

# Frittenden Parish Magazine

Connecting our community



FREE

April 2022

# Village Contacts

## CHURCH OFFICIALS AND ORGANISATIONS

<b>Rector</b>	Rev Pete Deaves rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk	852275
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Joanna Beech John Stansfeld	852312 852185
<b>Reader</b>	Tony Staples	852226
<b>Treasurer</b>	Christopher Page	852230
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	James Highwood	852715
<b>Secretary</b>	Vacant	
<b>Verger</b>	Margaret Knight	852322
<b>Director of Music</b>	Morwenna Campbell-Smith 07703 522102	
<b>Parish Disclosure Officer</b>	James Highwood	852715
<b>Parish Safeguarding Coordinators</b>	Lindsey Moore James Highwood	852553 852715
<b>Bell Ringers</b>	Captain & Secretary David Manger	01622 890675
<b>Magazine</b>	Editor James Booth-Clibborn frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com	852538
<b>Features</b>	Rebecca Brown	852561
<b>Organisations</b>	Emma Griffin	852308
<b>Advertising</b>	Nicky Vernon	852537
<b>Art Director</b>	Andy Lane	852769
<b>Open The Book</b>	Helen Stansfeld Not operating at present	852185
<b>Sunday Club</b>	Joanna Beech	852312

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

**Childline** 0800 1111

**Relate** 01892 529927  
appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk

### Defibrillators

These are now available at: the village hall, the pub, Larchmere and a mobile unit available for use at village events.

## OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

<b>Cricket, Sports &amp; Social Club</b>	Chair Nick Bull Secretary Charlotte Sharp	852105 852217
<b>Friends of Frittenden School</b>	Chair Beks Harding	712138
<b>Pre-school Manager</b>	Sarah Davies	852100 Home 852130
<b>Primary School Head of School</b>	Nichola Costello	852250
<b>Gardening Society</b>	President Sue Martin Chairman Duncan Rouse Secretary Tricia Palmer Show Secretary Jeremy Beech Treasurer / Subs Nicky Robinson	852425 852232 852430 852312 852488
<b>Historical Society</b>	Chair Phil Betts Treasurer Bernard Millard Secretary Tor Millard	852243 852219 893703
<b>Marquee Hire</b>	Mike Cooper	852108
<b>Memorial Hall</b>	Chair Rosalind Riley Hire hall, tables/chairs, etc. Eileen Bridges	852317 852563
<b>Parish Council</b>	Chairman Tony Staples	852226
<i>(For more details of other Local Council contacts, see back page).</i>		
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	Chairman Mike Burden Hon Sec. Howard Lilley	01622 432866 852225
<b>Tennis Club</b>	Chair Nigel Casswell Treasurer John Marshall	852772 852345
<b>Women's Institute</b>	President Anne Holroyd Vice President Valerie Reeves Secretary Aneta Godwin Treasurer Jenny Croucher	893256 852201 714150 852468
<b>Youth Club</b>	Youth Work Manager Beth Kemp beth.kemp@westkentymca.org.uk	07936 948688

## UNITED BENEFICE OF SISSINGHURST WITH FRITTENDEN FEBRUARY SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

### APRIL

<b>Fri 1st</b>	14:30 School Easter Service
<b>Sat 2nd</b>	8:00 United Benefice Prayer Breakfast at Trinity Parish Rooms
<b>Sun 3rd</b>	Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 Family Worship with Baptism of Eddie Haynes - St Mary's 11:15 Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's
<b>Mon 4th</b>	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
<b>Wed 6th</b>	9:00 SPACE for Lent - St Mary's 10:00 Coffee Morning @ Trinity 13:00 Wardens Meeting
<b>Sun 10th</b>	Palm Sunday 10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's
<b>Mon 11th</b>	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
<b>Wed 13th</b>	9:00 SPACE for Lent - St Mary's 14:30 CAMEO in St Mary's Church
<b>Thu 14th</b>	19:30 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion in St Mary's
<b>Fri 15th</b>	10:00 Good Friday Service at Trinity with provision for children
<b>Sun 17th</b>	Easter Day 10:00 Holy Communion (CW) all ages together - St Mary's
<b>Mon 18th</b>	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
<b>Wed 20th</b>	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's
<b>Sun 24th</b>	Easter 1 10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's

<b>Mon 25th</b>	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 16:30 Open The Book Rehearsal 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
<b>Wed 27th</b>	19:30 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Late changes - Please check on the church website for any changes to services or events - [frittendenchurch.org.uk](http://frittendenchurch.org.uk)

**SUNDAY CLUB** - separate provision for primary age children during part of the service.

**SPACE** - Silent reflection Prayer and Communion Ending by 9:30

**Moving Mountains** - Prayer for the needs of the Community, held in St Mary's, open to all.

**Little Lambs** - the new group for Toddlers and their Carers, meeting weekly in St Mary's.

**CAMEO** - Come And Meet Each Other - Coffee, tea and chat in St Mary's or Memorial Hall.

A recording of the Sunday morning service will be available each week on the website, under the Audio tab, and also available to listen to via the dial up number 01580 234185.

In the United Benefice of Sissinghurst with Frittenden, St Mary's is the parish church of Frittenden and Trinity is the parish church of Sissinghurst.

### Church rotas - Sunday Services

Date	Time	Sidesmen	Readers	Prayer	Sound	Coffee
3rd Apr	10:00	Rob Addis Judith Addis	Pete to arrange	Pete to arrange	Judy Staples	Griffin
3rd Apr	11:15	Christopher Page	Lynda Lilley Pete Deaves	-	Debbie Haine	-
10th Apr	10:00	Tony Staples Judy Staples	Helen Stansfeld Peter Braggins	Elaine Highwood	John Stansfeld	Highwood
14th Apr	19:30	Helen Stansfeld	Tony Staples Judy Staples	Isobel Mehrabian	John Stansfeld	-
17th Apr	10:00	Calvin Moore Peter Braggins	Margaret Knight Paul Wigram	John Stansfeld	John Dutton	Stansfeld
24th Apr	17:30	Janin Campos Mack Mehrabian	Jeremy Beech Joanna Beech	-	John Stansfeld	Mehrabian

**Flower Rota:** Thursday 14th April - All arrangers for Easter; 24th April - Emma Griffin  
**Cleaning Rota:** Spring Clean **Key Rota:** Michelle Allchin - 852358



# If only I had...



Dear friends

**If only I had... Is that a phrase you find yourself saying sometimes - or perhaps oftentimes? Sad to say, I'm definitely on the 'often' end of the continuum!**

One such If only I had... was when I was accompanying a lovely family friend, sprightly 80 year old widow Joy, around the 'Golden Ring' ancient cities circuit in Russia about 15 years ago. Being partially sighted the appropriately named Joy asked me to go with her for assistance, company and to utilise my Russian skills. Partway through came my If only I had... moment, as I stupidly took some stairs four at a time and, towards the bottom... my ankle took the impact. You can imagine the rainbow of colours it turned as I leant on 4'10" Joy for the rest of the trip. No, not 'trip' - that's a bit too close to the bone - If only I'd taken the stairs sensibly!

And a more recent one, much closer to home. If only I had opted for a complete oil tank fill up in February while the price was (relatively) low...

The call has gone out for accommodation and support for those fleeing the dreadful warfare, and until the war is over we continue to pray at the same time as others around the globe - 3pm in



Ukrainian believers - He Will Hold Me Fast

the UK - for peace to prevail. In the meantime, are there skills you could share, resources you could redirect, or hours you could offer? What must those precious folk must be going through? Let's all pull together so we're not looking back and saying If only I had offered to help... See page 6 for more information.

Easter approaches, with another opportunity to avoid an If only I had... I wonder if you've seen any images or videos of Christians in the Ukraine gathering together to pray and to sing praise to God? Despite the horrors of what's going on around, they know the new life they have received through Jesus can never be taken away from them.

Easter is good news for everyone, whatever their situation. If you've never explored for yourself the



hope Jesus offers, don't let this Easter be an If only I had taken a closer look... moment. We'd love you to join us at any of our services, and you're warmly invited to our new Hope Explored course, which you can find details of on page 4.

**Every blessing  
Pete**

## Church Warden needed. Thoughts on the role

by Joanna Beech.

**After six years as a Church Warden at St Mary's I will be stepping down at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at the end of April. That means St Mary's is now actively looking for a new warden. If there is more than one candidate, which hasn't been the case for a while, there is an election with the voting open to all residents of the parish who attend the meeting, not just Church members. However a new warden has to be nominated and seconded and in order to serve they need to be baptised, be on the church's electoral roll, be over 21, and must be an 'actual communicant', meaning they are a Church attender.**

But what does a Church warden do? What is their role?

The role of Churchwarden has been described as shared leadership, maintenance and ministry. How does that translate to life in St Mary's? Certainly the Churchwardens work very closely with Pete on all aspects of the life of the Church. Maintenance of the Church building, churchyard and the burial ground is something that occupies the wardens quite a lot and making applications to the Diocese if we want to change

anything to the fabric of the Church. Responding to concerns of parishioners, caring for the Rector and his family and involvement with the strategic side of church is perhaps the most important part of the role. All of this means attending meetings, with Pete and the other wardens from Sissinghurst, but also regularly with the PCC of St Mary's, where most decisions are made. Most of our communication is via email, but no greater IT skills than that are needed.

Is this a job I would recommend?

Absolutely yes. Shared leadership means that you can influence the way our Church is moving, and if you have a particular interest, like environmental concerns, fair trade, the fabric of our Church then there is scope to develop that aspect of the Church's life and to become personally more involved. Certainly I have learnt an awful lot in my 6 years, and feel much more connected with our Church the Deanery and the Diocese and personally I think it has given me greater confidence. Training is given by the Diocese to new Church wardens, so you are not by yourself and I cannot imagine a better warden to work alongside than John Stansfeld, so whoever takes on the Churchwardens role will be in safe hands. Of course I won't be disappearing and the things I'm involved with like 'Little lambs' and Sunday Club I will still be doing and it's exciting to see how each warden brings their own unique abilities, experience and interests to the role.

So if the above leaves you thinking 'Oh I wonder if I could do that?', then please do have a chat with John or me or, of course, Pete.

We'd love you to consider coming to the three relaxed evening sessions, enjoying a meal, chatting to others as we explore Hope. To find out more, please get in touch with Pete, or Nicky or Henry Robinson (852488).

# Homes for Ukraine

Parish of Sissinghurst & Frittenden



**Are you offering accommodation or thinking of doing so?**

**Could you join our volunteers' community by offering your time?**

**Do you have relevant language skills & time you could spare?**

**Are you able to offer any other support like music, yoga, art etc?**

**Would you like to sponsor some accommodation financially?**

**Do you have ideas as to how we can help our newcomers?**

We do not know what this needs to look like yet, but we would like to make a community available for people who come to our area so that they do not feel isolated or alone.

If you feel this is something you would like to help with, please register your interest, stating what is relevant to you, by contacting Nikki Hadley by email or by text:

**Nikkihadley10@gmail.com / 07715 636906**

**Very grateful thanks in advance...**

From the Editor

## Pray for Peace...



**Our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people and all those affected at this terrible time. Meanwhile it is positive to see our community pulling together to support the relief effort by collecting supplies such as clothes, medicine, and food, and offering much needed housing.**

Highlights in this issue:

- Pros & cons of driving an electric car (p.8)
- Our local cheesemakers (p.10)
- Let's celebrate! - updated plans for Queens Platinum Jubilee village plans (p.21/22)
- Tales from the Town hall (p.30)
- In The Kitchen with Caroline Samuels .. delicious! (p.40/41)

and finally a very Happy Birthday to Margaret Knight who turns 90 in April and still very much charging around the village and helping with the church..

We look forward to receiving your articles, photos and village stories!

Let's keep connecting our community

**James Booth-Clibborn**

Editor – frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

### LITTLE LAMBS

**Our weekly (term time only) Baby and Toddler group  
10-11.30am @ St Mary's Frittenden**

Parents and Carers of Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers are warmly invited to hop along to Little Lambs @ St Mary's Church.

A warm welcome, toys, good coffee/tea, delicious homemade cakes, crafts, Bible Story and singing time. It will be a great opportunity to connect with other local families. We'd love to see you there!

Currently, there is no need to book a space so do just come along!  
For more details contact Claire Deaves: deavesclaire@gmail.com



# Will an electric car work for you?

**Chappers**

(Frittendens' Motor Correspondent)

**With the impact of Russian aggression in Ukraine and the damage carbon fuels are doing to our environment, many people are looking at changing their car to electric power. But can it be realistic for you and what are the pros and cons. As a driving instructor, I made the decision to go electric over 4 years ago and have lived with the good, the bad and the myths!**

The Good. My running costs are much less than conventional fuels. My work means that I do at least 1000 miles per week and the saving this makes to my monthly fuel bill is over £600 per month. Car tax is zero and service costs are next to nothing as obviously there are no moving parts. Overall my annual car costs have been reduced by £6500 per annum. The government is very keen to promote electric cars and presently give £2000 grant on the purchase. A further grant is provided to install a home rapid charger. This means when i get home from work I simply plug in and 3 hours later I am fully charged.



Electric cars are fantastic to drive. Quite, very smooth and very, very fast!! My electric corsa is as fast as a Porsche carrera at 0 to 50!

The Bad. The range. I am now on my 3rd electric car and each time i have changed car the range has increased. The range varies depending on how it is driven and the outside temperature. With our cars, the colder it is the less efficient the battery and use of the heater will reduce the range down to around 200 miles .In summer this can increase to around 240 miles. Almost all my driving is in urban areas when electric power is at its best. Do not expect an electric car to do the same mileage on a charge if using on a motorway. Some of the top range of electric cars are now at the 400 mile range on one charge but these cars are expensive (over £45000). Even a smaller car with a 200 mile range will set you back around £30000.

My home charger will take 3 too 4 hours for a complete charge but a roadside rapid charger is around 40 mins.

The Myths. If you are a petrol head, nothing anybody says will change you opinion. But an all electric car world is coming and we

will all have to plan a way of making them work. Yes more charging stations are needed but there are more than you may realise. Most supermarkets now have fast charging points but for me it is extremely rare to need. Perhaps 3 times in the last 18 months and then only for a 10 min top up. A common myth is also that the batteries wont last. Well my previous trainer car sue my wife uses and has now done over 100000 miles and still has 100% battery capacity. Its range today is the same as 4 years ago. All makes will also guarantee for 8 years and can be replaced!

So could you make electric work? For me a definite yes but...I am fortunate in that i have an off road home charger. Living in

a flat for example would mean only being able to charge at a public charger. My use is virtually all non motorway. If you have many long motorway journeys then i would be very careful with the choice of car and pay more for the maximum range.

Whether we like it or not,its only 7 and half years until we will only be able to buy new electric cars and fortunately the technology is getting better all the time. The big car makers know that range is the be all and end all in getting electric cars accepted by all. As it stands today however....yes they are a huge money saver and wonderful to drive but only work if it fits your home and driving circumstances.



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Dairy farming and cheese making go hand in hand at Kingcott Dairy in Staplehurst, where the Reynolds family make their two blue cheeses – Kentish Blue & Kingcott Blue, both of which won Great Taste Food Awards in 2021.

Steve and Karen Reynolds set up their dairy herd 30 years ago, with sons Frank and Archie now part of the team and they're proud to have a small herd of Danish Red cows which produce high protein milk, perfect for their cheese making. Healthy, contented cows are of the highest priority for the family, with the emphasis on great quality milk rather than quantity. The cows spend 7-8 months of the year outside, grazing, roaming and dozing, but come into the barns for the colder, wetter months. With Spring just around the corner they'll soon be back out in the fields enjoying the fresh grass and warmer weather.

Steve and Frank are the cheesemakers, splitting their time between dairy and farm with Karen helping in the cheese dairy and Archie concentrating on the cows and



youngsters. Both blue cheeses are made with the farms' raw milk which is piped just 10 metres from the milking parlour to the cheese dairy, taking care to handle it gently to keep in the goodness. The entire cheese making process is carried out by hand resulting in 2 quite different blue cheeses.



Steve has been making the original Kentish Blue cheese for 13 years now, describing it as full flavoured, creamy and firm in texture making it a regular on cheeseboards in pubs and restaurants. Frank added the Kingcott Blue in 2019, looking for a slightly softer, more mellow cheese which is becoming more popular as it becomes more well known.

Although the Reynolds' don't have a shop at the farm, both cheeses are stocked in local farm shops. Maybe pop in to Taywell or Lower Ladysden at Goudhurst, Henhurst Farm Shop at Staplehurst or perhaps Cranbrook Farm Shop or Hartley Farm Shop at Cranbrook – all have a great range of Kent produce. Kingcott Dairy also have their own online shop sending out cheese gift boxes nationwide, with free delivery to Frittenden and the surrounding villages – a perfect present idea for family and friends!

## Reflections

Watercolour by Helen Carpenter



We welcome reflections to [frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com) – a poem, prayer, thought... something to help us pause and reflect.



## From the kitchen of the Old Dragon.

We can offer you a large range of homemade preserves, jams, marmalades, chutneys, sauces and curds.

Free from preservatives. We use locally sourced fruit and vegetables whenever possible.

Call Jenny & Tim anytime on 01580 852 468

# Operation Pluto: PipeLine Under The Ocean

Sue Betts

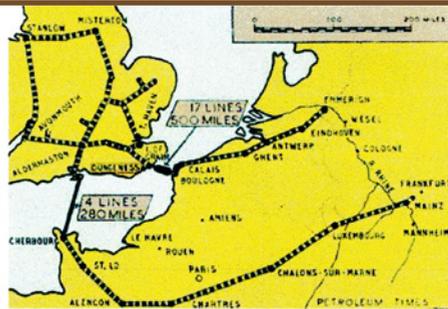
An oil pipeline running through Frittenden's fields during WWII may sound a rather dry and dusty topic for our February meeting but David Northcroft provided fascinating details about a ground-breaking project, undertaken at a time when manpower and materials were already fully stretched.

In 1936, the Air Ministry's concerns about fuel supplies had prompted them to build an extra 78 semi-buried oil tanks on UK airfields. Then, in 1941, the decision was taken to build a network of secret underground pipelines across the country. The first was from Avonmouth to Walton-on-Thames, then Avonmouth to Liverpool. A rectangular circuit was soon made with spurs from Aldermaston to Southampton and later to the US airfields in East Anglia. This 1000-mile underground network was named the Government Pipeline and Storage System (GPSS).

By 1942 the Allied invasion, Operation Overlord, was already being planned. This would require a good supply of fuel to support advancing troops. It was decided to extend the GPSS to the Kent coast and to install pipelines under the Channel.

This reduced reliance on coastal tankers, which could be affected by weather, mines and air attack.

It took 2 years to complete the lines running to heavily disguised terminals at Dungeness and Southampton. The pipeline through Kent took a North West to South East



The main network of the PLUTO pipelines. The 500 miles from Dungeness and Greatstone comprised 11 HAIS cables and 6 HAMEL steel pipes

route through East Peckham, Marden, Staplehurst, and Frittenden, and then on to Appledore and Dungeness, in an almost straight line. In Frittenden, the line crossed the Cranbrook Road (beyond the 30mph sign) and then Sand Lane, running broadly parallel to the Biddenden Road.

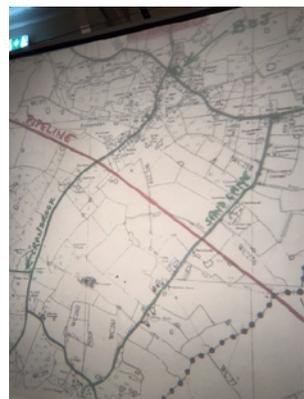
At Dungeness, 22 buildings were needed to accommodate pumping stations and storage tanks which were housed in new and existing bungalows along the coast, still called Pluto Bungalows. At Sandown, Isle of Wight, the pumping station was disguised as Brown's ice-cream parlour. An additional element of the deception was the creation of a fake oil dock at Dover using scaffolding, fibreboard and old sewage pipe, all designed to protect the genuine installations from over-flying German aircraft.

Manufacturing and transporting the pipes was a huge and complicated new venture. There were two types developed. One, known as HAIS, had a lead core that could be laid by a cable-laying ship: this pipe was very heavy weighing 47 tons per mile. The other, HAMEL, was of thin steel, more readily available than scarce lead, but this had to be laid by enormous special floating drums with a 30ft diameter, called Conundrums.

By December 1944, a total of 17 pipelines crossed from Dungeness to Boulogne, with 4 from Southampton to Cherbourg. As the invasion advanced, the pipelines were extended, one running south of Paris, to Luxembourg and Frankfurt and the other via Antwerp to beyond Eindhoven. By 1945 they were pumping 4000 tons of oil per day. Secrecy was maintained so that, almost till the end of the war, the fuel lines were unknown to the Germans.

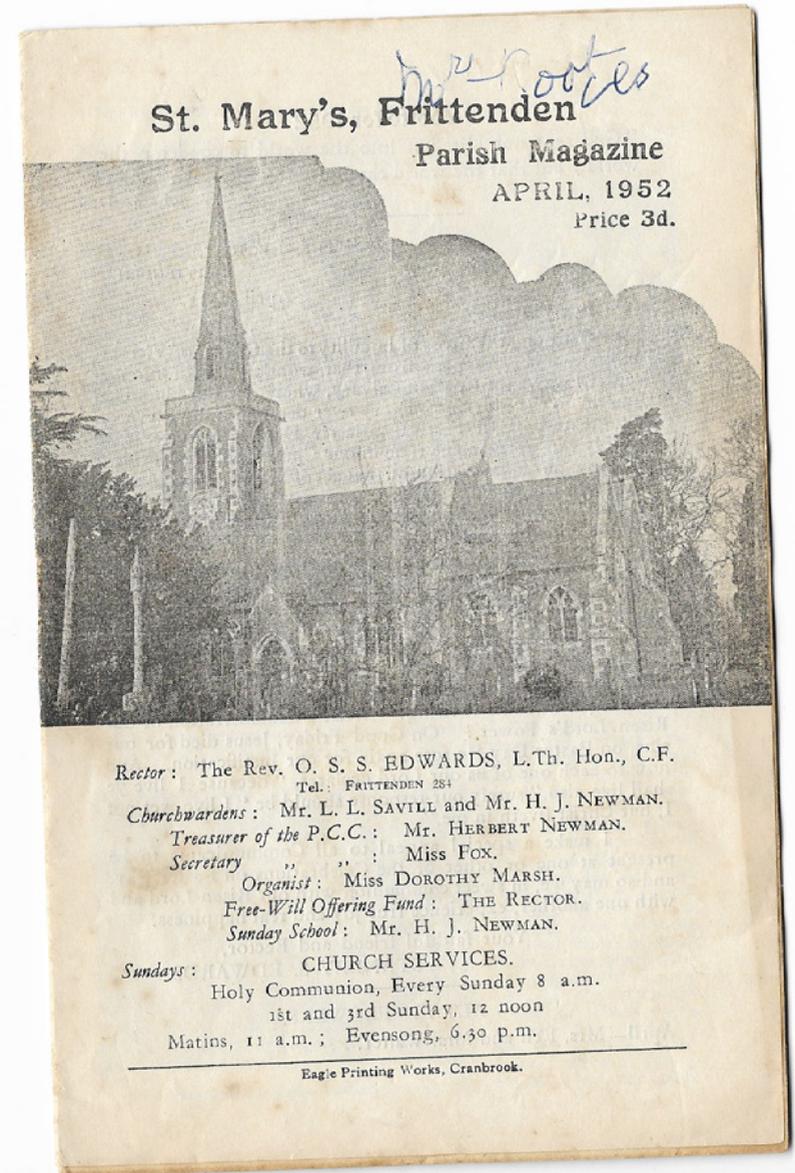
For anyone who would like to see what the pipeline looked like, a small section can be seen by Marden library.

The GPSS network has been extended and continues to support the fuel supply to England's principal military and civil airports, including Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester etc.



## Page one 70 years ago

Bernard Millard



*Handwritten:* *new routes*  
**St. Mary's, Frittenden**  
**Parish Magazine**  
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**Rector:** The Rev. O. S. S. EDWARDS, L.Th. Hon., C.F.  
 Tel.: FRITTENDEN 254  
**Churchwardens:** Mr. L. L. SAVILL and Mr. H. J. NEWMAN.  
**Treasurer of the P.C.C.:** Mr. HERBERT NEWMAN.  
**Secretary:** Miss FOX.  
**Organist:** Miss DOROTHY MARSH.  
**Free-Will Offering Fund:** THE RECTOR.  
**Sunday School:** Mr. H. J. NEWMAN.  
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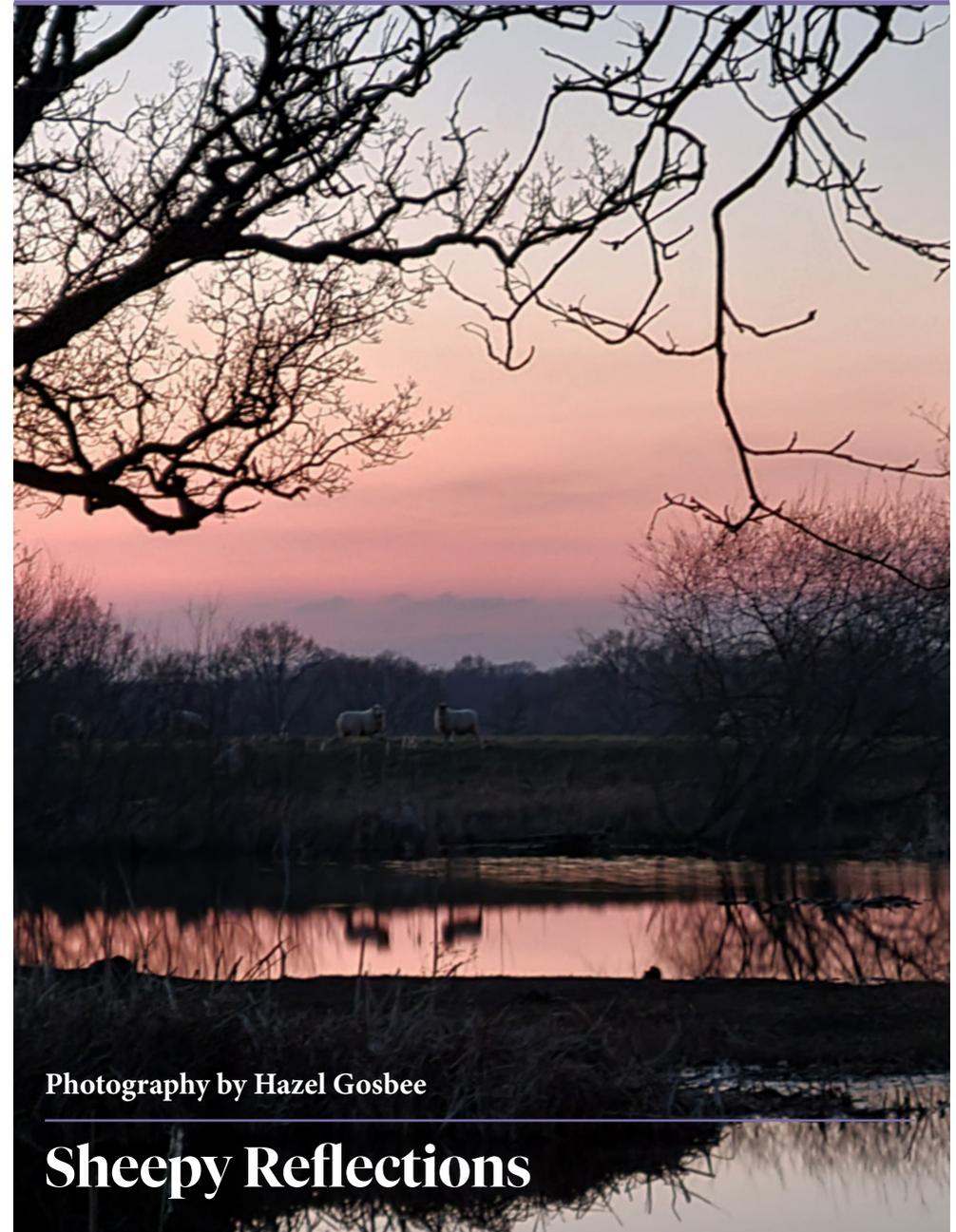
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Photography by Hazel Gosbee

## Sheepy Reflections

We welcome monthly photography submissions accompanied by a caption to [frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com)

# Flying Bells & Chocolate Eggs!

Rebecca Steele



When this magazine goes to print, the end of Lent will be in sight. Any Villagers who are still keeping to their Lenten abstentions, whether for religious or health reasons, will by now be eager to unwrap their chocolate Easter eggs or quench their thirst with that much anticipated pint of beer. Easter is a symbol of hope, renewal and new life both for Christians and those of us who look forward to spring days, more sunshine and leaving the short days of winter behind us.

Last month, I wrote about the Pancake Bell. Easter now allows me to keep to this same culinary Bell Ringing theme. It may seem strange to us but, across Europe, there is a tradition that it is the responsibility of the church bells rather than the Easter Bunny to deliver and hide Easter eggs for the children. Before watches, clocks and mobile phones were common, the church bells would mark the passing of time and inform villages of important events occurring. The bells would call Church goers to prayer, announce holidays and significant events and warn people of disaster. The passing of life and seasons would be marked by the sound of the bells.

The Catholic Church has a tradition that the bells stop ringing on Maundy Thursday, three days prior to Easter Sunday, to mourn the death of Jesus. In France, the Netherlands and Belgium, Easter is a time to celebrate the *cloches volants*, or the “flying bells.” The legend is, that during this time, the bells fly away from their steeples and flee to Rome in their sorrow. On Easter morning, after receiving a blessing from the pope, the bells fly back home, filled with joy and along the way the bells drop treats for children. On Easter day, parents call out “*les cloches sont passées*” (the bells have passed by) and the children run out in search of eggs.



Many Church of England bell towers continue this Catholic tradition and their bells are silent during Holy Week, ringing again on Easter Day. I think it unlikely that someone wouldn't have noticed St Mary's bells flying all the way to Rome but I have also never seen a large rabbit scattering the beautifully coloured chocolate eggs around the garden. If you do find any chocolate eggs around Frittenden and wonder just how they could have arrived then maybe the church bells flying overhead are another option to consider?

If you are interested in finding out more about bell ringing, then Frittenden Bell Ringers practice on Monday evenings 7:30pm until 9:00pm at St Mary's Church. Please do come along to the tower or get in contact if you would like to find out more.



You can now also keep up to date with our news on both FaceBook and Instagram through the links below:

[www.facebook.com/FrittendenBellRingers](https://www.facebook.com/FrittendenBellRingers)

[www.instagram.com/FrittendenBellRingers](https://www.instagram.com/FrittendenBellRingers)

# Petals and Sepals

Rebecca Warren

**As March gives way to April our hedges and gardens are awash with blossom. However, there's quite a lot of confusion over which plant is in flower and when - and this is only set to get worse as global warming wreaks yet more havoc on our climate and our seasons. So, as I write in mid-March, here's a little guide to three rural hedgerow blossoms that are commonly in flower in the parish at this time of year: cherry plum (*prunus cerasifera*), blackthorn (*prunus spinosa*) and hawthorn (*crataegus monogyna*).**

Cherry plum blossoms in late February/ March, putting on spectacular displays of tiny white flowers that clothe the hedges.



Illustration by Rebecca Warren

Blackthorn - or sloe - flowers in late March and April, whilst hawthorn - or May - flowers, yes you've guessed it, in May. Of course, there are odd exceptions to these rules: the Glastonbury Thorn is a species of hawthorn (*crataegus monogyna* 'Biflora') which flowers both in winter and in May. Generally, however, if it's in flower in February/March it will be cherry plum, and this may be followed by small reddish fruits. Blackthorn, of course, produces blue-black sloes and hawthorn offers clusters of deep red haws, beloved of winter migrant birds.

Irritatingly, however, blackthorn flowering can overlap with cherry plum flowering in March, so how do you tell the difference between them? Well, a closer look at the flowers - which on all three species have five white petals surrounding a mass of pretty stamens - shows that the sepals on the cherry plum - the green bits that covered the flower when it was budding and which sit just underneath the petals - will be reflexed right back, pointing down the twig on which the flower sits. In blackthorn, these sepals stick straight out, like a second collar of green 'petals'. Oh and, of course, blackthorn (in the picture here) has sharp spines! Hawthorn flowers, however, have petals that are more distinctively rounded, all but obscuring the sepals underneath. Easy!

Or you can just admire from a distance, and refer to them all as 'blossom'. It's good to know what you are looking at - but it's not essential!

# Gosbee's Gossip

Lester Gosbee

Joan Burgess informed me that the minibus service that comes through Frittenden on Mondays at 10am, taking passengers to Tunbridge Wells, then brings them back a couple of hours later. The service is now under threat, in TWBC's cost cutting plans. This would be a travesty for people like Joan. The scheme costs just £5 to join, then the return fare is £3.50. It is a valuable service, which could be used more if more people were aware that it exists. With the current fuel crisis, it would be a great option for villagers who would like to pop to the shops without the worry of the cost of fuel and parking, and a good shopping option while the kids are at school as well as teenagers during the holidays. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council are welcoming opinions from residents before this service is lost to us. It is an important help to the quality of life for some that are cut off in this village.

I am sure that, like me, you must be horrified by the sights of war in Ukraine that we are getting every day on the news. The bravery of the Ukraine people, defending their country against the

Russian invasion led by Vladimir Putin has been amazing. I asked our Rector Pete Deaves if Frittenden was doing anything to help the refugees. He said that they were collecting warm clothes and toiletries that were being picked up that afternoon. He said that they need medical stuff that you find in a first aid box, so I went to Staplehurst and Cranbrook and bought items for ladies and babies (for the first time in my life). I managed to buy 8 packs of paracetamol. As the sale of this is limited, I was lucky to bump into some people that I knew in Co-Op, and they offered to buy some so that I could give more. I made up a box and took it to the church, where there were around 30 bin liners full of clothes and other medical supplies. It made me quite emotional to see how kind and generous some people can be. Has anyone in the village signed up to take in Ukrainian refugees?. I would, but I think that it would not be possible as Hazel looks after children here at home.

Last week, Hazel, Richard and I went to the Brighton Centre to see the Glasgow band Texas. They were brilliant, particularly lead singer Sharleen Spiteri and their percussionist. The atmosphere was amazing.

The Frittenden Fun Run will be held on Easter Monday this year, starting at noon. This had as always been a very sociable event, and it was missed during the lockdowns. It is also a great local fundraiser.

The cost of living is rising steeply as energy prices are going through the roof. Hopefully our Chancellor Rishi Sunak will help to ease the burden. He could cancel 5% VAT on energy, and he could suspend green taxes on energy bills. Fracking is another alternative option. I am told that farmers are paying £650 per ton for fertilizer. Prices will increase further. In 1976, Labour had Dennis Howe, Minister for Drought. He advised that to save water we should share a bath. It was the worst drought in England and Wales for over 200 years. Maybe to save electricity we should share a shower!. People with wet rooms could shower the whole family in one go.

Christine Anthony has a birthday coming up on 12th April. She is currently having cancer treatment, but is always upbeat and very positive. We hope that she has sunshine and feels well on her birthday. I am sure that you will join me in sending her good wishes.

**Joke time: Smaller babies are delivered by a stork, but heavier ones are delivered by crane.**

**I was in a record store looking at old vinyl, when a man said that he had a rare copy of Elvis Presley record "Wooden Leg". I said "don't you mean Wooden Heart". He said "no, it's a pirate copy".**



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# Let's Celebrate

What we have planned – during the weekend...



	Thursday 2nd June	Friday 3rd June	Saturday 4th June	Sunday 5th June
Morning	<b>Historical Society display opens</b> (in the Memorial Hall)	<b>Historical Society display in the Memorial Hall</b>	<b>Historical Society display moves to the Marquee</b>	<b>10.00 Thanksgiving service</b> (in St Mary's)  <b>Barbecue lunch*</b> <i>Barbecue, hog roast, veggie dishes, bar, tea and cakes (Parish Field*)</i>
Afternoon	 <b>3pm Lantern-making workshop</b> (in the Memorial Hall) 	<b>12 noon Cricket Match on the Cricket Field ending by 6.00</b>  If you fancy a game, Joe, give Paul Hope a call	<b>2.00 Set up for Table Decoration</b>  <b>2.00 Puppetry workshop</b> <b>4.30 Judging table decorations</b> (Parish Field marquee)	<b>1.15 Arrival of The Queen and Classic Car parade &amp; Judging of Pudding Competition</b> (by Her Majesty)  <b>2.00 Crown competition</b> <i>Children's games, tug of war, plant stall, (Parish Field)</i>
Evening	<b>8.15 Peal of bells</b> <b>Lantern procession</b> (to the War Memorial) <b>9.15 Beacon lighting</b>	<b>7.30 Concert of music and readings with refreshments</b> (in St Mary's)	<b>6.00 Bar opens</b> <b>6.30 BYO Village Supper entertainment, and dancing</b> (Parish Field)	Relax!

## ...and after the weekend

### A NEW ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Coordinating with the Jubilee celebrations, professional performances are returning during June, promoted through Applause Rural Touring. Long Nose Puppets will be here during the holiday weekend and the other shows below will be on subsequent weekends. We have applied for a grant to help us keep ticket prices low.

- Long Nose Puppets Co: 'Du Iz Tak?' puppetry workshop and show. (See above Saturday 4th June, 2pm (free))
- Foundry Group Theatre: 'Lord God' - comedy drama, Saturday 11th June, 7.30 pm.
- Bright Buoy Productions: 'Privates: Great Ideas by Geniuses' - family show, date tbc.

- Son Yambu - Afro-Cuban band, date tbc

The full programme will be announced during April on Frittenden Facebook and at [www.frittendenevents.co.uk](http://www.frittendenevents.co.uk) where you will also be able to book tickets.

### How you can join the celebrations

Right now ....

The Gardening Society will be hard at work beautifying the village with flowers. Let's join in and plan colour-themed planting in our gardens.

But wouldn't it be a shame for our houses to be left out? Window decorations, bunting, flags and more, put up from the end of May, could be a real wow factor! There could even be a prize for the best....

... and over the weekend

## Come to the Village Supper - 4th June –

6pm for 6.30pm start in the marquees. Tickets £5 each. Open to age 16 and over.

**CONTACT CHRIS BROWN FOR TICKETS: 01580 852452**

Don't miss out, book now!

We invite you to come along for an evening to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The idea is to book a table for six or even squeeze in eight. If you are a smaller party, don't worry – you can share a table with others. Decorate your table in the Jubilee theme; the decorating must take place in the afternoon. Judging will be at 4.30 pm. Yes, there is a prize!

Come along and bring your own banquet fit for a queen! There will be plugs available for slow cookers; microwaves will be available for warming.

Enjoy your meal with friends before the evening entertainment:

**Headcorn Ukulele Group**

**SHABBA – our local "ABBA" group**

**Followed by "Old Skool": an Essex 7-piece function band with brass section.**

Don't forget your dancing shoes!

Paying bar provided by Rosie and Sean of "The Bell and Jorrock's"

## ...and the Village Lunch - 5th June

**Starts at 12.00**

Enjoy a hog roast, barbecue or veggie specialities.

There's a bar (B&J) tea and cakes (WI) but bring your own specially created pudding...

It's got to be fit for a Queen because Her Majesty is arriving at 1.15 to judge

And she'll be taking a keen interest in your headgear because there's a crown competition as well.

After the Queen arrives watch the Classic Car parade then after lunch visit the plant stall, browse the history exhibition or enjoy the children's games

So start thinking about making crowns or puddings or both but don't get them muddled up (or Her Majesty might not know which is which).

Lots more details next month but for now get making and baking planning and planting or decorating.

## A Jubilee thought for landowners in our village for later this year

How are your hedgerows? Some time this year would you like to plant a few oaks to grow as hedgerow trees? If so have a word with Rebecca Warren, who has suggested this as a Jubilee legacy to leave for later generations. Let's re-establish one of the great features of our English landscape.

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**FRIDAY 8TH**  
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**SATURDAY 9TH**  
 2:00PM TOBINS FAVORITE BAND  
 9:00PM *Budgie and the Smugglers*

**SUNDAY 10TH**  
 1:00PM MORRIS DANCERS  
 5:00PM HANNIGAN *VOICE*

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The Fun Run will take place on Easter Monday at mid day followed by an afternoon of live Music at 1pm at The B&J GYPSKAZZ (Mix of Steam Punk and Ska)

Many thanks for your continued support

Team B& J

## Frittenden Gardening Society Spring Show 2022

3.00pm Saturday 9 April.  
 In St Mary's Church, Frittenden.

Please find the show handbook with all the classes and recipes at

[www.frittendengardeningssociety.co.uk](http://www.frittendengardeningssociety.co.uk)

Calling all Children -

We have two special Children's classes:

Create an amazing animal from vegetables or fruits.

Create a bouquet fit to give our Queen on her Platinum Jubilee.

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each children's class.

You do not need to be a member to enter these classes, they are open to all children.

All entries to be brought to St Mary's between 8-9.30am on Saturday 9th April.

Come back to the church at 3pm for the show, raffle and to enjoy a cup of tea, glass of squash and a delicious slice of homemade cake.

**Everyone is very welcome**



# Today the sun is shining and a hint of Spring is in the air!

Becky Bruce



Our lovely residents have been itching to get into the garden – here are some pics of them starting on various projects. These include planting beetroot, runner beans, sweat peas, tomato's, and plenty more and also braving the somewhat chilly early Spring but enjoying every minute of being outside and revelling in the fact we might actually get a Summer this year!

We are very excited at Larchmere anticipating the up and coming events



for the year, not only are we looking forward to a 4 day Jubilee weekend (and by all accounts Frittenden are pulling all the stops out to make it spectacular), we also have our Summer Strawberry Fair scheduled! I think this is the third year we have attempted to put this on but covid has always got the better of us. Hopefully not this year! I can even be brave enough to give you a date of Saturday 16th July. Everyone in the village is so very welcome and we intend to make it better than ever! More stalls, more entertainment and as many cream teas as we can prepare to fulfil everyone's requirements plus so much more. So put that in your diary as we would very much value your support and more importantly your company – more to follow.

We have been talking recently about the love we have for animals and the beneficial affect they have here for the residents at Larchmere.

Clare, our new Activities Assistant, regularly brings her 3 dogs in for a visit and here is Ruby making friends. Two of the residents in particular have fallen hard!!



A resident was delighted to have his picture taken with our Matron and appropriately was wearing a suitable Birthday hat! And our beloved Centurion (almost July) loves to

dance with our carers whenever he can!

We went on our very first 'official trip' recently (our first trip was last month to the B & J – but didn't have to hire transport!). This one we hired our lovely Wealden Wheels transport and sung our way to Dymchurch (various tunes including 'we do like to be beside the seaside' were sung), for what I believe, is the 2nd best fish and chips in Kent, at Beach 48 (Rosie and Sean's being the best, obviously). The weather was particularly 'unsavoury' (winds and rain comparable to the storm we had recently), but that didn't deter us. The restaurant was warm and the staff their couldn't have been more accommodating. One of our residents



is particularly keen on the amusement parade just opposite the restaurant, so with a whole load of 2p's in hand we nipped over and lost it all playing on a coin machine (think Tipping Point where the money is shoved over the edge) but the simple pleasure of being a kid again was priceless and the excitement when a 'bunch' of 2p coins fell into the collecting tray was fabulous! ..... The simple joys in life are always the best and the one I think covid and the awful atrocities we are experiencing at the moment have taught



us is to appreciate every little tiny thing. Windswept and full of fish and chips we returned to Larchmere – no singing on the return journey, just snoozing, gently snoring from residents and a full tum!



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# A Red Nose Candidate

Howard Lilley

Towards the end of last Summer, we were very lucky to be offered a number of ducks and a Black Australian Swan that needed a new home.

I collected the ducks and installed them on our pond, then returned the following week for the swan. We had to catch it and put it into a very large box to bring home, before releasing it near the pond. This was not appreciated, a very angry hissing and flapping swan emerged and dived into the water.

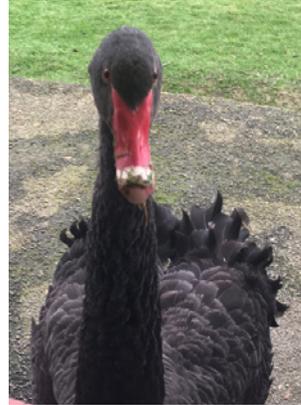
After a week or so, I was forgiven and "Hooter", the name we have given him or her started to make friends with us. He is called Hooter because the greeting given is to stick out his neck and give three very large trumpet calls, for some strange reason it is always three!

Hooter has now discovered our half glazed back door, so he comes up and knocks on the glass till we feed him brown bread. This means that I dare not turn the light on in the kitchen in the morning till I am ready to feed him. Visitors to our back door, the milkman, Tesco delivery man and anybody else also get a trumpet solo coming down the path.

One of the ducks we were given is a Goldeneye, a small rather plain diving duck, but with very shiny golden eyes, particularly in sunshine. He also has proved to be a real character, disappearing below water at the first sign of trouble, then popping up again a minute or so later on the other side of the pond. Being a Goldeneye Drake, there was really only one name that we could give him, so he is James, James Pond!

We also have a white duck, Jemima, a pair of

Mallard, Bob & Janet and a very stropy Mallard Drake, Thuggey Duck, plus of course our resident Moorhen family.



They all really have become a bit of a tourist attraction, with many passers by stopping to see them, they love brown bread, so if you are passing, you are welcome to call in and greet them. We usually carry a large stock of brown bread, so we can supply you with some to feed the flock.

A final question for any bird experts amongst our readers, how do you Potty Train a swan?



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**Lots of relatively local concerts in April, though almost all are choral; our orchestral societies either had concerts in March and are recovering or have concerts planned in May and are still rehearsing (or both!). Sadly there are still clashes between societies that should be co-operating for a common audience – when will a co-ordinating function re-appear? Meanwhile, make your choice:**

**Sat 2nd April 7.30pm** at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted ME14 4EE – Bearsted Choral Society perform Mendelssohn’s Elijah. Tickets 0333 6663366

**Also on 2nd April 7.30pm** at St. James the Great church, East Malling ME19 6AG, East Malling Singers perform Brahms’s Ein Deutches Requiem. Tickets 01622 750943

**Sat 9th April 7.00pm** at St. Mildred’s church Tenterden TN30 6AT, Sutton Valence Choral Society sing Stainer’s Crucifixion together with works by SS Wesley, Ousley and Goss. Tickets 01622 861313

**Mon 11th April 7.30pm (time tbc)** at All Saints’ Church, Mill St., Maidstone ME15 6YE The Maidstone Singers will be singing Fauré’s Requiem. For details call 01622 630016.

**Sat 23rd April 7.30pm** at St. George’s Church Gravesend DA11 0DJ Gravesham Choral

Society’s concert entitled “Hymns of Praise” includes celebratory music by Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn. Tickets [www.graveshamcs.co.uk](http://www.graveshamcs.co.uk) or at the door.

**Sat 30th April 7.00pm** at St. Nicholas Church Allington ME16 0DE, the Invicta Jazz Orchestra holds its April Gig. Tickets at the door.



Then to (perhaps) improve your music background, the anniversary to note for April is 100th anniversary of the birth of Elmer Bernstein, American composer and conductor (1922-2004) on 4th April.

In a career that spanned more than five decades, he composed “some of the most recognizable and memorable themes in Hollywood history”, including over 150 original film scores, as well as scores for nearly 80 television productions. For his work he received an Academy Award for Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) and Primetime Emmy Award. He also received seven Golden Globe Award, five Grammy Award, and two Tony Award nominations.

**Brian Hardy**

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## Staplehurst Music Centre

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Individual music lessons are also available (including violin, piano, cello, guitar, ukulele, saxophone, clarinet and flute).

Find out more and contact us through <http://www.staplehurst-music-centre.org/> or on Facebook. A wide range of instruments can be hired at [www.kent-music.com](http://www.kent-music.com).

**Find out more and contact us through <http://www.staplehurst-music-centre.org/> or on Facebook.**

Many people turned to music during the first Covid lockdown, whether to dust off an instrument they hadn't played for years, or to achieve long-standing ambition to learn Stairway to Heaven. But for most of us, music-playing during Covid was a fairly lonely affair. It turned out that using platforms like Teams or Zoom to play music with friends was almost impossible. It was all about the timing. It just couldn't be done.

So why is it that playing music in a group, with other people, is such a wonderful experience? Scientists suggest that music impacts significantly on our ability to connect with one another. Performing music in a group requires us to co-ordinate with others to keep the rhythm or to harmonise. This co-ordination can trigger the release of endorphins in the brain, giving us warm, positive feelings. Working together during a performance can increase trust and chances of future co-operation, which are important for social stability and evolutionary success. Experiments with mice and singers (not at the same time) have shown that making music can increase oxytocin levels, which is important for building bonds and trust between people. Music can also strengthen the parts of our brain that help us understand what others are thinking or feeling, thus increasing our empathy.

Staplehurst Music Centre has several musical ensembles and group-playing opportunities. Join us on Saturday mornings at Staplehurst Primary School to take part in:

- Chamber ensemble (10 to 11am). The group plays a range of classical music, ranging from film scores to more traditional pieces. It is currently playing Peer Gynt, by Greig. No previous orchestra experience is necessary.
- Ukulele group (11am to noon). The ukulele is one of the friendliest instruments: it's easy to start playing, small, lightweight and inexpensive, and many popular songs can be adapted to it.

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# Tales from the Town Hall

**Its now been about 6 weeks since I took over the responsibility of the waste and recycling contract.**

This has been a difficult contract awarded a couple of years ago well before my time on the cabinet. There were difficulties from the start especially in the rural wards with missed collections and vehicle sizes allocated to hamlet tracks and driveways. Then the garden waste collection, a paid for service was suspended. We were told due to COVID, the HGV driver shortage and recruitment problems Ubaseer were unable to staff enough wagons to complete all collections. So the decision was made to concentrate on the collection of household waste, the recycled items and food waste. This bad situation has gone on for nearly a year and some residents were quite rightly upset at not receiving a service they had paid for. So I came in around 6 weeks ago and started a new round of negotiations with the contractor and our partners at Tunbridge and Malling BC. The service will resume in our area on 21st March. All subscribers will have received an email informing them of the resumption. I also took the decision not to collect direct debits due until after the service has restarted. Everyone will receive the number of collections they paid for and this doesn't include the two "one off collections" we have recently completed. This restart has come with some cost to the council. However I'm hoping a new tranche of subscribers will cover some if not all of this additional expense.



### Community Hub Investment

I have been working across the borough with parish and town councils to deliver community hubs providing new medical centres for GP practices, community spaces and sports facilities. The Southborough Civic Centre has been completed. Building work commenced at Paddock Wood last week and more locally the Cranbrook hub is now progressing after recent correspondence with the NHS providers.

The Amelia Scott community hub will open this April. Please come and look at this completed heritage centre in Tunbridge Wells. It will provide displays, exhibitions a museum and library as well as adult learning space and the "Gateway" facilities. Its situated right next to the town hall and the architecture itself is worth viewing. So why not take a trip into T Wells after its opening, have a coffee on The Pantiles and visit The Amelia.

### Climate Emergency Action

The council has reduced its carbon emissions by nearly 50%. Solar panels have been fitted

to some of our buildings in the town centre. We have just secured over £2M in central government funding to further decarbonise our buildings. About £1.4M is coming to Cranbrook. The Weald leisure centre will get air source heat pumps, solar panels, insulation and LED lighting.

### Housing

To support the next generation of homeowners a record 662 new homes were built over the last year, including 272 new homes allocated to social housing providers. This builds on the 7,935 social housing units we have in the borough.

### Recovery and Future

The council has now secured and distributed over £53M in central government grants to help local shops and businesses to bounce back post pandemic.

With digital automation freeing up over 50% of the town hall we are offering this space to start up and small local businesses through a co-working partnership. This will provide local office space to up to 400 people which will benefit local workers, the town centre and be a revenue source for the council.

If you live in a Band A-D house and pay council tax you will receive £150 this April from the govt. This will be paid locally and if you are a direct debit council tax payer will be paid directly into your bank account. If you pay by other means please see the councils website in April for how to claim.

**Andy Fairweather** TWBC Ward of Frittenden and Sissinghurst 07976 290185 andrew.fairweather@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

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## I Didn't Know That...

Colin Bullock

**HELLO**, now there is an interesting history attached to this greeting, now common throughout the entire English-speaking world. HELLO was seldom (if ever) used in England until a new communication device was invented towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign. It was, however, extensively used in the Wild West Frontier of America, the expression/greeting when approaching a remote homestead or farmhouse was "HELLO HOUSEHOLD", this indicated that the caller was friendly and meant no harm or ill will to the inhabitants. Hello in the Wild West was an alteration of the Spanish for hello, "HOLA"

In England, however, it was seldom used because "HOLLO" was a shout to attract the attention of somebody and not a greeting. It was most commonly used to hail a ferryman and in this sense dates back to the 14th century.

Its rapid rise in popularity is because of the invention alluded to earlier; the telephone. Mr Graham Bell had suggested "AHOY" as the way to answer his new-fangled gadget, but the more sensible "HELLO" won the day. By 1889, central telephone operators were known as "HELLO-GIRLS". Today it is a globally recognised form of greeting.

**BINGE** well let's see, you can binge drink, you can binge shop, you can even binge watch a box set of TV shows, but where did BINGE come from? Until around the mid-19th century, to 'binge' was to fill the bottom of a boat with water to allow the timbers to expand. This practice was carried out after a new build or following repairs to a hull, or simply to flush out and clean the hull. Bingeing, or soaking, was common practice in the days of wooden-framed ships.

Sailors or dockworkers, if they cleaned out a wooden barrel of (usually) rum were known to have been "on a binge". The comparison is quite obvious and the phrase has stayed with us through the years with the same meaning, - over-indulgence.

**DOGSBODY** was originally used in reference to a junior officer in the Royal Navy who carried out unpopular tasks that senior officers distained to do.

The word evolved from the nickname sailors gave their staple food served to them while at sea, which was boiled peas in a bag, or Pease pudding. They called it "dogsbody" because it looked like the torso of a small dead dog served up on their square plates. (Comes under the heading of "black humour", I believe).

Although the word has been used in reference to skivvies and the lower end of the servant echelons since the 18th century, it has not always been a derogatory expression. During WW2, Douglas Bader who flew for the RAF in the Battle of Britain despite having lost both legs in a flying accident in 1931, used "Dogsbody" as his military call-sign.

**TENDERHOOKS** is to be anxious or under stress while waiting for something specific to happen. One popular theory as to where this expression comes from tent hooks (or pegs), which are used to keep a canvas tense or tight and therefore watertight, but the actual source of this expression comes from industry and not camping.

In bygone days, cotton mill workers would attach newly produced cloth to hooks and stretch it across large frames known as 'tenters' from the Latin 'tendere', meaning 'to stretch out'. Anything or anyone strained into a state of tension was subsequently described as being 'on tender hooks'.

**BOOTLEGGERS** are criminals who sell their wares, traditionally alcohol, without permission. By avoiding taxes, duties and tariffs, they can undercut the rest of the market, making their merchandise cheaper and therefore more in demand. Nowadays bootleggers are more likely to be involved with the knock-off DVD market or the illegal importation and sale of tobacco.

The expression was first recorded in the mid-19th century in America, in reference to traders who sold illegal liquor to the Native American communities in the Far West. They would ride out to the reservations with flasks of alcohol concealed in their riding boots, as a result they became known as 'bootleggers' to the authorities.

Traveling east across the USA, the phrase was soon applied to anyone involved in counterfeiting or the illegal distribution of goods of just about any description. Of course, the expression gained notoriety during the Prohibition era in the 1920's when bootleggers made huge profits from the sale of illicitly produced or imported alcohol.

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# Post Office suspended

Unfortunately the Post Office will be suspended until the Memorial Hall reopens and is able to host it again. The Bell and Jorrocks had very generously offered to host it while the works are going on, but it seems that the Post Office could not resolve technical issues. There is no other suitable venue, so Headcorn Post Office has regretfully advised us that the service will be suspended temporarily.

We hope that anyone who needs post office services will be helped by neighbours - please remember that if you or a neighbour can access a printer, you can pre-pay for parcels online and print out a label, but of course this still needs to be taken to the post office.

Apologies for the inconvenience this will cause.

Cllr Rosalind Riley

# Defibrillator temporary removal

Please note that the defibrillator has had to be removed from the fence at Acorns on The Street. The fence became unstable in the storms so it could not sustain the box. Lance French has the defibrillator machine, and the box is being stored in the Memorial Hall. The defibrillator will be installed on the front of the Memorial Hall at the end of the current works, hopefully by the end of May.

In the meantime, other defibrillators can be found on the outside of the Bell and Jorrocks pub, and at Larchmere care home. Remember there is also a portable defibrillator lodged at the pub, which can be borrowed for events.

## Helen Grant

MP for Maidstone and the Weald

I am here to help you in any way that I can. If there is an issue of concern to you, where you believe I can assist, or if you would like to arrange a meeting with me, please email me at [helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk) or telephone **020 7219 7107**.



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## The winners of the Prize Draw

MARCH 2022 DRAW			
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	No.51	Paul Hindmarsh	£20.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	No.27	Jo Taylor	£15.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	No.85	Tom Nash	£10.00

Here are the lucky winners of the March draw. The prize money has increased as we now have 90 members. As you know half of the monthly ticket proceeds are divided between three prize winners and the other half goes towards the upkeep of the Frittenden Memorial Hall.

If you haven't managed to get around to completing a Membership Form yet, but would like to join, please email me at: [shop@acornsstores.co.uk](mailto:shop@acornsstores.co.uk) or give me a ring on 01580 852563 and I will get one to you. You can pay by cash, cheque or by bank transfer (details on the form). As we are exactly half way through the year, there are six draws left, so the Subscription until the end of the year is £6.00 per person.

Thank you for reading this and Good Luck!

Eileen Bridges Organiser

## Church Spring Clean



Please come and join us to give St Mary's Church a Spring Clean, on Wednesday 13th April from 9.45 until 12.00 noon.

Either come for the morning, or just pop in and give us a hand, even if it's for half an hour, you would be very welcome.

Tea, coffee and cake provided, but please bring your own cleaning materials if you can.



## CRANBROOK MUSEUM

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'Wheels of Time' Children's History Detective Trail

**EXHIBITIONS THIS SUMMER**

1. History of Cranbrook Shops
2. Booth family of Cranbrook UK and Cranbrook, America
3. Hop picking in Kent

Carriers Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JX

www.cranbrookmuseum.org Facebook @cranbrookmuseum

## What's On



# Frittenden Fun Run

Raising funds for The Memorial Hall and Community Shop

**Easter Monday 18th April**

Prompt 12 o'clock start from outside the Bell & Jorrockes

Please arrive in plenty of time to register and get your number

3.3 Miles (just over 5K)

Cranbrook Road - Dig Dog Lane - Sand Lane and back to the pub!

Adults - £5 / Under 12s - £3

Everyone welcome - you can run it, walk it, skate or scooter your way round!

Prizes for 1st adult and 1st child runner back very kindly donated by Sean & Rosie at The Bell & Jorrockes

For more info please contact [charlotte@charlotteboyd.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@charlotteboyd.co.uk)

## Jubilee Concert, Friday 3rd June

Roll up, roll up.....to St Mary's Church at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd June for our Jubilee Concert! We hope to offer you instrumental and vocal music of all sorts, much of it with a Jubilee or regal theme.

And, as we've done in the past, we'll be interspersing the music with a variety of readings, both serious and light-hearted.

Younger and not-so-young performers and readers will be delighted to have your company for the evening. Children from older primary school age upwards are welcome to come along too, with a parent.

Admission prices have yet to be decided, but they will be modest - and there will be interval refreshments too!

Save the date! **Judy Staples**

**Sutton Valence Choral Society in Tenterden**  
 conductor Bryan Gipps  
 organist Martyn Williams

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and other Lenten music

**SATURDAY 9TH APRIL**  
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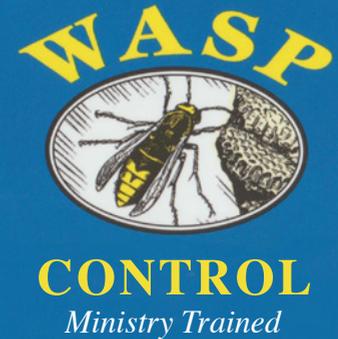
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**Weald Deanery Events**

**St. Michael and All Angels Church, Marden**

Saturday 23rd April - 7.30pm - St George's Day concert - Snowdown Male Voice Choir. Come along to enjoy a programme of music to suit the occasion

Tickets: - £12.00 per person including glass of wine and nibbles

Available from: Graham Codling - 01622 832622 or email: grahamccodling@gmail.com.

**St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Headcorn (Holy Week):**

Maundy Thursday 14th April at 7:30pm - Tenebrae

Good Friday 15th April at 10.00am - Meditative Service

Holy Saturday 16th April at 10:30am - Easter Egg Hunt - all children aged 11 and under (along with a parent/carer) are invited to join the Easter Egg Hunt taking place

Easter Eve Saturday 16th April (Time TBC) - Service of First Light

**St Mary's Church, Sutton Valence**

Holy Saturday 16th April at 2:30pm - Easter Egg Hunt - all children aged 11 and under (along with a parent/carer) are invited to join the Easter Egg Hunt taking place

**Headcorn Health Walks April**

**Wednesday 6th:** Pepperbox Inn circular walk to Boughton Malherbe. Meet at 9.30 for 9.45am start in the car park field to the south of the Pepperbox Inn, Windmill Hill (ME17 1LP). A four mile undulating walk on footpaths and country lanes with two short gentle uphill sections, three stiles and great views if a nice day. A two hour walk with a five minute break half way. It is possible that some footpaths will still be very muddy by April; if so, the route may be shortened.

**Wednesday 20th:** Meet at Parsonage Meadow, next to Headcorn Village Hall, at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a 45 minute social stroll around the village at a pace to suit everyone.

**Wednesday 23rd:** Meet at Charter Hall, Chessenden Lane, Smarden (TN27 8NF) at 9.30 for 9.45am start for a three/ four mile walk across fields and through a small wood, crossing the railway to the edge of Dering Wood. No hills and a few stiles. Parking is available at the hall but please park considerately.

Everyone is very welcome to join us on our free and friendly walks but if you would like more information before doing so, or would like further details of any particular walk, please contact: Barry (barry@watersideoast.com) or Paula (07525 260539).

# Spicy Oriental Cauliflower

Caroline Samuels



**If your tastebuds are in need of tantalising, this dish should do the trick. Whilst easily transporting you to flavour heaven, it happens happily to be nutritious, meat free and vegan to boot. Even the most ardent and staunchest of meat eaters in our household were swayed, one even going so far as to declare it the best vegetarian dish he had ever eaten and a particularly vegetable averse teenager mumbled something about it being 'very nice'. The dish passed muster too with the elder generation, two 84 year olds well seasoned in the tasting arena waxed lyrical. It's light, it's different and it's a flavour sensation.**

The star of the show is the oft maligned cauliflower which rises here to new heights of gloriousness ably assisted by those two great flavour compadres, garlic and ginger and other staples of Far Eastern cuisine. The process kicks off with a brief roasting of the cauliflower which lends it a toasty colour and an intensity of flavour, followed by an even briefer whizz around the frying pan where it is finished off with a coating of sticky, glossy, flavour punching sauce.



I usually serve this with boiled rice (white or brown according to your preference) and stir fry pak choi sprinkled with a little sesame oil and/or soy sauce. You can stir fry/ roast any other suitable veg to hand. As in the photo, strips of stir fried red pepper add to the jazziness.

The route to knocking your tastebuds' socks off is easy and as follows:

To feed 4, you will need 1 large cauliflower or two small ones. Divide into florets, chuck in a large bowl with a tbsp or two of olive oil and loads of freshly ground black pepper, about 10 good twists. Give it a good mix so the florets are well coated then spread them out on a couple of baking trays. Try to ensure the florets are not too close together.

Place the trays in a preheated oven at 220 degrees C/200 degrees fan C/425 degrees F/GM 7 for 20 minutes turning the florets half way through. Do not be alarmed if they become



somewhat blackened, the charring adds to the flavour and as long as you don't exceed the allotted time all should be well.

Whilst the cauli is roasting make the sauce and prep the stir fry veg.

## Sauce

- 2 tsp cornflour
- 2 -3 tbsp soy sauce, preferably light soy sauce
- 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp hoisin sauce
- Pinch or two of chilli flakes (optional)

Mix the soy sauce with the cornflour using a small whisk or fork. Keep stirring until there are no lumps. Add the hoisin and vinegar and if you like a little heat, add a pinch or two of chilli flakes. Give it a good stir to combine

## Vegetable prep

- 4 to 5 cloves of garlic, sliced paper thin
- 4 to 5 spring onions, chopped finely plus one for garnish
- 2-3 cms piece of root ginger. Peel the ginger, a

teaspoon can prove useful for this, then chop into matchsticks. This results in a real punch of ginger so you can chop it finer if you prefer.

Small bag of unsalted peanuts

Heat 2 tbsp olive oil or tbsp of coconut oil in a wok or large frying pan. When smoking hot, add the cauliflower and stir fry for a minute or so, then add the garlic, ginger and spring onion. Cook for a few minutes stirring regularly then add your sauce. Stir fry for 3 or 4 minutes more until the mixture is looking beautifully glossy and sticky. Serve with a sprinkling of unsalted peanuts and finely chopped spring onions.

Enjoy!



Please send in your favourite recipes and pictures ! [frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com)



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# Weather Statistics:

**Lester Gosbee** lester.gosbee@btinternet.com

**February weather statistics:** The warmest Frittenden day in February was 1st, at 15 c/ 59 f, which was also the highest temperature in the UK, equalling Greater London at 15.7 c/ 60.26 f. A record start to 2022. The lowest day maximum temperature in Frittenden in February was 10th at 8.1 c/ 46.58 f. In Frittenden, every day of the month had temperatures above average. The UK's lowest day maximum temperature in February was on 11th at Bainbridge, County Down, Northern Ireland at -3.9 c/ 24.98 f. It was the coldest temperature of the winter. Frittenden's coldest night minimum temperature was 25th at -2.5/ 27.50 f. The UK's lowest night minimum temperature was on 11th at Braemar, Aberdeenshire at -8.1 c/ 17.42 f. Frittenden's lowest night grass minimum temperature was on 11th at -6.7 c/ 19.94 f.

Frittenden's rainfall for February was 59.4mm/ 2.39 inches, which is half an inch above the average. Our wettest day was on 12th with 15.6mm/ 0.61 inches. Frittenden had 4 air frosts and 12 ground frosts in February.

Central England Temperatures(CET) go back to 1659. This February, the CET was 6.8 c/ 44.24 f. In February 1779 the CET was 7.9 c/ 46.2 f. That year, the CETs that followed in July was 17.9 c and August was 17.6 c. It was a hot summer and warm September at 15.2 c. In 2021, the CET in July was 17.7 c, August cool at 15.8 c September CET of 15.9 c. We have just had the 8th warmest winter on record. The average CETs for winter are: December 6.4 c, so we were 2 c above average. January average is 0.5 c, so we were above average. February average is 6.8 c, so we were 2.7 c above average. The winter as a whole was 1.7333 c above average (with a little working out help from Google!).

Storm Eunice was the most destructive widespread storm to hit the South East and Central England since the Burns Night storm of 25th January 1990. That year, winds were 15mph higher than this year, but this year, gusts of 122mph were recorded on the Isle of Wight. Dover and Manston recorded 78mph gusts. Trees and power lines came down. Our Editor James Booth-Clibborn and his neighbours lost power for 6 and a half days. A real inconvenience. Thankfully the weather wasn't as cold as it could have been.

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR APRIL**, for Kent, the Cotswold Counties, East Anglia, Lincolnshire and the Midlands:

High pressure has been dominant during the second half of March, and April will follow suit with a nice bright sunny start for the first weekend. Do not expect a heatwave, as winds will come from the East. Inland, there could be a slight frost. Gardeners take note. Temperatures will be around 12 c/ 54 f, higher at 15 c/ 59 f in the western Cotswold counties and Dorset.

From 5th, a deep area of low pressure will give southern counties some heavy rain and thunderstorms. There will be some squally winds, with possible local flooding. The weather will be very disturbed for a week. There will be the odd drier day. Temperatures will be around 10 – 13 c/ 50 – 55 f. Most places apart from Lincolnshire will surpass their average April rainfall in this spell. Higher pressure will give us some Spring-like weather from the 13th, over the Easter period. There will be blustery showers, southerly at times, with increasing temperatures. Home grown showers will break out from Easter Sunday. We could even get 'one-bang' thunderstorms. Most showers will occur in late afternoon/ evening. Easter weekend will be quite warm, with temperatures around 19 – 21 c/ 66 – 70 f, nice weather for the Frittenden Fun Run. Low pressure over France could bring spells of rain in the Channel Isles and southern coastal counties, but north of London, the weather will remain fine. An easterly breeze will then keep temperatures generally close to average at 12 – 14 c/ 54 – 57 f. From 21st April, the Queen's 96th birthday, Her Majesty should enjoy a day of partial cloud mixed with sunny spells. There will be a rather cool westerly or north westerly breeze. London could reach 15 c/ 59 f, which is above average, low teens degrees Celsius elsewhere. High pressure will build, then, but air will come from the north and showers will only occur around the coasts. In sheltered parts, such as Benson in Oxfordshire, there will be the risk of air frosts. Even in the Weald, we could get a ground frost. Temperatures for most will average around 14 c/ 57 f, but in Sussex, from Hastings to Lyme Regis, Dorset, temperatures will be around 16 – 19 c/ 61 – 66 f in the strong April sunshine. It will feel very pleasant out of the breeze. This spell of weather will see the month out. The past two Aprils have been outstandingly sunny and very dry. In Frittenden, there will be 25mm/ 1 inch of rain in April. Bude in Cornwall reached 25 c/ 77 f on 10th April 2020. Frittenden will get 23.51 c/ 74.30 f. On 10th April 2020, Bude in Cornwall reached 25 c/ 77 f. 2021 had the coldest April since 1922, and had the most air frosts since 1970. The warmest day of April 2021 was Portmadog, Gwynedd, Wales at 20.8 c/ 69.24 f. Frittenden's highest was 16.33 c/ 61.34 f. It was the 4th driest April on record in England at just 4mm in Frittenden. Countrywide the warmest place this April could be London, possibly reaching 22 c/ 72 f over Easter in heavy rain. On 6th April, Cromer in Norfolk may only get up to 8 c/ 46 f. The coldest night will be at Benson in Oxfordshire at -2 c/ 28 f in the third week of April. The average April rainfall in England is 58.7mm/ 2.31 inches. Frittenden's average is 49.2mm/ 1.93 inches. This April, many places will have in excess of 75mm/ 3 inches of rain. April 2021's Central England Temperature was 6.4 c. The average is 8.4 c, so it was 1.74 c below average. April 202's CET was 10.4 c. This April, the CET should be around 8 c/ 46.4 f, close to normal. The average sunshine hours for April in England is 155.2 hours. April 2020 was the sunniest on record, and April 2021 was almost as sunny. Kent's average is 172 hours. This April, most places will have least 5 to 15% above average sunshine. Having said that, sunshine will be below average in Norfolk this April.

**REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE**

This service has been suspended until further notice

**LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS**

<b>Frittenden Parish Council</b>		
Chairman	Tony Staples	01580 852226
Vice Chairman	James Tuke	01580 852372
	Heather Cullingworth	
	Lester Gosbee	01580 852340
	Sarah Murray	01580 852288
	Rosalind Riley	07854679348
	Richard Vernon	01580 852317
Parish Clerk	Emma Nightingale	01580 852537
		01580 292576

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

**Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**  
Town Hall 01892 526121

Cranbrook – Weald Information Centre  
01580 715686

Member for Frittenden & Sissinghurst  
Andy Fairweather 07976 290185  
[andrew.fairweather@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.fairweather@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

**Kent County Council**  
County Hall 01622 671411

Member for Cranbrook  
Sean Holden 01580 714880  
[sean.holden@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sean.holden@kent.gov.uk)

**Policing**  
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Neighbourhood Watch Liaison  
Sean Croucher 01580 852415

Community Warden  
Adam Osborn 07813 695741

We are most grateful for your support and welcome any contributions.  
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Hope you are all enjoying the new magazine

Spring blooms, especially Yellow Daffodils is absolutely the true colour of April in Frittenden

**NEXT EDITION**

Closing date for material for the next edition is April 14th.

Email: [frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com)

To submit an article please send as a word document. We encourage colour images to illustrate your article, and please supply as high resolution (PDF or 300 DPI). If you wish to text images, or What's App please do so on 07768456935.

The Editor wishes it to be known that any opinions expressed in any edition of this magazine are those of the individual contributor and in no way infer any form of agreement, either by the Editor or by St. Mary's Church, of the details given or sentiments implied.

## Frittenden Parish Magazine

Connecting our community

## Send us your submissions

We want to make this magazine as vibrant and interesting as possible. If you have story to tell, a hobby to share, a viewpoint or a picture, even your favourite pet - we would love to share it.

All ages welcome, this magazine is for you and your village.

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