



May 2024



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Harrietsham's
Village Magazine***



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Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

Network Magazine June 2024 deadlines:-

Wednesday 1 May 2024 12 noon advertising and copy deadline for June Network.

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

Please send advertising contributions to adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org

Please send copy to: editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org.

Thank you.

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Message From the Editor

Apologies for any confusion in the April edition over the date of the Big Lunch - this is to be held on Saturday 15 June and you can find a poster for this on page 37.

Thank you to Trevor Green for the picture of the "Royal Scot" which travelled through Harrietsham recently.

Please also have a look at page 8 for information on the Tennis Club and how they is celebrating their Centenary Year!

Cover Photo by Yana Leonenko : <https://www.pexels.com/photo/flower-in-grass-16647506/>

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.

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Harrietsham Network

Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club 2024 Centenary Year



Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club celebrates 100 years of existence in 2024 – playing on the same patch of grass – you would think we would have worn it out! The Club was formed in 1924 and play has taken place on the same site throughout the summer months ever since.

We want to make this a special year and invite you to join in with the events planned:-

Centenary Celebration Day - Saturday 17 August – Please put the date in your diary to join us in marking this special achievement. Look out for details in the coming months or on our Facebook page or new website.

Free coaching for children during the summer holiday period – if you would like to reserve a place please let us know.

Special Centenary Subscription rate for families – look out for details on our website and Facebook page.

Families are very welcome to come along and give grass court tennis a try anytime – just turn up, all equipment can be provided. Play will start from Tuesday 7 May with the normal playing times for Members from 2pm on Sundays and with Club evenings on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6pm. If you wish to play at any other time please get in touch to discuss your requirements

For further details please ring 859352 or visit our website harrietshamlawntennisclub.weebly.com

Andrew Rogers - Tennis Club Chairman

Harrietsham In Bloom

Having had a wonderful display during Spring which is ongoing we are encouraged by the compliments received from villagers, visitors and motorists. Now is the time to deadhead. If anyone can help please do so by taking off just the flower heads (not stalks) from tulips and daffodils please. Soon we shall be clearing the planters ready to put in summer bedding in June.



Our annual Quiz was held on 20 April. Many thanks to all those that supported us, to the Quiz Master and his team and all the helpers and those that donated raffle prizes.

If you would like to join our small team as a volunteer please contact our Chairman. Thank you for your continued support.

Any enquiries to Andrew Rogers (Chair) on 01622 859352.

Audrey Joy (MBE)



Harrietsham History Society

At our meeting on Thursday 28 March, we welcomed Mary Smith our speaker who had previously given her talk on A Schoolgirls War in February 2018. There were a number of our newer members who had not heard the talk before and two of our visitors had been pupils at Maidstone Girls Grammar School and were interested in hearing about life in the school during World War 2. At the end of Mary's talk, she mentioned that further investigations had taken place recently on the land at the front of the school and some underground shelters had been found which previously had been thought to have been destroyed. Plans are being made to reinstate the access to these to make them safely accessible. The school are hoping to be able to arrange for interested groups to visit the shelters to experience what it would have been like for the girls to have their lessons in the shelters whilst air raids were taking place.

Our next meeting is on Monday 13 May at 7pm in Percival's Rest, this will be our AGM when we hope you will come along and consider joining our group and helping us continue with our main project which is to provide a digital archive of the village history for everyone to access. After the AGM we will be sorting through donated items to enable them to be put into the archive.

On Monday 3 June at 7.00pm we have an additional meeting in Percival's Rest when our speaker Steve Hookins will be giving a talk on the D Day Landings which took place on the 6 June 1944. The History Society will also be at the Parish Council Big Lunch Event on Saturday 15 June when we will have a display of information regarding World War 2. If anyone in your family was connected or involved with the D Day landings or if you have a story which may be of interest regarding this event and if you would like to share this with us please contact the writer, it doesn't have to be connected to Harrietsham. The entry fee for non-members who are very welcome to come to this meeting is just £3.00.

Peter Brown



Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls Club

During March we welcomed Ditton SMBC to Harrietsham for a friendly game. This took place on a Monday afternoon to encourage our afternoon players to gain experience and take part in friendly, yet competitive matches. It turned out to be a successful afternoon due to the amicable and fun way in which the game was played without losing its competitive edge. Harrietsham won the game by a large margin so all credit must be given to the club members that played. Ditton had planned a return match but that had to be cancelled as several of their bowlers were returning to playing outdoors.

Giving short notice, Hothfield invited Harrietsham to enter two teams to take part in a triple's competition. Information of the invitation was circulated around the members and the following two teams were entered. Harrietsham 1. De, Lesley, Tom. Harrietsham 2. Ron, Phil, Judy. Both of our teams performed very well Harrietsham 1 losing by only one shot in their quarter final and Harrietsham 2 losing by three shots in their semi-final. It was a good day, with a well organised and smooth-running competition which was a credit to Hothfield. The match umpire reminded us of a common fault that we are all guilty of at times and that was of not being aware of the position of your standing foot on the mat when you deliver the bowl, something to look out for.

Phil Gooda - Harrietsham SMBC Chairman/Secretary

Harrietsham Network

Harrietsham Gardening Society

Spring Show



Despite rain, slugs and snails we had a remarkably good show filling the village hall with the scent of Spring Daffodils which were the largest entry with smaller numbers of polyanthus, hyacinths, hellebores and flowering shrubs.

Best in show went to Ken Leach who was awarded a silver plate.

Overall winner with the most votes went to Christine Bone who was awarded a silver cup.

Congratulations and well done to the membership.

If you would like to enter next year please come along to our next meeting on 21 May when we have a demonstration on chipping snowdrops with Carolyn Millen where we will all learn a new technique. Look forward to seeing some new members.



There has been an association with gardens and shows for many ,many years in Harrietsham.



Flower Show 14 August 1891

The annual flower show was held in showery weather, in a meadow near the schools, kindly lent by Mr Betts. There was a slight falling off in the number of exhibits, but the fruit and vegetables staged were of a very creditable character.

Three large groups of plants lent by Mr Randall, gardener to Sir Domville of Stede Hill Mr Brandrick, gardener to the Rev. Marsham were awarded certificates of merit. A similar honour was conferred on Mr Conway, who exhibited a novelty in a shape of a group of scarlet runners grown in an old saucepan.

The judges were Mr Lewis, gardener at Leeds Castle, Mr Gower, gardener at Chilston Park and Mr Martin, gardener at Ulcombe House.

From A Maidstone Newspaper.



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A Community Space - Open to all!



As you will see from the poster on page 14, from Monday 13 May from 10am to 11am, the Culpepper Charity has arranged for the Village Hall to opening its doors to welcome anyone in our community to get together – whether that's with existing friends, an opportunity to meet new ones, or just a quiet space to read.

Refreshments (coffee, tea, squash, biscuits) will be offered free of charge.

In addition to a drink and natter, there will also be books to read (and take away) and, for anyone who wants to, a few board games to play.

The Charity also offers financial support for villagers who may be struggling with bills and food. If you'd like to speak to someone about how the Charity may be able to help you, a representative will be there each Monday to assist with an application. In the meantime, if you wish to apply for financial help, you can apply via Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com.

Finally, the Charity is offering to help towards the cost of local, paid activities to allow a wide range of villagers, both adults and children, to join clubs and groups that may not otherwise be able to afford it. So, if your interest is music, dance, craft, getting fit or anything else, please get in touch at the address above.

Quiz Corner

Round 7

1. In which country was the battle of El Alamein fought?
2. Where does Polly Sherman work as a maid?
3. Which film character has a valet called Cato?
4. Who wrote the opera "Madame Butterfly"?
5. 'Haptic' refers to which of the five senses?
6. What is the state capital of Alaska?
7. What type of animal is a 'Saki'?
8. How many dots are there on a full set of dominoes?
9. In which country is Auschwitz?
10. Who was the first black actor to win a Best Actor Oscar?

Answers on page 35

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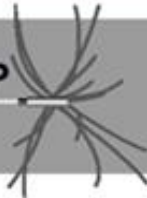
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We are starting small to see whether the space will be used. If it's used regularly, the Charity may consider funding additional days and/or longer times depending on Village Hall availability.



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The Kent Archaeological Society Fieldwork Forum took place on 16 March 2024, at Aylesford Priory, attracting archaeology professionals and amateur archaeologists such as myself from across Kent. This event aimed to disseminate the latest advancements, methodologies, and best practices within the field.

Richard Taylor, General Manager of Kent Archaeology Society, started the forum with an insightful presentation on geophysical survey techniques. He took members through how advancements in resistivity and magnetometry are revolutionising the identification of potential archaeological sites. Paul Cumming from the KCC's Heritage Conservation Team introduced the Historic Environment Record (HER), a pivotal resource for managing Kent's archaeological heritage. Cumming outlined how the HER plays a critical role in the planning and development processes, ensuring the preservation of Kent's rich history amidst contemporary growth, especially in the context of the development of authority local plans.

Keith Parfitt delivered a session delving into the complexities of excavation, challenging the misconception that excavation merely involves digging. Keith with his years of experience discussed the preparatory stages, such as surveying and planning, and the detailed process of excavation, including documentation and site restoration aimed at local groups. Dr. Anne Sassin gave an engaging session on environmental archaeology and the application of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology. Anne illustrated how environmental archaeology provides insights into historical landscapes, climates, and human-environment interactions, while LiDAR technology has transformed the identification and mapping of archaeological sites, if you want to learn more please check out the Kent LiDAR Project.

Andy Ward, Curator of KAS, offered a practical perspective on the post-excavation stage, focusing on the processing of finds. Andy used the Trosley Court dig as a case study, showcasing the finds from last year's dig where Martyn Avis and myself were part of the dig team. Finally Isabelle Diggle presented the Portable Antiquities Scheme, stressing the critical role of public engagement in archaeology. She explained how the scheme records finds by the public in England and Wales, contributing to the broader historical narrative of Kent. Diggle also introduced a new project on evaluating Christian and religious small finds. This also highlighted the need to ensure that finds (especially by metal detectorists) are properly recorded, the last reported and recorded find in Harrietsham was back in 2014!

If you are interested in Kent or local archaeology please join Harrietsham History Society and of course if you want to participate in a dig yourself why not join Martyn and myself at the upcoming KAS community digs, including at Lees Court (Bronze Age/Neolithic) and the Trosley Roman Villa excavation.

Ryan Slaughter - Harrietsham History Society
info@harrietshamhistorysociety.org

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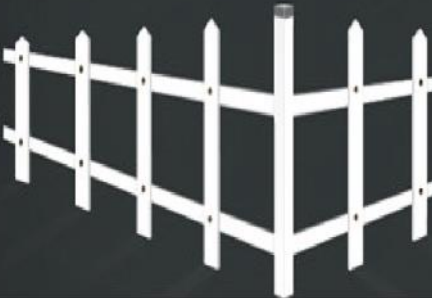
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We had planned on making Manhole covers in May but as some are behind I think we will postpone the Oriental quilt till next year. Hopefully we will be caught up By June. We meet this month on 7 and 21 May.

We will be having an "Open House" on 21 May. So please drop in and have a look at what we do, and take a minute to sit and stitch with us and enjoy a drink. We're here from 1:30 to 4pm. Ask about anything and we'll do our best to answer.

Come learn more about our stitching group and spend some quiet time stitching. Learn new skills and share old ones.

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

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

If you would like more information on our group or would like a copy of our 2024 Program please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 01233-877453 or e-mail moonbeamspinner@gmail.com

Pamela Gillard

HAMS Productions

After the successful production of Snow White, the cast and all members of HAMS Productions wish to express their gratitude to the community for the continuous support. We also wish to state, that over the years you not only supported us, but together we were able to donate to numerous charities a sum of £9000, which includes £1100.42 to Heart of Kent Hospice this year. We are grateful for your generosity.



HAMS Production will continue to serve the community, and we wish to expand our service to putting on regular plays in addition to our traditional pantomimes. However, we need your help. HAMS Production is looking for MORE ACTORS!!! as well as FRONT OF THE HOUSE and STAGE SUPPORT. If you wish to try yourself in acting or become a part of exciting theatrical mayhem, contact our chairman David Penny at chair@hamsproductions.org .

Harrietsham Network

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Chairman Mr David Oversby 01622 859674

Girl Guides

Leader Andrea French 07901 667018

Golf – Bill's Round for Charity

Secretary Mr T Grimes 01622 850632

Harrietsham Academy of Ballet

Organiser Deborah Nankivell 07775 716714

Harrietsham History Society

Chairman Mr M Avis chairmanhhs@gmail.com

Harrietsham in Bloom

Chairman Mr A Rogers 01622 859352

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

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 Assoc. Mr David Naghi 07970 626829

PTFA (Harrietsham School)

Chairman Vikki Beck harrietshamptfa@gmail.com

Rainbows

Leader Kate Davies 07971254029/beaukate@btinternet.com

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

The Lenham School

Head of School Mr Chris Foreman 858267

Ulcombe Preschool

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

Village Hall

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bookingclerkhvh@outlook.com

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Helen Kacperok 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com

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Len Valley Benefice

May 24



Everybody is welcome

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

Matthew 13:31-32

Wednesday 1 May

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

Sunday 5 May

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

Sunday 12 May

- 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 19 May

- 8.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
- 9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion
- 9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church
- 11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion
- 11.00am** Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 26 May

- 10.30am** Benefice Holy Communion at St John's, Harrietsham '*I am the gate*'

Harrietsham Network

The Royal Scot



The "Royal Scot" thunders through Harrietsham Station with a Golden Arrow charter train from Bristol to Canterbury on 26 March 2024. It is believed to be the first time that the "Royal Scot" has visited Kent.

Photo by Trevor Green

Harrietsham Ladies Group

At our April meeting we welcomed Amanda Sidwell who set up the MADM (Making a Difference in Maidstone) Christian charity.

She gave us a most interesting talk about how she struggled to set up the charity and how it has grown since covid. They now have a large charity shop in the old Argos building in Maidstone and offices and food bank in Church Street. The charity shop incorporates furniture and also a new bridal boutique in addition to the usual clothes etc. The aim of the charity is to help all local people in desperate need of help and Amanda's time is spent helping them in any way she can and also expanding into new projects. Volunteers are always welcome.

On a lighter note this month we have Kate Bosley telling us about her adventures while pedalling round France.

Elizabeth Welchman - Chairman
01622850735



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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

Firstly, I must thank the Harrietsham Ladies Group for their kind donation, and also Mrs Pat Hann for the donation of her collection of 2p coins.

Ploughman's Platterday

Would you like a lunch without the washing up afterwards?

Then come to our Ploughman's Platterday on Saturday 11 May 2024 between 12 noon and 2pm. Come along and enjoy lunch and meet people in the church for only £5. Everyone is welcome. Tea, coffee, and biscuits will also be available at 50p extra.

100 Club Lottery Results

The results of the Eighty-eighth Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 9 March 2024 by various diners at Soup Saturday under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator) and Chris Roots (Promoter) are:

First prize £82.50 – number 48 – Mrs Linda Smith;

Second prize £49.50 – number 98 – Pamela Cuerden;

Third prize £33.00 – number 43 – Ron Frazer.

There were 165 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £165.

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting in March and I thank the 11 members who attended together with three other interested parties. No new members came forward to join our committee, who still consist of the elected members: Audrey Joy, Chris Roots and Irene Westbrook; and the PCC representatives: June-Allen Westbrook and Angela Benjamin.

Subject to having the volunteers required to run the events, the monthly lunches on the second Saturday of each month will continue. In addition, dates for your diary are: fundraising concerts from Dr Jazz with Lyn Falvey on Saturday 6 July, and the Invicta Concert Band on Saturday 21 September.

If you would like further information or an application form to join either the 100 Club or as a Friend, write to me at friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com or phone 859 885.

Chris Roots - Acting Secretary

Local Churches

Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Vicar: Revd. John Huggins
01622 850280 vicar@lvb.org.uk

(Day off: Wednesday)

Assisting priests:

Revd. Millie Hart 01622 297296
revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk

Readers:

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442

pamela@lvb.org.uk

Benefice Office:

Sarah Hills 01622 850604
churchOffice@lvb.org.uk

For details of services see p.23

United Reformed Church

Week Street, Maidstone

Minister: Rev Andrew Royal

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

01622 686053

maidstoneurcoffice@talktalk.net

Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone

Minister: Bill Miller

Office: 01622 686013

Sunday Services at 10.30am with creche, and at 6.30pm

www.maidstonebaptist.net

Bearsted and Thurnham Methodist Church

Bearsted (next to Station)

Minister: Revd. Robert Zachar

117 Crossways

Sittingbourne

ME10 4RN

01795 422573

Sunday Service 10.30am

Church of the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church

Rectory Lane, off East Street,
Harrietsham

Parish Priest: Fr Geoffrey Pointer

Deacon: Rev Cyril Durbin 736100

Mass every Sunday at 8.45am and
Wednesday at 10.00am

Holydays Mass 7pm

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Button Lane, Bearsted 736100

Confessions, Saturday 5 – 5.30pm

Saturday Evening Mass 6pm

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Weekday Mass generally

Monday and Tuesday 7pm and Friday
10am

Holydays Mass 10am and 8pm

Pathways Church, Maidstone

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

Wednesday evenings in homes in Lenham and Harrietsham.

Church leaders: Ben and Kaat Doggett

info@pathwayschurch.org.uk

www.pathwayschurch.org.uk

For all church services please see information on page 23 or contact your own church for up to date information.

Public Services and Emergencies Directory

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

Hospitals:

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

Councils:

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

Police:

Emergencies only	999
Non emergencies	101

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



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May 2024 Diary

Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Wed	1	7.30pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	Scout Hut
Thurs	2	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	3	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Wed	8	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	9	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Thurs	9	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	10	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	10	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	13	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	13	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	13	7pm	Harrietsham History Society	Percival's
Thurs	16	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	18	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	20	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	20	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	20	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Tues	21	7pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society	HVH
Thurs	23	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	24	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Sat	25	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	30	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	31	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH

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

A decorative border of green leaves and branches surrounds the text.

Wellbeing Community Group

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Starting April 2024

Lenham

If interested please contact:
wellbeingcg@outlook.com
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Do you have little or no savings?



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

Founded in the seventeenth century, the Culpepper Charity was created to help those people of Harrietsham with financial needs. It has been dormant for a long time which may be why you haven't heard of it.

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

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

We are at either: Culpepper.Charity@outlook.com
or to:
The Culpepper Charity
C/o The Church Office
Harrietsham Village Hall
Church Road
Harrietsham
Kent
ME17 1AP



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

Accessible well-being – Mindfulness

Mindfulness is a vast and very popular topic. Today one can probably find thousands of books giving variety of descriptions and interpretations of it, most of which would be correct. For that reason, I will not even attempt a detailed explanation of the topic. My goal here is to give simple tips on how you can begin to practice Mindfulness and give you some ideas about how and why it will be good for you.

But what is Mindfulness?

Mindfulness - a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations. - Oxford Dictionary.

In other words, It is being present in the moment, noticing and fully experiencing it. I love how such a state was described in a book by my favourite author, Ray Bradbury.

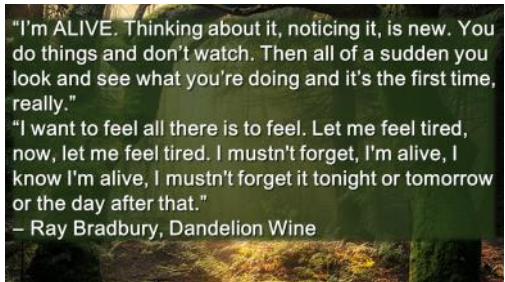
When we practice Mindfulness, we are learning to be alive, to be connected to our feelings.

Surprisingly, this is the state in which little children live most of the time. They do not have many thoughts and everything is new and exciting to them. Unfortunately, with age, our capability to perceive the world around us in a simple, non-judgemental way diminishes. We begin to attach “meaning” to what we see, feel or experience, compare it to our previous experiences, and, eventually, the world around us blends into the background for our thoughts. It all could be fine if not for the fact, that this way we are missing out on life, joy and happiness.

Mindfulness is the way how to re-learn living in full. It may appear overwhelmingly difficult at first. But don't be scared. Sure, in a nutshell, Mindfulness presumes learning not to think when you don't need it, and it may seem like an impossible task, but it is not. If you tried Savouring, then you are already on the road to mindfulness. Mindfulness does not start with hours of meditation. It starts with paying attention to what is happening around you, with you or within you – **a couple of seconds at a time**. You start small. Then, you will be able to turn seconds into minutes or even hours. And the best thing is that you cannot fail when you practice mindfulness. Every time you try to stop your thoughts and just

We can deliberately pause during our daily activities. I often pause before getting out of the car and just feel what is happening inside me. Sometimes, when I finish a telephone conversation, I just sit at the table, breathing, listening, not getting down to the next thing. Or I can interrupt cleaning the house and listen to the music that I have turned on so as not to get bored. We can take a break at the top of a mountain or on the subway when we are among people or meditate alone.

Tara Brach



feel the world, even if you don't succeed, the effect will be almost as good as if you did. And the effects are numerous and very beneficial. We'll talk about it more the next time. But this time I would like to close this article with a quote from Tara Brach.

Vladimir Barkanov

Harrietsham Network

Lenham WI

In March Adam Taylor came to give a talk about the Islands of the Medway Estuary. Using historical sources, photos, personal experience and maps from 1500's to the present day Adam told us about the once inhabited islands, the shipwreck of a First World War German submarine, inside the abandoned forts which once defended Chatham Dockyard and some of the stunning natural beauty of this vast wilderness. Adam has spent a number of years exploring and researching the area which consists of Hoo Island, Nor Marsh, Darnet Island, Burntwick Island and Kort Island.

There is an amazing fort on Hoo Island that was built in 1871. Hoo Fort is a military installation on the River Medway that once formed part of the defences of Chatham Naval Dockyard.



Nor Marsh is a saltmarsh island in the Medway Estuary and Motney Hill is a narrow peninsula surrounded by mudflats that juts into the estuary from the southern shore. The RSPB provides a safe area here for birds to feed and breed. The saltmarsh and mudflats are important for wintering waterfowl, with impressive flocks of avocets, black-tailed godwits, dunlins, knots, shelducks and brent geese.

Darnet Island is also known as Bishops Marsh. It is the only island that is privately owned. It also has a fort which, when Adam and his friends explored it by canoe, they found it to be quite a cold, sinister place. In order to build the forts a cement works was built which produced 25 million tons of cement to build each fort. There was a beer house on the island which has now sadly disappeared. It was called the Isle of Beauty which is ironic as it certainly wasn't a beautiful place. Whilst researching this island two tankards were found that were inscribed with the landlord's name, G E Norris.



Burntwick Island was in-fact part of the mainland up until the 18th century, where it formed the most northerly area of Upchurch. The island is said to have been used as a quarantine base for ships infected by diseases such as cholera and yellow fever in the early 19th century, with those who died being buried on nearby Deadman's Island. In 1852 there could have been up to 800 ships moored here in the creek. This island was also said to have been used for smuggling, especially in the late 18th century following rising customs duties. By the early 19th century, the site was notoriously a hideout for a local group of smugglers named the North Kent Gang.



The island then became the property of the Ministry of Defence and a battery was built there, later joined by a torpedo school and barracks during the Second World War. Since then it has been largely unused, becoming an important haven for seabirds.

Kort Island is not shown on any modern maps. Between the two World Wars a German submarine that had patrolled the North Sea for three months but never actually saw action was grounded on the Island and the remains of it can still be seen today. Kort Island was named by Adam after the submarine captain. Up to 20 German submarines were dumped on the marshes between the two world wars.

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

Chris Godden

Quiz Corner Answers	
Round 7	
1. Egypt	
2. Fawty Towers	
3. Inspector Clouseau	
4. Giacomo Puccini	
5. Touch	
6. Juneau	
7. Monkey	
8. 168	
9. Poland	
10. Sidney Potter	

Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM
FILM CLUB

One Life

Friday 10 May

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00.

Running time 1 hr 50 mins

Don't miss this outstanding and poignant biographical drama. One Life (12A 2023) is the remarkable true story of humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton MBE, who fifty years later is looking back on his visit as a young stockbroker to Prague, just before the outbreak of World War II. The inhabitants of the city were living in desperate conditions with the Nazi forces' invasion imminent and during his visit, in a race against time, he managed to save hundreds of mainly Jewish children from the Nazis before the borders were closed. Now looking back at that terrible time, he is haunted by the shadows of all the children he was unable to reach. The incomparable Anthony Hopkins stars, alongside Helena Bonham Carter and Johnny Flynn. This magnificent film is a moving and memorable testament to what one man could achieve in the face of evil. Directed by James Hawes

Our performance on Friday June 14th also harks back to World War II and is also a true story – but a far different one. The Great Escaper sees Bernard Jordon determined to attend the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy... a slight problem as he lives in a south coast care home!

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

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

lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com

www.lenhamfilmclub.org

[@lenhamfilmclub](https://www.instagram.com/lenhamfilmclub)



HARRIETSHAMS BIG LUNCH EVENT



Saturday June 15th

12-4pm

Glebe Field

Opposite St John the Baptist church

(weather permitting)



Live Music

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Painting**



**Dance Display by Poppy
Bowyer's Freedom
Dance Troupe**

Organised by Harrietsham Parish Council.
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Christian Message

Whitsuntide

May has always been the month for me when the promise of spring develops into the beginnings of summer. Spring half term was always our first camping trip of the year with our three boys, often in the New Forest. Now they have all left home, and we avoid school holiday time for our camping.

Other things have changed since our family was young - the Spring Half Term always used to start with Whit Monday. We still have Whit Monday, but it does not always coincide with the Spring Bank Holiday.

Whit Monday, of course, follows Whit Sunday which is sometimes called Pentecost. 2,000 years ago Jesus' disciples were together in a locked room on the Jewish festival of Pentecost. The door was locked because they did not feel safe. It was six weeks after Jesus had been crucified and Jesus had visited them in his resurrected body a few times since he died, to encourage them. On this day of Pentecost they had another important visit. This time from the Holy Spirit, who came in the form of flames that did not burn anything and the sound of a great wind that did not ruffle their hair.

The effect of the Holy Spirit was to change the disciples from a bunch of frightened men wondering what the future held to a coordinated team of bold evangelists. Peter particularly became a great speaker and when he explained to the wondering crowds what was happening 3,000 joined the disciples and formed the new Church. Some people now regard this day as the birthday of the Christian church.

The Holy Spirit still visits people today and whenever it happens people are changed. The Spirit brings gifts of talents and abilities that we are not aware we had. And we find that we are able to work for Jesus in all kinds of unexpected ways.

Visits of the Holy Spirit are very special and we will be gathering in our churches on Whit Sunday, 19 May, as a great celebration of the birthday of the Church. As spring blossoms into summer it is a good time to remember the developing new Christian Church and pray for its continued growth today. Whatever May means to you, you will be very welcome to join us.

Rev. Richard Birch



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