

Frittenden Parish Magazine



Susan Cade

September 2020 Online Version

VILLAGE CONTACTS

CHURCH OFFICIALS AND ORGANISATIONS

RECTOR		Rev Pete Deaves	852275
Email address		rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Churchwarden		Joanna Beech	852312
Churchwarden		John Stansfeld	852185
Reader & Deanery Synod		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		Judy Staples	852226
Parish Safeguarding Coordinators		Judy Staples & James Highwood	852226/852715
Bell Ringers	Captain & Secretary	David Manger	01622 890675
Magazine	Editor	Mike Cooper	852108
	Advertising	Nicky Vernon	852537
	Distribution	Ian Mounter	852268
Messy Church		Eileen Mounter	852268
Open The Book		Helen Stansfeld	852185
Sunday Club	Contact	Joanna Beech	852312
Website		www.frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Childline			0800 1111
Relate	Contact	via appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk	or 01892 529927

OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

<u>Cricket, Sports & Social Club</u>	Chair	Nick Bull	852105
	Secretary	Charlotte Sharp	852217
<u>Friends of Frittenden School</u>	Chair	Beks Harding	712138
<u>Pre-school</u>	Manager	Sarah Davies	852100
		Home	852130
<u>Primary School</u>	Head of School	Nichola Costello	852250
<u>Gardening Society</u>	President	Sue Martin	852425
	Chairman	Duncan Rouse	852232
	Secretary	Tricia Palmer	852430
	Show Secretary	Jeremy Beech	852312
	Treasurer / Subscriptions	Nicky Robinson	852488
<u>Historical Society</u>	Chair	Phil Betts	852243
	Treasurer	Bernard Millard	852219
	Secretary	Tor Millard	893703
<u>Marquee Hire</u>	Contact	Mike Cooper	852108
<u>Memorial Hall</u>	Chair	Rosalind Riley	852317
	Hire hall, tables/chairs, etc.	Eileen Bridges	852563
<u>Parish Council</u>	Chairman	Tony Staples	852226
(For more details of other Local Council contacts, see back page).			
<u>Ring a Friend in Frittenden</u>	Contacts	Angela Parish & Brenda Croucher	852249/448
<u>Royal British Legion</u>	Chairman	Mike Burden	01622 432866
	Hon Sec.	Howard Lilley	852225
<u>Tennis Club</u>	Chair	Nigel Casswell	852772
	Treasurer	John Marshall	852345
	Membership Secretary		
<u>Women's Institute</u>	President	Anne Holroyd	893256
	Vice President	Ros Bowles	852323
	Secretary	Christine Anthony	852355
	Treasurer	Valerie Thomas	762821
<u>Youth Club</u>	Contact	Lorraine Burford, YMCA	07927 282129

DEFIBRILLATORS - These are now available at the shop, at the pub, at Larchmere and there is also a mobile unit available for use at village events. Last updated 16th March 2020

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

September - *Back to school!* Or perhaps *Time to get back into circulation?* Maybe you're wishing in September things would get *Back to normal?*

The campaign *Build Back Better UK* (buildbackbetteruk.org) believe that "what we do next could change everything. As the world recovers, we have a chance to reset the clock and *build back* better than before."

Their recipe is a five point action plan involving:

- Ensuring access to food and healthcare etc for all;
- Decarbonising the economy in a way that tackles inequality;
- Proper funding for public services;
- Investment in people; and
- Building solidarity and community across borders.

As a community of faith, this fits well with Jesus' manifesto, using words penned by God's messenger Isaiah about 700 years prior.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

These words, says Jesus boldly, are fulfilled as he reads! Jesus is all about setting us free, giving *back* what has been lost, bringing us *back* to God. Dear friends, Jesus really is good news for everyone.

During lockdown we saw that we'd been blinded to some basic truths about how we live and the impact we have on our planet. *Back to normal* – no thanks! Instead let's go *Back to basics*. We go *back* to the good news that Jesus alone can set us free and transform our lives and community.

If it's been a while, let me encourage you to come *back* to church this September. It's never been easier, and pyjama-wearing for our main 10am Sunday service online is fine!* Physical services are gradually resuming, and at 6pm we hold a simple service alternating with Trinity Sissinghurst – further details on the website or here in the magazine.

I look forward to seeing you soon

Pete - 852275

* *Our most recent online services are via the website or by calling 234185 - all are warmly welcome.*

ST MARY'S SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER

Sundays

Our normal services morning are suspended due to the pandemic but that doesn't mean we aren't meeting. Each week we are recording a virtual service led by Rev Pete Deaves with contributors from across the two parishes of Sissinghurst and Frittenden taking part, recorded from their own homes. We are also including a variety of music from CDs and the internet as part of these services. Accompanying each service is an order of service so that you can follow along and join in the songs.

You can listen to these services by clicking on the Audio tab on the church website frittendenchurch.org.uk and this will also give you access to the service sheets in pdf form.

Across both parishes we are listening to the Sunday service at 10am so even though we are not able to meet in person we are meeting virtually. At 11am on a Sunday morning we are meeting by zoom for coffee and chat for half an hour, this is a good chance to catch up.

If you don't have access to the internet you can listen to the latest service by dialling a dedicated local phone number 01580 234185.

We are also holding evening services in Church as follows:

September 6th – 6pm Communion at St Mary's Frittenden

September 13th – 6pm Communion at Trinity Sissinghurst

September 20th – 6pm Compline at St Mary's Frittenden

September 27th - 6pm Compline at Trinity Sissinghurst

If you are intending to come to one of the Communion Services you will be most welcome. To help us manage numbers please can you let Joanna Beech (852312) know for the St Mary's service and Penny Durie (712612) know for the Trinity service. In keeping with current guidance masks are to be worn in church.

Weekdays

In addition to the Sunday services, there are two services of night prayer, or Compline, available on the audio tab of the website on Tuesday and Friday evenings. There is no set time for these but you may wish to listen before retiring to bed. You can also listen to the latest service by dialling the local phone number 01580 234185.

Our bi-monthly service of reflection S.P.A.C.E. will be available as a pdf on the website on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

We are also meeting for virtual prayer meetings, using zoom, praying for our country and our community. During September these take place from 10.00 to 10.45 on every Tuesday morning. If there is anything you would like us to pray for please email Rev Pete Deaves at rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk

Joanna Beech, John Stansfeld
Churchwardens

YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE

Do you want to go back to a hard copy, or do you prefer it being online?

As life is returning to a little more like normal St Mary's Church, who underwrite the production and distribution of the parish magazine, were wondering whether we should return to the distribution of a hard copy Parish magazine?

- What are your views of the magazine, what do you like that's in it, and what do you dislike?
- What else would you like to see in it?
- Would you prefer to have a hard copy (at a minimal cost) or would you prefer it to be online?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS, SO PLEASE, contact one of the Church wardens, by Phone or email or put a message on The Community Facebook Page. There is also going to be an online questionnaire available shortly, look out for that on Facebook or the Church website.

As a few of our distributors are self-isolating, we are likely to need some more distributors, if we are to return to a hardcopy circulation. We would love to hear from you if you would be happy to help with this.

John Stansfeld 852185, john.stansfeld@gmail.com

Joanna Beech 852312, joanna.beech97@gmail.com

A THANK YOU

Ian and Eileen Mounter thank all the kind people who have sent good wishes, prayers and offers of help during Ian's hospitalisation related to his cancer treatment. Friendly Frittenden lives up to its name as usual!

MORE ONE-LINERS

A true friend is one who likes you despite your achievements.

Arnold Bennett

After a time, civil servants tend to become no longer servants and no longer civil.

Winston Churchill

Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.

Author Anne Lamott

(One of my favourites. Ed.)

We hope all our Messy Church families are staying safe and well and enjoy the return to schools and Pre-school.

Sadly we won't be able to meet physically for September's Messy Church, but look out on the Church website and Facebook on

the weekend of 19th and 20th September

for



ON LINE! Creative fun for all the family.

We can't wait to see you all again - it's been far too long!!

Devised jointly by St Mary's Frittenden

& Trinity Church Sissinghurst

A HAPPY LETTER

Dear Mike

As you know, on 1 August 2020 my husband (!) Nick Denman and I were married at St Mary's Church, Frittenden. We had originally planned a larger wedding on 6 June, however due to lockdown we had to postpone the date to 1 August and have only a very small group of people take part. As you can imagine we were upset by the enforced absence of so many friends and relatives, however this was eased greatly by a brilliant and moving attendance in the church yard of so many Frittenden residents and others. We would like to thank each and every one for their support and contribution to making our wedding so special.

Love,

Annika, Nick & The Chapple family x



BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY IN FRITTENDEN

On Sunday, 15 September 1940, the Luftwaffe launched its largest and most concentrated attack against London in the hope of drawing out the RAF into a battle of annihilation. Around 1,500 aircraft took part in the air battles which lasted until dusk. The action was the climax of the Battle of Britain. RAF Fighter Command defeated the German raids and the day has become known as Battle of Britain Day.

The day dawned a little misty in Frittenden, but cleared by 0800 hrs and disclosed light cumulus cloud at 2,000 & 3,000 ft. Visibility however, was, on the whole, good throughout the day. A slight wind was from the West and shifting to the North as the day advanced.

A morning offensive of one hundred plus Dorniers together with a heavy fighter escort reached South London just before 1200 hrs. Under RAF attack, many formations broke off and scattered their bomb loads before heading back in disarray to their bases in Northern France. The morning offensive was followed by a short lull of around one and a half hours before the second phase of the attack was detected on radar.

This consisted of three waves of more than one hundred and fifty Dornier, Heinkel & Junker long range bombers escorted by Messerschmitt 109 fighters. The first wave approached London shortly after 1400 hrs on a 10-mile front over North Kent. Again, there was stiff opposition from the ground defences and fighter squadrons. The crew of a crippled Heinkel 111 h-3 consisted of Oberfeldwebel (Flight Sergeant) Schmidtborn, pilot, together with crew members Oberleutnant (Flight Officer) Schirning, Feldwebel (Sergeant) Nagel and Feldwebel (Sergeant) Grassel, and Unteroffizier (Corporal) Schilling the flight engineer. An additional crew member was Major Max Gruber (II Gruppe Kommandant) who shortly before takeoff from their base at Lille decided to join them in their Heinkel on the second wave of the raid, to observe the tactics of the afternoon's offensive first hand. Their destination was the Thames Haven oil storage complex and London Docks.

By mid-afternoon the Gruppe had reached the allotted area at a height of 24,000 ft. The final run on the approach to the target met with fierce anti-aircraft flack from the ground defences which resulted in damage to the plane's starboard engine. Unable to keep up with the Staffel (Squadron) and with the starboard engine trailing a four-meter flame, the crippled Heinkel headed South East and was soon down to 18,000 ft, and so left to the mercy of Spitfires and Hurricanes. With loss of further height and speed, crew members manned all guns and successfully kept the fighters at bay, while the pilot selected a suitable crash-landing site. With the port engine puffing blue smoke the pilot decided to put the Heinkel down in a hop garden ahead of them. The remaining bombs were quickly jettisoned over open country.

The crew members were told to brace themselves for a crash landing, upon which the nose gunner scrambled from his position to a safer part of the aircraft's fuselage, and the flight engineer shouted to the central gunner (Grassel) to come up out of the well. Upon impact, a column of thick black smoke rose from the hop garden at Payne Land, Frittenden and could be seen for miles around. Five of the six men survived.

Shaken but unhurt, they narrowly escaped being lynched by hop pickers through the intervention of a section of army personnel who were stationed nearby. They later handed them over to Police Constable Cornelius "Paddy" O'Leary until the arrival of Police Inspector George Harwood, Section Sergeant of Staplehurst. The incident was logged at 1600 hrs together with information that the bombs jettisoned fell in the area of Pink Horn Farm near Maidstone Road between Headcorn and Sutton Valence.



The Crew of the Heinkel which crashed at Frittenden at a previous crash landing in France

Soon after, the crew members with minor injuries were sent to Benenden Cottage Hospital, with the rest being held locally in the cellar of a house overnight, guarded by Home Guard members. The following morning all were transported to the London District Prisoner of War Interrogation Centre at Kensington Palace Gardens. The one fatality, Feldwebel Grassel, was buried in Frittenden Churchyard where the grave was tended by village residents until his remains were transferred to the German War Cemetery, Cannock Chase, in September 1962.

At the time of this drama, at the nearby "Bell Inn", the landlord's daughter, Nora Bearsby, was home on leave while serving with the A.T.S. Shortly after the incident, she visited the crash site and acquired one of the aircraft's propeller blades as a trophy of war for display in her father's pub. It remained at The Bell for the rest of the war and into the mid sixties, when it was transferred to the village hall. Nora later became aware that the landlord of the now renamed "Bell & Jorrocks", Les Randall, had commissioned a water colour painting by the aviation artist, Malcolm Winter, depicting the last moments of the Heinkel bomber over Kent, to hang in the pub. She decided it would be fitting for the propeller blade to return to its original home, to be exhibited alongside the painting, as a tribute to all who were involved in the Battle of Britain. The pub's brewery, Whitbread Fremlins, traced the two surviving ex-Luftwaffe Heinkel crew members through the German air attaché's office and German press, and they were invited to attend an unveiling ceremony exactly forty-three years to the day after the event on Thursday September 15th 1983.



The Unveiling of the Heinkel picture in the Bell & Jorrocks with Les Randall, Malcolm Winter, a German crew member, Nora Bearsby, a German crew member and Police Inspector George Harwood.

Phil Betts. [Based on a typed account in the papers of the late Nora Bearsby]



FRITTENDEN

Well, I do hope you have all kept healthy and had as good a summer as is possible under the lockdown rules, and have also survived the scorching temperatures.

The last four Members' meetings have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, in fact the last meeting we were able to hold was in March. However, in July the NFWI produced strict guidelines to follow if we wanted to hold a meeting. So, following all the rules, nineteen of us met up again on 11th August. Jenny very kindly offered us the use of her field and we all self-distanced on a very hot afternoon – everybody enjoyed themselves and it was really good to see everyone again. Under normal circumstances we would have been having a guided tour of Hastings Old Town on that day! We will look at meeting up again on the 8th September, but that will very much depend on the weather as it will have to be outside again because we believe the Memorial Hall won't be available then.

If, when all of this is over, you would like to join us we meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Anne Holroyd on 01580 893256 or myself on 01580 852355 for further information.

Christine Anthony

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE

Dear Fellow Residents

It has been a long time since we reported in the Magazine, although some of you may have seen a few updates and bits of information on Facebook. Apologies for the radio silence.

We had no meetings in March, April, May or June due to illness, and also to the fact that the Hall was closed for much of that time. We welcomed the Post Office back a few weeks ago, and many of you will have been in there and encountered Claire, who is now running it. Masks and social distancing are required, as it counts as a shop during those times, and please note that the toilets are closed.

Funding for the Hall renovations ground to a complete standstill because of the pandemic. Funders with whom we had active funding applications halted their regular programmes and went over to funding CoVid relief. This has put a huge spanner in the works for us, especially when we were also disappointingly informed by KCC that we had not been awarded any match funding money. A much-appreciated small grant sponsored by our KCC representative Sean Holder was added to some CoVid relief money from TWBC, and we have some smaller applications still in. Our main worry is that the Lottery fund will change its criteria in October and cease funding capital projects. We can only wait with fingers crossed, especially as we have developed a good relationship with their representative, and had made it through the first stage.

In our meeting in July, we looked at what money we had already raised, and decided we could investigate going ahead with the main structural work on the Hall, taking advantage of the fact that normal usage of the space would not recommence for some time. This would include removing the stage, rebuilding the southeast corner, replacing the cladding and roof and adding insulation. The windows would be replaced and the view at the back opened up. This would make the building much more usable as winter arrives.

The problem with this would be that the internal storage system we envisaged would not be put in place, so chairs and tables would be stored in the corner of the Hall. Additionally, our sad old loos, bar and kitchen area would not get the upgrade we plan until we can raise some more money. All are functional, but those of you who have looked at Andrew Dack's drawings will know that a much more spacious and better-equipped alternative was planned for. (These are viewable on the TWBC planning website if you are interested.) The carpark works and rear decking would also be postponed.

However, we hope that Frittenden will be behind us as we forge ahead, and that the project will generate some excitement in these otherwise rather depressing times. Our collaboration with the Community Shop Steering Group is continuing, and we will be hosting their Community Event in the Hall in September to inform all residents about the Shop plans.

Finally, we would love to be able to open the Hall for some uses. We are up against a lack of staff (ie we don't have any, being all volunteers) and the rather stringent regulations we have been advised on by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). We are happy to talk to anyone who wants to use the Hall, and have prepared a Risk Assessment. Users would need to additionally provide their own risk assessment before going ahead (this is not that difficult, it's mostly writing down common sense precautions to show that you are aware of them). Bear in mind that we would hope to start works on the Hall in the early autumn, and we are not yet aware of how long these will take.

We are so grateful for all the donations and fundraising that have gone towards the Hall from Frittenden residents so far. We will continue to fundraise, and hope we can create a better resource for all of us, just that it will take a bit longer than we thought! If you'd like to help in any way, please let me know on 852317 - we might need a decorating work party at some point!

Rosalind Riley

Chair of Trustees, Frittenden Memorial Hall Trust

FRITTENDEN GARDENING SOCIETY

Somewhat inevitably the Committee has taken the decision to cancel the Autumn Show which was due to be held on 5 September this year as it would not have been possible to hold the show in the hall and remain within all the important rules and guidelines relating to Social Distancing etc.

However given the success of our Virtual Spring and Summer Rose Show we have decided to do a similar thing in place of the Autumn Show. This again will be open to all members of the Society and their families and also to all residents of the Village. The categories will be :-

My best vegetables (any number of entries)

My best fruits (any number of entries)

My best rose

My best flowers

My best flowering or fruiting shrub

My preserves and other produce

In order to take part and enter any of the above classes entrants will be required to take a photograph of each exhibit or collection of exhibits and send them as an email attachment to Duncanrouse.3053@gmail.com. All photographs should be submitted in a 'landscape' format to arrive at Duncan's email address by 8.00 pm on Thursday 3rd September 2020. The various entries will then be judged in the following days and a prize awarded to the best photographic exhibit in each class.

In these difficult times since March many people have spent much time gardening and many have also taken to growing vegetables so please get busy with your cameras and mobile phones and let us all see the results of your endeavours.

Whilst the cut-off date is not until 3rd of September you can start getting your photos taken now or you may already have taken them.

Duncan Rouse

LOST IN TRANSLATION – HOTEL STYLE

Qatar – Please do not use the lift when it is not working.

Ethopia – To call room service, please to open door and call Room Service. Please call quiet. People may sleep.

Cairo – On September 30, winter timing will start. As of 12:00 midnight all clocks will be forward one hour back.

Seoul – If you wish, you may open the window. Do not open the window.

Bangkok – Please maintain temperature at 1 degree from 25, any higher or lower will only make the room hotter or colder.

France – Wondering what to wear? A sports jacket may be worn to dinner, but no trousers. (! Ed)

E FOR EDITORIAL

They say that a picture's worth a thousand words -



I agree, and there is no way I can think of anything to follow that!

Mike Cooper.

A LITTLE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS....

Solar panels and wind turbines generated a record 9.8% of the world's electricity in the first half of 2020, up from 8.1% in 2019. They produced almost as much as nuclear, which generated 10.5%.

In the UK, a third of electricity consumed came from wind and solar plants

From the Daily Telegraph

COMMUNITY SHOP & CAFÉ

The Community Shop & Café Committee have been really busy in August. We have been in regular contact with Rosie & Sean who are doing such a great job at Stable Stores. We are hugely grateful for their time, enthusiasm and support of our Community Shop project. Their information on turnover, shopping trends, and revenue breakdowns is invaluable. It tells us what YOU in the village want.

The current plan is for Stable Stores to run until next spring/summer and then for a transition to the Community Stores at a mutually agreed time.

We have developed a 3-year financial plan for the Community Shop & Café, with turnover and expenditure assumptions. Our financial model shows the business to be viable subject to the necessary funding from the village and external grant sources. We have also chosen the legal entity for the business – a Community Benefit Society.

SAVE THE DATE - We are having a walk-through-socially-distanced Community Exhibition 10 -12 September in the Memorial Hall. See advert on next page. This will give YOU a glimpse into the future of the shop and an opportunity to share YOUR views. So come and see us and talk to the team.

THIS IS IMPORTANT - it's decision time. Do YOU the village want this project? Will YOU the village support the project financially? Do YOU see the benefit of a community hub where residents across the age groups can meet? Will YOU be prepared to come and volunteer to work in the shop? Do YOU see the advantages of being part of a community owned and run venture?

Before doing any further work on the project we need to know whether this has the support of the village community. If there is sufficient support for it then we will proceed with a wide range of actions to get the ball rolling with a view to opening in spring/summer 2021.

MORE INFORMATION – A Frittenden Community Shop website will be launched at the end of August. Visit www.frittendenstores.co.uk

You can let us know what you think through the response form on the website, at the Community Event or directly to a member of the Steering Group.

The website will take you on your journey from Acorn Stores, to Stable Stores and then Frittenden Stores into the future.

YOUR SHOP, YOUR SAY

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

FRITTENDEN COMMUNITY SHOP & CAFÉ COMMITTEE

YOUR SHOP, YOUR SAY!

A glimpse into the future of Frittenden's
community shop & café and a chance for
you to give your opinions

Join the discussion –
share your views

View the project
and designs so far

Find out about
funding and
the share offer

Find out how to
get involved

Face masks are
mandatory

Tell us what
YOU want



Frittenden Memorial Hall

Thursday 10th September 2pm-8pm

Friday 11th September 12pm-5pm

Saturday 12th September 10am-4pm

www.frittendenstores.co.uk

GOSBEE'S GOSSIP

Firstly I would like to congratulate Annika Chapple, who married Nick Denham recently. I'm sure that the whole village will join me in wishing them many years of happiness.

What have you missed during the lockdown? I missed Wimbledon fortnight, due to Coronavirus. Many of our favourite TV shows are on hold, replaced by repeats. I really enjoy watching Strictly Come Dancing, but I understand that there will be a shorter series this year. I hear that there will be same sex couples dancing for the first time. I have nothing against same sex couples, but I don't think that it came across as good in Dancing on Ice last year.

Gardening has been a challenge in the recent hot, dry weather. Some people have told me that their runner bean crop has been poor, as have their cucumbers. I have grown lots of both, but it has been far too hot at times. Plants wilt because grow bags are too thin, but compost and grow bags were difficult to get hold of this Spring for obvious reasons.

Since lockdown, I have been told that a number of people in the village have become ill, some very ill. I am sure that the NHS are doing their best, but from personal experience that some patients drop off the radar. Video calls are not as efficient as face to face consultations. In September, I have to see a dermatologist at Borough Green called Dr Flan (she sounds tasty!). I occasionally grow skin cancer as an after effect on having radiotherapy 46 years ago. I will get told off for having a tan, but I have used loads of suncream. I hate wearing sweaty clothes. My legs don't seem to tan much, they are obviously too close to the ground. When I wear shorts, they look like long trousers on me. I don't see the point of the modern style of men's shorts, half way down your calf!

There are many September birthdays. Rachel Baker (née Addis) celebrates her 50th birthday on 8th September. Recently Rachel went with her family to Wiltshire to visit Stonehenge. She tripped over a safety mat and broke her ankle in 3 places, so it looks like dancing is out for her special day. We hope that she will have a lovely time despite this. August is a time for exam results, but because of the lockdown, the exams were unable to take place. I'm sure that most of the final grades will be fair, but I think that the 18 year olds of today will have to work until they are 70 or older before they will be able to collect their pensions, so plenty of time to study.

I watched the programme about Sir Tom Moore, who raised £33 million for the NHS by walking 100 laps of his garden before he reached his 100th birthday. Incredibly, I am still getting the odd donation to my fundraising that I did in May, walking up and down my drive. I think that I am close to £4,200 now.

On Sunday, we are hosting a family socially distanced meal to "celebrate" what would have been Hazel's mum's 80th birthday, the actual birthday being on Tuesday 18th. Edie died from breast cancer in 1993. She would be very happy that her 5 children have all remained very close.

On the political front, we have been told that the UK has been hit the hardest of the G7. People must return to work to get our economy growing once again. Covid 19 has done untold damage to the world's economy. If I was a cynic, I could suggest that Covid 19 is a ploy by China to damage their World leading competitors. Covid 19 is still present in China, but it appears to be well contained there. Their economy has grown 11.5%, while the rest of the world's economy has contracted. The USA's economy shrank by 9.5%, and the UK by a whopping 20.4%. Some experts on finance say that the UK economy will not get into positive growth until 2023. Let's hope that they are wrong.

Boris Johnson is correct when he says that all children should get back to school in September. Children are the future, but teaching unions are trying to make it difficult for teachers to do their jobs while trying to make trouble for the Tory Government.

Caravanning and camping at Manor Farm restarted on 4th July, and the first week was busy, but it has gone very quiet. I think that people are worried about the virus. Our visitors are mostly older people with their caravans.

Sitting in my garden sometimes, I have seen a Red Kite fly over our 'sea Pond' and on to the field that is adjacent to the Headcorn road. Also when I was driving around looking for fly tipping to report to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, I saw a buzzard near the Tanyard. The buzzard was carrying a rabbit or squirrel, but it dropped it's prey as I approached with the car, just a few feet

above me. What a glorious sight. Close to my hay barn, when watering my garden, I often create a puddle for the house martins. Each year they build a nest under the guttering by our bathroom window. They started this year, then sparrows took over the nest. I felt very sorry for the house martins as they had flown more than 2,500 miles to get here. I didn't know that sparrows did that sort of thing. You can live in the country all your life and still learn.

Lester J Gosbee

CHANGING ONE HABIT?

How could everyone in the village changing one habit make a vast difference?

There have been a lot of lovely posts on the community Facebook group, extolling the virtues of Sean & Rosie's amazing village shop, Stable Stores. Quite rightly so, because it has made a huge difference to many during lockdown and now while we all adjust to living with Covid. But there are compelling reasons why we should all rethink our shopping habits:

If everyone in the village committed to buying the vast majority of our fruit & veg from Sean & Rosie - at least what we can't or don't grow for ourselves - imagine the huge difference we as a village could make to the environment. Not only fewer trips to the supermarket, or deliveries, meaning we pollute our environment less with car journeys & get a little more exercise walking or cycling to the shop, but much less packaging, eating much more seasonally, a little less planning ahead needed and a little more planning meals around what's in the shop this morning or what you call & ask them to put to one side if you can't get there during opening hours. I wonder if we'd get kids more involved in choosing and cooking their meals that way too?

Last year our community made waves by being awarded the biggest roll out of a community broadband project thanks especially to all Lance's work on our behalf. Many other villages have been inspired to do the same, which should hopefully improve connectivity for all. What if, by pulling together and buying all our fresh produce from the Bell & Jorrocks, we could be the inspiration for other communities to do that too and reap the benefits of a cleaner environment, higher quality, fresher produce than you'll find in the supermarket, and maybe a healthier population.

At a time when UK food standards are so threatened by the coming trade agreement with the US, and by supply shortages that are expected to hit us this winter because of Brexit, shopping at The Stable Stores is something we could all do to help our community, by ensuring we all get to eat great, extremely high quality, fresh, seasonal, local produce at sensible prices on an ongoing basis.

A version of this post originally appeared on the village Facebook group.

Lucy Hodgson

A FREE TV LOOKING FOR A HOME

Having recently upgraded to a smart TV, we have a 39 inch not-very-smart TV surplus to requirements. If anyone would like it either as a TV or as a monitor they are very welcome to give me a call and arrange a time to collect it.

Mike Cooper

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

With the new season of the Historical Society due to open in September it seems timely to review our position and update members.

A recent meeting of the Committee concluded that it would not be appropriate to ask members to meet in the Memorial Hall with everything that currently entails. We have therefore decided to postpone the meetings scheduled for September, October and November 2020 to the same months in 2021. We shall make a decision about the rest of the new season's meetings, January to April 2021, later this year.

An important omission from the Society's schedule this year has been the AGM. The year-end accounts have been prepared as usual, and I am glad to say that the Society is in a healthy position with a surplus of nearly £200 for 2019-20 and funds of over £4,000. We shall hold a short AGM, at which the accounts will be formally presented, at the first meeting of the Society.

Patrick McGinley has decided to stand down from the Committee. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Patrick for his contribution both to the Society and the Committee since his appointment in 2007. We are now looking for a new member to join the Committee. Anyone interested in doing so should contact me or any other member of the Committee for further information.

The Committee has continued to be active during these unusual times. Articles are being prepared monthly for inclusion in the Parish Magazine, and occasional items are being posted on Facebook and Twitter. We hope members will find these of interest. In addition, work is continuing on the recording of burials in the Mill Lane cemetery. It is hoped to publish a supplement to 'Here Lies Frittenden' later this year, or early next year. We are also in the early stages of preparing projects to mark the 50th anniversary, in 2005, of the founding of the Society.

Finally, members may be interested to see a new series of videos by Cranbrook Museum: The Great Fire of Cranbrook 1840; Cranbrook's Old Shops; The Cranbrook Colony of Artists. More are in the process of production. These can be accessed via the Cranbrook Museum website, cranbrookmuseum.org.

I, and the Committee, look forward to when it becomes possible for us all to meet again. In the meantime, stay well.

With best wishes

Phil Betts

Chmn Frittenden Historical Society (852243)

LARCHMERE NEWS

Well ... we are doing well under present conditions. Over the last month we had a few entertainers in the garden – social distancing, of course, which has been a great success.

Friends and relatives have been able to do the same, under strict Covid conditions, and come and see their loved ones in the garden, which has meant so much to the them.

We are doing as much as possible to ‘UP’ the entertainment in present circumstances as we cannot go on our much loved trips out. This has included a raffle here at Larchmere, obviously including exciting gifts of scarves, handbags etc but also special prizes such as our Senior Carer, Alison Penfold dressed with wig, party hat and a false nose ! Singing 3 of her favourite ‘naughty ditties’ to said prize recipient!! To add to this the resident’s daughter and grandson were visiting at the time! Who said nursing homes were dull hey? Another prize was for another Senior Carer, Anne Overy, to wait on a resident hand and foot (like they don’t already) and to curtsy every time they see them. This brought a big smile to our American resident, James, who was the worthy recipient of this prize.

We are going to have special PUB afternoons, this will involved me nipping down to the pub for the residents favourite tippie and re create the Bell and Jorrocks in our own living room! Maybe with not quite the same ambience of our much loved local but better than nothing! James is looking forward to a Bloody Mary and Diane is dreaming of a Whisky Mac.

Our courtyard garden has been in full bloom this year. The Gladioli are still going as are the Azaleas - they have been stunning along with all the other flowers. Tomatoes, cucumbers, beans have done very well too. We have had lots of advice from residents, as a lot of them have had a lifetime of gardening skills. My job is to water the garden, my only problem is to focus on watering the flowers, I have (inadvertently), of course, got the hose on a couple of residents! Luckily for me it has been so hot that they actually didn’t mind it too much!

We love this village. Everyone has been so kind and thoughtful. We wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. Thank you everyone xxxx

Becky Bruce

(Photographic evidence on next page. Ed.)

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL PRIZE DRAW

The winners of the July 2020 Draw :

1st Prize	Barbara Essex	£25.00
2nd Prize	Ian Sharp	£15.00
3rd Prize	Tim Bull	£10.00

It is about now when I start badgering the good people of Frittenden to think about joining again for another year, which commences on the 1st October. As I am sure you are aware each month the proceeds of The Frittenden Prize Draw are divided equally between Prize Money and the upkeep of the Frittenden Memorial Hall.

If you would like a Membership Form, please email to : shop@acornsstores.co.uk. and I will send you one. The completed form should be either emailed back to me, or, popped through the letterbox of the old shop next to Acorns. Normally we request either cash or cheque, however this year it may be easier to send the money (£12.00 per person for the whole year from October 2020 to September 2021) by BACS. Do make sure that when you return the Membership Form, the payment method is clearly stated. Also, when a BACS payment is made please state the member’s name. All the details for a BACS payment will be on the Membership Form.

I do hope that this is clear, however if you have any questions please phone me. Thank you for reading this and Good Luck!

Eileen Bridges 01580 852563



CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

Instead of my usual Trivia & Quiz item this issue, I would like to share with you my absolute favourite Mexican soup recipe, delicious even on hot days, enjoy!

2 CHICKEN BREASTS (OR 4 THIGH FILLETS) CUT INTO BITE SIZE PIECES

45 ML OLIVE OIL

1 LARGE OR 2 SMALL CHOPPED ONIONS

3 CRUSHED GARLIC CLOVES

5 GR CHILLI POWDER

2 GR OREGANO

400 GR TINNED CHOPPED TOMATOES (OR FRESH IF PREFERRED)

250 ML CHICKEN BROTH

300 ML WATER

165 GR WHOLE CORN KERNELS (FRESH COOKED OR TINNED)

165 GR DRIED WHITE HOMINY (if not available, double up on corn kernels)

3 (OR MORE TO YOUR TASTE) GREEN CHILLI PEPPERS CHOPPED (HOTTER THE BETTER FOR ME!!)

400 GR TINNED BLACK BEANS, RINSED

12 GR CHOPPED CORIANDER

GARNISH-: CRUSHED TORTILLA CHIPS, SLICED AVOCADO, SHREDDED CHEDDAR & CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS.

METHOD

SAUTE THE CHICKEN IN HALF THE OIL UNTIL TENDER, REMOVE INTO A BOWL.

IN SAME PAN PUT REMAINDER OF OIL, ADD ONIONS AND GARLIC UNTIL

SOFT. ADD CHILLI POWDER, OREGANO, TOMATOES, CHICKEN BROTH AND

WATER. STIR AND BRING TO BOIL, REDUCE HEAT AND SIMMER FOR 10

MINUTES. ADD THE CORN, WHITE HOMINY, CHILLI PEPPERS, BLACK BEANS,

CORIANDER AND CHICKEN AND STIR. SIMMER FOR ANOTHER 10 MINUTES.

LADLE INTO BOWLS AND TOP WITH TORTILLA CHIPS, AVOCADO, GRATED CHEESE AND CHOPPED SPRING ONIONS.

Colin Bullock

MUSIC NOTES

Virus restrictions continue and consequently I find it difficult to bring you anything new. As I write in early August I am aware that the better local amateur choirs and orchestras are busy considering the risks that would be involved and the possible mitigations available if they were to start rehearsals in September. That's *rehearsals*, so even if they were to find a safe way through the maze of rules, there would have seemed to be no prospect of local concerts in September. However, stop press news is that Sutton Valence Music Society has organised for the first two concerts of its year to be performed at its usual venue without a live audience but streamed live on U-tube. These will not be available for viewing later, so it will be a once-off event like their usual concerts. The September concert will be at 7.30pm on Friday 11th, and will be a live performance by a piano and 'cello duo. The programme includes works by Beethoven, Schumann and Rachmaninov. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56kxTthfWeI>. This is a brilliant support for the professional musicians involved, and SVMS deserves your support in return. To cover their costs they would welcome a donation of £15 if you watch the concert; that seems very fair. For payment arrangements email suttonvalencemusicsociety@gmail.com

A number of cathedrals (but not Rochester or Canterbury!) and well known national concert venues are currently advertising concerts in September and taking bookings – see the website https://www.classicalevents.co.uk/?fromdate=30%2F07%2F2020&todate=&sort=start%7Casc&dir=asc&type=home_page&start=20. However it is not clear whether these are concerts that have been arranged specially to take account of virus restrictions, or the concerts they had programmed since last year and are still hoping they may be possible.

On the subject of cathedral music, the press has reported that cathedral choirs are in dire financial straits due to the virus restrictions. Lay clerks – that is, the professional singers for the lower voice parts – are being made redundant in many cathedrals, and some, including York Minster, have closed their choir schools which provide the treble parts. On the positive side, Harry Christophers of “The Sixteen” fame has taken over the presidency of the charity Cathedral Music Trust and is leading a massive fund-raising campaign. See <https://cathedralmusictrust.org.uk/>. He is hoping that some sort of cathedral music will start in September, but everything depends on a research project for Public Health England which is investigating how much singing really affects the spread of the Covona-19 virus. The result of that will also eventually have significance for us locally and may even be the deciding factor as to whether we can sing hymns in church once more.

Turning to radio, the proms continue every day until 12th September on BBC radio 3 – the 12th being the famous “last night” performance. Some days they will be recorded programmes from previous years but the concerts on 1st to 5th, 8th & 9th and 12th will be live concerts. On TV BBC 4 has a prom on September 6th, and it is probable that the last night on 12th will also be at least partly shown on TV.

The musicians dictionary continues in lockdown:

Lento: The days leading up to Easto.
Con Spirito – Drunk again

Brian Hardy

WEATHER

Frittenden's highest day temperature in July was 34.33 c/94.87 f on 31st. The lowest day temperature was the 9th, when it fell to 19.3 c/66.74 f. The lowest night temperature was 12th with 5.95 c/42.78 f. The lowest grass temperature of the month was 29th at 1.38 c/34.34 f. There are very few summer months that have temperatures that vary as much as 52 f from night minimum to day maximum temperatures. UK wide, the highest July day was 31st at Heathrow with a temperature of 37.8 c/100.4 f. The lowest July day temperature was at Dalwhinnie, Northern Highlands at 10.3 c/50.54 f, and the coldest UK night temperature in July was at Kinbrace, Sutherland, on 8th, when the temperature dropped to -0.6 c/30.92 f.

The rainfall during July in Frittenden was 27.6mm/1.10 inches, 60% of the average. From April until July, there was just 90.6mm/3.9 inches of rain, 50% of the average. Grass hasn't grown well at all this year. On our farm, just 282 large bales of hay was made, over 146 acres, a third of the usual crop, and the lightest since 1976.

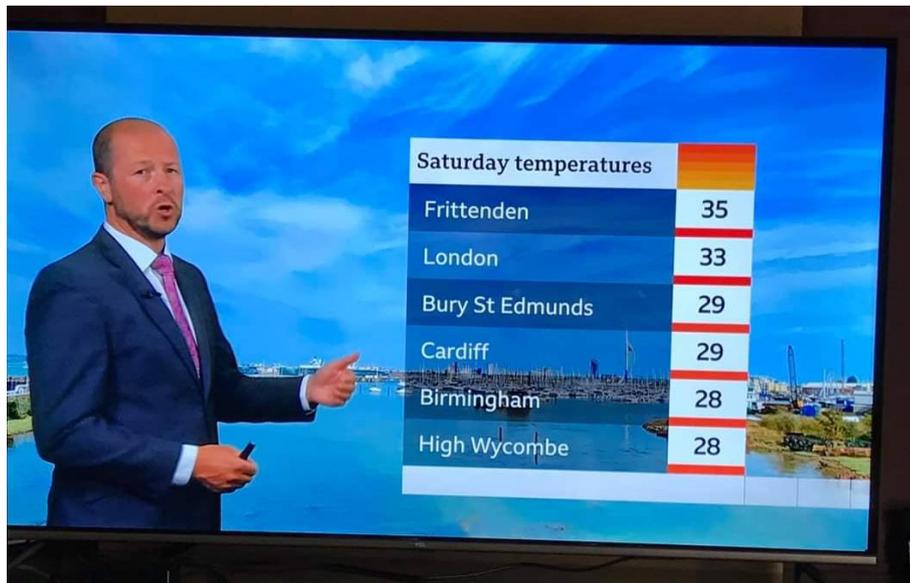
Now I will tell you something that you will not believe: this July was the coolest since 2011 at 15.3 c/59.54 f. In 2011 the Central England Temperature averaged 15.2 c/59.36 f, a degree below average. It was the first month this year to fail to reach average temperatures. If the last day of the month hadn't been so hot, it would have been the first July since 2011 to not reach 30 c/86 f in July. I normally wouldn't give you the August weather statistics until the next magazine, but we had an exceptional spell of weather, in fact unrivalled. In spite of what you may have read in the press, from 7th until 12th August, somewhere in the UK reached a temperature of 34 c/93.2 f. That is 6 days in a row. On Friday 7th August, a week after the very hot 31st July, Heathrow reached 37.8 c/100.04 f. It was only the 3rd time in British meteorological history that 100 f was reached, after 2003, 2019 and now 2020. On that Friday 7th August, Frittenden was named the hottest place in the whole of the UK at 34.59 c/94.62 f. It was officially rounded up to 35 c/95 f. In the press, some newspapers claimed that it equalled temperatures of 1961. The Met Office told me that this was a misunderstanding. I should say so. As far as I'm aware, on 1st July 1968, there was a 'one day wonder' when the mercury rose to 92 f/33.3 c in Gillingham, Kent. In the London area, the rest of the Summer was a wash out. 1967 and 1969 had the two warmest months of the decade. July 1967 had a CET of 16.7c/62.06 f, and 1969 had a CET of 16.8 c. Only June 1960 was 16.1 c/60.98 f, equalling 2018. It was the coldest decade of the 20th Century.

August 2003 reached a temperature of 38.5 c/101.3 f on 10th August in Faversham and Brogdale. Four other locations also reached 100 f or more.

A brief summary of what I have predicted in my long-range forecast for September: Sometimes September can be an extension of Summer, or turn very Autumnal. This September at times will be on the Summery side, with temperatures possibly as high as 80 f/26.7 f. The first and third week will have some very chilly nights, with temperatures close to freezing. It could make you feel like putting on the heating, but there shouldn't be any days that fail to reach 60 f/15.6 f. September should be a very sunny month, with 2 more hours of sunshine each day than we saw in July (which was 25% below average). 16 hours in September. Rainfall could again be below average because of the cool nights, the opposite of the nights that we had in August. The Central England Temperature will be average at 13.7 c/56.66 f.

A night where temperatures fail to drop below 20 c/68 f is classed as a 'tropical night'. This happens more often now. From 1961 to 1990, there were 44 of these tropical nights. From 1991 to 2020, there were 84 tropical nights. There have been 5 so far this August. I have never recorded one, but 19 c/66.20 f is much too warm for sleeping.

Lester J. Gosbee



THE GREAT LEEDS BOOK SALE

We are planning to hold the annual Great Leeds Book Sale again this year. It will have to be subject to whatever restrictions are in force at the time and if there is a “second virus wave” in the Autumn we will have to be prepared for it to be postponed at the last minute. The proposed dates are Friday October 23rd from 4.00pm to 8.30pm and Saturday October 24th from 10.00am to 2.30pm at St. Nicholas’ church Leeds. Put those dates in your diary now! This is a little later than last year, partly because we received complaints last year that it was too early in the year, and partly to fit in with other events like Harvest and Remembrance. Note that we are again opening on Friday evening for people who can never make Saturday mornings – many have said they found it helpful. There will be some 14,000 books for sale – yes 14,000! – so something must be there to suit everyone’s taste. As well as paper-backs and hard-backs for a quiet read yourself, there are plenty of splendid books in as-new condition which would make excellent gifts.

This sale is of a size which means it is an event for all the parishes around.. If you can help in any way please call Brian Hardy (see below).

It has also become an occasion to meet up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee; to be honest we may not be able to do that this year if the current virus restrictions continue, but we certainly will provide refreshments if it proves possible. If your bookcases are already full, it is not too late to make some space for more or our inexpensive purchases by donating some books to the sale; give Brian Hardy a ring to agree a time for delivery - but no old magazines, videos or second-hand toys please; save these for the next jumble sale or boot fair; and please no encyclopaedias or old text-books – we can’t sell them nowadays.

If you would like more information about this important local happening, please give me a ring on 01622 842915, or email b.hardy17@outlook.com Otherwise, just come along!

Brian Hardy

THE BACK PAGE

REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE

Due to the Corona virus outbreak, this service has been suspended until further notice.

LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS

FRITTENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Tony Staples (Chairman)	01580 852226
James Tuke (Vice Chairman)	01580 852372
Heather Cullingworth	01580 852340
Lester Gosbee	01580 852288
Rosalind Riley	01580 852317
Richard Vernon	01580 852537
Parish Clerk Emma Nightingale	01580 292576
Website	www.frittenden.org.uk

This month's Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th September. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 20th October.

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 - sean.holden@kent.gov.uk or 01580 714880

POLICING

Non-urgent crime reports 101
Neighbourhood Watch Liaison 01580 852415 (Sean Croucher)
Community Warden Adam Osborn 07813 695741

NEXT EDITION, SMALL PRINT, ETC.

Closing date for material for the October edition is Tuesday 15th September. My e-mail address is editor.fritmag@hotmail.co.uk which is the best way to receive (MS Word) copy, either as an attachment or in the body of the email. Text is OK, of course, but you then risk my typos!

Finally, 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.