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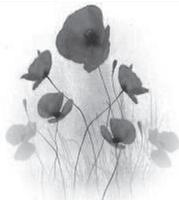
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## From the Editor

Hi everyone,

Every month throughout this dreadful pandemic, I have thought that we could not possibly fill our magazine... no club activity, no diary, no day to day, no reports of things we've done. Every month you've all come up trumps! We've had amazing articles, photographs, poems, and so much more.

I didn't think we could possibly do it again this month, but do you know what? I was wrong! Thank you all so very much. Rod for the Quiz of the Year, which we all look forward to, Jackie for yet another wonderful poem written by your lovely Mum, Peter for another luxury recipe, brownies, preschool, school, church and several clubs and societies and individuals too for various contributions. What a wonderful community Harrietsham is and what a joy and privilege it is to live here.

Like all of you, I hope that we will soon be back to normal and that Network will be sharing many joyful events with you. Please let me know about your events as soon as you do. In the meantime the deadline for the February magazine is Wednesday 1 January and if you have anything left to share... please do!

Happy New Year to all of you from the Harrietsham Fish Scheme and everyone involved in the production and delivery of Network magazine.

May this coming year be wonderful for you all.

### ***Jan - Network Editor***

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

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***Visit our website: [www.harrietshamfishscheme.org](http://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 photo by **Peter Uden** from **Pexels***

*Happy New Year clipart on page 38 from **[Clipartworld.com/happy-new-year-clip-art-black-and-white.html](http://Clipartworld.com/happy-new-year-clip-art-black-and-white.html)***

# Harrietsham Network

1<sup>st</sup> Harrietsham Brownies – Fundraising Challenge for Children in Need.



In November 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Harrietsham Brownies rose to the challenge of fundraising during lockdown. Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Harrietsham Brownie unit, who attend schools in both Harrietsham and Lenham, took part in the 'Act Your Age' challenge badge, a joint initiative with Girlguiding and Children in Need.

Each Brownie chose her own activity, combined with her age and then carried it out.

- Molly ran for 7 miles over 7 days.
- Sophie completed a bakeathon of 8 bakes in 8 days.
- Bella ran for 7 minutes every day for 7 days.
- Chloe drew 8 beautiful postcards and sent them to friends and family she missed during lockdown.
- Imogen completed a 7-mile walk and visited Percy the Pilgrim on her travels.
- Naomi took on a challenge to skip continuously for 8 minutes.
- Orla completed 8 amazing criss-cross skips continuously.
- Nancy completed a 7-mile walk, she even saw some Deer.
- And Holly baked 8 fairy cakes which looked delicious!

Not only did the Brownies plan their own efforts and they also set a target each for their fundraising. The Brownies did amazingly well, especially considering the pandemic restrictions preventing a lot of the usual fundraising methods.

I'm pleased to say they blew their targets out of the water. As a unit the 1<sup>st</sup> Harrietsham Brownies raised a grand total of **£955.00**

It is a fantastic achievement for the girls and all for a great cause. Each of the girls earned their children in need badge, which I'm sure you'll agree was well deserved. They are all a credit to our Brownie Unit and local community.





Find out more at  
[www.harrietshampreschool.co.uk](http://www.harrietshampreschool.co.uk)



## Notes from the Preschool

*An update from the staff and children at Harrietsham preschool*

Happy new year from Harrietsham's youngest residents!

We're delighted to start 2021 back in the heart of the village, settled into our temporary home at St John's church (or 'the castle', as some of our children call it!)

As many of you know, this time six months ago the fate of the preschool was looking increasingly uncertain as we tried to find a venue for the new school year. As September grew closer and we were still without a home, we were very much in need of a miracle - so it seems fitting that it was the church who stepped in with a solution! We're grateful to the PCC who have been so willing to accommodate the requirements of our growing preschool within their ancient, Grade 1 listed building. It's a unique and beautiful setting, and we've been pleasantly surprised by how well the space works for our children and our staff team.

Working towards a 'forever home' for the preschool is still very much in our sights, but for now we can focus on what we're here to do: providing an exciting, nurturing environment for the children. Despite the additional challenges of COVID, the hard work of our brilliant team meant that the autumn 2020 term was a real success; we've had dinosaurs, dancing, a great deal of craft and as much time playing outside as the weather would allow. All our children have learnt new things, grown in confidence and made positive memories. We asked them to share their thoughts on the autumn term:

### ***What have you enjoyed about preschool?***

'Playing with my friends! And playing with trucks and trains'

'Playing with blocks and bricks and cars and ponies. And cars. And playdough. And one more thing - paint'

### ***What have you learnt at preschool this term?***

'Finding some shapes. The teachers help me if I get stuck with the toys'

'Writing my name and phonics'

'I always learn how to make stuff'

'To be kind!'

cont'd on age 10

## Notes from the Preschool (cont'd from page 9)

### ***What do you like about having preschool in the church?***

'The colours in the windows and the arches in the ceiling'

'The shapes that we find'

'It makes me feel happy in the church'

'This church is the biggest church in the world!'

### ***And what do you think about playing outside at preschool?***

'We need a sandpit'

'You can hear us shouting when we dance and when we run outside!'

'I like playing dinosaurs outside. We see lots of birds and people playing in the park and walking their dog'

'I would like to do gardening'

Being back in Harrietsham is not only great for our children and their families, but also gives us the opportunity to re-establish links across the community, and to play our part in village life. We're looking forward to meeting more of you this year - if you'd like to find out more about the preschool, take a look at **harrietshampreschool.co.uk** (or get in touch at **harrietshampreschool.manager@gmail.com** or 07897 821399).

## Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls

Our articles in the Network are pretty much the nearest thing our Bowls Club has to a Newsletter. The past few months have given us precious little in the way of good news. Often if there is any news it is a little behind the times which did not matter when reporting on the results of games we played in the past as this was just information with regard to how well the club was playing (or not). Now, the Covid rules change so suddenly that you do not know if you are able to play from one month to the next. With all this happening we must thank the production team behind the Network for keeping it alive when clubs have so little to report.

You will note that the Village Hall is closed until January, and as we still do not have our Safe Bowling Certificate from the ESMBA it is pretty much safe to say that it is going to be 2021 before we can think of playing bowls again.

I hope you have all been able to have the best Christmas possible under the latest Covid rules and that 2021 brings signs of a better year to come.

Phil Gooda (***Chairman***)

## Harrietsham in Bloom

Since planting the 10,000 bulbs in November the committee and volunteers have had a bit of a break, so at present it is just a case of keeping the planters tidy and weed free.



Hopefully Covid 19 restrictions will ease in 2021 to enable us a bit more freedom. We are a very small group and would love to have more volunteers to help us. Further information regarding the tasks involved can be obtained from our Chairman Andrew Rogers 01622 859352.

Very best wishes for 2021 and stay safe.

*Audrey Joy*

## Harrietsham History Society

I think most people will be very happy that 2020 is over and everyone will be hoping that things will improve as early as possible in the New Year. Carole and I have been discussing our planned programme for 2021 and have decided to cancel the meetings booked for January, February and March but subject to the village hall being open for business we will provisionally book a date for a meeting in April. This will need to be an AGM to enable us to present the Society accounts which we were unable to do in April 2020, hopefully we will also be able to discuss and agree a possible programme for the rest of the year.

My best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year I sincerely hope you all continue to keep safe and well

*Peter Brown*

## Harrietsham Gardening Society

As this is being written at the end of November and the future plans are not clear, the committee cannot give any indication as to when meetings will commence in the New Year. However, all the dates of proposed future meetings were given in last month's Network article and we will advise all members as soon as it is safe to recommence. The AGM is scheduled for Monday 18th January and it may be possible to do a zoom meeting. The committee will look into this. In the meantime, with the announcement of probable forthcoming vaccines, there is a light at the end of the tunnel so we are hoping that we can emerge from this dreadful time with renewed vigour and ideas and plans for a productive 2021. Whilst most gardening is fairly dormant at present don't forget to follow the Top Tips further on in this Network magazine for ideas on how to get early crops under way.

Happy New Year to you all and hope to see you all again soon."

*Mike Flawn*

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## Quiz of the Year 2020

**Rod Martenstyn's** popular annual quiz, back by special request...

1. In January what were credit cards banned from being used to make transactions for in the UK?
2. Also, in January what did Scotsman Peter Wright succeed in doing?
3. In February who resigned as Chancellor of the Exchequer?
4. What did Ciara and Dennis achieve fame for in February in the UK?
5. On 5 March which UK airline collapsed into administration?
6. On 9 March which two teams played out the last Premier League football match before the UK entered into lockdown due to the coronavirus?
7. In April what was increased from £30 to £45 for in-store spending?
8. What was the name of the hospital opened in April in the ExCel centre in London to treat coronavirus patients?
9. In May, what government coronavirus slogan replaced "Stay Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives" in England?
10. In shocking scenes, on 25 May, police officer Derek Chauvin caused the death of who in Minneapolis, USA?
11. On 7 June the statue of which 17th century slave trader, MP and philanthropist was pulled down by anti-racism protesters in Bristol?
12. On 25 June who were crowned 2019-20 Premier League football champions?
13. In July, Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi married which British Royal?
14. Also, in July, which former Conservative MP for Dover was found guilty of sexually assaulting two women (in 2007 and 2016) and subsequently jailed for two years?
15. In August, who won his sixth World Snooker Championship?
16. Also, in August what was announced by the BBC for the over-75s?
17. Which actress, former 'Bond Girl', and Dame sadly passed away, aged 82, on 10 September?
18. On 19 September, a 1634 edition of the last play of William Shakespeare was discovered at the Royal Scots College library in Salamanca, Spain. What was the name of this play?
19. In October who won Britain's Got Talent 2020?
20. Legendary rock guitarist and songwriter Eddie Van Halen sadly died in October. What was the name of his famous rock band which he co-founded in the 1970s?
21. In November, 'El Pibe de Oro' died of a heart attack. Regarded as one of the greatest of all time in his sport, who was he better known as?
22. Sadly, David Prowse aka "Darth Vader" passed away in November. What was the name of the character he played in the 1970s public information sketches for children learning to cross the road?

## Quiz of the Year 2020

23. In the US Presidential Election 2020, when is the scheduled date for the Electoral College elector votes?
24. On 1 December, which British sporting legend and multiple world champion announced he tested positive for coronavirus?

***Good luck all!!***

*Answers on page 38*

## News from Harrietsham School

Following the summer break the school re-opened completely in September with all staff and children returning. This included the two new Reception classes with 22 children in each. Two new teachers also started in September, one in Year 6 and one in Year 1. Everyone seems to have settled down really well.

Stage 1 of the building work, the hall, kitchen and staff room extension was completed before the start of the academic year and Stage 2, the car park, finally finished by half term. Work then started on Stage 3, the building of the new classrooms, at the end of October and this is due to finish by the Summer of 2021. Many of you will see the results of all this work as you walk past the school.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the process of appointing a new head had to be put on hold. However, we are extremely lucky that Mrs Waller Davies agreed to stay in this position for another year.

Due to the wonders of Zoom, Collective Worship has been able to continue. On Monday the whole school 'meets' together and on Thursday a member of the Len Valley Benefice team conducts the service. The children are getting used to this and, as I have observed when I join the Worship, they participate with great enthusiasm.

The children had a virtual Harvest Festival celebration with the theme of Growing Together and were encouraged to donate to an international charity 'Toilet Twinning'. They raised over £300 which has been used to fund a project to build a toilet block in Uganda.

The children also came to school on November 13 wearing clothes which made them feel happy and raised money for the Children in Need appeal.

Life certainly has not returned to normal and there have been several 'blips' during these past three months. However, the children have all adapted extremely well to the altered conditions and the staff continue to support them whether they are learning in school or at home. Thanks are due to Mrs Davies and all of the staff for maintaining 'business as usual' as much as possible.

***Katherin Daking***



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# Harrietsham Village Hall

Happy new year to everyone and we hope you all had a nice Christmas.

Hopefully the coronavirus vaccine will be distributed this month and things will get back to some normality. We are going to open the Booth Room for the Guides as they can follow the guidelines laid down by their Association and we will open up for other clubs to use the Booth Room when it is safe to do so. The rules and restrictions are always changing so please bear with us, we will get your clubs up and running again as soon as we are able.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

**Steve Brown**



# Harrietsham Wives Group

Along with most of the other groups in the village, the Wives group had their last meeting in March. Some of us were then able to meet for a summer picnic courtesy of one of our members, Jackie Bevan. We also held our annual Auction and raised over £100.00 which we donated to Kent Air Ambulance.

The committee has continued to meet occasionally when rules allow and we have kept in touch with members by email and phone.

We are hoping to return to our normal meetings sometime during 2021 but, unfortunately, we will not be able to meet in the Village Hall and we are therefore investigating other venues. We have also taken the decision to cancel our speakers and rely on our members creativity and resourcefulness for our meetings during next year.

Even in these difficult times we always welcome new members who should contact myself or any of our committee.

**Katherin Daking**

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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](http://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 pages 19 and 21***

# Len Valley Benefice Service Times

***Everyone is always welcome to any of our services or events***

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40:31***

## **Important – Please note:**

*We are currently encouraging people to use their local church.*

*Service details are correct at the time village magazines are compiled.*

***Given the frequently changing national situation, please continue to check notice boards, website and Facebook for the latest information.***

### **Sunday 3 January**

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Service

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Morning Worship

### **Sunday 10 January**

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church in The Square

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**3.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

### **Sunday 17 January**

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Service

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship

### **Sunday 24 January**

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

### **Sunday 31 January**

**10.00am** Creative Services will be held at all four of our churches.

Our **Online Worship** will continue so please join us for our weekly service.

Please Google Len Valley Benefice YouTube

or email us **churchoffice@lvb.org.uk** for a direct link & to be added to our circulation list

Breakfast Church are meeting via Zoom on alternate Sundays.

Please contact Jon Holland on **jon\_liz@yahoo.co.uk** to join with their Online worship

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## Deadlines for February 2021 Network

*Fri 1 January 2021 12 noon* advertising deadline for February Network

*Fri 1 January 2021 12 noon* copy deadline for February Network

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## St John's Church Harrietsham

As many of you will know the Harrietsham Pre-School has been meeting in the church since September. We were able to offer them this facility due to the works completed in the church earlier in the year which provided us with improved kitchen and toilet facilities. Thanks are due to the Friends of St John's, Friends of Kent Churches as well as individual donors and considerable fund raising which made this possible.

When Lockdown 1 was lifted we were able to return to church for services, the ones in September being held outside in the churchyard often accompanied by music from the trumpet! As the weather became colder we had to resume meeting inside whilst observing all the rules on social distancing. Even the members of the choir were able to sing during the services! Then we entered Lockdown 2 so all services were put on hold again.

We continue to have problems with the weather vane on top of the church tower. The high winds in the autumn damaged the support and we had to have professional help. After a further inspection it is now clear that we may need to take action to ensure the safety of the roof.

Meanwhile the Pre-School has continued daily and according to the Manager, Susan Taylor, the children are delighted with their new 'castle' home. A small area has been fenced off round the West Door so they can also go outside. Their numbers are steadily growing and we are hoping that they can be more involved with our church community when life returns to normal.

***Richard Daking***  
Churchwarden

---

## Action Fraud

We cannot emphasise enough the need for caution, especially at this time of the year. Go to <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> for information on types of fraud, prevention and the opportunity to report a fraud online whether you are the victim or a witness, a business or someone reporting on behalf of a victim.

You can also report and get advice about fraud or cyber crime by calling

**0300 123 2040**

# 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 Louise Ayres 07590 037693

### Community Support

PCSO John Boyd 101

### Conservative Association

Faversham Office 01622 758053

### Countryways Quilters

And Stitchers Pamela Gillard 01233 879507

### Craft and Chat/Crafternoon/

Knit Crochet and Natter Hazel Roots 01622 851885

### Cricket Club

Chairman Mr A Hubble 859692

### Cub Scouts

Leader Mrs A Seales 859829

### Explorer Scouts

Leader Mark Horlock 07789 226516

### Family History

Enquiries Mr F Long 850863

### Flower Guild

Parish Church Mrs R Long 850863

### Friends of St. John the Baptist Church

Chairperson Audrey Joy 850806

### Gardening Society

Chairman Mr David Oversby 859674

### Girl Guides

Leader Kate Davies 07971 254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

### Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 850632

### Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

### Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 859352

### Harrietsham Social Club

Secretary Jed Stone 07759 8771198/whipacres2@g.mail.com

### Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr P Brown 851075

### Health Walks

Organiser Ms M Darby 850657

### Helpers

Chairman Mr T Sams 859412

### Karate Club

Organiser Mr Lewin Tuckwell 07812 089304

Kent Community Warden Mr M Sherwood 07977 981993

### Kent Messenger "Your Local Pages"

Village correspondent Charlotte Lingard miss\_lingard@hotmail.com

## Lenham and Harrietsham Youth Hub

Contact Katie at KCC 01622 755044

**Liberal Democrat Association** Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

## PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman James Reed harrietshampfta@gmail.com

**Pre-school** Susan Taylor 07897821399

harrietshampreschoolmanager@gmail.com

## 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 Richard Cast 07787476879/richardcast@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

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Dentist, Lenham 01622 858204

Dentaline (out of hours emergency treatment) 01634 890300

Saxon Warrior Pharmacy 01622 858287

### Hospitals:

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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 from Harrietsham Gardening Society

January already and time to get a few things moving ready to plant out in the Spring. If you haven't got a heated greenhouse, and very few people have these days, a heated propagator can be a real boon, but whatever you have it is light equally as much as warmth which is necessary to produce strong sturdy plants. A small seed tray or two on a well-lit windowsill can be perfectly adequate, but do avoid overwatering at this time of year as 'damping-off' disease can be very damaging. This occurs when a fungus which thrives in wet cold conditions creeps across the soil surface and small seedlings collapse at soil level. We used to be able to control this with a copper-based fungicide called Cheshunt compound but that, in common with most other effective pesticides, is no longer available. Cultural methods then, as previously mentioned, mean avoiding over-watering, providing plenty of light and buoyant air along with gentle warmth.

What should we be sowing now? Well on the vegetable front tomatoes, ideally individually in 3 inch pots as they otherwise get a check to growth when potted on, onions from seed, lettuces (Little gem is a good variety for early sowings) and summer cabbage such as Golden acre which will provide succulent hearts in June. As for flowers, dahlias from seed, begonias, pelargoniums, and sweet peas if you didn't get them sown in Autumn. Herbs such as Basil can also be sown now and chillies started off too.

As trees are well and truly dormant now, apples can be pruned and the other main outdoor job is finishing winter digging. That can be quite hard work. I heard about a chap whose son used to turn over his allotment for him but sadly he had been naughty and was now serving ten years at Her Majesty's pleasure. He felt very guilty that he couldn't dig the allotment over for his dad and confirmed it in a letter to him. He said, 'really sorry I can't do the digging this year, if you do manage to do it don't dig too deeply as that's where I buried some of the loot.' The next day a van full of police officers arrived at the allotment who turned over every inch. This was followed by another note from his son who said, 'Hope they left it reasonably level, it was the best I could do under the circumstances.'

Before you throw out the mistletoe this year why not think about growing some of your own? It is quite specific where it will grow, apple trees are the most likely host in a garden, but it will also grow on poplar and lime trees. It's best to keep the berries until March/April to make sure they are well and truly ripe. The best chance of success is to 'sow' these on an apple tree with crevices in the bark into which you can press the berry, or form a slit or flap with something like a Stanley knife and press the berries into that. The branch you choose wants to be at least 4 inches in girth and it's the underside which should be used as that is in the shade and helps prevent drying out of the berry. Wrapping an old bit of net curtain around the branch will avoid birds interfering with your endeavours. In nature the berries are a favourite food of thrushes and blackcaps who spread the seeds by wiping their

beaks on branches – the seeds are also still viable after passing through their gut or when regurgitated. It's a good idea to sow as many as you can to give the best chance of success. When the seed germinates each seed has between two and four embryos with each embryonic 'foot' entering the branch and potentially forming a clump but it is a long drawn out process and you're unlikely to see berries for a few years.

As well as the mistletoe it can be fun to sow the holly berries from the rest of your decorations. Holly is a strange plant as each tree or bush is male or female and only the female produces berries. Gardeners who named some of the choice garden species were one jump ahead of this highly topical gender identification business since Ilex (Holly) Golden King is female and Ilex Silver Queen is male. If you want berries clearly you need Golden King. Each holly berry has about four seeds so what do we do? It's quite simple, mix up about three handfuls of sand to one of compost in a fairly large pot and sow the seeds about an inch deep. Leave the pot in a shady place right around until next spring, keep watered and leave a bit of wire mesh over the pot to keep the mice away. Some fifteen months later after they've been exposed to a warm summer and a cold winter the first holly seedlings should start to appear and can be potted on. It's best to pot them into at least a five-inch pot to grow on as they don't like their roots disturbed.

That's all for this month.

Happy gardening

## Sudoku Corner

The object is to use the numbers 1-9 once each in every row and column and also in every quadrant of 9 squares (heavily outlined). Enjoy! Answers on page 36.

5		3						
2			3					
	4		7	1		2		3
		5	4				7	1
		4	2		1	8		
6	8				7	5		
1		7		6	9		3	
					4			6
						9		5

Easy

	5		7					1
	8			6		3		4
3		7			9			
1					7			3
	7		9	4	3			6
	9		2					7
			3			2		8
7		1		2			5	
8					4		1	

Hard

Source: © Memory-Improvement-Tips.com. Reprinted by Permission.

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## Christian Message

In November 1938 about 30,000 German Jewish men were taken to concentration camps where they were tortured, starved and put to death.

Aware of what was happening a group of English Jews asked the British Government for permission to set up a transit camp at a disused site in Sandwich to house 4,000 of these men. Approval was given and the group which raised funds for the operation arranged for the camp to be made ready for occupation.

Sandwich may not have seemed the ideal refuge for foreigners. At the time there was a branch of the British Union of Fascists in the town and Oswald Mosley was a regular visitor.

How would the residents of Sandwich respond to this invasion which actually doubled the size of the town? The answer is that there was a warm reception. Local people were friendly and welcomed the refugees to their homes. Once settled in, the men worked on the buildings and then occupied themselves putting on concerts and theatricals which were attended by many Sandwich residents. Local events were patronised by the refugees who took part in Ramsgate carnival. The Archbishop of Canterbury visited the camp.

Jesus parable of the Good Samaritan is well known (Luke 10: 25-27) and over the years the phrase 'a good samaritan' has become part of our language. The first person to hear Jesus' story was an expert in the Jewish law. One day he had a question for Jesus: **What must I do to inherit eternal life?** Jesus responded with a question of his own, **What does the law say?** The man replied, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself. 10 marks out of 10. End of discussion? Oh no! This man wanted more. **But who is my neighbour?** To answer the man's question Jesus told a story about an injured man in the road who was ignored by two respectable religious men. Eventually a foreigner, a Samaritan, came along, tended his wounds, took him to a safe place and arranged for his care. Now it was Jesus turn to ask a question. **Which of the three passers-by was neighbour to the injured man?** We all know the answer!

England is still described as a Christian country. All who describe themselves as Christians are commanded to behave in the way taught by Jesus in his parable. Believers in Christ are commanded to love God and their neighbour. Indeed, there are many Christians in our country behaving in such a way.

But, and there's always a BUT, all around us are remarks about our neighbours who are a different colour, speak a different language, have different customs from us or have come to our country, often by dangerous means, because they had been ill-treated in their own as the Jews who came to Sandwich had been. They are DIFFERENT FROM US. But are they really so different? Think again.

Turn now to the story of creation in the first chapter of the Bible. In verse 26 God said “Let us make men in our own image” and the summing up in verse 27: **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him ; male and female he created them.** Not different. The same.

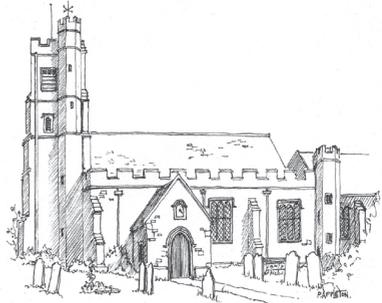
So we look back and thank God for the example of those who helped fellow human beings to safety and for the people of Sandwich who welcomed them.

**Joan Drury**

Read the full account , *Four Thousand Lives*, by Clare Ungerson.

## Friends of St. John the Baptist’s Church

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## 100 Club Draw

Result of the Forty-eighth draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club.

As all the social events in the village have ceased because of the Covid19 lockdown restrictions, the 100 Club draw was made on 14 November 2020 at Hawkley Lodge and drawn by Hazel Roots.

A record 129 numbers were included in the draw giving a prize fund of £129

First prize £64.50 – number 24 – Carole Bell

Second prize £38.70 – number 71 – Jon & Judy Bacon

Third prize £25.80 – number 50 – Robert Stythe

For further information and details of how to become a member of the ever-growing 100 Club to help with the upkeep of our church - contact the Administrator, Chris Roots at [100club@friendsofstjohn.org](mailto:100club@friendsofstjohn.org)



The Sheep in Tong Meadow.

Photos taken on two very different days by *Jon and Liz Holland*

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## ***Caught in the Act...***

*Jackie Bevan, out delivering the December 2020 Network magazine. Jackie is our Distribution Manager, seen here leading our stalwart delivery team by example. Thank you Jackie and thank you everyone who distributes Network.*

*Photo by the Editor*



## Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Many organisations have had to change the way they communicate to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the Len Valley Practice is no exception. Due to the reduction of face-to-face interaction, telephone calls and text messages are proving to be a vital method of communication between the patient and the practice. To provide continuity of care, practice staff (including Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists, Reception staff etc.) will contact patients by telephone and text to manage their health e.g. telephone appointments, medication reviews, or to discuss test results etc. The full list of current practice staff can be found at <https://www.lenvalleypractice.co.uk>.

The (PPG) are aware of the ever-increasing number of fraudulent calls being made by criminals trying to illicit personal details from people for illegal gains. Therefore, the PPG want to reassure patients that practice staff will NEVER ask for a person's bank details, pin number or password. Practice staff may ask for the patient's date of birth to verify the patient's identity and maintain confidentiality but practice staff will also have full access to the patient's medical notes and can provide information to verify their identity too.

If patients are in doubt of the authenticity of any call they receive they should hang up, telephone someone they know (to check that the telephone line has become free again) before contacting the practice direct to confirm whether anyone has tried to contact them.

For further information to protect yourself from scams and fraud please visit:

**[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)** (phone scams and cold calls).

**[www.which.co.uk](http://www.which.co.uk)** (phone scams)

**[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)**

**[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**

**[www.tschecked.kent.gov.uk](http://www.tschecked.kent.gov.uk)**

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## Young at Heart 60+ and Len Valley Community Club

A Happy and Healthy 2021 to you all - where has the last year gone? We hope you all kept safe and well and were able to enjoy the festivities in the best way possible.

Sorry, but to date we still do not know if we will be able to resume our club meetings in February. This is probably not the news you want to hear here but once we have the "all clear" either Jenny or I (Nina) will contact you. Please all take care and keep safe. If you have any questions, queries or problems please ring one of us and we will do our best to sort things for you.

Tel: **Jenny** 01622 859208 or **Nina** 01622 851970

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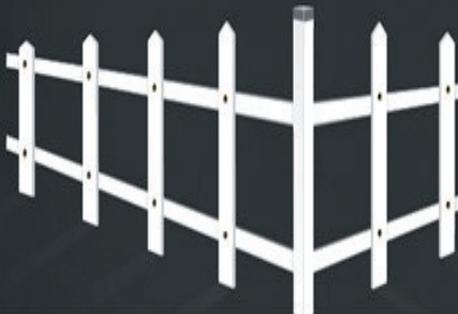
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## A Special Request

*To Jules and Tim on their wedding day*

We shared a simple faith, did Gramps and me;  
 Not learned in vast cathedrals tall  
 But from the words of One whose mother laid Him  
 Snug upon a manger's straw;  
 Who grew from boy to man to teach us God's eternal plan.  
 His dying words opened the gates of Heaven for me and you—  
 "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do".

Dear Jules and Tim, we too stood in our Parish Church like you.  
 Gramps was not tall, yet taller stood than any man I knew.  
 And me? – With hindsight, rather a silly girl dressed in delphinium blue.

The world outside roared scarlet red with rage of war  
 And anguished cries of suffering brethren rising from its very core.  
 He slept beside me for a few short weeks in downy bed,  
 Then five long years where-ever soldiers laid their weary heads;  
 And though I never knew where on this earth he lay,  
 Each night I knew his final words that day,  
 Learned from his homework when a little lad,  
 Suggested as a prayer by his dear Dad.  
 "Help me through good report and ill, my daily cross to bear,  
 To seek to do my Father's will, my brethren's griefs to share".

One day, unheralded, he just came home.  
 Thereafter, at the close of every working day he came;  
 Our children playing near, we'd share a simple pot of tea  
 And we, together, would knit up the strands of hours apart.  
 This gifted time we knew should be at every marriage heart.  
 Whilst grey austerity and rationing still stalked our land,  
 We trod those years with joy, just thankful to be hand in hand,  
 And when bomb-damaged ceilings threatened overhead,  
 We, now four of us, slept soundly in our dining room, in one shared bed!

Gramps never shone at D.I.Y, and he and dear Cob too, would pale  
 If either were confronted with a hammer and nail,  
 Yet, both their homes from floor to rafter  
 Ceaselessly echoed to the sound of laughter.

So, "Gramps and me" today are with you here,  
 Together with our loved ones gathered to us through the years.  
 I hope, Julie and Tim, I've done all that you asked me to  
 And sign ourselves, dear Jules, with your own childish words—  
 "Those two old persons sitting over there"...  
 Here, in the second pew.

**Sylvia Westley** (age 89)

## Countryways Quilters and Stitchers

Happy New Year everyone. Here's to a brighter 2021 for us all. Let's push 2020 behind us and with the promise of Covid-19 vaccines for us all, work toward a better future for ourselves, our families and the world around us. We all need to heal this year, both mentally and physically. Whether recovering from the long-term effects of the virus or the lockdowns, we need to find our inner strength. So I'd like to wish you all peace, love and happiness.

At the time of writing we are all still in the second lockdown and waiting to hear from Boris how Christmas will be (and trying to do all our Christmas shopping online). This year I had pretty much decided I would go over the top on decorating and cooking to make Christmas special and be content to video chat with the children a lot over the holiday week. Just to keep everyone safe! I think lots of us feel the same way. But if they did open up for Christmas, I imagine we might be back in another lockdown in January!

So, if that is the case our quilting group won't be doing much more than calling to wish each other good cheer for the New year. But when we are allowed out again to have meetings we will be happy to just sit and natter with our friends and work on our own projects. A joy we have been missing so much. When things settle back to normal we will pick up our program where we left off last year.

This year we are going back to having our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month, just to make it easier. We will meet if permitted, in the Osbourne room in Lenham Community Centre.

If you would like more information on our group or would like a copy of our 2021 Program please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 01233 877453 or e-mail [moonbeamspinner@gmail.com](mailto:moonbeamspinner@gmail.com)

Pamela Gillard

## Sudoku Answers

Easy

5	7	3	6	9	2	1	4	8
2	1	9	3	4	8	6	5	7
8	4	6	7	1	5	2	9	3
9	2	5	4	8	6	3	7	1
7	3	4	2	5	1	8	6	9
6	8	1	9	3	7	5	2	4
1	5	7	8	6	9	4	3	2
3	9	8	5	2	4	7	1	6
4	6	2	1	7	3	9	8	5

Hard

6	5	4	7	3	2	8	9	1
2	8	9	1	6	5	3	7	4
3	1	7	4	8	9	6	2	5
1	2	6	8	5	7	4	3	9
5	7	8	9	4	3	1	6	2
4	9	3	2	1	6	5	8	7
9	6	5	3	7	1	2	4	8
7	4	1	6	2	8	9	5	3
8	3	2	5	9	4	7	1	6

# Recipe for Liver Stroganoff

*Another luxury recipe from **Peter Brown**. If you haven't tried liver before this would be a very tasty way to start.*

Serves 4 cost under £10.00.

Preparation & cooking time 30mins

## Ingredients

1lb Lambs Liver cut into thin strips  
4 tbs plain flour  
4 tbs cooking oil  
8ozs button mushrooms halved  
8ozs button onions or shallots  
½pt milk & veg stock combined  
¼pt fresh soured cream  
2 tbs brandy  
Fresh Parsley  
Cayenne pepper  
1lb dried tagliatelle  
1oz butter  
1 clove garlic crushed

## Method

Toss the strips of liver in the flour, heat the oil in a large frying pan and after cooking the liver for a few minutes in batches and remove it from the pan. Add the onions to the pan and cook under medium heat for 5 mins, return the liver to the pan and add the mushrooms, cook for a further 2 mins. Stir in the rest of the flour and gradually add the milk & stock stirring all the time bring it to the boil, turn the heat down & simmer the mixture for 10 to 15 mins to reduce it. Stir in the soured cream, brandy, a pinch of cayenne pepper and 2 tbs chopped parsley, cook for a further 2 mins, add seasoning if required.

Bring a saucepan of water to the boil and add the tagliatelle, cook for 10 mins, drain and return to the saucepan with the melted butter and garlic, cook for a further 2mins.

Serve the Stroganoff with the pasta & garnish with chopped parsley.

Enjoy!

**Peter Brown**

## Quiz of the Year Answers

1. Online and offline gambling, including the purchasing of lottery tickets.
2. He won the PDC World Darts Championship 2020.
3. Sajid Javid.
4. They were Storm names in the UK.
5. Flybe.
6. Leicester City and Aston Villa.
7. Contactless payments.
8. NHS Nightingale Hospital London.
9. Stay Alert. Control the virus. Save lives.
10. George Floyd.
11. Edward Colston.
12. Liverpool.
13. Princess Beatrice.
14. Charlie Elphicke.
15. Ronnie O'Sullivan.
16. The end of free television licensing.
17. Dame Diana Rigg.
18. The Two Noble Kinsmen.
19. Jon Courtenay.
20. Van Halen.
21. Diego Maradona.
22. Green Cross (Code) Man.
23. 14th December.
24. Lewis Hamilton.



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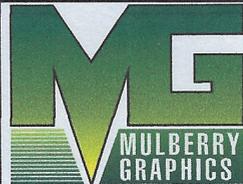


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