

Frittenden Parish Magazine



Christmas and New Year 2020
Fifty Pence

VILLAGE CONTACTS

CHURCH OFFICIALS AND ORGANISATIONS

RECTOR		Rev Pete Deaves	852275
Email address		rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Churchwarden		Joanna Beech	852312
Churchwarden		John Stansfeld	852185
Reader & Deanery Synod		Tony Staples	852226
Treasurer		Christopher Page	852230
Deanery Synod		James Highwood	852715
Secretary		Vacant	
Verger		Margaret Knight	852322
Director of Music		Morwenna Campbell-Smith	07703 522102
Parish Disclosure Officer		Judy Staples	852226
Parish Safeguarding Coordinators		Judy Staples & James Highwood	852226/852715
Bell Ringers	Captain & Secretary	David Manger	01622 890675
Magazine	Editor	Mike Cooper	852108
	Advertising	Nicky Vernon	852537
	Distribution	Ian Mounter	852268
Messy Church		Eileen Mounter	852268
Open The Book		Helen Stansfeld	852185
Sunday Club	Contact	Joanna Beech	852312
Website		www.frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Childline			0800 1111
Relate	Contact	via appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk	or 01892 529927

OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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

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

Last updated 16th March 2020

FROM THE RECTOR

All Sunday morning rain pummels the windows. Then the clouds part: I spy blue skies! We gear up for a trek to the park - our hallway a rumpus of wellies and wails, but we've the pace of snails. Finally ready... and the heavens reopen big time - is it all off?! No - we all need air, so outside we go...

Drenched in less time than it takes to say *soggy moggy* or *soggy doggy*, we almost turn tail. But we're British, so we plough on. Just as the swings appear - a chunk of rainbow! Then the rainbow arcs over our heads, framing the moody grey backdrop... and there - a second rainbow with an even bigger span...

And there's the whoops and shrieks as waterproofed girls cascade down the water-slide, skim over the grass and land in a heap!

That day, when our alarm went off ('Come and get me!') I had no idea of the day's ups and downs. We're all in the same boat there. And 2020 will go down in history as the year no one could have predicted - even if they had 20/20 vision.

The day Jesus arrived in Israel, that first Christmas, no one could have imagined how this tiny baby would go on to change the world. Yes, prophets had given detail upon detail about Jesus hundreds of years before, but over 2,000 years changing peoples' lives - wow!

Yes, this unexpected year our world has been turned upside-down; fear and uncertainty everywhere we turn. But even in the midst of this, Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life is the one to whom we can turn and find genuine comfort and lasting joy.

I hope to see you at one of our Christmas services and that, even in these dark days, yule know the comfort and joy Jesus brings.

Pete

UNITED BENEFICE OF SISSINGHURST WITH FRITTENDEN DECEMBER AND JANUARY SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Wed	2nd	9.00 SPACE Online 14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Advent Course - Light in the darkness - by Zoom	Sun	20th	09:30 Christmas Celebration - St Mary's Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 11:00 Christmas Celebration - Trinity Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 16:30 Christmas Celebration - Trinity Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 18:00 Christmas Celebration - St Mary's Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves
Thu	3rd	10:00 Advent Course - Light in the darkness - by Zoom			
Sun	6th	10.00 Holy Communion CW - Trinity Church Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom 15:00 or 16:00 Familes @ Four, St Mary's	Wed	23rd	14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer
Wed	9th	14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Advent Course - Light in the darkness - by Zoom	Thu	24th	CHRISTMAS EVE 14:00-16:00 Advent window walk and DIY Christingle 11:30 Midnight Communion - St Mary's Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves
Thu	10th	10:00 Advent Course - Light in the darkness - by Zoom			
Sun	13th	10.00 Holy Communion CW - St Mary's Church Celebrant; Rev Pete Deaves Preacher; Tony Staples 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom 3pm or 4pm Familes @ Four, Trinity Church	Fri	25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30am Holy Communion - Trinity Church Celebrant: Rev Pete Deaves 9:30 Christmas Service - St Mary's Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 11:00 Christmas Service - Trinity Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves
Wed	16th	9.00 S.P.A.C.E. in St Mary's Church 14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer 20:00 Advent Course - Light in the darkness - by Zoom			
Thu	17th	10:00 Advent Course - Light in the darkness - by Zoom	Sun	27th	10:00 Holy Communion CW - St Mary's Preacher: Rev Diana Bourne Celebrant: Rev Pete Deaves 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom
			Wed	30th	14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer

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

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

The zoom meeting number for virtual after church coffee and the prayer hub is 352 987 984. To join by phone dial 0330 088 5830, then enter the meeting number followed by #. Password if required is 333.

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.

Sun	3rd	10:00 Holy Communion CW - Trinity Church Celebrant: Rev Pete Deaves Preacher: Frederick Higgs 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom	Wed	20th	9.00 S.P.A.C.E. in St Mary's Church 14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer
			Thu	21st	19:30-20.00 Prayer Hub via zoom
			Sun	24th	10:00 Morning Worship CW – St Mary's Church Preacher: Tony Staples 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom
Wed	6th	9.00 S.P.A.C.E. in St Mary's Church 14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer			
Thu	7th	19:30-20.00 Prayer Hub via zoom	Wed	27th	14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer
Sun	10th	08:00 Holy Communion BCP - Trinity Church Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 10:00 Holy Communion CW - St Mary's Church Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom	Thu	28th	19:30-20.00 Prayer Hub via zoom
			Sun	31st	10:00 Holy Communion CW Trinity Church Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom
Wed	13th	14.00-17.00 St Mary's open for private prayer			
Thu	14th	19:30-20.00 Prayer Hub via zoom			
Sun	17th	10:00 Morning Worship CW - Trinity Church Preacher: Rev Pete Deaves 11.15-11.45 Virtual after church tea & coffee via zoom			

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

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DECEMBER SERVICES

You are very warmly welcomed to any of the services that we are planning to hold in December, subject to government regulation. We are assuming that lockdown will be lifted at the beginning of December and services in church will be allowed. We are asking that people pre-book for any of these services so that we can accommodate as many people, as best we can. To do this preferably email Joanna Beech at joanna.beech97@gmail.com or phone on 01580 852132.

For services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day please book with Joanna **by 6pm on Tuesday 22nd December, at the latest.** To ensure we can accommodate as many as possible we are asking that people book to come to either the Midnight service on the 24th or the morning service on the 25th and not both.

6th Dec 10am at Trinity Church Sissinghurst, with Holy Communion
13th Dec 10am at St Mary's Holy Communion, , (Common Worship)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S FRITTENDEN

20th Dec 9.30 am and 6 pm, Christmas Candlelit Celebration

24th Dec 2-4 pm Advent window walk, DIY Christingles and Crib display
(See note elsewhere in magazine explaining this.)

11.15 pm, Midnight Holy Communion Service

25th Dec 9.30 am, Christmas Morning Worship

27th Dec 10.00 am, Holy Communion (Common Worship).

(There will also be services on Christmas Day at Trinity Church Sissinghurst at 8.30am a service of Holy Communion and an 11.00am service of Christmas Morning Worship.)

If there are any changes to these arrangements, details will be on the Church website and the Village Facebook page.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's Church over the Christmas period.

JANUARY SERVICES

See Notices on previous page for details.

Joanna Beech, John Stansfeld, Church wardens,

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Colin Bullock

Sue & Phil Betts send their very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all their Frittenden friends and neighbours.

Ian and Eileen Mounter send best wishes to all for a joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Especial thanks to our wonderful team of magazine distributors, and to our amazing editor.

John & Helen Stansfeld wish you all a Healthy and Happy Christmas and will be praying for a peaceful and safe New Year in which our freedoms are restored.

Judy and Tony Staples wish all their friends and neighbours, in the village and beyond, a happy Christmas and a healthy and fulfilled New Year.

Jeremy Joanna Sophie and Jessie Beech wish all their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Where has this year gone?

2020 has had a massive impact on the hospitality trade, let's hope 2021 really can be a new beginning..

Thank You to everyone who has shown their Love & Support to us as Business & Family within a very Special Community.

We hope you all have a Happy, Healthy Christmas & New Year & we look forward to raising a glass of celebration in the near future.

Love & Best wishes, Sean, Rosie, T.C, Nicole, Callum & Katie

Mike & Berni Cooper wish you all as enjoyable a Christmas as possible, and hopefully a return to some form of normality in the New Year

HEADCORN HEALTH WALKS

Nineteen walkers enjoyed a walk on the morning of 4th November through Leeds Castle grounds and the surrounding area under a clear blue sky which set off the castle to perfection.

Our second walk in November was, of course, due to take place on the 18th but sadly we had to suspend all further walks due to the lockdown. This walk has, therefore, been postponed to 9 December in the hope that it can go ahead.

Meet at Smarden Charter Hall car park (Chessenden Lane, TN27 8NF) at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a four mile walk across fields and through a small wood, crossing the railway to the edge of Dering Wood. No hills, a few stiles.

Our first walk in the New Year will be on the 6th January, more details later.

Don't forget, it is now necessary to book a place on each walk on a first come, first served basis and although this is a nuisance it seems to be working well.

For further information on any of our walks, contact Barry (barry@watersideoast.com) or to book your place, contact Paula on 07525 260539 (paulasmale@btinternet.com).

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Barry Walker

A VERSE FOR OUR TIMES

A Brief Pageant of English Verse

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow,
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

Anon

Thanks to Christopher Parish, David Manger, and Tim Gilkes (an old school friend of mine) for sending this to me.

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Cherry Tree Farm, Mill Lane, Frittenden TN17 2DT

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Our range includes lamb, beef, pork, turkeys, pies, burgers and sausages. If you want to stock up your freezer, a 15kg pick 'n' mix box of lamb, beef and pork represents outstanding value for money.

Come and select your meat and join us for a glass of wine at one of our regular Meat Evenings from 7.30 - 9.30pm on Friday 27th January, Friday 21st April, Friday 23rd June and Friday 24th November, where you will find a range of fresh and frozen meat.

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.

Call Paul on 01580 852217 or 07885 509751 or email paulhope2226@gmail.com

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

GIFT DAY

A huge thank you to all those who supported our annual Gift Day last month which has exceeded our best expectations. We have raised a record total of £9,990 (including Gift Aid) which is almost 20% ahead of the figure last year. This has provided St Mary's Church with some very welcome funds at this difficult time which will go towards supporting the ministry of the Church as well as maintaining and improving the fabric of the building.

HARVEST

Hastings Foodbank would like me to pass on their thanks to the village for all the support which they have received this year and, in particular, the gifts of non-perishable food received at Harvest time. These were greatly appreciated and make such a difference. Many thanks to Graham and Alison Langlay-Smith for organising the safe delivery of all the harvest items.

Christopher Page
Treasurer

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

In September, I had the sad task of informing members of the cancellation of the Society's meetings until the end of the year, due to coronavirus restrictions. At a recent meeting of the Committee, it was agreed to postpone the rest of the schedule up to March 2021. However, we plan to hold the Society's AGM in April 2021, as usual. If it is not possible to hold a meeting in the Memorial Hall, arrangements will be made to hold a virtual meeting to which all members will be invited. That meeting will hopefully also include a talk by a speaker, either in person or via 'Zoom'. Full details will be provided nearer the time.

The Committee are now investigating the provision of two or three events during the summer months, by which time it is hoped that groups will be able to meet outdoors. Again, I will provide more details as they become available, subject of course to any restrictions in place at the time, and the Society's website, and Facebook pages, will be kept up to date with the latest information.

In the meantime, members may be interested to see three videos available on Cranbrook Museum's site (cranbrookmuseum.org) covering the history of Cranbrook's Old Shops, The Great Fire of Cranbrook 1840, and The Cranbrook Colony of Artists.

Phil Betts
Chmn. Frittenden Historical Society (852243)

The desire to be a politician should ban you for life from ever becoming one.

Billy Connolly

HISTORY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The institution of the parish dates from the ninth and tenth centuries when parish churches superseded the system of control by Minsters. It was, and still is, the smallest unit of ecclesiastical administration. The emergence of the parish also saw the creation of committees known as "vestries" to administer the parish, levy the church rate, appoint the churchwardens and sexton, and for the annual perambulation of the parish boundary.

Successive acts of parliament, particularly in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, encouraged the development of secular parochial authority administered through these vestries. Thus, in addition to the church rate, the vestries became responsible for levying rates for poor relief, and the maintenance of the highway. They also appointed the Overseer of the poor, Surveyor of the highways and constables. The nineteenth century saw the further addition of responsibility for public hygiene, weights and measures, early building controls and street cleaning.

Later that century, the ecclesiastical and secular functions of the vestries were formally split in law. Under the reforming Local Government Act 1894, civil Parish Councils were formed in England to take over local oversight from the vestry committee of secular duties in rural towns and villages, while all ecclesiastical responsibilities continued with the vestry, later the Parochial Church Council. Confusion between the role of the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council continues today and was reinforced in the TV programme *The Vicar of Dibley* where the two roles were conflated.

The first parish meetings were held on 4 December 1894 and nominations for parish councils were made on that date. Elections for contested seats were held on (or about) 17 December: the exact date being fixed by the relevant county council. Of particular note was the provision for the entitlement of women who owned property to vote in local elections, become poor law guardians, and act on school boards. Over 729,000 women were now eligible to vote in local elections in England and Wales, some 24 years before they received the right in 1918 to vote in a General Election and 34 years before women had the same voting right as men.

Parish councils are funded by levying a "precept" upon the council tax (formerly the rates) paid by the residents of the parish. They consist of unpaid councillors who are elected to serve for four years, with powers to provide, maintain and manage some facilities themselves, or to contribute towards their provision by others.

Frittenden's First Parish Meeting under the 1894 Act was held in the School Room on Tuesday 4 December 1894. The first business was to elect a chairman of the meeting. James Capeling proposed The Revd. T W O Hallward to take the chair, and Mr L B Southon seconded it. The chairman read out the names of the 13 candidates for the seven places. He then proceeded to take the votes for each candidate by a show of hands, reminding the electors that each one had only 7 votes.

The following were duly elected in order of votes received:-

Sir Charles William Atholl Oakeley (65), Frittenden House
James Harris (57), Farmer, Street Farm
George Hickmott (27), Farmer, Balcombe
Robert Endersby (41), Gardener, Marsh Cottages
Edmund Bowles (55), Commercial Traveller, Rose Mount
James King (39), Agricultural Labourer, Chapel Cottage
Percy Shoobridge (36), Grocer, Draper, The Bell Inn

As elsewhere in Kent, Frittenden's Parish Council was concerned primarily with the appointment of Parish Overseers under the Poor Law, appointment of one (later 2) of the school managers (governors), street lighting, footpaths, charity trustees and allotments.

For some time, Frittenden had a record of having an unelected Chairman of the Parish Council. Revd Rupert Inglis was never elected but chaired the Council from 1903 to 1915 when he joined the Army and was killed in France. Wallace Roseveare, of Pullen Farm, although elected on various occasions, was chair from 1919 to 1925 while not elected, and Laurence Savill was chairman from 1936 to 1952 without being elected.

The Parish Council has been responsible for the creation of many facilities enjoyed within the village. The supply of mains water was the subject of various efforts of the Council from 1901. Indeed, supply was considered as one of the options for a memorial to the fallen of WWI. Mains water finally came into the village in 1925 but by 1929 the Parish Council was requesting that the main be extended to Park Cottages. The adequacy of the supply was the subject of formal letters for several decades.

Electricity supply became a matter for discussion in 1919, however it was not until 1931 that provision became a possibility. Even so, power was not available in the village until 1936. It took another 20 years [March 1956] before the provision of street lighting, funded by the parish, was considered. A further 13 years passed [October 1969] before the Clerk was able to report that arrangements were in hand for the street lamps to be switched on for the first time.

Sanitation was an even longer battle. Problems were regularly discussed by the Parish Council from its inception. It was not until 1947 that a drainage system was formally discussed and it was not until 1957, following the establishment of a 'Safer Drainage Campaign Committee', that a vote was taken and a scheme implemented.

The Parish Council was consulted about train services from Frittenden Road Station, and bus services from the centre of the village. The provision of both services proved unviable and eventually both were withdrawn.

Since WWI the Parish Council has been involved with identifying sites for various forms of council housing, now social housing. Indeed, most of the post WWII 'development' within the village envelope has been social housing, although much is now owner occupied.

Footpaths have been a point for debate from the first Annual Parish Meeting when the footpath leading from the Schools to Brickwall Cottages required repair. It is of note that in 1994, 100 years after creation of the Council, the necessity of surfacing Laundry Lane was again discussed by the Council.

Phil Betts, Chm. Frittenden Historical Society

We do not have a government by the majority. We have a government by the majority who participate.

Thomas Jefferson

SAD NEWS – NO CAROL SINGING THIS YEAR

We have been told that carols have been sung round the village before Christmas every year for at least 75 years and probably for many years before that. We have coped with rain, wind, snow and ice and carried on regardless, but this year the mighty Covid19 virus will silence our singing.

We are really sorry as we enjoy being part of this tradition. We are pleased to remind people of the good news of Jesus' birth, to see people we seldom see at other times of the year and to raise money for local children's charities. You have always been extremely generous, giving around £1,500 each Christmas to our appeal on behalf of two local charities:

- **Fegans**, a Tunbridge Wells-based organisation with a wealth of experience in child and family support. You can find out more on their website <https://www.fegans.org.uk/>
- **The Weald Family Hub**, a partnership between Fegans and local churches and schools in the Weald. It was set up in response to the urgent need for better support for teenagers and their families affected by mental health issues. If you follow this link on the St Mary's website you'll find their latest newsletter: <https://frittendenchurch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-Weald-Family-Hub-News.pdf>

We realise that this has been a year of financial hardship for many families but it has also been tough for charities, so we would like to continue helping them. If you feel able to support our appeal you can send a donation to our Treasurer, Christopher Page (Beale Farmhouse, Sand Lane) or to us (Park Cottage, Cranbrook Road). Mark your envelope "Christmas Carol Appeal" and make any cheques payable to St Mary's Church. If you prefer you can donate via the Church website <https://frittendenchurch.org.uk/donate/>. You'll see a drop-down menu within the donations form: choose either "Fegans" or "The Weald Hub".

Thank you for your support.

Tony and Judy Staples (852226)

A QUIZ TO MAKE YOU THINK NICKNAMES OF MONARCHS

Identify each of these British monarchs from their nicknames.

1. The Lionheart.
2. The Virgin Queen
3. The Confessor
4. The Great
5. Bloody Mary
6. Longshanks
7. The Unready
8. Bluff King Hal
9. Crookback
10. The Nine-day Queen

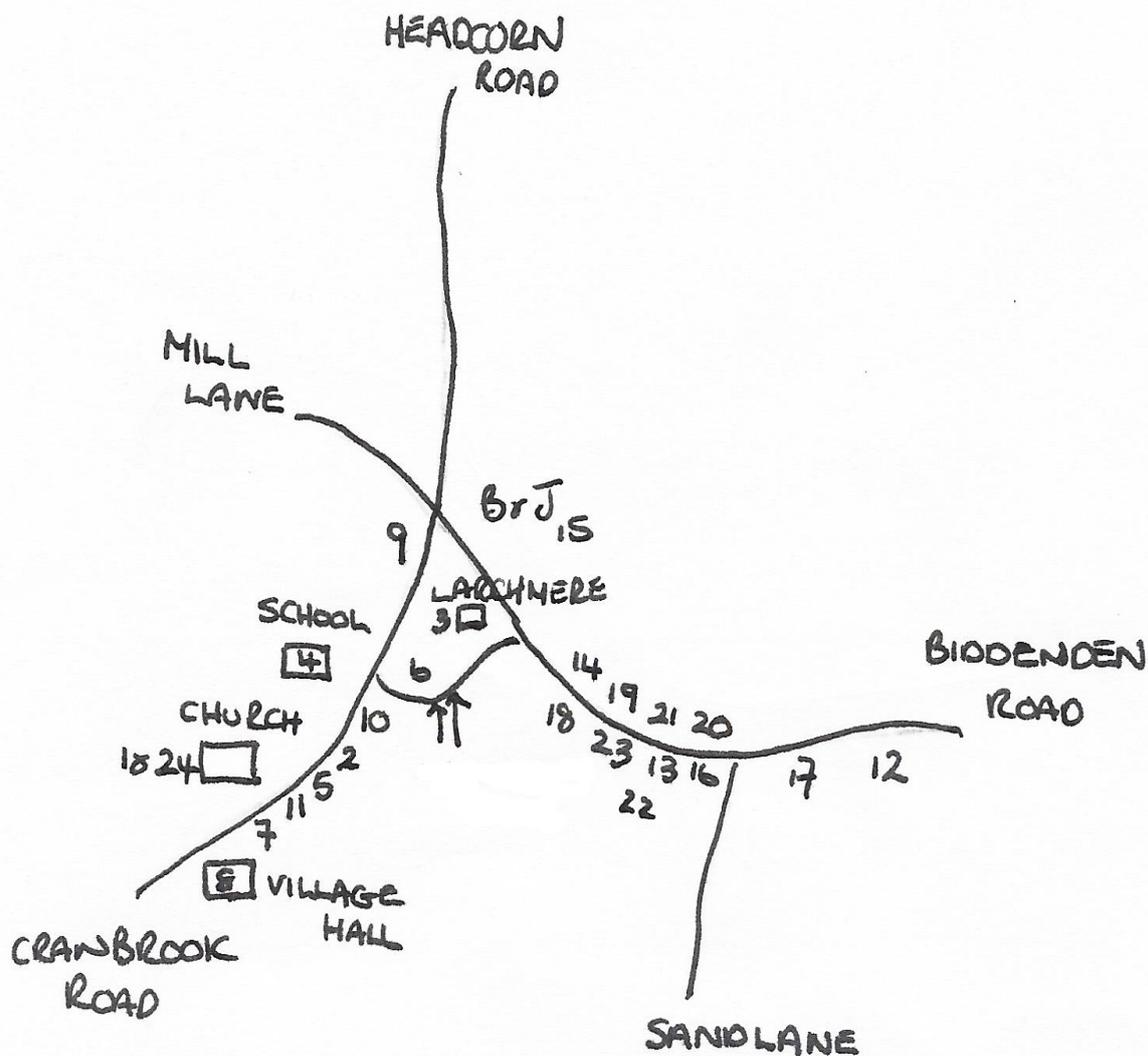
ADVENT WINDOW WALK, CHRISTMAS EVE 2-4 PM.

Very sadly we don't feel that it's going to be possible to hold a Crib service this year, so we'd like to suggest an alternative. Why not take some time on Christmas Eve afternoon and complete a walk round the Advent windows? You can do this in your family bubbles and between 2-4pm come to the Church to see the last 'window'. There, your children can also pick up a covid safe, DIY Christingle bag to take and make your own Christingle at home.

We also plan to have the Church open so that if your children would like they can come in to Church, select a figure or animal and put it in the Crib scene in the Church. If you know that you are going to come along then please let Joanna Beech know on joanna.beech97@gmail.com or on 852312 and we can reserve a Christingle bag for your child. But if your plans are more fluid, then just come along anyway and we will have a number of extra bags available.

We look forward to seeing you there to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

St Mary's Church and the Advent window team.



OF SONGS AND SIGHTINGS

First of all, thank you very much to all those people who contacted me after my last article with additions to the parish bird list. It was a pleasure of being able to increase the number of bird species seen locally, but it was also comforting to know that my articles are actually read! Most importantly, however, it was heartwarming to feel that there are so many people out there who care about and engage with the wildlife in the parish. There has been a lot of talk recently about how being in lockdown has made people notice and appreciate the nature on their doorstep more than usual. Whether this is true in a rural village like ours, I am not sure and, anyway, it doesn't matter; what matters is that we value our wildlife and sustain it.

So I have added all your sightings to the list but I have also begun a second list of 'birds we used to see but haven't recently and/or birds that have flown over the parish'. And by recently, I mean roughly in the last five years. On this list I have:

nightjar	icterine warbler	azure tit
whitethroat	grasshopper warbler	tufted duck
peregrine	redpoll	brambling
siskin	redstart	

Of course if you have **recent** sightings of any of the above, please let me know.

I'm delighted that my request for treecreeper sightings was answered by several people. I'm wondering too if anyone can confirm whitethroats as regular visitors here? They are quite shy little birds and return to Africa in October. Unfortunately, they have the disadvantage of being rather a nondescript brown and cream, although of course, the male does have a noticeably white throat. Like most warblers they are usually easier to identify by song, as they keep themselves fairly well-hidden. I think I've heard them singing here but as I cannot be absolutely certain, I'd be most interested if anyone else has too. If you want to hear their song, visit the species page on the RSPB website, and don't forget that recording a short burst of song on your phone makes song identification so much easier, enabling you to compare it with those on a website in the comfort of your own home.

You may care to listen to the song of the Lesser Whitethroat too. Although similar in appearance to the Whitethroat, they are, apparently, not very closely related! Hey ho: there are many curiosities in the natural world and many perils on the path to correct bird identification. But look out and listen carefully next April and we may be able to add this species to the list!

Happy Christmas to you all.

Rebecca Brown



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DEAR FRITTENDEN

This has been a year of unusual pressures, with a mixed picture of progress, setbacks and achievement for the Memorial Hall. When I looked at last year's report, it was extraordinary to see the contrast between what we were expecting would happen, and what actually did.

In the months after the last AGM, we set ourselves to fundraising for the KCC matchfunding grant, I thank everyone who helped, as well as the generous donations we received from the Village, including those from the Church Christmas Fair and the Fun Run, which together enabled us to show KCC what a splendid level of support we have in our community. The application was submitted in December and was followed by applications to other grant making bodies including the National Lottery community fund. I had a funding plan in place which, with a fair wind, would have garnered the full amount needed for the Hall renovations.

Then the pandemic arrived and all lettings ceased, with the exception of the Post Office. The Hall's income plunged, but our treasurer Helen Bosley was quick to hunt down local help and we received an emergency grant from TWBC of £10,000 as part of their help for local businesses and leisure facilities.

Another effect of the pandemic was that all funding applications went into limbo. Having hoped to complete the entire refurbishment of the Hall in the summer of 2020, we were now looking at indefinite suspension. Unfortunately, we also heard in the summer that we had not been successful in winning the KCC matching fund.

Our regular monthly committee meetings had to cease during lockdown and it wasn't until July that we all got together again via Zoom. Our Treasurer Helen Bosley proposed that we should divide the renovation project into phases and start with the first phase, for which we already had £110,000 to spend. Andrew Dack, who has led the architectural and practical side of the building project, came up with a phase 1 plan (removal of the stage, rebuilding the storage area, new cladding and insulation, replacing the doors and windows and a new roof) We expected to be able to move ahead on this phase in the autumn, but the congestion of the building trade, catching up with its delayed projects, slowed things down, however tenders have now gone out and we are optimistic that things will move forward.

We would like to hear from Hall users, particularly the societies who use the Hall, about any issues they may have while the building is under way.

After this first committee meeting, we also put in motion plans to reopen the Hall in August to those activities which were permitted under the CoVid regulations and thanks to some very hard work on the part of Andrew Dack, Charlotte Hunter and Eileen Bridges, the Hall was successfully reopened with CoVid measures and protocols fully in place. Tai Chi and HIIT classes have been running since then, up to the 2nd lockdown, and the Shop event, which took place in the hall, went extremely well with excellent hygienic measures put in place by the Shop Steering Group.

Moving on to the Community Shop, which I like to think of as a sister project to the Memorial Hall. The Hall had previously taken legal advice, provided very generously pro bono by Blair Gullund of Gulland's Solicitors in Maidstone, to confirm that the use of the Hall land in this way was acceptable, and the Charity Commission is happy for the Hall Trustees to make the decision for the Shop to be built. I think we all feel this is an exciting opportunity for Frittenden,

As Trustees of the Hall, we have a duty under Charity law to maximise income from our assets. We are permitted to give concessions or favours only to other charities or community organisations that have broadly the same aims as the Memorial Hall Trust. The Committee has discussed offering the rent of our land to the shop at a peppercorn rate, with the intention of reviewing after a couple of years, when hopefully the shop is a thriving success.

I would like to thank the Committee for their ongoing patience and support of the Memorial Hall Trust and the sometimes tedious struggles we have had wrestling with CoVid regulations and precautions. This has engendered a sense of teamwork which has helped us through a difficult time, I believe we can forge ahead together and create something very special, and very useful, for our community

Rosalind Riley Chair, The Memorial Hall

E FOR EDITORIAL

Firstly, I must apologise for my hopefully temporary loss of memory last month, when I had to admit that I could not remember who had sent me the item about the centenary of the reopening of St Mary's. My belated thanks now to Eileen Mounter, who retrieved it from her father's papers.

Next, the US election. Some months ago I printed a picture of an American lady in modest Muslim clothing and wearing a headscarf, holding up a placard which said:

Two of Trump's wives were immigrants, which proves that we need immigrants to do the jobs that Americans won't do.

Although this magazine is supposed to be apolitical, I reasoned that I would get away with this if only for the quality of the humour, and I am happy to report that no-one has complained. Emboldened by that, I now offer a comment on the (all over bar the shouting?) US election, summed up by two of the cleverest posts I have seen amongst the numerous ones out there:



Both are powerful, but for me the image of Liberty hiding behind her plinth, clearly scared of her President, is particularly poignant.

Finally. Lockdown. Hopefully it will be nearly over by the time you read this, thus enabling you and yours to see each other over the Christmas and New Year period and begin the difficult task of rebuilding normal lives for us all. Let's hope and indeed pray that the much-vaunted new vaccines will live up to their introductory press releases, and so be able to help with this rebuilding process.

Have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Mike Cooper

I can think of no more stirring symbol of man's humanity to man than a fire engine.

Kurt Vonnegut

FRITTENDEN COMMUNITY SHOP & CAFÉ PROJECT

The Steering Group has worked really hard over the past month on various aspects of our Community Shop project. We expect to receive our Community Benefit Society incorporation details week commencing 16 November together with a FCA stamped and signed copy of the Model Rules that we submitted. Once we have our CBS details we will apply for a bank account and submit our grant application to KCC (Kent County Council).

Our business plan has been looked at by a local Community Shop and they have given us some positive feedback. Our business plan is an essential tool in our forthcoming applications for external grant funding. We submitted an Expression of Interest to the Community Shares Booster Programme for a development grant and have been called to make a full application. The total amount we can apply for is £5k. We have also had an initial conversation with Kent Community Foundation to explore our eligibility for their KSELF loan/grant package (Kent Social Enterprise Loan Fund). The Parish Council have awarded us a development grant of £500 in addition to potential further funding of a capital item.

We have progressed building options and build costings and hope to have sketch plans available within the coming weeks. Rosie and Sean have submitted their recommendations re our proposed shop layout and we will take their suggestions on board.

We met with two members of the Memorial Hall Committee on 21 October to further discuss the legalities of having the shop on MH land. We will be working on a ground lease agreement between the Memorial Hall and Frittenden Stores in the coming weeks. Getting clarity and certainty on these items is a necessary pre-requisite to any application for Planning Permission.

We will be organising a further communication with the village this year to increase awareness of the project throughout our community and increase our pledges of financial support.

We still have a long way to go, so if you haven't managed to respond yet, head over to our website www.frittendenstores.co.uk where you will find a response form. If you would prefer to complete a hard copy form please contact me.

Many thanks again for the ongoing support and encouragement.

Berni Cooper 852108

Frittenden Community Shop & Café Steering Group

THE GREAT LEEDS BOOKSALE

This short item is to thank everyone involved in any way with the 2020 Great Leeds Booksale – helpers, customers and supporters. We held it during a time of restricted activity due to local virus precautions and with a last-minute change of date. The virus restrictions meant no refreshments served, which we expected to add to the reduction in numbers attending. We pressed ahead but forecast a 50% attendance and similar financial outcome.

In fact you, our local and regional patrons and helpers, came up trumps!! Our helpers got the tables set up and the books in place a day early; our attendance and book purchases at the sale were as good as ever and many people who couldn't come for health and other reasons supported us by sending donations. The final takings, including donations and late sales (from people who called in while we were packing up) came to £1071.66 – the second highest total ever!

And the final successes were to have cleared the chapel for a church service the next day (a problem brought about by the change in date) and to have completely cleared the church in time for a respectful Remembrance Sunday.

So once again, thank you everyone.

Brian Hardy

GOSBEE'S GOSSIP

We are now well into our second lockdown, and Christmas is not far away. It will be our first Boxing Day since 1987 (when Hazel moved into Manor Farm), that we are not allowed to have the big family dinner. In recent years, there have been around 35 people to feed, and it is the heart of our Christmas. I love turkey, but Hazel doesn't, so we usually have lamb and gammon and all the trimmings (as well as the vegetarian and gluten free etc options). It is especially important to support local businesses this year. Do not be put off by Covid19. I am sure that we will be back to the rule of 6, but hopefully it will be extended to possibly 10 for Christmas and New Year, but we'll just have to wait and see. I think that everyone will be seeking out leftover turkey recipes. Sadly we will miss the carol singers and the carol service. I shall still buy a Christmas tree (if I am allowed to). I always buy one for the village that I put up opposite the Bell and Jorrocks. I love putting up decorations indoors. Hazel calls it Christmas tat, but I love a bit of bling. It goes with my love of glam rock music. I do feel sorry for our new young vicar Pete, and Claire and their children Phoebe, Jemima and Molly. The Deaves family has been a breath of fresh air to the village. We are very lucky to have them.

I still get letters from the Government, stating that I am one of the 2.2 million people that are classed as highly vulnerable. I hide up as much as possible, but I did attend David Hooker's funeral on 9th November. It was the weirdest funeral that I have ever attended as we all had to wear masks, no hymn singing and silent prayers. Only 30 people were allowed to attend. It must be very hard on family members, without a 'wake', no chance to talk about their lost loved one. Tony Staples led the funeral, as a lay reader. He made us all feel welcome, and conducted the service with warmth and feeling. We listened to Morwenna Campbell-Smith playing the hymns on the church organ. She is a very good musician.

Coronavirus has sadly killed 51,766 people in the UK (as of 14th November). Has our Government handled the crisis well?. Not really. I would give Boris 6 out of 10. There are still a large number of people who think that the Government advice is not aimed at them, and not just people aged under 40. The average age of deaths has been 82 years and 4 months. Even those who do not die from it, getting the virus can make you ill for a very long time. I wish that the Government would make mask wearing compulsory, including for children of 11 upwards. There should be fines for people who don't comply. If this had been the case earlier, maybe we wouldn't be in the mess that we are in now. I like to do a bit of research, so I spoke to a lady in the know. I spoke to Alison Edwards, who works at Staplehurst Health Centre and has been sticking needles in me, and been my guardian angel for more than 30 years. What she told me I have since seen on TV. The numbers reported include anyone who has died within 28 days of a positive Covid test. Of course some of those die due to other diseases. They can actually survive Covid, and die due to another cause, but have Covid classed as the cause of death. It was an amazingly huge ray of hope when it was announced that Pfizer announced that they have developed a vaccine. Apparently more companies have other vaccines that are not far behind. The down side is that the vaccine has to be kept at a temperature of -76 c/ -104.8 f. On the plus side, the vaccine will keep for up to 5 days in a fridge. Coming back to Alison, she said that the vaccine is likely to come in batches of 500 doses, and each patient will need to stay on Health Centre (or wherever) premises for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine. I have had to do this after having the flu vaccine in the past. Most health facilities do not have the capacity to hold that number of people, even without the social distancing regulations. Maybe airfield hangars could be a good place for such mass vaccinations. Maybe the Army should get involved? The Labour Party are trying to bring in a law to stop social media users from making false allegations about the vaccine that deter people from having it, as happened with the MMR vaccine that prevented children from getting measles, mumps and rubella. Many didn't take up the vaccine and developed measles, which can cause blindness, deafness and even death. We need a huge up-take on the Covid vaccine to protect ourselves and our loved ones, and of course to get back to a normal life. This could be possible by June 2021 if we are very lucky.

Do you take Vitamin D supplement?. If you don't maybe you should. I take it from October until March, when the sun is not strong enough to give us enough natural vitamin D. The body needs Vitamin D, but cannot produce it itself. It can be found in eggs and mushrooms, and most breakfast cereals. If you work

long hours indoors, are elderly, vegan or some religions require more skin to be covered from natural light, you could be deficient in Vitamin D. It could cut colds by 50%, and also help protect against viruses such as Covid.

Our Queen Elizabeth will celebrate her platinum reign next year, giving us an extra 4 day Bank Holiday from 20th June 2021. Prince Philip will be 100 years old on 10th June, so it will be an amazing celebration. The Silver Jubilee celebration weather was not brilliant in 2012, and the Diamond Jubilee was a washout. June 2021 will be kinder.

We have lost quite a few famous stars lately, like Des O'Connor. He was born in Stepney in Tower Hamlets. He was 88 years old. Des got rickets as a child, due to not eating enough fresh fruit and vegetables. There was a lot of poverty then. He was a brilliant all-round entertainer. On his shows, his singing was mocked by Morecambe and Wise, but housewives loved him. He had 4 top ten records, including 'I Pretend', which was number one in 1968. He also presented Countdown for 2 years. Des died after a fall at home. He was 5 feet 10 inches tall, 8.5 inches taller than I am. I have hit the deck a few times when my blood pressure drops, but I am too short to do much damage. By the way, Des made 34 albums, selling 16 million records.

Since the last magazine, we have also lost Sir Sean Connery. He had been suffering from dementia, a very sad end to possibly the best looking man in the World, and many people's favourite Bond. He set the standard for future Bonds. He loved Scotland, and was a staunch supporter of the Scottish Independence Party. Having said that, he lived in the Bahamas, a tax haven. He was 90 years old. My favourite Bond was Roger Moore, I grew up watching him as Simon Templar, The Saint.

American Politics is a funny old game. Joe Biden won, but Donald Trump alleges that HE has won. In fact, Trump won a massive 71 million votes to Biden's 73.5 million votes. Nobody likes a sore loser. Trump says that he will stand again in 2024. We will look forward to that. Hopefully a younger candidate will be found by then! While on a political front, Sir Keir Starmer sacked his former boss Jeremy Corbyn for his views on anti-Semitism. I would say that Starmer has the best chance of forming the next Labour Government since Tony Blair. The one blot on his copybook is that he endorsed Jeremy Corbyn to be Prime Minister twice. Oops. Rishi Sunak, our Chancellor has done a brilliant job giving away billions of pounds to help firms and the general public stay in work. No Government has ever gone so far before. Sadly, there may be 3 million people without jobs, but hopefully not for long. Sadly, many young people have borne the brunt of the unemployment, such as the arts and industry and airlines. Dishy Rishi has saved at least a million jobs at a cost of half a trillion pounds. I would like to give him a bit of advice...please do not put taxes up. It would kill off any green shoots of recovery. Let the economy recover through growth.

Much has been made of Marcus Rashford, Manchester United's star player, and his amazing success in getting free school meals for under-privileged children, getting the Government to do a U turn on providing free school meals during school holidays. It is quite an achievement for a 22 year old, who came from a poor background. He says that his mother struggled to provide meals for him when he was a child, so he knows a bit about it. This will cost the taxpayer around £600 million. Marcus earns around £10,400,000 a year. There are at least 20 players who earn more than £5 million a year. The football clubs spent £350 million in 2018 on wages.... For one year. If Marcus could persuade half of the richest Premier Division players to contribute, they could help so many under-privileged children.

On a lighter note, some pop trivia. Cliff Richard's new album 'The Air That I Breathe' entered the charts at number 3. Cliff is the first artist to have a top 5 album in 8 consecutive decades. Australian Kylie Minogue, pop princess, has scored a number one album with 'Disco'. She has now had number one albums in 5 consecutive decades. Kylie is 52 years old, maybe she could equal Cliff. Like Cliff, she is very likeable, and I am sure that helps. She is now equal with the brilliant David Bowie. Dame Shirley Bassey says that she has just released her final album 'I Owe It All To You'. It is 59 years since her first chart entry. Shirley had a string of top 40 singles, including the Banana Boat Song in 1957. She was 19 years old. The song got to number 8 in the charts. She definitely has star quality. It's nice to see that the old ones have still got it. What is the first single record or album that you bought? The older the better. I can include it in February's Gossip. What was the first act/ band that you saw live?

As this is the last magazine of the year, I would like to thank a few people for their outstanding work in the Community, starting with Andrew Dack, for drawing up the Memorial Hall Refurbishment plans. Also Rosalind Riley for banging her head against the wall in her attempts to secure grants so that we can pay for the refurbishment. It has been a difficult year for Rosalind healthwise, so I hope that next year will be much better. Also huge thanks to Berni Cooper, who I asked to join the Community Shop Steering Group. To say that she has been brilliant would be a great understatement. Thanks also to Mike Cooper, of course, for keeping the magazine going through such difficult times. Frittenden is blessed with so many wonderful people. Special thanks must go to Rosie and Sean Croucher for their lifeline at Stables Stores, our amazing pop-up shop, as well as takeaway restaurant. They have given Frittenden an outstanding service. I give you all a virtual round of applause. I would also like to thank again everyone who supported my sponsored walk that raised over £4,200 under strange conditions. Also thanks to those who supported Hazel's Macmillan Coffee and Cake Afternoon, which raised £487. Maybe the year was not quite so shabby after all?

I have found a few jokes that should probably be in Christmas crackers. I hope that younger readers may enjoy them?: What do you call a dinosaur who takes care of its teeth?. A Flossinator. What do you call a ghost's true love?. His Ghoulfriend. What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't show up?. Some day my prints will come.

Those who watch Strictly Come Dancing, isn't Bill Bailey brilliant?. With the very fanciable Oti Mabuse, they could be the winners this year. I hope so. I would also like to see Anton Du Beke become a permanent judge on the show. He is normally given the 'wooden spoon' contestant that has little dance ability. He is also getting on a bit!

Stay well and have as good a Christmas as you can. And Happy New Year.

With love from Lester, Hazel and Richard. x

ETYMOLOGY CORNER

I'M ALRIGHT JACK

A very interesting word is **Jack**; it has a myriad of different meanings and implications. Jack as a masculine proper name, first recorded in 1218 and is probably an Anglicization of Old French **Jacques** (Which in turn was a diminutive of Latin **Jacobus**). However, the name in English is associated with **Johan, Jan or John**, and has always been interchangeable.

Alliterative coupling of Jack and Jill is from the 15th century. In England Jack has been applied familiarly or contemptuously to anyone; especially those of a lower social standing. From the 1650's it was used especially for sailors – **Jack Tar**.

In the USA it is used to describe an unknown stranger, first appeared in 1889.

English highway men would command their victims to '**Hold 'em high Jack**' meaning of course to put your hands up, this is the root of the modern-day description of a type of criminal activity, that is to '**Highjack**' an aircraft or vehicle.

In the late 14th century a **jakke** was 'a mechanical device' and thereafter extended to various appliances especially those replacing servants. In 1610 it was used generically as descriptions of occupations, **jack-of-all-trades, jack tar, jack straw (scarecrow), lumberjack** and etc. it also described male animals, **jackass** (1620) and **jackdaw** (1635) for example. In 1826 **Jack Frost** first appeared. And don't forget our old friend, the **jack-knife**.

As the name for a device for pulling off boots, the **boot-jack**, this application is from the 1670's, the jack in a pack of cards (1670's) is in German **Bauer** which means '**peasant**', the plant **jack-in-the-pulpit** first appeared in 1837, **Jack the Ripper** was active in 1888, the jack in Union Jack is a nautical term for '**a small flag flown at the bow of a ship**', in 1860 '**jack up**' meaning to hoist or raise came to us courtesy of North America; in the figurative sense '**increase**' (prices etc.) is from 1904.

Yes '**jack**' is truly one of the most versatile and colourful words in the English language, if not a king, then certainly a prince in the etymological royal household.

Colin Bullock

FRITTENDEN

Well, we are all back in lockdown again until 2nd December, but in spite of that we had a very successful Zoom Members' Meeting on 10th November and it was great to be able to talk and laugh with each other again. The speaker was from NatWest telling us about various scams that are going around and how to avoid them – very interesting and helpful.

We are now planning to hold our next Members' Meeting on Zoom on 8th December (when we would have been having our Christmas party) so we can all catch up with each other before Christmas. More news on that later.

As usual, the next Parish Magazine after this one will be in February so, a little early, but the Committee wishes everyone **a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year**. Let's hope the vaccine will be available for us all very soon and we can all get back to 'normal'!

If you would like to join us, we normally meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall. Please contact Anne Holroyd on 01580 893256 or Christine Anthony on 01580 852355 for further information.

Christine Anthony

MUSIC NOTES

Normally writing the music notes for December is a question of knowing what to leave out, with everyone putting on "Christmas concerts" as well as churches holding carol services. This year no-one knows what will happen. Local concerts seem most unlikely since the second lock-down has meant no rehearsals in November. The first experiments in starting rehearsals again that I mentioned last month have swiftly come to a stop. At the time of going to press churches do not know what restrictions may apply at Christmas so most feel unable to plan their Christmas programme, let alone publicise it.

Looking at the advance programme of radio and TV doesn't help. No promise of any carols from Kings College. No forecast of a New Year Concert from Vienna. Just a series of recorded concerts and repeats of the proms. It could be that things will change over the next weeks; maybe by the time you are actually reading this, a quick reference to your newspaper or computer will show that things have relaxed sufficiently for some live music to be available. We can only hope. And the excellent recordings that are always available on the radio should not be shunned, nor should you ignore the wide selection of music, amateur and professional, that is on u-tube.

The one sign of an initiative is the BBC's new archive site "Experience Classical". This archive of recordings, programmes and podcasts includes 600 audio recordings from the BBC's orchestras and choirs and performances by leading soloists. As well as core classical repertoire it includes new works by modern composers and a collection of performances by alumni of the BBC "Young Musician" competition.

You can choose your music by mood (such as "energise" or "wind down") or by instrument, composer, or period. You can access it all at bbc.co.uk/archive/experience-classic

The musicians' dictionary continues in lockdown:

Sharp: An adjective to describe a nattily attired musician

Flat: The condition of beer after struggling through the interval bar crush to find somewhere to drink in safety.

Brian Hardy

PRODUCE FOR CHRISTMAS (AND AFTER!)

Sadly, there will be no Christmas Market this year because of COVID precautions. A great shame, as it is a fun occasion, a great shopping opportunity, and a chance to see folk we may not meet up with otherwise.

On our usual produce stall one of the most popular sections is the home-made preserves. They make tasty and wholesome additions to the store cupboard, and many people buy them as Christmas presents for friends and relatives.

Well, you don't have to miss out! From the middle of December we will have available our usual range of jams, chutneys and marmalade, plus our delicious spiced apple butter (a brilliant accompaniment to roast goose, as well as an excellent filling for sponges or topping for ice cream). We can supply decorative tops too, if you wish, for gifting.

Proceeds will go to St Mary's Church, as is usually the case.

Please contact us in early December to check availability; we will be able to deliver to you, or you can arrange to collect from us.

In advance – have a happy and tasty Christmas and New Year!

Judy and Tony Staples; tel 01580 852226.

Email: judith_staples@hotmail.com



Saying atheism is a belief system is like saying not going skiing is a hobby.

Ricky Gervais

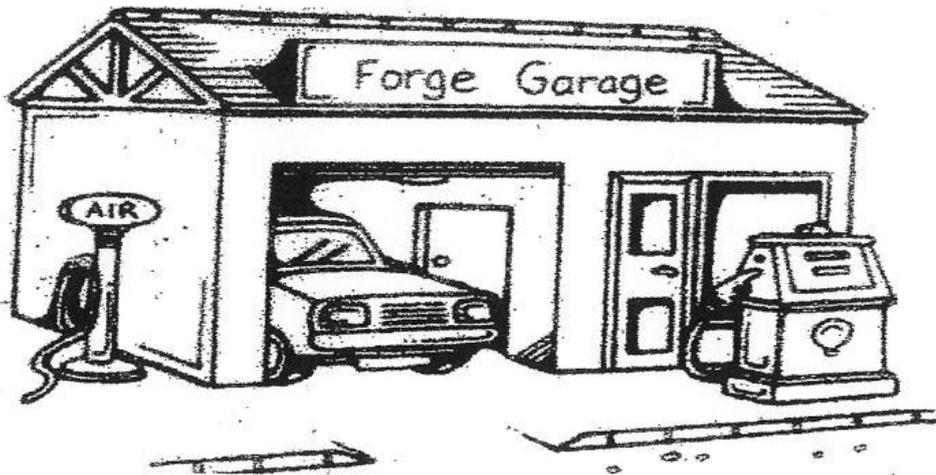


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KINGY TECH – NEW BUSINESS

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;

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Email oliking6@gmail.com

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

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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.

DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Christmas is a contraction of “Christ’s Mass,” which is derived from the Middle English “*Cristemasse*,” which in turn comes from the Old English “*Cristesmaesse*” and was first recorded way back in 1038.

Hanging stockings out comes from an old Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for Saint Nicholas’s donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes to us courtesy of 12th century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and notably tangerines at the houses of the community poor.

According to tradition, you should eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas to bring good luck.

The Christmas cracker was invented by a London sweet shop owner by the name of Tom Smith. In 1847 after seeing French bonbons wrapped in festive paper with a twist at each end, he began selling his sweets with “love mottos” inside. He then started to include a trinket and added a ‘bang’. He also created a top of the line edition that included gifts such as miniature dolls and jewellery. By 1900, he was selling 13 million a year!

It is technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything else to do with gluttony. The law has never been repealed or rescinded.

Why red, green and gold?? Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.

Mistletoe (*Viscum Album*) comes to us from the Anglo-Saxon word *mistelán*, which means “Little Dung Twig” because the plant spreads through bird droppings.

The Yule Log was originally an entire tree that was carefully chosen and brought into the house with great ceremony and ritual and was burned over the 12 days of Christmas.

Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer was invented by a company in the USA for a Christmas promotion of their products in 1938.

Traditionally, families used to gather in the kitchens of their homes to mix and steam Christmas puddings on “Stir-up Sunday,” which was the last Sunday before Advent. Everyone took a turn to stir the pudding mix and make a wish for the year ahead.

Holly and Ivy have been used to decorate homes since the 9th century because together they symbolise everlasting life. The holly represents Christ’s crown of thorns and the berries His blood.

AND FINALLY,

No wonder Santa gets tired, American scientists have calculated that he must visit 822 homes per second and travel at 652 miles per hour in order to deliver all the world’s presents!

Colin Bullock

There are two kinds of light - the glow that illumines, and the glare that obscures.

James Thurber

BEING YOUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

The main reason I stood for election is because I have a passion for the communities of Frittenden and Sissinghurst and I wanted to make a difference. Representing you isn't just about endless meetings and debates. It's about being visible in our villages and reaching out to help and assist where needed. COVID has affected us all and no less for the Borough Council. Most council revenue comes from planning and licencing applications. Parking charges and business rates. So to give you an idea of what little the borough gets to put back into our villages I will give some very easy figures. In every £1 of council tax we pay, 10pence is retained to be spent by our council. The rest is taken by central government, Kent County Council, the police and fire service. By far the largest expense is adult social care, about 56 pence in every pound. Regarding business tax, collected by Tunbridge Wells. We retain 4 pence in every pound. So as applications and car parking plummeted during COVID and many businesses given tax breaks we were down by nearly 1 million pounds a month earlier this year. Thankfully the civil servants that look after our finances have kept us in a strong position to weather the storm.

Since being elected some 18 months ago I have worked with some of you to help with planning, fly tipping, pot holes, litter, refuse services, community projects, housing, landlord disputes and many other aspects of life.

Recently I have lobbied our MP regarding the new planning white paper put forward by the minister for housing. This could have a huge negative impact on where we live and new housing numbers. Something we have suffered from in Sissinghurst though thankfully not Frittenden on such a scale. Ten Kent MPs have now written to the housing secretary urging a review and change of tack.

I fully support both Parish Councils and attend most meetings in order to feed back and take questions or taskings. I have to say we are extremely lucky to have such committed and hard working councillors to look after the area we love. The COVID response teams set up in conjunction with our churches and parish council bear tribute to the way we respect and care for our friends and neighbours alike. We really do have community heroes.

Sadly the Sissinghurst litter picks were both cancelled this year but Frittenden managed to squeeze in a September gathering which I was happy to attend and don a hi-viz once again.

I hope all of us have a happier end to 2020 and things can look brighter as we head to the New Year.
Very best wishes

Andy Fairweather

Ward Member for Frittenden and Sissinghurst
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

There are lots of ways of being miserable, but there's only one way of being comfortable, and that is to stop running around after happiness.

Edith Wharton

I guess a man is the only kind of varmint that sets his own trap, baits it, and then steps in it.

John Steinbeck

POLITICAL CRACKERS

Why was Theresa May sacked as the nativity manager?

She couldn't run a stable government.

Why did Donald Trump continuously decorate the Christmas tree?

Because people kept saying "moron" to him.

Which TV Christmas special is being filmed in Brussels this year?

Deal or No Deal.

Why did Jeremy Corbyn ask people not to eat sprouts on Christmas Day?

He wants to give peas a chance.

Why has Boris Johnson bought mistletoe this year?

Because he's tired of being in the single market.

THE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to a mental hospital, I asked the director "How do you determine whether or not a patient should be admitted?"

"Well," said the director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient, and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than a spoon or teacup."

"No." said the director, "A normal person would pull out the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Thanks for teaching me the definition of "plethora". It means a lot to me.

WORDS FAIL ME

A lorry loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken back, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, dazed, bewildered, surprised, dumbfounded, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, overwhelmed, horrified, speechless, and perplexed.

A FISHY STORY

A man goes into a fish restaurant and asks to see the live dishes of the day.

The waiter leads him over to a large tank, and the man examines the fish.

"I'll have the little green squid, the one in the corner with the hairy lip please" says the man.

"O.K." replies the waiter and calls out "Gervais !!" A little French chef appears with a large knife, the waiter instructs the chef to kill the little green squid with the hairy lip.

Gervais is about to slice the poor squid when he notices the sad look on its face. Gervais is touched and admits that he hasn't the heart to kill the squid.

"Not to worry" says the waiter, and calls out "Hans!!" at which an enormous German man comes out of the kitchen. "Sir", says the waiter, "this is Hans, our dishwasher. Hans, kill that squid!" The dishwasher catches the squid, and wielding a huge rolling pin is about to bludgeon the little green squid with the hairy lip when it cringes and gives a little cry. "I am sorry sir, I just can't kill the squid", Hans admits, his lower lip trembling.

"Well sir," said the waiter, "it just goes to show. Hans that do dishes, can be soft as Gervais with mild green, hairy lip squid."

A selection from Mike Bedford, with his apologies for the last one. (And so he should! Ed.)

WEATHER

October weather statistics for the UK and Frittenden

Frittenden's warmest day in October was on 8th at 18.24 c/ 64.76 f. Countrywide the warmest day was also 8th at Writtle, Essex at 19.1 c/ 66.38 f.

The coldest day of October in Frittenden was on 4th at 11.3 c/ 52.34 f. Countrywide, the lowest day maximum temperature was on 3rd at Dalwhinnie, Scottish Highlands at 6.7 c/ 44.06 f.

The coldest October night in Frittenden was on 26th at 2.83 c/ 37.04 f. There was one ground frost on 25th at -1.01 c/ 30.20 f. The wettest day in October was 3rd at 26.4mm/ 1.39 inches. Frittenden topped the highest temperatures in October on 23rd, 24th and 28th. In fact, October 3rd was a very wet day throughout the UK. It averaged 31mm/ 1.22 inches, the wettest since 1891. The Met Office say that enough rain fell to fill Loch Ness, 75km³. Frittenden's Central England Temperature was 11.1 c/ 51.98 f. The average is 11.37 c/ 52.46 f, so almost 0.5 c/ 0.9 f below average. Put in a nutshell, the month was very cool, dull and very wet. Sunshine was at 75% of average.

November turned frosty between 4th and 7th, with the lowest temperatures on 5th of -2.2 c/ 28.04 f, and a grass minimum temperature down to -6 c/ 21.20 f. Apart from that spell, it has been a very mild first half of November with night minimum temperatures after 8th at 5 c above the average at 9 c. The rest of November will alternate with more wind and rain mixed with maybe 72 hours of drier weather, but colder temperatures at around 10 c/ 50 f. The signs are, like predicted last June, to become drier and frostier with spells of sunshine and local fog and day temperatures in the mid 40 f's. There will be some sharp frosts as low as -4 c/ 25 f. There will be some snow over Yorkshire Moors at the end of the month. My long range forecast will be available by 12th December. December will have a northerly wind and a light frosty start. The theme will then be colder than average for the first half of the month, so hopefully you can get lots of cheap heating oil from Howard's Oil Group. Kent will see some snow this winter.

Lester J. Gosbee

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL PRIZE DRAW

The winners of the November Draw:

1 st Prize	No. 18	John Essex	£15.00
2 nd Prize	No. 09	Jan Linch	£10.00
3 rd Prize	No. 28	Pat Radford	£8.00

These are the lucky winners of the second draw of the year. We have 66 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 (£10.00 per person for the whole year from December 2020 to September 2021) by BACS. Do make sure that when you return the Membership Form, the payment method is clearly stated. Also, when a BACS payment is made please state the member's name. All the details for a BACS payment will be on the Membership Form.

I do hope that this is clear, however if you have any questions please phone me on 01580 852563. 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

FRITTENDEN CRICKET CLUB THE BONFIRE THAT NEVER WAS

Among the many disappointments arising from this year's covid-19 disruptions, being unable to hold the annual bonfire and fireworks event at the cricket ground can hardly be classed as one of the greatest. Still, the loss of what has become a hugely popular village event has been deeply felt. For many years now the Club has managed to stage the bonfire every November, despite occasional extreme weather, which last year caused a substantial postponement.

As well as being a social event for all the family, the bonfire has been the mainstay of the Club's income, hugely important for a small village cricket club. Losing it this year is a blow, because while all the Club's normal "takings" are down, costs are not (especially the dreaded insurance!). So it was a very pleasant surprise when a few locals approached us to say they would like to make donations in lieu of the money they would otherwise have spent at the bonfire.

To those that have done so, thank you very much!

Tim Bull

(P.S. The Club hasn't made any appeal for funds, but if any other Frittenden folk wanted to make a contribution, however, small, I am happy to act as unofficial postman or provide information for electronic payments. timbull@aol.com.)



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A WORKING HOLIDAY

Every year, I go to work at the Hokkaido Snow Festival at Sapporo. It is hard work – in fact it is very hard work indeed – but to me it's like a holiday. My name is Ichiro Watanabe, and I am an ice carver by profession. I was born in Hokkaido, but have made my home in Tokyo since completing my training and starting out in business on my own. There was not a great deal of demand for ice carvings in the Sapporo area (except of course during the Snow Festival) but I had heard there was a constant requirement for them in Tokyo because of all the international hotels hosting conferences and business events. Here in Japan, to host a major event without an ice carving would be quite unimaginable.

To be honest, it was not easy starting up in Tokyo. I knew no one, and most of the sophisticated big-city people thought of me as a country bumpkin, coming as I did from Japan's northernmost large island. Indeed, many of the residents of Hokkaido are of a different ethnic background, since many of us are Ainu people, as am I, and although we would claim to be the very first Japanese, the majority of our country's more recent people do look down on us a little. But even then – although I say it myself, which of course I really should not do – I was a good ice carver, and I found sufficient work here and there. The more I worked, the better I became, and in due course people came looking for me, and the work flowed in, and the money with it. I was able to find myself a small but pleasant house in one of the outer suburbs, and once I became a man of property (I tease myself, of course) I quite soon was able to attract a wife as well.

I came to love our little house, which in the fullness of time became a family home as my wife bore me a son and then a daughter. I would frequently touch the silky wooden frames of the rooms, would sit and look at the shadows cast by lanterns and just visible through the paper shoji screens, and marvel at the beauty of the flower arrangements created by my wife using sometimes just three blooms, one piece of old wood and one spray of leaves. I believe we were all quite content. We went to Sapporo once a year to see my parents, and we always enjoyed those visits, my enjoyment made all the better by my wife's evident enchantment with the city of my birth and the surrounding countryside, both boasting far more open space than either Tokyo or Nagoya, her home city.

Then came the time when I had to return briefly to Sapporo, not once but twice within a year, to bury first my father and then my mother. These were sad visits of course, but I was able to be philosophical and tell myself that both my parents had had long and healthy lives. I would miss them, but I would also be able to remember them with pride and fondness. The second of these two visits coincided with the Snow Festival, which of course I knew about but had not visited since I was a schoolboy. I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw the size, the complexity, the numbers, and the sheer beauty of the carvings. I use the word "carvings" loosely since in fact some of the larger creations were built from snow blocks rather than ice, and carving was only involved in adding the finishing touches. I was fascinated, but more to the point my professional pride was challenged – I wanted to have a go, and indeed to succeed, and to win some of the prizes on offer.

I returned to Tokyo and discussed all this with my wife, and we agreed that I should enrol for the Snow Festival the following year if they would accept me. Fortunately my work in Tokyo had generated many good references, and with these I was accepted as an exhibitor. For the sake of the children's schooling, it was agreed that I would go alone, but that the family would try to visit me part way through the Festival. However, where would I live for the 4 to 6 weeks that I needed to be in Sapporo?

It was my son who had the brainwave. "Dad," he exclaimed "why don't you build yourself an igloo, like the Inuit people do on the other side of the world from us?" There was a long silence as the stunning simplicity of this idea sank into my wife's and my minds.

"Why not, indeed!" I replied. "I will not only build an igloo, I will build the most beautiful igloo that the world has ever seen. I will build it as my exhibit in the Snow Festival!"

And that is how my annual participation in the Sapporo Snow Festival began. I did build my igloo, and it won a prize – not a huge one, but very welcome – which persuaded us all that I should return the next year, and then perhaps the next and the next. I have now been going for 25 years, and have won prizes in every one of them, by making carvings inspired by the continuing flow of ideas from my children. There have been dragons, sea monsters, galleons in full sail, and one year (courtesy of course of my daughter) two beautiful geisha in kimonos standing on a small curved bridge, shielding their faces from the sun with their parasols.

I build my igloo every year also, but these days it is a much larger and more complicated building than it was in the beginning, as it has to accommodate my wife, my children and their spouses – and I hope shortly their children – and from time to time friends who have heard of my carvings and decide to come and see them. It is also much more comfortable than its early predecessors, boasting drapes and skin rugs and even some limited pieces of furniture, which are stored locally for the rest of the year.

You know the strangest thing about my igloos? Although you might think them ephemeral since they only exist for a matter of weeks and then disappear into the earth as they melt in the spring, to me they are immensely solid compared with the lightness of our Tokyo home made from polished wood and paper!

Am I not fortunate that my simple skill in shaping ice has provided me not only with a comfortable life but also with an annual "working holiday" that is so diverse, so exciting, and so different from the rest of the year? May I wish you all the same good fortune?

Sayonara,

Ichiro Watanabe



My apologies to those few of you who have read this before. For those who have not, I hope you enjoy my little fantasy trip, which I needed to fill a couple of blank pages. Ed



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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 8th December. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 19th January.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town Hall 01892 526121
Cranbrook – Weald Information Centre 01580 715686
Member for Frittenden & Sissinghurst – Andy Fairweather 07976 290185
Andrew.Fairweather@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall 01622 671411
Member for Cranbrook - Sean Holden - sean.holden@kent.gov.uk or 01580 714880

POLICING

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

NEXT EDITION, SMALL PRINT, ETC.

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

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Richard I, 2) Elizabeth I, 3) Edward, 4) Alfred, 5) Mary I,
- 6) Edward I, 7) Ethelred, 8) Henry VIII, 9) Richard III, 10) Lady Jane Grey.

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