



March 2024



***Network
Harrietsham's
Village Magazine***



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Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

Lift Organisers	Andrew & Felicity Rogers <i>Ridgedown, Marley Road, Harrietsham ME17 1AU</i> <i>Email andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com</i>
<i>Telephone 859352</i>	
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Treasurer	Michael Gear <i>Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ</i> <i>Email michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk</i>
<i>Telephone 859410</i>	
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Network Magazine

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Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine April 2024 deadlines:-

Friday 1 March 2024 12 noon advertising and 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 adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

Thank you.

Harrietsham Network



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Message From the Editor

Thanks to Phillip Robling for sending in the answer to Mike's question in the last edition...

Lady Jane Grey (1536–1554) was queen of England for nine days during July of 1553. She was declared queen after the previous king, Edward VI, died, but she never reached her coronation, meaning she was never formally given the monarchy.

If anyone is interested in taking part in the Rotary Club Swim Relay there is a poster on page 17.

It seems as though the village is in need of more volunteers, for both the Friends of The Church and The Fish Committee. Please do make sure you get in touch if you can help.

Cover photo by Karolina Grabowska: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/flowering-plant-with-clover-leaves-4608991/>

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



On 16 January we had our first meeting of the year which was our Annual general Meeting. It was well attended considering the inclement weather we have been enduring. Reports for the preceding year were made by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. We had a full year of meetings including three shows and lunches out at Papa's fish bar and lunches at the Wagon and Horses.

The Treasurer reminded us that expenses were exceeding our income. Our main expenses are the cost of the Hall and Speakers. To try and combat this the Committee, with a lot of soul searching, had decided to increase the subscription to £15 per annum with a further admission fee of £2 at each meeting.

The Officers and Committee were all willing to stand again and in the absence of any other nominations were duly elected. Officers, Chairman David Oversby, Vice Chairman Kevin Harlock, Secretary Pam Flawn, Treasurer Mike Flawn. The committee includes the Officers and Angela Gatland and Christine Bone. Audrey Joy offered to assist the Committee if required.

We have a full programme of events and talks including three shows. The Annual Show has been moved to 20 August as it was felt that September was a little too late especially for Flowers.

The evening should have been a photo presentation by Mike Flawn but unfortunately the computer connection could not be made to the projector. Kevin Harlock stepped in to present a plant identification.

Our next meeting will be the Spring Show 19 March.

Other dates to look out for are:

- Tues 16 April Caroline Halfpenny 'A Gardener Abroad Four Gardens I Rome'
- Tues 21 May Carolyn Millen- Demonstration on Chipping Snowdrops
- Tues 18 June Summer Show

David Oversby - Chairman

Harrietsham Ladies Group

£87.50 was raised at our charity auction in February which we will be sending on to the Maidstone branch of Age UK to be used towards services for local people suffering with dementia. Our numbers were very depleted so that was a good effort by the seventeen members who took part.

Next month we will each be making a small Easter table decoration under the guidance of Deanna Dynes who has the gift of flower arranging. Perhaps our efforts will be worth a photograph in the magazine! The meeting will take place in the scout hut on 6 March at 2.30pm. New members always welcome.

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
01622 850735

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Hello Harrietsham Shortmat Bowlers!



Where have January and February gone? It appears that 2024 has got off to a flying start and the weeks have passed by quickly.

In November of 2023, we played a friendly game at Boughton Monchelsea which we lost by seventeen shots. Boughton visited Harrietsham for a return match in January this year and we managed to win this game by twenty-one shots, which pretty much shows the results of a game depending on whether it is played at home or away when it concerns two evenly matched teams. Unfortunately, Boughton came to Harrietsham being a player short so they borrowed one from Harrietsham which proves that even though these games have a competitive edge they are played in a friendly atmosphere.

We are now looking forward to more of these matches in the future and hope to find new clubs to play.

Happy Bowling.

Phil G - Chairman/Secretary

Harrietsham in Bloom

On 29 January we had our annual get-together for sponsors and volunteers at The Taste of Bengal. Our thanks to Ash and his staff for lovely food and excellent service. Sadly, although all sponsors were invited only two were able to attend but we did have 4 of our volunteers.



We are very pleased that a new volunteer, Máire Lewer, has joined us and will be looking after the planter by Willow Close.

Spring has finally arrived and we are seeing signs of life in the planters and verges.

Volunteers are still needed. Please come and join us. Any enquiries to Andrew Rogers (Chair) on 01622 859352.

Audrey Joy MBE



Thank you to all the new people that attended the talk on the History of Harrietsham which was held at Percival's Rest on Monday 19 February 2024. We hope you enjoyed the evening and took the opportunity to either join the society or leave your details for further information. Thanks again to our host Giorgio who continues to support with free use of the restaurant and free tea and coffee.

Our meeting this month is on Thursday 28 March at 2.15pm in the village hall when we have a return visit from Mary Smith who will be giving her talk entitled 'A Schoolgirl's War'. Mary was headteacher of Maidstone Grammar School for Girls (2006 – 2014) and her talk is based on the story of school life in World War Two. Mary's previous visit was in February 2018 and since then we understand she has updated her talk with additional information she has discovered following the publication of her book on this subject.

There will also be the opportunity of renewing your membership or joining our society if you have not already done so, yearly membership is only £15.00, and we still have four more meetings programmed for this year which we believe is very good value. Our meeting on the 3 June appropriately is about D Day with the 80th anniversary being on the 6 June. This meeting will be held in Percival's Rest and will start at 7.00pm.

Meetings in May, June and September are all in the evening and further details of these will be available at our March meeting. Visitors are always welcome to attend any of our meetings for just £3.00.

Peter Brown

Quiz Corner

Round 5

1. Which fictional detective lived in St. Mary Mead?
2. In feet, how deep is 100 fathoms?
3. Who wrote 'Les Miserables'?
4. In Australia, what is a Jumbuck?
5. What does an Oologist collect and study?
6. Who wears The Fisherman's Ring?
7. In the British Army, what is the highest rank?
8. What four letter English word reads the same forwards, backwards and up-side down?
9. In Formula 1 racing, what is the shortest circuit?
10. When, if ever, did New Year's Eve & New Year's Day last occur in the same year?

Answers on page 12

Harrietsham Computers

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Parish Council News

Community Litter Pick

The annual community litter pick, which is organised by the Parish Council, will be taking place on Saturday 23 March 9am – 11am. This will commence on the village green in West Street.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 April at 8.00pm in the Booth Hall. This will follow the monthly Parish Council meeting, which will be a shorter than usual meeting, commencing at the earlier time of 7.00pm. All residents are welcome to attend both meetings.

Elections 2023

Parish Council elections will be held again this coming May. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please forward your details to the Clerk and these will be held on file until the nomination forms are available from Maidstone Borough Council. The Clerk will then be able to send out the relevant paperwork which will need to be completed. Please register your interest by sending either an email or in writing (details below).

If you would like to know more about what being a Parish Councillor involves, then do please get in touch and the Clerk will be happy to discuss this further with you.

Amanda Broadhurst - Parish Clerk
clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk
01622 850089
Postal Address:
4 Southfields Way
Harrietsham
ME17 1GE

Quiz Corner Answers

Round 5

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|---------------|
| 1. | Miss Marple | 6. | The Pope |
| 2. | 600 ft | 7. | Field Marshal |
| 3. | Victor Hugo | 8. | NOON |
| 4. | A male sheep | 9. | Monaco |
| 5. | Birds' eggs and nests | 10. | 2023 |

Your Church Needs You



Let me start by saying straight away that this article has been written because the Friends of the Church of St. John the Baptist needs more active members! Without them, there is a chance that the Friends will cease this year! We are desperately short of active members, as well as a secretary.

The Friends is a secular organisation concerned with raising money to maintain and improve the Grade 1 Listed church for the benefit of ALL the people of Harrietsham, now and in the future. Whilst it is true that the Friends work with the church authorities, we are independent of them being a registered charity formed in 2001 and concerned with the building itself.

Since our formation, the Friends' fundraising efforts have enabled us to support several projects. Between 2017 and 2020, the Friends provided funding of £25,600 towards a new internal toilet and kitchen replacing the Victorian lean-to outside toilet attached to the north of the church. Previously, we had been able to fund a new organ (£26,000), provision of disabled access (£3,900), internal redecoration of the north and south aisles (£4,700) and the installation of glass entrance doors (£13,000). More recently we have funded the repairs to the weathervane (£6,000) and repointing of the brickwork (£2,050).

However, without more active members willing to join our management committee, we probably will be unable to continue our regular activities in the future and may have to cease raising money for the church separately from the diocese.

If you would like further information, please write to me at friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com or phone 850 806.

Audrey Joy

Are you worrying about how to heat your home?

Are your debts mounting up?

Can I afford to pay my rent or my mortgage?

Does your money not go as far as it used to?

Do you have little or 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
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Harrietsham Village Hall
Church Road
Harrietsham
Kent
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Borough council corner

You may have read that Kent County Council has warned that pressure on its budget means many road repair and maintenance schemes will be suspended. We are continuing to report and monitor potholes in spite of this KCC position as it allows a claim to be made.

Whilst driving and walking we also report damaged signs, flytipping, over hanging trees and other issues that may cause problems for residents whether walking, running, cycling, horse riding or driving. Over the last year we reported nearly 400 issues.

We recently found that two access chambers at the rear of Lenmead on the public right of way were only covered with a piece of wood, this was obviously of some concern. After contacting the relevant Public Rights Of Way (PROW) officer they were repaired to make safe.

Many villagers are aware that the Harrietsham & Lenham ward has been significantly increased in size and now takes in Hollingbourne and the surrounding north downs parishes. It will become a 3 member ward (represented by 3 Borough Councillors). For more details and maps showing the area go to www.hl-nd.co.uk

The website also includes information on the work we are carrying out in the area, and useful contact details for various agencies.

Janetta and Tom Sams

Independent Borough Councillor Harrietsham & Lenham Ward

01622 859412 / 07891901831

Or email tomsamscllr7@gmail.com

From the Trustees of the Culpepper Charity

We hope that you will have seen our adverts in this magazine over the last few months. We would especially like to thank the Harrietsham Fish Scheme and its Network editorial team for allowing the advertisements to be placed without charge.

Since the Charity was re-launched in November 2022, we have provided eight grants totalling just under £4,000, to people in Harrietsham for heating, food and other financial needs. We have been surprised by the low number of Grant applications received: less than we had expected. We hope that this is due to the people of Harrietsham not needing our financial assistance rather than hesitancy on the part of would-be applicants. However, we have, so far, not turned down a single application.

If you are having trouble making your income stretch to meet your necessary expenditure, do consider requesting financial help from the Culpepper Charity and ask us for a Grant Application Form. You do not have to be receiving state benefits to receive help from the Charity. Rest assured, every Grant is considered individually by all the Trustees and everything is done anonymously. Only the Trustees know to whom Grants are paid, and our Data Protection policy specifically requires that names of applicants are not publicised in anyway.

The Trustees of the Culpepper Charity

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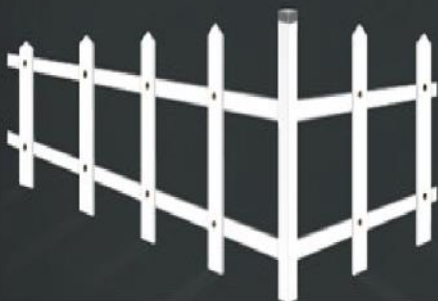
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Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

The children once again have been very busy with their studies with a packed timetable of varied curriculum-based subjects, with many extra events to stimulate their growing minds. In the month of March, we will be celebrating Easter and the Easter story. As a Church of England School this time of year in our Christian Calendar is very important to us. Therefore, the staff and pupils will be busy participating in activities that the Easter message can give –

Hope.

In February's edition I included our School Vision Statement. This month I would like to highlight...

What Spirituality Means to us at Our School

Spirituality at Harrietsham opens us to life and to each other, Through our relationships, individuality and our awareness and wonder beyond our visible world. It is a thread which run through our lives, bringing purpose, identity and belonging and the values by which we live

Using the image of a ring-doughnut. The two parts, the 'whole' representing the person and the inside 'core' representing spiritual development; the two parts equally important to form the 'whole', is what we want to achieve through our spiritual growth.

To support everyone's spiritual development we use the common language developed by Liz Mills of 'windows, mirrors, and doors' these visuals provide opportunities for questioning and experiences for everyone to reflect outwardly, inwardly, and beyond.

Please do look at our school website it is packed full of information, photos and art work from the children. www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk

Staff, children, and governors would like to wish you all a Happy Easter

Jill Bishop - Foundation Governor

Harrietsham Network

Local Directory A-Ha

Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

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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

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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 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 Kacperek 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com

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Len Valley Benefice

March 24



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 3 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

Wednesday 6 March

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendale

Sunday 10 March – *Mothering Sunday*

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 17 March

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 24 March – *Palm Sunday*

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's, Lenham 'The King who came in peace'

Monday 25 – Wednesday 27 March

Series of Holy Week evening talks followed by Night Prayer

Monday 7.30pm at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds – Jonathan Arnold

Tuesday 7.30pm at St Mary's, Lenham

What seeds do we sow for growth – Ben Doggett

Wednesday 7.30pm at All Saints, Ulcombe

The birds that sit in the branches – John Huggins

Len Valley Benefice March 24 cont.

Thursday 28 March – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Harrietsham: **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion** with washing of feet.

Friday 29 March – Good Friday

2.00pm Services in all four churches 'An hour at The Cross'

Saturday 30 March

3.00pm Lenham: **Messy Church – Messy Easter**

Sunday 31 March – Easter Sunday

6.00am Boughton Malherbe: **Daybreak Easter Celebration** around the fire, followed by breakfast

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Easter Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Easter Holy Communion

11.00am Lenham: Easter Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Easter Holy Communion

Would you like to join the Fish Scheme Committee?

Due to the impending resignation of the treasurer of the Fish Scheme at the AGM to be held on 4 April 2024, there will be a vacancy for this position as well as the Chairman role.

If anybody is interested in taking on a voluntary role could you please contact Michael Gear, for further information, on 01622 859410 or michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk.



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Soup Saturday

Would you like a hearty soup lunch without the washing up afterwards?

Then come to our Soup Saturday event on Saturday 9 March 2024 between 12 noon and 2pm and enjoy a bowl of soup with crusty bread. Everyone is welcome. Tea, coffee, and biscuits will also be available.

Annual General Meeting

Please note in your diaries that our Annual General Meeting will take place in the church on Friday, 22 March 2024 at 7pm.

If you care about the work that the Friends do in raising funds to help maintain the church building as an asset to the village, then do try and come along to this meeting. Come and hear about the proposed Friends' future events and about the state of the church building. All are welcome.

We are also very much in need of more helpers for our fund-raising events and a secretary to join our committee. If you feel you can help with either of these please contact me – details below.

100 Club Lottery Results

The results of the Eighty-sixth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 13 January 2024 by various diners at the Soup Saturday event, under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

- First prize £82.50 – number 123 – Anthony Wilson;
- Second prize £49.50 – number 82 – George & Jill Evans;
- Third prize £33.00 – number 34 – Robert Rusbridge.

There were 165 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £165.

If you would like further information or an application form to join either the 100 Club or as a Friend, write to me at friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com or phone 859 885.

Chris Roots - Acting Secretary

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.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 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



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March 2024 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	2.30pm	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
Wed	13	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	14	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Thurs	14	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
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
Tues	19	6pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	21	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	22	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	25	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	25	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	28	2.15pm	Harrietsham History Society	HVH
Thurs	28	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH

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



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

invite you to come along and bring your family to

Soup Saturday

Enjoy a bowl of hearty soup with crusty bread at
the village church. Meet people and enjoy lunch
without any preparation or washing up!

£4 per portion

Tea, coffee and biscuits also available - 50p extra

Saturday 9th March 2024

12 noon to 2pm

at St. John's Church Harrietsham

Proceeds go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.



COUNSELLOR

Rebecca Winterflood MBACP

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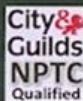
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Fish Scheme AGM

**The Annual General Meeting of the Fish Scheme will be held
on Thursday 4 April 2024 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 orientate 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

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.

Lenham Library

From Monday 5 February, Lenham library will be closed on Wednesdays but open all day on a Thursday. The library will close at 5pm for each afternoon session, rather than 6pm, hours have been added to a Monday morning, so it will be open all day on a Monday as well going forward. There is no change to the amount of hours the library is open.

Sunday	Closed
Monday	9am-1pm 2pm-5pm
Tuesday	9am – 2pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9am-1pm 2pm-5pm
Friday	9am - 2pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm

Holy Week 2024

*Series of Holy Week evening talks
followed by Night Prayer*



Monday 25th – Wednesday 27th March

The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds

Jonathan Arnold

Monday 7.30pm at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

What seeds do we sow for growth

Ben Doggett

Tuesday 7.30pm at St Mary's, Lenham

The birds that sit in the branches

John Huggins

Wednesday 7.30pm at All Saints, Ulcombe



Jesus is coming back soon!

In the days when the disciples lived in Galilee, weddings took a different form to what it is today. When a young man wanted to get married, he would first speak with his father about the young lady that he had in mind. They would then both go to see the young lady and her father. Discussions would take place and eventually an agreement made to allow a wedding to take place. *The only person who knew when the ceremony would take place was the young man's father.*

The young man would return home, and he would then set about building a home for his intended bride. Young lady would spend time searching out the best materials for the wedding attire.

When Jesus told his disciples that he was going away he told him that he was going to "prepare a place for them," so that where he was, they would be able to live with him. Read St John 14 vv 1-3. When His disciples asked Jesus when He would return, he told them *that no one knows when that will be – only His Father.* Read Mark ch 13 v 32. Can you see the parallel with the wedding procedure outlined earlier?

What we do know is that Jesus gave some signs indicating that his return would be imminent. One of these is that many false prophets and false people claiming to be Jesus would appear.

Charles Manson claimed that he was Christ. Jim Jones convinced his followers that he spoke for Jesus. There was also David Koresh. He and his followers tragically lost their lives in the destruction of their compound in Waco, Texas

Jesus also spoke of wars and rumours of wars. Excluding World Wars 1 and 2, we have several wars on going today. I do not need to remind you of the war between Russia and Ukraine. Then we have wars in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas. Iran and Pakistan have exchanged missiles, Houthi rebels have been fighting missiles on shipping in the Red Sea. North Korea is posturing for war against South Korea; there is also conflict in East Asia between China and Taiwan. Read Matthew ch 24 vv 1-26. Hout6his

Read Luke 21:11, 31. Here Jesus speaks of great earthquakes and pestilences. Just cast your mind back to 2020 when the world was infested with COVID. There have also been many earthquakes in the Middle East and Far East with deadly consequences. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, hundreds of thousands of people have died in earthquakes around the world since the year 2000.

Jesus also predicted that "lawlessness will abound and the love of many will grow cold." Read Matthew ch 24 v 12. As far as lawlessness is concerned, we are certainly seeing that there is a rise in this in our own country where murder is an all too frequent mention on the daily news. By the second part of the verse, this means that spiritual appetite of people the world over will decrease. It is obvious that this certainly applies in the UK, when church attendance has declined alarmingly. Need I say anymore?

Surely these signs are telling us that we are living in the last days before Jesus will return. So, what must we do? The parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins tells us how important it is that we keep “oil” in our lamps. Some of you may have heard of this song “Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning.” This has reference to the wedding in Galilee referred to earlier. Virgins were to go with the wedding party to the venue. As they did not know when it was to take place, it was vitally important that they were prepared and ready. So, it is for us as well, and we must keep short accounts with God about our spiritual failings to ensure that we are ready too.

Phillip Robling, B.Sc. (Hons); PGCE - Pastor (Retired)
Phillip.robbling@sky.com

Countryways Quilters and Stitchers

2024 seems for me to be stumbling a bit. It started out on a high with fun things happening, then between various ailments and freezing weather it seemed to go downhill. Maybe just winter blues? But really we organized our unfinished projects in January, then made a wall hung organizer in February and talked about how best to organize a sewing/craft room so that you know just where to find things. So we are all set now to start work on the first quilt of the season in March.

It will be a star quilt to remind you of all the stars in your life. A star for family members or friends, or maybe even a reminder of a special event or period in your life. This will continue through March and into April. We meet on 5 and 19 March.

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.

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

Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM
FILM CLUB

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

Friday 8 March

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 48 mins

We apologise for having to cancel February's performance and the inconvenience this may have caused. We are delighted to be back up and running on March 8th with *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (12A, 2023), based on the novel by Rachel Joyce. Academy Award winner Jim Broadbent plays Harold and Penelope Wilton his wife Maureen. Both give magnificent performances. An ageing couple, Harold sets out one day to post a letter to his dying friend Queenie... but he changes his mind. Realising that a letter is not enough, instead of posting it he decides to walk the 450 miles to see her in person. The journey is significant for both Harold and Maureen – Harold reflects on the twists and turns of life whilst Maureen, who has no idea what has happened, agonises over the way she has treated him. Do come along and share this wonderful film. The director is Hettie Macdonald.

As well as showing a great film on March 8th, we'll also be revealing the fabulous line up of films that we'll be showing as part of our Spring and Summer 2024 programme. There'll be more about future films in the April issue of Focus. Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

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



Lenham WI

Following on from my report last month the WI is arranging a “Keep Britain Tidy: The Great British Spring Clean” event to take place between 15 and 31 March.

Keep Britain Tidy was originally set up by a conference of 26 organisations in 1955. The conference was initiated by the British Women's Institute after a resolution was passed at its 1954 AGM to start a national anti-litter campaign. In 1987, Keep Britain Tidy changed its name to Tidy Britain Group.



Litter is still a problem now with the increase in fly tipping being reported. This is a multi-organisational problem. The councils need to make the disposal of rubbish easier and more accessible, businesses producing everything we use, including our food, need to look closely at how they package their items and we, as a society, need to ensure we do not leave a trail of litter behind us wherever we go. It is so easy to take our rubbish home with us and put it in our own bins. Personally I look at how everything is packaged now and try to buy either loose fruit and veg or packaging that can be easily recycled.

I am looking forward to our Annual General Meeting which is held in Tunbridge Wells. WI's from across the West Kent area meet to vote on the Resolutions for this year and we have some interesting speakers – Dr Annie Gray, who is one of Britain's leading food historians and Lindsey Barrell (aka Cherry Bombe) talking about “Burlesque, Me and the WI”. Lindsey does a fabulously funny and heart-warming talk that covers how she discovered burlesque, then the WI, and brought the two worlds together. From empty nest to huge success, and via dance classes and craft sessions, Lindsey will take you on a journey that a lot of us can relate to.

Never a dull moment!

At our January meeting we had a very enjoyable games evening with a quiz and a Beetle Drive. It was good fun and lovely to catch up with friends after the Christmas holidays.

This month we are welcoming Adam Taylor who uses historical sources, photos, personal experience, and maps from 1500's to present day to show us the once inhabited islands of the Medway Estuary, the shipwreck of a First World War German submarine, inside the abandoned forts which once defended Chatham Dockyard and some of the stunning natural beauty of this vast wilderness.

There is always something interesting going on at WI. So 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.

Christian Message

March is the month in nature of renewed hope as Spring really takes shape before our eyes.

The weather affects the new growth, and if adverse sometimes spoiling the first show of daffodils or blossom, but in general the warmth filtering through and increased light makes us all feel good.

This year with Easter so early (Sunday 31st March) we are already well into Lent having begun that back on 14 February – bit tricky - chocs and romance versus give up choc for Lent??!

The year often seems to fly past. There are occasions when many of us are glad that it has gone quickly, especially if it's been a hard year for some personal reason. And of course, conversely, some want to savour the days and exclaim 'what happened, we are already a quarter of the way through the year – where has it gone too?'

Living for the moment, appreciating the now is something that small children are often better at than adults. They ponder, they experience, they wonder, they explore.....and when we are with them we are drawn to do the same.

In the Christian faith believers are often referred to as 'children' of God, and we give God in heaven the name of 'Father' as Jesus encouraged us to do. As God's children we get that same permission that we give our young friends to be curious, to be open, inquisitive. This means that we can be child-like (not childish, that is different), even when we have no children around us to lead the way.

We can stop and watch the ant edge along the garden wall; we can notice the ladybird catching the first rays of sun; we can smile inwardly as we hear the birdsong and see them flitting about busily building nests.....we can smile at the eggs cooking in the pan that look like a pair of eyes looking back at us, the rasher of bacon forming a smile – there are always ways to be child-like and to love the world we live in and not miss out on the wonder of God's creation and presence among us.

This sort of simple discovery, awareness and meditation lifts my heart, renews my hope, amuses my spirit, keeps me going....what supports you and keeps you going?

The resurrected Jesus shows us that life in all its fullness comes again, and again, and again

Have a blessed Easter when the month comes to a close.

Rev. Canon Lorraine Apps - Huggins



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