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Village Magazine***



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Network Magazine November 2024 deadlines:-

Tuesday 1 October 2024 12 noon advertising and copy deadline for November 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

Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

Thank you.

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Message From the Editor

Welcome to the October 2024 edition of the Harrietsham Network. As we move into autumn, the activities within our community continue at a steady pace. This edition brings you updates from various clubs and societies, local history insights, and important council information.

In addition to our regular content, we are reaching out to those interested in supporting the Harrietsham Fish Scheme. The scheme plays a vital role in connecting residents, and we are looking for new committee members. If you have some time to spare and would like to make a meaningful contribution to the community, we encourage you to get in touch. Joining the committee is a great way to help without requiring a large time commitment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Harrietsham Network. Your contributions and feedback are always appreciated. Please feel free to share your stories, photos, or ideas with us at editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Cover photo by Jeanette Geppert: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/photo-of-trees-in-the-woods-11688402/>

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.

Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the officers or committee of the Fish Scheme.

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On 20 August the society held its annual show. As with the early summer show, the weather has had quite an effect on our produce. Never the less members produced some quality exhibits. So although entries were down on previous years there were many colourful displays of flowers and a fine array of vegetables. The main prize winners were as follows.-

- * Best Vegetable - Kevin Harlock
- * Best Flower - Ken Leach
- * Best Exhibit - Angela Gatland
- * Best Photo - Elizabeth Welchman
- * Best Flower Arrangement - Elizabeth Welchman.



Our next meeting will be on 21 October at 7.30pm. This will include a presentation by Mike Flawn on 'Gardens of Philadelphia'. As always new members and visitors are very welcome.

Harrietsham Ladies Group

As many of our members have been away or spending time with their families during the Summer we opted out of the usual meetings and arranged social occasions for those of us who were around.

In July, eighteen of us went to a restaurant in Ashford for lunch. The majority of us travelled down by bus which I know was a new experience for a few! It worked out very well, the bus had plenty of seats and no particular person felt obliged to drive. I think those of us who went would gladly repeat this next year.

In August there were fewer of us around but we had a lovely barbecue hosted by Jackie and Roger in their beautiful garden.

In September we returned to the Scout Hut and Helen Tobias entertained us with her talk about the highs and lows of shoes - a popular subject for us ladies.

Our next meeting is on 2 October and we have a talk titled 'The Darling Buds of May' by Sue Duckworth.

Anyone wishing to come along will be most welcome for just a visitors charge of £2. You couldn't even get a coffee for that!

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
01622 850735

Harrietsham In Bloom

Having given a good display during Summer the plants will be removed and the planters replanted for the Winter/Spring with bulbs etc. This is a busy time for our volunteers and we are grateful for their loyalty.



Over the past few weeks the planters have been given a "facelift" with a coat of preservative and are now looking a bit smarter. Many of our planters are showing their age and have some rotting wood. Our ongoing programme of maintenance and repairs will include the replacement of this. Many thanks to the team of volunteers who are, and have been, involved in all these works. As far as we know we have not suffered any vandalism during the Summer which is a refreshing thought.

Thankyou to all our sponsors and those that contribute via the collection boxes in the BP garage, village store, hairdressers and post office.

Could you volunteer to join us? If so, please contact Andrew Rogers (Chair) 01622 859352.

Audrey Joy MBE

Parish Council News

Rural Hedge Cutting

The Parish Council will be arranging the hedge cutting service again this year in November. If you wish to have your name added to the list, please contact the Clerk. There is a charge for this service and, if you are new to the scheme, the contractor will be able to give an idea of the cost before work commences.

Please note that you will still need to add your name to the list, even if you have used the service in the past.

Amanda Broadhurst - Parish Clerk

01622 850089

clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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4 Southfields Way

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Do come along to

Family friendly Harvest Festival Service

at St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

at 9.30am on Sunday 6 October 2024.

Once again, we would welcome poems, prayers and prose about harvest and caring for our world, written by children or adults.

If you would like to take part in the service, please contact Pamela on 859442.

We would also welcome (sealed) food items for the Church food bank (Please bring any offerings into the Church that morning, rather than leaving them in the porch).

Everyone welcome.

Quiz Corner

Round 12

1. In which ocean are the Cape Verde Islands?
2. What was the first 'Carry On' film?
3. Who was always trying to kill Bugs Bunny?
4. What were 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man'?
5. What is a coffin made of stone called?
6. Tripoli is the capital of which Country?
7. Which element has the Atomic Number 1?
8. In which Country is the World's highest waterfall?
9. What is shoemaker's model of the human foot called?
10. Who is Warren Bety's famous sister?

Answers on page 14

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In August and September we had some wonderful garden meetings. But we are into Autumn now and it's time to come back into the Osbourne room in Lenham Community Centre.

In October we are starting on our Christmas projects. We will be coming to terms with earth friendly, reusable Christmas wrappings. We are going to make multiples of Christmas bags in different sizes and layered fabric wrapping cloth with appliquéd designs and quilted. With colourful ties in matching or coordinating fabric.

We meet this month on 1 and 16 October. I do hope you'll come join us and try your hand at something new or just enjoy the company, have a chat and a cup of tea. An enjoyable way to spend an afternoon.

We have our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month except December and would love to see you.

We meet usually in the Osbourne room in the Lenham Community Centre from 1:30 to 4:30.

If you would like more information on our group or would like a copy of our 2025 program please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 01233-877453 or e-mail moonbeamspinner@gmail.com

Pamela Gillard

Join the Harrietsham Fish Scheme Committee!

Help support our community!

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On 20 September, Harrietsham Village Hall welcomed speaker Bob Ogley for an insightful talk titled "Doodlebugs and Rockets." The talk captivated the audience with stories of the V-1 flying bombs ("Doodlebugs") and V-2 rockets that terrorized Kent during World War II. Through personal anecdotes and historical photographs, he highlighted the resilience of local communities during these dark times.

The event was a poignant reminder of the courage displayed by those who lived through the Blitz. It was during World War II that Kent, earned the nickname "Bomb Alley" because of its strategic location near the English Channel and its proximity to mainland Europe. This made it a key target for German bombing raids, particularly during two significant periods: the Battle of Britain and the V-1 and V-2 rocket attacks (which the recent talk focused on) later in the war. More than 2,400 flying bombs fell on Kent (more than London) with no less than six V-1 flying bombs falling in the Parish.

1. **Battle of Britain (1940):** Kent's skies were heavily contested during the Battle of Britain, as it was one of the first areas over which the German Luftwaffe would encounter British defenses. Many air raids targeted the RAF airfields and infrastructure in Kent, making it one of the most bombed areas in Britain during this period.
2. **V-1 and V-2 Rocket Attacks (1944-1945):** Later in the war, Kent became a primary target for Germany's V-1 flying bombs (also known as "doodlebugs") and V-2 rockets. These were launched from the European continent, and Kent, being one of the closest regions to Nazi-occupied Europe, was often hit first. The V-1s would often crash in Kent if they ran out of fuel before reaching London, while V-2 rockets, which were faster and more destructive, also frequently hit the county.

We sincerely thank all attendees for their support and look forward to seeing you at future events celebrating our local history.

We invite you to contribute to future editions of the Network! Do you have a local story, memory, or piece of history to share? Whether it's a personal anecdote, a fascinating event, or a topic you'd like us to explore, we'd love to hear from you. Your stories help us keep the spirit of our community alive and connect us all. Please send your ideas or articles to info@harrietshamhistorysociety.org or chairmanhhs@gmail.com. Let's work together to preserve and celebrate the rich history of our village.

Quiz Corner Answers

Round 12

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. | The Atlantic | 6. | Libya |
| 2. | Carry On Sergeant | 7. | Hydrogen |
| 3. | Elmer Fudd | 8. | Venezuela |
| 4. | Atomic bombs | 9. | A Last |
| 5. | Sarcophagus | 10. | Shirley Maclaine |

Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club

(Est. 1924)
2024 Centenary Year



Many thanks to all those who came along to support our Centenary Celebrations in August. The Club was presented with a Centenary Plaque by the President of Kent Tennis, Mary Evans - seen here with our longest standing member Sue Greenwood who has over 60 years' membership with Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club.

We were also able to provide 60 local children with free tennis coaching sessions this summer with grateful thanks to the financial support from Harrietsham Parish Council and the Booth & Baldwin Trustees.

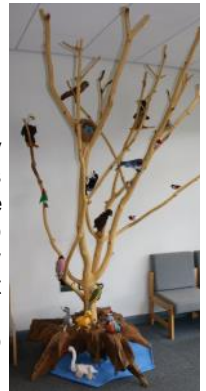
The 2024 season has now finished and we look forward to seeing everyone next May when the grass court season re-opens.

For any further details please ring Andrew on 079000 23399 or visit our website harrietshamlawntennisclub.weebly.com for the latest news.

Andrew Rogers - Tennis Club Chairman

Harrietsham Knit, Crochet and Craft

We have been very busy continuing to do our community projects. Our latest project has been knitting and crocheting birds to represent the classes at Harrietsham Primary School. We made birds for display on a tree in the entrance and also birds to use as class mascots. The beautiful display tree was created by Jack Skylark. Thanks to everyone who helped with this project which was very fulfilling. We hope that the children, parents and school staff will get lots of enjoyment from the birds for years to come.



We are also getting ready for our next Back to School Random Acts of Kindness in which we leave little handmade gifts around the village for finding and keeping. This time we have positive potatoes as well as worry worms and other fun creatures along with some diamond art keyrings/bag hangers.

After the RAK we will then be looking to getting our village annual poppy displays for Remembrance ready again for another year.

If you wish to join us we meet on the first Monday of the month for our evening meeting (7-9pm) and the third Monday for our afternoon meeting (2-4pm). Both meetings are held at Harrietsham Village Hall. We teach knitting and crochet and sometimes we have other craft projects going on. You are welcome to come along and bring your knitting, crochet or any other craft project. We also have limited children's spaces. Children should be aged seven years and over and be accompanied by a parent. For further information please contact 01622 851885

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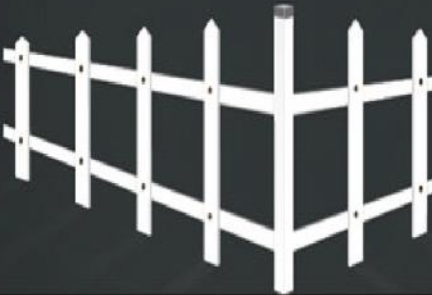
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Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

Harrietsham Preschool Mrs Florence Sealy 07458 915213

Charlee Guy

Local Directory Ha-Z

Harrietsham Social Club

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Harrietsham Ladies Group

(formerly Wives Group) Gill Whent 01622 859426

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Helpers

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Karate Club

Organiser Mr Lewin Tuckwell 07812 089304

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“Your Local Pages”

Village correspondent Charlotte Lingard miss_lingard@hotmail.com

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Contact Katie at KCC 01622 755044

Liberal Democrat Assoc.

Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

Parish Warden

Mr M Sherwood 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

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Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

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Len Valley Benefice October 2024



Everybody is welcome

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

Matthew 13:31-32

Caring for Creation Series



Sunday 6 October

- 9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
- 9.30am Harrietsham: Family friendly Harvest Morning Worship
- 11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

Wednesday 9 October

- 9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 13 October

- 9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
- 11.00am Lenham: Harvest Holy Communion
- 11.00am Ulcombe: Harvest Holy Communion
- 6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Harvest Choral Evensong

Sunday 20 October

- 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 27 October

- 11.00am **Benefice Holy Communion at All Saints, Ulcombe**
'A God who cares for His creation'



Harvest Supper Dates

Lenham & Harrietsham (at St John's)
Saturday 5 October

Boughton Malherbe (Grafty Green Village Hall)
Saturday 12 October

SOME STALLS CASH ONLY
FREE PARKING AVAILABLE,
WEATHER PERMITTING



APPLE PRESSING FUN DAY

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13TH 11.00 – 15.00

Tithe Barn, Court Lodge Farm, Lenham ME17 2QD

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GAMES 🍏 PRIZES 🍏 AND MORE



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Countryside and community

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more
details:





The Friends of the Church
of St John the Baptist,
Harrietsham

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Ploughman's Platterday

Our Ploughman's Platterday this month will be on Saturday 12 October 2024. Usual time – 12 noon to 2pm. Come along and bring friends for a delicious lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits also available. All profits go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church. The 100 Club lottery draw will also take place at 1pm. Look forward to seeing you.

100 Club Lottery Results

The results of the Ninety Third Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club drawn on Saturday 10 August 2024 by Denise Williams under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

- First Prize £73.00 – number 79 – Valerie & Stephen Brown
- Second Prize £43.80 – number 32 – Robert Rusbridge
- Third Prize £29.20 – number 166 – Martyn & Kelly Avis

There were 146 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £146.

Future Events

Our Bingo Night is planned for Saturday 26 October and will be in the Village Hall and we hope many of you will be able to join us.

We are trying to organise a singalong of Christmas songs and carols, provisional date - 6th December. Watch this space!!

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

Today has been very sunny and hot but we are expecting a thunderstorm on Thursday (1 August). Who knows? Enjoy the good days! We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Valerie Brown - Secretary

Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Vicar: Revd. John Huggins
01622 850280 vicar@lvb.org.uk
(Day off: Wednesday)

Assisting priests:

Revd. Millie Hart 07766 555415
millie.hart@uwclub.net

Readers:

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442
pamela@lvb.org.uk

Benefice Office:

Sarah Hills 01622 850604
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

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

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

1st and 3rd 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
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



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OF ST JOHN FOR THE FABRIC OF
THE CHURCH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL STEVE 07483 271220



October 2024 Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Wed	2	7.30pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	3	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	4	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	7	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	7	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	7	7pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Wed	9	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	10	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	10	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	11	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	11	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Sat	12	12pm	Ploughman's Platterday	St John
Mon	14	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	14	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Tues	15	7pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	17	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	18	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	21	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	21	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	21	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Thurs	24	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	25	10.00am	Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	26	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Mon	28	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	28	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	31	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	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			

Worried about rising rents?

Concerned about rising food prices?

Anxious about having to stop working for a while?

Is your money not going far enough?

No savings!



If the answer to any of these questions is “yes” then the Culpepper Charity may be able to help.

Founded in the seventeenth century, the Culpepper Charity was created to help those people of Harrietsham with financial needs. It has been dormant for a long time which may be why you

haven't heard of it.

However, the Charity has limited funds available to provide monetary assistance to those people of Harrietsham who are worried about how they will pay all their bills. The Trustees believe that in the current financial crisis the Charity needs to be back in the limelight to help the people of Harrietsham.

If you are claiming benefits of any kind, or even if you are not, and want further help with your family finances, do write to us explaining how you are in need and requesting a Grant claim form to be sent to you.

We are at either:

Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com

or to:

The Culpepper Charity
C/o The Church Office
Harrietsham Village Hall
Church Road
Harrietsham
Kent
ME17 1AP



We cannot guarantee to provide every applicant with money, but we do hope to help those with most need.

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at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM
FILM CLUB

Chariots of Fire

Friday 11 October

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 5 mins

Come along to watch the grand finale to the Olympic season in our October film club performance of **Chariots of Fire** (PG 1981) based on the true story of the 1924 Olympics, which, like this year's event, also took place in Paris. This famous film with its never to be forgotten music is the story of the two British athletes, Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, who sprinted their way to glory after years of training. The two young men both have burning ambitions to win, but for different reasons, although both inspired by their faiths.

Chariots of Fire won four Oscars including Best Picture and three BAFTAs and is ranked 19th in the British Film Institute's Top 100 British films list. This is a film not to miss, especially with its magnificent cast. In this of all years, do join the race to see it; we can't offer you Paris, but we can provide you with a first-class evening's entertainment.

Directed by Hugh Hudson.

Our November film also centres on a race, this one NASA's 1960s space race to the moon. **Fly Me to the Moon** is a great new romantic comedy, starring Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum. Come along on November 8th and enjoy the flight.

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

Admission: members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.

lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com

www.lenhamfilmclub.org

@lenhamfilmclub



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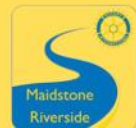
Maidstone Riverside Rotary Club and Maidstone Lockmeadow Market are collecting used bikes and tools for Africa

We will send used bikes and tools to rural communities in Africa. Those not suitable may be stripped down for parts or refurbished and sold to the community here in the UK

The next bike and tool drop off:



Lockmeadow Market (Car Park)
Barker Road
Maidstone ME16 8SF



Saturday 26th October - 9.00am to 3.00pm

For more information call 07793 817226

For information about the Re-Cycle.org charity and their bike drop off locations visit www.re-cycle.org or call 01206 617865

Harrietsham Network

Lenham WI

As we don't usually have a meeting in August it was decided that we would ask Henny Shotter if she could do one of her walks around the village. Seven of us went on the walk and we started at Lenham pond, moved into the churchyard and then on to the Square. Henny told us so much about the history of the village – about the Hall houses and the people buried in the churchyard, it was thoroughly enjoyable. Although we didn't walk far it took an hour and a half to complete the walk.



Henny is a mine of information and she does these walk regularly for Lenham Heritage so if you are interested in local history go on to the Lenham Heritage website to find out more. After a drink and a chat in the Dog and Bear we all went home tired but educated.

In September our President, Rita, showed us how to make paper angels and other decorations for Christmas – yes Christmas – at the time of writing this report it is the hottest day of the year so far.

Matthew Palmer, the TV Artist, once again treated us to a lovely workshop and we all produced some beautiful watercolours. These workshops are well worth attending as you learn so much and we are all beginners.

If you want to join us we meet at Lenham Community Centre on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Please come along and see what we get up to. If you want to find out more please contact me on rgodden@btinternet.com

Chris Godden

Christian Message

To give and receive generously

A young woman approached us as we sat eating a picnic lunch next to Thirlmere, in the Lake District, and asked if we could change her £20 note for coins for the car park ticket machine.

Our minds flashed back to a year before, where, at a service station in the Alps, we had found we needed to convert Euros to Swiss Francs before using these to enter the toilets. A kind local man had seen us in a muddle and given us each a Swiss Franc coin - just in the nick of time!

We gave the young woman a £1 coin, despite her protests, and carried on with our lunch, enjoying the lake view and watching people exercise their dogs by the water's edge with sticks and stones to be fetched from the lake. As we set off to leave, the young woman ran up to our car and offered us a large bar of hazelnut chocolate.

'No, really' we protested. 'It was our pleasure to help and a mere pound wouldn't cover the cost of all your lovely chocolate.' The lady wouldn't be swayed, declaring it was all she had with her to offer and that she couldn't bear to think we were out of pocket. Eventually we caved in - it's not every day someone tries to make you eat such a delicious treat - but I rather wished we hadn't. We had just wanted to do a little something kind.

We drove to Keswick where a teenage girl was leaving the ladies' toilet. After her came another and then another, all giggling. 'There's quite a team of you' I teased as a fourth girl appeared round the corner and they giggled some more. Before I knew it one of them ran back to me:

'Would you like me to jump the barrier and push the button so you can get in for free?' She asked.

'No, it's fine' I replied, 'I'll pay to get in.'

'Are you sure? I'll happily do it for you if you like?'

'Thank you, but no, really, I'm fine' I answered as I pushed 50p into the machine, thinking about Keswick District Council and all their overheads, let alone potentially giving a teenager a criminal record!

We then walked to a shoe shop and as we paid for some shoes, it started to pour with rain. The shop assistant rushed behind the scenes and came out with a pretty, brand new umbrella.

'With our compliments' she beamed. How we praised her as we walked back to the car, dry and safe despite the downpour.

Continues on next page...

Harrietsham Network

Christian Message cont.

The prayer of St Ignatius tells us to give and not to count the cost:

“Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve;
to give, and not to count the cost,
to fight, and not to heed the wounds,
to toil, and not to seek for rest,
to labour, and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we are
doing your will.’

Jesus made the ultimate gesture of giving by surrendering his life for us and the Bible tells us to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:34).

The people we met that day on holiday certainly all seemed to like being able to help each other in their own way, whether strictly legally or not! Maybe the challenge is to show generosity appropriately and humbly, avoiding grand gestures, but also to allow others the blessing of giving too, discerning when to accept help graciously and when it is better to gently refuse, for their sake or that of the greater good.

Pamela Cuerden

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