaker was Katherine Hook with Sloe Seduction. She has been combining Sloe Gin and Cocoa to produce beautiful liqueur chocolates, chocolate mousse and chocolate sauce. She bought lots of samples for us to try.

Some of our members went to Lenham Primary School to talk to the Year One children about their childhood. They found the children polite, attentive and keen to ask questions.

Our regular activities include monthly Pub Lunches and Ten Pin Bowling. Every week we run Short Mat Bowls, Line Dancing, and Zumba at the Community Centre.

We hold our monthly meetings at Lenham Community Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month. They start at 2.30 but members can come along from around 1.30 to grab a seat, a cup of tea and a catch up with friends. If you are interested in joining Lenara the annual subscription this year has been reduced to £5 per person – great value for money!

For further information please look at our Website on www.lenara.org.uk



The Friends of the Church
of St John the Baptist,
Harrietsham

Registered Charity No. 5090622

Christmas Carol Singing



All villagers are welcome to come along and bring friends and family to
**Carol Singing in Harrietsham Church accompanied
by the Salvation Army Band**



Friday 8 December 2023 between 7pm to 8pm

Mince pies and Mulled wine in the church afterwards

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December 2023 Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Fri	1	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	4	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	4	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	4	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Wed	6	7.30 pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	7	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	8	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	8	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	11	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	11	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Tues	12	2.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Wed	13	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	14	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	14	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	15	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	18	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	18	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	18	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Thurs	21	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	22	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Thurs	28	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Sat	30	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Harrietsham Network

Lenham W I

May I be one of the first to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our speaker in October talked about Hopping in Kent. She told us about the people who came down from the East End of London to spend their holidays picking hops and earning some money. Some of the oldest hop gardens date from 1520 at Little Chart and 1524 at Westbere near Canterbury. In the 1880's the poles were connected by wires and stilt men started work well before the picking season training the hops up the bines. The stilts were originally made of wood but because they were really heavy especially in wet weather the wood was replaced by aluminium. They were about 13 feet high and attached to the stilt men with belts around the ankles and thighs.



Hop-picking holidays became all the rage in the East End and special trains were put on just for those wanting to join in. Hoppers would make their way to London Bridge railway station where trains would then take them directly to the heart of the Kentish countryside. The hoppers were paid based on how much they picked. The pay was based on a set amount per 'bushel' picked. The pay wasn't great but experienced pickers could make the same or more than they would back in London. The tallyman recorded how many bushels were picked by each person on two tally sticks, one he kept himself and one was kept by the picker.



While living conditions for the original hoppers were squalid and unsanitary, it wasn't too long before 'Hopper's Huts' began to pop up across the county. Families would share a hut with other families and would eat and sleep in them for the duration of their holiday. While most of these Hopper's Huts were eventually torn down it is still possible to spot one or two around Kent.

School children were allowed time off school to help in the hop gardens and there was much scrumping of fruit from the orchards by them.

Hops were taken away to dry in the Oast houses. It took 24 hours to dry them and in some cases sulphur was added to them to add flavour and colour to the beer. After work the hoppers enjoyed an evening in the local. In 1837 The Alma public house at Painter's Forstal kept candles burning in the windows to show the hoppers the way to the pub after a day's work.

In November we were shown how to make an origami Christmas Tree!

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 01622 858658 or email rgodden@btinternet.com.

Chris Godden

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Accessible Wellbeing

My name is Vladimir Barkanov. For the last year, I have been publishing articles about simple wellbeing in Lenham Focus. I heard good feedback about them, and then a few people from Harrietsham asked if I would consider writing for the Network Magazine too. So, with a little delay, I gathered myself to share my knowledge and experience with a new community of readers.

What is my knowledge and experience? What expertise do I have on the matter? My expertise takes its origin in living with chronic depression for about fifteen years. For about ten years I lived on medications, but, eventually, I realised that medications, even though they can help deal with depression, they do not cure it. So, three years ago I got off medication and began to look for alternative ways for survival in psychology, positive psychology, and the science of wellbeing. Combining knowledge from different sources with my personal life experience and religious beliefs I discovered various techniques and approaches to wellbeing, which, to my surprise, surpassed being only survival techniques. Within six months of applying the first steps of the methods I mentioned, I discovered that I could feel happiness again. That was a point when I thought “Hmmm... if these things can make me happy, how much more they can give to someone who isn’t messed up like me?” That led to the creation of an accessible wellbeing course and later, to publishing articles on the topic, both online and in Lenham Focus.

So, what is accessible wellbeing according to Vladimir Barkanov? I discovered that there are simple methods and techniques, which do not require any financial input and are not time consuming, which can dramatically improve your wellbeing and stabilise your happiness. In my articles, I will be talking about

- Self-love
- Savouring
- Mindfulness
- Knowing yourself
- Meaning
- Flow
- Creativity
- Connection
- Belonging and
- Personal Roots.



I will also be giving references to various sources, so my readers, if they wish, will be able to conduct their own research, and deepen their understanding of the science of well-being for themselves. But I also will be giving practical guidance and will be setting exercises for you to try, so you can learn from experience.

I hope that many of you will decide to join me on this journey of multiplying joy and well-being in your lives, and the lives of those near you. And the first step in this journey, as I mentioned above, will be Self-love.



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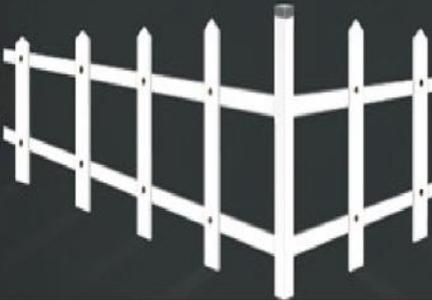
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Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



The Family Stone

Friday 8 December

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 39 mins, PG, director Thomas Bezucha

Christmas is coming and it's time to celebrate it with *The Family Stone* (2005) and an all-star cast including Sarah Jessica Parker, Dermot Mulroney, Diane Keaton, Claire Danes, Craig T. Nelson, Luke Wilson and Rachel McAdams. In this comedy drama, Everett Mulroney, with his career blossoming in Wall Street, takes his high-flying girlfriend Meredith home for Christmas to introduce her to his family in rural Connecticut. He has the best of intentions but trouble looms bigtime. The unconventional family doesn't take to the uptight Meredith, despite her best efforts to deal with its eccentricities and hostility. In despair she summons the help of her sister Julie – but that help doesn't quite work the way Meredith expects. Everett had intended this to be the best Christmas ever. And perhaps it will be... come along and find out, we'll have mulled wine alongside our usual refreshments, plus complimentary mince pies!

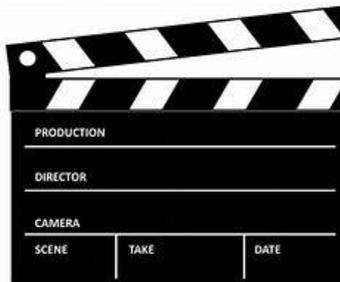
An extended family issue pops up with the inimitable Indiana Jones whose goddaughter Helena turns up in *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, which we'll now be showing on Friday 12 January, after having been delayed from November. What better way to celebrate the new year! Welcome back, Indy.

Please get in touch for more information, to join our mailing list or to become a member. Admission: members £4, non-members £5 Annual membership: £6 (over 16's only).

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Christian Message

One of the strange things about writing Village Mag articles is that because the submission date is so early for some of our mags, I am writing for December and thinking about Christmas whilst in late October. This is particularly ironic this year because the news is full of unholiness in the supposedly Holy Land. Hamas has committed atrocities killing Jews including children, and now Israel is bombing Gaza like the civilians don't matter. I wonder where we will have got to by the time you are reading this article?

In December we remember Christmas and at Christmas we remember the coming of the Prince of Peace. Let's remember that He was born into an occupied war zone, and was eventually killed by the army. It might seem an unpromising start for a Prince of Peace?

And yet peace is what we all long for. I have been so struck by a teenaged Israeli girl who had lost relatives in the initial atrocity. She was interviewed by a BBC reporter who was trying to get her to say that she wanted revenge. She didn't. She paused and said that she didn't want revenge: she wanted peace. Here from the mouth of a Jewish teenager is a glimpse of the message of the Prince of Peace!

We also long for personal peace: peace within. I was reflecting this morning how, although I've made all sorts of bad decisions in my life, my decision to accept this Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmastime, into my life at the age of 17, is unquestionably the BEST decision I ever made. I know the church can be frustrating, but the meaning and love and peace that I have known, through good times and bad, as a result of that decision have always carried me through. I am deeply grateful.

So as Christmas comes, celebrate this Prince of Peace, receive Him (perhaps once more) into your hearts and lives, and pray with me that this horribly divided world sees peace and justice, and healing and wholeness emerging. Peace be with you.

Revd. John P. Huggins

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