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Village Magazine***

February 2021

Harrietsham Network

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Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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Network Magazine

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Through lockdown we will publish online on 1st of each month.

You will find us at:

www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Deadlines will be one week later than normal.

Mon 8 February 2021 12 noon advertising deadline for March Network

Mon 8 February 2021 12 noon copy deadline for March Network

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Please send copy to: **editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org**. Thank you.

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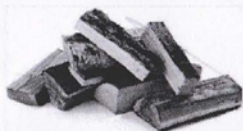
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From the Editor

Hi everyone,

Living in Harrietsham is amazing! I moved here just over 2 years ago, and I cannot believe what an amazing place this is, how helpful and kind the people are and how lucky I am to be here.

Santa came round on the Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Eve a group of residents donated money to buy food and take it to the truck drivers caught up in President Macron's ban on entry to France from the UK, because of the Covid emergency and at 6.00pm residents rang bells in the street for 2 minutes to help Santa fly his sleigh and to welcome Christmas. Later in the day residents began to discuss how to get help and supplies to the stranded drivers on Christmas day. Harrietsham has an abundance of community spirit. Thank you one and all.

You have also been amazing in finding copy for me to fill Network. With successive lockdowns it has become ever more difficult, but I am hopeful that with the vaccination programme in full swing we will soon have plenty of events in the diary and then plenty to tell you about them.

In the meantime, please dig deep and share anything that we might be able to publish while we wait to enjoy our freedom once more.

Thank you one and all.

Jan - Network Editor

Please remember to email any photographs, articles of interest about Harrietsham, or recipes etc. that could be considered for inclusion to:

E-mail: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Whilst every effort is made to include as wide a variety of information as possible each month, 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.

Letters sent anonymously will not be considered. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the officers or committee of the Fish Scheme.

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Harrietsham Network

Santa's Visit to Harrietsham



The Friends of Harrietsham Primary School PTFA would like to thank all who came out to see Santa and donated to the PTFA. We're pleased to say that you have all raised an amazing £155 for the School. This year his route went much further than before as we realised that the village & its children needed this more than ever. After 3hrs Santa had waved and sent Christmas cheer to many people. It was amazing to see the delight upon so many Children's faces when he turned the corner to head down their road.

We had people waving from windows, gardens and even from cars, children had made posters and drawings to show Santa as he passed, neighbours came together to sing Christmas songs. It was a night to remember for so many!

Our thanks go to Tim Griffiths, Mr & Mrs Chantler and the Parish Council for funding the decorations on the Sleigh, this enabled us to give Santa an extra sparkle. The PTFA wish you all a very "Happy new year".

Thank you

James Reed (PTFA Chairman)

Santa's Visit to Harrietsham (cont'd)

Pauline Letendart sent in this photo of her son sitting on his stool, enjoying Santa's visit. She said, 'My son, Batiste (4), absolutely loved Santa's visit on Sunday. It was so well organized. Being able to follow him live on Facebook was great too, as we could keep track of where he was. We are so very grateful that, despite everything that is going on, the visit still went ahead. It was very well planned and very Covid safe. Thank you! very much to everyone who was involved',



Batiste



Maisie

Maisie's Mum sent this photo to show the wonder on her 3 year old daughter's face at the sight of Santa on his sleigh, coming down the road. Even in the midst of Covid there was magic in the air.





Harrietsham Fish Scheme AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Fish Scheme

will be held online

on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.30pm

Details of how you can view this meeting will be published in the March edition of the Network magazine, on social media sites and on the home page of our website – www.harrietshamfishscheme.org.

The Fish Scheme Committee will propose the following amendments to the existing constitution: -
Item 4. Committee.

Omit: - The Committee shall appoint an Organising Secretary for the Scheme and shall agree with such Secretary the duties to be carried out from time to time.

Add: - The Committee may appoint an Organising Secretary.

Amend the first paragraph on page 2 to read: - The Rector for the time being of St John the Baptist Church or an appointed representative, the Roman Catholic Parish Priest for the time being or an appointed representative shall in addition be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Peter Brown—Chairman

Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Helping Hands – Lift Scheme

Update – New Scheme

We are pleased that the new scheme set up for essential lifts for appointments for Harrietsham residents is now up-and-running. Since the start of the new scheme in November we have been able to provide 6 lifts for local residents using the Involve Community Transport group.

If you need assistance getting to either local surgeries or hospital appointments do get in touch and we can explain the way the new system works.

Andrew & Felicity Rogers 01622 859352

WI

To all of our members and their families, we wish you a healthy and happy New Year. Despite the current difficult situation, we hope you had a pleasant Christmas. Of course, at present it is impossible to know when we will all be able to meet up again. Hopefully, now that a vaccination program is under way the infection numbers will ease and the Covid rules will enable us more freedom.

We will keep members informed of future meetings and look forward to a safer and better 2021.

Chris Bone

Harrietsham Gardening Society

Unfortunately, the situation has got worse instead of better. Hopefully by the time you read this, things will have improved and most of us will have been vaccinated. Hope everyone enjoyed the musical penned by our Vice Chairman Kevin Harlock in the December edition under the heading of Top Tips.

Once again, we have to report that we are no further forward in being able to announce a date for the resumption of meetings but if the vaccination programme moves forward as predicted we might see some light at the end of the tunnel.

We hope that you have been busy and planted some spring bulbs so that at least you will have something bright and cheerful to look at as the days get longer.

We were not able to have an AGM in January as would have been normal but hopefully this can be arranged as situations allow.

At the time of writing, the weather has not been great and it has not allowed us to do much in the garden, everything is either sodden or frozen. We however hope your days have been made a little brighter by the Gardening Tips.

David Oversby Chairman

Harrietsham in Bloom

Having planted 10,000 new bulbs throughout the village, we now wait in the hope that they give us a good display in the spring to cheer us all up during these difficult 'Covid' times. The volunteers would ask villagers to walk with care on grass verges in order not to damage the flowers as they grow. Thank you. We are still short of volunteers to tend the planters and keep them weed free etc. If you would like to help please contact our Chairman Andrew Rogers on 01622 859352 for further information.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe.

Audrey Joy



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Harrietsham Network



Harrietsham Village Hall



All of you would have read in the January Network that we were hoping to open the Booth Hall but unfortunately we have gone into Lockdown and it has not been possible. Most of you will know that Harrietsham Village Hall along with the Glebe Surgery was one of the first sites in Kent to become a Covid Hub for the vaccinations. There was a lot of organising in December 2020 to get it off the ground. The Ambrose Hall became a resting area for patients after their vaccinations, 15 minutes wait to make sure there was no allergic reaction to the vaccine. The Clifton Room became an emergency Covid recovering room and the Booth Room is for vaccinations if there's a problem in the doctors surgery.

A total of 975 vaccinations were administered over 3 days beginning on 15 December, the second date for injections was 5, 6, 7 January 2021. A second round was booked in January for 975 vaccinations, 3 days one week and 3 days 3 weeks later, and so it will go on. No dates known for February at the time of writing but with the news that the Oxford vaccine will soon be rolled out, we will have to wait and see how it will all be managed.



It is difficult to know when the hall will be open again for the clubs when the guidelines keep changing but it is a priority to get everyone vaccinated so we can get rid of this horrible virus and get back to some kind of normality.

We hope for a better year for us all, keep well, be safe.

Steve Brown – Chairman



Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Can things get any worse? It does not need me to tell you that we still cannot get together to play short mat bowls. I am sure you have all kept up to date with the latest Coronavirus news which prevents us from taking part in social activities. This is just a note to let you know that we are keeping in touch with any information we get from the ESMBA and KCSMBA to ensure we start playing as soon as we can. It is also to assure our members and any new players who would like to take up short mat bowls that we will start playing once again as soon as we are allowed.

Take care, stay safe, and be ready to start playing as soon as we can.

Phil Gooda (Chairman)

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February 2021

Important update from Tom and Janetta Sams

(dated 6 January 2021)

Good morning everyone, we hope you have all been able to see/hear family and friends through the various media available. We hope that you are all staying in and safe. The vaccinations are giving a light at the end of this tunnel and we are sure that you are supporting those around you.

The situation is very difficult for very many people. If you would like a call for a chat, to hear a friendly voice and a listening ear, please don't hesitate to ring

With the new lockdown we have been able to come to an agreement with the Len Valley Practice to restart the medication collection and delivery from the surgery for those elderly, shielding and vulnerable. (Since August we have only been able to deliver medication from the Saxon Warrior)

This should be especially helpful to those in Harrietsham as the surgery is currently being used for vaccinations where some of our volunteers are assisting. The lovely Martin, our Community Warden will do most of this and be supported by the volunteer team as and when needed.

The service will begin from this Thursday 7 January. We can pick up paper prescriptions from your door deliver to the surgery and then deliver your medication when ready. Please let us know if you or others you know, would like to be included in this service.

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- Deliver medication to home addresses.
- Shop for the most vulnerable groups to get essentials.
- Provide a support network via our telephone volunteers.
- Provide local people to talk to "listening ears".

Contact Tom or Jan on 01622 859412 or at sams.uplands@gmail.com

For Covid 19 Support & Information in Harrietsham & Lenham



Harrietsham and Lenham villages community support

www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk

Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

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Assisting Priest: Rev Millie Hart 01622

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For details of services see p.19

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St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

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Weekday Mass generally

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Pathways Church, Maidstone

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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 page19 or contact your own church for up to date information.

Len Valley Benefice

February 2021



Everybody is welcome

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31

Important – Please note:

Given the frequently changing national situation, please continue to check notice boards, website and Facebook for the latest information

Our **Online Worship** will continue so please join us for our weekly service.

Traditional services can be accessed by searching for ‘Len Valley Benefice YouTube’ and then looking for the correct date.

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Harrietsham Network

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Mon 8 February 2021 12 noon advertising deadline for March Network

Mon 8 February 2021 12 noon copy deadline for March Network

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Sudoku Corner

The object is to use the numbers 1-9 once each in every row and column and also in every quadrant of 9 squares (heavily outlined). Enjoy! Answers on page 42.

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

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

Easy

Hard

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Harrietsham Network

Local Directory A-Ha

Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

Tutor Helen Easter 03000 412222/
www.helenbeeken.co.uk

Beaver Scouts

Leader Duncan Keenan 07768 926654

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 email 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

Family History

Enquiries Mr F Long 01622 850863

Flower Guild

Parish Church Mrs R Long 01622 850863

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 01622 850806

Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 01622 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 01622 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary Jed Stone 07759 8771198/whipacres2@g.mail.com

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 01622 851075

Local Directory He-Z

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

Pre-school Susan Taylor 07897821399harrietshampreschoolmanager@gmail.com

Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

Royal British Legion

Branch Chairman Mr Barry Wood 850702/barry.wood1112@outlook.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

Secretary Mrs K Daking 850652

The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

The Poppy Appeal

Organiser Richard Cast 07787476879/richardcast@btinternet.com

Ulcombe Pre-school

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

Village Hall

Chairman Steve Brown chair@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

Whist Club Denise Williams 859410

Wives Group

Leader Katherin Daking 850652

Women’s Institute

Secretary TBA



Len Valley Practice

PPG Update as at 22 January 2021

With the COVID vaccination programme well on its way, we have now finished the Over 80 year olds (but still some patients haven't decided whether they want it or not) and we are now over ¾ of the way through inviting the over 75's group. We then anticipate within the next few working days that we will be booking appointments for the Over 70's.

Another delivery of the AstraZeneca vaccine was received at our Harrietsham surgery on Wednesday 19 January and we continue to book COVID vaccination appointments in for the Len Valley Patients. There is another delivery on Saturday. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday next week are all covered by staff volunteering from the 5 practices in the PCN and we hope to start the housebound patients soon.

There are now three COVID vaccine centres Harrietsham (for Lenham, Bearsted, Sutton Valance and Langley) patients, Headcorn (for Headcorn and The Weald PCN) and the Headcorn aerodrome, for Weald Patients.

For anyone wanting a COVID test but who has No COVID symptoms, you can book these on line and there is a Testing Centre at Unit 1, Eurogate Business Park, Thomson Road, Ashford, TN24 8XW. (This is off the roundabout by Dobbies). Apart from all the staff involved in booking all the COVID vaccinations, business goes on as usual although there may be decreased appointments if the GPs are covering the vaccination centres.

Our long term Practice Nurse, Jackie Hehir left Len Valley on 15 January and we now have two long term agency Practice Nurses working with us, their names are Julia who works, (Monday, Tuesday & Friday) and Mai, who works (Wednesday & Thursday) and both have settled into their new roles. Advertisements have gone out for a permanent Lead Practice Nurse but as yet we haven't had any expressions of interest.

We also have two new Muscular Skeletal PCN Physiotherapists working with us. Nik works with us on a Monday and he is an Advanced Physiotherapist Practitioner and Jayanti works on a Wednesday and she is also an Advanced Physiotherapist Practitioner. They will be doing telephone consultations and where necessary, seeing patients face to face.

The Public Sector Network have announced a "special event day" for the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers which is planned for **5 July 2021**. They are hoping to raise awareness and encourage the public to participate. The aim is to help everyone recognise, celebrate and express their gratitude for the crucial contributions of all those working within the frontline of Health & Social Care (www.nhsfrontlineday.org).

There are various ways you can participate which include:

10am The raising of the Rainbow Flag

11am – The Two Minute Silence, playing of the Last Post and Reveille

1pm – The Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of the NBHS, Social Care and Frontline workers

1pm – Onwards; Garden Parties at Home and celebrations in the gardens of Pubs, Hotels and Restaurants etc.

3pm – Afternoon Tea, led by National Federation of Women’s Institutes and the NHS Big Tea Initiative

8pm – Clapping and Ringing of Church Bells.

All proceeds raised from these events will be used in supporting the health and wellbeing of the NHS Staff and Care Association workers and will be divided equally between those member hospital trusts and care providers.

We at Len Valley Practice are considering taking part in the Two Minutes Silence but this is yet to be confirmed.

Lastly, I would like to let you know that Dr Jonty West has joined the practice and is working one day a week (Wednesday) at the moment. Dr West brings with him, many years of experience working in Primary Care as a GP and we very much look forward to working with him.

*Further information is available on Facebook **Len Valley Practice Patient Participation Group—PPG***

If you need a lift to get your vaccination...

I own a local chauffeur company (AJT Executive Cars). As you would expect business is very quiet at the moment. If any elderly or vulnerable residents of the village need any help getting to surgery for their vaccines I'm happy to help get them there. We are as COVID secure as we possibly could be. There is no charge for this we just want to do our bit for the local community and help out where we can.

Top Tips from Harrietsham Gardening Society

It is very tempting when we get a few mild or even sunny days in February to get a few things going in the garden. However, if the soil is too wet, especially if you're on heavy clay, you can do more harm than good by walking on the soil and turning it into a compacted airless layer, which will be useless for seed sowing and all that frost action to create a lovely friable tilth will be abortive. You can, of course, use something like an old scaffold board to walk on, which means towards the end of the month you can sow parsnips, which will take about 6 weeks to germinate, and onion seeds. Hopefully, the early potato 'seeds' you bought last month will be forming some sturdy chits so keep them in the light and frost-free ready for planting out in early March. If you haven't got a veg plot you can get really good results in pots or an old bucket. This can provide an opportunity for a bit of competition for the children.

If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse or cold frame you can start to sow an early lettuce crop, summer cabbages and leeks ready for planting out once they are hardened off. With all the disruption to supply of salads from the continent it is useful to grow your own, so we don't have to rely on imports so much in any event.

Not many people know, but when the Brexit negotiations were going on Harrietsham declared war on the French!! It became clear that the French had demanded free access to the trout stream running through the village and down past the allotments and even the Trout Farm itself, for their fishing industry. A meeting was called in the Village Hall car park as the Hall was closed and a chap, I forget his name but let's call him David, was elected to represent the Village. The scenario went like this:

President Macron was sitting in his office near the fish counter in the Auchan Hypermarket when the phone rang.

"Hello Mr Macron, this is David from Harrietsham, I'm afraid you're not having our trout and we're declaring war on you"

"Well," was the reply, "and how big is your army?"

"Right now," said David, "we've just printed call-up papers in Network, but there's myself, four from the Bowls team, five from the cricket team, three from the tennis club and the entire Parish Council so I make that 23."

The President thought for a moment then said, "David, I have to tell you I have 100,000 men in my army waiting upon my command"

"Dear, oh dear," said David, "I'll have to ring you back."

Sure enough the next day David rings again. "Mr Macron, the war is still on. We have managed to set up a mechanised division by enlisting all the motorbikes and four-by-fours that speed along the Pilgrims' way and we have roped in the tractor-mounted hedge cutter as well."

Mr Macron sighs and says, "I must tell you, David, that I have 6,000 tanks and 5,000 armoured personnel carriers, plus I've increased my army to 150,000 since we last spoke."

"I'll ring you back", says David.

As expected, the next day David rings again. "Mr President, we've had another meeting and the war is still on. We have managed to get ourselves airborne. We have been practising hang-gliding from the top of Stede Hill and the Church tower and we have a squadron of kamikaze pilots at the ready. Also, three more have joined us from the Whist club and Harrietsham in Bloom are allowing us to use the planters along the A20 as pill-box gun emplacements."

Mr Macron considered, for a moment, gave a silent Gallic shrug and said "I must tell you, David, that I have 100 bombers, 200 fighters and I've increased my army to 200,000 men."

"That's a lot", said David, "I'll get back to you".

David calls again the next day. "I've some good news, we decided the war is off".

"Why the sudden change of heart?"

"Well, it's like this. We had a meeting over a few pints of mild and a couple of packets of crisps behind the Working Men's Club and we decided there's no way the Coop and Sean's shop will be able to feed 200,000 prisoners."

In the flower garden there are plenty of jobs to do. Once snowdrops and aconites have finished flowering split the clumps up and replant them immediately which will help to increase your stock and create a carpet. They take much better than planting from bulbs. Dahlia tubers can be potted up to enable you to take cuttings from the shoots which appear and again increase your stock. Shrubs which are grown for winter colour such as red- and yellow-stemmed dogwood and white-stemmed blackberry should be cut right down at the end of the month to encourage new growth for vivid colour next winter. Buddleias can be cut hard back too to encourage more and larger flower heads.

One thing worth a try is forcing a few shrubs into bloom indoors, cut some twigs of lilac and forsythia and immerse them in a bath of warm, not hot, water for a few hours, then put them in a vase indoors when you should soon see some lovely flower heads.

To encourage the best possible crop of raspberries, strawberries etc. now is the time to sprinkle a handful per square yard of sulphate of potash around the plants which will encourage flowering and fruiting.

Finally, we're coming to the end of the time when you can play musical shrubs and trees so if you want to rearrange your garden now's the time to get cracking.

Happy gardening.

Harrietsham Network

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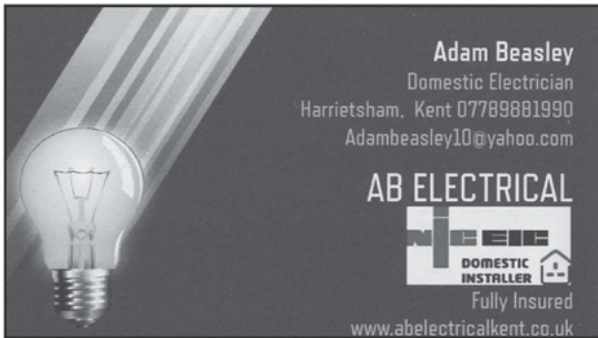
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Len Valley Practice

Update as at 2 January 2021 from an email from Carol Mckeough, who said ‘The PCN are going to honour the 2nd appointments given to the 975 80+ patients and complete their 2nd vaccinations next week’.

She also understands that in future when the first appointment is made the 2nd will be given 10 weeks later - not 3 weeks. (*Editor’s note... this may change as the national time scale is currently being reported as 12 weeks*) This is to try to give as many patients as possible the first dose, which we are now told will be effective and the 2nd dose will complete the treatment. The GP’s from all the 5 PCN practices are carrying out the vaccinations on a rota basis. Each time she has supported the vaccinations before Christmas the Clinical Director of the PCN, Faye Hinsley was present monitoring progress.

There has been some very positive feedback on the vaccine delivery from patients and their families.

Carol also confirmed that the Glebe has effectively been taken over by the PCN for as long as they are providing the vaccines. Patients in Harrietsham can still drop their repeat prescriptions into the surgery and they will be collected each day to be dispensed at the Lenham surgery. If patients cannot arrange for their medication to be collected for them by any means, then they can make contact with the Lenham surgery and I believe that their medication delivery can be added to the existing delivery system managed by LVP. She believes that the phone triage system will continue and if the triage call indicates the patient needs to be seen then an appointment will be made for them to attend the Lenham Surgery.

Peter Brown – PPG member

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, TN24 0LZ	01233 633331
Councils:	
MP – Helen Whately	01622 758053
Kent County Council	03000 41 41 41
Maidstone Borough Council – all departments	01622 602000
Harrietsham Parish Council – Parish Clerk	01622 850089
Police: Emergencies only 999	101
Non- emergencies	
Samaritans, 48, Grecian Street, Maidstone	01622 674444
Citizens Advice Bureau, 2, Bower Terrace, Maidstone	01622 752420
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Christian Message

At the time of writing, we are still in the Christmas season, and Kent is in Tier 4. I hope that when you are reading this that we are back in Tier 3 or lower and that many of you will have had a Covid - 19 vaccination, and that the rate of infection will have gone down.

The coming of the Christ Child brought hope and light: hope of a brighter future and a light that cannot be extinguished by the darkness. We all need hope; hope of better times to come. Sometimes, that hope comes amid the messiness of life. Think of the birth process itself and how the pain of labour turns into great joy at the birth of a baby. Circumstances, as we know well from last year, can change in an instant.

You will be reading this as we approach the season of Lent which begins early this year, on 17 February, and foreshadows Easter which also brings us hope: hope of new life when Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we hear the familiar words from the funeral service: '**Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust**', which is quite sobering and reminds us of the frailty of life. In life there is much waiting; waiting for Easter, waiting for a vaccine to be developed, waiting for the vaccines to be delivered and given out, waiting to see family and friends, waiting to be able to hug people again. I could go on forever here, but in the waiting we do during Lent there is an opportunity to reflect on our own actions and to set aside some time to see if we can make some improvement on how we live our life.

Perhaps we need to stop doing something to be able to free up some quiet time. I find that people are often busy helping others before themselves, which is a good maxim, but it is also important to make space for ourselves to have time to think on the deeper things of life and question why we do the things which we do.

The ashes which are used on Ash Wednesday to make the mark of a cross on the forehead are an ancient sign of penitence dating from the middle ages; of being sorry for something which we have done that we know is wrong and of being forgiven. Who do you need to forgive, and to whom do you need to say 'sorry'? Maybe this is the time to seek the peace that only God can give.

'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.' (Psalm 51 verse 10).

Rev. Charlotte Coles 07805 092823

For Covid 19 Support & Information in Harrietsham & Lenham



Harrietsham and Lenham villages community support

www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk

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100 Club lottery draw

Result of the Forty-ninth draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club.



As all social events in the village have ceased because of the Covid-19 Tier 4 restrictions, the 100 Club draw was made on 12 December 2020 at Hawkley Lodge and drawn by Hazel Roots.

128 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £128

First prize £64.00 – number 99 – Alex Hubble

Second prize £38.40 – number 25 – Glenda Dean

Third prize £25.60 – number 122 – Barbara Beveridge

For further information and details of how to become a member of the 100 Club to help with the upkeep of our church - contact the Administrator, Chris Roots on 01622 850885.

Sale of Christmas Cards

The committee of the Friends of St. John's would like to thank all those who supported the charity by buying our Christmas Cards. Apart from the 100 Club Lottery draw, this was our only means of fundraising in 2020. We sold more cards in 2020 than in 2019 and this may have been due to Covid restrictions as people were unable to get out and buy cards. We would also like to thank everyone for their kind donations. Once again a big

Thank You.

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Maidstone Food Bank

The **Food Bank** operates from Knightrider Street and is a lifeline to so many through the Covid 19 outbreak. Our volunteers continue to deliver local surplus to this much needed facility. The Food Bank has been very important to local residents and volunteers and we urgently need people to make food available for collection on Tuesdays that can be collected by volunteers. Contact 01622 859412. Alternatively, if you shop at Harrietsham & Lenham Coops there are food bank containers near to the check outs.

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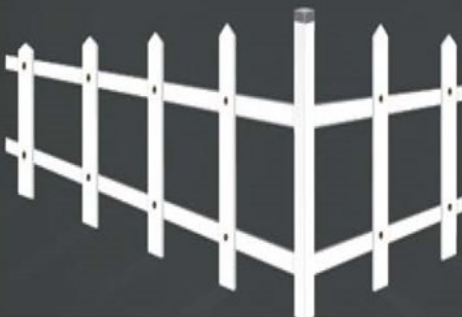
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Garden visitors in December

Photos by Jon and Judy Bacon



Harrietsham Network



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Harrietsham Road Names

A number of people have asked me and I am sure people who have moved to the new houses will be interested to know why certain names have been used for the road names on the two new developments in the village. In both cases the History Society were approached by the Parish Council to suggest some local/historical names which might be used and after some research we put forward some suggestions which included some of the names of those who had served and lost their lives in WW1.

Firstly, the old CTRL site on the A20

Southfields Way – was taken from the Alexander Bottle map dated 1728 as most of the land had a Southfields connection (Little Southfield, Long Southfield and Great Southfield).

Field Close- after Private Herbert Frank Field who died in 1914. His parents were the publicans of the Bank House, West Street.

Buckingham Drive – after Major Aubrey Webster Buckingham who died in 1914. He lived at Stede Court.

Mills Court – after Sergeant Edward Thomas Mills who died in 1918. He lived in West Street.

Mathews Avenue – After Captain John Brice Mathews who died in 1917. He lived at the School House and was the son of John Mathews, headmaster of Harrietsham School.

Church Road/East street site

Armistice Way – Armistice was suggested as the peace celebrations of 1919 were celebrated in Almshouse Meadow behind the almshouses.

Seal Drive – After Private George Seal who died in 1918. He lived in Forge Meadow.

Tupper Close – after Lieutenant Harold Tupper who died in 1918. His parents were publicans at the Roebuck.

Parks Road – after Private George Parks who died in 1915. He lived in East Street.

Young Lane – after Private Daniel Herbert Young who died in 1917. He lived in West Street.

Brunger Close – After Private Arthur William Brunger who died in 1915. He lived in East Street.

Norris Walk – After Private Walter William Norris who died in 1915. He lived in Forge Meadow.

Continued on page 38

Maidstone Borough Council said that Church Road would no longer be used on this development as there tends to be confusion with the A20 cutting the road in two and decided that the top half would be Armistice Way and the Bottom Half an extension to East Street.

All of the men listed above died during the First World War and further information regarding them can be found in our second book, 'The Lost Lives of Harrietsham 1914-1918'

Peter Brown – Harrietsham History Society Chairman

Keith Pearce

It is with regret that we announce that Keith Pearce, a long standing resident of Harrietsham, died on the 9th January 2021, aged 81 years, after spending 9 days in Maidstone Care Centre following a short stay in hospital. Keith lived in Church Crescent for many years before he moved to the Almshouses in East Street. His hobby was creating replicas of various Harrietsham Buildings in matchsticks. The Friends of St. John's charity held an Exhibition of Local Talent in the church 5 years ago and Keith entered some of his work. He also made replicas of the church, almshouses and Bell Farm House opposite the almshouses. Keith was a good man, kind and generous.

Michael and Sheila Tong



Keith's magical matchstick models.



Pat Mackenzie

We are sad to report the death of Pat Mackenzie on 1 December 2020, aged 98. Pat and her husband Ian moved with their two children to Harrietsham in 1959. Pat and Ian began a youth club, and Pat later started up the Young Wives group. Both were involved with the church, Pat singing in the choir and as church organist for a while, on the cleaning rota and the flower guild. Pat and Ian were instigators, establishing the village Fish Scheme and the Network magazine. Pat did 'meals on wheels', fund-raising Leukaemia UK coffee mornings, as well as long service with the WRVS. A stalwart of the tennis club only hanging up her racquet in her late 70s. Then, of course, there was 'Blyndcorn'! This had started from an idea of Ian's, an original musical production that grew each year to become full blown extravaganzas, all singing and dancing shows that involved many in the village on stage and back stage. Pat would be involved in all aspects of the productions to her great enjoyment. She was a keen gardener and talented artist, being a member of the art group that formed in the village, and she kept up her singing with Bearsted Choral. Ian died twenty years ago but Pat remained involved with village life, until age and ill-health caught up with her, and for the last two years she retreated to Chippendayle Lodge. She loved the village and made many friends through all her interests. The funeral took place on 22 December under Covid restrictions.

Bruce Mackenzie

STOP PRESS!

ADVANCE NOTICE!

Harrietsham Gardening Society are holding a

Virtual Spring Show

List of entry categories on page 44

Entries by 19 March 2021

See March Network for full details

Harrietsham Network

Open Letter from Carole Burton

Dear Harrietsham

I feel so sad that the awful happenings of the past year have meant that I have been unable to say goodbye personally to all the people, friends and acquaintances that I have known since coming to Harrietsham 46 years ago. I am going to Cheltenham to be nearer my family.

I have had a wonderful life here since moving into West Street with my lovely David. We really felt part of the village from day one. But it really is time to move on, so goodbye Harrietsham and thank you so much, I will remember you always.

I do hope that you will welcome Steve and Ellie, the next occupants of number 33.

Carole Burton

Harrietsham Parish Council have advised the following on Social Media:

Revised Closure Date for Church Road

Urgent Road Closure - Church Road, Harrietsham - 5th February 2021 (Maidstone).

It will be necessary to close Church Road, Harrietsham from 5th February 2021 for up to 2 days. The road will be closed from A20 Ashford Road to Stede Hill. The alternative route is via Marley Road, Church Lane, onto A20 Ashford Road.

This is to enable drainage works to be carried out by Kent County Council.

Revised Closure Date for Stede Hill

Urgent Road Closure - Stede Hill, Harrietsham - 4th February 2021 (Maidstone).

It will be necessary to close Stede Hill, Harrietsham from 4th February 2021 for up to 1 day. The road will be closed at the junction with Church Road. The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, onto Marley Road.

This is to enable ditch clearance works to be carried out by Kent County Council.

Notice of Retirement

Dr Graham Hagan

It is 36 years since I first came to work at Lenham Surgery (as it was known then) as a trainee GP. I joined the partners at the time, Drs Martin Porter, Ian McMullen (my trainer), Kevin Hipkins and Gerri McKeever. We worked in the purpose-built Tithe Yard surgery, off the Lenham village square and at Dr McMullen's house, containing our Branch surgery, in Harrietsham.

A lot has changed since then; I've gone grey for a start! The community has grown and we outgrew both surgeries. The Glebe surgery at Harrietsham was built in 1991 and we left Tithe Yard, moving to our 'new' premises in Groom Way, Lenham, in 2004. Now we are pushed for room space again and we are looking to expand further.

It has been a privilege to be part of the local community for all those years, to get to know you all and to have had the opportunity to develop the Len Valley Practice. It is the practice that endures. As Doctors working at the surgery, we come and go. I hope that in my time at the surgery we will be seen to have built on the solid foundations laid by our predecessors and I have no doubt that the current partners will continue this work in the future. We are already working on plans to redevelop and modernise both Lenham and Harrietsham surgeries.

I think the current Pandemic, whilst devastating for so many, has also brought out the best in us all and we have come together to keep our sick and vulnerable safe and supported. I would like to thank our loyal staff at the practice and the dedicated local volunteers for their hard work in such trying times. We are now busy vaccinating as quickly as we can and by the end of June this year, I hope that you will all have had a chance to be vaccinated, if you so wish. The end of June, therefore, seems the right time for me to bow out and retire.

As I have said to several of you already, I thank you for your company on life's journey. After thirty-six years, so many of you feel like my extended family and I hope that our paths may cross again in the future. In the meantime, I wish you all well and I know that I am leaving you in very capable hands.

Dr Graham Hagan

Harrietsham Network

Harrietsham Then

Some people have lived in Harrietsham for a very long time. They often have the most wonderful recollections of the history of our village and some of its characters. Indeed, I've shared many a pot of tea and a fascinating chat about Harrietsham in years gone by with some of its longer term residents. Some even shared some marvellous photographs - some of which you can see below.

I've only just found out we used to have 4 pubs in the village. This was 60-70 years ago when census data indicates there were only about 33 comments..8 houses. East Street had two - The Bell Inn and The Cherry Tree. I've since discovered that The Bell was where 25 East Street is now. Opposite The Bell used to be a workshop for a coffin maker called Mr Bottle and then I'm told just across the road was the Doctor's house and village surgery. It seems subtly wasn't a strong point in those days having a coffin-maker and surgery so close together.

Crossing to West Street on the site where Mace is now, there was a corner shop called O'Nashes which sold sweets, tobacco, cigarette papers and snuff. Next door, two ladies ran a little shop doing alterations to clothes and further along was a saddler's. Lots of people recall the saddler had a wooden leg.

The Roebuck didn't have a conservatory then. However, local residents remember it being a very busy pub, especially on Sundays when the old (much larger) car park was always packed with coaches that stopped-off for a break on their way to and from Margate and perhaps other Kent coast destinations. Apparently, it was not unknown for outbreaks of fisticuffs needing to be broken-up by the police. Thankfully, there are no such shenanigans at the pub these days and it's pleasing to see it has remained a hub of the community.

Mrs Sutton's grocer's shop was immediately opposite where the Post Office is now. I'm told it was quite upmarket and sold such splendid provisions as butter, cold meats and cheeses but apparently it was unusual in those days for most people to be able to afford even a slice of ham (I can see this is likely to trouble me in the future when I discard such things from my fridge which have barely exceeded the use-by-date). Groceries were also sold by a small shop on the site that is now an Indian restaurant. One resident informed me that the original premises were bombed in the war.

Next to Mrs Sutton's shop was the bakers on the land adjacent to 49 West Street where the new builds are. The baker baked bread and cakes to supply other shops. They had vans that went around the local villages also delivering to peoples' homes. Of course, it's difficult nowadays to find freshly baked bread without having to venture further afield. There's progress for you!

The village also had its own sweet shop (below) on West Street at the bottom of Station Road called 'Hampshire's', although in those days only the more wealthy could afford to buy sweets.

Further along West Street, neither Ivens nor Qusted Way existed in those days. This entire area was occupied by Harrison's Nursery. This was huge and supplied not only the shops with plants but many parks and gardens. Just passed Harrison's was another pub called The Bank House, and then Tong's the Butcher. One local resident remembered Arthur Tong very well. She said if she

Harrietsham Then (cont'd)

had reason to complain about the meat he always said the fault must be in the way she'd cooked it! Charming.

The village school used to be on a site at the corner of Church Road and the A20. I am told school life then was very different to what it is now. Boys always wore a tie and would never have been allowed to wear their shirts outside their trousers. The children would have known the National Anthem by heart and at morning break would have been treated to the customary third-of-a-pint bottle of un-chilled (sometimes very much so) milk.

Tong's, the village Butcher, supplied the school with the meat for school dinners. Rather macabrely some might say, the meat from the butcher's had previously lived in the field nearby, where from time to time animals would be selected for slaughter, led across the road into the abattoir then via Tong's to the school. I bet those children really looked forward to lunch time with such fresh meat.

A typical school meal would consist of lumpy mashed potato, peas, beans or cabbage with a slice of minced beef pie, cottage pie or stew. For pudding, there would be such delights such as tapioca (nicknamed 'frog spawn') or prunes and custard. These days most people would turn up their noses at such a far from luxurious menu. However, it has to be said that such a diet ensured low quantities of fats and sugars and it is widely acknowledged that children's nutrition was generally better then than it is now.

Another thing people told me about was that children were much fitter then. You would not have had a lift from mum or dad for 'the school run'. In fact, most families didn't even have a car then and children were expected to walk to and from school by themselves, often for miles and in all weathers. Today's pressurised parents may care to relate this to their young ones next time they demand mum's taxi service!

Of course, all these recollections only touch the surface of the history of Harrietsham and if this has wetted your appetite I'm pleased to say the village has its own history society.

James Hailes - Harrietsham Resident

with thanks to Elsie Hampshire, John Morgan, Jeanne Tabrett, Ella Kite and Colin from The Alms Houses for all your memories (and the cups of tea)



Original article reproduced by kind permission of James Hailes. Look out for an article about another Harrietsham Pub, 'The Blacksmith's Arms', which will be featured in Network soon.

Harrietsham Gardening Society Virtual Show

The Schedule of Photographic Exhibits is as follows:

A winter scene

A pot plant (must have been in your possession 6 months)

A bowl of bulbs

3 snowdrops in a vase

3 Hellebore (Christmas rose) heads floating flower side up in water

3 stems polyanthus or primrose in a vase

1 or 3 stems of a bulb, corm or tuber in a vase

An arrangement of 5 daffodils in a vase

3 stems of dwarf daffodils in a vase

3 stems of double or multi-headed daffodils in a vase.

You don't have to enter all categories. Full details of how to submit your entries will be given in the March issue of Network

The next Issue of Network will be available on our website on 1 March 2021

www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Answers to Sudoku Puzzles on page 21

Easy

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

Hard

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

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