
Frittenden Parish Magazine

Connecting our community



FREE

February 2022

Village Contacts

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rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk

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John Stansfeld 852185

Reader Tony Staples 852226

Treasurer Christopher Page 852230

Deanery Synod James Highwood 852715

Secretary Vacant

Verger Margaret Knight 852322

Director of Music Morwenna Campbell-Smith
07703 522102

Parish Disclosure Officer
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Not operating at present

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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

Cricket, Sports & Social Club
Chair Nick Bull 852105
Secretary Charlotte Sharp 852217

Friends of Frittenden School
Chair Beks Harding 712138

Pre-school Manager
Sarah Davies 852100
Home 852130

Primary School Head of School
Nichola Costello 852250

Gardening Society
President Sue Martin 852425
Chairman Duncan Rouse 852232
Secretary Tricia Palmer 852430
Show Secretary Jeremy Beech 852312
Treasurer / Subs Nicky Robinson 852488

Historical Society
Chair Phil Betts 852243
Treasurer Bernard Millard 852219
Secretary Tor Millard 893703

Marquee Hire Mike Cooper 852108

Memorial Hall
Chair Rosalind Riley 852317
Hire hall, tables/chairs, etc.
Eileen Bridges 852563

Parish Council
Chairman Tony Staples 852226

(For more details of other Local Council contacts, see back page).

Royal British Legion
Chairman Mike Burden 01622 432866
Hon Sec. Howard Lilley 852225

Tennis Club
Chair Nigel Casswell 852772
Treasurer John Marshall 852345

Women's Institute
President Anne Holroyd 893256
Vice President Ros Bowles 852323
Secretary Ros Bowles (temp) 852323
Treasurer Valerie Thomas 762821

Youth Club
Youth Work Manager Beth Kemp 07936 948688
beth.kemp@westkentymca.org.uk

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

FEBRUARY

Wed 2nd	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's 13:00 Warden's Meeting
Fri 4th	16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Memorial Hall
Sat 5th	8:00 United Benefice Prayer Breakfast at Trinity Parish Rooms
Sun 6th	Fourth Sunday before Lent 10:00 Family Morning Worship - St Mary's 11:15 Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's
Mon 7th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 9th	14:30 CAMEO in St Mary's Church
Thu 10th	19:30 Joint PCC @ St Mary's
Fri 11th	16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Memorial Hall
Sun 13th	Third Sunday before Lent 10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's
Mon 14th	19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 16th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's
Sun 20th	Second Sunday before Lent 08:30 Holy Communion (BCP) - Trinity 10:00 Holy Communion (CW) with Sunday Club - St Mary's 16:00 Families Together - Trinity
Mon 21st	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Fri 25th	16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Memorial Hall

Sun 27th	Sunday before Lent 10:00 Morning Worship - Trinity, with Sunday Club 17:30 Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's
Mon 28th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice

Late changes - Please check on the church website for any changes to services or events - 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
6th Feb	10:00	Rob Addis Judith Addis	-	-	John Dutton	Mehraban
	11:15	Christopher Page	Joanna Beech Pete Deaves	-	Debbie Haine	
13th Feb	10:00	Emma Griffin Edward Griffin	Peter Braggins Julia Braggins	Nicola Robinson	Judy Staples	Moore
20th Feb	10:00	Tony Staples Judy Staples	James Booth Clibborn Diane Campos	Elaine Highwood	John Stansfeld	Stansfeld
27th Feb	10:00	John Stansfeld Joanna Beech	Christopher Page Tony Staples	-	John Dutton	Staples

Flower Rota: Feb 6th & 13th - Jennifer Jeffery; Feb 20th & 27th - Pauline Finn
Cleaning Rota: Diane Campos, Alison Langlay-Smith - **Key Rota:** Mike Cooper - 852108



Who holds the future in His hands?

So, Pete, it's February 2020. Listen up, because here's how your next two years are going to pan out.

Three Sundays after you start working in Kent you will close the doors of your churches. It will become unlawful to conduct services in the buildings, so you will have to find new and creative ways of operating.

You will begin to feel a bit like a radio broadcaster as you get into the rhythm of recording sermons and services. You have no idea who is listening in, but you are delighted that the services are well-received. And you are fascinated to hear messages of appreciation from as far away as Ontario, Canada.

You will become a frequent-flyer with 'Zoom' - hovering over the 'mute' button and tinkering with the finer points of 'breakout rooms'. Folks from Frittenden and Sissinghurst churches will have more virtual coffees together than you can shake a stick



Helen Grant MP



With Phoebe Deaves

at. You will even get to welcome virtual coffee guests from a time zone 5½ hours different to us, zooming in all the way from India!

Technology will mean various webinars, and a virtual visit to the Houses of Parliament for the annual Christians in Parliament Prayer Breakfast. It will enable you to attend virtual faith roundtable meetings with the local MP Helen Grant. Further down the line you will have an actual in-person catch up with Helen Grant,



With our Church Wardens, Joanna Beech and John Stansfeld

on a very sunny summer's day at the Milkhouse.

When you are allowed back into church everyone will be required to keep faces covered, and singing won't be permitted, so services will have a very different feel. Christmas services will be scaled down, and involve listening to carols without being permitted to join in - agony.

Eventually, things will start to feel a bit more 'normal', and then...

...Eighteen months in, you will be asked whether your parishes would be able to welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, along to services the following Sunday! Of course, your answer will be 'Yes, with bells on!' Both churches will be greatly blessed by this very special visitor who will speak very engagingly - and without notes... Your eldest daughter will get to interview the Archbishop who will be very down to earth, good humoured, and will take a real interest in what has been going on in this corner of Kent.

If you had told me any of this two years back I think I would have laughed! And yet, two years down the line, every word is just what happened.

What will the next two years hold for me - for you? Actually, there's something that's far better than knowing what the future holds. What is that? I hear you ask?

Better by far, is knowing Who holds the future in His hands. Jesus Christ himself, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, and is the one to whom we can entrust our lives.

Our church families are made up of ordinary people, young and old, who know this is true. We have started to grasp that this makes all the difference in the world, and we'd love you to know the same. Please check out frittendenchurch.org.uk and come along to one of our services and find out for yourselves.

Every blessing for the year ahead

Pete

Decorating for Christmas

Margaret Knight

We as flower arrangers look forward to getting together to decorate the church.

This year we had lovely carols playing as we gathered candle poles for the Carol Service, and decorated them with long trails of ivy. We tend to have different areas adorned by the same person and the younger and taller people doing high window sills and the star on the Christmas tree. We all bring evergreen foliage, lots of holly, ivy and coloured twigs and then someone volunteers to crawl into the cubby hole under the stairs to bring out the boxes of candles and bags of decorations

to brighten up the greenery. Many years ago I did a wedding in London with the red silk poinsettias which have worn really well and look good with our red carpet.

The Christmas tree is very kindly donated by Mr Fuller at Rock Hill and put into a large log which keeps it really steady and brought to church, so very helpful. This year Rev. Pete came with me to meet Mr Fuller, who was very moved by a prayer from Pete.

As everyone knows checking the lights to see they are working can be rather nerve wracking and we all say 'bingo' as we switch them on and there is light! We have a break for coffee and tea and homemade fork biscuits and a catch up. After being fired up by refreshments we finish decorating the tree and clear away all the rubbish before returning home to do our own arrangements. We much look forward to Carols by Candlelight and God's wonderful love revealed to us at Christmas.



Happy New Year to you all



We are delighted to bring you the news and events already happening around the Parish in 2022 and great to have more young voices. In the February issue:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury visits St Mary's Church (page 4)
- The first update from the Weald of Kent Young Farmers Club (page 8)
- More (very welcome) young voices with University Bell Ringing (page 16) and Cranbuzz (page 26)
- What to plant in February from The Gardening Society (page 10)

- James Parry gives us a blow by blow account of The Jorrocks Ski Trip (page 22)
- Ice Cold in Where? - Mike Cooper's 'Reflections' (page 32)
- 'A cake is a way of showing kindness and love' ... 'In the Kitchen' with Sian Hunter (page 40)

Many interesting articles from our societies & organisations, views, news and stories to engage and connect our community ... that is the magazine's ambition.

Thank you for your support

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



Weald of Kent Young Farmers Club

By Dan Smith, chairman, and Claire Eckley, Secretary

We would like to start by thanking the village for letting us be part of the community. We previously met at Marden Sports Club. To say hello to the village we did a litter pick in October. This was part of a social action project organised by the National Federation of YFCs, where all 580 clubs in England and Wales were invited to take part. In 2019, in a similar project, we planted a hedge at the Sports Club – it's growing nicely!

Weald of Kent Young Farmers Club began in November 2016. Some farming families, who had been part of Ashford YFC many years ago, believed there was a need for a YFC in the Weald that would allow young people to meet, socialise, learn, have fun, and be a lifelong network. Farming can be a lonely business and the industry suffers with poor mental health. Cranbrook YFC closed around 2001. The club meets twice a month in the Memorial Hall, on a Thursday night for members age 12 to 28. Our members come from as far afield as Kings Hill, and Sedlescombe. Anyone can join - it's not just for young people working in the industry. We usually meet for a farm visit,

or activity somewhere between Hawkhurst and Coxheath. Or perhaps 10 pin bowling, a treasure hunt, or a touch rugby session!

We take part in competitions such as showing livestock, stock judging, tractor driving, craft, and public speaking. Some competitions progress to National, where competitors can come from Kent to Cornwall and Cumbria. Below are some pictures from the Kent County Summer Fayre in July 2021, a small version of the Kent County Show. We came 4th overall, and one of our members was reserve champion with her beef calf. We borrowed nine calves and lambs from three Staplehurst farmers. We had a lot of fun with the other clubs – it's not just about the colour of your rosette.



YFCs are member led, not leader led. This means members make decisions in proper meetings. The members vote, not parents or club leaders. At the start of September, Dan became our chairperson in his third year of membership. Dan has a strong interest in the agricultural industry and lives in Frittenden. Our vice-chair is Tom who helps run his family farm in Staplehurst. Holding an office in YFC helps young people become more confident and self-reliant.

We have won two National YFC Achiever



Awards, one for New Member, Sophie in 2020, and in 2021, we were runners up in the Farm Safety category. The club has funded First Aid training and accredited courses, including tractor, quad and chainsaw, the grant coming from the David Friday Memorial Fund via Kent Community Foundation.

In September, we attended the Weald of Kent Ploughing Match in Pluckley, with our Guess the Price of the Tractor fundraiser game. Here, we promoted our new members evening, our first meeting at the Memorial Hall. We now have 24 members.

Thanks must go to The Rural Youth Trust, Kent County Agricultural Society, The Weald of Kent Ploughing Match Association, and the Blakemore Foundation for financial support. Also to our local farming community for all sorts of support.

If you would like more information;
wealdofkentyc@gmail.com
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What to plant in February

Duncan Rouse

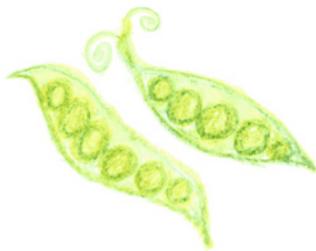
Illustrations by Emma Griffin



Shallots are normally the first crop that I get in the ground and generally I follow the old and trusted rule of planting the shallot bulbs on the shortest day and harvesting them on the longest day. Having said

that it is not too late to get them in the ground now providing of course that the earth is not frozen solid. Garlic cloves can also be planted at this time of year too.

The old practice of sowing Broad Beans in the Autumn is still carried out with great success by many gardeners but early February is also a good time to sow Broad Beans in pots or boxes in a cool green house or cold frame and these will then be ready for planting out at the end of March. Peas can also be treated in a similar manner.



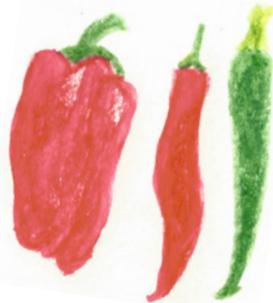
If you have a heated greenhouse January/February is also a good time for sowing leek and onion seeds in trays which once germinated and grown to about 4 to 6 inches and about the thickness of a matchstick they can be potted up ready for planting out in the vegetable garden in late March/early April.

Tomato plants can also be sown in a heated

greenhouse or even indoors as early as January/February but these plants, unless they are to be grown in a greenhouse, will need to be nurtured in the greenhouse or indoors until the risk of frosts has passed – generally late May/June. I also plant Capsicum and Chilli pepper seed at the same time as tomatoes and in each case the early start should give plenty of time for the fruits to ripen during the summer so that you are not left with a lot of green and unripe fruit at the end of the season.



With the benefit of a heated Greenhouse you can also sow Celery in February/March.



With most other vegetable seeds I would normally wait until at least March to sow and thus now is a good time to buy the seed of your preferred varieties before stocks are sold out.

If you are a fan of Forced Rhubarb, February is a good time to start to cover the crowns with a large container or bin (to exclude the light), thus encouraging those long pale pink stems which are so good to eat! Remember, however, to give the plant a break from forcing at least every other year as this treatment does weaken the plants considerably and they will need a year or so to recover.

Events

The Committee has arranged the following events for 2022 - as we all know from the last two years these plans may well change, but we can at least hope that we will be able to do some, but hopefully all, of the below.

Our first event will be the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 9 March at 7pm. It is unlikely that the renovation of the inside of Frittenden Memorial Hall will have finished by then, so our meeting will take place in St Mary's Church, Frittenden. We hope by then to have the Year Book ready to hand out and to collect subscriptions.

We also have a speaker, Sophie Leathart and the topic will be "Folklore and Flowers". Light refreshments will be served. Even if you are not a member of the Gardening Society, please feel free to come along.



There will be two shows this year:

Spring Show 9th April

Autumn Show 3rd September

and judges have already been booked for these dates. The shows are always lovely to look around and we serve teas and cakes as well. Again anyone is welcome to come and have a look round at 3pm when the judging has concluded.

We have also arranged visits to two local gardens. We try to visit gardens in around Frittenden every year, as well as gardens further afield. Later on in the summer we have a social evening usually in a Committee members' garden.



We have nearly 100 members in total but are always pleased to welcome new members. The annual subscription is a very modest £5 single or £10 for two. Myself, Nicky Robinson (our Treasurer) or Diane Campos can help you if you would like to join.

Tricia Palmer



From the kitchen of the Old Dragon.

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Roman Kent

Sue Betts

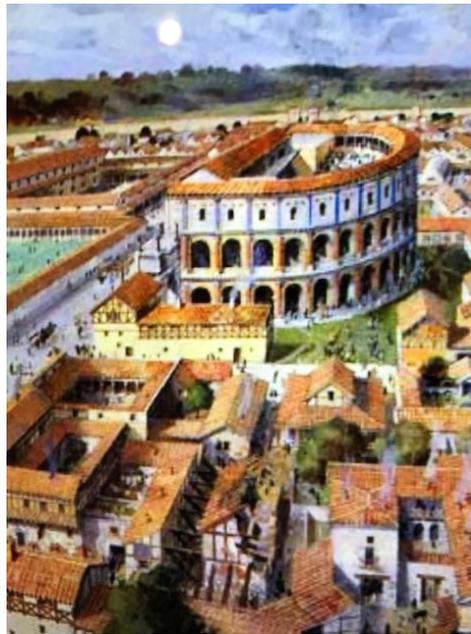
The topic for our November meeting was Kent during the Roman Period, running from AD43 to 410. Our speaker was Dr Elizabeth Blanning, an archaeologist whose studies have focussed on aspects of Kent's rural life during this period.

Elizabeth explained that the modern name of 'Kent' derives from 'Cantium', meaning promontory or frontier, which was used by the Romans to describe its position jutting out into the Channel. While Kent provided useful entry points to England, and many prominent Roman sites have been discovered in the county, the more expensive and elaborate villas are to be found both to the North of London and in the West country.

After the invasion in AD43, the local population continued to be mainly indigenous, administered by incomers, who were not always Roman. Meanwhile, high status Britons could be found in Rome.

Maps showed the Roman road layout, with roads from the ports of Richborough, Dover and Lympne converging on Canterbury, then continuing as Watling Street up to Rochester and London. The geology of Kent, with its highly varied terrain, played a part in influencing the siting of roads and towns. Roads were built on higher ground, while farms were often found running along the line of two different geological strata

allowing greater diversity in agriculture. Similarly, temples were usually sited close to water, as in the case of Canterbury where the river was immediately adjacent. Elizabeth showed detailed plans of various Roman buildings, including: the fort at Richborough which was occupied for the entire duration of the Roman occupation; villas such as Lullingstone discovered in 1939; and significant towns like Canterbury.



Turning to excavation, Elizabeth explained that the Government's 1990 'Planning Policy Guidance 16' placed a duty on applications for new development to include the preservation of archaeological remains. This prompted a significant increase in fieldwork with many more rural sites being excavated as a result of new housing development.

Nowadays, members of the public often email Elizabeth to ask her if items they

have found might be of Roman origin. Recently, a man sent photos of various pots discovered during work terracing his garden. These were burial urns with cremated remains still lodged inside. Unfortunately, the garden works were being carried out by a mechanical digger which did not immediately spot the artefacts, so unfortunately there was some limited damage, but it was still an amazing find.

Of course, Frittenden has its own Roman 'find', a beautiful pair of large urns unearthed in 1857 lying some 15 ft below the surface in Leggs Wood. Unlike many such finds (and possibly thanks to the absence of large diggers in 1857) these urns are both whole and with only slight damage to one. They were on display in the hall for the evening but can usually be seen at Cranbrook Museum.



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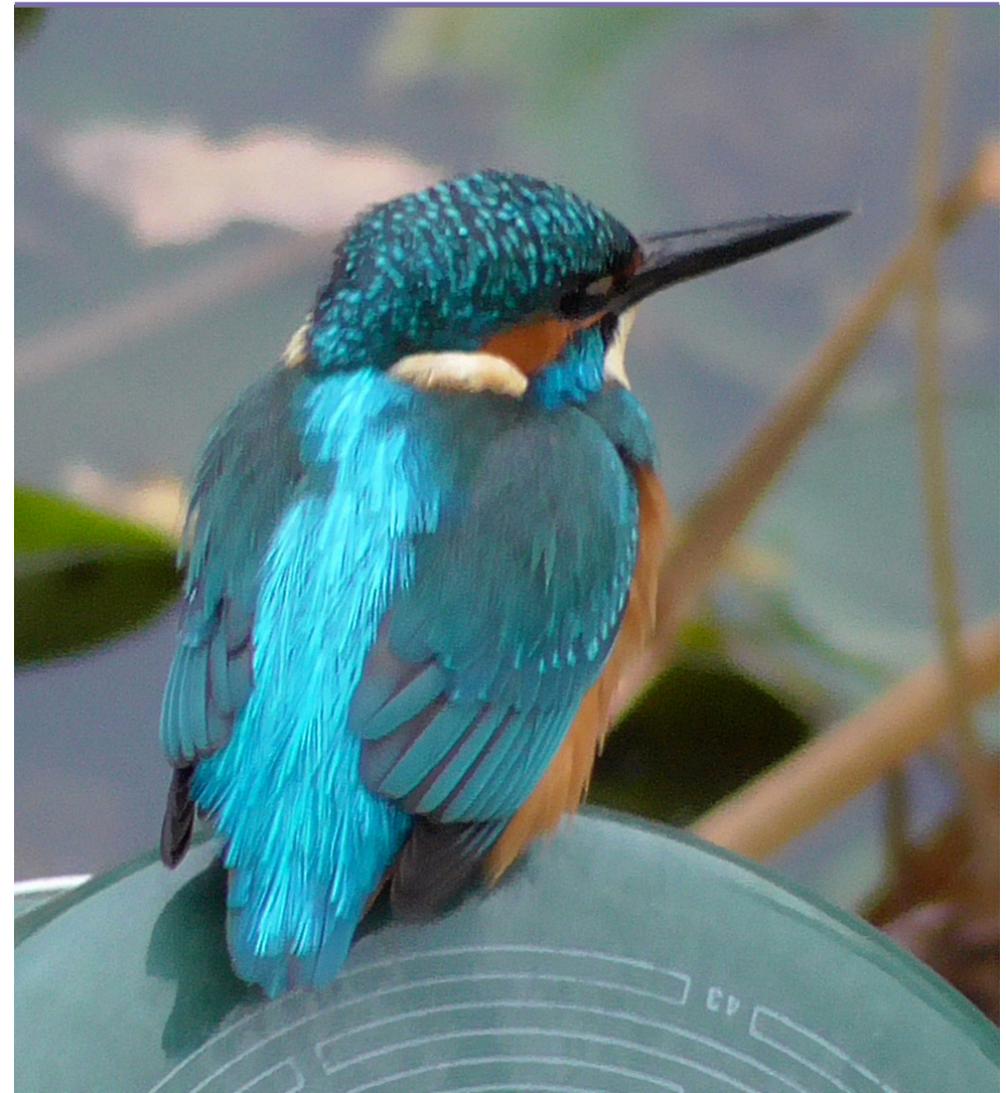
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Photography by David Hall

Our Winter Visitor

We welcome monthly photography submissions accompanied by a caption to frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

University Ringing

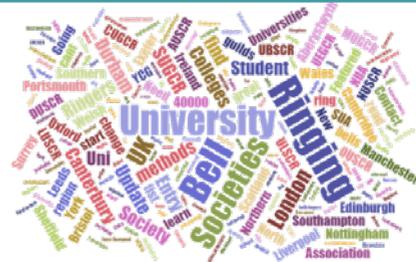
Rebecca Steele

The 26th January is a date fixed in the mind of anyone who is hoping to attend university this September. This is the date that UCAS applications have to have been submitted and choices made.

Many teenagers in Frittenden and across the whole country face the daunting but exciting prospect of leaving home and family and embarking on independent life for the first time. The decision as to what university they should apply to will undoubtedly have an impact on the rest of their lives. I am included in this age group and, while I have found the decision slightly scary, I do have one comfort, having learnt to ring at Frittenden, I now have a whole support network of bell ringers across university towns up and down the country. Whether I decide to head north east, to Durham, or south west, to Exeter, I already know that the ringing community will give me a warm welcome.



Most universities offer membership of a bell ringing society who recruit students at their annual fresher fair. Whether new students are already experienced ringers or have never been in a ringing room before, the University Societies offer a great pastime where you can escape any stresses of academic life. Many university towns



[WWW.UNIVERSITYRINGING.ORG](http://www.universityringing.org)

also have great cathedrals or churches with plenty of ringing opportunities and new friends outside of student life.

I have based my short list of universities on best location for my chosen subject and have shortlisted five universities that I think I would be happy studying at. I am now looking at other aspects of university life to help me decide on my final choice. After I posted on a bell ringing FaceBook group, I was lucky to be approached by three university ringing societies with offers to join their ringing practices and have a tour of the university before I need to make my final choice.

Wherever I eventually end up (after hopefully passing a few exams!) I have the reassurance that, as a bell ringer, I will have bell towers nearby who will welcome me into their practice night and most likely for a drink or curry afterwards. I would encourage any Frittenden teenagers heading to university, either this year or in the future, to look out for the University Bell Ringing Society at the Freshers Fair. Alternatively visit <http://www.universityringing.org/> for more information about the university ringing society where you are interested in studying.

If you would like to try ringing before you head off to university, please do contact me or come along to Frittenden tower on a Monday at 7:30pm, you will be very welcome.



Are you interested in joining the governing board of Frittenden Primary School?



We have vacancies for two people to join our board that will provide an opportunity to work with us as we support the staff and children in our school.

If you are interested and would like to talk through this opportunity please contact Helen Stansfeld at

helen.stansfeld@frittenden.kent.sch.uk
or 01580 852185

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Gosbee's Gossip

Lester Gosbee

I will start by wishing all readers a very Happy New Year. I hope that you are all managed to keep safe from the Omicron variant of Covid, avoiding isolation over Christmas and New Year. I do feel quite positive that normal life will return this year, although highly vulnerable people may have to continue to be cautious.

Sadly, on 3rd December, Frittenden lost a longstanding resident, George Bull. His son Tim has written about George's life (Page 37). I am sure that you will join me in sending our condolences to the family. Frittenden also lost long term resident Irene Lenz on 6th January. Both George and Irene died in Larchmere House. It is very tough having relatives in Nursing Homes in these trying times (as we know as my father in law died in Hartley House a year ago), as now only three nominated visitors are allowed. In recent years, Erica pushed her mum up in her wheelchair to say hello in the summer. I shall miss her. Sending love and kindest thoughts to Irene's daughter Erica and her granddaughter Michelle. Erica kindly sent me a summary of her mum's long life: 'Mrs Irene K Lenz died in Larchmere Nursing Home in the early hours of 6th January 2022. Irene moved to Frittenden after meeting Konrad, who worked as a dairy farm manager at Ponds Farm, then moved some years later to Buckhurst Farm. Irene lived in Frittenden for more than 64 years. Irene was a qualified nurse, and when she moved to Frittenden, she immersed herself in helping on the farm, working on Sorrell's farm in Sand Lane, and helped to look after loved pets and homes in the village. She also worked as a dinner lady at Frittenden School and she coached a very successful netball team. Irene's funeral will be at Charing Crematorium at 11.30am on Friday 4th February, and afterwards at the Bell and Jorrockes to share memories.'

The Collins family (my in-laws) have got some big birthdays to celebrate in 2022. Heather's son Elliott will be 21 on 16th May, and George's youngest daughter Pippa will be 18 on 2nd July. Heather's partner Mark Plummer will be 60 on 2nd July. There will also be a family wedding on 20th August, when Fiona's eldest son Rob is marrying Sarah Ward. I have been asked to arrange good weather. No pressure then! For Christmas, Hazel bought me a luxury day out on a steam train in May, including a five course meal en route. It will be a rare occasion to dress smartly. I'm really looking forward to it. I hope that I will not be ill (something that I am brilliant at). Even the medics are not sure of how to treat my heart failure. It is currently doing its own thing, overriding the defibrillator pacemaker. Maybe I should put my name down for a pig's heart? The only drawback would be that, as I like the sun, I could turn into crackling!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is being celebrated from 2nd June, giving us 4 days to mark the event. There was a public meeting on 10th January, and many great ideas were discussed. If you have any ideas, please put them forward and help to make this a fantastic celebration. Any younger contributors would be very welcome.

In the news we have three men who think that the rules do not apply to them: Boris Johnson and his 'Partygates', Novak Djokovic, possibly one of the World's greatest tennis stars and his anti-vaccine status, and then we have Prince Andrew. He has kept some very questionable company. The old saying is that 'if you lay down with dogs, you get up with fleas'. Another fitting saying for Andrew is that 'if you play with fire you can get burnt'. I just feel very sorry for the Queen. I think that Lord Sugar would just tell him "You're fired", but Andrew already has been. I must just add a little balance and say that Keir Starmer has now been photographed at a drinks party during lockdown.

Enough of that, time for a joke or two:
I know a lady who has taken up eating Continental breakfasts and has lost 20 pounds....she had her handbag stolen.

My husband is great at multi tasking, he can do nothing and still annoy me.

As I write it looks as if all the planned January events will take place, albeit with reduced numbers of performers and audience.

As usual I have included the local pantos that I know of. All good pantos include enough music, song and dance to justify being named in "music notes" and certainly deserve to be well supported. The second half of the month seems quiet, but looking further ahead March looks busy. So my February list is:

Friday 4th at 7.30pm, **Sat 5th** 2.30pm & 7.30pm – It's the musical event of the year, Leeds village panto at Leeds Village Hall ME17 1N. This time the subject is "Rapunzel". Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ladsrapunzzel.

Sat 5th Feb. 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, ME15 7RN, the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra continues its season with a concert that includes Beethoven's Violin Concerto – soloist Benjamin Baker, and Vaughan Williams' Symphony No.5. Tickets 07817 429143 nor on the door.

Wed 9th to **Sat 12th Feb**, 7.30pm + 2.30 matinee on Saturday, the Hollingbourne panto for 2022 is "Goldilocks and the Grannies". This is always a

quality production. Tickets call 07977 497324

Sat 12th Feb. 7.30pm at the Central Theatre 170 High Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RG, Chatham, the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra's concert includes works by McCunn, Canteloube, Delius and Beethoven. Tickets from the box office 01634 338 338 or at the door.

No news of TV for February so I revert to the educational bit: 1st February will be the centenary of the birth of Renata Tebaldi (1/2/1922 – 19/12/2004). She was an Italian soprano popular in the post-war period, and especially prominent as one of the stars of La Scala, San Carlo and the Metropolitan Opera. Often considered among the great opera singers of the 20th century, she focused primarily on the verismo roles of the lyric and dramatic repertoires. Arturo Toscanini called her voice "la voce d'angelo" ("the voice of an angel") and La Scala music director Riccardo Muti called her "one of the greatest performers with one of the most extraordinary voices in the field of opera."

Brian Hardy

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Hopefully we are returning to some kind of normality, we certainly can see a glimmer of hope as we start to organise events again!!



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Dates for our diary...

Six Nations kicks off on:

Sat 5th Feb
2.15pm Ireland v Wales
4.45pm Scotland v England

Sun 6th Feb
We will mark the beginning of the Queens Platinum Jubilee with

12-2.30pm British Lunch
3.00pm Jazz
5.00pm Freshly made pizza

March 27th Mothering Sunday

April 8/9/
10th April BEER FESTIVAL



£800 has been raised from a Bell and Jorrocks Christmas Golf Society Day and The New Year's Day Football, both events were organised by TC, to which we are always very grateful for his energetic efforts which help raise awareness to a very worthwhile cause.

Team B&J

How kind are Frittenden people...

Colin Bullock

In mid-November, I was admitted to Pembury Hospital for a rather serious surgical operation. The entire team that took care of me were incredible, right from the consultant surgeon who performed the magic, to the man who put me to sleep and woke me up so efficiently and the entire team who looked after me for the next seven days. So, nothing but good things to say about the NHS and all the caring and thoughtful staff who took such wonderful care of me.

But the people that I really want to be recognised and acknowledged for their kindness and consideration are our very own residents of Frittenden.

Now, I'm not going to name individual people for fear of embarrassing them, but YOU know who you are!

I mean to include everyone, from the person who drove me to the hospital and collected me seven days later and delivered me safely back to my home.

I mean to include all the kind people who volunteered to walk Gracie on a rota that meant she got to go out at least twice and sometimes three times a day.

I mean to include the people who offered to foster Gracie while I was away and the person who actually

did board her for a few days until the house/dog sitter I hired could take over.

I mean the considerate person who accompanied me to Pembury Hospital for my pre-admission consultation, only to be told that due to Covid it was "Patients Only" so she had to sit alone in my car for almost 3 hours waiting for me; without a complaint I might add.

I mean to include all the thoughtful people who offered to food shop for me.

I mean to include all the lovely people who sent me get well cards.

I especially mean to include the adorable couple who were instrumental in organizing the rota on Facebook for the delightful meals that were delivered to my home every day for three weeks.

I REALLY mean to include all the very talented chefs who provided me with a hot meal every day, there were some exquisite dishes conjured up, worthy of a place on Master Chef!

So, a huge "Thank you" to the very civilised residents of our village, you have no idea how much your kind deeds mean to me.

I can tell you that I'm convinced your selfless acts contributed in no small way to my speedy recovery and convalescence.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, I'm very lucky to be privileged enough to live in this village.

God bless you all.



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Sestriere...

By James Parry



This was the third Jorrocks ski trip, with the previous one's being at La Thuille (2019) and Valmeinier(2020)

The booking for Sestriere was originally made for 2021, but due to the pandemic, and the organisers, Chappers and Sue, powers of negotiation, it was carried over to this year.

A group of 37 descended on the Olympic Village (Turin 2006), in two groups. The advanced guard of 5, (who selflessly checked out, bars, restaurants and the Ski runs) and the remaining 32 who arrived 3 days later.

Despite the size of the group, and differing ages, one of the joys of the trip, was that everyone intermingled, whether it be at mealtimes, or on the slopes. People were always meeting at ski lifts, and going off for a few runs together, before bumping into other group members and doing similar again. This led to the perfect situation, of



everyone doing exactly as they wanted, with no pressure put upon them.

After an exciting first day skiing, the first night's 'Apres Ski' gave the youngsters, an opportunity, to sample some of the bars,



namely the Gargote, Kovo, and Black Pepper. The results of which unsurprisingly, made the Hotel foyer, look like a scene from 'Casualty' as various walking wounded, made their way back having skied across the piste from the bar. (No names, what goes on tour, stays on Tour!)

Despite their late nights, the youngsters would be down at breakfast, ready to crack on with another days skiing, seemingly

totally unaffected by their antics the night before.

The more venerable of us, relaxed, drank and ate with gusto, for which Chappers & Sue must be thanked for incorporating a 'buffet' breakfast and Diner, into the overall package cost..The food was good and varied.



On such occasion, when people did eat out, there were the usual translation difficulties, which in one case, resulted, in a plate of Tagliata, (sliced steak and fries) rather than the Tagliatelle that was ordered. We should

have realised something was wrong, when the waiter asked the person, how would he like the meat cooked!

The trip was blessed by good weather, glorious sunshine, and a topping of snow before the main party arrived. It served us for the week, but was rapidly thawing on the last day. We timed it just right with no more snow forecast for the next 10 days.

Whilst everything ran smoothly, the one downside was that Scarlet, twisted her knee badly on her very first day of skiing, and was unable to ski anymore. That said, she never outwardly, let on as to how disappointed she was, and continued to smile through the rest of the trip, with the help of Al.

In summary, another Jorrocks ski trip, another huge success.

All that remains to say is a massive thanks to the organisersChappers, Sue, Rosie and Sean

And where are we going next year??

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 or telephone **020 7219 7107**.



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Another year and it's already the middle of January!

Becky Bruce

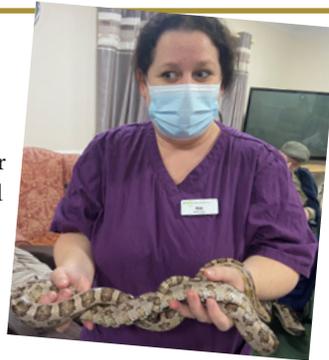
Larchmere has been busy as always but we are keeping our heads above water and hopefully our residents happy.

Christmas has come and gone in a flash. Since I last wrote we have had singers, exotic animals, carol singers, violinists, ukulele players, saxophonists and even a slap-up Xmas staff dinner at the B&J - to name but a few things that have happened.

As far as Christmas was concerned, I think it was the best yet. Everyone was in a wonderful Christmassy mood. All staff went above and beyond to make everything extra special. We had a super raffle, Santa dished out some first class presents for the residents and the Christmas food was as yummy as usual. Spirits were high and to top it off there was lots of singing, Christmas hymns and tunes that we could all join in with.

We felt very honoured as the charity 'Lest We Forget' supplied us with a magnificent trio - singer, violinist and pianist - who are all

professionals, but spend some of their spare time performing for this wonderful charity. We only qualified a visit as our resident, Geoffrey Palser, is a veteran as he worked in the RAF during the War. They were absolutely incredible - we found out the violinist had played in front of the Queen on many occasions and the singer was very like Very Lyn. The whole thing was a delight.



Sean and Rosie did a wonderful job catering for us 'motley crew' for our Xmas bash. Managing to feed and water about 50 staff - it goes without saying it was wonderful.

Food superb, plenty of drink and they handled us superbly. Also, our lovely village brought carol singers to Larchmere and gave a wonderful performance, it brought such a festive mood to Larchmere.

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A company called Animalia brought in the cute and somewhat unusual (!) animals to pet. We had a corn snake! Most residents were happy to hold the slippery fella it was the staff who were the wimps! There were also rabbits, tortoises, mini bearded dragon type creatures and even Skinny Pigs (guinea pigs without hair). So lovely to see the residents smile as they held them close (or not so close)!

Our ukulele player, Rob is a blast - he has come twice recently. He is loved by all and got so many people up dancing - carers were seen bouncing around the room like teenagers at a disco! Residents were clapping, swaying and tapping their feet.

We also had a biscuit making day which was enjoyed by all. Mixing the dough then cutting out the shapes. Mess everywhere but so much

enjoyment. This was a particularly special occasion as the recipe was from our late nurse, Sue Graham, whose family wanted as many people that she knew to make this recipe in her memory and send pictures back to the family, which of course we did and the recipe was absolutely delicious!

Chocolate chip and lemon shortbread - Yum yum

Enjoy the rest of January everyone and keep warm.



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Language Eye

Elizabeth Briffa Year 9
Cranbrook School

One of the joys of learning foreign languages is discovering words or phrases we don't have a direct translation of in English. These can introduce us to concepts we hadn't thought of or which are culturally revealing of another country. It is satisfying when they neatly sum up an experience, we all have, but just haven't been able to express before. So, here's a list of

my favourites. Are you someone who has been harbouring a fair bit of Politikerleden recently or have you spent time tartling? Would a bit of Waldeinsamkeit solve your problem? Which ones of these do you think we should adopt?

Politikerleden (Danish) - Having disgust for politicians!

Hygge (Danish) - To create a warm atmosphere and enjoy the good things in life with good people.

L'esprit de l'escalier (French) - Literally "staircase wit", meaning when you think of the perfect retort too late.

Sobremesa (Spanish) - The moment after a meal when everyone has finished eating, but people sit and chat, play cards and/or drink coffee.

Fremdschämen (German); Myötähäpeä (Finnish) - second-hand embarrassment: that feeling of awkward embarrassment on behalf of someone else.

Waldeinsamkeit (German) - The feeling of being alone in the woods.

Yūgen (Japanese) - a deep and mysterious sense of the beauty of the universe and the sad beauty of human suffering.

Tartle (Scots) - If you meet someone you have met before, but forget their name, then you've tartled. It means a hesitation in recognizing a person (or thing).

Iktsuarpok (Inuit) - the act of keeping going outside excitedly to see whether your expected guest/parcel is arriving.

Zeg (Georgian) - the day after tomorrow. Actually, we used to have the word 'overmorrow' in English, so maybe we should bring that one back!

**Taken from and with thanks to
Cranbuzz the student produced
Cranbrook School newsletter**

Egrets and Exploitation

Rebecca Warren

Sometimes I wonder if we will ever have a white Christmas again - sparkling snow, crisp air, frozen fingers ... Instead the winters become warmer and wetter. So let me recommend a substitute if, like me, you are craving the sight of sparkling, snow-white: in the fields immediately adjacent to the east side of Hareplain Road between the junction with Frittenden Road and the Three Chimneys pub, there is an ever-increasing flock of little egret. Egrets are members of the heron family and although only the grey heron is native to the UK, three subspecies of egret have also moved here in recent years: the great white egret, the little white

egret and the cattle egret. How do you tell them apart? Well, great white egret are heron-sized with black feet; little egret are smaller than herons and have distinctive yellow feet; and cattle egret... well they look like little egrets most of the time... But I think these are little egret.

Little egrets are found across Asian, Europe and Africa but they only began to arrive here in significant numbers in the 1950s and first bred here, in Dorset, in 1996. There are now thought to be about 1000 breeding pairs in the UK and perhaps 12 000 birds overwintering here. Like all herons, they associate with water, feeding on fish and other pond life and insects, but their colonisation does not seem to threaten any of our native species or habitats (indeed they'd be welcome in our pond, where they could feast on sticklebacks!)

Nowadays little egret are valued for their sheer beauty and elegance - but like many beautiful animals, these same qualities once led to their virtual extinction. The snow-white plumes at the back of the egrets' heads were so valued for European hat ornaments that they were smuggled into Europe for staggering sums of money; at today's prices, these feathers would fetch £875 per ounce! Indeed it was the shocking plight of the egret in particular that led two concerned groups of women in the late C19th to begin campaigning against the use of exotic feathers in fashion. In 1890, they produced their first leaflet - 'The Destruction of Ornamental-Plumaged Birds' - to spread their message and a year later they formed the Society for the Protection of Birds, which received its Royal charter in 1904.

So next time you are passing down Hareplain, glance eastwards and see if you can find the glittering white plumage of the little egrets - and spare a thought for the feisty ladies who cared enough to do something about their tragic exploitation in pursuit of greed. An example for us all, I feel.



Illustration by Rebecca Warren

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Animals in the dark

Colin Bullock

- Cats can see six times better than humans at night.
- Sloths sleep 15 hours a day and feed on leaves in the treetops at night.
- Owls have the best night vision of any animal.
- Hippos spend at least 6 hours a night eating an average of 88 pounds (40KG) of grass.
- Scorpions glow if a black light is shone on them.
- Tarantulas only hunt at night.
- A single bat can consume hundreds of mosquitoes in one night.
- For protection from predators, most salamanders are nocturnal and have toxic skin.
- Moonrats spend their nights marking their territory with an onion-like smell and hunting fish.

- The Common House Gecko will hide inside a lampshade waiting for prey attracted to the light.
- Vampire bats use their teeth to cut the skin of unsuspecting sleeping animals, then lap up the blood.
- The American nocturnal possum will pretend to be dead for up to 6 hours when threatened.
- Contrary to popular belief, bats are NOT blind; however, they do see better at night than the daytime.
- The Greater Bulldog Bat uses large, clawed feet to catch an average of 30 fish a night.
- Hedgehogs do not make very good pets; they sleep all day and forage at night.

Riddles

1. If you pronounce me correctly, it will be wrong. If you pronounce me wrong, it will be correct. What word am I?
 2. The poorest people have me; rich people lack me; a fool knows me; a hero fears me. If you eat me, you will die. What am I?
- (Answers on the back page)



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Tales from the Town Hall

Belated Happy New Year to one and all. I was lucky enough to spend the early part of the month on the annual Jorrocks ski trip. Delayed by nearly two years, a sunny week in Italy was enjoyed by about 35 regulars.

After the one off green waste collection at the end of last year another one off collection will have started on 10 January so please look out for the email. We hope to get back to a regular fortnightly service towards the end of the first third of 2022. I must stress again that those who have subscribed to the service will get the numbers of collections you have paid for.

Fly tipping remains a problem and I have personally reported three incidents this year between Sissinghurst and Frittenden. The problem is extremely difficult to police and positive action again very difficult to implement. I'm not sure posters really deter the people responsible who are basically lawless. On a positive note I think the response we get to reported incidents is very good and in my experience the mess usually cleared within a couple of days.

The number of councillors at TW is to be cut. Currently the council which is under no overall control, has 48 councillors who represent the borough's 50,000 voters in 20 wards. Frittenden and Sissinghurst is a single member ward, ie only me. However this is all to change in 2024. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has said we need to reduce from 48 to 39. They will also be adjusting the number of wards and ward boundaries. We will probably be tagged onto a three member ward possibly Cranbrook.

So I'm not sure yet how this will effect us but we are set to change. I find this a real shame as I love representing our small rural communities. I am up

for election in 2023 and then we will have another election in 2024 after the changes.

On positive notes I have been busy working within my portfolio on cabinet. Homelessness, housing, health and community spaces have kept me busy and we as a council have had many successes. Homelessness has practically been eradicated in our town centres. New facilities for their transition to full time housing are now fully operational and the numbers of social rent schemes we are supporting increased.

Please feel free to contact me regarding anything you feel I can help with. Very best

Andy Fairweather
 TWBC Ward of Frittenden and Sissinghurst
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Ice Cold in Where?

Mike Cooper

Do you remember that extraordinary film called “Ice Cold in Alex”? It was a Second World War film about a small group of military people apparently thrown together by chance, trying to make their way out of the desert in a very unreliable army truck to Alexandria and safety. They were British, or so one thought at the start, but as the film progressed it became possible then likely then certain that one of them was in fact a German spy. This character, played by Anthony Quayle, was both charismatic and enigmatic, and was the focus of the film.

By the time they had succeeded in reaching Alex, which they would not have done without the assistance of the German, they all knew what his fate would be. Nevertheless, when they got to British headquarters the senior British officer of the group insisted upon taking the German into the Officers’ Mess for the long-awaited ice cold beers that they had many times promised themselves during their desert journey. The expression in Quale’s eyes as he sips his beer, knowing that he would shortly be shot, is memorable cinema.

From time to time in my voyaging over the years a beer, or a drink of some other sort, taken for a very particular reason or perhaps no special reason at all, has achieved memorable status for me. I have never been able to forget walking through the woods north of Copenhagen with my good friend Mik and his dog, nursing a hangover from the night before, and Mik saying “Do you fancy a cold beer?” When I asked if we were getting near to a pub, he explained that one didn’t need a pub to have a beer, disappeared into the undergrowth and emerged with two bottles of cold Carlsberg! About a half an hour later he did the same thing, and then explained that this was a favourite walk which he did often, and on which he often felt

like a beer, so he had stashed some away at a couple of appropriate points along the way....

Whilst living in France, Berni and I never went skiing without a bottle of wine in the insulated rucksack to go with our lunch – usually a baguette and left over cold saucisse from the meal the night before. We and the boys would find a suitable group of rocks to sit upon, place the rucksack between us, tear up the baguette and fill it with saucisse and mustard, and pour soft drinks for the boys and the wine for us. Almost always, a skier or skiers would slow down to wish us ‘bon appétit’.

I remember too arriving at a side road in the middle of Heaven knows where in Western Australia with a colleague David, on our way to visit his daughter’s farm. The junction was marked by a large but clearly broken fridge, from which he produced two ice cold Fosters! The fridge was there as a kind of giant mailbox, to receive anything to be delivered to the farm, situated a couple of miles down a private track. David’s daughter loved to play the cold beer trick on first-time visitors, coming out and placing them there a little before the guests’ expected arrival time.

I don’t normally drink beer at one o’clock in the morning, but that’s what Steve and I were doing at the bar at Bahrain Airport on our way home from yet another miserable meeting in Saudi Arabia. Despite our ‘Letter of Intent’ from Petromin, we already suspected that we were hanging on to the deal that never was, but didn’t really want to admit it. And anyway, we wanted a beer just to celebrate the fact that we were out of the Kingdom. This was the scene that spawned the cartoon below.

Wally, a man who spent many years in Nigeria thanking providence that he was no longer in Liberia



where he began his time in West Africa, came out to witness an Air-BP early-morning refuelling of KLM, which necessitated being at Kano airport at 4:30am. We went up to the bar overlooking the runway to await the plane and I asked him if he’d like a coffee or something. He settled for a brandy and ginger ale.

The Nigerians loved Guinness, which was made locally and (I was once reliably informed by an expatriate who worked for the brewery) to a country-specific recipe that made it more bitter than its Irish counterpart, because to Nigerians a bitter taste is associated with being good for you, an obvious parallel with quinine. How the locals managed to drink it, straight from the bottle and at ambient temperatures somewhere between 70 and 80°F, is one of the great unsolved mysteries of Africa.

The Monty Python team famously caricatured Australian wine – most unfairly of course, which is part of the reason the humour worked. One of my favourite Australian wine memories is of sharing a barbecue breakfast with friends Tony and Dikki, and Dikki describing the deliciously cold white wine that we were drinking as “an amusing little breakfast wine...” Was it really, as the label called it, a ‘Short Fat Riesling’?

We welcome your submissions to frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com – a poem, prayer, thought... something to help us pause and reflect.



The Japanese have their own take on drinking Tequila with salt, which I rather prefer to the original Mexican version. They serve cold sake in a small square wooden box, which for obvious anti-spill reasons has to be drunk from the corner. It is usual to put a small pinch of salt on the box corner and then drink the sake across the salt. This has two distinct effects – it changes (I would say enhances) the flavour of the sake, and it also makes you thirsty, and thus ready for more sake...

The Koreans made wine, a passable white called Majewon and a truly terrible red that delighted in the name of Noble Wine. Surprisingly therefore I do remember genuinely enjoying a bottle of Noble Wine in a small roadside eatery on the east coast near Gangneun, after a very long and demanding journey.

And finally, and also from Korea, I remember the very dry martinis lovingly mixed from ice cold ingredients kept in a coldbox, to complement the picnic following the annual Memorial Service for the ‘Glorious Glosters’ at Gloster Valley near the Imjin River. These were simply the best, and tasted even better than theoretically identical drinks mixed in the same way from the same ingredients, on ski trips or by the side of lakes, in other countries at other times.

International recorder players and SMC teachers move to Australia

The students and other music teachers at Staplehurst Music Centre say a sad goodbye and heartfelt thank you to Kathryn Bennetts and Peter Bowman, who are leaving Staplehurst for Australia.

Kathryn started teaching at the Centre in 1993 and was appointed by Kent Music to run it as their Co-ordinator. Peter started teaching at the Centre later in September 2005, when Kathryn had too many students to timetable, and when the Centre was independent of Kent Music. Kathryn and Peter have played and taught music at the highest levels throughout their careers. They have performed regularly together in the UK and abroad, and together they have commissioned, premiered and recorded many new works for recorder duo, including two mini-operas. As consultants to the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music they have been responsible for selecting, editing, and composing pieces for their popular "Time Pieces" series for recorder. They have completed collections of English and Irish folk music and a four-volume anthology of renaissance music. Their performances have met with great critical acclaim, for example, described in the following glowing terms: "the recorder-playing throughout the evening displayed musicianship and virtuosity of the

highest order along with the adventurous and challenging programming we have learned to expect from this outstanding duo" (Anthony Purnell in The Recorder Magazine, Autumn 2007).

Staplehurst Music Centre has been extremely lucky in benefitting from Kathryn and Peter's support and involvement over the years. We will greatly miss their musical talents and expertise as well as their kindness and good humour.

Join us on Saturday mornings at Staplehurst Primary School and get involved. Come and try:

- Individual music lessons, including violin, piano, cello, guitar, ukulele, saxophone, clarinet and flute.
- Music Foundations classes for age 2-8 year olds to develop musical skills and confidence through singing, rhythm work and experimenting with different instruments.
- Community Orchestra, open to adults and children. No previous orchestra experience is necessary.
- Ukulele orchestra. The ukulele is one of the friendliest instruments: it's easy to start playing, small, lightweight and inexpensive, and most popular songs and music can be adapted to it.
- Rock band for adults and children, playing a mixture of popular cover songs and originals written by band members.

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

Memorial Hall to stay open till early March

We now have a rough start date for starting work on the interior of the Hall in mid-March. We will therefore not close until early March, giving us time to arrange the interior before the builders come

in. It's later than we hoped, and could cause a few issues with time-sensitive funding, but the builders have had covid problems like many businesses and we must work with the situation.

We have told the builders that we want to be open again in time for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, when Things are Planned! Watch this space...

Rosalind Riley

The winners of the Prize Draw

DECEMBER 2021 DRAW

1 st Prize	No.34	Brian Rees	£20.00
2 nd Prize	No. 58	Judy Staples	£15.00
3 rd Prize	No.20	Raymond Chantler	£10.00

JANUARY 2022 DRAW

1 st Prize	No.9	Jan Linch	£20.00
2 nd Prize	No.61	Sue Eddington	£15.00
3 rd Prize	No.84	John Mills	£10.00

The prize money has increased as we now have 90 members. 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.

For membership details please email me at: shop@acornsstores.co.uk or give me a ring on 01580 852 563.

Eileen Bridges Organiser

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Carol Singers...

It almost seemed that life had returned to normal. We were out carol singing again after missing last year; people were warm in their welcome, pleased to see and hear us once again and as generous as ever. In all we raised £1,575.05, shared between Fegans and the Weald Hub, supporting their work with families and with young people affected by mental health issues. We know how much both organisations appreciate your generosity.

There were two things that were a little different this year. One was that we had four of the mildest evenings that I can remember for carol singing and every evening was dry. The other was that to comply with Covid regulations we had our final refreshments outside. But with the mild weather this was no hardship. And the lovely people from Folly Cottages continued their tradition of all getting together on



the evening we sing in Mill Lane and providing refreshments for us midway through our evening – all outside of course. Thank you, we really do appreciate your warmth and kindness.

Thank you too for all who joined in our singing. I hope you will join us once again next year – and if you've not been out with us before give it a try next December!

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On January 10th we had a useful meeting to discuss ideas for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the work on renovating the Memorial Hall should be finished during June there will be further cause for village celebration this year.

At the meeting some interesting and imaginative ideas were put forward - community activities, children's activities, artistic and cultural events drawing on local and/or professional talent, a service of thanksgiving, beacon-lighting and bell-ringing, informative historical displays and so on. At the time of writing 25 different suggestions had been made. Some could be put into effect soon, most were for activities over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (June 2nd-5th), while other ideas were for events which could take place later in June or later in the year.

A committee has been set up to sift through these ideas, propose a series of events involving a wide cross-section of our village community, and hopefully most of our village organisations in some way, then report back to the village.



We will hold a second meeting to present our ideas sometime early in February - watch out for details on the Community Facebook page and elsewhere. Meanwhile, whether or not you were at the January meeting, if you have further ideas please contact me or one of the committee members listed below:

Chris Brown	Jackie Brown
Heather Cullingworth	Barbara Dunn
Mike Fitzgerald	Lester Gosbee
Anne Holroyd	Rosalind Riley

There is a full set of notes from our first meeting and the complete list of suggestions on the Parish Council website:

<http://www.frittenden.org.uk/community/frittenden-parish-council->

Tony Staples

George Bull

20th June 1929 - 3rd December 2021

Our father, George Bull was known to many in Frittenden. He was often seen, right into his late 80s, perched atop a precariously-placed ladder painting weatherboard or trimming hedges at The Mitchells, which he and Mum bought in 1982. Dad was a regular at the Bell & Jorrocks, and would often be found on Friday evenings, telling tales of his work and travels.

Dad was born and brought up in modest circumstances in Swanscombe, North Kent, the second of five children. His early life was severely disrupted by the war – his home was bombed twice – but he won a scholarship to Gravesend Grammar School, where he was a good scholar, and very good athlete and rugby player. After school he joined Siemens as an apprentice, becoming a marine radio engineer. In 1953 he married June, and after national service



in the RAF, returned to electronic engineering, designing flight guidance systems. In 1962 he joined Elliotts (later known as GEC Avionics) in Rochester, and the family moved to Headcorn.

At Elliotts he worked on some of the world's major aircraft projects. He rose to Chief Engineer in his division, responsible for contract negotiation and customer liaison, dealing with major companies and government departments, and managing 180

engineers. He spent a great deal of his time travelling the world, especially in the US, Europe, and later China and New Zealand. Much to his displeasure he was made redundant by GEC in 1990, but, undeterred, found a new job managing medical equipment for the NHS in the Tunbridge Wells hospitals group, until retirement.

Dad loved sport, playing rugby to a good standard until his career was ended by injury at 36. He enjoyed watching rugby, too, though he would always complain there was too much kicking and not enough running. There speaks a retired winger! Dad enjoyed pubs and pub games. He played darts for the Kings Arms in Headcorn, which gave him a cast-iron excuse for exploring all the pubs in the area. He helped set up the Headcorn and District Angling Society, and was Treasurer for many years. A few years after moving to Frittenden he took up golf – literally by chance. He was in Las Vegas, had a big win on the one-arm bandits, and on a whim spent the cash on a set of golf clubs. He became hooked on the game. He had hoped he might play rugby on the same team as his sons. That never happened, but he was able to play golf with them, and his grandsons, memorably triumphing at a family tournament on his 80th birthday.

George passed away peacefully after spending the last few months of his life at Larchmere House. He will be missed by June, his sons Tim, Nick and Stephen; grandchildren Ellie, Tom, Hugo and Daisy; and great grandsons Oscar, Hallam, Rory and Stanley.



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Historical Society

Operation PLUTO (pipeline under the ocean) was a World War II project devised by British boffins and the military to construct undersea pipelines between England and France to fuel the invasion vehicles. The project started in 1942 and one of the pipelines made its way through Frittenden on its way to the sea. David Northcroft will be our guest speaker on Thursday 24th February to tell us more about Operation Pluto and Kent. We meet at 8pm in the Memorial Hall and, as always, all are welcome.

Headcorn Health Walks February

Wednesday 9th: Meet in The Square, Lenham at 9:30 for a 9.45am start for an approximately 3¼ mile (1hr. 45mins) circular walk mainly over footpaths and pasture land with three stiles and no hills. Parking is available in The Square or the Parish Council car park off Maidstone Road (ME17 2QH).

Wednesday 16th: 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..

Wednesday 23rd: Meet at Parsonage Meadow, next to Headcorn Village Hall, at 9.30 for a 09.45am start for a walk lasting approximately 2 hours. This will be a fairly flat walk along paths and lanes, through orchards and fields, with three stiles.

When meeting next to Headcorn Village Hall, we are permitted to park in the Parish Council gravel car park (near the railway line) which is accessed through the parking area behind Sainsbury's.

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).

Orange and Almond Cake

Sian Hunter



In many families across the world making food and cake is a way of showing kindness and love. My lovely Mum used to send 'Frittenden Tarmac', a sort of chocolate slab, through the post to me whilst I was at University, and still today my children rarely leave the family home without a tub of Granny's brownies in their bags. During the first lockdown the Frittenden bakers, kindly coordinated by Joanna Beech, Nikki Robinson and others, made cake deliveries all around the village to celebrate the 75th anniversary VE day.

Does pouring love into a recipe make it taste better? Of course! The one here is a family favourite and it's currently one of the cakes that is a regular on the counter in our coffee shop. You'll find Seville oranges have started their brief season now, but if you have some left over from marmalade making you can use them instead of standard oranges, in this delicious, slightly bitter-sweet gluten and dairy free, Orange and Almond Cake. It's a wonderful recipe to have up your sleeve.

How about making two? One to share with your family (or just eat yourself!) and one to give away as an act of kindness and sharing love.

Ingredients:

- 2 oranges (or 2/3 Seville oranges) scrubbed & roughly chopped, approx. 250-280g in total, including the skin*
- 5 eggs, separated
- 200 g (7 oz) caster sugar
- 225 g (8 oz) ground almonds
- 2 tbsp flaked almonds
- ½ tsp gluten free baking powder
- Sifted icing sugar to decorate

Method: Prep: 1 hour. Cook: 55 mins.

1. Put the chopped oranges in a small saucepan, discarding any pips. Add 1-2 tbsp water, then cover and cook gently for 30 minutes or until the oranges are soft. Keep an eye on them and don't let them boil dry! Leave to cool.



2. Preheat the oven to 180°C (170 °C fan, 350°F, gas mark 4). Line a 23 cm (9 in) springform cake tin with baking parchment. Finely chop the oranges in a food processor, or with a stick blender.
3. Put the egg whites in a large bowl and whisk until they form stiff peaks.

Gradually whisk in half the caster sugar, then whisk for 1 minute.

4. Using the same whisk, whisk the egg yolks with the remaining caster sugar in another bowl for 2-3 minutes or until pale and quite thick. Fold in the chopped oranges, then carefully fold in the ground almonds and baking powder.
5. Loosen the mixture with a tablespoon of the egg whites before folding in the rest of the whites. Transfer the mixture to the prepared tin and level the top. Sprinkle with flaked almonds.
6. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until the cake is golden and a skewer comes out clean. Check the cake after 20 minutes and again at 30 minutes. Cover lightly with foil if it is browning too quickly.
7. Leave the cake to cool in its tin, in the oven with the door open for the first 10 minutes. Transfer to cooling rack to cool completely. It will sink a little. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

*If you have Seville oranges but don't have time to make the cake, boil and pulp them and pop them in the freezer. Once defrosted you just crack on with the recipe from stage 2.



Please send in your favourite recipes and pictures ! frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

Weather Statistics:

Lester Gosbee lester.gosbee@btinternet.com

December Weather Stats:

In Frittenden during December, we had 82mm/ 3.22 inches of rain, just 5mm above average. It was the dullest December since 1956, with less than 50% of average sunshine. December's warmest day was 29th at 14.7 c/58.46 f. The coldest day of the month was 6 c/ 42.80 f on 19th and 21st. On 21st the lowest night minimum temperature was -4 c/ 24.8 f and the lowest grass temperature on the same date was -8.2 c/ 17.24 f. The Central England Temperature for December was 6.4 c/ 43.53 f, which is 1.9 c/ 3.24 f above average. The average annual temperature for England is 9.65 c. This year it was 10.26 c, so 0.6 c/ 1.08 f above average.

Globally, we are now 1.2 c/ 2.16 f above the average temperature of 1850-60. On 11th July 2021, Death Valley reached a temperature of 54.5 c/ 130 f, the highest recorded temperature since 1913, when 56.7 c/ 134 f was recorded. In Europe, Sicily recorded a temperature of 48.8 c/ 19.84 f on 11th August 2021 in a small town called Syracuse. On 13th January 2022, Western Australia, a town call Onslow reached 50.7 c/ 123.26 f, equalling the all time record of 1960 in South Australia, the highest temperature recorded in the southern hemisphere.

Weather Forecast for February (For Kent, the Midlands, Dorset and Lincolnshire).

The first two weeks of February will be dominated by the huge anti-cyclone which has kept much of January fine over England. Weak weather fronts may cross the areas that I forecast for after the 10th, but precipitation in Kent will be below 5mm. Temperatures overall will be a little below average with frost. Fog will continue to be a hazard night and morning. Cloud will often not lift, giving us anticyclonic gloom. On these days, temperatures might not rise above 5 c/ 41 f. We will have

some brighter days in between, and on those days, the temperature will rise to 10 c/ 50 f. On frosty nights, minimum temperatures of -1 to -5 c/ 30 – 23 f will be the rule of thumb. Winds will be very light in the South East throughout the period, coming from an easterly direction. It could be drizzly at times on North Sea coastal counties. Low pressure will win out by mid month, bringing us all spells of rain and some short spells of windier weather. The South East will get the least of the rain. High pressure over low counties from Germany will bring us a cold snap between 18th and 24th February. A cold easterly will bring in showers which will turn wintry over the hills of the Midlands. Snow could lay on ground with elevation of more than 500 feet/ 150 metres. All North Sea counties are more prone to showers off the North Sea. Even down here in Kent, the odd shower could turn quite sharp, so the grass may turn white at times on ground as low as 100 feet/ 30 metres. Low pressure from France will bring us spells of showery rain mixed with some nice spells of sunshine, boosting temperatures to 12 -14 c/ 54 – 57 f. I think that New Year's Day's record temperature of 16.3 c/ 61.34 f (15.7 c/ 60.26 f in Frittenden) will still be the warmest day of the year so far. Mid May in January!

February's highest day temperature will be: 14 c/ 57 f in London. The Lowest night temperature of February will be -6 c/ 21 f, in frost hollows like Benson in Oxfordshire. Rainfall: Kent could be the driest county this February. Our average is 47.8mm/ 1.88 inches. This year we may get only 35mm/ 1.37 inches. All areas that I forecast for will have below average rainfall. This is a big contrast to February 2020, which was the wettest on record, and in Frittenden I recorded 115.4mm/ 4.54 inches. Frittenden had snow cover from 7th February for 8 days. We may see a light dusting of snow this year. On 11th February, Braemar in Aberdeenshire recorded a temperature of -23 c/ 9.40 f, the lowest February temperature since 23rd February 1955 when it was -25 c/ -13 f. Sunshine: The average sunshine for February is 74.3 hours in England. The average for Kent is 78.3 hours. This February, most places will have average sunshine totals, but North Sea counties will be 10% below average.

REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE

This service has been suspended until further notice

LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS

Frittenden Parish Council		
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

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

Kent County Council
 County Hall 01622 671411

Member for Cranbrook
 Sean Holden 01580 714880
sean.holden@kent.gov.uk

Policing
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 Sean Croucher 01580 852415

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Email: 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.

QUIZ (PAGE 29) ANSWERS

1. Wrong,
2. Nothing

Frittenden Parish Magazine

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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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Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz. ... Ancient Greeks wore amethyst and carved drinking vessels from it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication. Amethyst, a semiprecious stone, is often used in jewellery and is the traditional birthstone for February.



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