



October 2023

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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>	
Chairman	Vacant
Treasurer	Michael Gear <i>Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ</i> <i>Email michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk</i>
<i>Telephone 859410</i>	
Secretary	Nicola File

Network Magazine

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Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine November 2023 deadlines:-

Sunday 1 October 2023 12 noon advertising deadline for November Network

Sunday 1 October 2023 12 noon copy deadline for November 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.

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Message From the Editor

As I am writing this it is currently 32 degrees at the beginning of September, and I hope everyone has managed to keep cool during the heatwave.

As the Community Warden Consultation closes at the beginning of the month this is your last chance to feed in via www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview if you are able to. There is more information in Parish Council News.

Ploughman's Platterday has made a comeback and you can find more information on page 14.

Finally from me, a huge thank you to Mike, the newly retired Station Master for all his hard work over the years. Have a look at page 32 for more.

Cover Photo by Marta Wave: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/autumn-leaves-on-thin-twigs-of-branch-5875939/>

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.

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Harrietsham Gardening Society



At the time of writing we have two social events coming up. The first at the end of August is a visit with afternoon tea to Dobbies Garden Centre in Ashford. The second a lunch at the Wagon and Horses pub near Charing in September. Both are looking to be well supported.

Although we are experiencing rather changeable weather this summer, hopefully the members' Autumn show in September will also be well attended with plenty of lovely exhibits.

Our speaker for the 17 October meeting will be Katherine Hook with a presentation, which sounds very interesting entitled, 'Sloe Seduction'.

Would members please note that we are returning to afternoons for our winter meetings, that is from November to January inclusive.

Chris Bone

Harrietsham in Bloom



This is the time of year to change the planters ready for winter/spring displays.

The flowers have given a good show during the summer, including the Coronation beds on the village green.

Harrietsham Convenience Store collection tin yielded £45.89 and our thanks goes to everyone who contributed. We are very grateful for your donations.

We are still desperate for volunteers to join us as we are very few to carry out many tasks. Please consider joining us. Our chairman Andrew Rogers, on 01622 859352, will be pleased to give details of tasks involved.

Our AGM will be held in the village hall on Friday 13 October at 7.30pm. Please come and support us.

Any other enquiries to Andrew Rogers (Chair) – 859352

Thank you

Audrey Joy MBE

Harrietsham History Society



Our next meeting in October will be our workshop afternoon at Percival's Rest on Monday 9 October - 4pm—6pm. Georgio has very kindly offered the restaurant area free of charge and will be providing free tea or coffee while we work, the bar will also be open if anyone would like to buy any other drink. We still have half a dozen boxes full of items to be sorted out relating to the history of the village, I hope you will be able to come and help us with this.

In November we will be returning to the village hall for our final meeting of the year, the date is on our website and will be in the November Network magazine, together with some information on our September meeting which was held after the deadline date for this issue.

If you would like to find out more about the history of the village or joining the society why not come along to Percival's Rest on the 9 October or email me on info@harrietshamhistorysociety.org or our chairman Martyn at chairmanhhs@gmail.com

Peter Brown

Harrietsham Ladies Group

We welcomed seventeen ladies to our September meeting. One of our committee members, Sue Thistlethwaite, gave us a very interesting talk and showed us many beautiful photos taken over the years, whilst being a member of the Maidstone Camera Club. Although now Sue will take photos using her mobile phone, all the pictures shown were taken with various cameras and developed and printed in her own little dark room. She is always on the lookout for interesting and unusual objects that most of us wouldn't even notice and will either stand up high or bend low to achieve an interesting picture.

Sue Spiel is going to give us a 'selection of her monologues' at our October meeting. She has visited us before and we have always had an enjoyable evening listening to some of her talks. Any ladies in the village are most welcome to come along as a visitor.

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
01622 850735

Parish Council News

KCC Community Warden Consultation

Kent County Council (KCC) is currently consulting on significant changes to the Community Warden Service in Kent, which the Parish Council believes could substantially affect the support which residents are used to receiving in Harrietsham currently. If the proposals are approved, the service will follow a Geographical Allocation Policy, moving Wardens to the areas with the greatest need. Across the whole of the County, the proposal includes plans to reduce the currently employed 54 Wardens to 32, which will result in the remaining Wardens covering a much larger area than they do now. The services offered currently by each Warden are likely to be reduced quite dramatically.

This consultation closes on the 3 October and we would ask that as many residents as possible complete the questionnaire that has been produced by KCC.

The form can be completed in two ways:

On-line: www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview (or Google: KCC Community Warden review)

Paper form: Please contact the Parish Clerk, any Parish Councillor or our Community Warden, Martin Sherwood, who will be able to give you a paper copy to complete.

If completing the paper form questionnaire, please do not send this back to KCC through the post. Your completed form can be dropped through the Parish Office door, given to any Parish Councillor or returned directly to Martin, who will arrange for them to be hand delivered on your behalf.

Martin is a valuable asset to the village and we need to try to do everything we can to protect this service for residents.

Rural Hedge Cutting

The Parish Council will be arranging the hedge cutting service again this year and it is hoped that this will commence at the beginning of November. If you wish to have your name added to the list, please contact the Clerk. **Please note that you will still need to add your name to the list, even if you have used the service in the past.**

Please note that the email address for the Parish Council changed earlier this year, so please send your emails to:

clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Amanda Broadhurst - Parish Clerk

4 Southfields Way
Harrietsham
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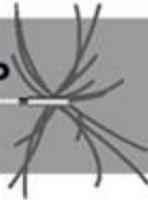
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Kent Community Warden Service Review

Public Consultation



Have your say!

The financial challenges KCC face, mean we are having to consider savings across a whole range of services. Our wardens work with communities and partners in lots of different ways - from supporting scam victims, helping communities affected by flooding, reducing social isolation and loneliness and helping residents to navigate care and support services.

To make savings we are proposing to:

- Redesign the service, ensuring there is a core Community Warden presence across the county, with teams covering two districts.
- Retain the remit and community-based way the service currently works but cover fewer communities.
- Use data and information to identify where to place wardens for most impact.

Find out more and tell us your views at kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview

Consultation open from 12 July to 3 October 2023.

For queries or to request hard copies of the consultation material, please email CommunityWardenReview@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 422688. For any alternative formats, email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). These numbers go to answering machines, which are monitored during office hours.



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

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

We are at either: Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com
or to:
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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..

Harrietsham Ladies Group Friday Coffee Morning

This weekly event has welcomed new friends since it has been included in the magazine's calendar (thank you 'Network') and we average 20 visitors each Friday who meet new and old friends for a chat over coffee.

We are so grateful to Martin and Tim who help by setting up tables and chairs but we could do with a little extra help with serving and washing up. Is there anyone out there who could spare 2 hours on a Friday morning - not every week - once every 4 or 5 weeks and would be willing to join our rota.?

If so please ring me on 01622 858968.

Mary Nourse



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Borough Council Corner

Community warden consultation

We know this has been mentioned previously by ourselves and others and within this month's magazine... please don't forget to show your support to our vital warden Martin Sherwood by 3 October.

MBC Local Plan Review

The local plan is still ongoing and the inspector is viewing additional information regarding the plans for wetlands at Heathlands and the impact on the water courses, following a submission from Fish Legal and an expert hydrologist report. We await his determinations.

New Ward Boundary

The ward boundary revision comes into force at the May 2024 election. The new ward will cover Harrietsham, Lenham Hollingbourne as well as the areas along the North Downs including Wormshill, Frinsted, Wichling, Bicknor, Otterden, Hucking, and will be represented by 3 Borough Councillor members.

Janetta & Tom Sams

Independent Borough Councillors Harrietsham & Lenham Ward
Green Independent Alliance
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Countryways Quilters and Stitchers

In September there was a bit of a learning curve with the fabric painting we were doing so a bit more time was needed to complete our designs. That means October will find us making up our zippered pouches on the 3rd of the month. We will be back in the Lenham Community Centre so can set up our sewing machines.

On the 17th we will start work on our Christmas project. The technique is raw edge applique without fusing. This is worked in free motion machine stitching. Very free style quilting. We'll be choosing a project, the designs and the fabrics, then we have two more meetings to get it finished. So depending how brave you feel you'll choose from a Christmas stocking, a round table mat or a Christmas tree skirt.

Come learn more about our stitching group and spend some quiet time stitching. Learn new skills and share old ones. We have our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month except December and would love to see you. In October we meet on the 3rd and 17th. 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 programme when it's ready please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 01233 877453 or email moonbeamspinner@gmail.com

Pamela Gillard

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

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Conservative Association

Faversham Office 01622 758053

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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

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Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 01622 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Andrea French 07901 667018

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

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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

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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

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Len Valley Benefice October 2023



Everybody is welcome

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

Gal 3:26 (NRSV)

Sunday 1 October

- 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 4 October

- 9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 8 October

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

Sunday 15 October

- 8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
- 9.30am Harrietsham: Harvest Holy Communion
- 9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
- 11.00am Lenham: Harvest Morning Worship
- 11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 22 October

- 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's, Lenham
'Identity: "We are people of reconciliation"'

Sunday 29 October

- 11.00am Benefice Rose Service at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham
A service of thanksgiving to remember the lives of loved ones who have died



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ME16 8SF



SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2023
9.00 AM to 3.00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 07793 817226

For more information about our bike drop off locations and the charity please visit www.re-cycle.org or call us on 01206 617865



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Ploughman's Platterday

Ploughman's Platterday will re- commence this month on Saturday, 14 October – 12 noon to 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a cheese/pate Ploughman's lunch.

100 Club Draw Results

Below are the results of the Eighty-second Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 9 September 2023 by Denise Williams under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator). As there was no Ploughman's Lunch in the church the draw took place at Little Hatch, Harrietsham.

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

- First prize £82.50 - number 31 – Robert Rusbridge
- Second prize £49.50 – number 40 – Pamela Flawn
- Third prize £33.00 – number 95 – Pauline Harris

For information about how to join this club please contact Chris Roots 01622 851885 or email friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com

Vacancy for Secretary

A vacancy has arisen for Secretary of the Friends of St John Committee due to the resignation of the present secretary. If anyone is interested in this voluntary position, please contact Audrey Joy (Chair) on 01622 850806.

Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Vicar: Revd. John Huggins
01622 850280 vicar@lvb.org.uk
(Day off: Wednesday)

Assisting priests:

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

Readers:

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442
pamela@lvb.org.uk

Benefice Office:

Sarah Hills 01622 850604 ChurchOffice@lvb.org.uk

For details of services see p.23

United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

Minister: Rev Andrew Royal
Sunday Service at 10.30am with creche. No evening service.
01622 686053

maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net

Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone

Minister: Bill Miller
Office: 01622 686013
Sunday Services at 10.30am with creche, and at 6.30pm
www.maidatonebaptist.net

Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

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

Church of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Lane, off East Street,
Harrietsham

Parish Priest: Fr Geoffrey Pointer
Deacon: Rev Cyril Durbin 736100
Mass every Sunday at 8.45am and
Wednesday at 10.00am
Holydays Mass 7pm

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Button Lane, Bearsted 736100
Confessions, Saturday 5 – 5.30pm
Saturday Evening Mass 6pm
Sunday Mass 10.30am
Weekday Mass generally
Monday and Tuesday 7pm and Friday
10am
Holydays Mass 10am and 8pm

Pathways Church, Maidstone

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at
10.30am in Lenham Community Centre.
Wednesday evenings in homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

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

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

Public Services and Emergencies Directory

Doctors' Surgery (Lenham and Harrietsham)	01622 858341
Dentist, Lenham	01622 858204
Dentaline (out of hours emergency treatment)	01634 890300
Saxon Warrior Pharmacy	01622 858287

Hospitals:

Maidstone ME16 9QQ	01622 729000
The Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury, TN2 4QJ	01892 823535
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	01233 633331

Councils:

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

Police:

Emergencies only	999
Non emergencies	101

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



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Len Valley Benefice
Rose Service

Sunday 29th October at 11am
St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham

'I have loved you with an everlasting love'
Jeremiah 31:3

***A service of thanksgiving to remember
the lives of loved ones who have died***

You are invited to bring a rose in memory of someone special,
or collect one from us as you arrive at the church.
Further details from Revd. Millie Hart 07766 555415

Update from Len Valley Practice

In line with NHSE guidance, Len Valley Practice will be supporting this year's Flu and Covid vaccination campaign. This is due to start Friday 22 September. The vaccinations will be co-administered as set out in the guidance. Patients residing in care homes and those Housebound will be prioritised by our PCN team.

Len Valley Practice intends to run clinics from 22 September both at Harrietsham and Len Valley and will include weekends to get as many patients vaccinated as quickly as possible.

The practice will advertise the clinics and will be sending out direct booking links (only valid for 7 days) to all those we hold mobile phone numbers for, in addition to telephone contact with the help of the PPG.

We would like to remind patients of the issues with parking in recent years and encourage as many attending the clinics to walk where possible.

Below is a summary of our own survey results together with some figures from the NHS 2023 Survey carried out in August 23. For the full results, go to www.gp-patient.co.uk/practices-search

Extract from NHS 2023 Survey (LVP figures based on 128 completed questionnaires)	LVP	National
Find it easy to get through to surgery by phone	12%	50%
Find receptionists helpful	77%	82%
Satisfied with appointments availability	38%	53%
Get to see or speak with preferred GP	35%	35%
Offered a choice of appointment	31%	59%
Describe experience of making appointment as good	27%	54%
Overall experience described as good	53%	71%

This survey was not carried out to criticise the practice which has been under enormous pressures & change because of Covid & funding issues. We know our doctors and support staff are doing a demanding job in challenging conditions. We feel it's important that the views of patients are gathered so that the practice can understand patient concerns and difficulties with accessing healthcare.

Terry New - chair of PPG

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October 2023 Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Mon	2	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	2	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	2	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Wed	4	7.30 pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	
Thurs	5	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	6	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	9	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	9	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	9	4pm	Harrietsham History Society	Percival's
Wed	11	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	12	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	12	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	13	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	13	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	16	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	16	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	16	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Thurs	19	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	20	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	23	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	23	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	26	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	27	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	28	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Mon	30	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	30	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH

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

Harrietsham Network

Happy Retirement, Mike

Friday 8 September 2023 was Mike Cuerden's last morning at the railway station as Station Master before retiring.

A huge thank you, Mike, from everyone in the village who has seen you at the station providing helpful and friendly service no matter how early it was!

Mike would like to thank all his lovely customers who have bought tickets, come and stopped for a chat or supported the Kent Air Ambulance by buying second hand books, over nearly 20 years.

We hope you enjoy your slightly later starts in the mornings, but we know you will be keeping busy with your other commitments including being a self employed computer consultant, Responsible Finance Officer and Amenity Manager for the Parish Council.

We hope you have a very happy retirement from the station.



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SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

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Harrietsham Network

J.P.K. Sussex Project

Following on from my article last month, I include here a couple of photos. One of Jill with The Lord Lieutenant and the other of our dear Katie serving canapes. I can report that Katie has successfully transitioned to her new home at the Project. Her Mum and Dad are finding it rather more difficult!

However, never one to sit back and be satisfied, Jill has been fundraising to transform a large area of concrete into a small garden which will be tended and enjoyed by residents and day-care students.

I am told that this is Jill's last venture, but I wouldn't bank on it!!

Perhaps we can help?

Jackie Bevan



Use the Bible as your Sat Nav

"Use the Bible as your Sat Nav". These were the words given to a young TV presenter by her mother, which she used to good effect in the aftermath of controversy surrounding a particular TV show. They were clearly followed by the young lady when she said, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone". These were the words of Jesus to a crowd which had gathered to punish a woman caught in adultery. Everyone slunk away!

As Christians we are told not to judge other people for their lifestyle or deeds. That function belongs to God Himself. I think that the lady presenter used the advice given very effectively. However, I do have some reservations about Sat NAV. When it appeared as an aid in my car many years ago, I thought I would try out on a route which I knew quite well. For the first part of my journey, it appeared to work fine, until I was instructed to turn off the motorway at the next junction. I thought "Okay, perhaps there is a better route". I duly turned off the junction, down the slip road, and was then told to go up the next slip road and back onto the same motorway!

More recently, as I have used the system, I am frequently told to turn right when I know perfectly well that I should go left, so I ignore her! It is, perhaps - to me anyway - not perfect!

Using the Bible as a guide for life is the best option. The story is told of a little girl who informed her father that she knew what the Bible stood for. He asked her, somewhat sceptically, to explain. She told him that it stood for - Believer's Instructions Before Leaving Earth! That in fact is what it is! Psalm 119v 105 says, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*". When I was young, I read in Proverbs ch 3 vv 5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight*".

As a committed Christian for 63 years, I have found this to be the best way to steer through life, with all its ups and downs, and so I recommend it, whole heartedly, to you too.

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

Harrietsham Network



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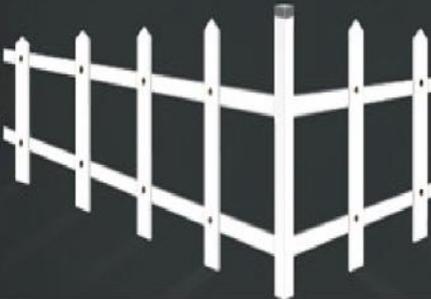
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Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM
FILM CLUB

Allelujah

Friday 13 October

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 39 mins

We're thrilled to kick off our new Autumn & Winter programme with **Allelujah** (12, 2022), a warm and humorous drama that we're excited to see. How could you miss a film that includes Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi and Jennifer Saunders in its cast and is based on a play by Alan Bennett? An old people's ward in a small hospital in Yorkshire is threatened with closure due to NHS cuts. Its patients however have no intention of taking this lying down however bedridden they are. They leap to their own defence by inviting a local news crew to film their efforts to fight back with preparations for a concert. That sounds straightforward – what could go wrong? Well, you'll be coming along to find out, won't you?

Directed by Richard Eyre.

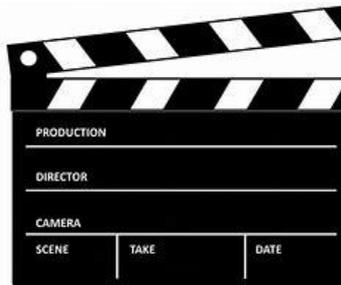
There's more leaping about in our performance on Friday 10 November, but of an entirely different nature. Yes, it's Harrison Ford back with us in the blockbuster **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny**. Set in 1969, he is out once again to save the world, on this occasion from a former Nazi at NASA.

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).

lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com

www.lenhamfilmclub.org

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Christian Message

Do not despair

When a calamity happens in life, we tend to try to just deal with it. It might make us tired, irritable and anxious, but we try to focus, prioritise and move on. Depending on the size of the problem, we may deal with our feelings by discussion with family or friends, or may tell no-one for fear of judgement or reprisal.

When a couple of calamities happen, we have to balance both, a bit more of a challenge and a bit more to deal with in terms of emotions. In short, we are stretched and it is harder to share our thoughts about both things adequately with those we know and love.

When several calamities happen at once we can feel completely overwhelmed, not knowing how to juggle so many balls in the air or where our priorities lie. Trying to explain all this to others can feel like yet another hurdle to jump over. It is the culmination of multiple problems that can lead to depression and despair.

In 1 Kings 19 we can read that Elijah was despairing and in fear of his life. After running away, he stopped, exhausted, ready to give up. In Genesis 39 we can read how Joseph was imprisoned for something he hadn't done and had a bleak future to look forward to. In both cases, however, God sent help, enabling them to find the strength to carry on and achieve more.

There are no quick fixes when life gets tough. We might need to turn to a helpline to talk through our concerns, seek advice from a doctor or engage with a professional councillor or advisor. Like those in the Bible, we also have the option to pray and ask God to guide us through our darkest hours.

My experience is this that God really does answer prayer and, not only addresses our immediate concerns, but sometimes paves the way to something better that we hadn't thought of. Blessings can come out of adversity. We need to be prepared to be patient, prepared for change, and prepared for prayers to be answered in a way other than the one we are expecting or want. God is listening, caring, and has a plan for us all.

Philippians 4, verse 6 says:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

In 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, we read:

'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.'

Sometimes, when things seem bleak, it is hard to pray for ourselves. If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, please do fill in a prayer card in one of our benefice Churches, or why not come along to a Church service and talk to someone afterwards. We would love to see or hear from you.



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