

# Network

Harrietsham's Village Magazine



July 2020

## From the Editor

Hi everyone,

What a joy it is to have so many contributors, both old and new, to Network this month. It makes for a varied and interesting publication. Thank you all very much.

In addition to our usual features, this month we have two very different articles on local wildlife. Both of these should prove of interest to the children as well as the adults who read Network. Please send in more articles like these. They represent a part of our village lifestyle that it is a pleasure to share.

### ***The future and Network.***

As you all know in the last few months it has not been possible for us to deliver Network to every household as we have previously done, and yet, it becomes clearer every day that many of you are getting your copy of Network online. Our website

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

received an enormous 16,000 visits in the last 12 months and is regularly visited more than 1,000 times every month. We normally distribute around 1,400 copies of the magazine and in the past few months with the help of many of our contributors we have emailed out about 250 copies to friends who live in Harrietsham. So it looks as if we may be reaching around 1,000 - 1,250 people every month. Sadly, however, we are very much aware that some people do not use the Internet and have not had their copy of the magazine but we don't know who they are. Looking to the future we would like to make sure that everyone gets a copy no matter what. It's one of the things that makes us a vibrant and supportive community. I have asked several times for volunteers to help distribute the printed magazine and to date we have not had a single response. Is that because it's available online? I wonder if I am asking the wrong question?

As you all know there are problems in keeping an information database about people and we don't want to even think about doing it, but I would like to try an experiment that doesn't need a database. I need everyone who reads the magazine to help me. It's very simple. If you don't need a printed copy email me **editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org**. Just put 'online' in the subject line and your address in the body of the email. Don't tell me anything else. I will list the addresses and delete the emails. Depending on how many I receive we can decide how to go forward and create Network's new normal that can include everyone who lives here. Please email now so you don't forget. It's really important.

***Thank you everyone***  
***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](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org)

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

*Front cover photo by Katherin Daking shows a wall decorated by the children who have returned to school and are now learning in 'pods' which have been called crabs, sharks, jellyfish & whales.*



**Louise Ayres**  
started a  
**community caterpillar**  
on 29 May on the village green. It is now 84 beautifully painted colourful stones long.

Well done!

Thank you Louise and thank you everyone who contributed.

Shame on whoever took the stones from the first attempt!

The photo was supplied by Louise

## Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

### Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

*Lift Organisers* – Andrew & Felicity Rogers

Ridgedown, Marley Road, Harrietsham ME17 1AU

Telephone 859352

Email [andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com)

*Chairman* – Peter Brown

Bassetts, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1JR

Telephone 851075

Email [peter.78brown@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.78brown@btinternet.com)

*Treasurer* – Michael Gear

Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ

Telephone 859410

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***Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme***

### Network Magazine August 2020 deadlines

Sorry there will not be any advertising in August Network

***Mon 13 July*** 12 noon copy deadline for August Network

**Please note we are preparing to get back in print and the deadline is being gradually brought forward to accommodate this.**

- Please send advertising contributions to advertising manager's address above
  - Please send copy to: [editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org)
- Thank you.

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## Gardening Society

There has been no change in the lockdown so we are still not able to hold meetings and it does not look promising for the near future. With the Village Hall still closed and future meetings still in doubt we have decided to cancel this year's Annual Show which was to be held 5th September. Even if the lockdown were to be eased to allow meetings between now and Sept it would leave little time to prepare logistically for it.

For members who have been growing potatoes for the 'heaviest Crop from one potato please do not be tempted to eat them just yet as it may be possible for us to have a weigh-in either individually or collectively between now and Sept. Further details will follow.

No doubt everyone has been tending to their gardens but it has been so dry. It's becoming quite a chore to keep watering. As far as I am concerned it will take a lot of rain just to close the cracks.

Since the lockdown has eased as far as concerns Garden Centres, bedding plants have not been easy to find but there now seem to be quite a few about particularly at garages and supermarkets.

**David Oversby** - Chairman

## Harrietsham Wives

It seems very odd to think that our last official meeting of the Wives Group was held in March with a very entertaining talk on Edith Cavell – how long ago does that seem now, especially with all that has happened!

Now the only meetings between our members have been chance encounters on walks (when the weather was fine – not so many of us out since it has turned colder) and on doorsteps when various of us have checked on neighbours or bought shopping (flour being high on the list).

Our thoughts are turning to when we will be able to hold our next gathering. We are due to have a BBQ in August and if the weather is kind might possibly be able to go ahead with this whilst still observing social distancing.

Watch this space!

**Katherin Daking**

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# Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

With no matches being played and very little idea when we will start again, it is very difficult to know what to write. David, our club captain, has been busy preparing for the first meeting we are able to organize by giving the fenders and blocks a fresh coat of white paint. We are also in the process of buying new jacks which we will keep for competitive games, so even if there is no starting date on the horizon, we will be prepared and looking refreshed. I would imagine you are all looking forward to meeting up and playing again, maybe we will be a little rusty, but that is nothing a couple of games won't put right. Rest assured we will let you know as soon as we can arrange our first roll up, so keep well and hope that this Covid 19 will be defeated soon.

All the Best

*Phil Gooda* (Chairman/Secretary)

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## Parish Council News

### Rural Hedge Cutting

The Parish Council will be arranging the hedge cutting service again this year and it is hoped that this will commence around the 2nd November. If you wish to have your name added to the list, please contact the Clerk. Please note that you will still need to add your name to the list, even if you have used the service in the past.

As the Parish Office is currently closed, it would be most helpful if residents could email their requirements to the Clerk please ([harrietshampc@aol.com](mailto:harrietshampc@aol.com)).

**Amanda Broadhurst** Parish Clerk [harrietshampc@aol.com](mailto:harrietshampc@aol.com)  
4 Southfields Way  
Harrietsham  
Kent ME17 1GE

## Stede Hill Truck Blaze



There was nearly a significant fire on Stede Hill on Wednesday 10 June when a truck burst into flames during the afternoon. The road was closed for a number of hours while it was brought under control.

The driver had a lucky escape unharmed as his cab burst into flames as he was returning up Stede Hill. He managed to jump free, but his truck was a complete write off.

***Kevin Herriott***





**LEN VALLEY PRACTICE**

**NOTICE TO PATIENTS**

**FOLLOWING RECENT GUIDELINES**

**PATIENTS MUST NOW WEAR A**

**FACE COVERING**

**BEFORE ENTERING THE SURGERY**

**AND DURING**

**A CONSULTATION WITH THE DOCTOR**

**OR NURSE**

**Many thanks for your help**

**Practice Manager**

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**Newsletter written on behalf of our pandemic support volunteers**

**[www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk](http://www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk)**



Harrietsham and Lenham villages community support

Working with and Supported by Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Councils

**We recognise locally residents who have been careful, shielding at home and acting & maintaining social responsibility, in how they have been in contact with others. The Government will announce shortly their advice to the over 2 million people who have been shielding and this will undoubtedly affect how we proceed in the near future.**

3 months ago, this community began drawing plans and people together to provide support for its residents through the pandemic.

In the early day we put out banners and it was heartening to see the children and parents making posters and positive pictures which were displayed for all to see.



It has been a tremendous collaboration between residents, their groups, Parish Councils, businesses and individuals. Friendships have been formed and this community continues to support its people and offer assistance

- We have established a website for ongoing local information
- A Facebook group for information and communication
- A telephone contacting network to support many isolated residents
- A contact number to ring 7 days per week 01622 859412
- A collaborative working relationship with LVP dispensary and Saxon Warrior pharmacy to collect scripts, deliver scripts to Saxon Warrior and deliver medication
- A food bank delivery service to Maidstone, this is delivered Wednesday. Supported by Harrietsham and Lenham Co op's

\*\*\*\*\*

A community fund to financially support our activities is being used. This is long established. It supports Lenham Festival amongst other events. We would be grateful if residents wishing to make any contributions that they be sent to by bank transfer to Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Residents Association (HELPERS), sort code 08 92 99 Account 65271434, or alternatively a cheque made out to that organisation and arrange for collection



# DONATE FOOD HERE

**Maidstone Food Bank. This operates from Knightrider Street and is a lifeline to so many through the Covid 19 outbreak.**

This facility 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 Hamletsham & Lenham Coops there is a food bank container near to the check outs



We have been in communication with our volunteers and they wish to continue to offer support in whatever way is felt needed. All the while we are able, this will continue. Some have returned to work, some work from home, others are furloughed, but the supportive service will continue, though it may change and evolve.

**With the background of significant job losses and severe economic hardship, nationally the Country has been encouraged to slowly return to work and we have seen queues outside newly reopened shops, in towns.**

Locally we have seen shops having to rethink how they manage customers health and safety changing the way that they serve our needs and keep their workforces safe.

Businesses have reopened and still more people continue to work from home. Schools have partially opened and ultimately all are working for as safe an environment as possible. **What the new "Normal" will be is an unknown at this point.**

### **We would like to say thank you to**

• Our many volunteer helpers, who in the background have continued to help, listening to residents, and offering practical assistance when able

• Lenham Storage, who as a company have enabled our early practical financial support which has proven vital to us being able to continue

• Martin Sherwood KCC Community Warden. Ever present. Assisting medication distribution during a time of extreme difficulty. Socially connecting people together. Offering advice. Assisting residents in practical and physical ways. Professional and diligent throughout.

• John Britt, from Lenham Parish Council. As their emergency planning officer he has offered practical advice and support enabling us to volunteer and have working protocols in place so that we may act as safely as possible.



\*\*\*\*\*

We have been in communication with Maidstone Borough Council, KCC, Shelina Prendergast, County Councillor and Helen Whately, MP. They have been kept informed throughout. **Be Responsible. Stay Safe. Contact Tom & Jan 01622 859412 or [sams.uplands@gmail.com](mailto:sams.uplands@gmail.com)**

## News from Harrietsham CofE School

Now seems a good time to update the village with news from the school. Although some schools closed when 'lockdown' was first announced the school has not closed at all (with the exception of two days during the recent half-term when no Key Workers children needed places). During this time numbers were usually between 10 & 15 with the teachers and LSA's having a rota of working at the school. The staff also spent time at home devising learning packs and activities for the children still at home with their families. These have been mostly well received and many of the teachers also kept contact with the children in their classes by using 'computer technology'! The school kept going all through the Easter holidays, the bank holiday and during the recent half term break. Then last week the school opened its doors to returning children in Reception and Years 1 & 6 with a good take up of numbers in all these groups. At the last count there were 71 children attending school in 'pods' of up to 15 children with 1 or 2 members of staff. Not all the staff have been able to return due to self isolating but they are all working extremely hard (whether at home or at school) to keep the children busy and occupied. According to Mrs Davies, who wrote to the parents at the end of the first week back 'It has been a real joy to hear children playing, laughing and singing. Although there are many differences to our normal daily routines the children have taken these on board and have adjusted amazingly quickly'. They had Celebration Worship (with the help of Zoom) and they sang the song 'Our God is a Great Big God and he holds us all in his hands.

It is good to know that in this time of uncertainty the children in our school are being cared for and supported in such a positive way. I know many of them are looking forward to September and life returning to some sort of normality. Meanwhile the building work on the school started at the beginning of May with the extension to the hall and kitchen and the work on the car park has started this week.

*Katherin Daking*

## Watch out!!!! There's a fraudster about!!!!

For more info and extra help on how to keep yourself safe online visit <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

## Scam alert!

NHS Tests for Covid-19 are free of charge. If someone phones and tells you they are from the NHS Test and Trace Service and that you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive and that you now need to self-isolate and get a test and **then they ask you to pay for it** - HANG UP! It's a scam.

# Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

Registered Charity No. 1090622  
Val Brown, Secretary 01622 858147



## 100 Club draw results

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

As all the social events in the village have ceased because of Covid19, the 100 Club draw was made on 13 June 2020 at Little Hatch under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator).

121 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £121

First prize £60.50 – number 121 – Denise Williams

Second prize £36.30 – number 96 – Pauline Harris

Third prize £24.20 – number 6 – Helen Hubble

For further information and details of how to become a member of the 100 Club and help raise much needed money for the upkeep of our own church - contact the Administrator, Chris Roots on 01622 851885.

## Harrietsham Village Hall Trust

As you may have read last month we were looking for a treasurer, Samantha, who lives in the village, has come forward for the position so a big thank you to her and she will be co-opted at our next meeting.

We had the heating serviced last month and the heating engineer immediately turned it off as it is extremely dangerous and needs replacing. The 3 heaters in the Ambrose Hall also need repairing. The hall is closed, we have no income and we need to raise £6000 to get this work done. With no heating, the hall will have to be closed through the winter months. The committee are having a meeting this month to discuss the problems.

We are still waiting for guidance from the government about opening the hall and the committee will meet to discuss the way forward when we have more information.

## Living With Nature

So, what did you do during the crazy time of lockdown? Painting, baking, decorating, gardening, turning out drawers? I'm sure the list goes on. My husband and I have done all these things and more to stop boredom setting in but none of it has been more enjoyable than watching the wildlife in our garden. A variety of birds who regularly visit our small garden for a feed or to have a bath and at this time of year they are all busy either collecting nesting material or finding food for their young.

Last year my husband inserted a camera in one of our two nesting boxes situated on our shed - the box in which Blue Tits have previously nested. What did they do? Used the other box with no camera in it!! So this year we had a camera in both boxes. Before last Christmas we noticed that a solitary Blue Tit slept every night in one of the empty boxes (the one nested in 2 years ago). She would fluff up her feathers, tuck her head under her body, looking just like a fluffy ball, and go to sleep!

It was with great delight in March that we suddenly noticed the bird was bringing in a little bit of nesting material each day and continuing to sleep there during the night. Gradually she built up a nest of dried grasses, moss and some coir lining raided from my flower planter! Eventually we could see feathers being added and woven into the top layer of the nest and not long after this on 14th April we noticed 3 eggs had been laid. Over the next few days she laid a total of 7 eggs. How exciting was this! The male would visit his mate frequently during the incubation period bringing her many 'takeaway' meals. It was with great interest we watched and waited for the eggs to hatch and lo! and behold! 3 weeks later over 5th/6th May they all hatched. Absolutely fascinating! Whilst the majority hatched before we were up in the morning it was on the second day we were lucky enough to actually witness the very last chick arriving. Did you know that the adults ate the shell and membrane? I didn't. I learn something new everyday! Both the adults were watching the arrival and there was a bit of a tussle over who was going to eat the last bit of shell! Quite amusing.

As you can imagine with 7 mouths to feed the adults had their work cut out. They worked so hard from dawn to dusk flying in and out of the box bringing in food for the young. At first we felt the male adult didn't have a clue as to what he should be doing. Sometimes he would fly in and just stand watching and wondering what was going on. On one occasion he arrived with some food, fed a chick, who in turn released a faecal sac which he took. But instead of flying off with it, to our horror, he promptly tried feeding this to another chick! With a bit of shoving and pushing it into the chick's mouth it was eventually devoured!!!

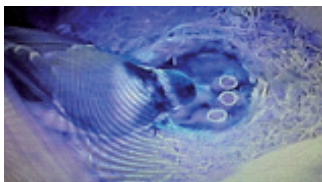
As the chicks increased in size we often saw the female diving head first into the centre of the nest under the chicks and push the nesting material outwards making the nesting area bigger. A lot more feathers were added to line the area as well. These I think she collected from our neighbour's garden who has chickens. At this point I visualised bald chickens running for cover whenever they saw the bird coming!

As is the usual case the stronger ones always seemed to open their mouths the widest and get fed first and consequently the inevitable happened - the two smallest chicks didn't make it. I couldn't believe the reaction of the surviving ones. They would either sit in the nest by the side of the dead birds or a couple of them would sit on top of them. If birds can possibly look sad and subdued these certainly did! By this time the chicks were developed enough to climb out of the middle of the nest and were starting to flap their wings rapidly.

In 3 weeks it was amazing how fast the chicks transformed from being bald, blind, scrawny helpless little things to fully feathered birds with developed wings and tails, open eyes and the same size as their parents. All now ready to go into the big, wide world! So you can imagine our sadness when we discovered on the morning of Monday, 25 May the box was empty! We'd missed the moment of freedom but what a privilege it was to have witnessed nature so close to home. We'd been both entertained and educated over several weeks. It was certainly something to cheer us up and our family too who through WhatsApp were able to follow the journey with daily photos and video clips. It was disappointing our grandchildren were unable to come visit and see it live.

I hope that by the time you read this we will all have been given back our freedom from isolating in our homes and have managed to stay safe and well from this awful Covid-19 pandemic. Mother nature can be so cruel at times but really is wonderful if you just stop and take time to look at what she has created.

**Barbara Inledon**





## Do you need some help while self-isolating?

If you, or someone you know, needs a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just wants someone to talk to, our NHS Volunteer Responders are here to help.

Join the thousands of others throughout England who are already receiving support – even if it's just for a friendly chat.

**Call 0808 196 3646 or visit [nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk](https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk)**

Help is available if you have a medical condition which makes you vulnerable to COVID-19, especially if you are over 70. You also qualify if you are pregnant or have a disability.



## Local Churches

### Parish Church of

#### St John the Baptist

Priest in Charge: Rev Dr John

Huggins, The Vicarage, Old Ashford  
Road, Lenham, ME17 2PX 850280

Assisting Priest

Rev Anne Price 01622 924963

revanne@lvb.org.uk

Available Wednesday- Sunday

Licensed Readers:

Pamela Cuerden 859 442

Joan Drury 853766

Benefice Office: tel 850604

ChurchOffice@lvb.org.uk

Answerphone when office not  
manned.

For details of services see p.19

### United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

Minister: Rev Andrew Royal

*Sunday Service at 10.30am with  
creche. No evening service*

01622 686053

maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net

### Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone

Minister: Bill Miller

Office: 01622 686013

Sunday Services at 10.30am

with creche, and at 6.30pm

www.maidstonebaptist.net

### 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](http://www.pathwayschurch.org.uk)

Pathways Church is supported by

Jubilee Church, Maidstone

### Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

Minister: Revd Bonni-Belle Pickard

45 St Lukes Avenue

Maidstone ME14 5AN

Tel 752895

Sunday Service 10.30am

# Harrietsham Network

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## Local Directory

### 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 851173

Captain Graham Cuthbert 01795 886365

### Bible Reading Fellowship

Co-ordinator Mrs J Bevan 859310

### Booth and Baldwin Charity

Secretary email boothandbaldwin@hotmail.co.uk

### Brownie Guides

Brown Owl Andrea French 07901667018

### 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 859692

### Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 859829

### Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

### Family History

Enquiries Mr F Long 850863

### Flower Guild

Parish Church Mrs R Long 850863

### Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 850806

### Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 859674

### Girl Guides

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

### Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 850632

### Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

### Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

### Harrietsham Social Club

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

### Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 851075

### Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 850657

### Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 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 Association** Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

## PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman James Reed harrietshampfta@gmail.com

**Pre-school** 01622 851819

## Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/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 859789

## 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 Samantha Cast 07599 325326 and email

Deputy Organiser Richard Cast Harrietshampoppyappeal@btinternet.com

## Ulcombe Pre-school

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

## Village Hall

Chairman Steve Brown chair@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

**Whist Club** Miss Denise Williams 859410

## Wives Group

Leader Katherin Daking 850652

## Women's Institute

Secretary Mrs J Tabrett 859224

## Public Services and Emergencies

Doctors' Surgery (for either Lenham or 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 Non- emergencies 101

Samaritans, 48, Grecian Street, Maidstone 01622 674444

Citizens Advice Bureau, 2,Bower Terrace, Maidstone 01622 752420

Childline 0800 11 11

KCC Children's Social Services 03000 41 11 11

KCC Adults Social Services 03000 41 61 61

## Friend Or Foe

Our garden would dearly love to revert to woodland. It adjoins Dickley Wood and thus we have many mature trees and the resultant variety of wild-life visitors.

About twenty years ago I decided I would like to study the birdlife more closely and I went about setting up a bird feeding station in the front of the house. I soon discovered that I was feeding more than just the birds. In particular, what I thought was a family of squirrels tried to muscle in on the act. It resulted in me pitting my wits against the intruders and several “squirrel-proof” feeders were purchased. I can assure the reader that there is no such thing as a squirrel-proof feeder! I vented my frustration on this family of pests and bought some humane traps. I captured them one by one and transported them several miles away, and only learned later that my actions were totally unlawful! I’m sure they didn’t find their way home, but there were always plenty more squirrels to take their place. Finally, the whole station was attacked and ended on the ground, scattering seeds, peanuts, and fat balls for a true free-for-all! I cleared everything away and resolved to be content with a simple bird table and bird bath.

The brain has a wonderful way of forgetting past trauma, and thus it was only 3 weeks ago when, fuelled by Springwatch on T.V. and the wonderful cacophony of birdsong in the garden, that I sat in the back garden and watched the mixture of birdlife visiting our large birdbath. WHY DID I BOTHER?? Yes, you’ve guessed. I went to the shed and resurrected the bird feeding station, being convinced that its location was very protected. For about a week I thoroughly enjoyed the antics and regular feeding habits of the variety of birds.

THEN---- this dear little fellow appeared. A pure white baby squirrel, seemingly alone. We never saw him close enough to see the colour of his eyes, because if they were red then he is an extremely rare albino. His antics are very sweet and occasionally he ventured to the bird feeders, seemingly content to take the crumbs from below the rich man’s table! Much to my dismay he has proved to be a very generous little chap and has sent in “the heavies”. It only took two days for the dismantling of the station and one morning the whole lot was all over the ground once again. It hasn’t gone back in the shed. In fact somebody has claimed it from the grass verge outside of our house.

I believe that white squirrels have a short life expectancy, due to being very prominent at night. I do not want him to meet a violent end, but I must say he is more of a foe than a friend.

**Jackie Bevan** (frustrated ornithologist)



The White Squirrel. Photo by Jackie Bevan

## Deadlines for August Network

Sorry there will not be any advertising in August Network

***Mon 13 July 12 noon copy deadline for August Network***

Please note we are preparing to get back in print and the deadline is being gradually brought forward to accommodate this.

## Pick for Britain

If you would like to help pick fruit or vegetables this summer, please look on the following website :-

**<https://pickforbritain.org.uk/jobs/>**

## Top Tips by Harrietsham Gardening Society

What will you be doing at 6 a.m. or before tomorrow morning? That's the best time for getting out in the garden or on the allotment with a hoe to do a bit of weeding. Keeping the soil moved and slicing off or uprooting weeds at that time of day means the sun will soon dry them out later on and prevent them re-rooting. Weeding in the evening can mean weeds re-establish as a fair bit of dew can appear overnight. If you're not sure which plants might be weeds, the expensive plants you or the other members of your household bought and planted will pull out easily whereas any weeds will be hard to pull up and break off. Therefore, if your get up and go has not got up and gone set that alarm earlier and enjoy the tranquility and a sense of well-being from a job well done.

What a Spring and early summer we've been having. Gardens have never looked so good although sadly some of the displays of early perennials have been very short lived as the sun and heat have been too much for them. Conversely the dry conditions have not been helpful for germination of seeds of annuals although the rain in mid-June helped. Greenhouse veg. such as tomatoes and cucumbers have never been so advanced, these will need more attention than usual to ensure you maximise the crop. In particular don't forget to take the side shoots out of tomatoes as soon as they appear. This prevents them becoming a tangled mass of foliage with small fruits as there is too much competition for light and air. Keeping air moving around the plants will help prevent build-up of diseases and increase the yield. Of course some bush varieties particularly those sold for growing on patios should not have their side shoots removed so hopefully you kept a note of what you bought – another little thing to remember. As we move into high summer and you like to look cool in your shades, greenhouse plants will like to be kept cooler in the shade. If you don't want the bother of painting dilute emulsion or a proprietary wash over the glass, with the bother of washing it off at the end of the season, a bit of netting or old lace curtains can work just as well. Dressing the greenhouse in lace curtains can be quite therapeutic although the neighbours might think you're even more eccentric. You can offset that by hanging them tubs full of tomatoes over the fence. Although regularly feeding tomatoes will result in the heaviest crops, if you want taste then less feed and not over-watering are the rules but that requires a careful bit of balancing. As they say, in gardening a lot of things have to be learnt by trowel and error.

Despite the warm weather, unless you were able to water copiously earlier on, strawberries have not produced such good crops this year. Some varieties will now be producing runners so if you want to increase the size of your bed then bury a 75mm pot of compost just beneath the small plantlet on the runner but leave it attached to the main plant. It will soon root down into the pot and then in late Sept/Oct you can sever the runner and you have new potted plant, easy to transplant, which would cost you a pound or so to buy.

A late crop of runner beans sown in July can produce some very welcome beans in September through to the first frosts in possibly October so that's another worthwhile job, along with planting a few potatoes too for 'new' potatoes in the Autumn. Keep sowing a few lettuces and some maincrop carrots too. If the ground is dry make a drill about an inch deep with the corner of a hoe and soak that with water before you sow the seed. Once sown, rake a bit of fine soil back over and then water again with a rose on a can and do that every couple of days until the seedlings appear. Don't forget if you are watering, a really good soaking once a week is far better than a sprinkle every day. An inch of rain is about 5 gallons or 2 or 3 watering cans for every sq. yard to put it in perspective.

July should really be a time to sit back and relax in the garden but some of you may find it all too much. On the political front Student loans continue to be a hot topic, in fact it should be fairly easy to borrow a student at the moment to do some of the hard work with schools and colleges remaining closed so that should help.

Sweet peas have been wonderful this year. If yours have reached the tops of the canes untie them completely, lay them down on the ground and train the leading shoot up a different cane, that should keep them going for a few more weeks. Keep your eye open for blackfly on dahlias and cardoons in particular. Finally keep dead-heading all those flowers as they fade for continuous blooming.

Happy gardening

## ***Around the Village***

*from J Daniel Benjamin's  
photo album*



## Christian Message

### Navigating Change

A year ago, I wrote a Christian message with the same title as this, completely unaware of course what MASSIVE change we would all be expected to navigate this year.

What strikes me about the lockdown is that it has been so different for different people. Some people have been isolated and have more time than they know how to fill. Others have struggled to home-school as well as work from home, with grandparents unable to help. In this area, because of God's grace and the good sense of most people, we have been spared from the worst of the epidemic; but that is no consolation to those who have family members or friends who have died. And in general, the poor have suffered the most without nice gardens for self-isolation, and with minimal space for home-schooling children.

I hear much talk of how we want the world to change – to return to a different 'normal' from what we have accepted in the past. Here is what I would like to see in the new normal: A world that we stop warming to extinction. A country that continues appreciating its key workers (bin-handlers, teachers and farmers as well as paramedics and doctors). A flourishing sense of appreciation of each other in our communities, especially recognising the kindness of those who are volunteering at this time. A world where we take time to appreciate with wonder the beauty of nature around us. And lastly, a revived memory of the Christian faith underpinning all that is good in society – not just meaning "going to church" (although we look forward to churches being open again) but a real, active, living faith that the good God, who revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ, longs for – so that each of our lives bursts out with love, joy and goodness.

There's a wonderful song doing the social media rounds at this time made by churches across the UK called The UK blessing (see page 32). Google it and listen, and as you do so, absorb the truth that each of us is loved to bits by God, warts and all.

What would you like the 'new normal' to be like?

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

***Rev Dr John Huggins***



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## Christian message (*continued*)

### The UK Blessing

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His  
Face toward you  
And give you peace  
As we receive, we agree, amen

Chorus —

Amen, amen, amen

Bridge —

May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family and your children  
And their children, and their children  
May His presence go before you  
And behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you  
He is with you, He is with you

***Various artists***

<https://zionlyrics.com/various-artists-the-uk-blessing-lyrics>

Copy and paste the link into your browser to listen to this stunningly beautiful rendition. – Ed.



## Memories of Coronavirus

### ***For posterity... part three*** (up to 20 June 2020)

*The information here has been collated from Daily Downing Street Press conferences and news bulletins. I apologise if it contains any errors. It is intended as a record of what happened to us during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak for those who are interested. There may well be points that I have missed. There isn't room to include it all. There is nothing like history being written as it happens. Editor.*

21 May. The ONS survey shows approximately 1 in 400 people are infected and that 17% in London have been infected with Covid-19 and 5% in the rest of the country. There are thought to be approximately 9,000 new infections per day in England. This is just within the parameters of the test and track system at 10,000 new cases per day. Boris Johnson promised that a 'world beating' contacting and tracing system will be in place by 1 June. This is in time for schools to begin re-opening.

An antibody test, which determines whether someone has had the virus, has been approved by Public Health England. It will be given to NHS and front-line workers first. We do not yet know if this confers immunity nor for how long that immunity might last. Research is being undertaken to see if those who have had Covid-19 can be re-infected.

New swabs are being trialled which speed up testing to see if you currently have Covid-19. On the spot test results are targeted to be available within 20 minutes. Anti-malaria drugs are being trialled in Cambridge and Brighton to see if they can help in the prevention or treatment of the virus.

The NHS surcharge for immigrant workers in NHS and care sector is to be scrapped. Discharges from hospital to care homes without testing appears to have been part of the cause of outbreaks in care homes.

Thermal testing for passenger temperatures is being trialled at airports to make flying safer. Other measures include wearing face masks, good hygiene and common international screening standards. Air bridges have been suggested to enable flights between similarly low risk countries. Airport revenues are down £97 billion in 2020 so far.

22 May. The 'R' has been steady at 07 – 1 for 2 weeks in a row.

From 8 June there will be a 2-week quarantine on entering the country to try to prevent re-importing the virus as the number of cases here drops. There are some exemptions including road haulage workers, medics coming in to help with Covid-19 and people from the Republic of Ireland. Fines will be imposed: £100 for failing to provide quarantine address and £1000 if absent when a spot check is made. Quarantine measures will be reviewed every 3 weeks.

There has been a very significant drop in government income from VAT, Income Tax, etc. The government borrowed £62.1 billion in April. Retail sector sales are down 18.1% and clothing sales are down by 50%. Online shopping recorded a high at 30.7% of all spending.

Scientists are investigating whether improving the T-cell count (lymphocyte count) will help against Covid-19. A fingerprint test is being used for this.

23 May. Calls are being made for chief advisor Dominic Cummings to be dismissed after he drove 260 miles during lockdown to isolate in a house near family in Durham. He said that this was done to ensure that care would be available from younger members of his family for his 4 year-old son when his wife was ill with Covid-19 and he had tested positive for the disease and may also become ill.

Many businesses are unable to pay rents for the quarter July to September and are asking the government to extend the rent holiday for another 3 months.

The government has made £283 million available to enable public transport to start moving back to a full timetable. More marshals will be employed to ensure that social distancing rules are applied. Everyone is instructed to continue working from home, avoid using public transport/stagger journeys where it must be used and avoid the rush hour. People should walk, cycle or use the car to get to work if possible. A passenger connection app for smartphones is due to be rolled out soon. It has been tested for one year and will guide people away from congestion in the network. The government are gradually reversing the Beecham effect of closing railway stations and tracks to create more capacity and to support their objective of equalising opportunity across the country. A new road project will create a dual carriageway across the Pennines. Parking areas are to be repurposed outside of congestion areas to enable us to park and cycle or park and walk, avoiding road congestion and use of public transport. This is a permanent change. We cannot go back to our previously congested networks and city centres. A £50 bike maintenance voucher will be provided to enable people to refurb their old bike. Clean air is now a priority.

24 May. The government confirmed that schools are to reopen on 1 June for reception, year 1 and year 6. From 15 June year 10 and 12, who have examinations next year, will have some schooling. Approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Senior School students will be in school at any one time.

25 May. A Press conference in the garden of 10 Downing Street enabled Dominic Cummings to explain his actions. The Prime Minister expressed himself content with the explanation and said that the matter was closed.

From 1 June open air markets and car showrooms are to open. On 15 June all other non-essential retail outlets are able to open. All premises must be Covid-secure and social distancing must be maintained.

Rendesivir being tested to see if can shorten the length of the Covid illness.

The government has signed contracts to make 2 billion PPE items in UK.

27 May. The NHS Test and Trace system goes live at 9:00am tomorrow and will help us to replace full lockdown with individual isolation and local lockdowns where there are outbreaks of Coronavirus. The rules are simple: - if you are symptomatic self-isolate immediately, book a test by contacting [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or calling 119 and notify all contacts to test and trace team when requested to do so. The objective is to break chain of transmission and stop the disease from spreading. Compliance is voluntary, but it is a civic duty. If we don't comply it will be made obligatory and enforced.

28 May. The 'R' is between .7 and .9. The Prime Minister says all 5 of the government's tests to ensure that lockdown can be safely eased are being met and confirmed plans for schools (including nurseries) and shops to open as detailed above. From 1 June social contact with up to 6 people from other households in gardens or public spaces and with proper social distancing will be permitted. Those shielding must continue. Dentists can open from 8 June and will offer a limited range of services.

29 May. The Seacole convalescent centre opened (with more to follow) for those who have had serious hospitalisation with Covid 19.

The Chancellor (Rishi Sunak) announced changes to the job retention Furlough Scheme which is protecting about 8 million people from massive redundancies. He said that this cannot continue indefinitely and that the programme is to be adapted as follows: June & July will continue as previously; from August employers must pay Employer's National Insurance and Pension costs (approximately 5% of employment costs); from September employers will need to contribute 14% (govt 70%) with a capped amount and from October this will increase to employers 20% government 60%. The scheme will then end.

2.3 million people are on the income support scheme for the self-employed. This is to continue with a final grant of 70% of average monthly profits capped at £6,570 for 3 months.

The Chancellor said that a new era is now beginning in which we need to reopen our country and rebuild our economy.

30 May. Live sport is to resume behind closed doors on Monday 1 June with strict distancing rules including screening and one-way traffic for vehicles. One third of the matches will be on free to Air TV. Premier league football will be on BBC for the first time in history. The funding will be shared throughout the sport. Women's sport is also in focus. For grass-roots sports, individuals can exercise with up to 5 others from different households provided that they maintain social distancing.

31 May. Those shielding are now allowed outside with 1 other person from their own household or one person from another household whilst observing strict social distancing. Food boxes are to continue (so far 2.5 million have been delivered). They will also continue to receive priority for supermarket deliveries, prescription service and voluntary aid (350,000 registered for help). Mental and physical health is being prioritised. Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> for information. The next review is due in the week commencing 16 June. The NHS will also write to all shielded individuals.

The silver lining to Covid-19 is that over 90% (approximately 15,000) of those sleeping rough have been brought indoors. The government will continue to fund this. The objective is that as few people as possible will return to the streets and people will be assessed according to their individual needs. With the objective of changing as many lives as possible funding of £433 million will be used to fast track provision of 6,000 new supported homes. 3,300 of these will be ready within 12 months. Special staff will be available to assist those with addiction or mental health problems.

1 June. Volunteers week. Amidst controversy about the speed of introduction, this is the first day of easing lockdown. Reception, year 1 and year 6 children can go back to school. However, up to 50% of these children were kept at home. Other measures detailed above are in place.

Film and TV production guidance and training in place and it is hoped that the industry will be back at work over the next few months.

2 June. PHE report confirms deaths are more likely among the BAME population, with Bangladeshi males at highest risk. Age and deprivation are also factors.

Nearly 9 million furloughed from over 1 million employers.

G20 summit proposed by Tony Blair Gordon Brown and John Major to call for global action in dealing with Coronavirus.

With quarantine due to begin for those entering Britain there is some discussion of 'air bridges' with countries with a lower number of cases. Spain has made it clear that Brits will not be admitted until there is a significant drop in the 'R'. Rapid tests at airport have also been suggested.

Matt Hancock stated that 40,000 antibody tests per day are being rolled out for NHS and care workers only.

Age is the number 1 risk factor and it is essential to continue social distancing, good hygiene and testing.

3 June. Quarantining to commence in 2 weeks on 15 June. Airline officials state the required 'contact locator' form for those entering Britain is likely to be required before travel and communicated to Border Force electronically. Fine for non-compliance £100, failure to be present for spot-checks £1,000. Criticism of 'air bridge' proposal is that passengers could travel from high to low risk countries to travel to UK.

Welsh schools to return on 29 June with stringent regulation.

Test results are taking too long. Currently over 90% of test results are back within 48 hours and 84% of drive through tests are back within 24 hours. There is a very small window of 48 hours in which the contacts of someone with new symptoms can transmit the virus. We need to get contacts into self-isolation within 48 hours to prevent the spread. It is essential that people report symptoms, request tests and self-isolate immediately and that test results are back within 24 hours. Test and trace data is to be published weekly. It is also estimated that 25-30% of tests return a false negative.

The Prime Minister said that there are three tiers to the plan to prevent a 2nd peak in the virus

1. NHS test and trace to enable replacement of national lockdown measures with local measures where outbreaks take place
2. Quarantine to avoid re-importing from abroad
3. Effective International Action. Infection spreading to developing countries could come back to us later and we need to prevent this.

'No-one is safe until we are all safe'.

Wash hands, don't gather in groups of more than 6, observe social distancing, don't take gatherings indoors in bad weather.

4 June The Prime Minister hosted the Global Vaccine Summit. The objective is international co-operation in distributing working vaccines (including Covid-19 when an effective, safe vaccine is found) to children in underprivileged countries. The UK has contributed £764 million. In total £8.8 billion dollars have been raised following this seminar.

Transport is now working safely and ramping up ready for shops re-opening on 15 June and shop staff to travel. We are advised:

1. If you can work from home, do.
2. Avoid public transport where possible
3. Avoid rush hour

From 15 June passengers must wear face coverings (not surgical masks).

Coming out of lockdown the transport revolution is green. £50 voucher available to fix your bike, employees can get a tax-free bike or join the e-bike scheme.

5 June. The 'R' for the UK is now 0.7 – 1.9. For England it is 0.7-1.0 (with North-West and South-West highest). New infections are estimated at 39,000 per week (5600 per day).

BMA say everyone should wear face coverings and the test and trace mobile phone app should be available this month. From 15 June all visitors to hospitals must wear face coverings. Staff must wear type 1 or 2 surgical masks at all times.

The NHS have called for those who have had Covid-19 to donate plasma.

6 and 7 June. For the first time there has not been a weekend Downing Street Press conference. There have been antiracist Black Lives Matter demonstrations in London and other major cities following the death of George Floyd.

Places of worship to reopen for private prayer only from 15 June.

World deaths exceed 400,000

8 June. Carer's Week. A Support Task Force has been set up to oversee care sector support and to provide training resources to control the virus. 29.1% of all Covid-19 deaths were in care homes and the number is now stalling. From today all residents and staff of care homes are to have antigen tests

9 June. Plans have been abandoned for all primary school pupils to return to school before the end of term. This is deferred until September to give schools a chance to work out how to accommodate everyone safely within social distancing rules. Secondary school pupils in years 10 and 12 will still return on 15 June.

Daily deaths reported to date 40,883 for those who tested positive, 50,107 where Covid-19 is given as a cause on the death certificate and 63,708 extra deaths over those we would normally expect makes it difficult to say with certainty how many deaths Covid-19 has actually caused. The extra deaths figure includes people who have died from other causes in this period and possibly did not seek medical aid because of the pressure on the NHS caused by the virus.

All Covid-secure retail outlets can open from 15 June. They must all undertake a Covid compliance risk assessment and display/comply with guidance certificate stating that this has been done. (The shops have been closed for 82 days).

From this week, new recovery Round Table will consider measures to support economic recovery and ensure training available to meet needs.

10 June. Zoos, safari parks and drive-in cinemas can open from Monday 15 June with visitor limits and in the open air only.

# Harrietsham Network

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NHS Day will be celebrated on Sunday 5 July. This is the birthday of the NHS and we will have candles to remember those who have died during the Coronavirus outbreak.

From 13 June single adult households and single parent households with children under 18 can form an exclusive bubble with 1 other household. They can ignore social distancing, go into each other's homes and stay overnight if they wish. This Excludes those who are shielding and more will be revealed for them next week.

Face masks must be worn by those in contact with the public and gloves if appropriate, e.g. where food and drinks are being served.

PM said there will be no other changes before 4 July. Everyone must continue to obey the rules and follow the test and track instructions.

'R' between .7 and .9 across the country, with some regional variations. New cases have dropped from 53,000 (17-30 May) to 39,000 per week. This is 5-6,000 new cases per day. Antibody tests suggest that 6.78% of population have had Covid across whole UK, variable by area.

There will be an education catch-up programme which will run throughout summer.

Prof Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Officer of NHS England) said that the virus is expected to increase through the winter because of indoor activities. Epidemics also tend to come in waves, so constant review and adjustment of measures is essential.

The NHS waiting list likely to hit 10 million by end of year.

11 June. Test and trace results for the week 28 May to 3 June. 8,117 people tested positive for Covid-19, of which 5,407 (67%) provided contacts. As a result 31,794 contacts were traced, of which 26,985 (85%) were advised and agreed to self-isolate. 4,809 did not confirm this or could not be reached. Mobile phone app mark 2 is now being trialled for all-UK roll out. No country has as yet achieved a successful national roll-out.

Due to the virus, cancer referrals are 60% down on normal (breast cancer 78%). New chemotherapy busses will be introduced to increase treatment facilities. There has been a significant disruption to routine surgery – usually around 300,000 operations are carried out per month in England. In March this dropped to 200,000 and in April 40,000. A&E usually see around 2 million people per month and this has dropped to less than 1 million in April and 1.2 million in May. Everyone needing treatment is urged to come forward. The NHS is operational and waiting to treat you.

Pressure is now being placed on government to relax the 2 metre social distancing rule to help businesses and to enable schools to fully re-open.



12 June. 1 in 1,700 (previously 1 in 1,000) people have contracted the virus in the period 25 May to 7 June. The 'R' remains between .7 and .9 with regional variations (SE .8-1). A Weston-Super-Mare hospital outbreak pushed the SW to .8-1.1.

Economy shrank by 20% in April. Governor of the bank of England says this is dramatic but not surprising and that there are signs that things are coming to life again. The UK will not extend the post-Brexit transition period. UK has been the worst hit of all economies and a programme is needed to help people return to work.

The government is to create a greener aviation group to help make airlines more eco-friendly. Velosis is researching a bio-fuel plant for aviation and Cambridge University and Whittle laboratories are working towards zero-carbon flight.

All NHS staff are being tested for virus, will be tested for antibodies and will be tested regularly for incidences of reinfection. This is the start of a programme to see if antibodies protect from reinfection and if so for how long.

13 and 14 June. There have been more BLM protest gatherings. Trooping the colour for the Queen's Official birthday has been held in private at Windsor instead of at Horse Guards Parade.

15 June. Loneliness week.

Today – non-essential shops re-opened with Covid-secure rules. These included limited number of customers in shops, plastic screens at tills, 2 metre and directional floor markers, baskets decontaminated after every use, no touching unless you intend to buy, books quarantined if browsed, fitting rooms mostly closed. Huge discounts are expected on stock unused during lockdown. Zoos, safari parks and drive in cinemas opened. Places of worship can open for individual prayer. Year 10 and 11 pupils back at school (limited attendance). Face coverings are now compulsory on public transport and advised everywhere else indoors where 2 metre social distance cannot be maintained.

People should continue to work at home where possible and employers should allow those that must be on site to travel at quieter times if necessary to avoid strain on public transport.

16 June. The first medical breakthrough in the world found in the UK. It will save the lives of many of those seriously ill with Coronavirus. Dexamethasone is a cheap, readily available steroid and has been proved by Oxford University and Nuffield Department of Medicine trials to reduce deaths from Covid-19 for those on breathing assistance (20%) and in ventilator beds (35%). It costs around £5 per patient for a course of treatment and there are sufficient stocks to get us through a second peak if necessary. The treatment is to be made available today. Four other trials are still in progress as a cocktail could be beneficial. The anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine has proved to be ineffective and trials on this product have been discontinued.

# Harrietsham Network

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Government departments, the DFID and FCO, are to merge to prioritise sums spent in most urgent situations around world with one department leading instead of 2. The Prime Minister says this gives 'more bang for bucks'.

100 new cases have been reported in a Beijing food market.

Step 3 of the recovery from Coronavirus roadmap (personal care, hospitality and leisure) is due 4 July at the earliest. The Prime Minister said that the details will come later, but that there will be no change in social distancing yet as the infection numbers are still too high.

Free school meal vouchers to cover the summer holidays for children will be provided for children who usually have free school meals. This is a one-off because of hardship caused by virus.

Figures show that 600,000 people have been removed from payrolls (all causes) and benefit claims have increased by 126%.

Some European countries are opening their borders (Belgium, Germany, Greece and Italy, with Spain to follow on 21 June but quarantine to remain for the UK until arrangement is reciprocal)

After 24 days with no new cases reported, New Zealand had 2 new cases today. These were brought in by two British women who went there to see a dying relative. Their PM has now brought in the military to manage quarantining as she said these were the result of a system failure when the women were allowed to break quarantine to visit a their dying relative in hospital 400 miles away from their quarantine hotel.

17 June. Inflation has dropped to 0.5%. This is 2% down on the projected figure.

Premier League returns for first match behind closed doors.

Performing arts and cultural groups are to meet with medics over the next week to try and find a way to get back up and running.

18 June. The Coronavirus test and trace app which successfully measures distance has been dropped. This is said to be due to lack of cooperation from Apple in resolving technical issues. The government said that the Google/Apple app, which they have also been testing, is not so accurate and provides less information. They hope to run with a hybrid of the two to get the best features. In week 2, 5,949 positive cases were passed to the manual test and trace programme of which the team were able to contact 3,853 resulting in 44,895 people being asked to self-isolate. The remaining positive cases could not be contacted. In two weeks the 25,000 strong test and trace team have only dealt with approximately 10,000 cases. They are falling short of their capability and need to allow further easing of lockdown to make better use of the system. The ONS research estimates that there were

approximately 50,000 new cases in the first two weeks of test and trace and that only 20% are being picked up partly due to people who do not display any symptoms and therefore do not come forward for testing. The system is administered centrally for the whole of England using specially recruited staff. Not making use of local knowledge and experienced tracers is also said to be part of the problem. We have an estimated 33,000 new infections in the last week, i.e. approximately 4,500 new cases per day.

Work on vaccines progresses with the Imperial College vaccine entering the first stage of human trials and the Astra Zeneca/Oxford University alliance manufacturing and stockpiling doses ahead of approval. Priority when a vaccine is found to work effectively and safely will be NHS, social care and front-line workers first, then adults over 50 years old and anyone at risk.

The forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn died today at 103 years old.

The Bank of England increases quantitative easing by £100 billion to £745 billion.

Scotland moves to Phase 2 in its lockdown easing roadmap.

19 June. The five-step UK alert level dropped to 3 indicating that the virus continues to be in general circulation but that the number of cases is not increasing exponentially. This leads to a gradual easing of lockdown measures and further details will be given in the coming weeks. The 'R' is between 0.7 and 0.9. Social-distancing guidelines will be reviewed. It is intended that all children will return to school 5 days a week from September. To assist this the government has provided £1 billion to pay for catch-up tuition during the summer. 1/3 has been ring-fenced for children who have been at a disadvantage during the lockdown. Schools have the discretion to spend this as needed.

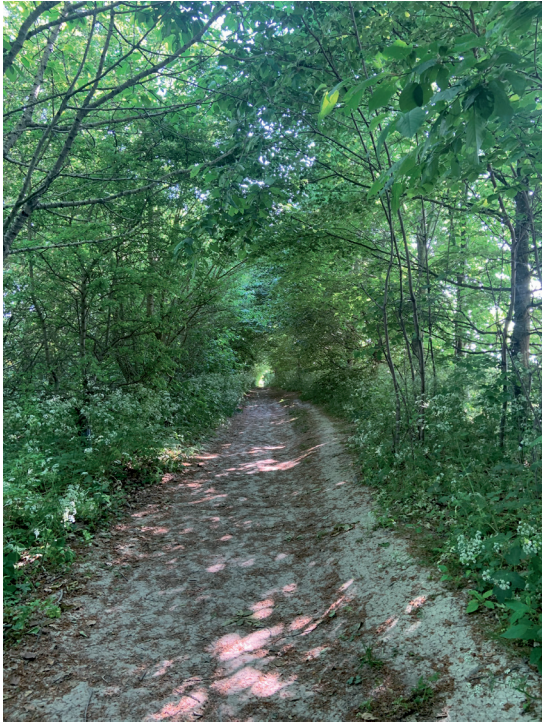
The National Debt is now greater than the whole economy. UK borrowing in May was £55.2 billion.

Royal Ascot went ahead with no Queen and no crowds.

20 June Spain is dropping its quarantine rules and will allow British holiday makers to enter the country. The UK FCO is still advising that we should only undertake essential foreign travel, so there is more to come on this in the following days.

Coronavirus positive-tested deaths in hospitals, care homes and the community now stand at 42,589, of which 128 were reported yesterday. This is up from 35,704 on 20 May.

Stay safe everyone.



## ***Around the Village***

*from J Daniel Benjamin's photo album*

