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Harrietsham's  
Village Magazine***



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# Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

## Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Brown <i>Email: treasurer@harrietshamfishscheme.org</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Nicola File

## Network Magazine

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

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Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

## Network Magazine June 2025 deadlines:-

**Thursday 1 May 2025** 12 noon advertising and copy deadline for June Network.

In addition to printing the magazine and distributing it to all homes in the village, Network is uploaded to our website by the 1st of each month.

Please send advertising contributions to [adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org)

Please send copy to: [editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org).

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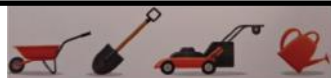
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web page: <https://harrietshamsocialclub.co.uk>

Or just pop-in (Friday/Saturdays are best)

We welcome guests & new membership applications

## Message From the Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the *Harrietsham Network*.

As we head into spring proper, this month's magazine brings a mix of local updates, regular features, and a few important reflections. From gardening tips and tennis taster sessions to community events and a thoughtful piece marking VE80, there's plenty to catch up on.

We'd like to thank everyone who continues to send in articles, photos, and notices—your contributions really do help keep the magazine relevant and reflective of village life.

As always, we welcome feedback, suggestions, or new contributions for future editions. If there's something happening locally you'd like to share, do get in touch.

**Nicola File** - Editor

[editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org)

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

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*Whilst every effort has been made to include as wide a variety of information as possible, the editor reserves the right not to publish, or to edit, any item. The editor's decision is final. Responsibility for the information and views set out in articles and notices in this publication lies entirely with the authors.*

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## Quiz Corner

Round 19

1. What game begins in front of the South Stake?
2. What is an Argentinian Cowboy called?
3. In the 1960 U.S. Presidential election, who did JFK defeat?
4. Quito is the capital of which country?
5. Which Apollo 11 Astronaut didn't step on the Moon?
6. In which city is Interpol based?
7. Where are the 'semi-circular canals'?
8. Who was the U.S.A.'s first 'Honorary Citizen'?
9. What can't you do with your eyes open?
10. Who began his entertainment career as 'Silent Sam, the dancing midget'?

Answers on page 29

## Harrietsham Gardening Society



Our March meeting was mainly taken up with the Spring show. Due to the recent frosts and latish Spring entries were down this year as many of the more choice daffodils etc. have yet to bloom, but nevertheless there was a good display. Ken Leach was awarded the trophy for the most points in show, he has a regular delivery of Brasso and silver polish as he seems to pick up a number of cups, salvers etc., well done Ken, and the bells in the church tower must shine like a shilling.... !! The award for the best exhibit in show went to Christine Bone for the most exquisitely and painstakingly decorated egg which must have taken hours of work, well done Christine you are obviously very talented.

Our May meeting is an evening visit to Stephen Morris's plant centre at Farthing Common. This is always a really interesting trip with lots to see, advice and a warm welcome. Looking ahead it will be our summer show in June so nurture those roses and sweet peas and get your photo in Network.

By the middle of May it is generally fairly safe to plant out in the open (hopefully not for the third time) tender plants such as Fuschias, geraniums, other summer bedding, runner and French beans, courgettes, squashes etc. and if you put a couple of new potato tubers in pots in the greenhouse earlier you should be able to tip those out and enjoy them by the end of the month.

**Kevin Harlock**

## Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club



Grass court tennis will be starting up in May. Our first session will be on Sunday May 4 from 2pm and everyone is welcome to come & play. Our usual schedule for social tennis will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm and Sundays from 2pm. Members can play at anytime during the week on the 3 grass courts for singles & doubles.

This year we plan to introduce **Walking Tennis** - an LTA approved version of tennis played on a standard sized court where the ball can bounce twice and no running or jumping is permitted. The game is ideally suited to those who are less mobile or recovering from an injury where more gentle exercise is necessary. We are running **Free taster sessions on Monday 12 & 19 May from 10 -11:30am** - no need to book just turn up and give walking tennis a go.

For any further details please ring Andrew on 079000 23399 or visit our website [harrietshamlawntennisclub.weebly.com](http://harrietshamlawntennisclub.weebly.com) for the latest news.

**Andrew Rogers** - Tennis Club Chairman



## Harrietsham In Bloom

Having enjoyed wonderful displays during Spring which is ongoing we are encouraged by the compliments from villagers and motorists. Now is the time for deadheading. If you can help just take off the flower heads only. Soon we shall be clearing the planters and beds, weeding and feeding ready for Summer planting.



Our annual Quiz was held on 5 April. Many thanks to those that supported us, the Quizmaster, helpers and those that donated raffle prizes. More details next month of the outcome.

We desperately need more volunteers. Please contact our Chairman, Andrew Rogers on 01622 859352. Thankyou.

**Audrey Joy MBE**



## Harrietsham History Society

One of our members Mike Bishop has submitted an article for the Network about VE80 which can be found further on in this edition. Thank you Mike for providing a fantastic article on this subject. I would therefore like to let you all know about some of things we have been working on behind the scenes.

We have undertaken a rebranding exercise for the society, which includes how the finances are managed, how membership is collected, exciting fund raising initiatives as well as an update on the society's logo (please see below). As you can see the church is represented as a focal point of the village as well as the representation of the north downs and the chalk stream. We will update you all further in future editions of the funding raising initiatives and what the money raised will go towards.

Our next two events are as follows, we would like to see as many current and new members attend as possible.

**Tuesday 6 May 7pm** - Ambrose Hall, Harrietsham Village Hall  
**Harrietsham History Society Annual General Meeting (VE Special)**  
(Refreshments provided)

followed by:

**"Harrietsham at War: Part I"** – a fascinating presentation uncovering the stories of ordinary villagers who showed extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and community spirit during wartime. Discover how Harrietsham stood strong to defend the nation and how our village supported the ultimate allied victory.

**Monday 29 September, 7pm** - Booth Hall, Harrietsham Village Hall  
**"War Time Letter from India"** - Special Guest talk by Andrew Bond

We would also like to promote a free event which will form part of Maidstone's celebration of VE80. Members will remember a wonderful talk by Mary Smith titled "A Schoolgirls War" given in 2024. Mary will be delivering the talk four times across 9 & 10 May at 11:00-12:00 and 13:00-14:00 at Maidstone Town Hall, Jubilee Square, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1TF. FREE – no need to book

# Harrietsham Network

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## Parish Council News

### Cllr Fred Stanley

Harrietsham Parish Council is sad to announce that our friend and colleague passed away on Saturday 22 March, surrounded by his loved ones.

Fred had been a Parish Councillor for 9 years and had served on all of the main Council Committees, as well as being our representative at the Kent Association of Local Councils area meetings and a Trustee for the Village Hall Trust. We will remember Fred as a perfect gentleman, kind and caring, always immaculately dressed, even when walking his beloved dog, Hattie. He was unfailingly polite and respectful to everyone, with a desire to help others.

Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Hazel and his family. He will be missed with great affection by all who knew him.

## Harrietsham Church Book of Remembrance

My daughter, Ruth, has offered to make some new entries in the Harrietsham Church book of Remembrance, to bring it more up to date.

If you have a loved one who passed away between 1997 and now, and had their funeral at St John the Baptist Church in Harrietsham, was buried or had cremated ashes scattered here (or cremated elsewhere but had a strong connection to Harrietsham Church) and would like an entry in the book, please let me know by **31 May 2025**.

Please let me have your details in writing or by email at [Pamela@lvb.org.uk](mailto:Pamela@lvb.org.uk) so that we can check spellings etc:

Your name

Your contact details including phone number

Your relationship to your loved one

Full name of deceased

Year of birth

Year died

There will be no charge for this but if you would like to make a donation to the church please contact our treasurer, Mike Cuerden at [cuerdenmike@gmail.com](mailto:cuerdenmike@gmail.com). Calligraphy is a slow process but we will let you know when it is done. Ruth estimates a year, depending on the number of entries.

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Cllr. Tom Sams

[tomsamscllr7@gmail.com](mailto:tomsamscllr7@gmail.com)



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## VE 80 – the fight goes on

This month we will commemorate the stoic resilience and sacrifice of the Second World War generation as we remember the end of the War in Europe, and then later in August, the end of hostilities in East Asia.

If my memory of history and the books I have read is right, we went to war in 1939 for two reasons: to bring about the unconditional surrender of Germany and to defeat Nazism. While the first was realised in May 1945, unfortunately the struggle against dictatorship and intolerance goes on. And if ever a war could be justified, it was this one.

Currently, we again have war in Europe and in many countries around the world prejudice and discrimination are on the increase. Antisemitism is on the rise along with religious intolerance against those of faith. Racist attacks seem daily, as are those against people who express their own sexual and gender identity and disabled people have again become an easy target.

As we rightly honour those of our parents or grandparents who served the cause of freedom and made the ultimate sacrifice and those who lived through the Second World War and as we commemorate and celebrate all they achieved, perhaps it now falls on us to take up the fight and to finish what they started.

But how do we do this? Maybe one of the answers is not in big confrontations like going to war but is in small, daily challenges to those we met who hold and express intolerant ideas. As the philosopher Edmund Burke once said. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (people) to do nothing".

***Mike Bishop***



# Harrietsham Network

## Local Directory A-Ha

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### Beaver Scouts

Leader      Ann Seales      01622 859829

### Bell Ringers

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Captain      Graham Cuthbert      01795 886365

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### Conservative Association

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### Cub Scouts

Leader      Mrs A Seales      01622 859829

### Explorer Scouts

Leader      Mark Horlock      07789 226516

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Chairperson

### Gardening Society

Chairman      Mr David Oversby      01622 859674

### Girl Guides

Leader      Andrea French      07901 667018

### Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary      Mr T Grimes      01622 850632

### Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser      Deborah Nankivell      07775 716714

### Harrietsham History Society

Chairman      Mr M Avis      chairmanhhs@gmail.com

### Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman      Mr A Rogers      01622 859352

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Mrs Florence Sealy  
Charlee Guy      07458 915213

### Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary      Jed Stone      07759 8771198/whipacres2@gmail.com



# Local Directory Ha-Z

## Harrietsham Ladies Group

(formerly Wives Group)

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## Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 01622 850657

## Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 01622 859412

## Karate Club

Organiser Mr Lewin Tuckwell 07812 089304

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## Lenham and Harrietsham Youth Hub

Contact Katie at KCC 01622 755044

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warden@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

## PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman Vikki Beck harrietshamptfa@gmail.com

## Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

## Scouts

Group leader Mr E Seales 859829

## Short Mat Bowls

Chairman Phil Gooda 01622851217/p.gooda@btinternet.com

**Tai Chi Class** Angela Akast 07754454030/akast.a@btopenworld.com

## Tennis Club

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

## The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

## Ulcombe Preschool

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

## Village Hall

Booking Clerk 07393 030409  
bookingclerkhvh@outlook.com

**Wellbeing Community Group** Ellie Stevens 07952 594655

wellbeingcg@outlook.com

## Yoga

Helen Kacperek 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com

## LITTER PICK

The Harrietsham Parish Council Village Litter Pick will take place on  
Saturday 10 May 9am-11am

Meet at West Street Green opposite the village shop. Bags and Pickers supplied.  
Bring gloves and your enthusiasm!

Thank you

Janetta & Tom

Ring 07891901831 for any enquiries

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The Charity provides funds and support to individuals and families in Harrietsham who are experiencing financial difficulties. Our mission is to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the resources they need to lead a fulfilling life.

We offer:

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- One-off financial assistance for basic needs

If you or someone you know needs financial assistance, please reach out to us at Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com or to The Culpepper Charity, C/o The Church Office, Harrietsham Village Hall, Church Road, Harrietsham, Kent ME17 1AP

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# Len Valley Benefice May 2025

## Everybody is welcome



For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you. *Isaiah 41:13*

### Sunday 4 May

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

### Wednesday 7 May

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Chippendayle

### Sunday 11 May

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**6.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

### Sunday 18 May

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Lenham: Morning Worship

### Sunday 25 May

**11.00am** Benefice Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

*'Re-Sourced in Christ – Community'*

## Games Afternoon

Come and join us **in the Church Room** (*there is a door into this at the back of Harrietsham Village Hall*) on **Tuesday 6<sup>TH</sup> May** from **2pm – 4pm**

Come with enthusiasm and ideas and do bring a friend along

We will supply some games but please feel free to bring something you would like to play (*donations would be much appreciated, please*)

Tea and coffee will be served

Please join us on the day *or contact Pamela Cuerden on 01622 859442 to find out more.* Everyone is welcome.

*(We intend meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month but may move venue and/or time if we grow in number so do look out for further posters, flyers, notices in Network, and on the Harrietshamites Facebook page).*

**Sponsored by St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham**

# Harrietsham Network

## Harrietsham Parish Warden

Following a meeting held on 25 March at the Village Hall a working party is being formed to create an Emergency Plan for Harrietsham. In support of that I would like to remind residents of the **Priority Services Register**.

If you, or someone you know, would need extra support in the event of the electricity, water or gas supply being interrupted you can apply to be included on the [Priority Services Register](#).

UK Power Networks, Southeast Water and Southern Gas Networks can all register customers so they can be advised of planned interruptions or receive assistance, if required, in an emergency.

You, or your loved ones, could be eligible to join the Priority Services Register if you're:

- over 60
- have children under five or are pregnant
- have long-term physical or mental health conditions
- have a disability
- have additional language or communication needs

You may only need to register with one of the organisations as they should ask for permission to advise each other of your registration. You can register online via their websites, but if that is not possible, a relative or friend can register for you. I have included contact numbers below if you would prefer to ring.

**UK Power Networks:** Free from a mobile or landline phone. (Open 24 hours)  
**0800 169 9970**

**Southeast Water:** Customer Care team on **0333 000 2468** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm).

**Southern Gas Networks:** Call our Priority Services Register line on **0800 912 1700**

If you would like to discuss your concerns with me in confidence I can be contacted by mobile or email.

**Martin Sherwood** - Harrietsham Parish Warden

Mobile: 07724 544 409

Email: [warden@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:warden@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Pet Service

Calling all pets large and small please join us (and bring your humans!)  
to **St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham**  
on **Sunday 4 May at 09:30am**.

Weather permitting, we will meet outside in the Churchyard (inside if inclement)  
Songs and fun with refreshments

**If you are taking part in the Hospice (bluebell) walk that day,  
why not come and join us before your walk?**

Please join us on the day or contact Pamela Cuerden  
on 01622 859442 to find out more

**Everyone is welcome!** (dogs on leads please)



## The Friends of The Church of St John the Baptist

### Soup Saturday/Ploughman's

I am sorry to let you know that the Committee has decided that we will not be having Soup Saturdays or Ploughman's Platterdays until further notice. This is wholly due to the fact that we do not have enough people to help us at these events. We were so disappointed that there was no response for volunteers to join our committee before and following the AGM and we are left with a small team doing all the work. If the situation changes, we will let you know. The 100 Club Lottery Draw will continue to be drawn monthly and we will publish the results.

### 100 Club Lottery Results

The results of the One Hundredth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club drawn on Saturday 8 March 2025 by various diners at the Soup Saturday lunch under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

- First Prize £150.00 – number 55 – Andrew & Jackie Moore
- Second Prize £90.00 – number 76 – Valerie & Stephen Brown
- Third Prize £60.00 – number 60 – Audrey Joy

There were 150 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £150 with an additional £150 donated.

### Events

The committee has decided to carry on with our one-off events which do not require so much organisation.

**Saturday 21 June** - we have the Kettle Bridge Concertina Band concert in the church. This will be a great evening of singalong music for all. Starting at **7pm**, the event is free entry, refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. We will have a jar for donations which we will split with the Band and The Friends. Look out for the posters!

**Saturday 9 August** - We will be holding another Bingo Night.

**Saturday 27 September** – The Invicta Concert Band will be coming to play for us.

**Saturday 18 October** – Come and join us for another Bingo Night

Look out for posters in the Network and around the village.

If you would like further information or an application form to join either the 100 Club or as a Friend, please email Chris Roots at [friendsofstjohn@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstjohn@outlook.com) or phone 851 885.

I am pleased to tell you that Chris Roots has undertaken the role of Chair of the Management Committee and we wish him well as we move forward.

**Valerie Brown** – Secretary

### Thank you

Just wanted to thank everyone who supported the Friends during my time as Chair and to wish the new Chairperson, Chris Roots, best wishes for the future along with the small number of Committee Members.

Thank you, all.

**Audrey Joy MBE**

## Local Churches

### Parish Church of St John the Baptist

**Vicar:** Revd. John Huggins  
01622 850280 [vicar@lvb.org.uk](mailto:vicar@lvb.org.uk)

(Day off: Wednesday)

**Assisting priests:**

Revd. Millie Hart 07766 555415  
[millie.hart@uwclub.net](mailto:millie.hart@uwclub.net)

**Readers:**

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442

[pamela@lvb.org.uk](mailto:pamela@lvb.org.uk)

**Benefice Office:**

Sarah Hills 01622 850604

[churchOffice@lvb.org.uk](mailto:churchOffice@lvb.org.uk)

For details of services see p.23

### United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

**Minister:** Rev Andrew Royal

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

01622 686053

[maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net](mailto: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](http://www.maidstonebaptist.net)

### Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

**Minister:** Revd. Robert Zachar

117 Crossways

Sittingbourne

ME10 4RN

01795 422573

Sunday Service 10.30am

### Church of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Lane, off East Street,  
Harrietsham

**Parish Priest:** Fr Geoffrey Pointer

Deacon: Rev Cyril Durbin 736100

Mass every Sunday at 8.45am and  
Wednesday at 10.00am

Holydays Mass 7pm

### St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Button Lane, Bearsted 736100

Confessions, Saturday 5 – 5.30pm

Saturday Evening Mass 6pm

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Weekday Mass generally

Monday and Tuesday 7pm and Friday  
10am

Holydays Mass 10am and 8pm

### Pathways Church, Maidstone

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at  
10.30am in Lenham Community Centre.

Wednesday evenings in homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

**Church leaders:** Ben and Kaat Doggett

[info@pathwayschurch.org.uk](mailto:info@pathwayschurch.org.uk)

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

For all church services please see  
information on page 21/22 or contact  
your own church for up to date information.

## Public Services and Emergencies Directory

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

### Hospitals:

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

### Councils:

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

### Police:

Emergencies only	999
Non emergencies	101

Samaritans, 48 Grecian Street, Maidstone	01622 674444
Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Bower Terrace, Maidstone	0808 2505704
Childline	0800 1111
KCC Children's Social Services	03000 411111
KCC Adult Social Services	03000 416161





### The Critic

Friday 9 May

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 41 mins

Our film in May is **The Critic** (15, 2024), which stars the wonderful Ian McKellen as vitriolic and powerful theatre critic Jimmy Erskine in this brilliant thriller set in 1934. Erskine vows revenge when he is sacked by the new owner of the newspaper where he works. Convinced he has been treated unfairly he gleefully plans every step of his retaliation. For this he manipulates a gullible young actress, Nina Land, for his first move. She is persuaded to seduce his ex-boss which sets in train the dark and gripping rigmarole that follows. Based on a novel by Anthony Quinn, **The Critic** offers an evening of thrills and suspense with the incomparable Ian McKellen, wonderfully supported by a host of British stars including Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong and Lesley Manville. What more could you want?

Directed by Anand Tucker.

For our June performance, June 13th, we've something different - we journey to the Land of Oz, not with Judy Garland, but in the gorgeous Oscar winning musical fantasy **Wicked**. Don't miss this one!

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

**Admission:** Adults £5, under 16s £2; cash only, card payments not accepted.



lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com



www.lenhamfilmclub.org



@lenhamfilmclub

### SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 22 June 2025

### BIG LUNCH

GLEBE FIELD – opposite the Church

12.00 – 4.00pm

Fun for all the family including

Magnificent Mutts Dog Show, Raffle, Cake Stand

Games for children as well as adults.

We look forward to seeing you.

Enquiries: [cllr.dean@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.dean@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# May 2025 Diary

*Abbreviations:*

*HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre*

Thurs	1	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	2	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	5	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	5	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	5	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Craft	HVH
Wed	7	7.30pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	8	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Thurs	8	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	3	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	10		Litter Pick	Village Green
Mon	12	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	12	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Wed	14	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Wed	14	1.40pm	Mobile Library	Post Office
Thurs	15	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	16	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	19	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	19	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	19	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Craft	HVH
Tue	20	7.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	22	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	23	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	24	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Mon	26	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	26	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Wed	28	1.40pm	Mobile Library	Post Office
Thurs	29	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	30	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



# Harrietsham Network

## HARRIETSHAM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

**VENUE HARRIETSHAM VILLAGE HALL**

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## Update from your local MP Helen Whately

A lot of people think catapults are just kids' toys. Yet I am receiving more and more emails from people sharing stories about how they are being used to cause devastating harm.

That's why I am campaigning for them to be classed as 'offensive weapons' so the Police have the powers they need to take action.

I have been told how catapults have been used to knock out people's teeth, seriously maim or kill pets and wildlife, as well damage property including shattering car windscreens and breaking house and shed windows. Reports about the damage catapults cause is growing more serious and more widespread.



I have been working hard to change the law. Last year, I led an initiative with other Kent MPs pressing the Home Office to do more to tighten up on catapults.

In January I met the Policing Minister to push for them to be classed as offensive weapons and grant the police the right to confiscate them.

I am now looking at whether I can get the forthcoming Crime Bill amended to achieve this. In the coming weeks I will be asking more questions in Parliament and following up with Ministers to keep up the pressure.

Sometimes anglers use a special kind of catapult to spread bait – but there's no reason for anglers to be affected by a crackdown on catapults used as weapons.

There is a Parliamentary petition calling for companies to be banned from selling dangerous catapults and ammunition in the UK which you can sign by typing in this link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/701064> or searching for 'Parliamentary catapult petition'.

The petition was set up by Danni Rogers, a volunteer at the Shepperton Swan Sanctuary, after numerous attacks on swans. If the petition reaches 100,000 signatures by 27 May it will force a debate in Parliament – which will also help to raise awareness of the problem.

I will not rest until something is done, but I need your help. To build a strong case I want to gather as much evidence as possible. So, if you or someone you know has had a bad experience with catapults, please share it with me.

As ever, if I can help in any way, please reach out.



**Tuesday 6th May 7pm**  
**Ambrose Hall, Harrietsham Village Hall**

Harrietsham History Society Annual General  
Meeting (VE Special)  
(Refreshments provided)  
followed by:

## **"Harrietsham at War: Part I"**

A fascinating presentation uncovering the lives of ordinary villagers who showed extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and community spirit during wartime. Discover how Harrietsham stood strong to defend the nation and how our village supported the ultimate allied victory.

**£3 Non-Members | £2 Members**  
**Become a member for just £15 a year**

**For Info Contact:** Chairman **Martyn Avis**  
**chairmanhhs@gmail.com**

We've found the easy way for everyone to support **Harrietsham History Society**, and it doesn't cost you a penny extra! Every time you shop online for groceries, gifts, treats or even booking a holiday! 8,000+ retailers like Tesco, M&S, John Lewis, eBay, Argos, ASOS, Booking.com and many more will donate to us for FREE through easyfundraising!



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# Harrietsham Station

**Appeal on behalf of the community in Harrietsham** – this is the usual approach when asking for money, but in this case Harrietsham is asking for your appreciation of an asset that can easily be lost and never regained.

Dr Beeching, the well- known chemical engineer, was brought in to rationalise the Railways in the 60's. This infamous Maidstone resident used much of his engineering skills in disabling the Railways on a slash and burn approach, instead of targeting his wrath towards efficiency and looking at the value of some (but not all) routes etc.

Modern days have seen the same approach with South East Trains (SET) and many other train companies attempting to force through closures of Booking Offices throughout the country. This was only curtailed and mostly reversed, by a high-profile Consultation which was challenged by the UK population under the banner of retention community benefits.

**Harrietsham now has a Booking Office Clerk, Rob who is keen to see the station used to its full potential. The Booking Office and the heated waiting room are available Monday to Friday, 06:10 - 10:25.** The problem that is likely to occur is that SET will look at the usage of this facility and the adage of 'use or lose' will be raised. We have all been encouraged recently to use on line facilities, but losing the clerk's position will significantly degrade this vital asset, especially as we now have a haphazard bus timetable (Service 510 – the new name for the old 10X bus) that has already lost its Sunday service! Harrietsham was until fairly recently, being offered up as a Transport Hub for our expanding village and surrounding communities – this would seem to have dropped off SET's objectives and the loss of a staffed station would further hit that aspiration.

If not staffed, the Waiting Room will be closed permanently, no station support for disabled passengers will be available, travel information will be curtailed (the help point system is atrocious and the screens are often out of order) and passengers will not have access to a person that can both advise and sell you tickets (and for cash – as the ticketing machine on the station is card only).

We have unfortunately been used to the station being unmanned – it is now time to acclimatise us all back to having and using the service. **Please use the facility, avoid paying for tickets on the train by getting them at the Booking Office, keep warm in the Waiting Room and just welcome Rob to his new role.**

*Stephen Taylor*

Quiz Corner

Answers

Round 19

1. Croquet

2. A Gaucho

3. Richard Nixon

4. Ecuador

5. Michael Collins

6. Lyon

7. The inner ear

8. Winston Churchill

9. Sneeze

10. Sammy Davis Jnr.

## Christian Message

What is the “church”? We have a wonderful medieval building on the Square in Lenham, dedicated to St Mary, which we call our “church”. But in the years just following the death and resurrection of Jesus there were no buildings specifically for Christian worship and the “church” was the family of Christian worshippers. It is important to remember that the church is about people more than it is about buildings.

In the third century after Jesus, Christians began to set aside buildings specifically for worship and gradually they became known as “churches”. Now there are many ancient buildings that are very special to us, they are places where people have prayed and worshipped over the centuries and it is possible to feel the atmosphere inside and sense the presence of God. They are amazing places for Christians to join together and develop their relationship with God. But we can do that in other places too, for example at the war memorial across the A20, and we still meet in house groups, very similar to those in the first century.

People meet together in St Mary’s every day of the week, not always to sing hymns and to worship formally. The building is used for many purposes, for bellringing and choir singing, for coffee and chat, for Wednesday Feast, for sewing circle, for the food bank.

When Archbishop William Temple was reported as saying, “The church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.” he was talking about the church as the family of believers. It is this thought that inspires the Christian family to use the church building for the good of all the community.

At St Mary’s we are currently raising money for the Hub project, which will open up the church building for much more flexible use for the benefit of the Lenham community. Jesus instructed us to love our neighbours and it is the working out of this that drives us to use the church building as widely as possible, not just for Christian worship.

The need for good village venues is increasing as Lenham doubles and redoubles in population. St Mary’s has a long and interesting history at the very centre of the community. We have an amazing opportunity to develop the church building as a place where the church family can meet, where the community can gather for Christenings, Weddings and Funerals, and where we can have the space for many activities for the wellbeing of all who live in our village.

***Reverend Richard Birch***

### **Community Choir**

*Come along to our  
fun singalong community choir*

*for adults, singing popular songs for all!*

**At St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham**  
fortnightly on Monday evenings **(12 and 26 May)**

**between 7pm and 9pm**

Tea and coffee will be served.

Everyone is welcome

*For more information please phone Claire Jane on 01622 853819.*

***Sponsored by St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham***





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# Harrietsham Network

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