

August 2020



Network

Harrietsham's Village Magazine

From the Editor

Hi everyone,

A quiet month this month while we enjoy summer and prepare to get back into print.

We have decided that, although there are some logistical difficulties with delivering Network, we will start printing again from the September Issue. As you all know, the future is very uncertain at the moment, and we remain at risk of a second coronavirus peak in the autumn or winter. If this should happen, and we all hope that it won't, we will publish Network on our website:

www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

Please let us know if you don't receive your copy of Network on or around the 1st of each month, unless we have a further lockdown due to the virus.

Thank you everyone who emailed me their address to say that they were happy to receive Network online. There was no clear and overwhelming result, so the old Network normal will remain.

Have a good summer and stay safe

Jan - Network Editor

Please remember to email any photographs, articles of interest about Harrietsham, or recipes etc. that could be considered for inclusion to:

E-mail: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

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

Letters sent anonymously will not be considered. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the officers or committee of the Fish Scheme.

Front cover by Patricia Brooks

Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine September 2020 deadlines

Sat 1 August 12 noon advertising deadline for September Network

Thurs 6 August 12 noon copy deadline for September Network

We will be back in print with advertising, subject to lockdown rules, from September.

Please send advertising contributions to advertising manager's address above.

Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Thank you.



LEN VALLEY PRACTICE

NOTICE TO PATIENTS

FOLLOWING RECENT GUIDELINES

PATIENTS MUST NOW WEAR A

FACE COVERING

BEFORE ENTERING THE SURGERY

AND DURING

A CONSULTATION WITH THE DOCTOR

OR NURSE

Many thanks for your help

Practice Manager

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Harrietsham in Bloom Volunteers August 2020



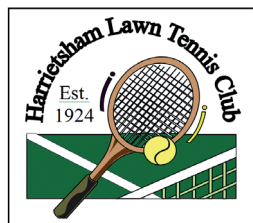
We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer displays and we are very grateful to our plant supplier Bruge Nursery for the good quality plants provided. We did lose a few plants to petty theft early on but we have topped up with some spare plants.

We have reluctantly decided to cancel our September fund raising event which was to be kindly hosted by Michael & Denise. Hopefully 2021 will allow "normal activities" to resume!

Thank you for your continued support - any enquiries please contact the Chairman on 01622 859352.

Andrew Rogers

Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club



The Tennis courts are now fully "up & running" so if you wish to enjoy some tennis on our 3 grass courts do come along.

We are operating under Covid-19 restrictions, so we are not using the Club Pavilion or providing any equipment at the present time. Please check the web site or ring for details

Please contact me on 01622 859352 or visit our website: harrietshamtennis.co.uk

Andrew Rogers

Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Another month has passed and still we are not playing bowls. During this period of lockdown, club captain David has had to cancel several friendly games that had been arranged. One of those games was against Lenham SMBC. I mention this because they have been long-time rivals and friends of Harrietsham and through this rivalry, most of our members will have known Gordon Cannon who was a gentleman and a very good bowler. It was with sadness that I learned that he passed away on Thursday July 9. He will be sadly missed by all who bowled with and against him.

We are still waiting to learn when we can start playing again. Even with the latest easing of the lockdown it is difficult to see when this will happen. The latest update we have from the Kent Short Mat Bowls Association is that all matches for the Premier, A and B teams, in line with the English Short Mat Bowls Association diaries, have been confirmed under the assumption that all games will be played. This is of course under review by the committee and will be guided by the player response, E.S.M.B.A. and government guidance.

A further blow to future plans for playing again is that it appears Harrietsham Village Hall will be closed through the winter months as the heating system is unserviceable. (*Ed's note: although see the latest HVHT update on page 9*)

I hope you are all keeping well, safe, and in good spirits, ready for our first chance of a "roll-up".

Phil Gooda (Chairman/Secretary)

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

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

Scam alert!

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

July 3 Update Covid-19 Pandemic

Harrietsham and Lenham Support Volunteers

We ask our community to

PLEASE – Continue to act responsibly

PLEASE – Keep social distancing

PLEASE – Protect our most vulnerable loved ones

PLEASE – Protect our NHS and social care services

PLEASE – Work together to prevent a 2nd Covid-19 spike!

PLEASE – KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

The above is what the group is currently pushing as our message for the community for the foreseeable future.

We would like to acknowledge the continued support of volunteers who are maintaining a supportive presence often unnoticed behind the scenes. They have been part of a collective effort to assist others at this time of great need.

It has been good to see neighbours supporting each other, looking out for others. We are truly so very fortunate to have the community we have. We would like to say a big thank you to Martin Sherwood, our community warden, who has been ever present during this period. We are extremely fortunate for his role in and support of our activities.

Finally, although at the time of writing this (13 July), we don't know how society will evolve as people try to move towards a different kind of normal, can we ask that we just think about what we all do, before we do it! Perhaps masks will become the norm for many as well. These are available locally.

For information or assistance visit the website below, or our sister Facebook group or ring 01622 859412, which is available 7 days per week.

Thank you

Tom & Janetta

www.harrietshamandlenhamcovid19support.co.uk

and our Facebook group Harrietsham and Lenham Villages community support

Harrietsham Village Hall Trust

Hope everyone is keeping safe. Unfortunately, the village hall is still closed but we may be able to open in late September. There is a lot to do first - we've had a hand sanitiser fitted and we are working on a Covid-19 Safety policy that everyone will have to abide by.

We are getting more quotations for the heating boiler and trying to get some grants for the work to start. It has become necessary to increase the hire fees in the New Year to £20 per hour for the Ambrose hall, £15 per hour for the Booth hall and £5 per hour for the Clifton Room (minimum 3 hours), clubs will get a 25% discount on their bookings.

The hall got flooded again! Rainwater came through the rear fire doors and flooded the rear changing rooms and basement. The Ambrose hall also got flooded. The rain came through the fire doors in the hall and completely covered the floor. Our caretaker spent many hours clearing the water away and then he scrubbed and treated all the floors. They are not damaged and have come up really well.

Looking forward to opening the hall again soon. Keep safe.

Steve Brown - Chairman

Deadlines for September Network

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Around the Village - from the editor's photo album



Harrietsham in Bloom's beautiful display outside the Coop.

The fields in summer.





Do you need some help while self-isolating?

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

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

Call 0808 196 3646 or visit nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk

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

Local Churches

Parish Church of

St John the Baptist

Priest in Charge: Rev Dr John

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

Assisting Priest

Rev Anne Price 01622 924963

revanne@lvb.org.uk

Available Wednesday- Sunday

Licensed Readers:

Pamela Cuerden 859 442

Joan Drury 853766

Benefice Office: tel 850604

ChurchOffice@lvb.org.uk

Answerphone when office not
manned.

For details of services see p.19

United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

Minister: Rev Andrew Royal

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

01622 686053

maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net

Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone

Minister: Bill Miller

Office: 01622 686013

Sunday Services at 10.30am

with creche, and at 6.30pm

www.maidstonebaptist.net

Church of the Good Shepherd

Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Lane, off East Street

Harrietsham

Parish Priest: Fr Geoffrey Pointer

Deacon: Rev Cyril Durbin 736100

Mass every Sunday at 8.45am and
Wednesday at 10.00am

Holydays Mass 7pm

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Button Lane, Bearsted

736100

Confessions, Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

Saturday Evening Mass 6pm

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Weekday Mass generally

Monday and Tuesday 7pm and

Friday 10am

Holydays Mass 10am and 8pm

Pathways Church, Maidstone

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month
at 10.30am in Lenham Community
Centre. Wednesday and Thursday
evenings in homes in Lenham and
Harrietsham.

Church leaders: Johnny and Estelle

McCabe www.pathwayschurch.org.uk

Pathways Church is supported by
Jubilee Church, Maidstone

Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

Minister: Revd Bonni-Belle Pickard

45 St Lukes Avenue

Maidstone ME14 5AN

Tel 752895

Sunday Service 10.30am

***For all church services
please see information
on page 13.***

Len Valley Benefice Service Times – August 2020



Everyone is always welcome to any of our services or events

Sunday 2 August

- 9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 9 August

- 11.00am** Lenham: Outside Holy Communion
Please do join us from 10.30am with a flask. Service will commence at 11am.

Sunday 16 August

- 9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
- 11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 23 August

- 11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 30 August

- 10.00am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship
- 10.00am** Lenham: Morning Worship
- 10.00am** Boughton Malherbe: Morning Worship
- 10.00am** Ulcombe: Morning Worship

Our weekly online services will also continue throughout July and August. Please contact the church office if you would like to receive the weekly email with the links to our Sunday worship.

For anybody without Wi-Fi or a computer, the services broadcast online can be accessed
(sound only, of course) by dialling 01622 925013.

For service times at other churches, please confirm days and times with your church. The information given on page 12 is pre-coronavirus.

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 harrietshamptfa@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 880139

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

Top Tips by Harrietsham Gardening Society

August is a funny old month in the garden, but it can be a very rewarding one, especially in the veg plot where harvesting starts to take place. Runner beans, French beans, courgettes, potatoes and onions should all be available and ready by now. Mentioning onions, these shouldn't be lifted until the tops have died off and on no account should the tops be cut off or neck rot and subsequent poor storage will occur. If they are brought into a shed or garage and thoroughly dried, they'll keep until at least next March. You can be having fun with sweetcorn too. Each of the long tassels that appears is attached to an individual corn on the cob and if you want a well-filled cob give the ear at the top of the plant a good shake to encourage the pollen to drop onto the tassels. That's why sweetcorn is generally grown in a block to aid pollination, rather than in rows. Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomatoes too as soon as three or four trusses have set to encourage ripening, however, trailing patio/tub varieties should be left to do their own thing.

Although we've had more rain recently gardens which flourish more than most are those which are able to retain moisture and one way of doing that is to ensure plenty of compost is dug or forked in as crops are lifted and bare patches become available. Making your own compost is by far the best thing, any green but not woody material can be broken down in a corner somewhere so better not to waste what you have. Not only does it help the soil to retain moisture but it provides a source of nutrients and actually breaks down the soil so the soil itself releases more plant food. If you do end up with bare areas after lifting crops consider growing a green manure such as mustard to dig in rather than waste the space. Barbara Inledon is a great believer in compost; she has a sign on her allotment saying 'Trespassers will be composted'. I haven't noticed any feet sticking out from her compost containers or heard of anyone missing but she has some marvellous crops so who knows?

Mentioning potential missing persons reminds me of the policeman who stopped someone speeding at breakneck speed through the village to get to his allotment and do a bit of watering. The policeman walked up to the driver and after the usual pleasantries said, 'Look it's my birthday. I'm sick of paperwork so if you can give me an excuse for speeding that I haven't heard before I'll let it go'. The driver thought for a moment and said, 'Well it's like this officer, last month my wife ran off with a policeman and when I saw your blue flashing light behind me I thought you were bringing her back'. The policeman got into his car and drove off.

To maintain continuity of flowering, keep deadheading flowers as they fade. Dahlias should be doing really well by now so keep an eye open for blackfly too. Lavender should be trimmed back this month to keep plants compact and stems/stalks removed from other perennials as they finish flowering. If you haven't already done so, split bearded irises and plant in a sunny position - they need sun on the tubers to flower and only just beneath the surface if not on it.

If you have a beech, hornbeam or yew hedge August is traditionally the month for clipping those. If you trim beech in August it will almost certainly retain its, albeit brown, leaves throughout the winter which will provide the bonus of continuing shelter and privacy. Early varieties of apples and plums should be ready for picking too, especially this year, but do watch out for wasps as you're doing so. If you are unlucky enough to find a wasps nest in your garden there are insecticides available but don't make the mistake of asking for 'Something good for wasps' – you want something that will kill them!

Finally, don't forget to think about bulbs for planting next month if you have a few moments.

Happy gardening

Friends of St. John the Baptist's Church

Registered Charity No. 1090622
Val Brown, Secretary 01622 858147



100 Club Draw

Result of the Forty-fourth draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club

As all the social events in the village have ceased because of Covid19, the 100 Club draw was made on 11 July 2020 at Little Hatch under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator). 121 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £121.

First prize £60.50 – number 115 – Kevin Harlock

Second prize £36.30 – number 94 – Gill Whent

Third prize £24.20 – number 47 – Valerie & Stephen Brown

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

Christian Message



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom....waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water....

Isaiah 35:1 &6 – 7

This picture was taken in June in the fields at the back of Lenham near the railway – the earth was already showing signs of real dryness. The day I walked it was the first day for weeks that promised rain – but it didn't come. As I write this article in June I cannot say what happened next as you read this in August....did we get the rain I wonder?

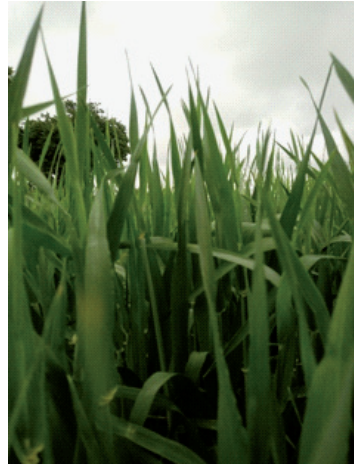
But one thing struck me that day in June. The earth was dry and crying out for rain and in its need cracks had appeared, warning signs, yet these very same warning signs would be the means by which the rain, when it came, was able to penetrate the earth faster, rather than just running off the concrete like surface. The cracks would enable at least some of the goodness of the rain to reach deeper soil and be stored....

Over this year we have all of us been under some great strain, we have experienced a lack of some of the good things in this life that we need. We have been vulnerable. Nothing is ever wasted with creation and with God; even the desert and wilderness times of our lives can be transformed to lush green pastures. Those deep needs in us, the cracks, the ravines can be filled with the goodness of God so much easier because they exist. If we all have closed, hard, maybe even shiny exteriors with no visible signs of wear and tear, vulnerability, brokenness or need how can we hope to reach each other –how can we reach God, how can He reach us?

Signs of wear and tear, brokenness and need are all around us and within us – let God love you and fill you with His love and let Him meet your needs this summer I pray, made all the easier for the cracks you bear....and if you can, let that overflow and help others to do the same.

Rev. Lorraine Apps – Huggins

Chaplain to The Living Well, Nonington.



Memories of Coronavirus

For posterity... part four (up to 13 July 2020)

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

22 June. New 'no swab' saliva test is being trialled in Southampton.

The government has said that lockdown easing moves would be reversed if there were to be a surge of new cases. At present around 1 in 1,700 people in UK now have the virus.

Brazil 2nd country to pass 50,000 deaths.

2.2 million people have been shielding to avoid the risk of meeting the virus. The incidence is now lower than when shielding started. Medicine, support and more than 3 million food boxes have been delivered to those shielding. From 6 July they can meet in groups of up to 6 people outdoors. Also from 6 July, a lone adult or lone parent can form a support bubble with the same rules as apply to the rest of the population. From 1 August they may go out more, meet more people, go to church and go to the shops, provided that they wash their hands regularly and stay at a safe distance. They can also go to work if they are unable to work from home and if their work place is Covid-secure. Employers must ensure that people are safe. A letter will be sent to everyone shielding. Food boxes will cease at end of July. 7 Supermarkets will continue to give priority and responders will continue to assist as needed. Mental health support will be available if required. Statutory sick pay will cease when the shielding programme pauses at the end of July.

36 Children have been admitted to intensive care throughout the pandemic. Although it is unlikely that children will need to shield in future, they should obtain individual advice.

The government plans to accelerate infrastructure projects to help the bounce back after the virus has been brought under control.

Quarantine and possible travel corridors are due to be reviewed on 29 June.

23 June. The Prime Minister hosted the final Downing Street daily press conference. In future, conferences will only be held if there is something important to say. He stated that as we have now passed all of the 5 'tests' we can go further to ease lockdown. Caution will be applied at every stage and each step is conditional and reversible. The 'R' is below 1 everywhere in the UK and the average is between .7 and .9. The virus is shrinking at the rate of 2-4% per day. Around 5.4% of the population now have antibodies. We now have to find a sustainable balance which will enable us to live alongside the virus for a long period.

From 4 July, 2 metre social distance is to be observed where possible. If not, 1 metre plus mitigation is to be applied to reduce risk of passing the virus. Mitigations could include not facing each other, wearing masks, meeting a small number of people, better ventilation, staggered shift patterns, etc. Friends and family will be able to provide child care.

Covid-secure guidance to be provided for Hotels, B&Bs, self-contained holiday accommodation, caravans, campsite, churches, cafes, bars, etc. Some will have to stay closed. Caravan Parks, Hotels and B&Bs can open provided shared facilities are kept clean.

Indoor meetings can take place with 1 other person who can stay overnight, but social distancing must be applied.

The public are to be trusted to use their common sense. 1 metre with mitigation carries about the same risk as 2 metres. The fewer social contacts people have the better chance they will not catch Covid-19. From now onwards the government will provide guidance rather than legislation.

From 4 July 2 households can meet in any setting indoors or outdoors, but the guidance where several households meet is to restrict the number to 6 people meeting outdoors.

From 4 July restaurants and public houses can open. They are restricted to table service only and all customers must supply contact details in case they are needed by NHS Test and Trace. Hairdressers may open provided they wear visors. People may stay overnight in self-contained accommodation as long as they do not share facilities. Nail bars can open when they find a way to be Covid-secure.

Remaining closed: nightclubs, soft play, indoor gyms, swimming pools, bowling alleys and water parks.

Live entertainments cannot open yet. The government are working with performing

arts to enable choirs, orchestras. etc. to perform when safe ways are found.

Sports can resume, but shared changing rooms cannot be used. Formal child care can resume during the summer.

Places of Worship can hold services for a maximum of 30 people.

87,000 are currently self-isolating on instructions from NHS Test and Trace.

24 June. First human vaccinations given in Imperial College trials.

25 June. Driving lessons may commence from 4 July and driving tests can resume two weeks later.

500,000 people flocked to Bournemouth beach with little regard for social distancing, over-running emergency services and causing a major incident. The warning was given that the virus will increase if measures are not kept to. Hundreds were dispersed in parks.

ONS have suggested that the number of cases is not moving in the right direction. The curve is flattening but not going down.

26 June. Police have broken up street parties in Brixton, Notting Hill and Hanover Road areas of London.

Prison visitor suspension has not yet been lifted.

27 June. Following quarantine review, foreign travel is to be eased for some destinations including Spain, France, Greece and Turkey. Arrivals in the UK from low risk countries will not require quarantine. Travel corridors will operate from 6 July subject to the virus remaining under control in the UK.

28 June. Outbreak reported in Leicester.

29 June. Leicester has been locked down for 2 weeks. Schools and non-essential shops are closed. Travel in and out of the area is banned.

World-wide to date there have been 10 million cases of the virus resulting in ½ million deaths.

30 June. Greece has stopped UK citizen's holidays because of virus outbreak. The WHO has warned that the worst is yet to come.

1 July. Lockdowns will be assessed on an individual outbreak basis.

2 July. All schools will return to mandatory full-time attendance basis from September. Fines will be reintroduced for non-attendance. Children will be in groups referred to as 'bubbles' and bubbles will be kept apart. Early years classes will be returned to normal sizes. As infection rates reduce, bubbles can be relaxed. Class times will be staggered and corridor contact will be limited. Exams will be held in Summer 2021. The full curriculum is to be taught and OFSTED inspections are to be reinstated. 200,000 laptops have been distributed to pupils, with more to come. Some schools still have to place orders. Schools will then be able to give live lessons over the Internet where lockdowns are necessary. School transport is to be reviewed depending on where we are with the virus. Extracurricular club advice is still to come. Mobile testing units will be deployed to schools if the virus is present.

Harrietsham Network

The death rate is back to normal in the UK.

Massive job losses have been announced in air travel and catering industries.

3 July. From 10 July quarantine is to be dropped in England for entry from 59 countries. Caution is advised for travellers as this is not reciprocal in all cases. Quarantine remains for travel from US, Sweden, India and China and other countries where virus is not under control. FCO advice is to be changed.

The 'R' is above 1 in London and two other districts, but is between .7 and .9 for the UK as a whole. The ONS survey suggests that approximately 25,000 still have the virus and that the incidence is 1 in 2,200 of the population. The rate of new infections is shrinking at a rate of between 2 and 5% per day. Targetted lockdowns have so far been enforced in a hospital in Weston-Super-Mare, a meat packing plant in Kirklees and community wide in Leicester.

Next week plans are to be announced for reopening the arts and events sectors. Plans to restart cricket will also be outlined. Plans for dealing with a possible second wave will be announced soon. Every effort will be made to make it as unlikely as possible by encouraging everyone to abide by the rules. Winter may cause us further problems.

PM urges people to behave responsibly when the pubs open tomorrow.

4 July. A minute of silence was held for those we have lost to coronavirus.

The pubs and restaurants opened with some areas well-behaved and others, notably Soho seeing overcrowding and disregard for social distancing.

5 July. We clapped at 5.00pm in recognition of NHS workers on the NHS' Birthday.

6 July. The chancellor announced a £1.5 billion rescue package for the culture and heritage sector which remains closed and on the verge of bankruptcy in many cases.

Shielding rules are relaxed from today, but many GPs are urging high risk patients to stay at home.

7 July. Three pubs have been placed in lockdown since customers have tested positive.

8 July. SAGE is to meet less often and some of its responsibilities are being handed over to National institutions.

Chancellor announced new measures to encourage a financial recovery. These included £1,000 bonus for businesses who unfurlough staff and an 'Eat Out to Help Out' subsidised meals (maximum £10 per head) incentive to run Monday to Wednesday throughout August in registered restaurants. He has reduced VAT from 20% to 5% throughout the hospitality industry.

Hillingdon Hospital locked down.

9 July. More lockdown easing measures announced today, including the following: Outdoor pools, indoor gyms, pools and sports facilities can open from 25 July subject to stringent rules. Outdoor performances can start from 11 July subject to

social distancing being observed. Beauticians, tattooists, spas and tanning stations can open from 13 July subject to being Covid-secure. Local sports teams (cricket, 5-a-side, hockey, etc.) can resume from this weekend subject to being Covid-secure.

Government are still working out how indoor performances can restart and are reviewing capacity, electronic ticketing and how social distancing etc., can be maintained,

Studies of the effects of singing on virus transmission are being undertaken and steps are being taken to protect arts venues from closures or change of use.

2 more pubs locked down following positive Covid-19 tests.

Job losses announced: 4,000 by Boots the chemists and 1,300 by John Lewis who will not be reopening eight of their stores. Boots said that they have lost nearly 50% of their high street trade and John Lewis said that around 40% of their trade has gone online. The virus has accelerated the move to online shopping.

A new pilot scheme has been announced in which workers in high-risk jobs are to be tested for the virus. This includes taxi drivers, shop workers, cleaners, etc.

The cost of the pandemic now stands at £190 billion.

During May there was a drop of 82% in hospital operations normally carried out and 47% in cancer referrals. In June attendance at A&E reduced by 33%.

ONS say the incidence of the virus is dropping and now stands at around 10 cases per 100,000 through most of the country.

The Culture Secretary suggested that we should 'Eat Out to Help Out, Enjoy Art to Help Out, Work Out to Help Out'. As long as we do it all safely!

10 July. PM says 'go back to work if you can'.

14-day quarantine lifted for many countries.

12 July. More than 70 tested positive at Hertfordshire farm.

13 July. Matt Hancock confirmed that more than 100 outbreaks are being dealt with every week.

Face masks/coverings will be compulsory in shops and supermarkets from 24 July. There is a £100 fine for non-compliance.

It seems that we are as 'back to normal' as we are likely to be while the virus is around, with a few sectors still to join us and others to fully open up. I think it's time to pause reporting the virus on a day by day basis. So, like the government, I will only report major changes from now on, unless (I do hope not) we get another major outbreak.

Stay safe and have an enjoyable summer.

Jan - Editor

Around the Village - from the editor's photo album



Saxon fields