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Harrietsham's  
Village Magazine***



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# Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

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## Network Magazine

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## Network Magazine April 2023 deadlines:-

**Wednesday 1 March 2023** 12 noon advertising deadline for April Network

**Wednesday 1 March 2023** 12 noon copy deadline for April 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 advertising manager's address above.

Please send copy to: [editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org).

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## Village Diary

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



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## Message From the Editor

February has seemed to go by in a flash in comparison to January. I for one am very excited to see the beginnings of spring appear.

The doctors surgery is looking for volunteers to help deliver prescriptions, please see page 34 for more information.

Elections are coming up for the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, there is more information on page 10.

Thank you to everyone who has been sending me excellent content to include in our village magazine. Please keep it coming and I am very happy to include new articles or information of importance or interest.

Cover photo by lil artsy: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/white-petaled-flowers-2102492/>

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](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org)

**Visit our website:** [www.harrietshamfishscheme.org](http://www.harrietshamfishscheme.org)

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**How to keep warm for free – read on.**

Our January meeting consisted of an interesting illustrated talk by Jane Scotchmer on Grottos, covering their history, mystery and quirky locations. This was followed by our AGM; David Oversby was re-elected Chairman and the remainder of the existing Committee were also re-elected, with the addition of Christine Bone. Fees for next year will be a flat £10 annual membership plus £1 per meeting attended. This represents excellent value for money in these difficult times.

Now for keeping warm for free. I can easily think of three ways:

The first has to be do a bit of gardening, digging, forking borders, sweeping leaves, pruning, vigorously brushing the paths or patio, forking over the lawn to improve aeration and drainage, or, if you haven't got much garden, playing musical chairs by rearranging all the pots and containers. These are all really good exercise, will increase your heart rate and after working up a good sweat you are guaranteed, when you walk back in afterwards to shout out 'turn that heating down, it's like an oven in here!'

Secondly growing a few vegetables, in containers if you have haven't got much garden, can result in a daily rota of leek soup, onion soup, carrot soup, squash soup, celeriac soup, potato soup and parsnip soup, or any combination, all really warming and bound to keep the cold out, plus you have that warm glow of satisfaction that you're eating something you've grown.

The third way of keeping warm once you've taken up gardening is that you can order and pay for in advance a green waste bin from Maidstone Borough Council, then go into a heated incandescent rage every other month or so when they fail to collect it and just say collections are not guaranteed and it's due to driver shortage!

Finally our next meeting will be on 21 March, back to our 7.30p.m.evening slot and will be the Spring show. Members will be exhibiting their Daffodils and other plants of interest. The Schedule is available now, see our Facebook page, so if you want to have a go or just come along to look we always welcome new members.

***Kevin Harlock***



## Harrietsham Ladies Group

We held our AGM in January and all the committee were voted on for a further year. No speaker was booked for this meeting but we all enjoyed a post Christmas chat and plenty of tea and cake! Our February meeting will be our annual auction which is always very popular. It is usually unwanted gifts and as the saying goes one persons trash is another's treasure.

In March our meeting will return to the normal 7.30pm slot on the first Wednesday of the month at the Scout Hut. We will welcome Helen Tobias who is going to give us a talk about Pearls and Princesses. Any visitors most welcome for just a small charge of £2.

At the moment our numbers are quite low and the majority of us are of retirement age so it would be lovely to welcome some younger ladies with fresh ideas to our group. Why not come along - it could be just what you are looking for!

**Elizabeth Welchman** - Chairman Tel: 01622 850735

### Friday Coffee Morning

The Friday Coffee Morning was started in 1996 by Marian Bond, who was Leader of the Wives Group, which at that time was part of a network of such groups under the umbrella of parish churches.

Sadly most Wives Groups have disappeared but ours - now the Harrietsham Ladies Group - continues and the weekly coffee morning (Covid permitting) has also continued.

So please make a note in your diaries that **every Friday morning** you are very welcome to join us between 10am and 12noon in the Village Hall for coffee, biscuits, company and conversation, at a nominal charge of £1.00.



Do please come along and meet old friends, male and female, and make new ones.

**Mary Nourse** - Co-ordinator

# Harrietsham Network

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## Harrietsham Parish Council

**Parish Council Elections Thursday May 4th 2023**

### **Why not become a Parish Councillor?**

#### **What does being a Parish Councillor involve?**

Parish Councillors are the champions of their community, investing time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood. Councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with the Borough and County Councils to identify local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community. The Parish Council, as a whole, makes a real difference to local people's lives – many things you will see day to day, but some are less known!

Each Parish Council, and the services they offer, is different. Here in Harrietsham we are responsible for most of the village open spaces, the play area on the Glebe Field, we arrange a seasonal hedge cutting scheme and village litter picks.

Members individually bring different skills and experience to the Team, which helps contribute to a good balanced representation of the Parish. A Councillor's main role is to participate in the collective decision-making process of the Council. Councillors help develop strategies and plans for the area and the Parish Council has a variety of Committee that specialise in certain areas. These include Planning, Environmental, Finance and Highways, which all make recommendations to the Full Council for decisions to be made. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for planning applications and is heavily involved in Local Plan consultations and planning appeals. There are also light-hearted and fun community events that the Parish Council oversees, including the annual Big Lunch and Santa's Grotto! The Parish Council works with, and supports, local community groups which benefit the whole of the village.

Parish Councils are the most effective tier of Local Government, as we understand the needs of the Parishioners and Councillors are elected to represent their views. Councillors need to be enthusiastic and have a passion for wanting to help the community, but also able to work constructively as a member of the teams.

Whilst many think of becoming a Councillor as being a voluntary role, you actually become a holder of Public Office and with this comes great responsibility. All Councillors must abide by a strict Code of Conduct, which covers the seven principles of Public Life (Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership). If you would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, you must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Be on the electoral register
- Be over 18 years of age
- Be an owner or tenant within 3 miles of the Parish Council's area

## Harrietsham Parish Council cont.

Councillors do need to be able to have some flexibility as some Council and other meetings with outside bodies (such as Kent Highways) can take place during the day. Full Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the Month (except in August and December), with an Annual Parish Meeting also being held in April. KALC offers a wide range of courses to support you in the role and the Clerk will always be able to help with arranging this.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the role, our Parish Council advisers, the Kent Association for Local Councils (KALC) have established a free online awareness event on the 21st March 2023 (7-8pm). This is a good opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have and you can sign up through the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/becoming-a-local-councillor-tickets-493863146967>

You can also contact the Parish Clerk, Amanda, if you have any questions: [harrietshampc@aol.com](mailto:harrietshampc@aol.com)

## Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club



Hi fellow Bowlers,

The Bowls club appears to be running quite smoothly at the moment and the number of members has improved over the last couple of months. By the time you read this article, we will have played home and away games against Lenham SMBC. This is a friendly fixture that has been played for some years now until it was brought to a halt by Covid but has been slow to recover. Instead of chance meetings at doctors' surgeries, supermarkets, or sadly funerals, we will return to friendly combat, (and chat) on our bowling mats.

During the weekend of the 7 January five of our members represented our club in a mixed bowls competition at Boughton under Blean. Ron Smith and Lesley Dack played in a pairs event but were unfortunate not to make the final round. Ken Leach, De Beresford, and Brian Hall took part in a triples competition which they won. So, congratulations to them on their efforts and for putting the name of Harrietsham SMBC on the East Kent Bowling Association map.

For anyone interested in giving Short Mat Bowls a try, you will be made welcome. We have rollups at Harrietsham Village Hall every Monday at 2 pm and every Thursday at 7.30 pm.

Stay safe and keep on Bowling.

**Phil Gooda** - Chairman/Secretary Tel: 07484878327

# Harrietsham Network



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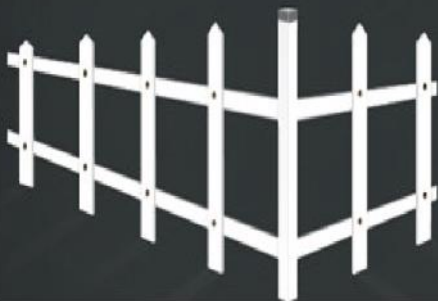
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## Borough Council Corner

### We all need photo ID to vote in future

All voters attending polling stations will now need to show photographic identification before they receive their ballot paper to vote.

New legislation now requires ID to be shown at the next local elections in May. The government have introduced this new policy with the reasoning that it will stamp out any potential fraud taking place.

In our experience we have never encountered any fraud in nearly 30 years of elections and the UK has very low levels of proven electoral fraud. However this will be the rule for this year's elections. Local Elections will take place on Thursday 4 May 2023, a valid form of photo ID will be needed to cast your vote.

There will be a wide range of photographic identification which will be acceptable at polling stations which include:

1. Drivers' licences
2. Passports
3. Some concessionary travel passes
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5. Ministry of Defence identity cards
6. Photocard parking permits issued as part of the Blue Badge scheme
7. Free Voter Cards, provided by local authorities

Expired photographic identification will also be accepted if the photograph is of a good enough likeness to allow polling station staff to confirm the identity of the holder.

Anyone in Maidstone who is registered but does not have one of the approved types of photo ID will be able to get a free Voter Card from Maidstone Borough Council from. For more details of how to apply from MBC ring 01622 602000 or make an application by going to: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

### Parish Council Elections

Both Harrietsham & Lenham Parish Councils are up for election this year. If there are more nominations than places on the parish council then there will be an election, this will take place on Thursday 4 May.

We would like to thank all the councillors who have given freely of their time for the community and would encourage residents who are interested to come forward to find out more.

Nomination forms can be collected from the Parish Clerks at the parish offices.

### **Janetta & Tom Sams**

Independent Borough Councillors for Harrietsham & Lenham Ward

Tel: 01622 859412 or 07891901831 Email: [tomsamscllr7@gmail.com](mailto:tomsamscllr7@gmail.com)



# Harrietsham Network

## Harrietsham in Bloom



Having planted bulbs and polyanthus in the Autumn, hopefully we should be seeing growth from the volunteers' fruits of their labour giving a good display in the Spring throughout the village.

On 30 January we had our annual get together at The Taste of Bengal restaurant. Thank you to Ash and all his staff for hosting the evening and the lovely food enjoyed by all of us. It was good to meet our volunteers and sponsors and catch up on events.

We are still asking for volunteers to join our small group. Details from our Chairman Andrew Rogers.

Thank you to everyone who continues to sponsor us or make donations via our collecting boxes.

Any enquiries to Andrew Rogers 01622 859352

***Audrey Joy***



## Fish Scheme AGM

**The Annual General Meeting of the Fish Scheme will be held  
on Wednesday 12 April 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm**

### All Welcome

**Harrietsham Fish Scheme** is a voluntary organisation comprising of Helping Hands and the monthly magazine Network which was set up in 1968. With the support of many volunteers, we endeavour to provide those in need with transport to doctors' surgeries and to local hospitals, and other essential journeys.

The Fish Scheme committee together with its volunteer helpers and drivers try to ensure that all newcomers to the village are warmly welcomed and are given a free copy of the Welcome booklet, together with the current Network magazine, which contains information on services and amenities, and on clubs and societies which they can join so that, if they wish, they can quickly orient and integrate into village life.

The Fish Scheme relies on volunteers and would welcome some new members to help us continue with helping others in need, so if you have a little spare time and think you may be able to assist us please come along to our AGM or contact one of our committee members, or our Lift Organisers, contact details can be found on page 3 in the Network magazine or on our website [harrietshamfishscheme.org](http://harrietshamfishscheme.org)

The Fish Scheme committee give their grateful thanks to all of their helpers for their continuing support and hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

**Peter Brown** - Chairman

## Thank you

Thank you everyone for your prayers and kind words. Val had an aneurysm in September and was admitted into Kings Hospital where they performed an operation called a Shunt. After just over 2 months Val was transferred to Hothfield Brain Rehabilitation Centre, and now is home to finish her rehabilitation.

Than you for everyone who visited her in hospital and Hothfield and a special thanks to Helen who came and collected me from the bus stop in Hothfield one cold wet night due to the bus never turning up and also thank you to Audrey who kept an eye on me.

Thank you everyone.

**Steve Brown**

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## Sudoku Corner

The object is to use the numbers 1-9 once each in every row and column and also in every quadrant of 9 squares (heavily outlined).

Enjoy!

Answers on page 31.

Easy

	4					5	6	
	3	9			8		7	
7			2	5				
3	1				6	7		
		5		7		1		
		6	4				8	9
				9	7			2
	2		8			6	5	
	8	1					9	

Hard

		3		8				
	9		2				4	
	6	2		9		8		1
					9	4		
4	8		5		6		3	9
		9	8					
3		6		1		5	7	
	7				2		6	
				3		9		

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# Harrietsham Network

## Local Directory A-Ha

### 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 879507

### Craft and Chat/Crafternoon/

Knit Crochet and Natter      Hazel Roots      01622 851885

### Cricket Club

Chairman      Mr A Hubble      01622 859692

### Cub Scouts

Leader      Mrs A Seales      01622 859829

### Explorer Scouts

Leader      Mark Horlock      07789 226516

### 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 P Brown      01622 851075

### Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman      Mr A Rogers      01622 859352

Harrietsham Preschool      Susan Snoad      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

## 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

## The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

## Ulcombe Pre-school

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

Village Hall Booking Clerk 07393 030409

bookings@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

Yoga Helen Kacperek 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com

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07891901831/07496105588  
tomsamscllr7@gmail.com

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# Len Valley Benefice March 2023



## Everybody is welcome

"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith"

*Gal 3:26 (NRSV)*

### Wednesday 1 March

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

### Sunday 5 March

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

### Sunday 12 March

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church followed by joining the market.

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**3.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

### Sunday 19 March – Mothering Sunday

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Morning Worship

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

### Sunday 26 March

**10.30am** Benefice Holy Communion at Ulcombe

*'Identity: "I am eternally loved"'*

## Local Churches

### Parish Church of St John the Baptist

**Vicar:** Revd. John Huggins  
01622 850280 [vicar@lvb.org.uk](mailto:vicar@lvb.org.uk)

(Day off: Wednesday)

**Assisting priests:**

Revd. Millie Hart 01622 297296

[revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk](mailto:revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk)

**Curate:** Revd. Charlotte Coles  
07805092823 [curate@lvb.org.uk](mailto:curate@lvb.org.uk)

**Readers:**

Joan Drury 01622 853766

[jdrury23@btinternet.com](mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com)

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442

[pamela@lvb.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at  
10.30am in Lenham Community Centre.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings in  
homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

**Church leaders:** Johnny and Estelle  
McCabe [www.pathwayschurch.org.uk](http://www.pathwayschurch.org.uk)

Pathways Church is supported by

Jubilee Church, Maidstone

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

# 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

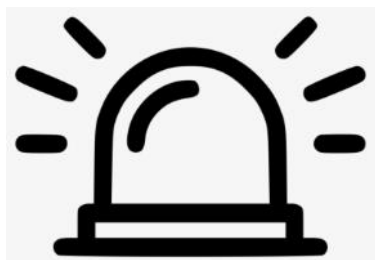
## Councils:

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	01622 753420
Childline	0800 1111
KCC Children's Social Services	03000 411111
KCC Adult Social Services	03000 416161





**Are you worrying about how to heat your home this winter?**

**Does the increase in food prices mean you may go hungry?**

**Is your money not going far enough?**

**Do you have zero 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 or email us explaining how you are in need and requesting a Grant claim form be sent to you.

Email: [Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com](mailto:Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com)

or

Write 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.

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



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

### Ploughman's Platterday

Please be aware that there will be **NO** Ploughman's Lunch at the church this month on the 11 March. Unfortunately we do not have enough helpers to continue with this fundraising event at the moment. The 100 Club Draw will still take place and the winners will be notified.

### Annual General Meeting

The Friends of St John's Annual General Meeting will take place in the church on Friday, 31 March 2023 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### 100 Club Lottery Draw

The results of the Seventy fifth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn 04 February 2023 by Denise Williams under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots are as follows:-

There were 159 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £159

First prize £79.50 – number 94 – Gill Whent

Second prize £47.70 – number 49– Hazel Roots

Third prize £31.80 – number 103 – Mrs Irene Westbrook

As there was no Ploughman's Lunch in February 2023, the draw took place a week earlier than usual at Little Hatch.

***Denise Williams***

## Phantom of the Open

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 42 mins

Follow your dreams – that's what this comedy-drama **Phantom of the Open** (certificate 12, 2021) tells us. Based on a true story, Maurice Flitcroft– played brilliantly by Mark Rylance – heads a cast of eccentric characters in this heart-warming tale. Maurice won the reputation of being 'Britain's worst golfer' when – ever the optimist – he gained entry to the 1976 British Open Golf Championship qualification round. So what? you might ask. Well, he had never played a stroke of golf in his life, and the staid golfing elite were, to say the least, horrified. But Maurice had made his dreams come true and that's the message that his incredible story gives us. It's directed by Craig Roberts. Whether you are a golf fan or not, do come along and share Maurice's journey to his own special stars in this lovely British comedy.

As well as showing a great film on March 10<sup>th</sup>, we'll also be revealing the fabulous line up of films that we'll be showing as part of our Spring and Summer 2023 programme. There'll be more about future films in the April issue of Focus.

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)





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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, HARRIETSHAM**

**WILL BE HELD ON**

**Friday 31 March 2023**

**AT 7 pm**

**IN HARRIETSHAM CHURCH**

**Everyone welcome to attend but only members  
of the Friends are entitled to vote**

Denise Williams, Secretary Friends of St. John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

Email: [secretary@friendsofstjohn.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofstjohn.org) Tel: 01622 859410

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# March Diary

## Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Wed	1	7.30pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	2	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	3	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	6	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	6	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	6	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Tue	7	2pm	Harrietsham History Society	HVH
Thurs	9	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	9	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	10	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	10	7pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	13	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	13	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Wed	15	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	16	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	17	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	20	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	20	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	20	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Tue	21	7.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	23	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	24	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	27	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	27	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Tue	28	7.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	30	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	31	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH

# Harrietsham Network

## Lenham WI

In January our speaker was James Lee who told us all about his career in the British Army. His talk was entitled a Tour of Afghanistan. However, he joined the Army on 5 August 1989 with the Royal Corp of Transport and travelled to most European countries, China, Canada, Nepal, Malaysia and the USA, spent time in the Gulf and then back to Northern Ireland. He then went on to Yugoslavia and worked under the NATO banner to implement peace and then back to Southampton, Folkestone, Cyprus, Jordan, Israel and Germany. His last tour of duty before Afghanistan was in Iraq where he spent time working on the logistics of moving 8,000 troops out of Iraq. He was one of the last 200 to leave.



In 2001 an opportunity came up to go to Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan for six months moving goods and soldiers in and out of the country. The base was built in the mid 1950's by the USA; the Soviets used it from 1979 to 1989 after which it was under the control of the Soviet Russian-backed government until 1992. The next owners were the Taliban until the Americans came back in 2001 on Operation Enduring Freedom and promptly evicted them with several tonnes of heavy ordnance. He described his job of bringing equipment, vehicles and generators into Kandahar Airfield as similar to budget airline check-in staff but with guns and with damaged equipment and vehicles being dumped there. It was dangerous at night as there were no street lights and always the threat of kidnap. The population was around 30,000 – mostly Americans but also Bulgarians and Romanians who worked in security and the police and Spanish who repaired the infrastructure etc. The Taliban would fire rockets every few days. Radar would pick them up with only 3 second warnings to take cover. There were 10,000 troops in Afghanistan – 2,000 front line troops and 8,000 troops to support them.





Contact with home was through email, phone calls and letters although when a soldier was killed the internet was taken down to ensure the family would not hear about it before being told officially. He returned home after 6 months and he was amazed how everything was carrying on as normal. He left the Army on 5 August 2013, exactly 24 years after signing up. He decided to carve out a career in aviation. So he learnt to fly and then qualified as a flying instructor. A nine to five job is not for him. He has now written a book – “Licking the Taliban’s Flip Flop” telling of his time in Afghanistan, of the work he was doing and the friends he made. I’m looking forward to reading it.



This month we have Dee Larcombe telling us about “Five Years Living and Nursing in India”. We certainly have an international flavour to our meetings. March also sees our Federation Annual General Meeting held in Tunbridge Wells. The speaker this year is Rev Kate Bottley who has appeared on Songs of Praise, The One Show, Sunday Morning Live and is currently presenting Good Morning Sunday on Radio 2.

We meet at Lenham Community Centre on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. If you would like to come along you would be very welcome to come as a visitor and join us if you wish. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact.

**Chris Godden** - Tel: 01622 858658 or email: [rgodden@btinternet.com](mailto:rgodden@btinternet.com)

## Sudoku Answers

Easy

1	4	2	7	3	9	5	6	8
5	3	9	1	6	8	2	7	4
7	6	8	2	5	4	9	3	1
3	1	4	9	8	6	7	2	5
8	9	5	3	7	2	1	4	6
2	7	6	4	1	5	3	8	9
4	5	3	6	9	7	8	1	2
9	2	7	8	4	1	6	5	3
6	8	1	5	2	3	4	9	7

Hard

1	4	3	7	8	5	6	9	2
8	9	5	2	6	1	3	4	7
7	6	2	3	9	4	8	5	1
6	3	7	1	2	9	4	8	5
4	8	1	5	7	6	2	3	9
2	5	9	8	4	3	7	1	6
3	2	6	9	1	8	5	7	4
9	7	8	4	5	2	1	6	3
5	1	4	6	3	7	9	2	8

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Half page	£42.00	per month	£420.00	for 12 months
Whole page	£75.00	per month	£660.00	for 12 months

## Christian Message

How would you introduce yourself to a stranger in ten words or less? You might like to think about it now...

How each of us answers that question tells the other person, and ourselves, so much about what we think is important about ourselves and our identity. You might say, "I am the son (or daughter) of somebody important, or "I am Fred and I have always lived in Grafty Green" (apologies Fred if you're out there), or "I'm Rachel and I'm a computer programmer", or "I'm Jo and I go to such and such a school", and so on. So, is inheritance or location or our job or our school what defines our identity?

Identity, and how you find it, is a really big deal these days. Bookshops are still brimming with books about how to find ourselves, and for younger folk especially, appearance and social media profile can mean everything. Sexuality and gender are also key factors for us all.

But for Christians, our identity is located deeply in the love of Jesus. In the Len Valley Benefice our verse for the year is, "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith". What does this mean? It means that by receiving the love of God we are free to be secure in whom we are. We are people who know that God loves us, warts and all. We are beloved, like the best-loved child. That means that we can be free to love others, whether the 'other' has the same inheritance, is from the same location, does the same job and so on.

None of this means that all those other things about identity are unimportant, but it does mean that deep within our being, our personality, there can be a security from which everything else flows.

It also doesn't mean that this is just 'easy'. Learning that we're loved and learning to love is a life's work. Why don't you join us? What could be a better mission in life?

**John P. Huggins** - Tel: 01622 850280

## Len Valley Practice - Volunteers Needed

The surgery is looking for volunteer drivers to deliver medicine to patients who cannot get out of their house.

Please call Elaine Moles (practice manager) on 01622 858341

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