



**March 2025**

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



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# Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

## Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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## Network Magazine

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Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

## Network Magazine April 2025 deadlines:-

**Saturday 1 March 2025** 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](mailto:adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org)

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

Thank you.

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# Contents

## Clubs and Societies

Harrietsham Gardening Society	8
Harrietsham History Society	9
Harrietsham In Bloom	9
Harrietsham Ladies Group	10
Harrietsham Short Mat Bowling Club	8

## Churches

Christian Message	30
Friends of St John's	21
Len Valley Benefice Service Times	19
Local Church Contact Details	22

## Information

<b>March Diary</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Editorial</b>	<b>7</b>
Local Directory	16, 17
Public Services and Emergencies Directory	23
Who's Who	3

## Features and General Articles

Bingo Fundraiser	20
Borough Council Corner	15
Countryways Quilters	15
Lenham Film Club	24
Lenham WI	29
Parish Warden	10
Public Meeting - Community Emergency Plan	12
Quiz Corner	24
Answers	30
Soup Saturday	28

<b>Join the Fish Committee</b>	<b>27</b>
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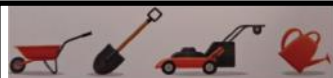
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web page: <https://harrietshamsocialclub.co.uk>

Or just pop-in (Friday/Saturdays are best)

We welcome guests & new membership applications

## Message From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2025 edition of the Harrietsham Network. This month's issue includes updates on local events, community news, and opportunities to get involved.

The Harrietsham Fish Scheme AGM will be held on Thursday 3 April at 7.30 in the Village Hall. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

As always, we welcome your stories, photos, and feedback for future editions. Please email us at [editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org) with your contributions. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy this month's issue.

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

Cover photo by Eva Bronzini: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/yellow-daffodils-in-bloom-5779314/>

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Harrietsham Fish Scheme invites you to attend our  
Annual General Meeting

 3 APRIL 2025  7:30 PM  HARRIETSHAM VILLAGE HALL

⋮⋮⋮ **We hope to see you there** ⋮⋮⋮

## Harrietsham Gardening Society



Dilogen V de Alwis gave a talk "In Praise of Weeds" which was a turn around as many of us find them invasive in our gardens, but he may well have changed some minds.

The question was, **why do we need weeds?** He talked a lot about the value of many plants that we consider weeds, a very informative afternoon leaving us thinking about what to keep and what to compost.

This was followed by our AGM. The minutes of the last AGM were agreed David Oversby was returned as Chairman. Three members of the Society were returned as members of the committee:

- Kevin Harlock
- Christine Bone
- Angela Gatland.

Finances were discussed and we look forward to an interesting year including a visit to Hyde Hall.

Tuesday 18 March at 7.30 pm—The Spring Show, please come along and see all the lovely exhibits and welcome Spring.

We may have a few spare places on our coach to Hyde Hall so if you are interested please contact our Chairman.

A bit from the past... The Examiner July 1912 - Two specimens of a rare Lizard Orchid found on the chalk hills in Harrietsham, believed to be extinct.

**Angela Gatland**



## Harrietsham Short Mat Bowling Club

2025 has seen our club begin the year with the highs and lows of competitive short mat bowls which has brought into focus the difficult job of team selection that our club captain, Ron, has on his shoulders. It is certainly not an easy role to take on as the standard of play within the club is of equal quality from the majority of those that wish to take part in league games and the ability to play well on our own mats does not always transfer to away team mats. Our position at the top of the East Kent Winter League on 1st February having won eight from nine matches gives an indication of how well the club is doing but also brings with it the pressure of selecting winning teams that keep all players happy. Our entry into the Maidstone and District league has not been so fortunate, although we have competed well, we have found it harder to win games against stronger opposition, and up to the sixteenth January our club had played seven games having won four. It could be said that is a surprisingly good start to our entry into this league as it is just over a fifty per cent winning margin.

The social side of the club is also under review with plans to organise the occasional pub lunch to help ensure the good camaraderie within the club continues into the future. That and the attendance at roll ups, plus the odd friendly, keeps the club alive and well so let's all keep on bowling for as long as we are able.



# Harrietsham History Society



Firstly, apologies for there not being an article from the History Society in February's edition of the Network. It was written but not sent due to the chaos of Christmas.

Secondly, it was unfortunate that due to the inclement weather forecast for 28 January 2025, that we had to take the decision to postpone the first event of the year. We will look to rebook the speaker for later in the year, so we still get to learn about the topic "A look at crime in Victorian London". Keep an eye out for the new date. The next talk will be on Monday, 3 March 2025 at 1900 in Percival's Rest, please join us as we learn about the "Islands in the Medway Estuary". We will be looking to continue the archiving project following the talk as well as taking membership payments. The new membership year will run from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, to align to our financial year to make the accountancy process easier. However, if you would like to renew your membership sooner, you can via the following methods:

- Direct Bank Transfer (details available on request – [chairmanhhs@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanhhs@gmail.com))
- Contactless (available at each talk)
- Cash or cheque (please contact - [chairmanhhs@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanhhs@gmail.com))
- Membership and talk package available at discounted rate, please ask for more details.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be a momentous year for the Society as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and Victory in Europe. To make this celebration truly special, we are seeking photographs, letters, and documents from the wartime era for a Society project. If you have items you'd like to share, please get in touch so we can make copies for the village archive. Your contributions will help ensure that this significant period in our history is preserved for future generations.

Let's continue to grow our Society—please encourage your friends, family, and neighbours to join! Thank you once again for being part of our vibrant community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working together to make 2025 a remarkable year for the Harrietsham History Society.

## Harrietsham In Bloom



On 27 January 26 members, volunteers, sponsors and two Parish Council members met at The Taste of Bengal for our annual get together. Ashe and his staff gave excellent service and the food was fantastic and plentiful.

On Saturday 5 April we shall be holding our annual Quiz Night in the village hall at 7.30 pm. £7 per person. Max. 8 persons per table and you are invited to bring your own food and drink. There will also be a raffle. Please book early – contact Andrew on 01622 859352 or Barbara on 01622 853754 to book your place/table. Further details in our advert in the Network.

Spring has finally arrived and we are seeing signs of life in the planters and verges. Unfortunately weeds will also be emerging keeping our volunteers busy. We are always grateful to have new volunteers. Please come and join us. For further information contact Andrew Rogers (Chairman) on 01622 859352.

**Audrey Joy MBE**

# Harrietsham Network

## Parish Warden

As some of you will already know I am the Parish Warden for Harrietsham. I had previously worked in a similar role for Kent County Council and have been in this area since 2010.

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If you would like to discuss your concerns with me in confidence I can be contacted by mobile or email.

***Martin Sherwood*** - Harrietsham Parish Warden  
07724 544 409 / [warden@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:warden@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Harrietsham Ladies Group

We welcomed David Penney at our February meeting. David is a member of HAMS and he gave us an entertaining talk about the history of pantomimes and his role as the DAME. While he was speaking he explained and applied the make up he used then as a grand finale, he went and changed into the full costume for us. It was a lovely afternoon and a real escape from the dreary winter weather and the even worse state of our world.

Our March meeting will be a social afternoon with some quizzes and games with time for a chat. This will be the final meeting in the afternoon as we revert back to 7.30 pm in April.



***Elizabeth Welchman*** - Chairman  
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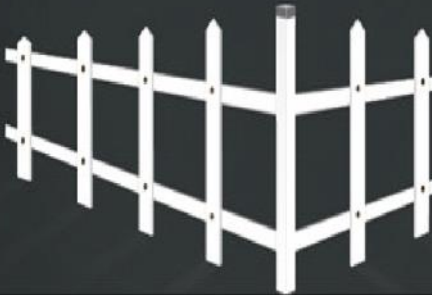
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Cllr. Tom Sams

[tomsamscltr7@gmail.com](mailto:tomsamscltr7@gmail.com)



Cllr. Kathy Cox

[kcox.mbc@gmail.com](mailto:kcox.mbc@gmail.com)

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## Borough Councillor Corner

### Local development - Heathlands

We have attended a couple of stakeholder meetings regarding the proposed Heathlands development. Whilst the power of the group is limited, we want to ensure that every detail is scrutinised and the developer is held to account for the full contribution of infrastructure delivery – road, rail, school, health etc. We are reminded that Heathlands was the least viable proposal originally put forward at MBC and that the financial viability was, and presumably still is, marginal.

### Devolution and Local Government

The devolution programme has been announced by Angela Rayner, deputy Prime Minister.

KCC with Medway Council has not been successful in its application and not been selected to be part of the devolution priority programme

Thus, at the time of writing KCC elections will take place in May 2025 as originally scheduled.

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

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		
<a href="http://www.hl-nd.co.uk">www.hl-nd.co.uk</a>		

## Countryways Quilters

In February we got all of you making simple bags of your own design and it was fun to see how you all design in your own style. Even those who thought they couldn't do it. In March you will all make a quilt. Very small simple and easy, just to say you have made a quilt. One of the rare times you can make a bagged quilt.

It's a babies floor quilt. I said it was small. I 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 4:30.

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](mailto:moonbeamspinner@gmail.com)

# 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**

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### **Booth and Baldwin Charity**

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### **Brownie Guides**

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### **Conservative Association**

Faversham Office      01622 758053

### **Countryways Quilters**

And Stitchers      Pamela Gillard      01233 877453

### **Craft and Chat/Crafternoon/**

**Knit Crochet and Craft**      Hazel Roots      01622 851885

### **Cricket Club**

Chairman      Mr A Hubble      01622 859692

### **Cub Scouts**

Leader      Mrs A Seales      01622 859829

### **Explorer Scouts**

Leader      Mark Horlock      07789 226516

### **Friends of St. John the Baptist Church**

Chairperson      Audrey Joy      01622 850806

### **Gardening Society**

Chairman      Mr David Oversby      01622 859674

### **Girl Guides**

Leader      Andrea French      07901 667018

### **Golf – Bill's Round for Charity**

Secretary      Mr T Grimes      01622 850632

### **Harrietsham Academy of Ballet**

Organiser      Deborah Nankivell      07775 716714

### **Harrietsham History Society**

Chairman      Mr M Avis      chairmanhhs@gmail.com

### **Harrietsham in Bloom**

Chairman      Mr A Rogers      01622 859352

### **Harrietsham Preschool**

Charlee Guy      Mrs Florence Sealy      07458 915213

### **Harrietsham Social Club**

Secretary      Jed Stone      07759 8771198/whipacres2@gmail.com



# Local Directory Ha-Z

## 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

### SAVE THE DATE

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# Len Valley Benefice March 2025



## Everybody is welcome

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you. *Isaiah 41:13*

### Sunday 2 March

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

### Wednesday 5 March

- 9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion Ashing Service
- 11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

### Sunday 9 March

- 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

### Sunday 16 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
- 11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

### Sunday 23 March

- 11.00am **Benefice Holy Communion at All Saints, Ulcombe**  
**'Re-Sourced in Christ – Prayer & Worship'**

### Sunday 30 March

- 11.00am **Benefice Taizé Service for Mothering Sunday**  
**at St Mary's, Lenham**

# BINGO

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**SATURDAY 15 MARCH**  
**DOORS OPEN 7PM**

**£8 PER PERSON**

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OF ST JOHN CHURCH**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STEVE 07483 271 220**





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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

## Soup Saturday

We will be continuing with Soup (tinned) Saturday this month on **Saturday 8 March 2025**. Usual time – 12 noon to 2pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits also available. Look out for the posters! 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-Eighth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club drawn on Saturday 11 January 2025 by various diners at the Soup Saturday lunch under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

- First Prize £70.50 – number 69 – Paul Wallace
- Second Prize £42.30 – number 87 – Judy Bacon
- Third Prize £28.20 – number 68 – Valerie & Stephen Brown

There were 141 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £141.

This month (March) we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lottery Draw during our lunch with special anniversary prizes. Please see the article (also in last month's Network). You will need to have a ticket to take part!! Please contact Chris Roots, details below.

## Events

Please make a note in your diaries – our AGM is fast approaching and will be held on **FRIDAY 28 MARCH, 7pm in the church**. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

We are planning another Bingo night on **SATURDAY 15 MARCH**, doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Please bring your own snacks and drinks.

Another note for your diaries for this new event – on **SATURDAY 21 JUNE** - we have the Kettle Bridge Concertina Band concert in the church. This will be a great evening of singalong music for all.

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

Please remember that Audrey is standing down as our Chair at our AGM this year and we are still hoping that someone will come forward to take up this role. Audrey has been an excellent Chair, leading us always and setting an example. We are also looking for new committee members, could this be you??

## 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 07766 555415  
[millie.hart@uwclub.net](mailto:millie.hart@uwclub.net)

**Readers:**

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442

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

**Benefice Office:**

Sarah Hills 01622 850604  
[churchOffice@lvb.org.uk](mailto: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.maidstonebaptist.net](http://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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:info@pathwayschurch.org.uk)

[www.pathwayschurch.org.uk](http://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



## Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM  
FILM CLUB

# The Miracle Club

**Friday 14 March**

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time 1hr 30 mins*

This is Maggie Smith in a comedy drama with a difference. *The Miracle Club* (12, 2023) set in 1960s Ireland has an all-star cast which includes Kathy Bates and Laura Linney. A group of friends win tickets for a pilgrimage to Lourdes at the raffle in their local club and all three are eagerly looking forward to the visit. They have different reasons for their enthusiasm but all are battling difficult situations in their lives. Just as they leave for France, however, they're surprised when a fourth person joins their group. The stage is set for the trip although it's very far from how they had each imagined it. After all, why aren't there as many miracles as they'd expected? But there are consolations... Spend a wonderful evening with us and share *The Miracle Club's* twists and turns, heart-breaking struggles and sheer exuberance.

Director: Thaddeus O'Sullivan

As well as showing a great film on March 14<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 2025 programme. There'll be more about our future films in the April issue of Focus.

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

**Admission:** Adults £5, under 16s £2; cash only, card payments not accepted.

[lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com](mailto:lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com)

[www.lenhamfilmclub.org](http://www.lenhamfilmclub.org)

@lenhamfilmclub

## Quiz Corner

Round 17

1. Chinese Brides traditionally wear what colour dress?
2. The port of Haifa is in which Country?
3. What line on a map connect all points of the same elevation?
4. The round stump on the front of a saddle is known as what?
5. What are the traditional periods of the Zodiac called?
6. In Greek mythology, who flew too close to the Sun?
7. Lacrimal fluid lubricates which part of the human body?
8. What berries give Gin its unique flavour?
9. Who was convicted of shooting Martin Luther King Jnr.?
10. What word is the opposite to Orient?

Answers on page 30



# March 2025 Diary

*Abbreviations:*

*HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre*

Mon	3	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	3	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	3	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Craft	HVH
Wed	5	2.30pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	6	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	7	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	8	12pm	Soup Saturday	St John
Mon	10	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	10	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Wed	12	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	13	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Thurs	13	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	14	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	14	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	17	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	17	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	17	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Craft	HVH
Tues	18	2.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	20	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	21	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	22	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Mon	24	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	24	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	27	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	28	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	31	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	31	2pm	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						

# Harrietsham Network

## HARRIETSHAM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

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Interested in lending a hand? Contact us today!

Email Steve on [adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org) or

Nicola on [editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org).

## Mobile Library Visits to Harrietsham

Harrietsham has a mobile library which visits fortnightly. It stocks a large range of fiction, local interest, large print, non-fiction and children's books and can assist on board with e-books and audio books. It is free to join and this can be done onboard; all Kent library cards are also valid. Reservations can be collected from the mobile library free of charge.

Harrietsham's visit is on a Wednesday from 1.40 – 2.10pm, outside the Post Office (ME17 1HX), and the forthcoming dates for 2025 are as follows:

8th January	22nd January	
5th February	19th February	
5th March	19th March	
2nd April	16th April	30th April
14th May	28th May	
11th June	25th June	
9th July	23rd July	
6th August	20th August	
3rd September	17th September	
1st October	15th October	29th October
12th November	26th November	
10th December		

For further information you can visit their website: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries>



The Friends of the Church  
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invite you to come along and bring your family to

# Soup Saturday

Enjoy a bowl of tasty tinned 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 8th March 2025**

**12 noon to 2pm**

**at St. John's Church, Harrietsham**

Proceeds go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.



## Lenham WI

Isn't it good to think we will soon be changing the clocks and the days will be longer again? We have been working hard booking speakers for the rest of this year. We have Scams with Neil Butcher, Behind the Scenes at the BBC with Peter Woodley – we will open this talk up to other WIs in the area – a demonstration of Tai Chi, Sloe Gin and Chocolate and Makeup for the Mature Woman, so quite a varied programme.

In February we had a very interesting talk from Kim White OBE on the Gypsy and Traveller Culture. Kim was presented with her OBE for her work over 30 years as a Kent Police Officer. She spent a lot of time working with the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Team learning a great deal about the gypsy culture.

This month we have Beauty, Duty and Trench Coats, a talk from Amanda-Jane Doran who has worked at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery as part of the Visitor's Service Team, developing resources for children based on the museum's Natural History Collection.

We are also looking forward to our Federation AGM which is to be held at Gravesend. This is always a good meeting as we get to meet representatives from all the other WIs in West Kent and manage to catch up with friends. We also vote for the Resolution that we have decided we want carried forward in June to the National AGM where the chosen resolution will be the next campaign to present to the Government. The speakers are Adam Frost from Gardener's World, DIY SOS and the Alan Titchmarsh Show and Janie Ramsay who has visited nearly 100 WIs in West Kent and will tell us why she became a member.

In April we look forward to welcoming Pamela Gillard who will tell us all about her work with Quilting and Patchwork. These skills have become increasingly popular over the past few years and she will bring with her some items to show us that she has produced.

At the end of the month it is Keep Britain Tidy: the Great British Spring Clean. We will all be out there with our black sacks picking up litter and tidying our villages. It is such a shame that we need to do this. It is much better to put your litter either into a bin or to take it home with you.

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](mailto:rgodden@btinternet.com)

## Christian Message

### Strengthen the rubbery knees!

Did you ever have one of those toys which were a wooden animal on top of a base with a push plunger in it? When you push the plunger, the strings would go slack and the animal would wiggle around and collapse! They're so simple but so fun! It's less fun on the occasions when our own lives feel like that! We all face times when our own knees are suddenly feeling a lot less rigid!

There is a passage in the Bible, in Isaiah 35:3-4, which gives an amazing encouragement to those who may feel in that situation. In a paraphrase of the Bible called 'The Message', we read the following:

Energize the limp hands,  
strengthen the rubbery knees.  
Tell fearful souls,  
"Courage! Take heart!  
God is here, right here,  
on his way to put things right  
And redress all wrongs.  
He's on his way! He'll save you!"

Verses like this are so impactful because they are outworked with two different emphases. In this passage is both an uplifting promise for the way God desires to care for us and also a picture of who He wants us to be for others.

The verses speak so intimately of a God who is not distant or aloof. He is not a hard taskmaster wagging his finger at our failings. Instead, He is "here, right here, on his way to put things right and redress all wrongs". How awesome it is to know that the divine creator of the universe desires to be involved in the challenges of our day to day lives! We can put our hope in Him. He is a God of justice and restoration!

As well as being on the receiving end, we get to be the one who brings this good news and aids in the strengthening of others! Jesus demonstrated the 'strengthening of rubbery knees' in extraordinary ways and we follow his example. When we consider those with whom we share our life; our family, our close friends, our colleagues, I'm sure that we can all think of those whose hands are feeling weak at this time. We get to bring the message of "Courage! Take heart!" God is here and He wants to put things right.

<b>Quiz Corner</b>	
<b>Answers</b>	
Round 17	
1. Red	6. Icarus
2. Israel	7. Eyes
3. Contour line	8. Juniper
4. Pommel	9. James Ear Ray
5. Cusps	10. Occident



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