

Network



Harrietsham's Village Magazine



June 2020

From the Editor

Hi everyone,

This month there is quite a lot to tell you. Sadly, we have nothing in the diary as yet, but we all live in hopes that we will be able to meet again before too long.

As a fairly new resident I must say what a joy it is to live in a close community where people are friends, help each other and celebrate together. This month I have included information about our Covid-19 support group, with updates from Tom and Janetta Sams, our Borough Councillors and Harrietsham Parish Councillors, who organise it and an email from a Lenham Parish Councillor explaining what the volunteer group together with Martin Sherwood, our Kent Community Warden, have been doing for our community. What an amazing group of people... we are truly lucky to have you. On behalf of our communityThank you all so very much.

I have continued the article 'Memories of Coronavirus - for posterity' for those of you who would like a memoire of recent events written at the time.

As a community we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, perhaps not quite as we meant to, but in good spirits and style, and there is a short article and some photos to commemorate the event.

As a community, we continue to applaud our NHS and frontline workers at 8.00pm on a Thursday evening, expressing our appreciation for all they are doing for our country and our communities.

For the time being Network will continue to be posted on our website:

www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

We look forward to a time when all of our 'shielding' volunteers can come back to us and we can once again deliver printed copies through everyone's letterbox. We still need volunteers from younger adults to help with distribution. If you can help please phone Peter Brown on 01622 851075.

Until next time: -

Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives

And above all stay safe.

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.



A patriotic VE Day photo from Rose Corr (Murragh)

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

Chairman – Peter Brown

Bassetts, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1JR

Telephone 851075

Email peter.78brown@btinternet.com

Treasurer – Michael Gear

Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ

Telephone 859410

Email michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk

Network Magazine

Editor – Jan Dijkstra-Caplan

Telephone 07484 310307 Email editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Editorial Team - Amanda Ward, Denise Williams and Rod Martenstyn.

Email editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Advertising manager – Kath Rushton

Pennine, Old Lain, Harrietsham, ME17 1AZ

Telephone 850103

Email adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Distribution Manager – Jackie Bevan

Faygate, Ashford Road, Lenham ME17 2DA

Telephone 859310

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine July 2020 deadlines

Sorry there will not be any advertising in July Network

Sun 20 June 12 noon copy deadline for July Network

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

Contents

Clubs and Societies

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Harrietsham Gardening Society | 7 |
| Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club | 6 |
| Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls | 6 |
| Len Valley Guiding | 10,11 |

Churches

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Christian Message | 26,27 |
| Friends of St. John's | 22 |
| Local Church Contact Details | 17 |

Information

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Deadlines for July Network | 21 |
| Editorial | 2,3 |
| Harrietsham Village Hall Trust | 22 |
| Local Directory | 18,19 |
| Parish Council - Rural Crime | 11 |
| Safety Warnings | 9,23 |
| Self-isolating help | 16 |
| Top Tips - Gardening | 25 |
| Who's Who | 4 |

Features and General Articles

| | |
|--|----------|
| Around the Village photos | 24,35,36 |
| Beetroot Cake for the Annual Show | 20 |
| Email from Lenham Parish Councillor | 21 |
| Harrietsham and Lenham Villages | |
| Community Support | 14,15 |
| It's good to laugh | 19 |
| Memories of Coronavirus - for posterity - Part 2 | 27-33 |
| The 2020 Ploughman's and Pimms That Never Was | 21 |
| Update on Len Valley Practice | 8,9 |
| VE Day 75th Anniversary | 13 |
| VE Day photos | 3,11,12 |
| We'll Meet Again - Vera Lynn Version | 34 |

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Day 56 of the lockdown! I hope this short note finds you all well and putting up with these strange times and lack of freedom. Has it really been that long, and yet there is still no end in sight? No games have been played so we have nothing to report along these lines, when we do restart it will be like learning to play all over again. I do keep turning my woods so that they do not get a flat bottom.

On the more serious side though, it is surprising how you miss the social side of playing bowls, for it is not just relatives you miss during this lockdown, but also the friends you have made through the activities and games you play while enjoying short mat bowls. So, this rather does prove that the game of short mat bowls has more than just a competitive side to it.

Rest assured that as soon as we know when we can play again our members will be told and woods can be polished, mats will be laid, and the tea urn will be turned on. Once again Harrietsham Village Hall will come alive with the sound of our members enjoying the game and catching up with each other.

Stay well, stay safe and let us hope we will soon meet again on our mats at Harrietsham.

Phil Gooda (Chairman)

Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club



The start of the grass court season has been delayed by “lockdown” but after 4 cuts the grass is starting to look “normal” and ready to play. Guidance (as of 20 May 2020) from the Lawn Tennis Association restricts play to singles unless everyone is from the same household when doubles play is possible.

Harrietsham Tennis Club hope to be able to commence play very soon and details will be found on our web site which will list the conditions/restrictions that will apply. Please check the web site or ring for details. Please contact Andrew Rogers on 859352 or visit our website: harrietshamtennis.co.uk

Andrew Rogers

Harrietsham in Bloom Volunteers

At the time of writing (May 20) the summer bedding plants are due to be delivered – 800 geraniums! This should keep our faithful band of helpers busy for a few days. We have also managed to book some regular watering, via our contractor, to the end of June which will help the plants to become established.

We hope everyone enjoys the summer displays.

Thank you for your continued support - any enquiries please contact me on 859352.

Andrew Rogers - Chairman

Harrietsham Gardening Society

I hope everyone has not forgotten the Gardening Society. It seems a long time since our last meeting and at the moment there does not seem to be any news as to when the government will allow us to socialise again. There may be a glimmer of hope but we will have to wait and see.

Although our Summer Show (Rose and Sweet Pea) will probably not occur we may be able to stage the Annual Show on 5 September. Again it is wait and see. Just to remind you all that the schedule is on the Gardening Society web site.

A welcome bit of news that garden centres were able to re-open but unfortunately there may be a shortage of bedding plants due to the lockdown.

Our next meeting will be on???? I hope it's not too far away.

David Oversby - Chairman



Update On Len Valley Practice

It has been a difficult time at Len Valley Practice especially for staff changing their working hours, annual leave having to be cancelled and staff having to work on a Bank Holiday but, we have made it this far with the help and support of each other and everyone pulling together.

At the start of the Coronavirus Pandemic outbreak staff were meeting patients in the Atrium area inside the front entrance and they were given a “script” to read to each patient and then taking their temperature with a non-touch Infra-red thermometer before giving them access into reception. We then made the decision to close the front door as patients didn’t observe social distancing rules implemented once inside the Surgery. This move was to protect patients as well as staff.

Queues for Dispensary were much longer than usual. The dispensary was inundated with medication requests pushing the turnaround time beyond our usual 4 days. This put enormous pressure on dispensing and we drafted staff from other roles in to help. Not all patients have been patient and some have got rather angry about having to wait in a queue 2 metres apart to collect their medication from the dispensary window.

It’s heartening to learn from our patients how thankful and grateful they are and we have been really surprised with the amount of notes, cards and letters our patients have posted to us offering their support and thanks for all our hard work which we continue to do.

PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) has not been so readily available as we expected and we have had to purchase PPE items from the website ourselves and fortunately we had one of our patients contact us to say that he was able to provide us with various items of PPE which we accepted with thanks. A day later we had a large delivery of masks and have also had gloves. The Practice have purchased “Scrubs” and washable clogs together with hair coverings for all the clinicians. Any doctor seeing patients is now fully compliant and wearing masks, gloves and visors as well. All staff in dispensary are required to wear face masks and those dealing with patients at the window are now required to wear full PPE.

Nurses and GPs are required to clean their own rooms and change PPE after each patient which is causing additional waiting times for patients. It would be helpful if patients did not turn up early or wait in their cars for their appointment as it is causing additional pressure outside for people trying to observe the 2 metres social distancing rule.

We are also very grateful to all those patients who volunteered to deliver prescriptions to patients’ homes. Patients were all contacted by telephone to advise them that their medication was going to be delivered by our drivers on Good Friday and we delivered approximately 250 prescriptions on the day.

As all staff were in surgery on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday, we also used this time effectively to have a Spring clean of the practice and get rid of everything that hadn't been used for years but had been stored in cupboards.

We have two new Apprentices, Alex and Lauren. They are working with IPS College going through a year's training here at Len Valley achieving, hopefully, by May 2021 an NVQ in Business Administration.

All our doctors are working at the Hub in Headcorn on a rotational basis along with nurses and GPs from The Ridge PCN and The Weald, with the Salvation Army providing lunch.

Unfortunately the practice are saddened to report that we have lost two patients to Coronavirus and we share in their families' loss.

Although various work had been booked and planned to be done, this has had to be postponed at the moment as those companies are not working. Also, we want to keep the practice as "clean" as possible, so it's not a good time to start inviting workmen from other companies into the surgery.

We are continuing to offer telephone triage and where necessary, video consultations. Only patients triaged by a GP are called in that do not have COVID symptoms. Any urgent or necessary patients are being seen at the practice and we are noticing a small rise in the number of services previously advised to put on hold, now able to be resumed e.g child immunisations. This will grow over the coming weeks.

We are preparing for when we re-open (Harrietsham will remain closed for the time being) and we are looking to install Infection Control screening at reception and dispensary and have removed the majority of the chairs from the waiting room. The Practice has also considered EPS (Electronic Prescription Service) but at the moment it would mean a lot of training and changes to our current systems. As EPS is not contractual the practice has made a decision to continue prescribing as we would normally do.

We do not know when or in what capacity we will re-open but will communicate this as soon as we know. For now our Website and Facebook pages are updated regularly.

Report dated 1 May 2020

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/>

Len Valley Guiding

It has been a while since our last Len Valley District Guiding article, however Girl Guiding continues to offer the girls of Lenham, Harrietsham and Hollingbourne fun, friendship and activities.

So much has changed at a local level since our last update. Jane our Brown Owl in Harrietsham sadly passed during the Christmas break, leaving a huge void in our District. She will be very much missed not only as a leader, but as a friend – however we have plans in place to make sure she will never be forgotten. For a while afterwards her girls joined with the Lenham Brownies until a new Guider (Louise Ayres) came forward to look after the Harrietsham Brownies and so for a brief period Brownies returned to Harrietsham on Wednesdays at the local Scout Hall on Station Road from 6:15pm-7:45pm.

Then our whole world changed. At the time of writing this article, our weekly meetings are not taking place as we remain in “lockdown”. Many planned activities have had to be postponed and we haven’t seen each other in quite a while – **HOWEVER GUIDING GOES ON!**

The Rainbows have been busy making, creating and completing fun Guiding activities at home with their families. Some of the Brownies have been busy completing their Easter Eggstravaganza Badge. The girls have also been completing interest badges whilst at home such as the Performance Badge, Grow Your Own Badge and two girls completed their Mindfulness Badge together over FaceTime. Lenham Guides have continued to meet each week albeit “virtually”. Meetings take the same format as they would do at their normal meeting place, and at the same time as their usual meetings. Using emails back and forth they have shared news, completed challenges from the Communication Skillbuilder Badge, taken part in their own “Race Across the World” and have contributed each week to a “Lockdown Art Gallery” which will be shared once normal meetings resume.

Looking to the future, we don’t know for sure when “normal” meetings will resume, however what we can be sure of is that Guiding will continue in some way, shape or form and as soon as we are able to offer meetings again we will be keen to do so! There is even talk of a Ranger Unit in Lenham for girls aged 14-18 which is very exciting – watch this space!

May we take this opportunity to thank our local communities for their support at this time. For the flexibility shown by our meeting places, and for the offers of help we have received. The Harrietsham Brownies received a very generous donation of stationery packs from a local stationery supply company, containing over 20 items in each pack for each girl to help with home schooling. These were delivered to the girls on their leader’s daily walk. The support is very much appreciated!

Should you have any queries regarding Girl Guiding, please do not hesitate to contact any of your local leaders.

Take care and stay safe!

Len Valley District Guiding

Harrietsham Parish Council

as at 5 May at 15:33

Rural Crime

Over the last few days we have started to see the emergence of Rural break-ins in a few areas.

Please alert people with farms, horse yards, farms with stables, small holdings, etc. and tell them to be vigilant.

This may be a good time to start thinking about how to update security.

If you see anything you think is suspicious call 999 straight away.

Glenda Dean



Jackie flies the flag for VE Day

A typical VE Day celebration?
- with social distancing 2020 style!

Jackie's daughter Julie thought her Mum was about to do a streak!

Photo by Julie

Harrietsham Network



1945 a photo from Denise Williams

and

2020 a photo from Stuart Costello-Wright



VE Day 75th Anniversary

On 8 May we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day, the day on which Winston Churchill announced to the nation that Nazi Germany had surrendered and that the war in Europe was over.

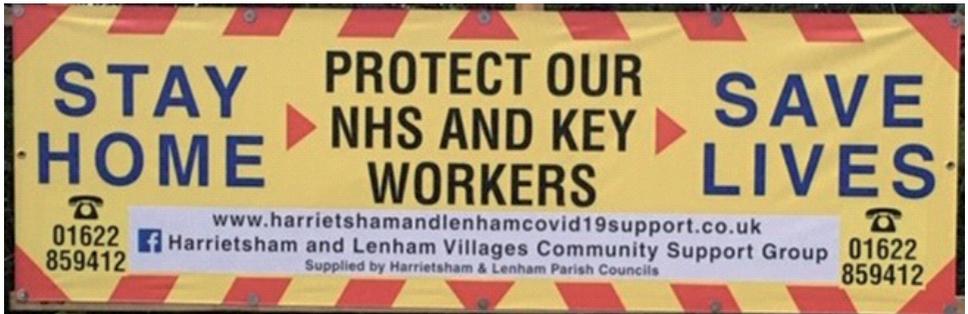
The irony of celebrating the freedom gained at the end of the war was not lost on us as we celebrated whilst in lockdown. Many of the scheduled events where there was a high risk of contact between us, causing the virus to infect more people, were cancelled. Resourceful television and radio companies found other ways to celebrate and to bring us together even while socially distancing (a term we'd never heard before March 2020).

Radio 2 asked listeners to record themselves reading the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon and send their recordings in. A composite was played for us all to hear. The military wives under the direction of Gareth Malone sang 'Wherever you are' written by Paul Mealar (whilst socially distancing, of course). There was an interview with Dame Vera Lynn's daughter and there were several flyovers. Maidstone saw no less than 18 pilots fly over in perfect '75' formation. There were tributes from the Queen and from Prince Charles. There were numerous renditions of 'We'll Meet Again' Vera Lynn's iconic wartime hit, 'When the lights go on again all over the World' and 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square'. Kathryn Jenkins gave a concert in the Royal Albert Hall without an audience and military bands played correctly socially distanced from each other in Horseguard's Parade. There were programmes on television and local residents held street parties at correct social distances. Michael Gear and Denise Williams and their next-door neighbours used a ladder to separate them and remind them not to get too close!

At 11:00am we were asked to raise a glass to the war heroes of World War II, and of course one glass led to another, and then of course, we raised another glass together at 3:00pm. So I apologise if I've got any of the facts wrong, blame it on the bubbly!

As the Queen famously pointed out, we could not come together as we had planned but, nonetheless.....

'The streets are filled with love'



Harrietsham And Lenham Villages Community Support *(Supported by Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Councils)*

The lockdown was announced by the Prime Minister on 23 March. 45 days later on 7 May 2020 at the Government daily briefing Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary, stated that any lockdown changes would be modest. He described media reports on easing restrictions as “not a reliable guide”. Boris Johnson is due to announce plans for England’s lockdown on Sunday. See BBC report below <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52568698>

Locally: -

- In the last couple of weeks, we have had less call up from residents needing groceries as supplies have steadied and online deliveries have become easier to access. We have still maintained shopping deliveries to those unable to access these services and our volunteers have maintained these throughout.
- Those residents needing scripts (prescriptions) collected from their homes, and/or medication, to be delivered have been able to continue to use the volunteers service. Any residents needing this service please contact us. The staff at the dispensary at Len Valley Practice and Saxon Warrior pharmacy have all been really helpful. Can we again thank Martin Sherwood, our fabulous community warden who has continued to serve us. He has been ever present and after this is all over has been promised lots of hugs!
- We have been able to extend our listening ears service for those residents who have needed to chat with someone. Isolation and loneliness at this time are really hard to manage. Anyone who may wish to have a call, or become involved, please let us know.
- We thanked Lenham Storage last time for their start up financial input in the early days. We received a call and with their foresight and collaboration with other businesses were able to assist delivery of face visors to Len Valley Practice. On top of this a significant number were delivered to William Harvey Hospital. Thanks again for your kind thought for the community, at this difficult and challenging time.

- Maidstone food bank. Revd John Huggins, Vicar of Len Valley Benefice writes... "Whilst our church buildings are shut, the food bank collection points there have been reorganised. The requests from the food bank are huge in this period and they are in danger of running out of food." Residents have been offering foodstuffs - either excess from Government delivery, or general donations. There has also been a collection point at Harrietsham Co-op, near its exit, and there is also now one at Lenham's Co-op. We have now come forward to assist. We will deliver to Maidstone each Wednesday morning. Anyone who has foods if they can arrange via us we can ensure collection from our volunteers. Sharen was our first volunteer to come forward to do this and it is really, really appreciated by the Homeless centre in Maidstone.
- On the subject of food, we want to place again on record our thanks to our local shops who have collectively been superb. From a difficult start, panic buying and shortages we now have almost, nearly full shelves. There are still some items missing but in the scheme of things it's unimportant. The workers and shop owners have worked tirelessly. Perhaps we all may be a little more appreciative of our local shops and remember who we turned to first during the difficult days.
- Other workers, care workers, key workers, all continue to support us in so many vital ways. We all say thank you for their work in such difficult times. Even seeing one of our lovely posties dressed as a banana makes us smile a little in these difficult times.
- Home schooling. Schools have provided wherever possible support for learning and it has been a learning curve for us all, giving us a deeper appreciation of the school's role and that of teachers. In addition, many have said including our volunteers, that the children's emotional well-being is paramount and that learning has included exercise and family oriented activities, cooking, etc.
- Children's Posters. They have and will continue to be displayed around our area encouraging us all to play safe, stay safe. Raising smiles of optimism and hope from the view of children.
- Can we also thank those responsible for the wonderful banners and pieces of local artwork that have been established at certain vantage points in the area. Again, the ability to be thankful and positive is really appreciated.

For those who have not yet met Martin Sherwood, he appears at 22 seconds on the following video, with a familiar message <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/key-workers-urge-people-to-stay-home-226195/>

Our community fund exists to fund what we can do and those who may wish to make a small contribution please do this through **Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Residents Association (HELPERS) sort code 08 92 99 Account 65271434**

We don't yet know how the easing of lockdown will unravel.

In the meantime, if anyone needs assistance please

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

www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk

Tom and Janetta Sams

Report date 7 May 2020



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

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

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

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

Beetroot Cake with Dark Chocolate

In the hopes that Harrietsham Gardening Society will still be able to stage the Annual Show, here is the second competition recipe.

Ingredients

Cake mixture

950gm beetroot
125gm wholemeal spelt flour plus extra for dusting
25gm cocoa powder
1 tsp baking powder
75gm dark chocolate, 70% cocoa content
100gm dark muscovado sugar
2-3 drops vanilla extract
3 eggs
pinch of salt
150ml mild veg oil plus extra for greasing

Ganache

30gm mild coconut oil
20gm cocoa powder
1-2 drops vanilla extract
2 tbsp maple syrup

Method

Place the beetroot in a pan of water and bring to the boil. Lower the heat and simmer for 45-60 minutes until soft. Drain, submerge in cold water, peel, leave to cool and grate coarsely.

Preheat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas mark 4. Separate the eggs. Beat the egg whites and salt in a bowl with an electric whisk until stiff. In a second bowl whisk the egg yolks and sugar, gradually adding the oil and vanilla extract. Combine the flour, cocoa powder and baking powder. Add this to the eggs and mix briefly.

Chop the chocolate and melt over a bain-marie or in a heatproof bowl set over (not in) a saucepan of simmering water. Fold the chocolate and beetroot into the cake mix. Finally, gently fold in the egg whites with a balloon whisk.

Grease a 20cm dia. tin with oil and dust with the flour. Transfer the mixture to the tin and bake in the centre of the oven for 45 minutes until risen. When an inserted skewer comes out clean the cake is ready. Leave to cool on a wire rack.

To make the ganache, melt the four ingredients above over a bain-marie or a heatproof bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water. Stir well and spread evenly over the cake. Chill in the fridge for 30 mins until the ganache has set.

Deadlines for July Network

Sorry there will not be any advertising in July Network

Sat 20 June 12 noon copy deadline for July Network

The 2020 Ploughmans and Pimms That Never Was

Well, it was a sunny day eventually! However, it started with a light drizzle which would have nicely wetted all the chairs, and it was also decidedly chilly which wasn't ideal.

I really did miss the event and the garden was looking lovely to welcome all our visitors. I can't remember what I actually did on the day, but I know that my mind kept wandering to what I should have been doing!

I had spoken to virtually every person who attended last year and without exception they agreed that they would miss it, but that they would happily join my campaign to help The JPK Project recoup some of its fundraising losses. The supporters in Kent and beyond had come up trumps!!

So that evening I sat down and prepared my accounts, ready to phone my sister, Jill Parker, the following day. I was able to tell her that, together, we had raised a wonderful £2,307. To say that she was "gob-smacked" is rather an understatement. She has been waiting for a final sum of approximately £1,500 to be able to build "inclusive and accessible toilets for all, including seen and unseen disabilities". That's disabled toilets to you and me! She has consequently 'phoned the builder and they can start work in a couple of weeks' time while the Tearooms/Training facilities are closed. Perfect!

Thank you all so much. I will hopefully see you all very soon, but meanwhile please put 15 May 2021 in your diaries- it will be special!

Finally, when friends tell me what they have accomplished during this time of isolation- be it a piece of cross-stitch, some crochet, some knitting, some decorating, or a work of art etc.etc., instead of feeling rather useless, I will be able to say that I have helped to build some toilets!!

Thank You Very Much.

Jackie Bevan

Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

Registered Charity No. 1090622
Val Brown, Secretary 01622 858147



100 Club Lottery Draw

Result of the Forty-second 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 9 May 2020 at Hawkley Lodge and drawn by Hazel Roots.

118 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £118
First prize £59.00 – number 113 – Lesley Dack
Second prize £35.40 – number 36 – Mr C A Lawrence
Third prize £23.60 – number 12 – Denise Williams

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

Unfortunately your village hall is still closed and will not open until the social distancing laws change.

As you all know there have been problems with the heating in the Ambrose Hall, the boiler is undergoing a full service and the wall heaters are being stripped down, serviced and tested. We are waiting for a report to see what the next step is.

Hand sanitiser units are being fitted in the ladies, gents, main kitchen and main entrance, and the hall will be cleaned ready for clubs to start again when we open.

We are still taking bookings. No deposit is required so if you want to book please email Jeanine our booking secretary on bookings@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

We are still looking for a treasurer so please contact me if you are interested.

All keep safe and I'm looking forward to opening the hall when it is safe.

Steve Brown

Email from Lenham Parish Councillor

The “other side” of this particular challenge is with the local pharmacy and with those either shielding or on lock-down.

The borough councillors for Harrietsham and Lenham, Cllrs Janetta and Tom Sams, were quick off the mark once the lock-down was announced. As a result there are approximately 70-odd volunteers undertaking tasks such as collecting/delivering shopping, making regular calls as “listening ears” and, importantly, supporting LVP in terms of delivering repeat prescriptions for those not using the electronic system, transporting the authorised scripts to the local pharmacy and then delivering the dispensed medication back to the patients. There are roughly 60/70 people daily benefitting from this service.

The authorised scripts are collected daily from LVP (Len Valley Practice) by the Community Warden, Martin Sherwood, and taken to Saxon Warrior Pharmacy. Dispensed medication is then picked up and distributed. This saves those who do not need to/should not leave their homes from having to do so. This local initiative has been developed in conjunction with LVP and SWP.

As well as the government food parcels, a local company has provided funds so that those not registered to receive this support can get vital supplies. These are shopped for and delivered by the volunteers. As well as the funds from the local benefactor, MBC Member's Grant and grant from the local KCC Member, Shellina Prendergast, have also been utilised in providing this aspect of support.

There is a weekly update on all the activity on Lenham Parish Council's website under the COVID-19 tab.

Happy to discuss.

Cllr John Britt

Lenham Parish Council (South Ward, Emergency Planning Lead)
www.lenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Warning

Be vigilant when purchasing goods intended for Coronavirus (Covid-19) online. There are many rogue traders who will try to sell you anything from PPE to Coronavirus tests to hand sanitiser. Many of these items don't work or don't exist and will never arrive. Please make sure you are buying from reputable sources. Coronavirus tests are available at www.gov.co.uk and are free to anyone who is symptomatic, to members of their households and to some special cases.



Around the Village - photos from the editor's album



Top Tips by Harrietsham Gardening Society

The term used to be 'Flaming June' but I think this year it's been both Flaming April and Flaming May. Good for the garden of course, despite the three late frosts in the middle of May, which has meant much earlier flowering and hopefully an extended flowering period. That does mean dead-heading flowers and cutting back perennials has been necessary a couple of weeks earlier than normal and the pesky greenfly and blackfly have been out in force. The tips of broad beans can suffer a great deal from aphids unless they are pinched out as the succulent new growth is very attractive to them. Aphids are, of course, farmed by ants which carry them from plant to plant to ensure they have a good supply to milk for their honeydew, so fewer ants means fewer aphids. Aphids can be dealt with quite easily organically by spraying with a soap solution as this affects their waxy cuticles or skins, a bit like our hands have been suffering from all the extra washing to avoid the dreaded virus. At least the dry weather has meant fewer slug and snail problems. In the meantime – a man goes to a fancy dress party dressed as a snail. He gives his wife a piggy-back. The host says 'Hello – what have you come as?' 'I'm a snail' came the reply. 'and who's that on your back?' - 'That's Michelle'. Think about it!

A few other jobs are worth mentioning. If you want to increase your stock of plants such as clematis, honeysuckle, deutzia, philadelphus, fuschias, in fact almost any deciduous garden shrub, now is the time to take softwood cuttings. Take a shoot of this year's growth about 100 mm or so long, cut off cleanly just below a node or joint, dip in hormone rooting powder if you have any and pop in a pot of moist sharp sand or vermiculite. A clear polythene bag placed over the top will keep up the humidity and help water loss; roots should appear in about 6 weeks. Sweet peas need their tendrils removed regularly to avoid stems becoming kinked so pinch those out, almost daily. If you need to water don't forget the morning is the best time rather than the evening so the plants have water during the day. Hand weeding and hoeing in the early morning again is most beneficial as it leaves the rest of the day for the sun to dry out the weeds and avoid them re-rooting.

Tomatoes in the greenhouse will benefit from feeding with a high potash fertiliser as soon as the first truss has set. Don't feed before then as plants respond to a tiny bit of stress by setting fruit to perpetuate themselves. Tapping the canes supporting tomatoes can also help fruit to set as it helps to distribute the pollen if insects aren't doing their job. A teaspoon of Epsom salts dissolved in a two gallon can of water will work wonders too, runner beans will also benefit but don't lick the spoon or you'll be running faster than the beans.

In the fruit garden it may be helpful to thin apples, plums and pears so you have fewer, larger fruit rather than lots of tiny ones.

That's enough for this month - happy gardening.

Christian Message

Sitting here on 26 April, just a few days before the June magazine's deadline, I must focus and prayerfully write the Christian message. Normally I have two or three articles or anecdotes up my sleeve, but knowing that I must address the current situation, I must admit that after a couple of false starts, I have been procrastinating. There are too many unknowns and by the time you read this we may no longer be in lockdown – or we may have had it extended? Who knows?

But maybe that's the point. We try to plan, organise and compartmentalise our lives into neat, orderly areas, but real life is different. We never know what is round the corner, when the phone will ring to say someone we love is ill, has had an accident or even passed away before we have had time to see them. The path we tread isn't neat or tidy. It is filled with challenges and sometimes really bad and shocking news. It would be wrong to say that this doesn't matter. Of course it does, very much, but what matters even more is our ability to cope or to seek help to enable us to get through a crisis as best we can.

For me, this means turning to God. As I fret about my daughter going off to work each day whilst the rest of the family is at home, I turn to God and ask him to bless her and keep her safe. As I find myself concerned about one son in law being laid off work and another being 'furloughed' (a word I'd never heard of a month ago) I pray that these fine young men will not be too proud to ask for help if they need it, or be affronted by my offers. As my other daughter and my son try to cope with the workload of colleagues who have been put on furlough, I pray that they have the stamina to keep going. I pray for everyone's mental health as the novelty of being at home wears thin and we realise there are only so many times we can tidy a kitchen drawer, weed a flower bed or bake our favourite cake.

My family is not even on the front line in the way so many other people are. How much more concerned must the nurses, doctors and carers we rely on so heavily, be? How much more difficult must it be for those whose families are ill or those who have lost loved ones? And yet, I still believe God walks alongside us, and even carries us, when we need him to, if only we ask.

Where exactly IS God in all this? He is in you when you phone your neighbour, collect their prescription or do their shopping. He is in your neighbour when they help with your weeding, clean your windows or bring you some supper. Reading the Harrietsham and Lenham Villages Community Support updates, I see God in all the wonderful volunteering going on and I hear stories from Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe about equally selfless acts. In Maidstone there are many brave people ensuring that the local hospital, essential businesses and voluntary organisations, remain open for business. The community spirit witnessed when reading the Harrietshamites Facebook page is even more prevalent than usual. I am sure it is the same in other villages.

Christian message (*continued*)

Somehow, despite the horrific statistics we hear on the daily news, or maybe because of the seriousness of what is going on, you, God's valuable, lovely children, have risen to the occasion. It reminds me what a privilege it is to live in a close community. I thank you and I thank the Lord that he has shown so much of the loving way Jesus wanted us and indeed commanded us all to live being played out in the acts that so many people are carrying out every day.

I have quoted this verse of his words before but I can't think of anything more appropriate this month: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Pamela Cuerden

Memories of Coronavirus

For posterity... part two (up to 20 May 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.

Daily bulletins/press conferences from 10 Downing Street have continued led by Secretaries of State with various medical and scientific advisers in attendance.

England peaked in infections around 7-10 April and we have been on a slow downward path since then. London peaked ahead of the rest of England. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales peaked later and are only now beginning to talk about how they will ease out of lockdown.

The biggest problems have been: -

- **ongoing PPE shortages.** It was later found that 400,000 gowns from Turkey were unfit for purpose, and a massive warehouse was so overcrowded with PPE Stock that items required could not be found. Many people have made masks, scrubs and laundry bags at home for NHS workers.
- **the number of cases, deaths and initial lack of testing in care homes.** Many homes (62%) remained free of the virus, but the death toll in homes where the virus took hold was a much higher percentage than in other sectors (NHS and community). All patients and staff are to be tested for the virus by early June and every home must have a clinical lead in future.

- **Testing for those who currently may have the virus.** The government met its 100,000 test per day target at the end of April. To achieve this, new testing laboratories have been coming online daily, drive-in testing centres and postal swab tests have been introduced, and the army is providing and manning mobile testing units to be sent where most needed. The groups of people who can be tested have also been significantly increased from those in hospital to include frontline workers. This was later extended to include symptomatic over-65s and workers attending the workplace and members of their households. This has again been extended so that everyone over the age of 5 who is symptomatic and members of their households can now be tested. The government has set 200,000 available tests as its daily target by the end of May.

On 14 May an antibody test (a blood test, which indicates whether someone has already had the virus), developed by Roche, was approved by Public Health England and could be available within weeks. It is not yet known whether having antibodies in the blood will confer immunity, nor how long that immunity may last.

Vaccine research made progress with the first tests being carried out on 23 April on two possible new vaccines. By 15 May there were 12 possible vaccines being tested and it is hoped that one of these will be able to replicate the antibodies found in the blood of someone who has had the virus and might be suitable as the basis for a vaccine. If successful it will still be a slow process to get to the stage of vaccinating the population. There is however no guarantee that a suitable vaccine will be found and we will have to learn to live with the virus in the meantime. The Oxford vaccine has tested OK on monkeys.

Throughout the path of the pandemic the government have made it clear that they are taking the advice of SAGE, a panel of some 60 of our top scientists, medics and other experts, in deciding actions to take in fighting the virus.

Boris Johnson returned to work in Downing Street on 27 April after a life-threatening encounter with Covid-19 and reiterated government advice that social distancing measures are to stay in place. The government is to put forward more plans for coming out of lockdown as soon as possible.

Enormous payments have been made by the government to get us through the crisis and to prepare us for the future. These include: furloughing millions of workers to protect their jobs at a cost said to exceed the cost of running the NHS (as at 12 May 7.5 million people were furloughed – approximately a quarter of the workforce); Local Councils given £3.2 billion to provide local services and extra public support services during the virus outbreak; research grants to Oxford University £25 million and Imperial College £20 million; £17 million investment in maintaining rail links between UK, Ireland and France and £10.5 million in supporting ferry services; NHS debt £13.4 billion has been written off; new loan schemes made available for businesses; £76 million for refuge services to support the most vulnerable in society (children, abuse victims, modern slavery) and additional councillors to be

trained in dealing with sexual violence victims; over 1 million food parcels delivered to people being shielded; £2 billion package to advertise National Cycling Plan with pop-up bike lanes, wider pavements and cycle only streets; a National Cycling Scheme to help with bike purchases and upgrade costs for older bikes; £10 million for car charging ports in our streets; £600 million to help care homes fight infection; £2 billion to repair roads (including potholes) and bridges to support UK bounce-back with more cyclists and walking workers; £93 million to build a Vaccine Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Harwell in Oxford (completion in approximately 18 months) and £30 million for a rapid deployment centre to ensure summer deployment is possible if there is a successful vaccine; £84 million to accelerate clinical trials on a vaccine by Imperial College to go to increasing scale and producing vaccine for stage 3 trials; £14 million made available to assist with return to work and to assist in creating Covid-secure workplaces.

Towards the end of April, attention turned towards getting out of lockdown. Many of us thought it was premature. Government states that plans to lift lockdown will be based on the science and the test results and that they will consider which restrictions can be lifted without substantially increasing the number of coronavirus cases and which restrictions if lifted would most help our economy (this is a secondary consideration to health). We've all come to know that the 'R' rate tells us how quickly the virus is reproducing in the population, under '1' means that it is slowing down with less new infections and over '1' means that it is building up again. The 'R' rate as at 15 May was quoted as being between 0.7 and 1.

On 30 April Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a press conference in which he reiterated advice given by ministers during his illness, confirmed that we are past the peak of the virus and that the death toll though devastating was far below the projected worst-case scenario of 500,000 deaths. In addition, the NHS had never, due to all of the measures taken, been overwhelmed. He promised to outline our exit strategy from lockdown in one week and strongly emphasised the need to keep 'R' below 1. Exit measures will be designed to achieve this and will only be implemented when we have met all conditions laid down by the government. He said it is vital that we do not lose control and must continue to work together to ensure this. We must continue to:

Stay home - protect the NHS – Save lives

Even in the midst of the pandemic there were some good things to cheer us:-

Locally, doorstep dancing continued, clapping for the NHS continued and rainbows appeared everywhere in honour and support of the NHS (our front cover shows one of these).

On 23 April (St. Georges Day), the 'Great British Night In' was televised by BBC1 and was jointly promoted by Children in Need and Comic Relief and raised £70,000,000 for those members of society who are struggling to cope during the Covid-19 crisis. This includes the government contribution which doubled the figure achieved.

Harrietsham Network

Captain Tom nearing his 100th birthday walked 100 laps of his garden on his Zimmer frame and raised over £30 million by his birthday on 30 April for NHS and front-line workers caring for Covid-19 patients. He and Michael Ball recorded 'You'll Never Walk Alone', the coronavirus anthem in the UK. This went straight to Number One in the charts in time for Captain Tom's birthday and raised even more funds for the NHS workers. He has become an icon and on 20 May this was recognised by Her Majesty the Queen in approving a knighthood in recognition of his NHS fundraising. His official title will be Captain Sir Thomas Moore. He received more than 100,000 birthday cards and congratulations from everyone including Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

29 April. The birth of Boris and Carrie's baby boy Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas Johnson. The 'Nicholas' honours two of the doctors who cared for the Prime Minister during his hospitalisation with Coronavirus.

We all laughed and jeered when US President Donald Trump suggested injecting disinfectant to kill the virus. Don't even think about it.....!!! The latest is that he is taking a malaria drug which is unapproved for Covid-19. Doctors warn that this could be fatal for some people. So again, don't try it....!!! The Coronavirus has a foothold in the White House and the President is seeking to avoid it!

Going forward....

The TTI (trace, track and isolate) smartphone app is being trialled on the Isle of Wight. It was rolled out to key workers on 5 May and then to the public. So far over 60,000 people have downloaded the app. Testing is the first element of test, track and trace which is now expected to be implemented by 1 June in the UK. This has been deferred from mid-May so that problems with the app can be resolved. There will be 25,000 specially recruited trace and contact staff who will be able to manage up to 10,000 new cases per day and reduce the spread of the virus. It is hoped that as many people as possible will install this on their smartphones.

On 28 April the NHS started to restore most urgent non-virus NHS work and everyone has been encouraged to come forward if needing treatment. A&E visits halved during the pandemic, which may have worrying consequences for some patients who are urged to seek medical advice. Care home deaths now represent 35% of daily coronavirus deaths in the UK. At 11:00 am a 1-minute silence was held across the country in honour of the people on the front line who had died caring for others. To date there have been 3,200 fines for failing to socially distance! By 15 May 14,000 fines had been issued!

1 May. Sadly, the death toll at the end of April is 27,510 in all settings.

South Korea suggests that a trial shows that you can only get it once. More trials are needed to confirm this.

People living on the streets have been brought in to protect them from the virus and ways are being sought to ensure that as few as possible return to living on the streets.

3 May. Thoughts are turning towards a return to work amid suggestions of staggered working hours, reducing numbers in a space and sharing equipment, hot desk shielding (barriers), PPE, distancing floor mats, etc. We should avoid everyone using transport at the same time and are encouraged to walk or cycle to work where possible. If not take the car, but watch out if you are in the London congestion area as a price increase to £15 per day (7 days per week) will take effect on 1 June. It was previously £11.50 per day Monday to Saturday.

14-day Quarantining will be introduced for people entering UK. Negotiations are ongoing for exemptions for certain groups. There have been severe airline job losses. Concerns have been raised about safe distancing on board aircraft. This has yet to be resolved.

It has been stated that public confidence in easing lockdown is essential and that the public are not necessarily ready to come out of lockdown yet.

The East London Nightingale Hospital has been stood down as the number of serious Covid-19 cases has fallen.

5 May. UK death toll is now highest in Europe (29,427)

'R' thought to be nearer 1 than 0.7, this is not low enough to open up aspects of our society without endangering NHS through raised 'R'.

Cybercrime has increased in relation to Covid-19 and the UK National Cybersecurity Centre and US Cybercrime forces have issued a joint warning that there is an increase in fraud/espionage and attempts to steal bank personal data etc. Advice is available online from the UK National Cybersecurity Centre website. International co-operation is in hand to trace and stop this type of fraud.

Bank of England warns of the deepest recession ever. It is hoped that the UK will bounce back. The Governor of the Bank of England has suggested that we may not need to revert to austerity because the bank could issue more money.

On 10 May the Prime Minister addressed the nation outlining a roadmap for easing our way out of the lockdown, although it is not date specific and will depend entirely on our ability to keep the 'R' below 1. Devolved administrations are to retain full lockdown for now as they are not yet in a position to start easing out of lockdown.

Our new instructions are:

Stay alert; Control the virus; Save lives

The PM announced 3-step easing of lockdown (see 60-page Lockdown Easing Plan issued Monday 11/5 online). The main points of Step 1 commenced on Wed 13/5 - if you can't work from home and your firm is allowed to operate and is Covid-

secure go back to work (if you have children at home, they take priority and your employer must allow for this). Avoid using public transport which can only safely carry 1/10 of the previous number of passengers. Use your own car if you can't walk or cycle. Use face masks on public transport and in enclosed spaces (recommended but not compulsory) and you can meet 1 person not from your household in an outdoor public space provided that social distancing is observed. You may take unlimited outdoor exercise with members of your own household. Some sports (e.g. golf and tennis) are permitted where social distance can be maintained. You can swim in the sea. You can drive to open spaces (any distance within England) but must return home at night. You may not use second or holiday homes. Garden Centres and recycling plants are also allowed to open. Measures are to be introduced to facilitate small weddings. Jury trials are to resume next week. Step 2 will hopefully be possible from 1 June with some children returning to school and more retail outlets being allowed to open. The schools re-opening has caused significant disagreement between Teachers' Unions supported by the BMA and the government and its scientific advisers. The outcome is not yet clear. It is suggested that the Danish model of a 'bubble' will be used with maximum 15 children exclusively working with one teacher. There will also be very high standards of hygiene including cleaning and hand-washing. Reception and year 1 to start to go back in June and Year 6 pupils are to get the opportunity to speak to their teachers before going to Senior school in September. The hospitality industry may begin to be opened up from 4 July if it is considered safe to do so.

It is now clear that certain groups are more likely to die from the virus in particular the Black and Middle Eastern population of whom many work in the NHS. Enquiries are being made as to why this happens and how to better protect the BAME population.

A Joint Biosecurity Centre is to be set up to run the Covid-19 alert system and detect local flare-ups so lockdown measures can be more localised.

Steps are being taken to try and make our National recovery a green recovery. We have all benefitted from and appreciated the cleaner air and clearer water. Digital technology will be used to warn us of congestion areas on the transport grid so that we can avoid them. Trials for the e-scooters rental-scheme are being brought forward from 2021 to June 2020.

On 12 May it was announced that the Furlough Scheme will be extended to the end of October with a facility for employees to return part-time from August with employers paying part of their salaries in partnership with the government. 7.5 million employees from more than 935,000 businesses had at this date been furloughed. Full details will be available by the end of May.

On 13 May it was announced there had been 26,000 deaths in Care homes in April, 8,800 of which were Covid-19 related, plus another 10,000 deaths over the number we would normally expect at this time of year.

Also on 13 May, the Government announced measures to kick start the housing industry, allowing home construction firms to work till 9.00pm Mon-Sat even in residential areas. Estate agents are also allowed to open and arrange viewings under strict rules. People can move house and removal firms can therefore open. Show homes can also open.

13 May was the first official day of Step 1 of easing lockdown and the AA advised that their free breakdown service would continue to be provided for NHS staff. They said that in the last few days there had been a 12% increase in vehicle breakdowns (40% of which were due to flat batteries after weeks of vehicles not being used). Overall traffic had increased by 5%. It was suggested that people should park outside and cycle in to large congested areas where possible.

It was estimated that 10% of people working from home represents similar road conditions to those that we experience during the school holidays.

On 16 May it was announced that sniffer dogs will be trialled to see if they can identify people with Covid-19.

On 17 May it was announced that Oxford University had signed a licensing agreement with Astra Zeneca to manufacture 30 million vaccine doses by September of a total 100 million doses. This is, of course, subject to a suitable vaccine having been found.

Additional symptoms now officially recognised: loss or change in sense of smell and/or taste.

On 20 May we were notified of a task force being formed to help get sport and industries to bounce back. Also £150 million in dormant accounts would be used to provide financial support to charities.



Above all, Stay Safe!

We'll Meet Again (Vera Lynn version)

We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through,
Just like you always do
'Til the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know?
Tell them I won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singing this song

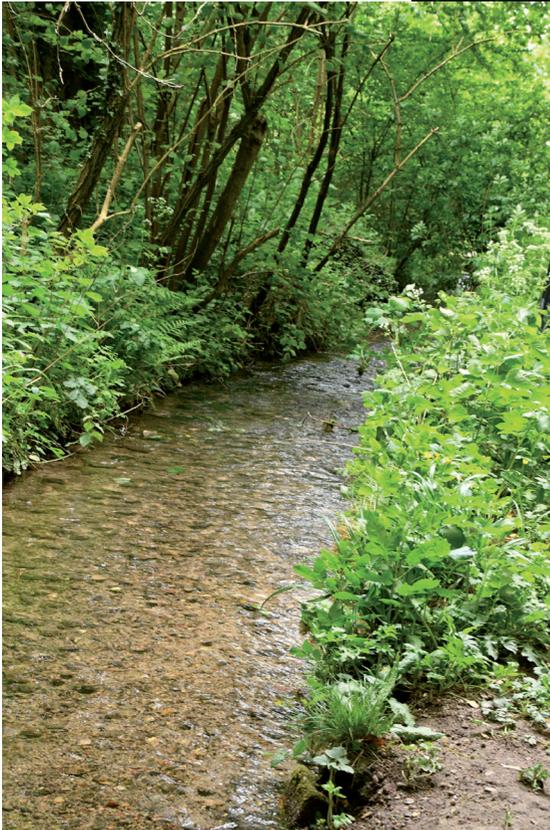
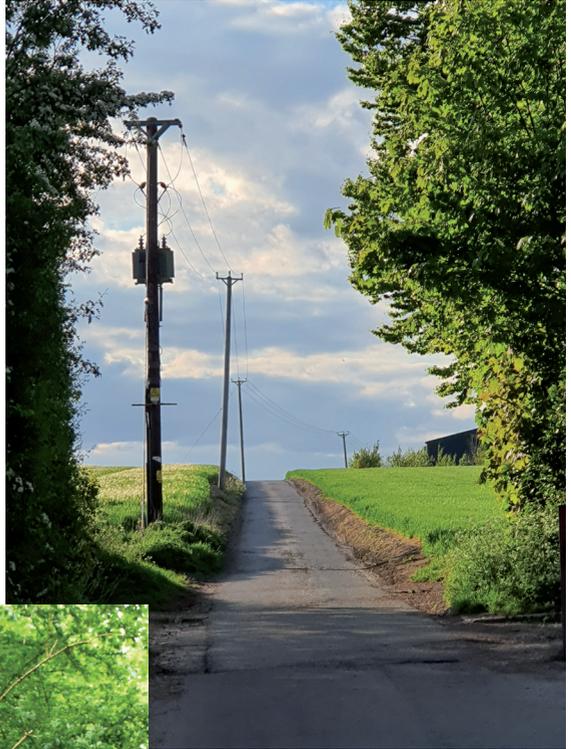
We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

We'll meet again,
Don't know where
Don't know when.
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through
Just like you always do,
'Til the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know?
Tell them I won't be long.
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go,
I was singin' this song.

We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day



*Around the
Village - from the
Editor's Photo
Album*

Around the village - from the editor's photo album



The Beech Walk