

December 2022

Network

Harrietsham's

Village Magazine





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Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

Lift Organisers	Andrew & Felicity Rogers <i>Ridgedown, Marley Road, Harrietsham ME17 1AU</i> <i>Email andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com</i>
Telephone 859352	
Chairman	Peter Brown <i>Bassetts, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1JR</i> <i>Email peter.78brown@btinternet.com</i>
Telephone 851075	
Treasurer	Michael Gear <i>Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ</i> <i>Email michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Telephone 859410	

Network Magazine

Editor	Nicola File <i>Email editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org</i>
Editorial Team	Amanda Ward, Denise Williams and Rod Martenstyn <i>Email editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org</i>
Advertising Manager	Steve Brown <i>Email adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org</i>
Distribution Manager	Jackie Bevan <i>Faygate, Ashford Road, Lenham ME17 2DA</i>
Telephone 859310	

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

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Thursday 1 December 2022 12 noon copy deadline for January Network

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Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

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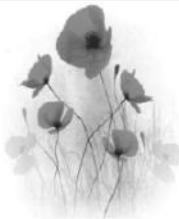
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Village Diary

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

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Message From the Editor

December is here and I hope everyone is getting ready for a very special Christmas time.

Make sure you read page 12 to find out when Santa will be visiting Harrietsham (ahead of Christmas Day of course!) as well as page 29 as Christmas Cards are still available from the Friends of St John.

There is even a Christmas themed quiz on page 31. Good luck!

I and everyone of the Network Committee wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Happy reading!

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 C of E Primary School Christmas Front Cover Competition

Front Cover: This month we have an extra special front cover thanks to the very talented students at Harrietsham C of E Primary School who were the winners of the Christmas competition to have their work featured on the front cover of this months magazine. The winners are:

Alicia	Lois
Coco	Jack
Dulcie	Rosie
Erin	Woody
Hollie	

Congratulations to the winners, and well done to everyone who took part. Thanks to Mrs Waller-Davies and Jo Greasley for making it happen.

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club



The 10 October saw us holding our AGM, attending were 17 of our 29 members with 3 apologies for absence. The Officers and Committee were reselected as there were no nominations to replace them. A short roll up took place after the meeting had closed.

Thursday 13 October brought Burham SMBC to Harrietsham for a friendly match, a club we have met several times in the past, so it was good to be reacquainted with old friends. As is usual with Burham the competition was strong and by our half time refreshment break we were well behind, 12 shots to be exact. However, the second half of the evening saw a strong rally by Harrietsham and by the end of the match we had earned a respectable draw, 44 shots each. We had all enjoyed a good evening of bowls and have a return match at Burham on November 13.

On Saturday 15 October 6 of our members took part in a triples competition at Hawkinge. This is an opportunity to play against invited clubs from Lyminge to Canvey Island, so you find you are matched against very good clubs. Both our teams did well to get through the first round but lost in the next round. Still, a good day bowling, certainly an experience and a lesson in how good you might be with more practice.

I, and the Committee, hope you all have a very Merry Christmas

Happy Bowling

Phil Gooda - Chairman/Secretary

Harrietsham in Bloom



Our AGM was held in October and our thanks to everyone who attended. The planters have been cleared and replanted with bulbs and polyanthus. Some of last year's bulbs are planted in verges, so please be careful where you walk when these start to appear in the New Year. Thanks to all the volunteers who completed these tasks.

We are grateful to Mrs Glenda Dean who recently made a generous donation to our funds and to everyone who sponsors us and the many people who donate via the collection boxes at the BP fuel garage, Harrietsham Convenience store, Salon 62 and the post office. Since last being emptied the boxes yielded £126.12p in October. Thank you everyone for your generosity and support.

Displays this year have been particularly stunning despite the drought conditions. It has been hard work for our small band of volunteers, extra help would be very welcome. Please contact our chairman for further details if you can offer any spare time to join us.

Season's Greetings to everyone and wishing you all a safe and healthy New Year.

Any enquiries to Andrew Rogers (chair) 01622 859362.

Audrey Joy

Harrietsham History Society



In the past we have been asked on a number of occasions as to why the Church and the older parts of the village were not closer together. It has been suggested that the original village was in fact sited much closer to the Church but that it was razed and rebuilt in its present position following the Black Death in the late 1340's.

The plague was carried and spread by black rats causing dark skin pustules, it attacked everyone, rich and poor, even the young and healthy. In many places whole villages were completely wiped out and the population of England was reduced from 4½ million to 3 million in just a few months. This appears even worse than what we have just experienced with the Covid Pandemic, and we must all be thankful for modern treatments which have helped to save so many lives.

We are currently sorting out meeting dates for the new year and hope to have information on this in the January Network and on our website at www.harrietshamhistorysociety.org at the end of December.

Peter Brown

Harrietsham Gardening Society



At our last meeting 18 Oct 17 members were in attendance. We were entertained by our speaker Derek March who gave us a talk about the history and purposes of a walled garden. Walled gardens date back many hundreds of years even to Roman times. Because of their nature they were very much the prerogative of the well off and landed gentry and also probably many of the large monasteries. The purpose was to create a climate where vegetables and fruit could be protected, to some extent, from the elements so that the seasonal produce could be provided over a longer period. Some of the gardens also were able to grow some exotic things like pineapples and citrus fruits.

Many such gardens have disappeared over the years or fallen into dis-repair A lot went during the first world war when many of the workers went off to war and owners could not keep them up afterwards. In recent times some have been restored thanks to the National Trust and other bodies.

Our next meeting will be 13 Dec which will be our Xmas social event. Deanna Dynes will be demonstrating how to make a seasonal table display after which members will be challenged to do the same. We shall also be having a kind of Secret Santa. Members are asked to bring along a wrapped gift for another member but this gift will not have to have cost more than £1 so it should be interesting and surprising.

David Oversby

Harrietsham Poppy Project



The village green poppy display was assembled on Saturday 5 November and was very well received.
Thank you to:

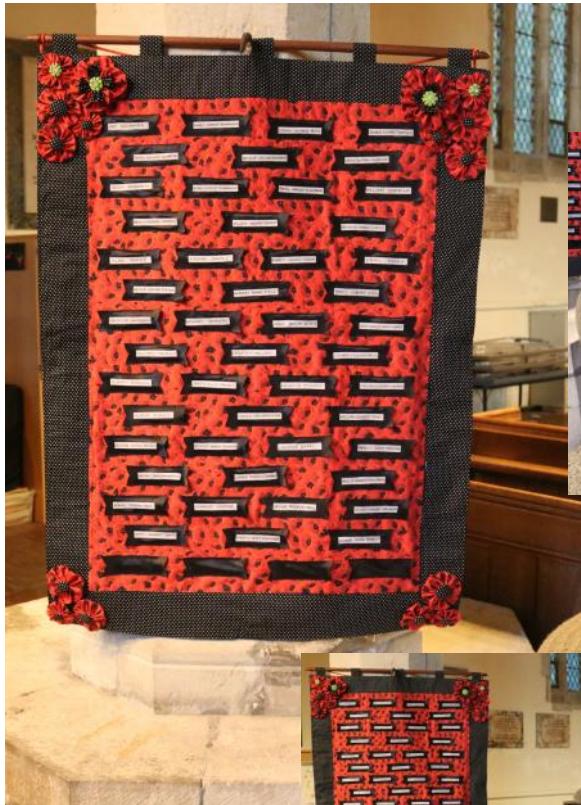
- everyone who helped in any way from Harrietsham Craft groups who did a huge amount of work towards all aspects of the displays both on the village green and in the church
- those who knitted and crocheted poppies
- those who made cakes for the Poppython
- everyone who came along to the Poppython to help make poppies
- the anonymous donor of £100 towards the displays and the further donation from a villager of £10 on the day of the assembly
- the Brownies for their wonderful bottle poppies
- the school children and staff for their fabulous contributions
- the Parish Council for purchasing the Tommy to go in the 'poppy field'
- Jill Bishop for donating her bottle poppies
- the Harrietsham History Society for providing the names of the fallen in the two great wars for the church remembrance wall hanging
- those who helped make the cascade
- Audrey who kept us going with tea, coffee and biscuits whilst working and
- those who helped with the assembly of the displays on the day in terrible weather.



Thank you all. It wouldn't have been possible without your amazing community spirit and enthusiasm!

Hazel Roots - Harrietsham Craft Groups





Harrietsham Network

Parish Council News

Santa's Grotto is back!

Santa is coming to Harrietsham again on Sunday 18 December 2022 and this time he is bringing Naughty Elf with him, so look out!

If you would like to visit Santa, please contact Tim Griffiths via email: tghpc@mail.com. He is also contactable on the following number via text: 07793240529

Slots will be given in half hour sessions from 10 am until about 4pm, to reduce the number of people in one area at a time. There is only a limited number of spaces in each half hour session, so please accept our apologies if you do not get your exact time request.

Make sure you bring some cash with you, as there will also be a couple of stall holders on the day. Tea and coffee refreshments will also be on sale and any donations will be gratefully received.

This event is free entry (with no fee to visit Santa) and toddlers/primary school aged children will receive a chocolate selection box. If you would like to give Santa or Naughty Elf a present to give your child, then please make sure you let the organisers know on the day.

This event is run by the Parish Council and we would like to thank everyone involved who will make this event enjoyable and safe.

Youth Group for Harrietsham & Lenham

Kent County Council is hoping to start up a youth group for teenagers living in Harrietsham and Lenham. The organiser is looking for volunteers to help run the group:

My name is Rob, I'm a Senior Youth Worker with the Early Help Service from Kent County Council, based in Maidstone. I am keen to provide support to the young people and families in Lenham/Harrietsham, so I'm looking for enthusiastic parents or members of the Lenham/Harrietsham community to support the delivery of a youth group. No experience or qualifications are required, as before you start with us, I will be providing training to support whatever knowledge you already have. The aim of the group is to provide a place where young people aged 11 to 19 can come for advice or guidance, and to just have some fun. I would like it to be a safe place for young people, a place where we can up-skill them and provide opportunities they might not have ordinarily had access to.

If you would like to submit a volunteering application, please use this link:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering/children-and-young-people-volunteering/volunteer-in-childrens-centres-and-youth-hubs>

If you are interested or you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on – 07825633794, or send me an email at Robert.Yorke@kent.gov.uk.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Harrietsham a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Borough Council Corner

We hope that residents can enjoy time with friends and family over the festive season.

Many have not been able to spend Christmas in the way they would have liked for the last few years, and we hope that this one can be very special

At the recent full council, we put a motion regarding the boundary commission. We asked that Lenham should not be split, that taking out war graves cemetery and the historic cross was disgraceful. We spoke against the removal of many residents south of the A20 from the Lenham ward. We made the point about the lines being drawn in a political way and how ridiculous it seemed to move all residents of the Harrietsham Pilgrims Retreat Park home site into the North Downs ward rather than a Harrietsham & Lenham Ward. Additionally, and ironically our house being taken out of a Harrietsham & Lenham ward.

We were pleased that many Councillors spoke in favour and that 19 councillors voted with us with the ruling party voting en bloc giving 22 against. This MBC suggestion was sent to the Boundary commission.

Both of us spoke on the Local Plan review against the Heathlands and Lidsing proposals and were very surprised that neither of the Councillors representing residents at Lidsing spoke. The fact that the inspector had suspended the hearing because of new evidence from MBC only becoming available in the first few days of the hearing was spun as a good thing! We along with the Parish Councillors have been looking at all the documents and making our comments to the inspectors' consultation.

We have been working on identifying and registering highway issues with Kent County Council. More than 40 were found over two days and these were also reported to the Parish Clerks, these included pot holes, blocked drains, poor surfaces, white lines and damaged/missing signs,

We know that residents will continue the great community spirit in our villages and look out for those who may need a helping hand with the cost-of-living crisis. Hopefully, villagers can get together to support each other in the homes and at local events

Janetta & Tom Sams

Independent Borough Councillors for Harrietsham & Lenham Ward

01622 859412 07891901831

tomsamscllr7@gmail.com

The Len Valley Active Retirement Association

Over the summer we have seen our membership increase and have continued to organise lots of events and activities. We made the most of the glorious weather with a picnic for everyone at Yalding. This was a popular event with lots of members turning up and taking part in silly games like Throwing the Frisbee, Boules and what was supposed to be "Walking Rounders". I don't think some of them knew what "Walking Rounders" meant as they were all running, yes running. Some players could hit the ball really hard and others had to run after it to retrieve it - what a sight, when you saw some of our most senior members actually running and laughing all the way it brought tears to your eyes with laughter just watching them.

In June we joined everyone else in celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. We held a tea party in the Community Centre for over 100 of our members. Lots of people dressed up in red, white and blue which added to the fun. The hall was decorated with flags, bunting and some life sized card board cut-outs of Her Majesty and her corgis.



Our speaker in July was a representative from The Red Cross who told us all about the work that they do across the world. Later in the year we arranged for a collection of mobility assistance equipment that we have sitting at home and can't get rid of. After they have serviced and sanitised everything they either hire it out or sell it to people who need extra help which helps to raise funds for them.

Once again we arranged for a Mystery Tour and on a hot day in August a coach took us all round the countryside from Dymchurch to Dover eventually ending up in Deal where, after a fish and chip lunch, we had a lovely afternoon playing crazy golf and eating ice cream. We also held a Fun and Games Day at our meeting in August which is always popular.

In September, Bob Ogley came to speak to us about the RAF at Biggin Hill during the war. This talk was really interesting, he is a very good speaker. A lot of our members enjoyed a day out at Camden Market in London.

We have continued with our weekly activities in the Community Centre – Short Mat Bowls, Zumba, Line Dancing and Petanque and our Pub Lunches are still well attended. Kentara, our umbrella organisation have offered a number of events and holidays including a cruise to the Norwegian Fjords, a Tea Dance at Ditton Community Centre and a Christmas Concert with the Military Wives Choir.

We will close the year with our usual Christmas Afternoon Tea that is organised by the Committee every year with food and entertainment and a Christmas lunch at the Great Danes Hotel in Hollingbourne.

Lenara has a regular monthly meeting in the afternoon on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Lenham Community Centre. If you would like further information about Lenara please contact me on 01622 858658 or email rgodden@btinternet.com

Chris Godden - Membership Secretary



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LenARA Goes Back to School

In answer to a cry for help, brought to our attention by our Vice Chairman Mike Compson, Lenham Primary School appealed for older members of the community to recount stories of what childhood was like when they were the same age as year one pupils. It certainly could be regarded that we at LenARA qualified to assist in this exercise, there was only one drawback to overcome, could we remember as far back as being five or six years old. Despite this challenge several of our members were keen to take part and tell their tales of times gone by. The day of the school visit arrived but our numbers were cut down by previous commitments, holidays and contact with the dreaded Covid. This brought our numbers down to a brave but "what have I let myself in for" quartet of John Edwards, David Humphreys, Frank Bradshaw and myself, Phil Gooda.



John and I arrived at the school on time to find Frank, who I did not know was coming until the last minute, was already there. David was not there, had he forgotten? He was our star turn, for the rest of us only had pictures and stories, he had actual toys and school paraphernalia. We need not have worried he came through the entrance just as we were being introduced to three year one pupils by their teaching assistant. After a little shyness they told us their names and guided us to the classroom where their teacher Carrie-Anne Horlock and the rest of the children waited for us. We were greeted politely by the children who were sitting on the floor in a big semicircle looking very smart in their school uniforms.

Four chairs were placed in front of the class for us to sit on, I said hello to the class and introduced our members. David, who had gone to school in Barming. John, who had gone to school in London. I, who had gone to school in Newcastle. Frank, who more excitingly, had gone to school in South Africa. We each told a little story of what we could remember of our early school days. David remembered he did not have paper or books to write in but had a slate and chalk instead. John recalled there being a big wood burner in his classroom with a huge guard around it. I remembered a nurse coming around the class named "Nitty Nora" who had a very fine-toothed comb looking for "Nit's" in your hair. Frank said his school had a very high fence around it to keep the wild animals out.

We found the children to be very attentive and interested in what we had to say. Politely raising their hands if they had a question to ask or had little stories to tell that their own parents had told them about their younger days. It was interesting to see that some of the children were a little shy about asking anything, but the majority were more vocal occasionally forgetting to raise their hands if they had something to say. Occasionally starting to ask something but stopping and saying, "I forgot what it was". If the children did get a little excited their teacher, Carrie, clapped her hands the children joined in for a few beats and as if by magic that was the signal for everything to be restored to silence. We even sat to attention in our chairs.

I had taken my laptop and was able to show how our milk, bread and coal were delivered by horse and cart years ago. There were pictures of the toys we could get when we were their age and a short video of the street games that children got up to. We then had a short break at which point we were served orange squash and biscuits by enthusiastic and willing volunteers.

David then opened his little case he had used at school and produced several old di-cast toy lorries and cars; he was soon surrounded by the girls and boys wanting to know all about them. A tin plate trolley bus seemed to be of special interest as the children were told a spring inside was wound with a key to make it go along the ground.



John had shown pictures of his old school and children dressed in their school clothes of the time, no uniforms in sight. He had also shown a photo of an old tin bath hanging outside on his house wall. He was explaining to incredulous listeners how the bath was placed on two chairs filled with hot water and then shared with all his brothers and sisters one after the other. Outside toilets? Now that was something they found hard to believe.

I lost track of Frank a bit, because suddenly it was time for us to leave, I know he was showing pictures of his time in Africa, and his hat was being passed around by the children as he had explained all the children at his school had to wear one just like it. At one point I thought he was going to be caught out by one bright young boy who had asked him "How did they stop the elephants from knocking the tall fence down". Frank explained that a wire surrounded the fence and if the elephants touched it, they received a little shock "zinggg".



We were now put on the spot by Carrie. She told the class it was time for us to leave and she asked the class if they would like us to come again, "Yes, yes" was the reply. She then asked "Who would like to show our special guests to the exit". Arms were raised and excited cries of "Me, me". Carrie then said, "I know, we will let our guests choose." Talk about being put on the spot. Having made our choices, we said our thanks and goodbyes and among waving hands and smiling faces we were shown to the exit door. As we left, we all agreed it had been an interesting experience talking to the children and listening to what they had to say themselves, we only hope that they had learned something from our tales of years ago.

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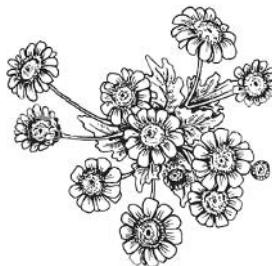
Harrietsham Ladies Group

At our November meeting we had an interesting talk on Boxley Abbey Gardens, Researching 800 years of garden history. Although the Abbey is in private hands the recent research of the gardens has uncovered fascinating features of the past.

We have our Christmas Meal at Percival's Rest in place of our December meeting giving everyone the chance to have a good chat in the busy run up to Christmas.

New members are always welcome, we meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Scout Hut, Station Road, until February the meetings are being held in the afternoons from 2.30 – 4.30pm, from March 2023 onwards they will be in the evenings from 7.30pm. For further information phone 01622 859426.

Gill Whent - Secretary



From Mr Frank Long

This is a thank you letter to all those who came to the funeral of my beloved wife Rita Long, at the church on September 5th, also to John - our vicar for the content of the service - many talked about it afterwards, all good comments.

Also, to my grandsons for being pall-bearers and to the congregation and choir, to everyone who sent cards of condolence (over 60) and the many who made telephone calls, and also to the ladies for providing refreshments after the service.

Your kind thoughts are very much appreciated.

Harrietsham Network

Local Directory A-Ha

Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

Tutor - Amanda Thesiger Kent Adult Education amanda.thesiger@cls.education

Beaver Scouts

Leader Ann Seales 01622 859829

Bell Ringers

Captain Ken Leach 01622 851173

Captain Graham Cuthbert 01795 886365

Bible Reading Fellowship

Co-ordinator Mrs J Bevan 01622 859310

Booth and Baldwin Charity

Secretary boothandbaldwin@hotmail.co.uk

Brownie Guides

Brown Owl Louise Ayres 07590 037693

Community Support

PCSO John Boyd 101

Conservative Association

Faversham Office 01622 758053

Countryways Quilters

And Stitchers Pamela Gillard 01233 879507

Craft and Chat/Crafternoon/

Knit Crochet and Natter Hazel Roots 01622 851885

Cricket Club

Chairman Mr A Hubble 01622 859692

Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 01622 859829

Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 01622 850806

Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 01622 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Andrea French 07901 667018

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 01622 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 01622 851075

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

Harrietsham Preschool Susan Snoad 07897 821399

Local Directory Ha-Z

Harrietsham Social Club		
Secretary	Jed Stone	07759 8771198/whipacres2@gmail.com
Harrietsham Ladies Group		
(formerly Wives Group)	Gill Whent	01622 859426
Health Walks		
Organiser	Ms M Darby	01622 850657
Helpers		
Chairman	Mr T Sams	01622 859412
Karate Club		
Organiser	Mr Lewin Tuckwell	07812 089304
Kent Community Warden	Mr M Sherwood	07977 981993
Kent Messenger		
"Your Local Pages"		
Village correspondent	Charlotte Lingard	miss_lingard@hotmail.com
Lenham and Harrietsham Youth Hub		
Contact	Katie at KCC	01622 755044
Liberal Democrat Assoc.	Mr David Naghi	07970 626829
PTFA (Harrietsham School)		
Chairman	James Reed	harrietshamptfa@gmail.com
Rainbows		
Leader	Kate Davies	07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com
Safari Supper		
Organiser	Mr R Bevan	859310
Scouts		
Group leader	Mr E Seales	859829
Leader	Mr N Still	880139
Short Mat Bowls		
Chairman	Phil Gooda	01622851217/p.gooda@btinternet.com
Tai Chi Class	Angela Akast	07754454030/akast.a@btopenworld.com
Tennis Club		
Chairman	Mr A Rogers	859352
The Lenham School		
Head of School	Mr Chris Foreman	858267
Ulcombe Pre-school		
Chairperson	Helen Leat	07511657828/ ulcombepreschool@live.co.uk
Village Hall	Booking Clerk	07393 030409 bookings@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk
Yoga	Helen Kacperek	07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com



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News from Len Valley Practice

From the 1 November 2022, the practice has made the decision to make some changes to our booking system. This decision has been made using patient feedback, a discussion with the Partners, GP's and Management team.

We will still operate a telephone triage service from 8:30am for new on the day, urgent matters/problems/appointment requests. For pre-existing or non-urgent appointment requests you will be offered the next available appointment.

There is no longer a booking system available at 2pm, so patients will not be advised to call back after 2pm.

Please remember we are not an emergency service, if you need urgent medical care you should contact 999/111.

Our experienced Receptionists are trained to signpost patients to the most appropriate service/clinician that can include a 'First Contact' Physiotherapist, Paramedic, Pharmacist or Nurse.

We have other appointments available to book within the 'Primary Care Network' and these are a mix of telephone and face to face appointments with a variety of services including other GPs. You will be offered these if appropriate.

We have increased our clinical team and offer more appointments now than we did before the Covid-19 pandemic started.

As with all changes, this will be done as a trial and will be reviewed regularly. We hope this will improve access for our patients and we ask that you bear with us during this period of change.

Lastly if you book an appointment and then no longer need it, please remember to cancel giving as much notice as possible to allow us to offer it to someone else.

Further news from the surgery

- Dr Khan has joined the clinical team (18/10/22). She is part-time working days Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (mornings only) and all day Wednesday.
- Kingsley joined the clinical team as Clinical Prescribing Pharmacist (10/10/22)
- We are offering, via the PCN, GP appointments at Harrietsham on a Saturday morning.

Further more

- Did Not Attend data for September – Sadly 148 appointments (we will be adding this to our website monthly)

Terry New - (Chair of PPG)

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Len Valley Benefice December 2022

Everybody is welcome



Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16

Sunday 4th December

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

Wednesday 7th December

- 9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion Service (BCP)

Sunday 11th December

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

Saturday 17th December

- 5.00pm Harrietsham: Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 18th December

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

Wednesday 21st December

- 10.30am Lenham: Messy Christmas
- 7.00pm Ulcombe: Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

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

Sunday 25th December

- 10.30am Harrietsham: Christmas Holy Communion
- 10.30am Ulcombe: Christmas Holy Communion
- 11.00am Boughton Malherbe: Christmas Holy Communion

Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

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

Assisting priests:
Revd. Millie Hart 01622 297296
revmilliehart@lrb.org.uk
Curate: Revd. Charlotte Coles
07805092823 curate@lrb.org.uk

Readers:
Joan Drury 01622 853766
jdrury23@btinternet.com
Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442
pamela@lrb.org.uk
Benefice Office:
Sarah Hills 01622 850604
ChurchOffice@lrb.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
maidstoneuroffice@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 and Thursday evenings in
homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

Church leaders: Johnny and Estelle
McCabe www.pathwayschurch.org.uk
Pathways Church is supported by
Jubilee Church, Maidstone

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

Public Services and Emergencies Directory

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

Hospitals:

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

Councils:

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

Police:

Emergencies only	999
Non emergencies	101

Samaritans, 48 Grecian Street, Maidstone	01622 674444
Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Bower Terrace, Maidstone	01622 753420
Childline	0800 1111
KCC Children's Social Services	03000 411111
KCC Adult Social Services	03000 416161





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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Ploughman's Platterday

Please be aware that there will be **NO** Ploughman's Lunch at the church in December. It is a busy time for everybody and we cannot guarantee that our volunteers and helpers would be able to help out. The 100 Club draw will still go ahead and good luck to all our supporters of the lottery. We hope to continue the Ploughman's lunch on Saturday, 14 January 2023.

Carol Singing at the church with the Salvation Army

Unfortunately there will also be no carol singing in the church this December. The Salvation Army band are already booked up for the Christmas Season and although they had given us alternative dates we could not fit them in.

100 Club Lottery Draw

The results of the Seventy-second Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 12 November 2022 by various diners at the Ploughman's Platter Saturday under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) are as follows:-

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

First prize £82.50 - number 36 – Judy Bacon

Second prize £49.50 – number 137 – Michael Flawn

Third prize £33.00 – number 143 – Pamela Flawn

Christmas Cards Still Available

The Friends of St John the Baptist Church still have some Christmas Cards for sale. The photo is of a beautiful display of Christmas blooms in the church taken by Hazel Roots and the floral display was created by Jacqueline Johnson. All profits go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church. **All orders will be delivered to your door.**



Each A6 size card is supplied with an envelope and with a message inside reading:

*Best Wishes
for
Christmas
and the
New Year*

Only £3 for 5 Cards (£5 for five cards to those living outside of Harrietsham to include P&P)

An order form can be obtained from secretary@friendsofjohn.org and sent to you via email or put your order in a letter, and send it, together with your remittance, to Secretary, Friends of St. John's, Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ. Or telephone Audrey Joy (Chair) 01622 850806, Denise Williams 01622 859410, Chris Roots, 01622 851885. Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of the Church of St John the Baptist". Alternatively, Send your email to treasurer@friendsofjohn.org and pay us on delivery or make a bank transfer to: Metro Bank plc, Sort code: 23-05-80 Account number: 39800802 quoting your name and "Xmas Cards" as the reference.

The committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout the year and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Denise Williams - Secretary

TOP GUN: MAVERICK

Friday 9 December

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 10 mins

Christmas is the time for breathtaking surprises – and action drama **Top Gun: Maverick** (PG13, 2022) provides them a plenty in our December performance. It's a sequel to the 1986 winner *Top Gun*, carrying on Captain Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell's story, with Tom Cruise once again playing the captain. By now Captain Mitchell has had thirty years' experience in the aviation world and indisputably earned his 'Maverick' nickname. Turning down a rise in rank which would have grounded him he takes on the challenge of training a detachment for a special mission. A very special mission for no living pilot has ever experienced it before. Does that deter 'Maverick' Mitchell? No way. He takes it on even though it means confronting not only the dangerous mission in the air but ghosts from his past when he meets his former girlfriend, Penny. This blockbuster is the highest grossing film of the year – and it deserves it. Come, fly with us and have a great evening.

The new year will be music to your ears – it's **Elvis**. Friday 13 sees our January performance with Tom Hanks starring in the story of the amazing life of the king of Rock 'n Roll who changed the music of the world.

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

@lenhamfilmclub





Christmas Quiz

1. The Snowman was shown on TV for the first time on Boxing Day of which year?
2. How old is Kevin McCallister in *Home Alone*?
3. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, what do the Dursleys give Harry for Christmas?
4. Cliff Richard had his 12th number one hit with his sing-along Christmas classic Mistletoe and what?
5. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
6. What do traditional Ukrainians put on their Christmas tree for good luck?
7. In which country is Father Christmas known as Babbo Natale?
8. Which reindeer is named after thunder?
9. What is the name of The Simpson's pet greyhound?
10. What were the names of the three wise men?



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

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

Is your money not going far enough?

Do you have zero savings?



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

Founded in the seventeenth century, the Culpepper Charity was created to help those people of Harrietsham with financial needs. It has been dormant for a long time which may be why you haven't heard of it.

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

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

Email: Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com

or

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

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

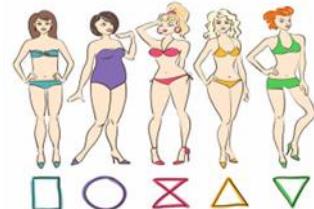
The Trustees of the Culpepper Charity are known to the publishers of this magazine.

Lenham WI

I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone! Nearly Christmas already and we are looking forward to another WI year with some interesting speakers including talks on Touring in Afghanistan, The Bra Boss, Five Years Living and Nursing in India, Zumba, Rattling my Family Bones and Hopping in Kent.

We are hoping to arrange some days out next year as well. We are looking at visiting Westwell Wines on the North Downs and Prospect House in Faversham. We also want to put on a Day School when we can all get together and find out about something that interests us or learn a particular craft. This is usually held on a Saturday in the Community Centre. Watch this space!

In October we were given a talk on Dressing for your Body Shape with Dreda Van-Beer. She told us that there were five main body shapes – Rhubarb, Apple, Hourglass, Pear and Strawberry. Then she went on to tell us the way to make the best of our shapes and what to wear as accessories etc. It was interesting and informative.



We have all been busy knitting poppies which were put on display in Lenham Square to celebrate Remembrance Day.



This month we will be collecting some luxury items for the homeless and delivering them to the Porchlight Charity in Canterbury who do amazing work integrating the homeless back into work and finding accommodation for them.



The WI is holding the usual Carols for Christmas at All Saints Church, Maidstone on 7 December which is a great start to the Christmas celebrations. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you would like to find out more about the WI we meet on the second Thursday of each month at Lenham Community Centre at 7.30pm. For further information please get in touch.

Chris Godden

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- RESPECT your surroundings
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Whole page	£75.00 per month	£660.00 for 12 months

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December Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Thurs	1	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	5	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	5	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	5	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Wed	7	2.30pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	8	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	8	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	9	7pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	12	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	12	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Tue	13	2.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Wed	14	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	15	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Sun	18		Santa arrives in Harrietsham	
Mon	19	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	19	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	19	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Thurs	22	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Sat	31	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC

9. Santa's Little Helper. 10. Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar

6. A spider's web 7. tally 8. Donner (the German word for "thunderer")

1.1982 2. 8 3. A 50-pence piece 4. Wine 5. Canada

Christmas Quiz answers



Harrietham Network

Christian Message

God comes to us!

I have a suspicion that we are all searching for God. We may not call it that, but we are all longing for a world where peace and love reign, where disease and the nastiness of life at least take backstage, and where life has a meaning- not just that we are all some empty, chance-event that evolution has sprung out with no sense other than survival.

There's a reason that Christmas is such good news. I mean I know that it's the best excuse to eat too much chocolate, followed closely by Easter. But no, not that. The reason that Christmas is such good news is that in all our secret searching we discover not a God who is distant, but a God who is searching for us!

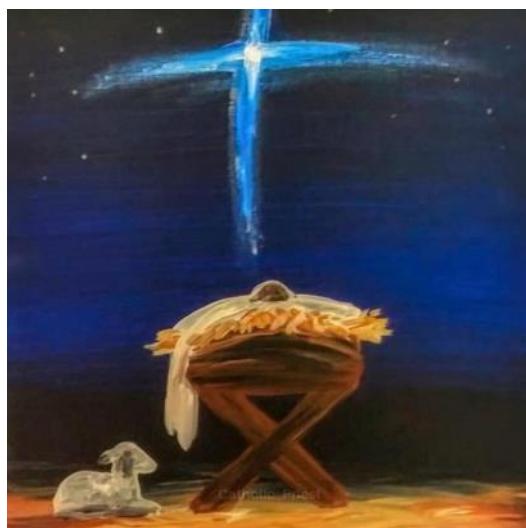
The good news of Christmas is the amazing news that God comes to us, as one of us. Yes, I know the whole stable thing is a lovely story, but the real point isn't the stable but the infant Jesus who is born as God amongst us. This means that God knows what it's like to be human: both the 'ups' and the 'downs'.

One of the carols reminds us that God is called "Emmanuel". That means: God is with us. (It's in the Bible in Isaiah 7:14.)

God is with you, on your side, only ever wanting the best for you. That's the good news of Christmas: God comes to us.

Celebrate!

Revd. John P. Huggins



LEEDS CASTLE
KENT ENGLAND

**TIS' THE SEASON TO...
—BE DAZZLED—**

EXPERIENCE THE CASTLE DRESSED
IN HER FESTIVE FINEST WITH LOTS
OF SHIMMER AND SPARKLES

JOIN IN FAMILY ACTIVITIES TO
SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS CHEER

TAKE DAZZLING SELFIES IN THE
CASTLE OR BY SANTA'S SLEIGH

**CHRISTMAS AT
LEEDS CASTLE**

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**SCAN
ME**

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