



June 2020  
£1

# HORSMONDEN PARISH NEWS



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**Cover Picture:** The Reed family enjoying the VE Day Celebrations. Photo used by kind permission of John Sheppard

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01892 457694  
Copy deadline: 15th of month preceding**

# HORSMONDEN PARISH NEWS

June 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As we head into June the lockdown is beginning to ease for some of us. People are starting to return to work and hopefully we will soon be able to see the relatives we have been separated from for the last three months. This week the primary school will reopen to selected pupils and it's hoped that the kindergarten will follow soon. Although the lock down is relaxing for many, some people still need to shield or self-isolate so the help and support currently available in the village will continue for the foreseeable future - see the centre pages for information and contact details.

The first week in June is designated as Volunteers Week here in the UK and with this in mind I would like to say a special thank you to Isobel Kerrigan, Jane Brown and all the wonderful 'Horsmonden Responds' volunteers. Over the past three months volunteers, coordinated by Isobel, Jane (and sometimes me!), have been helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting letters and manning the door at Heath Stores (amongst other things). They have all been amazing and have made a huge difference to the lives of the people they have helped. Well done and thank you all!

A further thank you to the wonderful staff of Heath Stores and Heath Pharmacy who have worked tirelessly over the past three months to keep us fed, watered and medicated - we hope you enjoy your party once all this is over! Also thank you to the doctors and staff from the surgery and to the teachers and staff of the Primary School and Kindergarten who have looked after the children of key workers throughout the lock down and are now working hard to prepare for reopening - you are all amazing!

*Claire  
claire.hpnews@gmail.com*



# What's on in Horsmonden

## HORSMONDEN SOCIAL CLUB

So we're into June and sadly your Club still isn't open, nevertheless we've been keeping busy.

Once again, a huge thank you to the growing team of virtual quiz masters who have organised the virtual quiz night every Saturday. Things got a bit competitive last month, not least because our volunteer scorers had a slight issue with their calculator. All rectified now though and hopefully with not too many disappointments. Your virtual Social Club also continues each Saturday night from 7.30pm where you can join members via Zoom for a virtual drink, nibbles and natter, all from the comfort of your own home.

To access the weekly virtual Club we recommend downloading the Zoom Cloud App and entering the following:

Meeting ID: 997-0612-0317

Password: 106411

If you don't have internet access, you can always call in. For telephone access call: 020 8080 6591 and enter the meeting ID (above) when prompted.

While we've been closed to members, we have had some work going on at the Club, all suitably socially distanced of course and we very much hope when we reopen, WHICH WE WILL, it will meet with your approval.

The committee are meeting via Zoom in the first week of June to start thinking about how we can gradually reopen safely, both for members and our volunteers when government rules allow. With the government currently saying we may be able to consider this from July, we're hopeful we'll be able to find a way to run our Annual Beer Festival. Watch this space for more info but do save the date, Saturday 11 July and keep absolutely everything crossed that this can go ahead!

In the meantime, please do continue to look after yourselves, stay safe and be kind.

*Chris Reed, Secretary*

[secretary@horsmondenclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@horsmondenclub.org.uk)

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

## OVER 60's CLUB

Like every other club in the village, county, country and probably world-wide we have been unable to meet up for some time now...and even keeping in touch can present its problems when not all members are tech experts, myself included! Email and landline phone are my specialities! Nevertheless, we are hearing news and updates from the majority of members who all seem to be resolutely coping with the situation and trying hard to keep boredom at bay whilst isolating at home. I guess, given our particular age group, we are going to be one of the last to be able to get back together so we are looking for different and safe ways to occupy ourselves whilst waiting to meet once more with family and friends.

Just this week we have issued a hard copy Club newsletter as another way of keeping in touch. As part of that I have contacted one or two of our regular guests including the singer Rob T and Naomi Gilbert who provides our occasional exercise classes. Good to hear they are both being inventive with ways to keep going. Rob has been facilitating music via tablets and Smart TVs to some of the Care Homes he visits regularly and Naomi obviously has hidden talents as she reports making a Papier-mâché kingfisher and also two scarecrows for her parents garden! I can't claim to have discovered any hidden talents myself...just continuing with the garden, the house tidying and the footpath walking!

So, till next month - when maybe there will be more interesting things to report and look forward to - Keep Well and Keep Safe everyone!

Hilary Davies, Organiser  
Phone: 723587      Mobile: 07866 614 367  
Email: h.davies373@btinternet.com



## VILLAGE CHOIR

Some weeks ago several members of the Village Choir got together to workout whether it would be possible to have a

choir practice using ZOOM. Those of you who have tried to sing Happy Birthday to an attendee at a ZOOM session will know that singing together just will not work! Mark Bromley therefore decided to invite us to an on-running quiz, i.e. a few categories per session. Last Monday's quiz included a General Knowledge round, and a Music Round in which Mark played six well known pieces and asked us to name the composer. The third round tested our ability to find London place names from a series of little pictures and symbols, which was challenging and fun. I think that it will be quite a long time until we can meet to sing again, but it is good simply to see each other and say hello from time to time.

Carry Smyth  
carrysmyth12@btinternet.com  
01892 722931

## Horsmonden Historical Society

This month I will give a brief description of two other Kentish characters who are of important historical interest.

Born at Biddenden to a wealthy family in 1100, Mary & Eliza Chulkhurst are thought to be the earliest known Siamese twins joined at the hips & shoulders. They lived for 34 years. When Mary fell ill & died Eliza was asked if she wanted to be separated from her twin. She replied, "We came together, we will go together". She died 6 hours later.

The Church at Biddenden received valuable lands in perpetuity from the family estate and the rent from this provides for today's poor of the village. In memory of this commemorative cakes, stamped with an impression of the twins, are made & distributed every Easter Monday in the village. Cheese & Ale were also supplied. Today Beer is no longer part of it - more's the pity! Many years ago, in the late 70's, I acquired two cakes or should I say two biscuits which were hard as rocks! I varnished them, drilled a hole in each and hung them in the Inglenook. They disappeared some years later.

The other historical character is Anne Boleyn (1500-1536). Henry VIII's most celebrated wife who was born at Hever castle, near Edenbridge, the daughter of the Sheriff of Kent. When she made her first appearance at the Court of King Henry she caused such a sensation that Henry duly divorced Catherine of Aragon and made Anne his bride. However, her strong minded independence caused the monarch to transfer his affections to Jane Seymour and Anne was consigned to the Tower before being executed. Her ghost is still said to walk the corridors of Hever Castle!

After lockdown is all over and we get back to some sense of normality, both Hever Castle and Biddenden on Easter Monday are well with a visit.

Best wishes,  
Ivor Brick

### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Interior / Exterior

Portfolio & References Available

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01892 724415 / 07711044610

trevorjsimms@btinternet.com

# C.O.A.C.H Tours Horsmonden



Firstly, we were all so shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Barbara Hall. Barbara was our publicity officer and a good friend. We will miss her bubbly personality and enthusiasm and we will be lost without her expertise. Barbara was also a long-standing active committee member of Horsmonden Twilite WI, so many friends are going to miss her.

Due to the current crisis, we were desperately disappointed that our pending trips and outings for 2020 to Bletchley Park, The Battlefields Tour and Regent's Park Open Air Theatre were cancelled leaving the rest of our programme in doubt for the remainder of 2020. Good news is, we have new provisional dates for these trips for 2021, pending the government guidelines on re-opening of Museums etc, travel restrictions in the EU and most importantly on group travel by coach with distancing guidelines. We will monitor the situation closely.

## **These new dates are:**

*Bletchley Park, Home to the Codebreakers*  
Tuesday 16th March 2021

*Battlefields Tour WW11* - Monday 17th May  
2021 for 3 nights/ 4 days in Normandy  
Regent's Park Open Air Theatre (Carousel) -  
Thursday 12th August 2021

Having got C.O.A.C.H. Tours off to such a good start it was dispiriting to call a halt so suddenly for a situation that was completely out of our control. Thanks to the community of Horsmonden and those we welcomed from local villages who supported our trips. We will rise again like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes as soon as we are permitted to travel again. It's good to have a little trip to look forward to, indeed it may be a substitute for a foreign holiday by plane for

a while!

*Caroline Honey*

To become a member and receive up-to-date information on our trips and tours  
email:coachtourshorsmonden@gmail.com



## **VILLAGE AMBLE**

Hi Amblers,  
I hope you are all well and keeping safe during these strange times. It looks as though our future ambles together are some way off, although we are fortunate

in being able to exercise with some lovely local walks.

Meanwhile I found this poem online, which I thought was apt...

## **SURREAL TIMES - but**

See the naked willow trunks  
Reflected in the stream,  
Whose grassy banks are dotted  
With bright yellow celandine.

Contrast with greys and browns,  
The hawthorn's fresh green hedge  
Which into life has broken through  
And brightens meadow's edge.

Pursuit of material gain  
Can cause us so much strife  
This lockdown may help us to  
Enjoy what's really good in life.

Listen to the chifffaff chant  
It's song from up above.  
Watch the red beaked moor hen  
Nod along the river's mud.

Now, we have time to value  
These joys that do not cost,  
That in our hectic lives  
Can so easily be lost

So, at this surreal time  
Good things come out of bad,  
Bringing out the creative side  
That we didn't know we had.

*The Bard of Babbs Mill April 2020*



## TENNIS CLUB

These unprecedented circumstances unfortunately saw the tennis club completely close its gates for the course of the full lockdown.

We thank everyone for their cooperation and hope that everyone is keeping well. We are now pleased to announce that the LTA have advised that members can now start playing tennis again with other members from the same household, or singles with one other person from a different household providing you adhere to social distancing. For more information on LTA "Guidelines for Players" please visit the LTA website.

Members are permitted to use the lobby of the clubhouse (i.e. toilet, first aid kit and floodlights) however there is no entry into the main building for the indefinite future. You use the club facilities and play tennis at your own risk. We hope members will take this opportunity to start playing again and use the courts – they haven't been played on in a while! It is great that tennis is one of the few sports that can be played and we are so lucky to have the facilities in the village to take part in the sport. This could be the chance to see the next Williams sisters or Murray brothers?! It would also be great to see some new faces down the club perhaps using this time to learn a new sport with other members of your household!

The situation is constantly being monitored by the LTA and Horsmonden Tennis Club Committee and we will keep members updated via email and post updates on our Facebook page but we hope this will allow people, if you feel safe, another space to get some fresh air and exercise during these difficult times. We hope everyone is well and keeping safe and hopefully can restart (or just start!) playing some tennis.

If you are interested in joining the club

contact:

Tracey Parrett (Membership)  
horsmondentennis@mail.com  
07726 160539

## Horsmonden Garden Society

A big Hello to all our Members and hope that you are keeping safe and well and enjoying your gardens which have carried on regardless of the dreadful Coronavirus.

As I'm sure you are aware, all monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice, including the Garden Party on 23rd June and our annual outing to Polesdon Lacey on 4th July. Regrettably, Hugh has also been unable to open his garden for the NGS scheme this year.

Hopefully our meetings can recommence towards the end of the year, until then stay safe. If anyone needs any help please feel free to contact me 01892 722183.

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# St Margaret's Church

[www.stmargaretshorsmonden.com](http://www.stmargaretshorsmonden.com)

Dear Friends

As we write it is the day before Ascension Day and this will mark the beginning of a 9 day prayer initiative by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York that began in 2016 in this country, but has now become a global movement of prayer. It is called



'Thy Kingdom Come' - and seeks to encourage people to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come in people's lives' i.e. that people will discover the love of Christ and welcome him as their King.

The initiative begins on Ascension Day and ends at Pentecost, so I suspect it will have just ended as you read this.

But a prayer initiative seems particularly poignant this year as many of us have found ourselves praying increasingly for God's help, healing and protection. Pastor Agu Irukwu President of the Pentecostal Church has said, "At no time in living memory has the Church needed to pray as much as it does now, as we grapple with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic." And Roman Catholic Cardinal, Vincent Nichols, has encouraged people saying: "Prayer knows no boundaries or obstacles. Prayer cannot be 'locked down'. Lord, send us your Holy Spirit and the freedom that is the Spirit's gift."

Whether or not we've been involved in 'Thy Kingdom Come', the encouraged way to pray is a simple one and which may be of help now if we are floundering in our prayers. Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray, and he simply said, 'when you pray say: Our Father in heaven ....' And so when the church began, and for many years after, the Lord's prayer would have been

the one that was continually recited when people said their prayers, and it perhaps encapsulates all that we need to pray. 'Thy Kingdom Come' encourages us to return to praying it continually: praying it slowly, reflecting on the different phrases, and allowing the Lord to guide us in our praying. The recent 'Prayer Course' which St Margaret's ran was likewise based on the Lord's Prayer, and so can we encourage you in your prayers as you simply and slowly pray each day: 'Our Father in heaven ....' And so, as we pray, may we discover his presence with us, and may we each know more of Christ's Kingdom and his love in our lives,

*Tim and Trish French*  
01892 723055  
[revsffrench@gmail.com](mailto:revsffrench@gmail.com)

## SERVICES FOR JUNE

Even though there has been some lifting of restrictions, we are still unable to hold services in the church building. Clergy, and those of their household, are now allowed to go in to pray - and are also permitted to stream services. However, with very limited internet and facilities available at the church, we will be continuing to stream our services on Facebook Live from the Rectory. These are then also accessible on the St Margaret's Horsmonden Facebook page later.

Streamed services continue to be:

**10am on Tues, Wed and Thurs**

Morning Prayers including a Psalm and Bible reading.

**10.30am on Sundays**

Sunday Worship (form of service varies).

For those not part of Facebook, the services are still accessible through your browser at:





<https://www.facebook.com/StMargaretsHorsmonden/live/>

Up to date details can be found on the FaceBook page as we do sometimes need to change the weekday services.

You are also welcome to send us specific prayer requests by 'messaging' from the Facebook page or by email to [revsffrench@gmail.com](mailto:revsffrench@gmail.com), or do phone us 01892 723055.

Corona virus has made many of us question our faith, and so we are also running Alpha Online - a video based programme looking at questions around the Christian faith, followed by chatting online together afterwards. We began mid-May, but if you are interested we may be able to include you - please contact us promptly as above.



## CV-19 v VE-75 – a Contrast?

As I write this, we and many others around the world have been celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the first Victory in Europe Day on the 8th of May 1945. Yet because of this other, new 'conflict' Covid-19 (or what we knew only a few days ago as the Coronavirus) our celebrations took place at best in our front gardens, distancing ourselves as instructed from our neighbours. Indoors, we saw and heard some heroic and some very simple stories of both men (mostly) who fought and died during the Second World War itself, and those, mostly women and older folk, who, though not perhaps in the front lines, were drawn into the dreadful conflict in so many ways – endless stories of fear and death, shortages of food and ever-present danger. So hard to imagine how it must have been...

Yet...Is it so hard to imagine?

Here we are facing another, different type of World War contending again with stories of fear and death, difficulties with food and certainly ever present danger. But now we are facing a totally invisible enemy in the form of a little virus, like the flu, yet which, as I write this, has infected over 4,000,000 people around the world and already killed nearly 300,000! And how almost random it seems to be. Like a bomb, the virus doesn't discriminate between its victims, attacking all who get in its way although it does seem able to pick out the weak and the vulnerable.

Yet...something amazing seems to be happening - just as in wartime, these difficult days seem to be bringing out the best (though sadly sometimes the worst!) in so many people and neighbourhoods. Not only do we have new 'heroes' like the redoubtable Capt Tom, but there have again been wonderful stories of loving, caring and sharing people going well out of their ways – even to their own danger – to help. In our lovely little village here in Horsmonden we see neighbour helping neighbour, new groups being set up to stay in touch with the vulnerable, postmen doing jobs other than posting letters and, of course, our own Heath Stores and Pharmacy who daily put themselves in the 'front line' doing all they can to allow us stay home and keep safe. And incidentally, thank you so much, Tim and Trish, for putting our St Margaret's services online on Facebook for all to see!

This caring nature has its foundation in love, of course, and it is this love which is the most important instruction from Jesus – "This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you." (John 15; 17). Let us all hope - and pray - that once this horrid virus has been defeated we can all of us hold on to this loving and creative attitude and keep the new friends we have made.

*Maryanne Marsh*

# **HORSMONDEN METHODIST CHURCH**

Furnace Lane, Horsmonden, Kent.

Pastor: Phil Staddon: 01622 871332

Senior Steward: Rachel Sheppard

Tel: 01892 722654

Fellowship Group: Henry Edwards

01580 878044

Hire of Premises: John Sheppard: 722 654

**[www.wokmc.org.uk/Horsmonden](http://www.wokmc.org.uk/Horsmonden)**

**Services are at 10.45 am in normal  
circumstances**

Dear Friends,

'The New Normal', just a brief reflection from me this month as believe it or not I've become busier as time as gone on, and not "Busy doing Nothing!" as the old song goes.

Things have changed, people have adapted but God continues to be good. We are still able to worship, albeit in a different way, meet together to chat and even to party across our three Methodist Churches. I want you to picture four of our ladies on a Sunday Morning, two of them do not do Technology so this is what happens (I will refer to them as A,B,C & D). A rings C, B rings D [on their landlines], then B rings A on her mobile. We now have six phones, four ladies and a tablet through which one lady plays the music for the service! Apparently they have a fantastic time of worship, prayer and laughter; where there's a will.....Others of course simply sit quietly with it on their own or even tune into the service on the East Peckham Methodist Facebook Page.

We are starting to discuss how we can re-open our premises safely and provide a place for prayer for those who need it. Some have suggested that we could return to worship observing Government advice but with NO singing. Can you imagine Christian Worship without singing? Most Methodist Christians can't. The founder of

Methodism, John Wesley, instructed the early congregations, "to sing lustily and with good cheer!" Methodists have been trying to live up to that instruction since the mid-eighteenth century.

However, back to the present, we continue to seek to serve God in our present circumstances, another instruction from Wesley, so please feel free to contact me at any time.

I leave you with some verses from Psalm 46: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.....There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day....The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

May God Bless you,  
Phil

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## A big Hello from HoVEC!

Sadly, not much event planning going on right now, what with the cancellation of the Summer Festival and the unlikely-hood of the Autumn festival being allowed in its current form at least.

We are hopeful that the Christmas Festival will go ahead, but will continue to take government advice and make a decision in September.

Rest assured, as soon as we can all get together again we will!

Take care and stay safe.

From all at HoVEC

## Housing Needs Survey Report

In January you will recall that you received a survey form requesting your views concerning the provision of housing for those residents in need of assistance. We have now received the report from the Rural Housing Enabler, who undertook the survey, and you can view this report on the Horsmonden Neighbourhood Plan website.

Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan TWBC Planning have published their 'Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan'. Here they detail the key updates to the infrastructure required to support the increase and future needs and demands for the borough to support new development and a growing population, as envisaged through the Council's emerging Draft Local Plan. A brief outline of the provisions for Horsmonden are on the 'Delivery Schedule' PAGE 109 (this page is in landscape, you will need to rotate the view to read it). The plan can be found at, [https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/300771/Infrastructure\\_Delivery\\_Plan-August\\_2019.pdf](https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/300771/Infrastructure_Delivery_Plan-August_2019.pdf)

Meanwhile, as in many other cases, the Steering Group are working in isolation and using Zoom for our informal meetings. We are striving to produce a discussion document outlining the various issues and requirements that we need to address in order to complete our Neighbourhood Plan. Alongside these issues we aim to detail a selection of the options available to us as suggested by our consultants, taking into account the information provided by the public surveys and various village meetings. We hope to circulate this for your vital comment once we have had further discussions with TWBC and AECOM. Meantime please continue to keep safe and well – and rejoice that we live where we do!  
*The Steering Group*

*Simply the Best*

The Old Forge



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Website: [www.theoldforgecattery.co.uk](http://www.theoldforgecattery.co.uk)



# Parish Council



Cllr. March  
Chair



Cllr. Davis



Cllr. Hunn



Cllr.  
Jenkinson

## A NOTE FROM JANE MARCH, CHAIR OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL

We live in a wonderful parish which is shown by how everyone has pulled together during the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. The situation is constantly changing but residents, volunteers and businesses have adapted to every challenge and continue to support those most in need as well as their families and neighbours. Thank you again and we look forward to being able to be together more in the not too distant future.

The Parish Council has also adapted its working methods and now holds parish meetings remotely via online systems and the telephone. We welcome participation because the views of residents are essential to help guide us to make the best decisions. Speak to Lucy, our Clerk, or to any of the councillors who are keen to be of help.

We appreciate your help in caring for our community and helping us to help you. Thank you!

## COVID-19 - CORONAVIRUS

The Council continues to provide up-to-date information and links on its website [www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](http://www.horsmonden-pc.gov.uk), Facebook page and noticeboards about how and where residents can seek assistance. Information continues to move quickly so here are some sites worth viewing:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates>

If you need help from TWBC:

<http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/need-help-contact-us>  
Or phone: 01892 554497 (9am - 5pm)

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

As mentioned by Jane above, the Parish

Council has started using online remote meetings and the public is invited to attend. Agendas are posted online using our website and Facebook and will be displayed on the noticeboards. If you would like to "attend" any meetings or speak at the Public Session, contact the Clerk on 07484 904765 who will give you joining details.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND APPLICATIONS

Planning applications are shown on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council website and the Parish Council is having its monthly Planning Committee. Residents are invited to attend these remote meetings by contacting the Clerk as above.

If you do not want to attend the meetings, you are able to make comments on applications via the TWBC site which are important to ensure your views are shared with the Borough Council.

## TWSOCIAL

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has created a community support website to establish an online sense of community across the borough and to help combat the social isolation and loneliness we can all feel sometimes. Tunbridge Wells Social offers entertainment for all ages, tips and workshops for healthy living and helpful information on where you can go to get more support if you are feeling anxious or lonely. Find it at [twsocial.co.uk](http://twsocial.co.uk)

## BONFIRES AND GARDEN WASTE

Garden waste collections have restarted which will be a relief to everyone who uses the service. We should continue to consider our neighbours and refrain from having bonfires in our gardens. The smoke can cause distress to neighbours as well



Cllr. Larkin



Cllr. Richards



Cllr. Russell



Cllr.  
Sheppard



Cllr. Stevens



Lucy Noakes  
Clerk



Jackie Stanton  
Assistant Clerk

as serious problems for people who are vulnerable to both smoke and the virus, such as those with asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Until the garden waste collections have cleared the backlog of waste, here are a few ideas:

- Leave grass cuttings on the lawn to dry out or scatter the cuttings round flower beds where they will rot down and provide nutrients for plants as well as helping to suppress weeds.
- Create a compost heap. Pile garden waste here as well as fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells and coffee grounds. The compost created will help nourish the garden in the coming weeks and months.
- Group pruned branches into bundles to create shelters for small animals, bugs and bees.

### FOOTPATHS

While we may be able to spend a little more time in the countryside at the moment, please do keep a look-out for problems with the public footpaths and report them to Kent County Council – missing markers, broken stiles or paths which seem to go nowhere because a sign has fallen over. This link is easy to use: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way> (Apologies for its length but you need it all to get to the right page)

### PLAY AREA AND VILLAGE HALL

The play area and village hall are currently closed but will reopen as soon as allowed and we look forward to very active and exciting times ahead.

Please feel free to contact the Clerk, Lucy Noakes:

Telephone: 01892 724989  
Mobile: 07484 904765  
E-mail: [clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk)  
The office is currently closed so please telephone or email for assistance.

### SOME USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Kent Highways Service: 03000 418181  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council: 01892 526121  
Environment Agency 24-hour Flood line: 08459 881188  
UK Power Networks – Power cut: 0800 31 63 105 on a landline or 0333 32 32 105 if calling from a mobile  
PCSO Simon Humphreys: 07980 924877  
Non-emergency Police Line: 101



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# VE DAY

Photos by  
John Sheppard





**75  
YEARS  
ON**



# COVID -19 HELP

## HEATH STORES

## Heath Pharmacy

Firstly we want to thank you, our customers, for your ongoing support and understanding during this difficult time for you and us.

### Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 8am-2pm and 5pm-7pm  
Saturday: 9am-5pm  
Sunday: 9am-12pm

NHS/critical workers can come and knock on the door between 2-5pm, Monday - Friday and we will be happy to help.

### Outreach Post Office

The Outreach Post Office is in store on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12-1pm

### Deliveries

We deliver to Horsmonden Monday - Thursday and on Saturdays. Please order before 1pm for next day delivery.

To enable us to deliver to as many people as possible, please order enough to last you a week.

Orders can be made via the form on our website ([heathstores.co.uk](http://heathstores.co.uk)), by emailing us at [heathstoresorders@gmail.com](mailto:heathstoresorders@gmail.com) or by calling 01892 724445.

Things are liable to change due to the uncertainty of the situation so we are asking our customers to continue to check our website and facebook page for updates regarding opening hours and deliveries.

Cloth masks are available for all outside the shop, we are asking for a donation to the Horsmonden food bank or NHS charities as payment.

### Opening Hours

We are now opening at 10am but our lunch and closing times remain the same.

### Deliveries

We aim to deliver medicines the day after we receive the prescription or delivery is requested.

### Video Consultations

Patients can look out for a video consultation in the next week or so for those that can't get to the pharmacy.

### Get the App...

Our Healthera app is useful to order repeats, ask questions or to keep updated on any changes.

### Horsmonden Village Foodbank & Emergency Store Cupboard Facility

Are you unable to shop at the moment? Are you finding it difficult to get food for yourself or your family? Do you know of anyone who is in this situation?

We now have a Horsmonden Village Foodbank / Emergency Food Cupboard Service. We can provide tins, packets, some toiletries and cleaning products as well as fresh items such as fruit, vegetables, dairy and bread.

No matter who you are, or what your circumstances, please let us help you during this difficult time. Please give us a call on 725663 (Isobel Kerrigan) or 722545 (Kate Hart Dyke). All requests are treated confidentially and no questions are asked. All food/items are delivered to your doorstep so there is no contact.



# IN HORSMONDEN

## Telephone Buddies

This scheme aims to help prevent feelings of isolation and loneliness for anyone living in Horsmonden who is ill or vulnerable, and therefore needs to self-isolate. It can also be a way of checking each day that all is well with a person who lives alone in their home.

There is a team of buddies who will ring people, twice a day, to chat. It is not an advice line or for practical help, simply to chat - about the weather, about news, about things going on, or not going on in the village or whatever is of interest.

The scheme is run by St Margaret's Church and all Buddies are either DBS checked, and trained in safeguarding, or very well-known within the community or church.

If you would like more information, or are self-isolating and would like to receive calls, please contact the Rectors Revds Tim and Trish French on 01892 723055, email: [revsfrench@gmail.com](mailto:revsfrench@gmail.com) or go to the website:

<https://www.stmargarethorsmonden.org.uk/newcoronavirus.htm>

## HORSMONDEN 'TECH BANK'

Do you have an unused or unwanted laptop or tablet that you could donate to help a school student access online lessons? All devices are wiped before being repurposed. **Donations can be left at 5 Orchard Way.**

Could you benefit from the use of a repurposed machine? Perhaps you don't have a computer to access online lessons or maybe you are struggling to juggle online learning and your work commitments? We can help!

Email Claire at [claire.hpnews@gmail.com](mailto:claire.hpnews@gmail.com) or Matt at [info@cyberecover.com](mailto:info@cyberecover.com)

## Fish & Chip Delivery

This free delivery service is available to anyone in our community in the 'At Risk' or 'At High Risk' category who is currently shielding, any essential workers and their families or anyone shielding for health & safety reasons. If you would like something from the Fish & Chip van, David Coatsworth will deliver to you!

**MENU AS FOLLOWS:** Cod or Haddock and chips £7 (Plaice £8), Scampi & Chips £8, Sausage and chips £4.50, Chicken & chips £6.50, Saveloy & chips £4.50, Curry sauce £1.50, Mushy peas £1.50.

### To order do the following:

1. email me as soon as possible at ***Davidcoatsworth@gmail.com*** giving the following information:
  - a) Your order and the total price
  - b) Your name, address and a phone no.
  - c) Your preferred delivery time; 12noon - 1pm, 2pm - 3pm, 4pm - 5pm.
  - d) Tell me exactly where you would like your delivery left e.g. door step, in porch etc.
2. Just ahead of your delivery time please leave the exact money for me (I have some change) to collect (ideally in a clear plastic bag), weighted down so it doesn't blow away.

**\*\*When emailing please don't forget the letter 'r' between my first & last name. I will confirm every email order that I receive.**

**If you don't receive a confirmation, I haven't received your order, so please contact me again.**

Stay well & Best wishes to all, David

## HORSMONDEN RESPONDS

Do you need help to self-isolate or socially distance yourself? We have over 100 volunteers ready to help!

**Call Isobel on 07399 994046**

**or Claire 01892 457694**

More information on the back cover.



## Horsmonden Morning WI

Well, the VE DAY 75th Anniversary celebrations were not exactly as we had planned. In Horsmonden, we all tried to do our bit. There was bunting on many houses, there were tea parties, with social distancing, on some roads. Our wonderful shop was supplying oodles of cream teas. The children had a day off from their home schooling routines. But the West Kent Federation of WIs afternoon tea with music and dancing had to be cancelled as did many other events around the country.

Thinking about VE Day made me reflect on the role of the WI during World War 2. Lady Gertrude Denman, one of the founders of the WI, was asked by the government to run the Women's Land Army. Many WI ladies became Land Army workers. In the countryside and smaller towns, many WI ladies were involved in organising and settling in the evacuees from the cities. And of course, we all know about the endless jam making that went on within the WI movement across the county.

The WI was a force of strong minded ladies as they still are today. Life was very difficult for them in the 1940s as it is in many ways today. But when we complain about being restricted in our activities and unable to see our families, just remember that we are not having to spend many a night in an air-raid shelter, as the ladies did during the War. Cuddling a newly born grandchild or having a family birthday party might not be possible but we should all be grateful for the electronic communications that bring us together – Facetime, WhatsApp, Zoom etc. Our mothers and grandmothers were over the moon when they received a post card or

short letter after months of complete lack of communication from their loved ones. We have been encouraged to sing "We'll meet again". We will all get together again. We will be allowed to go out and about and have our meetings. As has often been pointed out, Horsmonden is a village with so many organisations, there is usually so much going on. It will all come back to life; we must be patient.

Meanwhile when you go for your walk, say hello to others you pass, phone friends and especially those who you know are living alone and unable to get out. Keep smiling and be the force of strong minded ladies that our mothers and grandmothers were.

We have another WI favourite recipe for you. Three times a year, after our WI meeting, we hold a lunch in the social club. An absolute must for the puddings is a spoonful or two of Mary's delicious ice-cream, the recipe for which is on the opposite page!

*Caroline Davis*



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# Mary's 'easy-peasy' but delicious Ice-cream



*(Courtesy of Horsmonden WI)*

## Ingredients:

600ml double cream (not long-life or Elmlea)  
400g tin condensed milk  
Vanilla essence to taste

## Method:

Beat the cream until really thick.  
Stir in the condensed milk.  
Add vanilla to your taste.

## Flavouring:

You can add chocolate flakes (chopped up small)  
Or stir in some fruit puree.  
Or you can just leave it as vanilla icecream.

You do NOT need an icecream maker. You do NOT need to keep taking it out of the freezer to stir. It is so easy. Just leave it in the freezer for a few hours and then ENJOY eating it!

## DEFIBRILLATORS

**There are two defibrillators available in Horsmonden.**

Outside the Social Club. On the wall by the War Memorial just below the Clock Tower.  
At the Tennis Club on the outside, side wall of the Club house.



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You will not be surprised to read that sadly the Readycall Cream Tea will not take place this July. Here's hoping that we will be able to safely reinstate it again next year.

Please note that any requests and messages will continue to be checked on our answer phone during this Coronavirus period. But we ask for your understanding if we are unable to fulfil your request. We might have to put you in touch with other organisations such as Horsmonden Responds (01892 457694).

Keep well everybody.

Jenny



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Firstly, I start this month by saying that it was with great sorrow a few weeks ago that WOW members learned the very sad news we had lost a very dear member, Barbara Hall. We will be paying special tribute to her in the next Horsmonden Parish News and making a donation to the UK Sepsis Trust.

For those of you not familiar with WOW, this is a new informal women's group, set up to replace the Horsmonden evening WI group which sadly folded in December. We had just two WOW evenings when lockdown locked us out of the Social Club, our regular meeting place, and indeed everywhere else. Undaunted however, members new and old have been getting creative and learning new skills. Call me old-fashioned, but before 24th March if someone said 'Zoom' to me I thought they were either travelling very fast in a car, or getting up close and personal with a camera lens. Not any more though! Obviously we all now know it's a cloud-based peer-to-peer software platform.

It seems WOWers have fast become serious serial Zoomers, sitting in comfy seats in front of a screen with a glass of Furlough Merlot. Whether you're the boss hosting a meeting, or one of a select group, given ID and password to 'join', either way, you're in! Two sets of participants and you can chat for hours. More and it's a race to get those quiz answers in before your 40 minute cut-off. Hands up who hasn't worked out that the sassy thing to do is book several meetings in a row and give your guests all the IDs and passwords so when the screen goes black you all just start again?

But there's so much more to Zoom than quizzing, more even than exercise class-

es, coffee mornings, afternoon teas and drinks evenings. If you haven't tried a Zoom Murder Mystery with four or five couples all dressed in character give it a go! It really works. Many WOW Zoomers are keeping up with grandchildren by reading them stories and even writing their own. Board games such as 'Brainmaster' work really well on Zoom, provided you each have a set; likewise crosswords. Or why not share a recipe? Each get the ingredients in and Zoom bake and decorate cakes on-screen together. The possibilities are endless, but how are you Zooming? We'd love to hear! Remember – girls just wanna have fun.

*Kristina Burgess-Smith*  
*Kristina.bs145@gmail.com*



## **Horsmonden Memory Choir**

Kate Hart Dyke    Phone 01892 722545    email kthd@talk21.com

Mondays, 10.30am - 12 noon in the Social Club on the Green.

Call Kate 01892 722545 for details.

We are planning for a return on Monday 7th September. Though of course it could be earlier. Who knows? We will start with a good old sing song of old favourites. Maybe a special cake or two as part of our refreshments. Barbara has been baking in preparation all through the lock down. Our voices will shake the village with the joyfulness of our return. We are a group of friends as well as a choir. But we always can use more friends.

The Team: Our lovely singers, Jeremy and Kate W lead the way. Penny keeps us safe and makes sure we have all we need, Dave and Pauline offer lifts. Barbara is amazing in the kitchen, Jennifer and Diana make sure no one is lonely. Dr Mark and David entertain us with music hall classics. We love a solo performance so our two Johns

are wonderful. You are in safe and friendly hands with us. We hope you are all well and keeping safe. We'll Meet Again soon. The Term's Theme is Celebration

**Monday 7th September** - Favourites

**Monday 14th September** - Wartime

**Monday 21st September** - Songs from The British Isles

**Monday 28th September** - Hops and Harvest

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# HORSMONDEN NOSTALGIA GROUP



## “Keeping Local History Alive”

### Capel Manor



Situated along Grovehurst Lane, just off the Goudhurst Road, Capel Manor was built between 1859 and 1862 for John Francis Austen second cousin to the novelist Jane Austen. The family ceased living here around 1925 and the manor began to fall into disrepair. During the Second World War the house and grounds were used as a base for many military units and a unit of the Fire Service. After the War the house, in very poor condition, gradually deteriorated so much that in 1966 it was demolished. The foundations survived, as did the arcaded terrace and balustrades, as well as remains of the winter garden. In 1970 the new Capel Manor House, a glass enclosed design, now a Grade II Listed Building was built.



### Memories of Capel Manor by Bev Sedley (nee Dobbs)

When I was a child in the 1950s (I was born in 1947), Capel Manor was one of the most wonderful places in the world to me, a wild garden of decaying statues and hidden beauties.

I think my Auntie Ethel first took me there – she was my great aunt, Nanna's unmarried sister, Ethel Fermor, who moved from the East End of London after the war to live next door to us at Spring Farm. She would take me and my younger sister, Jenny, over the farm and countryside and “up the Manor”, naming every wild flower as she



went: milkmaids, jack-by-the-hedge, purple loosestrife, ground ivy, speedwell. Soon Jenny and I went down the road to Capel Cross on our own, going up the little path through the field to the small side gate of the manor, the one past the old overgrown tennis courts, surrounded by foxgloves. This brought us out from the right to the vast terrace in front of the ruined house, edged with pedestals from which most of the statuary had been broken off, shot away by the bored, edgy soldiers billeted here during the war. One day we dared to go in through a small basement door and found a roomful of broken figures tidied away. We hardly





ever went into the main house – the rooms were empty and the plaster pock-marked by bullets.

From the centre of the terrace was an enormous sweep of staircase, truly majestic – it made us feel very special to walk down it slowly and carefully, heads held high. It led to stone-edged formal beds, now full of weeds, and in the corner, at the beginning of a much smaller staircase, was a little gazebo (I suppose it was), but it seemed like a little open temple to me, where you could sit and look out over the wild trees. It was full of graffiti, but I don't remember what was written, just a list of names.

If you went further down the narrow steps past the temple, the path got very over-



shadowed and quite scary. We called this the "Fox's hole" - and had to dare each other to pass the "fox" lurking at the side of a dark, still pool. (I think it was probably the dead stump of a tree fern, as it was really shaggy-looking.) We never dared to go up close to investigate, just used to hurry through the gloomy trees in case the fox came after us. Probably it was the remains of a Victorian stumpery – although it was many decades before I heard that word.

Behind the vast house was our favourite place, the enormous conservatory – most of the glass was broken, just lying on the ground, so we had to be careful, but the towering camellia trees (and they were tree, not bushes – taller than any I have seen since) were absolutely spectacular in spring (red, white, pink) and the conservatory still provided a bit of shelter, although the petals did go brown in a particularly hard frost. Later came tiny tea roses, climbing over the walls.



We thought the manor was a very romantic place, but melancholy – Auntie Ethel told us that the man who built it had done it in the Italian style for his wife, but she died before she ever saw it. I believe he was one of the Austen family. I'm not sure when our family bought the house, whether before, during or just after the war, but Auntie Lisa (my mother's oldest sister, Elsie Larkin), told me she had persuaded her uncle (married to her Auntie Minnie, Auntie Ethel's sister) to buy it to turn into a nursing home (I'm not quite sure what kind of home). After the war, nothing came of that.



## **Scam awareness**

Scams Awareness Fortnight 2020 takes place over two weeks, from the 15-28 June.

Unfortunately, people need to be more aware of scams than ever this year as many new scams have emerged because of the coronavirus outbreak. Scams to look out for include:

- advertising face masks or medical equipment at high prices
- emails or texts pretending to be from the government
- emails offering life insurance against coronavirus
- people knocking at your door and asking for money for charity

If you receive emails or texts about coronavirus from someone you don't know, or from an unusual email address or mobile number, don't click on any links or buy anything. Never give money or personal details to someone you don't know or trust - for example someone who knocks on the door and offers to help.

Get in touch with us if you would like more information about spotting a scam, or what to do if you think you've been scammed.

### **Reporting a scam**

You might be able to stop others from being scammed if you report a scam. You should report the scam to more than one organisation - report it to:

- the Citizens Advice consumer helpline – 0808 223 1133
- the police – contact them immediately by calling 101 if the scammer is in your area or if you've transferred money to the scammer in the last 24 hours
- Action Fraud – online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime> or by calling 0300 123 2040
- HMRC phishing team – contact them by email on [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) if you've received a suspicious email, text message or phone call from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- Royal Mail – contact them by email on [scam.mail@royalmail.com](mailto:scam.mail@royalmail.com) or call 0800 011 3466 if you've been scammed by post

Give as much information as you can - for example, dates, names and email addresses.

If you've been threatened with violence, report it to the police on 101.

See our Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest scams affecting the local area.

**For more information or help about scams, fraud and consumer matters, please contact Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP Email: [info@pwadvice.org](mailto:info@pwadvice.org) Tel: 01892 838619**



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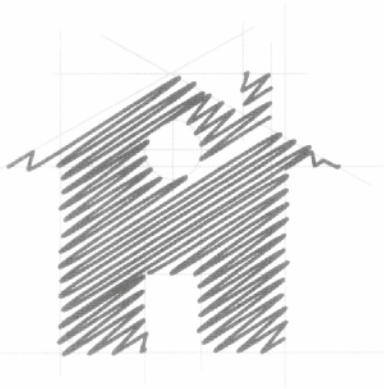
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# Horsmonden Directory

Rectors	Rev Tim and Trish French revsfrench@gmail.com	01892 723055
St Margaret's Pastoral Team	Pauline Bell (Coordinator)	01892 724495
St Margaret's Wardens	Dennis Asplin Steve Jones	01892 724225 01892 730866
St Margaret's Administrator	Kate Hart-Dyke Churchofficestmargarets@gmail.com	01892 722545
Captain of Tower (St Margaret's)	Ken Bromley	01892 722548
PCC Councillors	Robin Black, Angie Jenkins, David Jolley, Erica Jones, Sara Kovach-Clark and Roger Marsh. Secretary: Jan Cobley.	
Deanery Synod	Sara Kovach-Clark	
Church Wedding Flowers	Lisa Gartshore	01892 725432
Friends of St Margaret's	Hon. Organisers: Diana Morton Anthony Cooper	01892 722298 01892 724545
Methodist Church	Lay Minister: Phil Staddon Senior Steward: Rachel Sheppard Hire of Premises: John Sheppard	01622 871332 01892 722654 01892 722654
Roman Catholic Church (Goudhurst)	Father Victor McClean vic.mcclean@btconnect.com Website: www.rcgoudhurst.org.uk	01580 211268
Parish Council	Chair: Jane March Vice Chair: Stuart Davis Clerk: Lucy Noakes clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk Assistant Clerk: Jackie Stanton assistantclerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk	01892 723481 01892 725571 01892 724989
Councillors	Danny Hunn, Linda Jenkinson, Alison Larkin, Matthew Richards, Colin Russell, Mark Sheppard and Ralf Stevens	
Borough Councillors	Jane March Alan McDermot	07866 722038 07910 351596
K.C.C. Councillor	Sarah Hamilton	01622 694335
Kent Highways	<a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>	03000 418181
Village Hall Management Committee	Chair: Linda Jenkinson Hon Secretary: Edna Jones	07704 833594 01892 722505
Heath Pharmacy	Maidstone Road	01892 722217
Doctors Surgery	Lamberhurst Road	01892 723988
Local Police	PCSO Simon Humphreys Non-emergency Police line	07980 924877 101
Ready-Call	Horsmonden Surgery, Lamberhurst Rd	01892 723850
N. S. P. C. C.		0800 800 5000
Horsmonden Responds - Coronavirus help	Isobel Kerrigan Claire Reed	07399 994046 01892 457694

Horsmonden Primary Academy	Chair of Governors: Bob Sherwood Associate Headteacher: Mrs H. Sharpe office@horsmondenprimaryacademy.org.uk	01892 722529
Friends of Horsmonden Primary Academy (FoHPS)	Contact: Katy Arscott fohpsinfo@gmail.com	
Social Club	Secretary: Chris Reed Secretary@horsmondenclub.org.uk	07572 871904
Sports Club	Chair: Ed Streeten-Smith Hon. Sec: Matt Richards mtrichards@gmail.com	07805 246362
Cricket Club	Organiser: Neil Rigby	01892 723713
Tennis Club	Hon. Secretary: Tracey Parrett horsmondentennis@mail.com Coaching: Zane Cheeseman info@hotshotztennis.co.uk	07726 160539 07932 573888
Football Club	Ryan Moran	07528 783920
Horsmonden Choir	Carry Smyth carrysmth12@btinternet.com	01892 722931
Horsmonden Memory Choir	Kate Hart Dyke kthd@talk21.com	01892 722545
Horsmonden Players	Chair: Pat Simmonds: patricia.simmonds428@btinternet.com Secretary: Gillian Maffei: m.maffei@sky.com	
Save the Children	Jan Cobley jancobley.save@outlook.com	01892 722476
Overs 60's Club	Organiser: Hilary Davies	01892 723587
C.O.A.C.H Tours	Gloria Young and Barbara Hall coachtourshorsmonden@gmail.com	
Gardening Society	Chair: Hugh Nye	01892 723118
Historical Society	Chairman: Brian Smith	01892 724146
Nostalgia Group	John Freeman horsmonden.nostalgia@gmail.com	07900 680048
Horsmonden Charities	Chair: Robin Black: robin@rkblack.co.uk Mrs Anita Wood	01892 722563 01892 723730
HoVEC	Chair: Sara Foster info.hovec@gmail.com	07973 409387
Kindergarten	Chair: Anna Cameron committee@horsmondenkindergarten.co.uk	01892 724805
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Chair: Diana Morton robanddimorton@btinternet.com	01892 722298
Short Mat Bowls	John Shekyls	01892 725762
Parish News	Editor: Claire Reed claire.hpnews@gmail.com Distribution: Ken & Dawn Bromley	01892 457694 01892 722548
Horsmonden WI Morning Group	President: Pam Payne Secretary: June Fleury	01892 724180 01892 723532
WOW (Women on Wednesdays)	Contact: Katy Arscott katyandlawrence@gmail.com	
Village Amblers	Robin Starkie	01892 722639 07415 081550



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