



December 2024



Network
Harrietsham's
Village Magazine



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Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

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Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine January 2025 deadlines:-

Sunday 1 December 2024 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 adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

Thank you.

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We welcome guests & new membership applications

Message From the Editor

Welcome to the December 2024 edition of the Harrietsham Network. As the year draws to a close, this issue looks back at some of the highlights of our community's activities over the last few months, along with details on the upcoming holiday events and services.

We would also like to remind readers that the Harrietsham Fish Scheme is actively seeking new committee members. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the community without a significant time commitment. If you're interested in helping to support the village, we encourage you to get in touch.

Thank you all for your support of the Harrietsham Network throughout the year. We look forward to your continued participation, feedback, and stories as we move into 2025. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Thank you for your continued support of the Harrietsham Network. Your contributions and feedback are always appreciated. Please feel free to share your stories, photos, or ideas with us at editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Cover photo by Vladislav Murashko: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/time-lapse-photography-of-lights-6256144/>

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 Network

Harrietsham Gardening Society



We held our October meeting on Tuesday 15 October and 14 members were in attendance. This will be our last evening meeting of the winter.

We were entertained with an excellent talk and pictures of Gardens in Philadelphia by Mike Flawn. The pictures were taken across all seasons of the year and were both stunning and spectacular. If anyone is thinking of visiting Philadelphia these gardens are a must.

As the nights are now dark and cold our next meeting will commence at 2.30pm on 17 December and is our Christmas Social. Details will be posted later but suffice to say it will involve participation by all attending.

We had a lunch at the George in Molash, with a party of sixteen. The meal was excellent and enjoyed by all. We have a Christmas lunch booked at the Park Gate Inn on 10 December. If any member who has not already booked and would like to attend please get in touch with any member of the committee.

We are still looking for new members so if you are interested please come along to our next meeting or contact myself 01622 859674.

David Oversby - Chairman

Harrietsham In Bloom

Our Autumn planting is completed now thanks to our volunteers of which we are few. Perhaps you could join us and help out? If you feel you could please contact our Chairman for further details. **You do not have to be a gardener** our volunteers will advise and assist you.



Mr Roger Bevan has agreed to survey the planters and carry out any repairs possible.

Season's Greetings to all! Wishing you all a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Any enquiries to Andrew Rogers (Chair) 01622 859352.

Audrey Joy MBE

Harrietsham Ladies Group

There were fifteen of us at our November meeting which was the last of the year. 4 December will be our Christmas meal and then we start up again on Wednesday 8 January 2025. The first three meetings next year will take place in the afternoons and the January one will be the AGM.

We would love to see some new members next year as our numbers are depleting and we definitely need some younger ladies from the village with new ideas and enthusiasm to carry the group forward. Don't be afraid to come along - we are a very friendly bunch!

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
01622850735

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club



Hello all, it is sometime since I wrote to the Network, but we at Harrietsham SMBC are still bowling, still keen to encourage the game for the friendly and skilful pass time it is.

Since our last write up we have played several games in the Maidstone Triples League, Competitions, and friendlies. The results of these matches have varied, win some lose some, but always trying our best and being as competitive as possible. Learning is a priority in these games, learning how to play. what shots to bowl, how to never give up and to concentrate. Watching, that is something else, watch how your opponent plays on their own mats this may give you a clue which is the best side to play on. Listen to the advice given by your skip, he has the clearest view of the head, after all that pray for a little luck. You need a little luck.

We had our last friendly match at home on Thursday 24 October against Hothfield. We lost this game by the narrow margin of 49 - 51. It was a good evening in what was a very close game which we lost fair and square in a game that could have gone either way and was played in a friendly (shown by the fact that Hothfield needed to borrow a couple of our bowlers) but competitive way. I wonder if what hurt most was the fact that at tea break Hothfield also won 75% of the raffle prizes.

Stay Safe and Keep on Bowling

Phil G

Countryways Quilters

We've had our Christmas party and with no meetings in December we will all be busy getting ready for Christmas. But if you would like to join us in 2025 follow directions below.

Our big project in the 2025 program is a quilted jacket. Don't worry if you think that's too adventurous for you. I'm a seamstress and I'll be there to walk you through it step by step. There's always something new to learn here.

I do hope you'll come join us and try your hand at something new or just enjoy the company , have a chat and a cup of tea. An enjoyable way to spend an afternoon.

We have our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month except December and would love to see you. We meet usually in the Osbourne Room in the Lenham Community Centre from 1:30 to 4:30pm.

If you would like more information on our group or would like a copy of our 2025 program please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 07914 809946 or e-mail moonbeamspinner@gmail.com

Pamela Gillard

Festive Message from Harrietsham History Society



As we approach the end of another year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the talks and events that were held in 2024.

- **Monday 19 February** - Peter Brown gave a talk at which he shared his local knowledge of Harrietsham. This event saw a turnout of over 50 people who were all entertained by the stories of our local history.
- **Thursday 28 March** - Mary Smith gave an updated talk on “A School Girl’s experience”, which detailed the wartime experience for pupils at Maidstone Girls Grammar School.
- **Monday 13 May** - Harrietsham History Society’s Annual General Meeting again saw a larger than expected turnout and was followed by a chance to help with some of the continued filing and indexing of our local archive.
- **Monday 3 June** - Steve Hookings gave a talk on D-Day just a few days before the 80th anniversary. Steve comes from a military background and has visited the beaches and other sites connected with Operation Overlord.
- **20 September** - Bob Ogle gave a talk on “Doodlebugs and Rockets”. How Kent was in the front line during the Second World War and took the brunt of Hitler’s V weapons. Once again, a larger than expected turnout attended what was an insightful talk.
- **Friday 8 November** - Melanie Gibson-Barton gave a talk on her ancestor, Elizabeth Barton, who stood up to King Henry VIII’s religious reforms and became known as “The Holy Maid of Kent.”

Looking ahead to 2025, we are thrilled to announce a packed schedule of talks and events. From local history to wider historical topics, we have some truly captivating discussions lined up, and we can’t wait to welcome you to another year of learning and connection. Full details will be provided in the January edition of the Network Magazine.

2025 also sees the 80th VE Day Anniversary, where the courage and sacrifice of those who fought during World War II will be remembered.

Exciting changes are also happening within the society. We are particularly excited to explore opportunities to collaborate with Harrietsham Primary School, engaging with the next generation. This partnership, alongside our work with the wider community, is sure to bring even more life to our historical activities and enrich our society’s outreach.

As the festive season approaches, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our members and friends. We hope you enjoy a peaceful and joyful holiday period with your loved ones.

And if you’re looking for the perfect gift this Christmas, why not consider one of our History Books? They make a lovely present for anyone interested in Harrietsham’s past, and we would be delighted to help you with your purchase. To find out more or to become a member, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us at chairmanHHS@gmail.com.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Having put candles on our doorstep to show our willingness to take part in the Halloween festivities we were visited by about 50 young children (2-12 years at a guess) accompanied by adults.

It was a fine dry evening and the children were in lovely colourful costumes and face paint. They were happy, excited and unfailingly polite.

We hope other people's Halloween experience was as positive as ours.

Helen & Alex Hubble

Quiz Corner

Round 14

1. At which Grand Prix circuit was Ayrton Senna killed?
2. Which British football team first won The European Cup?
3. A YAWL is a type of what?
4. In Indian cooking, which vegetable is 'GOBI'?
5. The Gateway Arch is a 630ft tall monument in which US city?
6. What was Marxist revolutionary 'Che Guevara's' real first name?
7. What tube line is the only one to cross the Thames by a bridge?
8. Which material means baked earth in Latin?
9. How many pieces does each player start with in Backgammon?
10. The Iolani Palace was once a royal residence in which US city?

Answers on page 14



Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Jackie Chambers
Deputy: Mr Jon Gambell
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Emson



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New Reception Cohort Tours at Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

Dear Families,

We are writing to invite all families with a child due to start school next September to our school tours over the next couple of months. We know how daunting choosing a 'big school' for your little one can be, and we know how important it is that you choose the right school for your child, so we warmly invite you to visit our school to see for yourself what life at Harrietsham Church of England Primary School is like.

Please feel welcome to bring along your little one too – its always good to see what they think of the school.

We will have lots of children with their smiles at the ready to greet them as they tour!

Tours will be held every day of the week on the following dates:

- **Monday 20th January – Friday 24th January: Every Day at 10am and 2pm.**

Please call the school office to book a place on a tour: **01622 859261**.

If you would like any information about our school in the meantime, please visit our website: www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to our school and telling you all about life at Harrietsham.

Kind regards,

Jackie Chambers
Headteacher



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Harrietsham Network

Parish Council News

Santa's Grotto is back!

Santa is coming to Harrietsham again on Sunday 22 December 2024 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:

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.

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.

Allotments

For those that don't know, the Parish Council offers allotment plots in the village. Whilst there is currently a waiting list, we welcome anyone interested in becoming a future tenant to add their name to the list, as spaces may become available. Allotments are a wonderful way to grow fresh produce, enjoy outdoor exercise and connect with fellow gardeners, fostering a sense of community and sustainability. For those interested, a GDPR consent form is available on the Parish Council website (under the 'Home' section), alternatively a paper copy can be obtained from the Clerk. We encourage residents to consider the benefits of having an allotment and to secure their spot on the waiting list.

Amanda Broadhurst - Parish Clerk

01622 850089 or clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

1.	San Marino	6.	Ernesto
2.	Glasgow Celtic	7.	District Line
3.	A sailing boat	8.	Terracotta
4.	Caulliflower	9.	Ffiteen
5.	St. Louis	10.	Honolulu

Quiz Corner
Round 14
Answers

Borough Council Corner

This month will be a special time for many, especially children. Volunteers are out in force organising Christmas celebratory activities and we are very grateful for all their efforts within the community. Please continue to support the food station in the village. We are very appreciative of those in St John the Baptist Church in which the project runs.

We continue to work as a team with our fellow councillor Kathy Cox on all issues such as planning, housing, fly tipping and with our county councillor Shellina Prendergast on KCC issues especially highways.

Please get in touch if you need our help at any time:

Your Independent Councillors for Harrietsham, Lenham & North Downs Ward		
		
Cllr. Janetta Sams janettasamscllr@gmail.com	Cllr. Tom Sams tomsamscllr7@gmail.com	Cllr. Kathy Cox kathycox@maidstone.gov.uk
01622 859412 and 07891 901831		
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Join the Harrietsham Fish Scheme Committee!

Help support our community!

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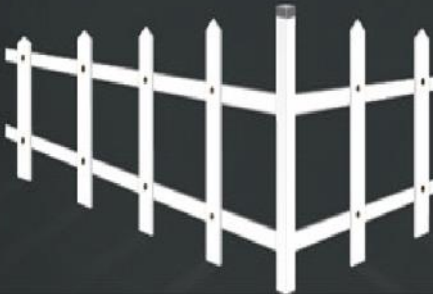
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Cllr. Kathy Cox

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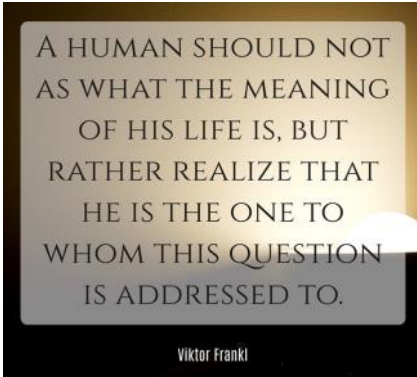
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Accessible Well-being - Meaning



Last time I suggested for you a challenging exercise of knowing yourself. Today I would like to up the challenge a little. I offer to you to look at the meaning of life. Do not worry, I will not go into the realm of philosophy or theology and the search for the universal meaning of life. Rather I urge you to find, or clearly articulate, the meaning of your life.

But why do I need to find the meaning? There are several benefits. It brings order into my life. When I see a clear meaning – a clearly described goal with a definite “Why” as a foundation – it becomes much easier to

go in one direction and not waste time and energy on something that is of little significance to me. This will bring a sense of accomplishment into my life and will boost my self-worth and well-being.

“When a person cannot find a deep sense of meaning, they distract themselves with pleasure.” Viktor Frankl.

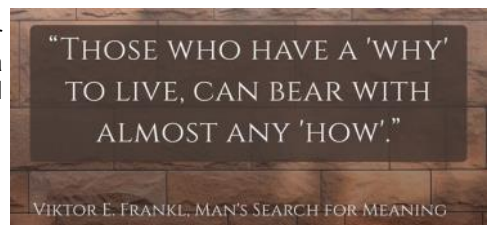
It also becomes a strong foundation for my mental health. Knowing where I am going and why may help to avoid situations that may cause feelings of shame or regret, which are detrimental to our mental health.

I hope this will convince you of the importance of finding meaning in your life. Now about how to find one, if you haven’t yet. There may be numerous ways how you can do it. Often it comes to a person on its own, or he stumbles upon it. But if you aren’t so lucky, here are a couple of suggestions for finding meaning yourself.

1. Ask yourself a question. We all leave an imprint in this world, regardless we want it or not. Ask yourself, what kind of imprint you would like to leave behind. It might be something grandeur, or very simple but it will be yours. The way how you live up to that meaning may change over time. It is fine. The main thing is that you have a set direction where to go.
2. If asking such a big question won’t work, ask smaller questions. What is the meaning of your daily tasks? What is the meaning behind cleaning your room? What is the meaning of the task you need to perform at work? Those questions will begin to fill your life with meaning, and, at the same time will help you to identify and avoid meaningless activities.

You can apply both methods or discover your own. The main thing is to find a meaning, which will enrich your life and the lives of those around you.

Vladimir Barkanov



Harrietsham Network

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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 Mrs Florence Sealy 07458 915213

Charlee Guy

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 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

Parish Warden Mr M Sherwood 07724 544409

warden@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman Vikki Beck harrietshamptfa@gmail.com

Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Scouts

Group leader Mr E Seales 859829

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

Wellbeing Community Group Ellie Stevens 07952 594655
wellbeingcg@outlook.com

Yoga Helen Kacperek 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com

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Len Valley Benefice December 2024

Everybody is welcome



'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

Matthew 13:31-32

Sunday 1 December

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

Wednesday 4 December

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

Sunday 8 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 14 December

- 5.30pm Harrietsham: **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 15 December

- 8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30am Lenham: Christmas Breakfast Church
- 11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
- 3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Carols by Candlelight**
- 5.30pm Lenham: **Carols by Candlelight**

Thursday 19 December

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

Saturday 21 December

- 3.00pm Harrietsham: **Nativity Fun with Messy Church**

Sunday 22 December

- 11.00am Harrietsham: All Age Christmas Celebration

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

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

Sunday 29 December

- 11.00am Harrietsham: Benefice Carol Celebration



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Invite you to come along and bring friends to

Ploughman's Platter Day

Saturday 14 December 2024

12 noon to 2pm

Enjoy a cheese/pate Ploughman's at St. John the Baptist church, Harrietsham. Meet people and enjoy lunch without any preparation or washing up! Proceeds go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.



Tea, Coffee and biscuits also available



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Ploughman's Platterday

Our Ploughman's Platterday this month will be on Saturday 14 December. Usual time – 12 noon to 2pm. It's just £5 for a delicious lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits also available. All profits go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church. The 100 Club lottery draw will also take place at 1pm.

100 Club Lottery Results

The results of the Ninety-Fifth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club drawn on Saturday 12 October 2024 by various diners at the Ploughman's Platter lunch under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

- First Prize £72.00 – number 164 – Anne & John Shaul
- Second Prize £43.20 – number 50 – Robert Stythe
- Third Prize £28.80 – number 151 – Mrs S Harvey

There were 144 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £144.

Event Reports

- Our Bingo Night on Saturday 26 October in the Village Hall was great fun and everybody said how much they enjoyed it. Not as many as we hoped came along and we raised £57. We are extremely grateful to those who donated cash at the end of the evening which boosted the amount raised. Thank you.
- We are still trying to organise a singalong of Christmas songs and carols but we can't find anyone to play for us. Do you know of anyone who could help us? We have the church booked for the provisional date of 6 December.
- January 2025 – We are hoping to have a Soup (tinned) Saturday on the 11 so keep a look out for the posters. Confirmation will be in the January edition of the Network.

If you would like further information or an application form to join either the 100 Club or as a Friend, please write to Chris Roots at friendsofstjohn@outlook.com or phone 851 885.

I have to remind you all that Audrey is standing down as our Chair at our AGM next year. She has been an excellent Chair, leading us always and setting an example. We desperately need someone to help us carry on the good work. We also need more active committee members.

I can't believe I'm saying this (it's the end of October and I'm writing this report!) but do have a lovely Christmas and I, and all the committee, wish you all the very best for 2025.

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 07766 555415
millie.hart@uwclub.net

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.maidstonebaptist.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 21/22 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





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December 2024 Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Mon	2	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	2	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	2	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Craft	HVH
Thurs	5	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	6	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	9	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	9	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Wed	11	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	12	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	12	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	13	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	13	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Sat	14	12pm	Ploughman's Platterday	St John
Mon	16	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	16	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	16	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Craft	HVH
Tues	17	2.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	19	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	20	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	21	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						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					

Worried about rising rents?

Concerned about rising food prices?

Anxious about having to stop working for a while?

Is your money not going far enough?

No savings!



If the answer to any of these questions is “yes” then the Culpepper Charity may be able to help.

Founded in the seventeenth century, the Culpepper Charity was created to help those people of Harrietsham with financial needs. It has been dormant for a long time which may be why you

haven't heard of it.

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

or to:

The Culpepper Charity
C/o The Church Office
Harrietsham Village Hall
Church Road
Harrietsham
Kent
ME17 1AP



We cannot guarantee to provide every applicant with money, but we do hope to help those with most need.

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LENHAM
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Meet Me in St Louis

Friday 13 December

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 53 mins

Not many films make you start humming right away when you see the title. **Meet Me in St Louis** (U, 1944) does just that. Judy Garland is at her magnificent best in our Christmas film singing the unforgettable 'Trolley Song' and 'The Boy Next Door' in the story of the Smith family, living in 1903 St Louis. Judy, playing 17-year-old Esther, is one of its four daughters and is heartbroken when their father reveals that they must leave their friends and romances to live in New York, as he has a new job there. How can they leave? Judy's 'Boy Next Door' has only just moved in and she *loves* him. And anyway, they'd miss the St Louis World Fair. With its music, romance and charm, this is the ideal way to greet Christmas with a song in your heart. Director: Vincente Minnelli

We open the new year on Friday 10 January with a memorable and moving film in a far different setting. **The Old Oak** (15, 2023) takes place in a former mining community in County Durham, when the future of the community pub and more is threatened. The film is directed by the legendary director Ken Loach. It's his final film, so you can't miss that.

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

Admission: members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.

lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com

www.lenhamfilmclub.org

@lenhamfilmclub





M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

NATIVITY FUN FOR ALL



Christmas Nativity Fun with Messy Church

St John the Baptist Church,
Harrietsham
Sat 21 Dec | 3pm - 5pm

Come dressed up as a nativity character or have fun with our dressing up outfits.

Craft activities, Christmas Nativity, snacks and drinks to enjoy!



The Pathways Church Christmas Special!

Lenham Community Centre
Sun 22 Dec | 5:30pm - 7pm

A special Christmas service for young and old.

With Christmas nibbles, carols and a craft for children to make.

Do bring family and friends. Everyone is welcome!



Lenham WI

Let me be one of the first to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Where does the time go!!! Our new National Federation Chair, Jeryl Stone reminded us recently that there are nearly 4 million people in the UK that say they are chronically lonely – that they feel lonely often or always. Christmas is one of the worst times for people who are alone. The WI is a cure for women's loneliness and we all need to help even if it is just offering a lift to a WI meeting. A short visit or even just a phone call can make a huge difference to anyone on their own.

In October we welcomed Helen Bonser-Wilton, the CEO of Leeds Castle who came to talk to us about the castle's history. It has always been a ladies' castle, owned by Queens as well as other influential women. Helen has been at the castle for just over three years and was previously the Chief Executive for the Mary Rose in Portsmouth. The castle is 905 years old and has been part of a Charity for the last 50 years. There are 200 staff, 100 of which are volunteers and they have 9000 school children visiting each year along with 435,000 day visitors. The oldest part is the Gloriette which was built by Eleanor who was the first queen to own the castle. The Gloriette was burnt down in 1665 by Dutch prisoners of war and was not rebuilt for 300 years. There have been a number of private owners from 1552 to 1926. Lady Baillie owned the castle from 1926 to 1974. She was an amazing woman who travelled all over the world, had many men friends and entertained on a grand scale. Her guests included Errol Flynn and David Niven. She put in the swimming pool with the first wave machine and had llamas and zebras in the park. During the war the castle was used as a rehabilitation centre for severely burned pilots who had been treated at East Grinstead. Weapons research was secretly carried out in the grounds, including emergency flame weapons to counter the feared German invasion. The government minister responsible for this work, Geoffrey Lloyd, was a regular visitor during Lady Baillie's lifetime and later would become the first Chairman of the Leeds Castle Foundation.

In November Lucy Allen was our speaker and we heard about the "Life and Times of a Stunt Woman". Her background in Theatre & Circus prepared her well for stunts in which she's had a 30+ year career. She enjoys working with actors to enhance their physical performance as a Stunt Co-Ordinator. She has worked on films such as Titanic, Braveheart and James Bond's, Skyfall.



If you want to join us we meet at Lenham Community Centre on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Please come along and see what we get up to. If you want to find out more please contact me on rgodden@btinternet.com

Chris Godden

Len Valley Active Retirement Association – LenARA

I can't believe that another year has gone past but I guess time flies when you are enjoying yourself and we have had a great time over the past six months.

In June we had a lovely day out at Lingfield for the horse racing. This was followed in July by a trip to Bexhill. We had a full coach and visited the Bexhill Museum which was really interesting. Some of us walked along to the De La Ware Pavilion for coffee. We then moved on to Hastings to find some lunch, play crazy golf or have a ride on the train.

August was special for us as we celebrated our 20th Anniversary. LenARA was started in 2004 which coincided with the opening of the new Community Centre. We put on an afternoon tea for our members with great food and entertainment.



We also celebrated by winning the KentARA Short Mat Bowls Competition which took place at Ditton. We entered three teams one of which went all the way to the final and brought home the cup. Our winning team can be seen on the left.

We have started playing Petanque again. The court at the rear of the Community Centre was installed with LenARA's help and we hope to go from strength to strength with this activity.

In October we went off to Crayford Greyhound Racing for an evening's entertainment and we put on a film, Made in Dagenham, for our members. We had a Turkey and Tinsel holiday to the Isle of Wight, a magician came to put on a show in November and this month we are organising our usual Christmas Social. We have had some really interesting speakers including Mary Winder on Being a Magistrate and Peter Griffiths telling us about his 45 Years in Aviation.

Our pub lunches continue to be popular, we've been to the Who'd a Thought It, The Ridge Golf Club, The Swan at Little Chart and we are off to the Orida Hotel in Maidstone for a Christmas lunch.

Our weekly activities are thriving with Short Mat Bowls on a Tuesday afternoon, Zumba Gold on a Wednesday morning and Line Dancing on a Wednesday evening with Petanque on Thursday mornings (weather permitting). We always welcome new members to these activities and you don't need to be a member of LenARA to participate. So there is something for everyone for only £10 a year – great value for money! Our meetings take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm. Come along and join us.

Christian Message

At the time of writing John and I had just visited one of the National Trust venues. It was the plaque outside the gift shop which first took my eye.

Everyone's invited it said and promising a warm welcome to all who accepted their welcome.

It made me think that at this time of year, in particular, we might be invited to all sorts of parties and events. Very often the invite will be followed with a request to **RSVP**. The invitation needs a response.

RSVP - four letters when we ask people to indicate their acceptance of an invitation - or otherwise.

It's a way of politely asking the recipient not to put the invitation away and forget about it, or to delay their reply, but asking them to respond as soon as possible. And the coming of Christ was also an invitation to respond. He promises us a warm welcome as we respond to his invitation. And it is an invitation that God continues to extend to us all today.

I suggest that it's no good just receiving it and then putting it away. God has asked so many today and all through the years to **RSVP**. As we remember the events of the Birth of Christ and also throughout his life and ministry we can think about that invitation to us all.

First to Mary whose **RSVP** was to Gabriel as the angel delivered God's invitation. Her response was

'I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me according to your word,'

Next it was Joseph, whose response was equally swift after considering if he should break off his engagement to Mary. When he woke from his sleep he did as the angel had instructed and took Mary as his wife. The invitation was then extended to the shepherds who came 'in haste' to Bethlehem. And then the Wise Men, and of course, to all of us. God is asking me, he is asking you, just as he asked so many all those years ago to **RSVP**.

My prayer this month is that we may not just know about the invitation to meet with Christ this Christmas but that we will know how to respond

To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1: 12

Rev Millie Hart

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