



May 2020

*Network
Harrietsham's
Village Magazine*

From the Editor

Hi everyone,

In these strangest of times when we are not allowed to interact socially in the normal way, Network has gone online and you will find it on our website **www.harrietshamfishscheme.org**. Rest assured we will return to our printed magazine as soon as we are able to do so and we will put adverts in again when we can deliver a printed copy to every door once more and give our advertisers value for their money.

I hardly need tell you that all forthcoming events for all clubs, societies, churches and organisations are cancelled until further notice, so for the first time ever there is nothing to put in the diary! On behalf of everyone, we will let you all know the arrangements as soon as we are able to hold events, meetings and gatherings again.

The Coronavirus pandemic will occupy a large chapter in the history of the world, so I thought it might be appropriate to include a summary of some of the things that have happened for anyone who would like to squirrel it away for future reference, or maybe to tell the grandchildren. Please be mindful that some things will have changed since it was written... see pages 23-25.

Thank you everyone who sent in copy and jokes this month. Your contributions have been very much appreciated. Please do not take offence if I didn't include yours this time. I have kept them all in stock for possible future use. We have been asked by the government not to share health advice on the Coronavirus unless it has come from an official source and Network is complying with this request, so if you sent in health information your kindness has been appreciated, but it has not been included.

If you are in difficulties or just need a friendly chat, please pick up the phone and call me or one of the other Harrietsham Fish Scheme Helping Hands Committee Members and we will do our best to help you. In the meantime, look after yourselves and each other, and above all stay safe.

For me, one of the strangest things this month is having to do the magazine without the rest of the team. I hope you'll be back with me before too long.

Jan - Network Editor

The front cover this month had already been designed for printing, so I have included it and a few other photos from my exercise walks in the hope of making you smile.

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 message from Harrietsham Fish Scheme

For the first time in 50 years, it saddens us to have to reduce our services to Harrietsham and its residents. We hasten to add that it is a temporary response to the current Coronavirus emergency.

Due to the current restrictions imposed by the government, Harrietsham Fish Scheme has to advise everyone that our Lift Scheme is currently unavailable. Clearly it is impossible to enforce the 2-metre separation required for social distancing inside a motor car. We will resume this service as soon as the restrictions are lifted and it is safe for our passengers and our drivers to do so.

Network Magazine has gone online on a temporary basis (www.harrietshamfishscheme.org) due to the fact that our team of distributors are mostly in the over 70 age group and many have other health issues that put them in the 'shielded' high-risk group who are not allowed to leave home, whilst others are self-isolating at home. As a result, we cannot offer the delivery service at present.

The situation with Network has served to highlight the fact that we need young blood if the services we hold dear are to continue in the long term. We would dearly love to have some younger adults (18-69 years old) come forward to join us and help take us into the future. If you are willing to help please contact Peter Brown on 01622 851075

Harrietsham Fish Scheme Committee

Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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Telephone 859352

Email andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com

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Bassetts, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1JR

Telephone 851075

Email peter.78brown@btinternet.com

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Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine June 2020 deadlines

Sorry there will not be any advertising in June Network

Wed 20 May 12 noon Copy deadline for June Network

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

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Parish Council News

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Covid-19 volunteer group, which has come together so quickly to support the vulnerable residents in the village. Whilst it is horrible to be away from our family and friends, it is vitally important that we all follow the NHS and Government guidance (as at 1st April):

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, to exercise once a day, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family. Remember, you can spread the virus even if you do not have symptoms

Parish Council Events

Due to the current Coronavirus situation, the VE Day Beacon Lighting and Big Lunch events are both cancelled.

Amanda Broadhurst

Parish Clerk

Postal Address:

4 Southfields Way

Harrietsham

Maidstone

Kent

ME5 8HP

harrietshampc@aol.com

A Message from Carol McKeough | Safeguarding Adults Consultant | KCC | Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I have forwarded a message I received from Kent Police via our neighbourhood watch about fake Tesco Phishing Email. This is just to make you all aware. The information is below.

The NHS at Headcorn Airfield will be known as a Primary Care Treatment Centre. The new assessment site is designed to take pressure off GP surgeries in the area and keep other NHS areas virus free. I also understand that tents are now springing up in Mote park and the leisure centre may well be used to support NHS Covid 19 activities. Volunteers are involved in supporting the Headcorn and Mote Park activities.

Fake Tesco Phishing Email

Please see below an alert from Action Fraud in relation to a phishing scam, where fraudsters are impersonating Tesco. The fake Tesco emails are offering 'free vouchers' during the coronavirus outbreak and you are asked to click on a link, which takes you to a convincing looking phishing website that is designed to steal your login, personal and financial information. If you receive one of these, please do not click on the link. Delete it and report it to Action Fraud.

Coronavirus Scam Warning

Watch out for these fake Tesco emails

Action Fraud has received 30 reports about fake emails that purport to be from Tesco. The email states that the supermarket is offering free vouchers during the coronavirus outbreak. The link in the email leads to a genuine-looking phishing website that is designed to steal login credentials as well as personal and financial information.

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE
Metropolitan Police Area For Essex

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

From: [Tesco.com](#)
To: Sam, Sunday, April 12, 2020 10:17 PM
Subject: (Action Antispam) [sic] we're giving you a chance to

Dear Customer,

TESCO is giving you a chance to shop for free this COVID any of our outlets or online by giving out free vouchers

This offer is for **ALL users** and it will be on until the end

To qualify, follow the link below and input all the de

[Click here to Register](#)

After validation, if selected your voucher will be sent or credited to your MyTesco.

Thanks for taking part, The Tesco team

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



The A, B, C of scam awareness

- A. never assume a caller, email or text is genuine.
- B. never believe a caller, email or text is genuine.
- C. always confirm by contacting a trusted number, family member, friend, your bank's fraud department or the police to check if it's genuine.



Don't be isolated when you are self-isolating

If you are self-isolating the **Harrietsham & Lenham Covid 19 Support** may help with;

-  picking up shopping or medical supplies
-  A friendly call from a local "buddy"



**Harrietsham
and Lenham
Covid 19
Support**

This service **is** for residents who have difficulty in obtaining support, and **does not** replace existing support that you may have in place from relatives/ friends/ neighbours.

Contact Tom & Jan 01622 859412 / 07891 901831 sams.uplands@gmail.com or Martin the Community Warden 07977 981993 during work hours.

We have set up a website www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk
Keep yourself and others safe. Wash your hands regularly. Keep away from others.

Keeping yourself isolated will save lives

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Some members from Harrietsham SMBC, together with members from Joydens Wood SMBC, travelled to Warners Lakeside Coastal Village on Hayling Island recently and took part in a bowls tournament organised by Willow Park SMBC from Essex.

The format was different to that which we had been used to playing in the past, as on this occasion we only played triples and fours. Nevertheless the club did well. Barbara French, David French and Bev Dillon won their triples group but were unlucky to lose in the semi-final to a team from Essex. Brian Hall, Lesley Dack and De Berisford did extremely well. After winning their triples group they went on to play in the final. It was not until the end of this closely fought game that they lost the match. Well done and congratulations to them for representing the club so well. Unfortunately the teams did not do so well in the fours team matches, but every one enjoyed the week and look forward to going again next year.

Our friendly matches continued but were soon curtailed by the coronavirus epidemic. 5 March saw us playing a return game against Boughton Monchelsea which we won comfortably by 27 shots. They obviously found it as difficult to get on with our mats as we had done with theirs, where we lost by 26 shots.

12 March was our last match, which was a return game against Burham. Once again we had a handsome win and triumphed by 24 shots. When we will play again we do not know, but as soon as we get the OK our mats will be out and with woods polished we will be bowling again.

Phil Gooda (Chairman)



*Lesley, Brian and De.
(Photo supplied by Phil
Gooda)*

Harrietsham Gardening Society

This month we should have been reporting on the Spring Show. However due to the coronavirus, this and other future events such as the trip to Wisley, have had to be cancelled. We will update and reschedule when the crisis is over. In the meantime keep safe everyone, and enjoy your gardens and allotments and continue to walk in the fresh air when the weather and the government permits.

Mike Flawn - Treasurer

WI

Our speaker at the March meeting was Mr Nick Willoughby. What an interesting afternoon it was. Nick who has worked and travelled throughout the South Pacific brought with him many lovely specimens of sealife and artifacts made by the local people of these Islands.

We hope our members, their families and all readers keep safe and well and hope it will not be too long before we can all get back to normal.

Chris Bone

Harrietsham Village Hall Trust

I hope everyone is keeping safe. As you all know the village hall closed on 20 March. All bookings have been cancelled up to the end of June and the hall will not re-open until the social distancing laws change.

The hall will open again as soon as possible and you all will be able to go back to your clubs knowing it is safe.

We are still looking for a treasurer, so if you want to help in running your village hall, please contact me.

All keep safe.

Steve Brown

Ploughmans and Pimms 2020

A year like no other...

For the last fifteen years I have held this event come what may from very small beginnings to the present day when I keep to a limit of 80 guests. It became apparent relatively recently that we would not be able to hold the event this year. It was with great sadness that I decided to cancel, suffering the same fate as most other events this summer.

The only thing I won't miss this year is the angst regarding the weather as the date approaches. We have only twice needed to be indoors, with guests in every room in the house, as well as on the stairs and in the hallways! Not exactly social distancing!

What I will miss this year is a garage full of beautiful plants, a garden full of lovely people, and my family - namely Jill Parker, my sister and founder of the J.P.K. Project, brother-in-law Patrick, and our very special Katie who wears her uniform with pride.

The J.P.K. Project is a relatively small charity that gives training in it's popular restaurant and bakery to young adults with a learning disability. The restaurant has had to close down during the current crisis, thus causing great disruption to these special people and their families. Along with this, all the fundraising events have been cancelled such as my own, a bluebell walk, a golf day, concerts and fetes etc. It is heart breaking.

As soon as I cancelled my event, I decided to donate the profit I usually make to the J.P.K. but then I was given the idea to ask my loyal supporters to donate the cost of their ticket, in order to compensate for some of J.P.K.'s other losses.

Believe it or not - I hate asking for money! But once again the generosity of my friends spurred me on. By the time you read this I hope to have spoken to almost all the people who attended last year, but if there is anyone who would like to help and who hasn't already pledged their £10 ticket money, please do give me a ring on 01622 859310.

I do hope that May 14 will be a sunny, happy day for us all. I will be phoning my sister the following day to tell her that once again her supporters in Kent have not failed her. (She has no idea what we've been doing).

Together, we will have made another record total.

Thank you so much - keep safe and well.

Jackie Bevan

Church Lane residents Clapping for the NHS

Every Thursday at 8.00pm residents stand outside their homes (observing social distancing, of course), to show their appreciation for our front line heroes in the NHS.

You are doing a wonderful job and we salute you.



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

Yorkshire Tea Loaf

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

Ingredients

- 10 oz (280g) mixed dried fruits
- 3 oz (85g) glace cherries, halved
- 3 oz (85g) brown soft sugar
- 15 fl oz/425 ml freshly made tea, with two tea bags
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon mixed spices
- 10 oz (265g) self-raising flour, sieved

Method

Prepare the fruits the night before baking: measure out the boiling water into a mixing bowl, add the tea bags and leave them to stew for 5 minutes. Remove the tea bags and add the dried fruit (but not the glace cherries). Leave to soak for 12 hours or overnight. The following day the fruit should have swollen. Some tea will be left in the bowl, but that's OK. Do not drain off any of the remaining tea liquid.

After the preparation time:

Add the glace cherries, sugar, and mixed spice. Mix well.

Add the beaten eggs and mix in well.

Fold in the sieved flour, using a wooden spoon. Stir the mixture well.

Put the mixture into a 2lb buttered loaf tin lined with greaseproof paper.

Bake for 90 minutes in a pre-heated oven on a low temperature, e.g. 150c/gas mark 2.

Test with a skewer at the end of baking time – it should come out relatively clean.

Allow to cool in the tin for 20 minutes or so before you turn it out onto a cooling rack.

Deadlines for June Network

Sorry there will not be any advertising in June Network

Wed 20 May 12 noon copy deadline for June Network

It's good to laugh

A man and his wife were awoken at 3.00 a.m. by a loud pounding on the door.

The man got up and opened the door to a drunken stranger standing in the pouring rain, asking for a push.

"Not a chance" said the husband, "it's 3 in the morning!"

He slammed the door and returned to bed.

"Who was that?" said his wife.

"Just some drunk asking for a push" said her husband,

"Did you help him?"

"No I didn't. It's 3 in the morning and its blinking well pouring with rain out there."

"Well you have a short memory, don't you remember about 3 months ago when we broke down and those two kind people helped us? I think you should help him. God loves drunks too you know."

The man sighed, got dressed and walked out into the pouring rain. He called out into the dark "Are you still there?"

"Yes!"

"Do you still need a push?"

"Yes please."

"Where are you? I can't see you in the dark."

"Over here, on the swing."

Anonymous

Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

Registered Charity No. 1090622
Val Brown, Secretary 01622 858147



100 Club Draw

The result of the **Fortieth draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club** drawn on 14 March 2020 by Peter Brown supervised by Michael Gear and Chris Roots is as follows:-

First prize £57.00 – number 105 – Janet and Brian Hall
Second prize £34.20 – number 59 – Robert Stythe
Third prize £22.80 – number 112 – Valerie and Stephen Brown

114 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £114

The 100 Club will still be drawn each month and the results printed in Network.

Ploughman's Platterday and any future events will be cancelled until further notice.

Result of the **Forty-first draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club**

As all the social events in the village have ceased because of the Coronavirus, the 100 Club draw was made on 11 April 2020 at Hawkley Lodge and drawn by Hazel Roots.

119 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £119

First prize £59.50 – number 83 – Valerie and Stephen Brown
Second prize £34.20 – number 115 – Kevin Harlock
Third prize £22.80 – number 7 – 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

Don't miss this Here's your chance to produce an item for the Annual Show in September. (Reproduced here in case you didn't get your magazine last month).

Fingerless Mittens



Materials:

50 grams double knitting wool, 4mm needles, 2 stitch holders, darning needle, 2 decorative buttons and stitch markers.

Tension 4" x 4", 24 stitches and 28 rows in stocking stitch

Abbreviations:

k – knit, p – purl, st – stitch, rs – right side, ws – wrong side, st st – stocking stitch, pm – place marker

sl1, k1, pss0 – slip the next stitch knitwise to right needle, k following st, pass slipped st over previously knitted st.

k2tog – knit the next two sts together,

m1 inc – make 1 increase, with right hand needle pick up thread between sts then knit into the back of it.

Directions: (Make two)

Cast on 39 sts

Row 1 – k1 p1 to end of row

Row 2 – p1 k1 to end of row

Harrietsham Network

These 2 rows form the 1 x1 ribbing. Continue until piece measures 2cm ending with a ws row.

Next row – k1 sl1 k1 pssso, k12, sl1 k1 pssso, k5, k2tog, k12, k2tog, k1 (35sts)

Next row – purl

Next row – knit

These 2 rows form st st. Continue until piece measures 6 cm ending ws row.

Shaping Next row m1 inc at each end of this and following alternate row – 39 sts.

Continue in st st until piece measures 10.5cm ending ws row.

Start thumb shaping: Next row k17, pm, m1 inc, k1, m1 inc, pm, k to end

Continue in pattern increasing 1 st after first marker and a 2nd st before last marker on every row until 15 sts between markers.

Next row p to marker, place 15 sts on a st holder, purl to end.

Work st st for another 4cm ending ws row. Work 3 rows in 1 x 1 rib. Cast off.

Place sts from holder on needle and work 2 rows in 1 x 1 rib. Cast off.

Wrist bands (make 2). Cast on 10 sts. K 1 row. Next row sl1, k2, p1, k2, p1, k3.

*next row sl1 k to end. Next row sl1, k1, p1, k2,p1, k3**

Start buttonhole sl1, k3, cast off 2 sts, k3.

Next row sl1, k2, p1, cast on 2 sts, k the cast on sts, p1, k3.

Repeat from * to ** until piece measures 14.5cm or length to fit wrist.

Cast off.

Finishing off :

Sew up thumb seams. Pin wrist bands in place and sew up side seams and at the same time sew wrist bands into seams as well. Attach buttons.

Clickety click... clickety click.....

Magnolia





Flowers

Bringing the spring flowers in,,,,,,mostly for those who can't go out and enjoy them, but hopefully to raise a smile for all of us.



Top Tips by Harrietsham Gardening Society

Most of us will have been confined to quarters and won't have the opportunity for cavorting around the Maypole this year... shame! However it is the month of Maying and even if you've only got a tiny lawn there's nothing to stop 'Each with his bonny lass, a-dancing on the grass', (with flowers in your hair of course). I expect everyone will have given extra attention to their lawn and garden this year, especially with the fine weather we've been enjoying. Hopefully that opportunity will have awakened interest in growing things for display or your own consumption. However, it's important not to get too far ahead as tender plants can still be susceptible to a late frost, which is quite possible until the middle of the month, so keep your eye open and bring pots in or put a piece of fleece or even newspapers over for added protection if frost is forecast. Early potatoes which will be showing leaves by now can have a little soil drawn right over them which will have the added benefit of encouraging tubers to form.

With difficulty being experienced in obtaining plants from garden centres now is the time to have a go at increasing your own stock. For example, if you have any dahlia tubers as soon as these throw shoots about 75mm long you can take cuttings from these, grow them on and they'll bloom later in the year. Clumps of primroses and polyanthus can be divided and planted in a shady place, kept watered and planted into their flowering positions in the autumn. If you've had clumps of daffodils which have come up blind, dig these up at the end of the month and replant the bulbs elsewhere as they are probably too crowded and competing too much with each other. There is always a temptation to be a bit tidy but, for example, you shouldn't remove leaves from daffodils until at least six weeks after they've finished flowering, which could be the end of the month before it's safe to do so.

Seeds of annuals are some of the easiest things to grow, if you can obtain any just scatter them on the soil surface, mixed with a handful of sand if you've got any, to help to spread them evenly, then lightly rake in and hope it rains if not you know what to do!

If you can't get hold of any tomato plants leave a shop-bought tomato on a windowsill until it is overripe and squidgy, then wash and rub the seeds in a sieve to remove the gelatinous coat, which contains a germination inhibitor, then sow the seeds and grow your own plants. They will be very variable, some may be tender, heavy or light cropping but it will be fun to find out, especially for the children. Also, if you keep seeds such as pumpkins, sunflowers, millet etc. to eat with or for your brecky get the kids to have a go at growing some of those.

In summary, just about anything can be planted outside after the middle of the month and even with a small garden it's amazing what can be achieved using any container imaginable.

Memories of Coronavirus

For posterity...

An unprecedented event in everyone's life. Sadly, we have lost so many loved ones. We are all immensely grateful to all of those people in the NHS, the food industry, the delivery drivers and many, many others who have bravely worked on, forming a front line against our deadly invisible enemy. Seriously, six months ago who would have thought this could happen? And yet, it has!

The following is based on information found in the public domain on Facebook and I thank the original contributor(s). I copied it into my own records because I know that with so much happening, I won't remember it all. It has been edited and updated. I thought I would share some of it, with the proviso that I cannot vouch for its 100% accuracy, but it fits my recollections of what has happened to us and the world as we know it in the last few months. I apologise if there are any errors or omissions.

It is an extraordinarily sad and immensely proud chapter in our wonderful country's history. I am including it in Network for those who would like a historic reminder, written at the time.

Editor

This is about the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic, declared by the WHO on March 11 2020.

The UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, ordered a lockdown across the country on the evening of Monday 23 March 2020. He himself was later diagnosed with and admitted to hospital with Coronavirus (Covid-19), spending several nights in intensive care, where he was helped with his breathing, fortunately, without the need for a ventilator. He later convalesced at Chequers, his country residence.

Queen Elizabeth II addressed the nation at 8pm on Sunday 5 April. She sought to encourage and unite us against this invisible enemy. This is only the 4th time she has addressed us, other than in her Christmas messages, in her nearly 67 year reign.

The Excel Centre in London has been converted into a hospital for up to 4,000 patients, most of whom are on ventilators suffering from Coronavirus (Covid-19). It is known as the NHS Nightingale. Similar large venues across the country are also being converted into Coronavirus hospitals. The London NHS Nightingale Hospital was opened by Prince Charles at 11am on Friday 3 April via a video link because he himself was self-isolating at home, suffering from a mild form of coronavirus. He has since recovered.

Community support groups were established to support the vulnerable, elderly, immunocompromised and people in enforced isolation in their own homes.

From Thursday 26 March at 8pm, and every Thursday night thereafter, we all stood outside our homes, on our doorsteps, on our balconies or at open windows and applauded and cheered for all of our amazingly brave NHS staff, who so courageously and selflessly battled on to try and save as many lives as possible. Sadly, some lost their lives to Coronavirus.

Petrol prices plummeted due to lack of demand.

Schools closed on Friday 20 March, potentially for the remainder of the school year. Parents were home schooling and teachers were teaching from remote locations using apps like Zoom to give virtual lessons. Some schools remained open to care for children of key workers to enable the parents to continue working. Grandparents, who were in the highest risk categories (over 70 and/or with existing health problems) and needed to be shielded from the virus, were not allowed to look after the children. Video lessons were posted online to help those parents who were home-schooling their children.

Social distancing was introduced requiring everyone to maintain a minimum separation of 2 metres from anyone not a member of their own household. Socialising with anyone outside of your home was banned and essential encounters at 2 metre separation were advised to be for no longer than 15 minutes.

Tape was placed on the floors at grocery stores and in other places to help people maintain their social distance from each other. A limit was placed on the number of people allowed inside stores at one time and everyone else had to queue outside the store doors, still 2 metres apart.

Non-essential stores and businesses were instructed to close, workers who could do so were instructed to work from home.

The Government introduced a job retention scheme to try and save workers' jobs by enabling them to be furloughed and to receive 80% of their wages from the government.

Airlines grounded all or most of their fleets. Many crew members volunteered to use their skills to work for the NHS in Nightingale Hospitals, the Ambulance Service, 111 telephone handling or in community support.

City & traffic emissions reduced. Air pollution improved. River water became cleaner. Wildlife flourished.

Whilst everyone was entitled to go outside once a day to get exercise, driving anywhere to exercise was not permitted and social distancing had to be maintained.

Entire sports seasons have been cancelled. In 2020 there will be no Wimbledon, no end to the Premiership, no Boat Race, no London Marathon, amongst others. A virtual Grand National was held on 4 April 2020. The 2020 Olympics due to be held in Japan have been postponed to 2021. Childrens' play parks have been closed. Concerts, tours, festivals, entertainment events, weddings and family celebrations have all been cancelled. Churches have been closed and funeral attendance has been restricted.

Families have been entertaining themselves online with Tik Tok videos or going Live on Facebook. Singers and bands played live sets on their driveways or on their balconies for all to hear. (Well done, Tim Griffiths and J Daniel Benjamin for 'Dance on the Doorstep' in Harrietsham, viewable on video link). Zoom and Houseparty have been hosting games and pub quiz nights.

There have been chronic shortages of masks, gowns, gloves (PPE) for front-line workers and shortages of ventilators for the critically ill in many parts of the world. Many businesses in the UK have volunteered to help manufacture these items. Formula 1 racing teams and Virgin Galactic designed and produced new style ventilators in the space of one week. Manufacturers, distilleries and other businesses have switched their lines to help make visors, masks, hand sanitizer and PPE.

Panic buying set in at the start of the outbreak and purchase of some products has been limited, including toilet paper, disinfecting supplies, paper towels, staple foods and hand sanitizer. Flour is in short supply.

Fines have been established for breaking lockdown rules.

Press conferences daily from the PM and other senior government and health officials update us on new cases and deaths, and new measures and changes.

Road usage and public transport usage are well below 40% of normal use.

Essential service workers are frightened to go to work and medical workers are afraid to go home to their families for fear of infecting them.

In the UK as at 20 April 2020 there have sadly been 16509 deaths in hospital from the Coronavirus. We await a report on deaths in the community and in care homes.

Our hearts go out to everyone who has lost a loved one, who has suffered from this virus and who has watched others suffering.

The message from the government in the UK is:-

Stay Home - Protect the NHS - Save Lives

Christian Message

Whatever happens in the next few weeks – and the future does appear to be misty – I am sure that May 8 will not come and go without celebrations of some sort.

Many, including HM the Queen, will remember VE DAY. It was a great celebration of the allied victory over Nazi Germany. There were special events throughout the United Kingdom... dancing in Piccadilly and street parties in towns and villages. These events were followed a few months later, on 15 July 1945, by another great celebration when the war with Japan came to an end.

Victory celebrations are part of our history. Almost all Remembrance services include the repetition of statements such as, “They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.” These words remind worshippers of Armistice Day, 11 November 1918. Sadly many past victories as, for example, over Napoleon or in the Crimea, have failed to achieve lasting peace. There have been more wars, more tragic loss of life.

There is however one lasting victory which Christians rejoice in and which can transform life and bring lasting peace to a person. It is the victory of Jesus over sin and death and this victory was achieved by his painful death on the Cross at Calvary.

The Bible proclaims confidently: ‘Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ’. (I Corinthians 15:27)

Victories recorded in history books have little relevance to our lives today. By contrast Jesus’ death on the Cross has disabled the power of death over us and provided the solution to the sin which besets our lives. Forgiveness of sins and the power of the Holy Spirit given to all Christians make a new way of life possible.

The hymn, “Abide with Me” by HF Lyte is sung at many funerals. The following lines sum up the confidence of those who trust in Jesus Christ.

“Where is death’s sting? Where, grave thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.”

Joan Drury



Love In The Time Of Coronavirus

Where is God?

In the hands, feet and hearts of those who have worked for us, loved and supported us, and helped keep us safe in this most challenging of times.

Carole Burton

You'll Never Walk Alone (Rodgers & Hammerstein from Carousel 1945)

When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of the storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone

"You'll Never Walk Alone" rapidly became the UK-wide anthem of support for encouragement to medical staff, first responders, those in quarantine or other restrictions or other ways impacted by the 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic. (Wikipedia).

Harrietsham Network



Snapped on a lockdown walk exercise walk

