

Frittenden Parish Magazine



May 2021 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		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 5221
Parish Disclosure Officer		Judy Staples	852226
Parish Safeguarding Coordinators		Lindsey Moore & James Highwood	852553/852715
Bell Ringers	Captain & Secretary	David Manger	01622 890675
Magazine	Editor	Mike Cooper	852108
	Advertising	Nicky Vernon	852537
	Distribution	Ian Mounter	852268
Open The Book	(Not operating at present)	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	<i>Bernard Millard</i>	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>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	Ros Bowles pro tem	852323
	Treasurer	Valerie Thomas	762821
<u>Youth Club</u>	The Club is not able to function at the moment. Later, we hope....		

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.

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends

I'm writing not long after Easter when we had the joy of being back in our churches to celebrate Jesus rising to new life. Truly glorious too was finishing the services with open-air acapella renditions of that wonderful hymn *Thine be the Glory!*

But now our nation and the Commonwealth is caught up in sorrow at the Duke of Edinburgh's passing, and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Queen Elizabeth and the Royal family as they grieve. We find ourselves raking through the photos for that shot which captures Prince Philip's character. We find ourselves contemplating his many accomplishments and multiple sacrifices in his personal and public life. We find ourselves wondering at nearly ten decades of life, a big chunk of which was in the pressure-cooker of public scrutiny.

It's always tempting to gloss over death, to pretend it doesn't really apply to us. But beyond the headlines, let's also think deeply about ourselves. Prince Philip - and think of the late great Captain Sir Tom Moore - living to such grand old ages can help us reflect on how we are using the days God gives us. What about my own legacy? Will I use today – the only day truly at my disposal – to further my own ends? Or will I choose to operate selflessly, for the benefit of others, will I work with others to build and enhance community?

The good news of Easter and Jesus' decisive victory over death isn't just for Easter – it's for life! The ultimate life laid down for others is Jesus' life. The true model for healthy community is God who is three-in-one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At St Mary's and Trinity churches we are a bunch of ordinary people, people with doubts, fears, niggling questions – very similar to you, really! We've encountered the transforming power of Jesus' resurrection life - and we'd love you to too...

There's really only one way to find out - well, there is listening via the website or down the phone - a great way to 'test the waters.' But as everyone knows, nothing beats 3D, and everyone is warmly welcome along at any of our 10am or 6pm services* when you can see and hear for yourself.

Stay safe, cultivate curiosity, keep caring...

Pete

** Please check the church website for service locations and you can sign up there to receive our updates*

UNITED BENEFICE OF SISSINGHURST WITH FRITTENDEN

MAY SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Sun	2nd	Easter 5 10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's 18:00 Holy Communion BCP - Trinity	Sun	16th	Easter 7 10:00 Holy Communion CW - St Mary's 18:00 Evening Worship - Trinity
Wed	5th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's 14:00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Bible Study online (see below)	Wed	19th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's 14:00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Bible Study online
Thu	6th	10:00 Bible Study online	Thu	20th	10:00 Bible Study online
Sun	9th	Easter 6 10:00 Holy Communion CW - Trinity 16:00 Families Together - St Mary's 18:00 Evening Worship - St Mary's	Sun	23rd	Pentecost 10:00 Morning Worship - Trinity 16:00 Families Together - Trinity 18:00 Holy Communion BCP - St Mary's
Mon	10th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's	Wed	26th	14:00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Bible Study online
Wed	12th	14:00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Bible Study online	Thu	27th	10:00 Bible Study online
Thu	13th	10:00 Bible Study online	Sun	30th	Trinity 10:00 United Benefice Service - St Mary's

Late changes - Please check on the church website for any changes to services or events - frittendenchurch.org.uk

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

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

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

The **on line bible study** will be '**Living in the Light of God's Presence**', a six session study in the book of Ezekiel written by Anthony Billington of LICC.

Moving Mountains - Prayer for the needs of the Community, held in the Upper Room

To ensure we can provide sufficient seating for Sunday services please let Joanna Beech (joanna.beech97@gmail.com) know for St Mary's if you are planning to attend and Penny Durie (duriepj@aol.com) for Trinity.

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING

A really big thank you to everyone who joined us on 3rd March for our first virtual coffee morning with Sissinghurst. We heard from paramedic Richard de Coverley who lives in Sissinghurst. He talked about the vital work of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. In the last year there have been considerable challenges for the service especially with covid, not least the transfer of very ill intensive care patients to other hospitals by helicopter, other times by road when weather bad, sometimes very long distances. Their income has also dropped over the last year as they have been unable to hold their normal fundraising activities. Not too late to donate! Just ring 01634 471946.

We had over 20 people join us on zoom, some managing it for the first time and it was lovely to see so many Frittenden and Sissinghurst faces and chat in small groups after.

Pat Heath

THE ECO CHURCH SCHEME

Hi everyone

My name is Sophie Beech and I am the Environmental Officer for St Mary's Church. I am working on making the church more environmentally friendly and one way of doing this is through the Eco Church award scheme.

The Eco Church award is a scheme to evaluate, by a survey, how we, as a church, are caring for God's earth. The survey has five areas which are; Worship and teaching, Buildings, Land, Lifestyle and Community and Global engagement. We have completed the survey and this indicates that our current practices mean that we have achieved a Bronze award.

I am planning to create a small working group to meet approximately 4 times a year on zoom or in person to talk about how we can sustain our Bronze award and how, if possible, we can improve and become more environmentally friendly. If you would like to be a part of this group, please call me on 07814894654.

Thank you

Sophie Beech

OLD STAMPS OR COINS IN THE LOFT?

If you do, and would like to get rid of them, I go regularly to auctions, and could take them for you and see if I can sell them. They don't have to be Penny Blacks or Maria Theresa Dollars – many collectors are interested in less rare items to complete their sets.

Interested? Contact me on 852268 or eileenmounter@hotmail.co.uk

Ian Mounter

FRITTENDEN PARISH MAGAZINE

Connecting the community

I am not sure anyone will be able to match Mike Coopers' dedication to the editorship, but as he hands over the baton, I am sure all his readers would like to thank him whole heartedly for 20 years of service ensuring our magazine has been a constant feature of village life. We want to keep it that way, and so a small team has come together to continue Mike's work and to secure the magazine's future for our village

From the June edition your Parish Magazine will be:

- Printed for the first time in colour, available on-line
- A new magazine design but keeping the handy A5 size plus some A4.
- 10 issues a year
- Free magazine, distributed to all households in the village

We are looking for ideas and contributions from the breadth of the parish. Not just the written word, but colour gives us the opportunity to include photographs and illustrations, and we are planning new features on local interests.

I am grateful to Rebecca Brown and Emma Griffin who will be supporting editorially, and to Andy Lane for his Art Direction. Special thanks to those advertisers who continue their support, and to Nicky Vernon for overseeing.

Like all things new it will be a journey and I encourage all our readers to find your voice across the community.

James

James Booth-Clibborn

Frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

jamesboothclibborn@gmail.com

SUNNY SIDE UP

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. "Careful," he said, "CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my gosh ! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my gosh! Where are going to get more butter? They're going to STICK! Careful! CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!"

The wife stared at him. "What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?"

The husband calmly replied, "I just wanted you to know what it feels like when I am driving."

Mike Bedford

OF SUNSHINE AND STEALING

May is such a beautiful time of year - but my goodness, it's been a long time coming! So far, April has been freezing one day, balmy the next and one never knows what to put on; are we dressing for a warm spring day or back into our winter woollies? Well, it seems that we're not the only ones whose behaviour is affected on a daily basis by the sunshine. Sound obvious? Maybe - but I, at least, have always assumed that birds reacted to a general increase in temperature and, especially, to day length to begin breeding. And whilst that's no doubt true overall, direct observation has revealed that it's a bit more complex than that.

Father Christmas kindly gave me a nest-box camera this year and this has already revealed some interesting behaviour in the blue tit population - and we haven't even reached the egg-laying stage yet! So I'll share two of my discoveries here, the first one relating to the weather.

Nesting material began to appear in the box back in early March - a few strands of grass now and then. By the end of March one corner had a modest pile of moss in it but by early-mid April the box had a 2 inch layer of moss, grass, wool and feathers. But I noticed that no activity happened on cold, grey days or wet days; material was only brought into the box when the sun was out. So is this temperature-related? Or related to absolute light-levels? Or both? I don't know - but what it means is that although technically the birds have weeks to build their nests, the reality (this year at least) is that the enormous effort of nest-building has actually been compressed into the few sunny days in an otherwise often cold, grey spring. And the longer the cold weather extends into spring, the more time pressure these little birds are under to get their nests ready in time to hatch their chicks by late May, when their food source (caterpillars) is at its richest.

And my second discovery? Male and female blue tits are identical so it's impossible to know who's doing what. But careful observation has shown that as fast as one tit filled the box with feathers, another popped in and removed them. I wondered whether the female simply didn't like her husband's choice of décor (well we've all been there!) but have concluded that it's a second nest-builder stealing choice items from the nest box.

Careful observation pays dividends in understanding the natural world. And one lesson I've learned is that 'all's fair in love, war and nesting'!

Rebecca Brown



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We have a stall at the monthly Cranbrook Farmers' Market which runs from 9.30am - 1pm in the Vestry Hall on the fourth Saturday of every month. However you don't have to wait for a Meat Evening or Farmers' Market to buy from us, we carry a stock of frozen meat all year round so please just give us a call.

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE

A Potted History

In light of Mike Cooper's mere 20 years in the saddle as editor of this magazine, I thought it worth putting his service into some sort of context. The Historical Society has, we believe, a full set of the magazines from 1925. These have changed both in format and focus over the 144 years of, non-continuous, publication.

Below are extracts from 'The Parish Records' made by the new incumbent in 1941: –

As no entries had been made in these records since 1897, the Rev. R C J White (the newly installed Priest in Charge of St. Mary's) compiled the following brief entries from various sources but mainly from old Parish Magazines.

1895 A Parish Magazine was started afresh this year after an interval of seven years. It's first appearance was in 1887, in conjunction with Staplehurst parish, but its life was short, it did not survive the year of its first publication. From this date (June 1895) it runs alone.

1918 The Parish Magazine ceased publication in June.

1920 An occasional Parish Paper was introduced [of which the Historical Society has only two examples].

From January 1925 to June 1925, the magazine was revived under the title 'Frittenden Parish Magazine'. At that time, the Rector, Cecil Stooks, wrote:

The Magazine as you will now have it is somewhat different to what you have been accustomed. But I believe it is absolutely essential to have a Magazine of some sort in a Parish, for without it people are apt to lose touch with the organisations and activities of the Church. I hope that the first hundred copies will sell out (they are being printed at the Rectory by myself and my son) and that none will grudge paying 1/6 and others, who can afford it, 2/6 a year.

In fact, the magazine consisted of a general Church of England publication, "Home Words", inserted within a front and back cover showing very limited Frittenden parish information.

From the Book of Parish Records is the following entry

1943 January - The first number of the Parish Paper appeared today. This publication takes the place of the Parish Magazine which was abandoned some years ago.

From September 1947 to November 1961 the title became 'St Mary's, Frittenden Parish Magazine'. This had an A5 format but continued with a cover of local information and the 'Home Words' insert. A significant change came in January 1950 with the inclusion of local trade adverts on the rear page, but the highlight of that edition must be the cookery section's time-consuming recipe for turning whale meat into a substitute liver sausage!

From January 1962, 'Frittenden Village Parish Magazine' continued as before with inserts, although in a larger size, but now had 4 pages, allowing more space for Frittenden church content. But there was still no wider parish news. January 1974 saw the name again changed, this time to include the 'Holy Trinity, Sissinghurst'. However, this was short lived for in May 1979 this was dropped and there was also a change in format, reverting to the smaller A5 size.

Until 1973, the role of editor had not been acknowledged in the magazine, the Rector at the time undertaking that task. However, in November that year, Miss Audrey Willmott, who had previously been described as 'Distribution Secretary', took the title of editor.

The major change came in January 1981, when the practice of using inserts was dropped and the magazine became truly a parish magazine.

Audrey held the position of editor until January 1983. She was followed by:- Dame Jean Dowling née Taylor (February 1983 to January 1989); Nikki Stephens (February 1989 to March 1991); Christine Newman (April 1991 to January 1995), after which the position became vacant until April 1996 when Peter and Jill Sims (May 1996 to May 2002) took over. By 2002, Jill was operating as editor by herself.

The main changes introduced by editors were a large (A4) format by Nikki Stephens, in February 1989, and a colour cover by Christine Newman, October 1992.

With his appointment as editor in 2002, Mike introduced 'E FOR EDITORIAL'. In the first editorial he signalled a slightly lighter tone than previous magazines. He also commented that the magazine was for the entire village and should therefore 'ideally be written by all the village'. I think readers will agree that he succeeded on both these points. He also demonstrated his capacity to take on board other opinions. In his Editorial of August-September 2002, only a few months into his editorship, he explained that the wish of some readers to reduce the size of the magazine to A5, which had been in use from 1979 to 1989, would cause him problems with some regular items. However, the next magazine, October 2002, was indeed A5 size, as an experiment. It is to his credit that the new smaller size has continued throughout his editorship!

Early 2020 saw the arrival of Covid, restricting the hand delivery of the magazine, and an online version became available, although there were very few events on which to report. A hard copy reappeared from October 2020, until December/January, when it was the victim of a further lockdown.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his forbearance over the years. He has borne some very long contributions from me with good grace and I am very grateful to him for withholding his 'blue pencil' from my efforts to publicise the History of Frittenden.

Phil Betts

Chmn. Frittenden Historical Society

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL PRIZE DRAW

The winners in April 2021 were :

1 st Prize	No. 5	Roy Latham	£15.00
2 nd Prize	No. 28	Pat Radford	£10.00
3 rd Prize	No. 57	Caroline Nash	£9.00

We have 70 members so far, but of course if anyone else would like to join, it is not too late.

If you would like a Membership Form, please either phone or email : 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 (£5.00 per person for the whole year from the next draw in May, 2021 until September

2021) by BACS. 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:

Each month, half the proceeds is divided into 3 prizes and the other half goes towards the running of the Frittenden Memorial Hall, so of course, the greater the number of members, the larger the prizes!

Thank you for reading this and Good Luck!

Eileen Bridges 01580 852563

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL

Updates and info!

Firstly - a reminder that the Post Office is open as usual, 2 - 4pm Monday and Thursday. However, it will be running from the old Acorns Shop next door, ie Eileen and Gordon's garage. many thanks to them.

The building works continue apace, hopefully with not too many new surprises about increasing expenses. The builders have put some video on the Hall FB page (which is currently called "Frittenden Village Hall" but should be soon changed to "Frittenden Memorial Hall") so please do take a look.

GOOD NEWS! - we have been granted a total of £25,000 towards the second phase of the Hall remodel, from Garfield Weston Foundation (£15,000) and the Bernard Sunley Foundation (£10,000). This is really encouraging, although we cannot draw down the funds until we have raised all the money elsewhere. This brings me to...

JUST GIVING - if you can spare any donations for the next phase, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fmhrefurbishment> and be as generous as possible. Grant-making funders like to see support from within the community and it can be the thing that tips them over into giving us money! If anyone is able to make a large donation, or if you know of anyone we can approach for significant amounts, please contact me on 852317.

NEW WEBSITE! - the skill-laden Tor Millard has created a new website for the Memorial Hall. At present we have only the front page, but it will be developed to include online booking, information, photos and past events. Click on www.frittendenmemorialhall.co.uk to visit.

CAN WE USE THE HALL? - Yes, as soon as the government lets us, and when the builders are absent, ie evenings. Space is considerably reduced, but when we know the score we will be happy for you to come and look at what is possible. The Youth Club is looking at how to open again soon, and on May 6th the Polling Station will take its usual place in the Hall for the whole day for the local and Police Commissioner elections.

Rosalind Riley

Fortunately, the sky is beautiful everywhere.

Simone Weil

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.

Poet Joseph Brodsky

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
North Downs' sponsored Walk on behalf of Cancer Research UK
(and your chosen cause)
Organised by the Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent
SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST

The North Downs Walk in and around Harrietsham has been an annual event for the past 35 years, until last year when we had to cancel for the first time ever. However, we are determined to put on the event this year. It will be a somewhat different format BUT

- There will still be the choice of 4 routes 1,3 6 and 9 miles, all starting and finishing at Glebe Field, Harrietsham (opposite the church), and taking in the beautiful North Downs
- It will be fully marshalled and signposted with regular checkpoints for you and your dogs to take on refreshments,
- You will still be able to retain 50% of your sponsorship for your own cause or charity.

However due to various restrictions one or two things have had to change;

- We cannot hire Harrietsham Village Hall as it is being used for Covid vaccinations so we are intending using the field opposite the church as the start and finish point using gazebos for registration.
- A knock-on effect is that we cannot provide food this year
- We will also be asking you to bring a drinking vessel to fill up at the various checkpoints to save multi-handling of cups with the commensurate risk of spreading Covid

We do hope these inconveniences will not put you off and are hoping for a good turnout after almost 18 months without any real events

We are still finalising the detail but intend to start accepting registrations by Mid May. Why not check out our website <https://wealdofkentrotary.org.uk> to get regular updates and to find out more about us.

Duncan Payne

<p>PROUD TO BE SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1852</p>  <p>J. PERIGOE & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p>	 <p>PROUD TO BE SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1965</p>  <p>A.W. COURT FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p>	
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POSTSCRIPTS

More from the Court!

Attorney: She had three children, right?

Witness: Yes.

Attorney: How many were boys?

Witness: None.

Attorney: Were there any girls?

Witness: Your Honour, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

Attorney: How was your first marriage terminated?

Witness: By death.

Attorney: And by whose death was it terminated?

Witness: Take a guess.

Attorney: Can you describe the individual?

Witness: He was about medium height, and had a beard.

Attorney: Was this a male or female?

Witness: Unless the circus was in town I'm going with male.

Attorney: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

Witness: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Attorney: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

Witness: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

Attorney: All your answers MUST be oral, ok? What school did you go to?

Witness: Oral.

Attorney: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

Witness: Are you qualified to ask that question?

Attorney: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for blood pressure?

Witness: No.

Attorney: Did you check for breathing?

Witness: No.

Attorney: So then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No.

Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Attorney: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

Witness: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law.

Thanks to John Day and the MFU

E FOR EDITORIAL & F FOR FAREWELL

Twenty years ago, I wrote my first E for Editorial, and now I am writing my last. It has been a rewarding, interesting and sometimes challenging time, and the way of producing the magazine has changed beyond recognition. At the start, nearly all copy was received handwritten, and after typing and assembling – literally by ‘copy and paste’ with scissors and glue – copies of the finished document were made on an ancient Roneo machine powered by a hand driven crank on the side! Now virtually all articles are received by e-mail and the editing of them is as simple to achieve as is the deciphering of them, which often at the outset had also been a challenge. I was unaware at that time that some Vicars/Rectors – like Doctors – hide behind illegible handwriting!

Now there is to be another period of change, and I would like to wish James and his new team all the very best for the future. I also offer my thanks to the team that has helped me – Ian and Eileen Mounter and their speedy distributors, Nicky Vernon and her never failing patience with our advertisers (who also deserve a thank you), and of course the many contributors without whom this magazine would not exist. It would be remiss of me not to also thank the three Rectors – Allan, Fred, and now Pete – who have guided me from time to time and put up with my bullying around deadline time!

Finally, my thanks to you the readers for staying with me for all these years.

God Bless.

& M FOR MEMORIES

A recent email exchange gave me the idea to record just a few memorable bits of the last 20 years, so here goes.

Phil Betts ringing me up in 2014 to book 4 pages in every month’s issue for the next four years – which of course resulted in “The Great War and Frittenden”.

My asking Bro Dowling if he could remember exactly what he was doing and where on VE Day, to which he replied “Yes, I was in Marshall Kesselring’s Headquarters” – and Bro subsequently wrote a riveting piece for the magazine explaining that astonishing statement.

Another guest at someone’s dinner table crushingly commenting to us all that “I only read the church bits”! Someone else talking to Berni in the BJ and saying “Oh, I never read the magazine at all”, to which Berni replied “Don’t you know my husband standing just over there? He edits it!”

As for my mistakes, possibly my worst error (in the eyes of some at least) was running a spoof report on the supposedly recently completed US tour by Michelangelo’s David, sponsored by Starbucks and McDonalds. The report included ‘before and after’ pictures of the statue – the before being as he actually is and the after cleverly modified into a recognisable but seriously fat and ugly version. I thought I was really funny, given the ‘sponsors’ but apparently a number of Frittendonians were aghast to find two pictures of a naked man in the Parish Magazine....

Ah well, one can’t expect to win all the time.

Mike Cooper.

GOSBEE'S GOSSIP

What can I say that hasn't already been said about HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh? His was a life of dedication to duty, and his stance was always ram-rod straight, even at the age of 99. Prince Philip was married to the Queen for 73 years. 70 years is platinum, I can't find a specific title for 73rd, as it's obviously very rare for a marriage (or life) to last that long. It is a great shame that Prince Philip didn't quite reach his 100th birthday, which would have been on 10th June. The Chairman of our Parish Council, Tony Staples has sent the Queen a condolence card on behalf of the Parish Council. We will never see the like of him again. RIP Your Royal Highness.

Long standing Frittenden residents might remember the late Brenda Mabb, who sadly passed away on 15th February. Brenda was born on 5th March 1927 in Frittenden. She had 2 sisters and one brother, and they were all brought up in rural Kent in the Second World War without any central heating, telephone or TV. At that time, Frittenden did have one bus per week. Brenda's first job was as a live in companion for Miss Solly, a blind and deaf lady who lived in Pound Hill House (where Margaret Knight lives today). Brenda stayed there for 16 years. Miss Solly wasn't totally blind. When I was a child and went to church with my sister Barbara, if we sat in Miss Solly's pew, she would poke us with her stick to move. Brenda also worked in Ashbee's shop. Mike Ashbee's father Jeff retired 1972, then Mrs Robeson and her daughter Sharon took it over until 1976. Four generations of Brenda's family moved to Cornwall in 1988, including her nephew Raymond, who has been back in Frittenden with his wife Rita (Chantler) for the past few years. Our condolences to the family.

This magazine is soon to be under new editorship, with James Booth-Clibbon to take over from Mike Cooper, who I would like to give thanks for the last 18 years of outstanding service to the village. It must take a great deal of work to produce such a high quality magazine, especially knowing which jokes to keep in and which to take out!. In recent years, I have steered away from risqué jokes and stuck to those more suitable for school age children. Mike served two terms on the Parish Council, as our 'planning' representative. He is also the Head of the Tent Team, raising funds for village organisations. If you are new to the village and have an event coming up as we cautiously come out of lockdown, Mike is the one to contact. Many thanks for all your work Mike.

The University Boat Race started in June 1829 at Henley -On -Thames. I hear that Angela and Christopher Parish's grandson Oliver (son of Matthew) was in Cambridge's winning team on 4th April. Matthew was also in the winning team in 1994/5. This must be almost unique. I am sure that Angela and Christopher must be immensely proud. It was Angela's 80th birthday on 4th April, so it was a fantastic day for the Parish family.

Last Sunday, our Borough Councillor Andy Fairweather and Rebecca Smith jogged around Sand Lane and Mill Lane blocks in a loose 'figure of eight', as the usual fund-raising fun run was not able to take place this year. Funds were raised for Hospice in the Weald and to buy some gardening equipment for Larchmere House Nursing Home. I understand that £1,140 has been raised so far out of a target of £1,250. A brilliant effort from them on another cold weekend.

Have you been to the new Sainsbury's at Staplehurst yet? I am sure that it will be very popular with residents of adjoining villages too. Hopefully it won't affect the smaller shops like Stable Stores.

Do you know anyone who keeps bees? I would like to have some bee hives on Manor Farm. Farms need all the pollinators that they can get. As we go from Spring to Summer with the lighter evenings to enjoy, please remember to keep to the footpaths and keep your dogs on leads. Some birds will be ground-nesting and there are lots of lambs about.

I, like everyone else, have not been able to have a hair cut for a very long time and I have been advised to wait until after my second vaccine. I would like to try to raise some money for Dementia UK, as this cruel disease affects so many families. I would like suggestions for possible hair styles/cuts that I could have, then possibly set up a JustGiving page to raise funds and get a long overdue haircut. I have had suggestions to have it dyed the seven colours of a rainbow, or crew cut. My brilliant hairdressing neighbour Kim has agreed to do the cutting and styling. I will keep it like that for a week (then maybe buy a hat!). I have asked Rosie and Sean at the Bell and Jorrocks if it could be cut and styled outside there after they open on 17th May. Let's have some fun with it.

Now for some of those awful jokes: I asked an astronomer if he would like to try a vegetarian pizza, but he said that he'd prefer something meteor. What did one lightning bolt say to the other? You're shocking. Where do astronauts leave their spaceships? At parking meteors.

Lester J Gosbee

MUSIC NOTES

The lockdown rules still won't allow live local concerts in May but I believe Maidstone Choral Union may be planning a concert in July if conditions permit and other musicians are planning events in October. Watch this space! Meanwhile I will continue to regale you with musical anniversaries, this time for May. There are lots so here are just a few, of the more well-known musicians:

- 2nd May - 4th anniversary of the death of Norma Procter, English operatic contralto, aged 89
- 17th May – 100th anniversary of birth of Dennis Brain, British virtuoso horn player
- 21st May – 180th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Parry, Welsh composer and musician.
- 22nd May – 207th anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner, German composer and conductor
- 23rd May – 187th anniversary of the Death aged 76 of Charles Wesley junior, English organist and composer.

Joseph Parry was, as far as is known no relation to the English composer Sir Hubert Parry. Born in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, he is best known as the composer of "Myfanwy" and the hymn tune "Aberystwyth", on which the African song "Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika" is said to be based. Parry was also the first Welshman to compose an opera; his composition, *Blodwen*, was the first opera in the Welsh language.⁷

Charles Wesley junior was an English organist and composer. He was the son of Sarah and Charles Wesley (the great hymn-writer and one of the founders of Methodism), and the brother of Samuel Wesley, also an organist and composer. He is usually referred to as "Charles Wesley junior" to avoid confusion with his more famous father. Although much less well known than his brother Samuel, he was like Samuel regarded as a musical prodigy in childhood, and he was playing the organ before the age of three. He became a professional musician in adulthood, and Matthews (1971) quotes the *European Magazine* of 1784 as reporting that "his performance on the organ has given supreme delight".

Brian Hardy

By popular request the alphabet continues:

P- *Piano* – *soft* (the neighbours have complained)

PP - *Pianissimo* – *VERY SOFT* (the neighbours are at the door)

f- *Forte* – *loud* (the neighbours are out)

ff - *Fortissimo* – *VERY LOUD* (ignore the neighbours)

All the world is not, of course, a stage, but the crucial ways in which it isn't are not easy to specify.

Psychologist Erving Goffman

A good steak pun is a rare medium well done.

Anon

TERRIFIC THEMED TRIVIA

THE WILD WEST

The US population exploded between 1800 and 1900 from 5.2 to 76.2 million, the majority headed West. About 1 in 10 people died along the Oregon Trail, a 2000-mile trek to the West Coast of America. The famous 1881 gunfight at the OK Corral only lasted about 30 seconds. Cowboys were also known as cowpunchers and cowpokes. Charley Parkhurst, one of the greatest female stage coach drivers of the Old west, was actually a man. In the Wild West, “mustang runners” were cowboys who would catch, tame and sell wild horses. From 1836 to 1846, Texas was an independent nation known as The Republic of Texas. The average cowboy made about \$30 a month, about \$1500 in today’s money. Jesse James was one of the most feared outlaws in the Old West; he stole over \$200,000 from banks. In the Wild West, “Dude” was used to describe a city dweller. The Pony express lost only 1 bag of mail out of the 35,000 sacks it delivered. In 1873, James Glidden invented barbed wire, it was originally called “thorny fencing”. Pony Express riders travelled up to 100 miles a day switching horses every 10 to 12 miles. The iconic 10 Gallon hat worn by cowboys actually only holds about 6 pints of water. Dead Man’s Hand, refers to a pair of aces and eights that Wild Bill Hickok held when he was shot. Camels roamed the plains of Texas after the Civil War. They were escapees from the US Camel Corps. Cowboys considered it rude to wave to a man on a horse, nodding was more appropriate. Jesse James was called “Dingus” by his friends. In 2012, a shotgun owned by Annie Oakley sold for \$143,000, she had bought it used for \$5. Some Ghost Towns that were thriving areas during the gold rush still stand in the Western USA. Following the discovery of gold in 1848, the population of California jumped from 14,000 to 100,000 in just 2 years.

TASTY QUIZ

- 1) Which word for madman is derived from a French word meaning “moonstruck”?
- 2) Which is the nearest planet to earth?
- 3) Which sculptor created The Thinker?
- 4) What links the brand names of Nike, Flora and Mars?
- 5) Which British coin ceased to be legal tender in 1984?
- 6) The flag of which country includes a wheel at its centre known as Ashoka Chakra?
- 7) What is the name of the line darts players must stand behind when throwing?
- 8) Which spice comes from the crocus?
- 9) With which London street is Sweeney Todd associated?
- 10) In 2005, whose ashes were fired from a cannon to the sound of Bob Dylan’s “Mr Tambourine Man”?
- 11) In humans, which sex possesses both X and Y chromosomes?
- 12) Apart from London, which three other cities in Britain have underground railway systems?



KINGY TECH – NEW BUSINESS

Hi my name is Oli King and I am a bit of a computer geek!!
I am currently in year 11 at Cranbrook School and love
anything to do with computers.

If you need any help with a repair, replacing screens, slow pc/laptop, training,
emails etc.. I would be delighted to help.

I will adhere to social distance, sanitise and wear a mask.

Please contact me on;

01580 852770 answerphone .. M 07484 686902

Email oliking6@gmail.com

£15 includes call out and first hour/ £10 ph thereafter

No charge if I can't help you

Reviews

Very knowledgeable young man, sorted out a very slow gaming PC and gave us advice on how to upgrade it. Would definitely recommend him... Tracy Knight

Massively helpful, fixed a laptop that we thought had come to the end of its life! Highly recommend Kingy Tech to everyone....Zoe Winter

Thank you so much to Oli King- elderly desktop computer with boot problems well beyond my skills now running again so i can make sure i really have backed up everything on there. And clear explanations of what he was doing. All done with attention to Covid 19 precautions too. Recommended... Debbie Haine

I have called upon Oli King's computer expertise on several occasions and have found him to be an extremely capable, polite and for his tender years surprisingly knowledgeable person. I will not hesitate to use his services again in the future.... Colin Bullock.

HELLO ALL - FROM US LOT HERE AT LARCHMERE

We so want the warm weather! Excitingly waiting for the temperature to stay constant enough so our residents can sit outside and get the sun on their faces. It won't be long we keep telling them.

We try when the sun is out but only to whisk them in when it hides behind a cloud as it is so chilly. The new Summer House is up – not quite finished for a picture yet but almost there – an added reason to enjoy this Summer outside. Staff and volunteers have been working hard on the garden to make it fit for Summer – seedlings starting to sprout in the greenhouse, eager residents wanting to get their 'hands dirty' in planting and general gardening.

We have had our sun room repainted a beautiful fresh colour in time for the sunny weather and also have had a local artist paint a beautiful picture of our local countryside to go in the room. It looks so lovely we are asking her to do another painting for us to go on the other wall. We will have a picture of artist and painting for you in next month's magazine. Our dining room has had a spruce up too and that will be receiving a new look with regard to what's on the walls. A new lease of life after the 'lows' of Covid.

Sarah and the children at preschool have made us a beautiful design as decoration for our internal windows. Lots of pictures of the children's smiling faces with a note saying they miss our residents and looking forward to seeing them again once Covid is over. This has brought a smile to all our residents' faces; and Pete, the vicar, has come to visit for the first time since Covid and had a chat with a couple of residents and will be coming back on a regular basis to spread his joy.

Easter was fun as always. Our Easter Raffle proved to be an exciting experience; the top prize being a two course meal for two in the B&J for when the time is right. Thanks Sean and Rosie.

The 'Department Store' experience every other Tuesday is proving to be a hit. More residents being 'decked out' in beautiful outfits bought at the shop plus residents are indulging in buying perfumes, aftershaves, jewellery, creams, make up, teddy bears, booze(!) and much more, of course, not forgetting copious amounts of chocolates and sweeties!

The visiting has now been increased to two members from each family being able to see their loved ones. This is starting to feel more like 'old times' and the belief that this horrible episode will soon be behind all of us.

We are hoping (though it is dependent on Covid) to have our annual Strawberry Fayre on Saturday 17th July which we would love you all to attend – it would be so much fun and extra exciting after such a long time without visitors but will need to confirm this all to you nearer the time.

Once again, I want to thank everyone in the village, you all are so supportive and we are so lucky to have you. It gives such a sense of 'community' at the home living in Frittenden and makes us feel really special that we are part of such a lovely village.

Some general pictures of our residents – who we love dearly and hope will make you smile.

Becky Bruce



WEATHER

The warmest day in the UK during March was 30th at Kew Gardens in London, where temperatures rose to 24.5 c/ 76.10 f. This was the hottest March day since 1968, when Medal in Cambridge set the record of 25.6 c/ 78.10 f on 29th March. Cromer reached 25 c/ 77 f and Wakefield in West Yorkshire reached 25 c/ 77 f on 29th March in both 1929 and 1965. That year it was the warmest day of the year until 22nd October 1965 when Cape Wrath in the Northern Highlands of Scotland reached 22 c/ 72 f.

Frittenden's coldest March day maximum temperature was on 5th at 6.2 c/ 43.16 f. Countrywide the coldest March day this year was 3rd in the Scottish Highlands with a temperature of 0.6 c/33.08 f. Frittenden's lowest night minimum temperature was 16th at -2.1 c/ 28.22 f and our lowest night grass minimum temperature was 7th at -7.5 c/ 18.50 f. Frittenden had 13 ground frosts and 7 air frosts in March. The rainfall that I recorded for the month was 38.5mm/ 1.51 inches, which is nearly half an inch below the average. March had one real wet day on 14th with 12.5mm/ 0.5 inch of rain. Only 9 days of the month had any recordable rainfall. Countrywide the lowest night temperature was on 3rd with a temperature of -7.6 c/ 18.32 f. The Central England Temperature was 7.2 c/ 44.96 f, which is 1.5 c/ 2.7 f above average. The last time that March and April had the same CET was 1991 at 7.9 c/ 46.22 f. In fact, we could end up with a colder April than March this year. There is no sign at this stage that April will warm up at the end of the month as March did. England might not exceed a temperature of 20 c/ 68 f, which is rare.

FORECAST FOR MAY – May 2020 was outstandingly dry and sunny. In fact, it was the driest May on record in England with an average of just 9.6mm/ 0.37 inches of rain. It was also the sunniest calendar month since 1929 with 299.4 hours of sunshine. Some towns have sunshine records dating back to the 1860's, so finding out the sunniest place is a little problematical, so I am still trying to find out from the Met Office. Last May, Frittenden had rain on only 3 days. On 23rd we had 9mm/0.3 inch. Some places recorded no rain, or less than 5mm/ 0.19 inch. Will we see a repeat performance of that weather this May?. In a word, no. High pressure at the end of April 2021 and at the beginning of May will give way to thundery low pressure systems, so any early May Day Holiday celebrations (if they happen this year), could be interrupted by a storm. It will still be warm for the time of year at 20°C/ 68°F. Average is around 15°C/ 59°F. Storms are most likely to occur south of Norwich to Bristol. Areas north of this will continue fine, but temperatures will return to normal at 16°C/ 61°F. From 6th, low pressure will be dominant, and a band of rain will be driven across the whole of England and Wales like it's on a conveyor belt. This spell of rain could last for a couple of weeks. There will be some dry spells lasting up to 72 hours before the next band of rain arrives. Central England through to the Midlands, East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Cotswold Counties and Dorset will be the wettest. It will be difficult weather conditions for silage making, but excellent for livestock and for grass to grow for later haymaking in the South East, East Anglia and parts of the Midlands. Last Summer's hay crop was the lightest since 1976. Temperatures in this unsettled spell will be nothing to write home about, 14 - 18°C/ 57 - 64°F, possibly up to 20°C/ 68°F in the odd drier spell. High pressure will make a welcome return from 19th May until 29th. We will have an Atlantic high rather than the Azores high, which often brings us the most settled, warmest summer weather in late Spring. Winds will sometimes be a bit breezy, especially near the South Coast. There will be some fair weather cloud at times, and many places in the areas that I forecast for will get around 10 hours of sunshine each day. Essex and Suffolk will get the highest temperatures of 25°C/ 77°F. Last year in the UK, May had 8 days with temperatures exceeding 24°C/ 75.2°F. This year I expect just 4 days of that temperature or above. No day in England will exceed temperatures of 26°C/ 78.8°F, except at the very end of May. Low pressure over France will spread thundery showers over the whole area that I forecast for. There will always be some sunshine, and it will feel humid with temperatures at 19 - 21°C/ 66 - 70°F. Parts of Sussex and the Channel Isles may have huge deluges of rain which will cause flash flooding. Other counties will not be immune from this risk. There will be some squally winds in the severest storms.

May's Highest Day Temperature will be: 26°C/78.8°F, in the 3rd week of the month in Writtle, Essex and Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. London may not exceed 25°C/ 77°F, despite the record sunny May. The highest May temperature on record was at Santon Downham, Suffolk, and equalling May days were on 22nd May in

1922, when Camden Square London reached 32.8°C/ 91°F and Horsham, West Sussex, Tonbridge in Kent and Regent Park in London reached the same temperature in 1944.

May's Lowest Day Temperature will be: around 14°C/ 57°F, but some wet days in Oxfordshire and Warwickshire may not get much better than 11°C/ 52°F.

May's Lowest Night Temperature will be: 2°C/ 36°F, mid month at Santon Downham, Suffolk and Thetford, Norfolk between 18th and 22nd. There will be no air frost in this unsettled month, which should please soft fruit growers. The average rainfall for May in England is 58.4mm/ 2.29 inches. The average for Dorset is 58.9mm/ 2.31 inches, Kent's average is 51.1 mm/ 2.01 inches, Lincolnshire 48.4mm/ 1.96 inches. The whole area will get at least 10% above their average where storms occur. Jersey, Guernsey, Brighton and Hastings could get 125mm/ 4.92 inches. The sunshine average for May in England is 190.6 hours. The average for Dorset is 206.6 hours, Lincolnshire 193.8 hours and Kent 207.3 hours. In England, May is our second sunniest month of the year. June has 182.6 hours, July 193.5 hours and August 183.2 hours. August is just ahead of June in the sunny stakes, but has an hour less each day in London than June. The Met Office kindly told me the official sunniest place in the UK in May 2020 with 365.5 hours of sunshine was Preston Cove House, a couple of miles north of Weymouth, Dorset. The Central England Temperature in May 2020 was 12.5°C/ 54.50°F, 1.44°F above the average of 11.3°C/ 52.34°F. The hottest May on record was 1833 had a CET of 15.1°C/ 59.18°F. The JUNE average CET is 14.04°C/ 57.20°F, so 3.7°C/ 6.48°F above average. That will take some beating.

Lester J Gosbee

HEADCORN HEALTH WALKS

Our walks have started again and, as before, we are walking in small groups. It is, therefore, still necessary to book a place in advance on a first come, first served, basis. If you would like to join us, or would like further information on any of our walks, please contact Barry (barry@watersideoast) or Paula (07525 260539).

Wednesday 5th: A pleasant 90 minutes walk in the Woodland Trust at Huckling on footpaths with some ups and downs but nothing strenuous. We may see bluebells, purple orchids and wild anemones and, if a clear day, some beautiful views. Meet at 9.30 for a 9.45 start at the Woodland Trust car park (ME17 1QT). Take the road signed to Hollingbourne off the A20. Proceed through the village and all the way up a very steep hill to where the road begins to flatten out. Take the road to the left signposted 'Huckling'. Proceed carefully along this narrow road for 1.2 miles and then take another road to the left, again signposted 'Huckling'. Very shortly you will see the Woodland Trust car park on your left.

Wednesday 19th: Meet on Parsonage Meadow beside Headcorn Village Hall at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a walk lasting approximately 1½ to 2 hours. This will be a fairly flat walk (just a couple of short, gentle inclines) along paths, lanes, orchards and fields with a couple of stiles. Could be muddy in some places so robust footwear is recommended!

Paula Smale

The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application form.

Stanley J Randall, Canadian politician



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~Lance Leadbeter~

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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
Sarah Murray	07854679348
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 18th May, preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday 5th May. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 15th June.

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.

Information about the June edition and details of future contacts etc will be found elsewhere in this issue of the magazine

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.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1) Lunatic; 2) Venus; 3) Auguste Rodin; 4) All named after gods; 5) halfpenny; 6) India (The Wheel of Law); 7) Oche; 8) Saffron; 9) Fleet Street; 10) Hunter S Thompson; 11) Male; 12) Glasgow, Liverpool and Newcastle.

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