

August 2023

Network

Harrietsham's Village Magazine





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Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

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Ridgedown, Marley Road, Harrietsham ME17 1AU
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Network Magazine September 2023 deadlines:-

Tuesday 1 August 2023 12 noon advertising deadline for September Network

Tuesday 1 August 2023 12 noon copy deadline for September 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.

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Contents

Clubs and Societies

Harrietsham Gardening Society	8
Harrietsham In Bloom	9
Harrietsham Ladies Group	9

Churches

Christian Message	34
Friends of St John's	23
Len Valley Benefice Service Times	21
Local Church Contact Details	24

Information

August Diary	29
Editorial	7
Culpepper Charity	14
Local Directory	18, 19
Public Services and Emergencies Directory	25
Who's Who	3

Features and General Articles

Borough Council Corner	12
Harrietsham Community Speedwatch	16
Len Valley Active Retirement Association	26
Lenham Film Club	33
Len Valley Health Walks	30
Lenham WI	27
Rotary Club - North Downs Walk Report	22
Parish Council News	10
Ploughman's Platterday	15
10X Bus Service	10

The Invicta Concert Band	17
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Message From the Editor

I was expecting a more quiet month in August content wise, but that is definitely not the case! Thank you to our regular contributors as well as some new articles this month.

I have heard that the Ploughman's Platterday return went very well, so I am pleased that there will be another in August. See page 15 for more information. The Friends of St. John's also have the very popular Invicta Concert Band back to perform in September, but we wanted to get the poster out to you now so you can save the date, which you can find on page 17.

There is a report from the Rotary Club about the North Downs Walk on page 22, including a provisional date for next years event!

And finally from me, have a look at page 33 for an extra special Lenham Film Club event.

Cover Photo by DiePhotoPotato: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/red-flower-in-green-grass-8782479/>

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

E-mail: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Visit our website: www.harrietshamfishscheme.org

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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Harrietsham Network

Harrietsham Gardening Society



On Tuesday 20 June, we held our Summer Show. We had 24 attendees and 82 exhibits. The standard was very high, as you can see photos below. The winners in the major categories were:

- Barbara Incledon – Best Specimen Rose
- Barbara Isaacs – Best Exhibit in Show
- Ken Leach – Most points obtained in Show

Congratulations to these and all entrants for a superb display.



The show was followed by our usual tea and coffee break and raffle.

There will be no meeting during August.

New members are always welcome. We have very interesting speakers during the year and also organise outings and lunches on a regular basis.

Pamela Flawn - Secretary

Harrietsham in Bloom

The lack of rain during late May and June and the loss of our watering contractor has not helped our cause recently, but credit to our team has to be given for watering and keeping the displays going. Thankfully a contractor for watering has been found, all be it at a higher cost, so we are grateful for that.



Our displays on the village green to honour our new King Charles III are very colourful and have been entered in the Maidstone in Bloom competition.

Thank you to everyone who supports us.

We would welcome anyone to join us as a volunteer. Details from our chairman, Andrew Rogers on 01622 859352.

Audrey Joy MBE

Harrietsham Ladies Group

At our July meeting we held our biannual Summer Supper. This was attended by 21 of our members who each brought a dish to share, the menu having been carefully collated by Sue Thistlethwaite.

We had a lovely relaxed evening and sampled some delicious food prepared by our members. Everyone brought their own plates, cutlery etc so no one on the committee had to spend time in the kitchen washing up!

There is no official meeting in August but the few of us who enjoyed the river trip up to Teston in June thought it me be nice to go the opposite way up to Allington Castle, so hopefully a few more of our members would like to join us.

Come September we will be back to our regular evening meeting at 7.30 on the first Wednesday of the month.

Anyone wishing to come along will be very welcome.

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
01622 850735

Parish Council News

Rural Hedge Cutting

The Parish Council will be arranging the hedge cutting service again this year and it is hoped that this will commence at the beginning of November. If you wish to have your name added to the list, please contact the Clerk.

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

Please also note that the email address for the Parish Council changed earlier this year, so please send your emails to:

clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

King's Coronation Commemorative Coins

A number of coins which were requested for children in the village have still not been collected from the Parish Council office. Please email the Clerk to arrange a mutually convenient time to pick them up.

If there are any children in the village aged 11 (Year 6) and under who have still not received a coin, there are a limited number remaining. Also, if anyone would like to purchase one, at a cost of £2, please contact the Clerk.

Amanda Broadhurst - Parish Clerk

4 Southfields Way

Harrietsham

Kent

Parish Clerk

ME17 1GE

clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Stagecoach 10X Sunday Service Update

The Network magazine has been informed that the Stagecoach 10X Sunday bus service will cease to operate from 13 August 2023.

Harrietsham Computers

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- + Need an upgrade, repair or new machine?
- + Want help with networking,
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Harrietsham Network

Borough Council Corner

At the time of writing we understand that there will be a consultation regarding KCC community wardens. There have already been large cuts in the budget for this service and this will undoubtedly impact warden jobs. We know that many will wish to show their appreciation and support to Martin Sherwood who has been such a great asset for so many within our communities and particularly during the pandemic. This will be updated in the September edition.

We continue to report highways issues including potholes and it is good to see some roads being completely resurfaced... there is still much more to do!!

Local plan review hearing

After listening to all sides the inspector will now deliberate and come back with his views. There may be another consultation on further evidence and modifications put forward by MBC. This is likely to be in September/October.

Lenham Bowls Club

We were invited to Lenham Bowls Club to see their completed ditches project, they have made an excellent job and the green looks stunning. Whilst we were there a match was taking place, we were told it was a friendly however the gentle rivalry was very apparent.

Thank you Michael John and Trevor for walking us through the project and the club's history. They are keen to let the community know that members are always welcomed.

Please continue to contact us on 01622 859412 or 07891901831 or email on tomsamscllr7@gmail.com

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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
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Kent
ME17 1AP



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

The Trustees of the Culpepper Charity are known to the publishers of this magazine..



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Invite you to come along and bring friends to

Ploughman's Platter Day

**Saturday, 12 August 2023 between
12 noon and 2pm**

Enjoy a cheese/pate Ploughman's at St. John the Baptist church, Harrietsham. Meet people and enjoy lunch without any preparation or washing up! Proceeds go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.



Tea, Coffee and biscuits also available

Harrietsham Community Speedwatch



Hopefully all readers will be pleased to see that the Average Speed Cameras have been installed on the Ashford Road.

Or at least they should be as KCC told us that they would be installed on Monday 17th July – were they?

Kent Police have said that while the six-month Average Speed Cameras trial is being carried out, Speedwatch activities must be suspended on the Ashford Road.

Our first session with Alan Watson, Kent Police's Speedwatch Manager, was in October 2020 but we were immediately suspended due to the Second Covid lockdown so didn't really get going until April 2021. Since then, we have had 116 sessions standing by the road side.

Overall in these 116 sessions:

- 24,626 vehicles were counted (vehicles closely following a vehicle in front are ignored)
- 1,548 were driving over 35mph (35mph is the speed when police will prosecute)
- **The fastest was driving at 72mph** (a stopping distance of over EIGHT bus lengths)
- 127 drivers received either a personal visit or a letter from Kent Police

Community Speedwatch is an educational measure with warning letters sent by the police to registered owners of vehicles caught exceeding the limit. Speedwatch volunteers wear hi-vis jackets and make use of a speed detection device. As a result, it is usually clear to approaching vehicle drivers that their speed is being monitored and, in many cases, this is sufficient for many motorists to slow down – as our volunteers have found. Those who seem to ignore both the volunteers and the speed limit are reported to Kent Police.

We wish the Average Speed Camera trial well. It is sorely needed as recent traffic surveys carried out by the Parish Council have shown that at certain times of the day.

3 out of every 20 drivers travel on the Ashford Road in excess of 40mph.

Finally, I would like to thank the Speedwatch volunteers who have stood by the road to educate the drivers on the Ashford Road that the speed limit is 30mph. They are Andrea, David, John, Judi, Michael, Peter, Phil, Ray and not forgetting Tony Bell, who is sadly no longer with us.

For more information, either visit www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch, email chris-roots@outlook.com or ring 01622 851885

* See www.harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/harrietsham-parish-council-13454/traffic-surveys-feb-2021/



The Friends of the Church
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Harrietsham

Registered Charity No. 1090622



An evening of music with



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Chris Roots 01622 851885

Harrietsham Network

Local Directory A-Ha

Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

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Beaver Scouts

Leader Ann Seales 01622 859829

Bell Ringers

Captain Ken Leach 01622 851173

Captain Graham Cuthbert 01795 886365

Bible Reading Fellowship

Co-ordinator Mrs J Bevan 01622 859310

Booth and Baldwin Charity

Secretary boothandbaldwin@hotmail.co.uk

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Brown Owl Louise Ayres 07590 037693

Community Support

PCSO John Boyd 101

Conservative Association

Faversham Office 01622 758053

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Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 01622 859829

Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 01622 850806

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 P Brown 01622 851075

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

Harrietsham Preschool Charlee Guy 07897 821399

Local Directory Ha-Z

Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary Jed Stone 07759 8771198/whipacres2@gmail.com

Harrietsham Ladies Group

(formerly Wives Group) Gill Whent 01622 859426

Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 01622 850657

Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 01622 859412

Karate Club

Organiser Mr Lewin Tuckwell 07812 089304

Kent Community Warden Mr M Sherwood 07977 981993

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"Your Local Pages"

Village correspondent Charlotte Lingard miss_lingard@hotmail.com

Lenham and Harrietsham Youth Hub

Contact Katie at KCC 01622 755044

Liberal Democrat Assoc. Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

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Len Valley Benefice August 2023



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Gal 3:26 (NRSV)

Sunday 6 August

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

11.00am Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

Wednesday 2 August

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 13 August

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 20 August

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 27 August

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Boughton Malherbe

'Identity: "We are messengers of hope"'

North Downs Walk A great day and a great result

The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent held its annual North Downs Walk on Sunday 11 June. We enjoyed great weather and one of the best results in recent years.

The event is a sponsored walk in aid of Cancer Research UK and the walkers' own choice of good causes. With a choice of routes from 1 mile (fully paved, therefore suitable for wheelchairs or baby buggies) to 9 miles including a climb up the North Downs, we attracted a full range of ages and abilities of walkers, including Brownies, Air Cadets, keen hikers and Active Retirement Associations. Some 400 walkers had pre-registered and downloaded sponsor forms via the Weald Rotary website and many more entered on the day, making a donation to CRUK.



Early indications, based on the pledges on walkers' sponsorship forms are that the Walk will have raised about £21,000 once Gift Aid is included, of which about two thirds will go to CRUK and the rest to causes nominated by the walkers.

Duncan Payne, president of the Weald Rotary Club, said, "This is a great result, and a tribute to the generosity of all our walkers and their sponsors, particularly at a time when many households are facing a cost of living crisis."

Chas Bedford, chairman of the organising committee paid tribute to the small army of volunteers who acted as route marshals, greeted walkers at checkpoints, registered walkers and sponsor forms, and staffed the kitchen – producing 500 ploughman's lunches, strawberries and cream, and hot and cold drinks. "A lot of walkers have praised how friendly and professional our helpers were. I want to thank all of them. I also want to thank Family Funeral Service, our event sponsor, who have underwritten all our expenses, meaning that every penny raised in sponsorship has gone to the charities and not to admin."

Rotary is committed to protecting the environment and, this year, all of the disposable lunchboxes, cups and cutlery were Vegware compostables, and were accepted by KCC for composting. Other waste was separated into categories for recycling, leaving an absolute minimum of 'general waste' going to landfill.

Weald of Kent Rotary have been running the North Downs Walk for 38 years, missing only 2020 due to lockdowns, and plan to continue running it as long as there are walkers. The provisional date for next year is Sunday 9 June.



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Ploughman's Platterday

There will be a Ploughman's Lunch at the church on Saturday, 12 August 2023. Everyone is welcome so please come along and enjoy lunch and meet people in the church. The cost is only £5. Tea, coffee and biscuits 50p. All profits go to the upkeep of our beautiful village church.

N.B. There will be no Ploughman's on the 9 September.

Invicta Band Concert

The Invicta Concert Band will be back by popular demand once again, playing in Harrietsham church on Saturday, 23 September 2023, 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Denise Williams 01622 859410, Chris Roots 01622 851885 or Audrey Joy 01622 850806. Only £10 each including cheese and wine. Come along for a great evening of all kinds of music. See main poster in this magazine for more information.

100 Club Lottery Draw

The results of the June Lottery which took place at The Friends Committee Meeting at Little Hatch on Thursday, 15 June 2023 are as follows:-

There were 159 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £159

- First Prize £79.50 – Glenda Dean – number 130
- Second Prize £47.70p – Rita Manser – number 134
- Third Prize £31.80p – Robert Rusbridge - number 31

The results of the Eightieth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 8 July 2023 by various diners at the Ploughman's Platter Saturday under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator).

There were 159 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £159

- First prize £79.50 - number 156 – Paul Wallace
- Second prize £47.70 – number 86 – Mrs S Harvey
- Third prize £31.80 – number 28 – Janice Brockwell

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 01622 297296

revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk

Curate: Revd. Charlotte Coles
07805092823 curate@lvb.org.uk

Readers:

Joan Drury 01622 853766

jdrury23@btinternet.com

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.maidatonebaptist.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 23 or contact your
own church for up to date information.

Public Services and Emergencies Directory

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Dentist, Lenham	01622 858204
Dentaline (out of hours emergency treatment)	01634 890300
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Hospitals:

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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
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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 Len Valley Active Retirement Association - Lenara

In May we held our AGM and our chairman reported on all the events and trips that we had organised during the previous year. They were many and varied – a picnic at Yalding, a Fun Day, a Mystery Tour, a trip to Camden Market with an afternoon canal trip, dog racing at Sittingbourne, a holiday to Thursford at Christmas, a theatre trip to see Jersey Boys in London and a Quiz Night.



We also entered teams into the Kentara Ten Pin Bowling and Short Mat Bowls Competitions and we did very well in both.



In April this year we organised a dance at Lenham Community Centre with Chicory Tip playing their music and we raised over £800. Lenara made this up to a £1000 donation to the Community Centre.

We had a great Coronation Tea Party in May which was free to members and enjoyed by all.

We now have over 150 members and we are looking forward to another successful year. Some of the members have been to Potters on the Norfolk coast for a five day holiday and a day trip to The Milestones Museum in Basingstoke was another popular choice. We have another Mystery Trip arranged for September.

Our regular activities include monthly Pub Lunches and Ten Pin Bowling. Every week we run Short Mat Bowls, Line Dancing, Zumba and Petanque at the Community Centre.

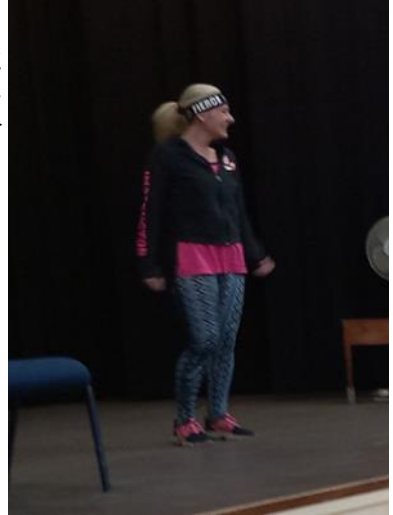
For our September meeting we are looking forward to hearing about Sloe Seduction with Katherine Hook. There may even be some samples!

We hold our monthly meetings at Lenham Community Centre on the 4th Wednesday of every month. They start at 2.30 but members can come along from around 1.30 to grab a seat, a cup of tea and a catch up with friends. If you are interested in joining Lenara the annual subscription this year has been reduced to £5 per person – great value for money!

For further information please look at our Website on www.lenara.org.uk

Lenham WI

So here we are being put through our paces at a Zumba session. Shani, who runs the Zumba classes at the Community Centre every Wednesday morning, came to tell us about how Zumba has become one of the most popular forms of exercise globally.



On 5 July the NHS celebrated its 75th birthday. One of their most important initiatives at the moment is to deal with obesity in the population. The WI have always promoted healthy living. It is not just homemade cakes and jam but basic recipes using good ingredients. Exercise and mobility plays its part too. All sorts of sports and activities from water sports and guided walks in Mote Park to walking netball are organised and many members participate. Local communities arrange lots of activities which are open to everyone. So a little bit of movement can go a long way to a healthy lifestyle which helps us to support the NHS by keeping fit. It is also very enjoyable and people getting together even for just an hour a week means a great deal - and we have a laugh!

The WI have pledged to take part in Coronation Gardens for Food and Nature and members are being encouraged to "Grow healthy food to eat ranging from herbs and salads to vegetables and fruit trees depending on what space you have".

Melissa Green, Chief Executive, National Federation of WI says -

"We are really excited to be working on this fantastic new initiative to celebrate HM the King's longstanding commitment to sustainability and the environment. The WI has over a hundred years of proud history of protecting the natural environment, playing an active role in our communities and promoting sustainability."

So whether you are walking, gardening or Zumbaring (is that a word??) you are making a difference to both your physical and mental health.

Appropriately, in August we are looking forward to holding our meeting in a member's garden for a change. I am sure there will be tea and cake but we will also be able to have a walk round the garden and get some ideas.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on

Chris Godden

01622 858658 or email rgodden@btinternet.com

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August 2023 Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Thurs	3	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	4	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	7	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	7	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	7	2pm	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	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	11	4.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Sat	12	12pm	Ploughman's Platterday	St John's
Mon	14	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	14	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	17	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	28	10.00am	Ladies 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	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Thurs	31	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	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

Len Valley Health Walks

In June, Len Valley Health Walks celebrated its 10th Anniversary.

It was back in May 2013, that Marjorie Darby put an article in the Lenham Focus and Harrietsham Network magazines, asking if anyone would be interested in joining her in forming a local walking group. I had moved to Lenham in April 2013, so signed up immediately, as did many others. Marjorie ran the group until December 2016, and I took over in January 2017 and am still running it today.

To celebrate our 10th anniversary we decided to do something slightly different. On Thursday 15 June, we still walked in Hythe, along the Military Canal and back along the sea front. But this year, instead of fish and chips eaten sitting on the sea wall, we thought we would have our fish lunch in The Lazy Shack restaurant, which is literally on the beach where the fishing boats land. So very, fresh fish. Twenty five sat down to a delicious lunch after a very sunny walk.



If you are interested in joining our group, or want more information, please contact me.

Jan Enever

Tel: 01622 851623 or email: jenever@btinternet.com

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Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM
FILM CLUB

Matilda the Musical: afternoon family fundraiser!

Friday 11 August

Performance begins at earlier time of 16.30, doors open 15.30.

Our August film will be a very special afternoon showing of **Matilda the Musical**, a new 2022 adaptation of the Tony and Olivier award-winning musical starring Alisha Weir as a wonderful Matilda and Emma Thompson as the formidable Miss Trunchbull. It's a fabulous story for young and old.

Doors will open at the earlier time of 15.30, the film will begin at 16.30 and we'll include an interval part way through the film. In addition to being great fun for all ages, this will be a special fundraising performance in honour of Jim Myers. Jim, who sadly passed away earlier this year, was a founder member of Lenham Film Club and as such, we're wanting to dedicate a performance to him and a cause close to his heart. All takings from the performance will therefore be donated to Lenham Nursery School Big Build Project, which is raising money to build a wonderful new school in Lenham.

We'll be holding a great raffle in the interval with prizes including two annual adult Leeds Castle tickets worth £60 and a fabulous chocolate cake donated by Kerry Slevin Cakes. And in keeping with the chocolate cake scene from the musical, we'll be selling lots of chocolate cakes in addition to our usual refreshments.

Matilda the Musical is certificate PG, is directed by Matthew Warchus and the running time is 1hr 58 mins plus a 20-minute interval. There's no advance booking, just come along and join us for this fun film, enjoy some cake and support a great local cause.

Then on 8 September we're showing **Fisherman's Friends: One & All** (12, 2022). The sequel to the 2019 comedy follows the next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends amazing true story. Following the unexpected success of the band's debut album we re-join them a year later as they struggle to adjust to their new lives.

Please get in touch for more information, to join our mailing list or to become a member. Admission: members £4, non-members £5 Annual membership: £6 (over 16's only).

lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com

www.lenhamfilmclub.org

@lenhamfilmclub

Christian Message

August is a month when many of us will be taking holidays or else thinking wistfully in my case of a holiday taken earlier. We've had bizarre weather this year, with just so much rain, followed by just so little rain and just so many cold winds, and I imagine we're all hoping for some sun for our holidays.

Of course, all this odd weather is probably related to the global climate crisis. This was particularly obvious last year with country fires. The Christian faith teaches us that God loves the whole world. The most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16, says (literally) that "God so loved the whole *cosmos*, that He gave His only son" that it would be freed for eternal life. So, it's not just humans that God cares about, and if God cares about the whole world so should we.

The trouble is, we are not very good at it. We need to learn a completely new way of thinking where we don't just care about the cost of things, but the carbon cost of things. In other words how much carbon dioxide equivalents things cost, in their manufacture, and transport and how we use them.

I've been using a book called, "How bad are my bananas?" (by Mike Berners-Lee, a professor at Lancaster Uni) to help educate us in the Len Valley Benefice.

It turns out bananas are quite good to eat, because they are transported by boat, which reduces their carbon footprint. However, eating strawberries that are flown in from abroad is a disaster. Amazingly, the milk in a cup of coffee can make up as much as three quarters of its carbon footprint (much more than the electricity used to boil the kettle) because of the methane production linked to the dairy industry. Going on holiday and staying a night in a hotel can be expensive in terms of carbon footprint, depending on how it does its laundry, overheats (or air-con's) its rooms and what kind of food it uses.

And one long haul flight (say Hong Kong return) is the equivalent of about 25 return trips to Glasgow in a small electric car, or 75 trips if you go business class.

The point here is simply that there's so much that we don't know, and we need to educate ourselves because, remarkably this stuff still isn't taught in schools.

Why bother? So that our children and grandchildren are spared the worst of a world where the climate is against us much, much more than the inconvenience of a bit of rain and cold winds!

God bless you all

John P. Huggins

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