



**September 2023**

# ***Network Harrietsham's Village Magazine***





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# Harrietsham Fish Scheme Who's Who

## Fish Scheme-Helping Hands

<b>Lift Organisers</b>	Andrew & Felicity Rogers <i>Ridgedown, Marley Road, Harrietsham ME17 1AU</i> <i>Email <a href="mailto:andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com">andrew.rogers3@btinternet.com</a></i>
<i>Telephone 859352</i>	
<b>Chairman</b>	Vacant
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Gear <i>Little Hatch, Ashford Road, Harrietsham, ME17 1AJ</i> <i>Email <a href="mailto:michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk">michaelgear44@hotmail.co.uk</a></i>
<i>Telephone 859410</i>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Nicola File

## Network Magazine

<b>Editor</b>	Nicola File <i>Email <a href="mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org">editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org</a></i>
<b>Editorial Team</b>	Amanda Ward, Denise Williams and Rod Martenstyn <i>Email <a href="mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org">editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org</a></i>
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Steve Brown <i>Email <a href="mailto:adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org">adverts@harrietshamfishscheme.org</a></i>
<b>Distribution Manager</b>	Jackie Bevan <i>Faygate, Ashford Road, Lenham ME17 2DA</i>
<i>Telephone 859310</i>	

**Visit our website:** [www.harrietshamfishscheme.org](http://www.harrietshamfishscheme.org)

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Harrietsham Network is published by the Harrietsham Fish Scheme

## Network Magazine October 2023 deadlines:-

**Friday 1 September 2023** 12 noon advertising deadline for October Network

**Friday 1 September 2023** 12 noon copy deadline for October 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.

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## Message From the Editor

The eagle eyed and the more green fingered among you may have picked up on the theme I have used for most of the front cover images recently. If you have worked it out, let me know by email. No prizes unfortunately.

Please make sure you contribute to the Community Warden Consultation via [www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview](http://www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview) if you are able to. There is more information in both Borough Council Corner and Parish Council News.

The Invicta Concert Band is back at the end of the month. Check out the poster on page 19.

Thank you to Marjorie and Henry for the special article about the Madonna of the Woods on page 35.

Cover Photo by Tanvi Sawant: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/blooming-flowers-in-the-garden-6944970/>

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](mailto:editor@harrietshamfishscheme.org)

**Visit our website:** [www.harrietshamfishscheme.org](http://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 Gardening Society

Gardening Society members engaged in their traditional July visit out instead of the usual indoor meeting. This year the venue was The Old Rectory, Otterden which is only about 4 miles from Harrietsham and is a delightful garden which opens at certain times under the National Gardens Scheme.

Whilst renowned for its spring bulbs, rhododendrons and camellias, nevertheless whilst too late for those, we were fortunate to see large drifts of hydrangeas and many exotic species of trees in this magnificent four acre site.

Unusually, although on the top of the chalky downs, the garden occupies a pocket of acid sands and clays which provides a welcome change of flora from our home area. Also of interest was a large pond which had been created during lockdown and which is already attracting all manner of wildlife. The gardens were extremely tranquil; we were the only guest visitors and an exceptionally warm welcome (and tour) was extended by the owner Gry Iverslien.

Our September meeting is our Annual Show, Tuesday 19 September at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to exhibit flowers, fruit, veg etc do contact our Secretary, become a member and join in the fun, you won't regret it!!

Kevin Harlock





## Harrietsham History Society

GREAT NEWS!! Our group has a new chairman. At our AGM on Monday 10 July one of our newest members Martyn Avis was elected. Although Martyn and his family have only been in the village for a couple of years, he is keen to help keep the history of the village and its archives for everyone to enjoy. He has already started to speak to the local schools to see how the society can assist with the children's history subjects and topics. The society will be providing both the Lenham School and Harrietsham Primary with a set of books.

It is really pleasing to know the society will be able to go ahead with its planned meetings for the rest of this year and the foreseeable future. However, even with a new enthusiastic chairman it will only be possible to continue if it obtains some new members and with the help of the existing membership.

I shall still be in the village for a few months yet and I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting which is on Thursday 14 September in the village Hall starting at 7.15pm. Our speaker will be Imogen Corrigan and her talk is on the fascinating life of Joan of Arc. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings for a donation of £3.00 to help towards the costs.

We are also planning to have a workshop afternoon in October when we will continue to sort through the boxes of items which we have collected to enable information to be entered in the village Archive, the date for this meeting will be on our website and in the October Network magazine.

If you are considering joining the society and would like to find out more please have a look at our website [www.harrietshamhistorysociety.org](http://www.harrietshamhistorysociety.org) or email me on [info@harrietshamhistorysociety.org](mailto:info@harrietshamhistorysociety.org) or email our new chairman Martyn at [chairmanhhs@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanhhs@gmail.com)

*Peter Brown*

## Harrietsham in Bloom

Sadly we have to report that a quantity of plants were stolen from one of the planters in July. Thankfully this is a rare incident, although costly to us. We are grateful to **ONLINE GARDEN PLANTS** from Lenham who saw our plight and very generously replaced the plants free of charge. It is nice to know that there are still good Samaritans about. Thank you very much for your generosity.

We had a gathering of volunteers at Andrew Rogers' (Chair) house for afternoon tea and our thanks to everyone who donated cakes etc and to Andrew and Felicity for hosting us. It was nice to catch up with everyone.

Thanks goes to everyone who continues to support us.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please contact our Chairman, Andrew Rogers (01622 859352). It is very therapeutic and rewarding.

*Audrey Joy MBE*

## Parish Council News

### KCC Community Warden Consultation

Kent County Council (KCC) is currently consulting on significant changes to the Community Warden Service in Kent, which the Parish Council believes could substantially affect the support which residents are used to receiving in Harrietsham currently. If the proposals are approved, the service will follow a Geographical Allocation Policy, moving Wardens to the areas with the greatest need. Across the whole of the County, the proposal includes plans to reduce the currently employed 54 Wardens to 32, which will result in the remaining Wardens covering a much larger area than they do now. The services offered currently by each Warden are likely to be reduced quite dramatically.

This consultation closes on the 3 October and we would ask that as many residents as possible complete the questionnaire that has been produced by KCC.

The form can be completed in two ways:

On-line: [www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview](http://www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview) (or Google: KCC Community Warden review)

Paper form: Please contact the Parish Clerk, any Parish Councillor or our Community Warden, Martin Sherwood, who will be able to give you a paper copy to complete.

If completing the paper form questionnaire, please do not send this back to KCC through the post. Your completed form can be dropped through the Parish Office door, given to any Parish Councillor or returned directly to Martin, who will arrange for them to be hand delivered on your behalf.

Martin is a valuable asset to the village and we need to try to do everything we can to protect this service for residents.

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

**clerk@harrietshamparishcouncil.gov.uk**

**Amanda Broadhurst** - Parish Clerk

4 Southfields Way  
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## Kent Community Warden Service Review

### Public Consultation



### Have your say!

The financial challenges KCC face, mean we are having to consider savings across a whole range of services. Our wardens work with communities and partners in lots of different ways - from supporting scam victims, helping communities affected by flooding, reducing social isolation and loneliness and helping residents to navigate care and support services.

To make savings we are proposing to:

- Redesign the service, ensuring there is a core Community Warden presence across the county, with teams covering two districts.
- Retain the remit and community-based way the service currently works but cover fewer communities.
- Use data and information to identify where to place wardens for most impact.

Find out more and tell us your views at [kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview](https://kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview)  
**Consultation open from 12 July to 3 October 2023.**

For queries or to request hard copies of the consultation material, please email [CommunityWardenReview@kent.gov.uk](mailto:CommunityWardenReview@kent.gov.uk) or phone 03000 422688. For any alternative formats, email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). These numbers go to answering machines, which are monitored during office hours.



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# Harrietsham Network

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## Borough Council Corner

### **Martin Sherwood our Community Warden**

The KCC public consultation is now running for residents from **12 July to 3 October**. We have the opportunity to put forward their views on the future of the community warden scheme. Martin Sherwood has been a great asset within our parishes of Harrietsham and Lenham and he has been vital in gaining much needed support for many residents and organisations. Martin's work has been outstanding. That support has included assistance in delivery of medication to vulnerable residents during the pandemic, and positive practical support to residents during this cost of living crisis. If you wish to write a letter we will be happy to collect and upload them to the consultation. We also have small booklet consultations that can be written in and we are happy to deliver them to residents and collect if necessary. Residents can also email concerns and comments to us to pass on, as the online form does not allow emails. Below is from the KCC consultation document

*As set out in the 2023/24 budget, to help meet the financial challenge KCC is facing, the Community Warden service has been asked to reduce its annual budget by £1 million by 2024/25. Setting this year's budget was the most challenging it has ever been, due to increasing demands on KCC services and the cost of providing them.*

*To achieve this level of saving it has been proposed that the service is redesigned, ensuring that there is core Community Warden presence across the county, with teams covering two district authority areas. This would retain the community-based way the service currently works but use data and information to identify need and where best to place wardens so they can have the most impact.*

*Please view the proposals in full and submit your views by visiting [kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview](https://kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview) and completing the online questionnaire.*

### **Litter picks around our villages**

At Harrietsham & Lenham Spring litter picks many residents asked if another could be organized for the Autumn, with that in mind we have worked alongside the Parish councils and the litter pick will be as follows

Harrietsham - 9 September meet at West Street Green 9am-11am

### **Reporting Pothole, fly tipping and water leaks**

We all may think that someone else has reported highway issues, but sometimes this is not the case. If you are online this can be checked on the KCC report a fault website. Unfortunately this is not the case for MBC issues such as fly tipping.

If you wish to ring KCC is 0300 041 8181 and MBC is 01622 602000

Water leaks can be reported by ringing 03330000365 or report a leak on south east water website. That website will show previously reported leaks on a map. The important thing is to report and check, and not assume!

Please contact us to let us know about any of these issues if you are unable to report

**Tom and Janetta Sams** - Borough Councillors

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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.

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

# Bearsted Choral Society



## 'I was glad' - Music and Anthems for Coronations

King Charles III and Queen Camilla's coronation had been over for several months by the time that Bearsted Choral Society's Summer Concert was due to be performed. However, our conductor and musical director, Andrew Lowen, was of the opinion that this gave us greater freedom to perform music from all coronations since that of George II in 1727, up to and including that of our new King and Queen.

'Zadok the Priest' was written for the moment when George II was anointed and has appeared at every coronation since. We saw this year how the long, carefully timed introduction covered the erection of screens around the throne and that the music then describes to the congregation events which are hidden from sight. The grandeur of another Handel composition 'The Hallelujah Chorus' would seem to have been a top choice for any coronation, and yet Queen Victoria is the only monarch to have used it.

The coronation of King Edward VII was postponed by 6 weeks because the 60-year-old King needed an operation for appendicitis. This was the occasion of the first performance of Parry's anthem 'I was glad' sung as a processional at the start of the service. Again, we saw on 6 May 2023 the careful timing of this anthem so that the King passed the Westminster scholars as they sang the latin 'Vivats' and then as he processed past the choir we heard the more intimate section 'O pray for the peace of Jerusalem', with the King eventually reaching the throne at the final climax.

The concert included other traditional marches and anthems such as Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance No 4', but, also, more gentle pieces such as Elgar's 'O harken thou' and S S Wesley's anthem 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace', which was chosen to cover the act of homage by the Princes and Peers of the realm by George VI and Elizabeth II. At Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 an invitation was extended to Healey Willan, a Canadian composer of great distinction, to compose an anthem as the representative of Commonwealth musicians. His anthem 'O Lord our Governour' was also performed at the homage of the Peers.

The most modern piece of music to be included in our programme was Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Make a joyful noise' commissioned for the coronation of King Charles III, which provided a contrast to some of the more demanding anthems and music in the 2023 service. Our concert closed with rousing audience participation in the Vaughan Williams setting of 'The Old Hundredth' and finally, of course 'The National Anthem'.

The members of Bearsted Choral Society had enjoyed learning and performing such uplifting and contrasting pieces of music and we would like to thank our accompanist Trevor Brearley and conductor Andrew Lowen, who also performed solo pieces on the organ and on the piano. We would also like to thank St John the Baptist Church in Harrietsham for hosting our concert in their magnificent church.

Bearsted Choral Society will be singing Choral Evensong in Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 14 October and everyone is welcome to join in the worship. Our next concert will be a 'Family Christmas Concert' on Saturday 16 December, which promises to be an interesting departure from our traditional choral offerings.



## EXPERIENCE LEEDS CASTLE'S DINE & STAY EVENTS



Saturday 4th November

**Fireworks Spectacular VIP**

Saturday 2nd December

**Murder Under the Mistletoe**

Saturday 9th, Friday 15th & Saturday 16th December

**Christmas Parties in the Fairfax**

Saturday 9th December

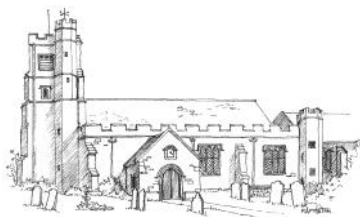
**Castle Casino Christmas Party**

Sunday 31st December

**New Year's Eve in the Castle & Fairfax**

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An evening of music with



## The Invicta Concert Band

Back by popular demand



A mixture of music from the shows and popular classics

Saturday 23 September 2023

7.30pm – 9.30pm

At St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

Cheese and wine included in the ticket price

Tickets £10 per person for tickets contact:-

Denise Williams 01622 859410 or email [friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstjohnharr@outlook.com)

Audrey Joy 01622 850806

Chris Roots 01622 851885

# Harrietsham Network

## Local Directory A-Ha

### Art Classes (Drawing/Painting Improvers)

Tutor - Amanda Thesiger      Kent Adult Education      amanda.thesiger@cls.education

### 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

### 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      01622 859692

### 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 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 Rachel Slaughter 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

Booking Clerk 07393 030409  
bookings@harrietshamvillagehall.org.uk

## Yoga

Helen Kacperek 07762761905/helenpurpleyoga@gmail.com



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# Len Valley Benefice September 2023



## Everybody is welcome

"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith"

*Gal 3:26 (NRSV)*

### Sunday 3 September

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

### Wednesday 6 September

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

### Sunday 10 September

**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 17 September

**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 24 September

**10.30am** Benefice Holy Communion at All Saints, Ulcombe

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on the day

**FREE** to play  
on the day

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

Registered Charity No. 1090622

### Ploughman's Platterday

There will be no Ploughman's Lunch at the church on Saturday, 9 September 2023 as there will be a wedding in the church on that day.

### 100 Club Lottery Draw

Below are the results of the Eighty-first Draw of the Friends of St John 100 Club, drawn on 12 August 2023 by various diners at the Ploughman's Platter Saturday under the supervision of Michael Gear (Independent Adjudicator).

There were 164 numbers included in the draw giving a prize fund of £164.

First prize £82.00 - number 162 – Kevin Harlock

Second prize £49.20 – number 134 – Rita Manser

Third prize £32.80 – number 48 – Mrs Linda Smith

### Invicta Band Concert

The Invicta Concert Band will be playing once again 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.

**Denise Williams** - (Secretary)



## Local Churches

### Parish Church of St John the Baptist

**Vicar:** Revd. John Huggins  
01622 850280 [vicar@lvb.org.uk](mailto:vicar@lvb.org.uk)

(Day off: Wednesday)

**Assisting priests:**

Revd. Millie Hart 01622 297296  
[revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk](mailto:revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk)

**Readers:**

Pamela Cuerden 01622 859442

[pamela@lvb.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:info@pathwayschurch.org.uk)

[www.pathwayschurch.org.uk](http://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



# Harrietsham Network

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## Maidstone Camera Club

### Annual Exhibition 2023

Maidstone Camera Club is holding its Annual Exhibition at the Lockmeadow Complex, Maidstone on 9 September. Entrance is free and there will be approximately 100 prints on display as well as images projected on the large screens in the Food Hall.

Visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite print. Opening times are 9.00 a.m. – 9.00 p.m. and members of the Club will be on hand on the day to talk to visitors about the Club and anything photographic.

Maidstone Camera club meets on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. from September round to May at the Civil Service Social Club, Recreation Close, Maidstone, ME14 5AZ and new members are always welcome.

Please visit our website for more information.

[www.maidstonecameraclub.org.uk](http://www.maidstonecameraclub.org.uk)



## Bras, make sure they are fit for purpose!

It is brilliant to see so many people running around our villages and the groups helping new runners are making so much progress.

As a runner I have always been very concerned with the phrase, "you just need a pair of decent trainers to be able to run". For women this is not true... a good well fitting supportive bra is hugely important. The connective tissues, Coopers ligaments are irreparable and damage to these cannot be reversed. They need protecting. I see so many women running with bras that are non supportive and cannot be comfortable and must give pain maybe during and certainly afterwards.

In the past I have researched bras for running, football and Zumba found that bras that fasten at the front are much more effective. I now only use one model that almost completely restricts movement. Running is definitely high impact! Please take a bit of time to look into what type of bra is best for you. You will feel better and your running will definitely improve!

Remember a short run is better than no run! Good luck!

***Janetta Sams***

## Percy our Pilgrim Sculpture

Yesterday (18/07) Tom, Janetta and I re-oiled with Danish Oil, Percy Pilgrim and the fence around him. Percy is located on the Pilgrims Way in Harrietsham. It took us a few hours so lots of people walked past us including some German tourists who took lots of pictures. While we were doing it, Stede Hill was blocked so there were also a lot of cars going past us which made our dogs (Dolly dog and Uli-bear) bark. There is a picnic bench there so it is a nice spot to sit and has a nice view of the horses in the field below. Percy has been there 16 years now which is older than me. I think that Percy looks a lot better than he did.

Thank you for reading!

***Written by Eden Turnham (age 14)***

As an aside...The pilgrim was sculptured by Steve Portchmouth in a collaborative project with Harrietsham Parish Council, Mid Kent Downs Partnership and external funding. The land was generously donated by local landowner Mr Brian Henslow, without which the area would not have been created.

Percy and the picnic area was opened by Parish Cllr Marjorie Fairall, who at the time was Vice Chair of the Parish Council, in March 2007 shortly before her retirement from the council. Her name has been put to Fairall Close within the village.



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## September 2023 Diary

### Abbreviations:

HVH = Harrietsham Village Hall LCC = Lenham Community Centre

Fri	1	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	4	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	4	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	4	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Wed	6	7.30 pm	Harrietsham Ladies Group	
Thurs	7	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	8	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Fri	8	7.30pm	Lenham Film Club	LCC
Mon	11	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	11	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Wed	13	1.30pm	Craft and Chat	LCC
Thurs	14	7.15pm	Harrietsham History Society	Scout Hut
Thurs	14	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	14	7.30pm	Lenham WI	LCC
Fri	15	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	18	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	18	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Mon	18	2pm	Knit, Crochet and Natter	HVH
Tues	19	7.30pm	Harrietsham Gardening Society Annual Show	
Thurs	21	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	22	10.00am	Ladies Group Coffee Morning	HVH
Mon	25	9.45am	Purple Yoga	HVH
Mon	25	2pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Thurs	28	7.30pm	Harrietsham Short Mat Bowls	HVH
Fri	29			

Ladies  
Morning

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	

10.00am  
Group Coffee  
HVH

# THE JPK (Sussex) Project Throws Doors Open to New Residential Centre.

- The centre is to provide assisted living for eight adults alongside the training centre at Old Town Café on Church Street in Eastbourne.
- The Project began life as a tea party in the back garden to support parents of children with learning disabilities.

These are the headlines of the press release, but the story behind them is so much more. On July 14<sup>th</sup> Gow Lodge was officially opened by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Andrew Blackman. Also in attendance were the Mayor of Eastbourne, Candy Vaughan, as well as a large crowd of supporters and some of the trainees and residents along with their families.

I was there also! along with my whole family and I like to think that my Mum had an eye on the proceedings as well! I definitely was well aware that I was also representing all the many people in Kent who have supported me over the years in my endeavours to aid my sister Jill Parker M.B.E.

Jill, whom many of you will have met at my Ploughmans and Pimms events, has devoted her life to fighting to make the voice of the learning disabled heard after realising in the 1980s that her daughter Katie, now aged 44 would need additional support throughout her life.

Gow Lodge is on the site of the former Edgemon Chapel on Church Street. It has eight en-suite rooms as well as a communal kitchen and living area, plus access to computers and laundry facilities. Some of the people who will live there may also gain catering and hospitality qualifications at the Old Town Café next door which opened in 2015. In 2017 Jill was awarded her M.B.E for services to people with learning disabilities and their carers. It all began with a tea party which raised a few hundred pounds but eventually reached the £ 3 million target they needed.

The charity struggled for a long time to find a site and to win support from local adult services, and has relied on on-going fundraising and volunteers to keep the JPK vision alive. Jill's and my Mum Sylvia even chained herself to railings on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2010 to protest against the refusal of East Sussex County Council to release derelict land which was being used as a tip, and which could have been used for the Project. But the long struggle has finally come to an end. I quote the words that Jill used in her welcoming speech:-

"We have fought for over 40 years to be a voice for people who cannot speak for themselves. Caring for children with disabilities is a full time job, but the worry of what would happen to our sons and daughters once we were too old to look after them drove us on. We are thrilled that our residential care home is finally open. It will give hope to all the families whose loved ones need extra care."

Many thanks to all of you who have given such amazing support to the Project.

**Jackie Bevan**

# COUNSELLOR

Rebecca Winterflood MBACP

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## Craft Market

At Harrietsham Village Hall

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### DATES FOR 2023

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH

SUNDAY 7TH MAY

SUNDAY 2ND JULY

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

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# Harrietsham Network

## Lenham WI

Sadly our speaker for our July meeting had to cancel so we arranged another one at very short notice. Thank you David Penny for stepping in. David is our local Pantomime Dame and very good he is too. He gave us a very amusing and interesting talk on the history of pantomime, his involvement with Hams Productions, how he started being a pantomime dame and a demonstration on how he applies his makeup.

The attention to detail on his costume was indeed amazing and very entertaining. The transformation was spectacular.

Before



After



Hams productions are always seeking helpers to put on their local productions either on stage or back stage so if you are interested please contact them on - [chair@hamsproductions.org](mailto:chair@hamsproductions.org)

This month we are looking forward to meeting a representative from Porchlight, the charity for Homeless People, based in Canterbury. We have always had a good relationship with this charity and we collect gifts for them to hand out at Christmas to those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Last year I took four Bags for Life full of gifts for both men and women, all wrapped and ready to distribute. Our members are so generous.

This month we also celebrate our WI Day. After emigrating from Canada, WI member Madge Watt saw the value of setting up Women's Institutes in Britain to encourage rural women to help with the war effort. With the help of governmental funding, Madge was able to set up the first WI on 25 September 1915. The Women's Institute was originally brought to life to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 01622 858658 or email [rgodden@btinternet.com](mailto:rgodden@btinternet.com)

**Chris Godden**

## The Madonna of the Woods

Recently the Len Valley Health Walks visited the 'Madonna' or 'Lady of the Woods' having parked at the Bowl Inn returning later for refreshments.

There were two groups one chose a longer walk across footpaths and the other a shorter walk along Warren Street Road ( from the Bowl towards Warren Street, Lenham). From there we turned right into an unmarked footpath for several hundred yards and at a clearing in the woods, there she was! A trunk of a dead oak tree about nine feet tall carved into the shape of a woman who appears to be pregnant. She is festooned by garlands of flowers and necklaces by visitors.

It is unknown who carved the 'Lady in the Woods.' As the carving style is thoroughly modern it was assumed that she might have been carved by a German prisoner of war or one of the teachers at Bunce Court School. However, the lady looks so young and fresh that this seems very unlikely, and the more recent theory is that she was carved in the seventies. Whoever carved the sculpture, knew that torching the wood would give her not only more texture but also make her last longer.

Standing in front of her is quite a moving experience. She is such a graceful figure, and you think that she must have been made, seemingly for 'free', by a very special person who took the time and trouble to carve her for us to enjoy the surprising encounter.

***Marjorie and Henny***





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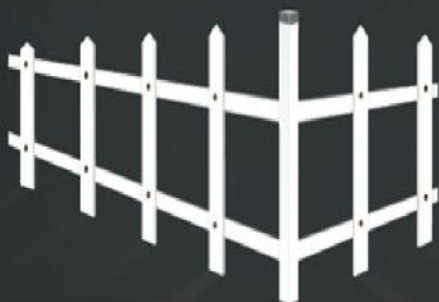
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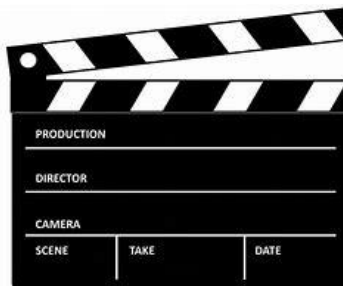
# Fisherman's Friends: One and All

**Friday 8 September****Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00***Running time 1hr 52 mins*

Based on a true story, **Fisherman's Friends: One and All** (12, 2022) is a follow-up to the 2019 hit comedy, in which a group of Cornish fishermen find themselves unexpectedly sprung into the national limelight with their first album *No Hoppers, Jokers and Rogues*. We meet up with the Friends again as their fame is still growing, cemented with an appearance on the pyramid stage at Glastonbury. But fame comes with a cost and the fishermen struggle as they aim for a second album to match the first. Will the bonds of friendship be enough to navigate the choppy waters into which they've been driven? Come along and enjoy the evening in their inimitable company. Directed by Meg Leonard and Nick Moorcroft

**Fisherman's Friends: One and All** concludes our summer programme – but just wait until you hear what we have in store for October onwards in our autumn and winter programme. We'll announce our new programme in full next month.

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](mailto:lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com)[www.lenhamfilmclub.org](http://www.lenhamfilmclub.org)[@lenhamfilmclub](https://twitter.com/lenhamfilmclub)

## Christian Message

This year we have had 3 more grandchildren added to our family – there are now 8 little ones amongst us. This is pure delight.

For me, to hold a newborn child is massively humbling as we wonder at the incredulity of their arrival, their very existence; wonder at who they shall become and give thanks for the life in which we share, the continuity of humankind to which they allude. Sometimes we describe these really little ones as 'bundles of joy', and when they are newly wrapped, freshly swaddled in breathable blankets, light as a feather, they are exactly that – joy!

The Native American Indian tribes held a precious, travelling gift in their midst – they called it their 'Sacred Bundle'. The sacred bundle was a piece of hide, animal skin, that swaddled ancient and meaningful objects to the tribe. The hide was held secure by thongs of leather and the objects only revealed at particular times of festivity, of ritual, specific life events and occasions of deep concern for the tribe. The contents of the Sacred Bundle informed them of their past history, their culture, their purpose and their vision. Hidden and secure amongst the objects would be the tribe narrative and the elders would be the ones to hold that story like holding a compass – so that in times of disorientation or distress they could know their true direction because of these past reminders. In times of festivity and celebration they could direct their gratitude appropriately and joyously towards their backstory and their deeply ingrained identity that would lead them forward. The Sacred Bundles went wherever they went: their identity, origins, hopes and beliefs all wrapped, tied up together in one visual and symbolic collective.

What if each of us is a Sacred Bundle ourselves?

Tied up and held as we are with our past, our histories, our kinship, our experiences – born, as I believe we are, with hope and purpose firmly planted within our being. Hope that waxes and wanes at varying times in our lives we know, we experience that, but hope that somehow or other never entirely fades. Even in the most distressing or bewildering times, we still hope, if only we hope for change. Or we hope for freedom from pain or tumult. Glimmers of hope exist even when a human soul descends to the depths – hope is holding and forming around them, even then.

Life's richness is made known in the shared experience of joys and highs, sorrows and delights – life's sacred, holy aspects brought to birth among us as we live out our life's call.

Jesus words I have come that you shall have life and have it in abundance or in fullness alludes not to some heavenly impossible perfection but to the rich experience of being human and the sacredness of all life. Those stories we gather along the way.

Every blessing be yours,

**Rev Lorraine Apps – Huggin** - Lead Chaplain.





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