

Frittenden Parish Magazine

Connecting our community



FREE

July/August 2022

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rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk

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www.frittendenchurch.org.uk

Childline 0800 1111

Relate 01892 529927
appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk

Defibrillators
These are now available at: the village hall, the pub, Larchmere and a mobile unit available for use at village events.

OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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

Friends of Frittenden School
Chair Beks Harding 712138

Pre-school Manager
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Home 852130

Primary School Head of School
Nichola Costello 852250

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

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

Marquee Hire Mike Cooper 852108

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

Parish Council
Chairman Tony Staples 852226

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

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

Tennis Club
Chair Nigel Casswell 852772
Treasurer John Marshall 852345

Women's Institute
President Anne Holroyd 893256
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Treasurer Jenny Croucher 852468

Youth Club
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beth.kemp@westkentymca.org.uk

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

JULY

Sun 3rd	Trinity 3 10:00 Family Praise 11:15 Holy Communion BCP
Mon 4th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 6th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's
Sun 10th	Trinity 4 10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's
Mon 11th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 13th	14:30 CAMEO in St Mary's Church
Thu 14th	19:30 Joint PCC Meeting in St Mary's
Fri 15th	15:00 Wardens Meeting
Sat 16th	10:00 Kent County Association of Bellringers
Sun 17th	Trinity 5 10:00 Holy Communion (CW) with Sunday Club - St Mary's 14:00 Families Together @ Trinity Church
Mon 18th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 10:00 Little Lambs 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 20th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's
Thu 21st	11:00 School Leavers Service
Sun 24th	Trinity 6 10:00 Morning Worship @ Trinity 17:30 Holy Communion BCP at St Mary's
Mon 25th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Thu 28th	10:00 Baby & Toddler Group Summer Special @ Trinity
Sat 30th	15:30 Deanery Picnic in the Vicarage Garden Marden, followed by Evensong in St Michael & All Angels Church, Marden.
Sun 31st	Trinity 7 10:00 Joint benefice Service @ Trinity Church

AUGUST

Mon 1st	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Thu 4th	10:00 Baby & Toddler Group Summer Special @ Trinity
Sun 7th	Trinity 8 10:00 Family Praise 11:15 Holy Communion BCP
Mon 8th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 10th	14:30 CAMEO in St Mary's Church
Sun 14th	Trinity 9 10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's
Mon 15th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Wed 17th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's
Sun 21st	Trinity 10 10:00 Holy Communion (CW) with Sunday Club - St Mary's
Mon 22nd	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice
Sun 28th	Trinity 11 10:00 Morning Worship @ Trinity 17:30 Holy Communion BCP at St Mary's
Mon 29th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's 19:30 Bell Ringing Practice

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

SUNDAY CLUB - separate provision for primary age children during part of the service.

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

Moving Mountains - Prayer for the needs of the Community, held in St Mary's, open to all.

Little Lambs - the new group for Toddlers and their Carers, meeting weekly in St Mary's.

CAMEO - Come And Meet Each Other - Coffee, tea and chat in St Mary's or Memorial Hall.

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

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

Church rotas - Sunday Services

Date	Time	Sidesmen	Readers	Prayer	Sound	Coffee	
3rd July	10:00	Deaves family	Pete to arrange	Pete to arrange	Myrtle Moore	Robinson	
	11:15	Tony Staples	Anthony Edwards Lynda Lilley	-	Debbie Haine	-	
10th July	10:00	Peter Braggins Calvin Moore	James Booth-Clibborn Isobel Mehrabian	Elaine Highwood	John Dutton	Booth-Clibborn	
17th July	10:00	Christopher Page Helen Stansfeld	Rachel Vinton Jeremy Beech	Tony Staples	Mike Gilbert	Nicky Vernon & Heidi Easby	
24th July	17:30	Judy Staples	Judy Staples Marian Dutton	-	John Stansfeld	Mehrabian	
31st July	10:00	United Benefice Service @ Trinity Church Sissinghurst					
7th August	10:00	Deaves Family	Pete to arrange	Pete to arrange	John Stansfeld	Beech	
	11:15	Christopher Page	Julia Braggins Berni Cooper	-	John Stansfeld	-	
14th August	10:00	Rob Addis Judith Addis	Nicky Vernon Peter Braggins	Nicky Robinson	John Dutton	Booth-Clibborn	
21st August	10:00	Mack Mehrabian Calvin Moore	John Dutton Helen Stansfeld	Nicky Vernon	Debbie Haine	Braggins	
28th August	17:30	Tony Staples	Christopher Page Pete Deaves	-	Judy Staples	Highwood	

Flower Rota: July 3rd & 10th Lucy Hodgson; July 17th & 24th Vanessa Hannan
 July 31st (No flowers in church); August 7th & 14th Lon Faulkner; August 21st & 28th Jennifer Jeffery
Cleaning Rota: July: Catherine Cordell & Irene Winter / August: James and Elaine Highwood
Key Rota: July: Barbara Essex 852406/ August: Sara Cremer 852182

LITTLE LAMBS

Our weekly (term time only) Baby and Toddler group
 10-11.30am @ St Mary's Frittenden

Parents and Carers of Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers are warmly invited to hop along to Little Lambs @ St Mary's Church.

A warm welcome, toys, good coffee/tea, delicious homemade cakes, crafts, Bible Story and singing time. It will be a great opportunity to connect with other local families. We'd love to see you there!

Currently, there is no need to book a space so do just come along!
 For more details contact Claire Deaves: deavesclaire@gmail.com



Lets live wholehearted lives



Dear Friends

"The whole of life is a journey to God... I have not chosen this office for myself; he has appointed me to it, and I go to be consecrated to it by him... And because he leads, I may follow in complete trust."

Words spoken by Her Majesty 70 years ago as she prepared for her Coronation. Enjoy reliving those special Platinum Jubilee moments as you browse the happy and glorious photos. Great to see the stops well and truly pulled out, with real live events - and that wonderful concert of local talent! Coverage, events and services gave us plenty of opportunity to celebrate and thank God for the Queen's incredible 70 years of faithful service.

It's pretty much impossible to imagine being in her shoes, but what comes across loud and clear is how her faith has shaped and moulded her life in so many ways. Many of us have enjoyed reading about this in the souvenir booklet Our Faithful Queen with beautiful photographs and snippets like the quote above.*

In a very different vein, it's also very hard for most of us to imagine being in the shoes of the estimated 1 in 6 children worldwide who are affected by armed conflict.

WarChild.org.uk says that: Children living in war torn countries face unimaginable futures. Many are torn from home and stranded at borders, without help, food, water or knowing when they'll next reach a safe place to call home.

In comparison, the sponsored 50km Nightrider pedal around Central London 11pm-3:30am with my trusty fellow riders Richard and Dave (and 1,800 other riders!) was no hardship. At the time of writing, around £1,300 has been donated to WarChild which is fantastic - huge thanks to all.**

Let's live wholehearted lives inspired by Queen Elizabeth's life of service and self-giving, following the way of Jesus her King.

Every blessing in Christ

Pete

* You can also see it online at: theplatinumjubilee.com/giftbook (scroll down to Preview) - or ask me and I'll happily get you a copy to enjoy...

** Still not too late to donate - go to justgiving.com and search for Pete Deaves





Photography by John Dutton

Jubilee celebrations begin

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

Frittenden celebrated!



What a Jubilee weekend that was, congratulations to the committee for delivery such a fun-packed and varied occasion. Full coverage throughout the magazine, plus...

- The origins of the phrase 'all at sixes and sevens' by Hubert Ashton (page 15)
- The Ringing World National Youth Contest by Rebecca Steele (page 16)
- Doves and Dandelions... Rebecca Warren (page 28)
- The Cat and the Hedgehog... Mike Cooper (page 37)

...and much more

Thank you to all our advertisers for their support, for your kind donations, and all those who contribute articles - keep them coming during the summer, we are back September.

James Booth-Clibborn
Editor
frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com



Your Parish Magazine needs

YOU

POLITE REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

A year on from the launch of our new colour magazine, distributed free, we need the help of some of you to keep it that way. We are supported with great advertisers, but like everything else magazine costs have increased.

If you are enjoying the magazine and can afford it please show your appreciation with a £20 donation. More or less would also be welcome!

It is simple to do

NatWest: Sort: 60-06-18, A/c: 59020911. Name: PCC Frittenden. Ref: Parish Mag

Thank you, **James Booth-Clibborn, Editor 07768 456935**

A fun packed Jubilee

Ms Costello

Hello from Frittenden Primary School and a big thank you for the Jubilee Parish Magazines which were gifted to all the children. The celebrations in the village looked amazing and we enjoyed seeing the pictures.

In school we have had a few big events ourselves. For the Jubilee we made bunting to decorate the school. All the children came in wearing red, white and blue and at lunchtime we picnicked together on the paddock. In the afternoon we played games in the park and enjoyed chocolate cake. It was a happy and sad day, as after 11 years at Frittenden, the much-loved Mrs. Jones left us.

Potter and Dahl Class enjoyed a trip to the Rare Breeds Centre. It was a beautiful day! The children got to pet various animals including a donkey, piglets, rabbits, guinea pigs and roosters. They got to watch pig racing AND they went on a tractor ride.



Just before half term some of the children in year 4, 5 & 6 went on residential. It was the first time since 2019! They had an amazing week pushing themselves to their limits. All the children did so well. Whilst they were there they did: Jacob's ladder, high equilibrium, bubble football, nightline, archery, rafting, roller skating and leap of faith. By the end of the week the children were tired out, as were the teachers.



and finally... Congratulations to Mr Price as voted for by The Week Junior

THE WEEK Junior

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's name: Mr Price

School: Frittenden Church of England Primary, Cranbrook, Kent

"I would like to nominate our year 3 teacher Mr Price for his amazing lessons and helping us when we need it. My favourite part about Mr Price's lessons are his funny stories. They really make us laugh, especially the "goldfish story". He can also walk on his hands and do cartwheels. We all think that he is amazing."

Olivia

If we pick your teacher as Teacher of the Week, we'll send your school three free issues of *The Week Junior*. Send your nominations, along with a picture of your teacher and your school's full name and address, to hello@theweekjunior.co.uk

Benchmarks – Frittenden’s highs and lows

Phil Betts

Chmn Frittenden Historical Society

Following the Highland disturbances of 1745, the Board of Ordnance, Britain’s defence ministry at the time, was given the task of creating accurate maps. The importance of accurate maps was reinforced some 50 years later by the threat of invasion during the wars with Napoleon.

To make maps more accurate in terms of contours, a system of Benchmarks (BMs) was introduced from 1831 to indicate height over sea level at numerous points around the country. From 1840, sea level was measured from the mean tide at Liverpool. This was superseded by Newlyn, Cornwall, in 1921.

A network of 190 Fundamental Benchmarks (FBMs) was established across Great Britain, forming the reference framework for heights above sea level. Their positions are not widely advertised but this is the primary network from which many thousands of lower order BMs are derived. There are approximately 500,000 of these lower order BMs still remaining, although this is reducing as a result of road widening, property development etc.

If the exact height of one Benchmark is known, the exact height of the next can be found by measuring the difference in heights through a process of ‘spirit levelling’. Most commonly, the BMs are found on buildings or other semi-permanent features, the marks usually being indicated with a chiselled arrow below a horizontal line. The horizontal marks were used to support a stable ‘bench’ for a levelling plank to rest on – hence ‘benchmarks’. This design ensured that a plank could be accurately repositioned in the future and that all marks were uniform. The last such mark was carved outside The Fountain pub in Loughton, Essex, in 1923.

The benchmark network has had little maintenance for 30 years. Although the main network is no longer being updated, the record is still in existence and the markers will remain until they are eventually destroyed by redevelopment or erosion.

The ‘Parish Records’ Book for Frittenden has an entry dated 12 June 1866:-

Elevation of the Church & Village

1866 Altitude in feet above mean tide at Liverpool.

Benchmark on front of the Bell Inn (about 1.08 ft above ground) 116.96

“corner of Saddler’s shop (“2.23 “) 148.50 near the Church.

(signed) H S Palmer Captain R.E.

From the Ordnance Survey database, Frittenden appears to have 31 benchmarks. They are situated throughout the parish and can be found on most roads or on lanes and tracks off them. In



Benchmarks on:- ‘The Old Saddlers Shop’ and The Bell & Jorrockes (unusually upside down)

the village, the most readily available are those recorded by Captain Palmer in 1866, i.e. on the left of the Bell & Jorrockes (position indicated by red circle) and on the old saddler’s shop adjacent to Well

House. Many of the other benchmarks are readily visible but are mostly on private property and inaccessible to public view. There are benchmarks recorded on 5 properties along Biddenden Road, with 4 along Staplehurst Road, Headcorn Road and the A229 at Knoxbridge. Grandshore Lane and Mill Lane each have 3, and The Street, Cranbrook Road and Dig Dog Lane have 2. Finally, Hareplain and Bubhurst Lane each have 1. The lowest height recorded in the parish, 19.848 metres (65ft 1in), is on a culvert on the Staplehurst Road towards the Staplehurst boundary, while the highest is 53.135m (174ft 4ins) at Keepers Lodge on the junction of Grandshore Lane and the Cranbrook Road.

Nationally, benchmarks are largely concentrated in urban areas and mostly along roads or on the side of buildings and walls. There aren’t as many in the Scottish Highlands, mid-Wales or Northern England due to the hilly terrain. However, there are 18 benchmarks on the tiny island of Lundy, 66 on the Isles of Scilly, and 1,313 on the Isle of Wight.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) and the European Terrestrial Reference System 1989 are used by today’s Ordnance Survey to achieve the most accurate and uniform method of measuring elevation points. Although Benchmarks are not specifically protected, they are a record of the ancient art of map making and as such are well worth preserving.



Recent fixtures

Tim Bull timbull@aol.com

29th May v Horton Kirby (league, away)

We came to Horton Kirby’s lovely ground with a makeshift side. With several seniors unavailable, and juniors on exam duty, we fielded 10 players. No matter. Horton Kirby won the toss and asked Frittenden to bat (helpful as half our team were still on the M20). Craig Smith and Chamil Almeida got us off to a great start, boundaries flowing from the start. Chamil looked well set for a big score, but mistimed a drive and was caught for 37. Craig carried on with a Captain’s knock of 75, supported by Will Totterdell’s 21, as we managed to get our score to 186 all out (your correspondent out for 5 off the final ball). In reply, Horton Kirby attacked. Despite losing one opener, bowled by Will, they powered to 64-1 off the first 8 overs. Then Chamil got to work, claiming 5 wickets for 22 from 9 overs of spin. Wayne Totterdell supported him with 3 wickets, and there were some excellent catches held, especially a diving effort by junior Louis Harmer. Horton’s last pair edged to within 23 runs of our score, but Louis clean-bowled their number 11, leaving us very happy winners.

3rd June Jubilee Celebration: the Nora Bearsby Challenge Cup Six a side tournament

The Norah Bearsby Challenge, included in Frittenden’s Jubilee celebrations, was contested by Frittenden CC, Egerton CC, the B&J and TN17 (a team with Sissinghurst connections). Frittenden started against the B&J and powered to 120 off 10 overs, thanks to Will Totterdell’s 50 (retired), and Mark Handley 22 not out. Will then added two big wickets and, despite 31 not out by Richard Hunter, the Pub lost by 18 runs. The next match was a thriller between Egerton and TN17. The scores were tied after 10 overs each, and they could not be separated by a Super Over, so Egerton progressed having lost fewer wickets. The Pub played off against TN17 for 3rd and 4th places in another very tight match. Richard



made a half century, and the B&J won by just 2 runs. Frittenden and Egerton contested the final. Frittenden batted first, and while Will was out for a duck this time, his father, Wayne, upheld family honour with a score of 40, the main contribution in Frittenden’s 70-4. Father and son then opened the bowling, limiting Egerton to 4 runs from the first 2 overs; run rate pressure told, three wickets fell, and Frittenden eased to victory by 24 runs to secure The Challenge Cup. Richard Hunter was top batter with 83 runs, and Will Totterdell best bowler with 3 wickets. A hugely successful and enjoyable time for all involved.

Frittenden Cricket Club is seeking new players. We welcome interest from anyone who would like regular or occasional games. This is a friendly, inclusive club which plays every game, league or friendly, for fun, and in the true spirit of the game. Contact Captain Craig Smith or Chairman Paul Hope.

Fixtures July & August

- 17th Minster v Frittenden (league)
- 31st July Frittenden v Rainham (league)
- 1st August Frittenden v Selsdon (friendly)
- 7th August Frittenden v Eastchurch (league)
- 14th August Frittenden v Egerton (friendly)
- 21st August Harvel v Frittenden (league)

Frittenden Cricket Club is a welcoming, friendly Club. New players are always welcome. For information, please see our website: frittenden.play-cricket.com or contact the writer.

A Jubilee to remember

Becky Bruce

What a fabulous Jubilee Frittenden put on. If there was an award for best party, Frittenden would have won. What amazing fun and all made possible by the hard working folk from the village.

The hog roast! (yum). The tea and cake by WI (yum). The fantastic historical exhibition, the wonderful display of cars, the exhausting tug o war, the poor people in the stocks being soaked with sponges plus all the lovely stalls and games on the fringes made for a very special Jubilee day for our residents, and something their families could join in and celebrate. Jill Ash, our latest resident, won first prize in the Crown competition and as you will see here from the pictures looks as proud as punch! The topping on the cake was the Queen popping in to see everyone – she looked so fabulous in pink!! A lovely picture of our Geoff having a word in her ear! Also

other residents and family were proud to have their photo taken with the lovely lady.

The Queen came to Larchmere on another day over the weekend with a couple of her Corgi's (dressed in blue this time)! What a busy lady she is. And, of course, not forgetting the other days of the bank holiday, partying on the Saturday night to fantastic music, the lantern procession, beacon lighting, puppetry workshop, cricket to name a few things going on.

Other activities over the last month included having a splendid day on the river in Yalding with some of our residents, lots of activities in the garden (making the most of this lovely weather) and not forgetting Adele's Birthday.

I think this month the pictures can do the talking

What a wonderful village we all live in xxx



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'All at sixes and sevens'

Hubert Ashton

You've probably heard of the expression 'all at sixes and sevens', and understand it to mean chaos, confusion or disarray, as in "he's all at sixes and sevens" ie he's all over the place. But do you know the origin of the expression?

There are many stories as to how such expression came to exist but the most usual one relates to the order of precedence of the various livery companies as to who was sixth and who seventh behind the Sovereign. Those sixth and seventh positions were heavily disputed by members of the Skinners' Company and the Merchant Taylors Company. All sorts of stories have been passed down over the centuries including whether a Merchant Taylor killed a Skinner (or was it a Skinner who killed a Merchant Taylor!)? There seems to be consensus between the companies that it did involve some bloodshed.

The rivalry came to a head when both companies submitted the dispute to an arbitration (thought to be one of the, indeed if not the, oldest arbitration whose award is still relevant today) in 1484 conducted by the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Robert Billesdon (spelt with an 'o' if you are a Skinner (Billesdon), and an 'e' if you are a Merchant Taylor (Billesden)!). Wise

Mayor Billesdon made what was in effect a judgment of Solomon (and for that expression see 1 Kings 3.16-28).

His award provided that one year Skinners will be sixth (and the Merchant Taylors seventh) and the next year Merchant Taylors will be sixth (and the Skinners seventh). The Master and Wardens have to appear before the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House (usually a short time before Easter) and swap gavels that have come to represent the order of sixth and seventh.

But Mayor Billesdon didn't leave the award there. He also said that the Skinners must dine the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors once a year (which is held on the Feast of Corpus Christi) and the Merchant Taylors must dine the Master and Wardens of the Skinners (which is held on the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist). So it has been, without a break, for 538 years.

Not unsurprisingly the two companies are the closest of friends when they meet socially but there is a very healthy rivalry (in the best spirit!) when they meet elsewhere, for example on the sports field, sailing and for general knowledge quizzes. Some generally gentle joshing between the companies occurs on a very regular basis!

One special evening was the night of the 6th of July (the seventh month) 1984 when we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Billesdon Award. Parties were held for all Skinners and Merchant Taylors at our respective Halls (they are 5 minutes walk apart in the City of London) and we then formed a conga over 3 miles long round the City in the early hours of the 7th of July. There were one or two sore heads later that day!



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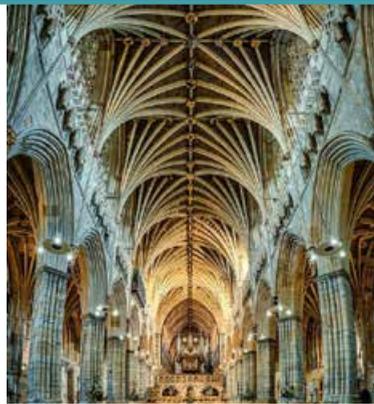
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Rebecca Steele

Those of you who are avid readers of the parish magazine may remember that last September I wrote about the Ringing World National Youth Contest which took place in Worcester. As with everything else last year the contest was disrupted by Coronavirus and postponed from July when it usually takes place. This year, with Coronavirus restrictions hopefully a thing of the past, the contest is back to normal and will be taking place on Saturday 2nd July in Exeter. Teams from all over the UK will be taking part and three Frittenden young ringers are lucky enough to have been selected for the Kent Young Ringers team. Towers all over Exeter, including Exeter Cathedral itself, will be open to visiting ringers.



There are 14 bells hung for ringing in the south tower of Exeter Cathedral, including a tenor of 72 cwt. (over 3.5 tons). This is second only to Liverpool Cathedral (tenor 82 cwt), ahead of St Paul's Cathedral (tenor 60 cwt) and almost five times the weight of St Mary's Frittenden (tenor 15 cwt). The bells themselves have a very long history; they were cast by several different bell founders between 1616 and 1979, but many of them have been recast from much earlier bells and have a continuous history from medieval times. They now form a ring of twelve in B flat major, and the two extra bells allow other keys to be obtained, making it possible to ring eight or ten of the lighter bells if desired.

The Kent team will be ringing their contest piece at the tower of St David's Church which, I am very pleased to say, is not quite so imposing as the Cathedral! Please think of us on Saturday, I will be posting the results on Frittenden Community FaceBook Group soon after you have read this.....

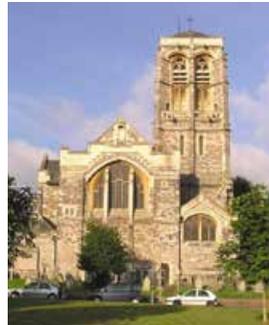
Bell ringers can expect a warm welcome at bell towers anywhere in the world. During their holidays many ringers will schedule a visit to the local bell tower and enjoy an hour or so at their bell practice before retiring to the local pub for refreshment. Whether the Swan Tower in Western Australia, St. Andrew's Cathedral in Hawaii or St Mary's Church Frittenden the welcome is likely to be just as friendly.

If you are interested in finding out more about bell ringing, then Frittenden Bell Ringers practice on Monday evenings 7:30pm until 9:00pm at St Mary's Church. Please do come along to the tower or get in contact if you would like to find out more.

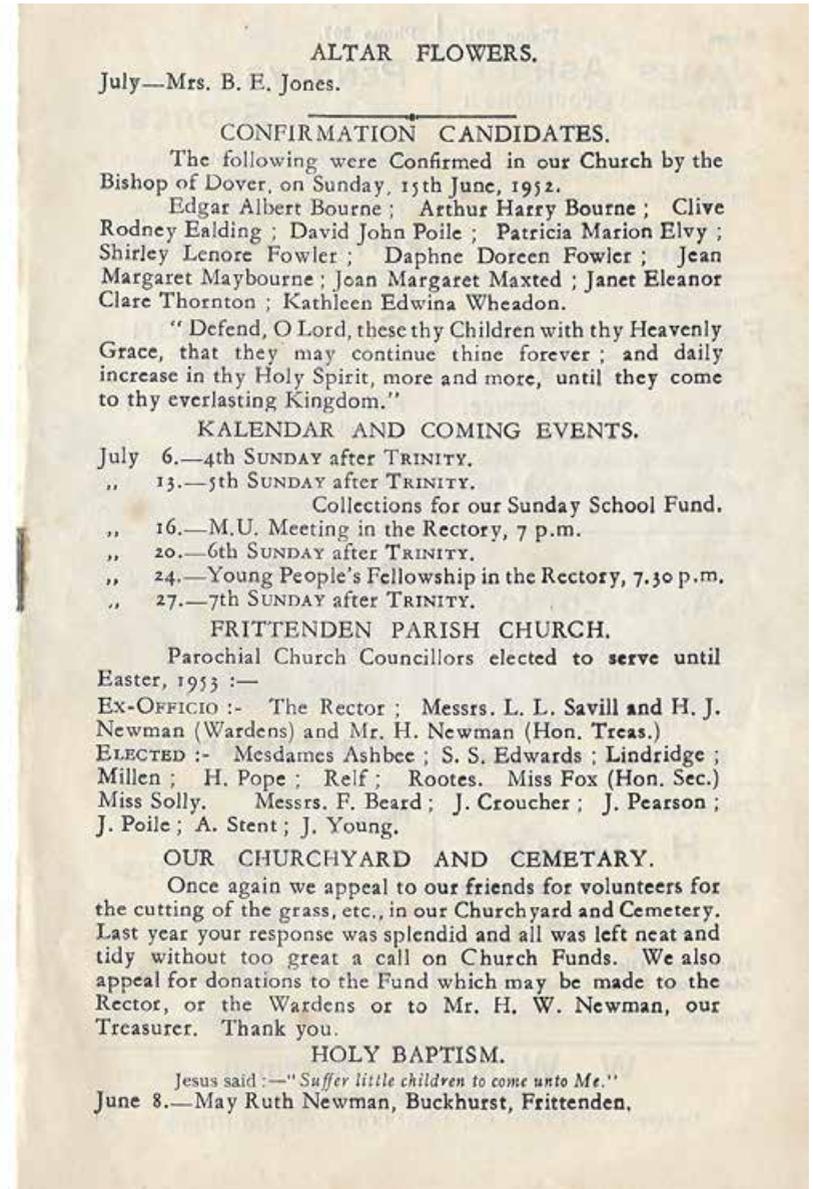


You can now also keep up to date with our news on both FaceBook and Instagram through the links below:

www.facebook.com/FrittendenBellRingers
www.instagram.com/FrittendenBellRingers



Confirmations, Church Councillors and Churchyard July 1952 Bernard Millard



Gosbee's Gossip

Lester Gosbee

Frittenden's celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were outstanding. A highlight for me was the Jubilee Concert in the Church, organised by Judy Staples. It was definitely an evening to remember.

I didn't realise that Frittenden has such an array of talent of all ages. I particularly enjoyed the BFG piece, and the Flanders and Swann songs. We rarely hear comical songs these days. I must say that I was blown away by the amazing mezzo soprano Emily Steventon. I hope to see her perform again one day. Hazel and I once went to see Katherine Jenkins singing at Bedgebury in the rain, and she was fantastic. I also enjoyed seeing all the classic cars. It must take a lot of work to keep them running. Rosie and Sean booked a great band called 'Old Skool' for the Saturday night after the supper. They were really good, creating a fantastic atmosphere. Special thanks go to the organising committee, particularly Jackie and Chris Brown and Heather Cullingworth, who put in a lot of time and effort.

A few birthdays: Happy belated birthday to Katie Croucher from the Bell and Jorrockes, who reached the age of 18 on 10th June. Also to Geoff Smith, who was three score years plus 10 on 19th June (also Father's Day). Finally Nick Bull reaches the milestone age of 60 on 27th June. I hope that they all enjoyed their special birthdays. On 20th August, Hazel's nephew Rob Brennan (her sister Fiona's eldest son) will marry Sarah Ward in Tunbridge Wells. I will dig out my new blue suit for the occasion. I'm under pressure to forecast a fine day for them.

Frittenden's former Parish Council Chairman, Colin Highwood will be more mobile after having a hip replacement in March. Another former Parish Council Chairman Howard Lilley is also having the same operation by the time you are reading this. Hopefully both their lives will be greatly improved as they heal. I have a lot of nerve pain in my hips, but sadly nothing can be done about it due to my heart problems. If you were at the Jubilee concert, I hope that my squirming due to



the uncomfortable pews didn't not distract you from the fantastic music.

By the time you receive your magazine, Hazel and her 3 sisters will have completed their challenge to walk up the 3,559 feet of Mount Snowdon. I hope that the weather has been kind to them. Even in Summer, every thousand feet, there is an average drop in temperature of 3 degrees Fahrenheit. Having said that, with our quirky climate, sometimes in winter, the top of the mountain is warmer than the base. I am sure that they will have enjoyed the experience, taking it on together. I am very lucky to be part of such a fabulous family.

Mike Fitzgerald has put a lot of work in with 'Applause', an association who put on subsidised shows for communities, in the newly refurbished Memorial Hall. There is still more work to do during the summer. Please support these events if you can, we are lucky to have them so locally. I am looking forward to the Cuban evening.

I was speaking to Paul Hindmarsh the other day. In fact, he brought us some of his home made apple juice. He told me that his mother is going to be 102 years old next month, and she continues to enjoy good health. I just wondered if any other residents have one or both parents or grandparents that are over 100 and are fit enough to enjoy life to the full. Please let me know, as well as any special birthdays or anniversaries coming up.

I have found an amusing limerick: I thought that there could be nothing grander than to visit the UK for a gander, but Border Force say I've got no right to stay, so instead I'll be seeing Rwanda.

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The village celebrated!

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE

In the afternoon the Historical Society opened its four-day Jubilee exhibition in the newly-refurbished Memorial Hall, relocating to the Parish Field on the Saturday.

The weather in the evening was still and clear, and at 8.45 pm the church bell-ringers began a quarter-peal: 1260 changes of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Chris Bassett.

The Jubilee beacon-lighting was made extra-special with lantern-lit processions of villagers arriving from three different points around the village, as the quarter-peal of bells came to an end. Everyone converged on the field behind the War Memorial on Manor Farm (thanks to the Gosbees), so the Beacon was surrounded with our own “little

lights” in a rather magical way. A good turnout of around 200 people included some visitors from Canada and Germany, and a few from nearby villages.

Newly-written verses in honour of the Queen were read by three different generations of residents, then Deputy Lieutenant Tim Bull gave a short speech and handed over to James Highwood, who lit the beacon to cheers and general joyful noise. Rob Addis proposed three cheers for Her Majesty, and the National



Anthem was sung as the beacon flames grew higher. Many lingered to watch the beacon and socialise with other residents, and the lanterns could be seen bobbing down the lanes as people departed.

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE

Jubilee Cricket Tournament

Frittenden residents may remember that the Cricket Club participated in the 2012 Jubilee

“We had a great Jubilee weekend with our exhibition and thank you to everyone who supported us, especially those who loaned artefacts. We had over 300 visitors at both of our venues over the weekend, and we didn’t count those who came back for return visits! It was wonderful to see so many people from the community, as well as some who were just visiting for the weekend. The whole weekend was a fabulous example of what a fantastic community Frittenden is – thank you all!”

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



celebrations, staging a cricket tournament, and the Club played its part again for the Platinum Jubilee, with the 2022 edition of the Nora Bearsby Challenge Cup Six-a-Side tournament. Four teams took part: the Cricket Club itself, The Bell & Jorlocks, Egerton Cricket Club, and TN17, a squad of players associated with Sissinghurst and its cricket club. Matches were of 10 overs per innings.

The opening match saw the Cricket Club take on the Bell & Jorlocks. The Club scored 120-2, led by Will Totterdell with 50 (ret'd), while the Pub made 102-3, losing by 18 runs. The game between TN17 and Egerton ended in a thrilling tie, both teams scoring 93 runs. They played an extra “Super Over” which was also tied, so Egerton were awarded victory as they had lost fewer wickets.

In their play-off for 3rd and 4th places, the Bell & Jorlocks beat TN17 by the narrow margin of just 2 runs, leaving the final to be played by the Cricket Club and Egerton. The Club batted first and after a tricky start

managed to recover to score 70-4. In defence of a low total, the Club’s bowlers kept Egerton’s scoring down in the opening overs, and were able to maintain pressure throughout. Egerton closed on 46-4, the Club won the match by 24 runs, and with it the tournament. Players and spectators enjoyed fine weather, with refreshments and barbecue.

Jubilee Concert

What a treat the 130 people who attended the Jubilee Concert had on Friday 3rd July 2022. There was an eclectic range of music by 16 performers and 15 readings, most with a Royal or celebratory theme. The musical performances ranged from very difficult pieces played by Richard O’Neill on the organ, to a selection of English choral music by the Wealden Singers. A lovely duet played by John and Marian Dutton, accompanied by Rosie Evelegh, some magnificent singing from Anthony Edwards and our very own Frittenden “Flanders and Swann”, Graham Langlay-Smith and Jeremy Beech. Holly Winter and Emily Steventon sang a selection of pieces, ending with a rousing





rendition of "Rule, Britannia!". Morwenna Campbell-Smith accompanied the singers beautifully. A profit of £390.00 was raised which will be donated to charity. Many thanks to all the performers and organisers for a most enjoyable evening.

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

Puppet Show and Puppetry Workshop

"Du Iz Tac?" puppet show entranced 27 younger village children in the afternoon, and the workshop afterwards produced unique "Queen Bee" puppets to take home.

By way of a review: "Really magical! The craft afterwards was fantastic too!"



Table Decorating for the Village Supper

Prior to the Village Supper, we had instructions to decorate the tables. What would this entail? A red tablecloth maybe, with blue and white embellishments? No! this is Frittenden; if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well (and in some cases to excess). Also, a prize was on offer, so the gloves were off.

On some tables the decorations were so fabulous that there would be no room for any food later. But this did not seem to matter.

The Queen was in attendance (it could have been a cardboard cut-out, I am not sure, as of course she was rather busy entertaining Paddington Bear.)

The room was buzzing with concentration and inventiveness. Each table had its own take on the best way to celebrate 70 glorious years of the Queen's reign. Flags, flowers and crowns were everywhere. Congratulations to the Hunters for their winning table!



It certainly gave the Village Supper the right atmosphere for a wonderful village evening, enlivened by first the Headcorn Ukulele Group, playing popular “oldies”, and then the “Old Skool” band, getting many guests onto the dance floor. The bar, run by the Bell and Jorrocks team, was busy the whole evening.



SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

A service of thanksgiving for the 70 years of the Queen's reign was held in St Mary's Church at 10 am on the Sunday of the Jubilee weekend. It was led jointly by the Rector, Rev. Pete Deaves, and the Reader, Tony Staples. The organist was Morwenna Campbell-Smith.

85 adults and 19 children attended, the children enjoying their own craft activity for part of the service.

Readings and music reflected both Pentecost and the Platinum Jubilee, with the choir singing the Jubilate Deo, as sung at the Coronation in 1953. Two verses of the National Anthem were sung at the conclusion of the service.

Refreshments were enjoyed after the service.

The collection (£1311.88 including Gift Aid) was donated to WarChild.org.uk, especially relevant to victims of the war in Ukraine.



From 12 noon between 300 and 400 people, including many residents of Larchmere Nursing Home, gathered for a

village lunch in the Parish Field, enjoying pork rolls from a hog roast, sausages and burgers from the B&J BBQ, and vegetarian curry with rice and chutney. The WI provided teas, coffee and cakes.

Helen Grant

MP for Maidstone and the Weald

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Jubilee Roundup

A parade of classic cars was headed by a 1926 Alvis which brought “The Queen”, ably embodied by Joanna Beech, who judged the pudding and crown competitions.

26 other vehicles followed, amongst which were two tractors. The oldest car was a 1923 Rolls-Royce, the most unusual a 1930 MG Tigress. All parked around the field so that they could be viewed by everyone.

Lunch being finished, various stalls and fun activities attracted young and old, including a Gardening Society stall, stocks, tombola, guess the weight of the cake, and a tug o’war, which provided great fun for all.

Jubilee decorations in red, white and blue enhanced the appearance of marquees and field, and indeed the school, the church, the pub, and many houses in the village were decorated with bunting, flags and colour-themed planting. Even the telephone box held a special Royal display.



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Doves and Dandelions

Rebecca Warren

I have some 'top news' to report this month for anyone in the parish interested in birds and wildlife. I've heard a turtle dove 'purring' in the trees in my garden! Why is this 'top news'? Well, according to the RSPB,

'The turtle dove is the UK's fastest declining bird species and is on the brink of extinction.'

So to sit in bed with a cup of tea in the morning, listening to the sound of such a rarity was a real treat, and definitely a first for me.

If you only know of turtle doves as the gift given by your true love on Day #2 of the '12 Days of Christmas', you are not alone. I doubt most people would recognise the sight or sound of this once-common bird. It is, of course, pigeon-sized and shaped, with the 'classic' pinkish breast and grey head of a wood pigeon but

sporting rich chestnut wings, mottled with black and a rather fetching patch on the neck of black and white stripes. The song is a gentle repetitive purr, so soothing that one can listen to it without realising. In fact, its Latin name is streptopelia turtur - the 'turtur' reflecting the 'tuur tuur' sound of its call, which is also responsible for the odd 'turtle' name in English.

Unlike our other pigeons, turtle doves are migratory, spending the winter in Sub-Saharan Africa but returning to breed in England in April. One reason for their terrible decline here is the mass shooting of migrating doves by 'hunters' as they pass over the Mediterranean. Our own agricultural intensification has also contributed to their decline; turtle doves eat mainly seeds, especially of plants classed as 'weeds' such as dandelions, so the incessant spraying of herbicides on farmland has largely removed their food sources. Back in Africa, these lovely little birds also have to contend with environmental changes, including drought, as well as hunting. All told, life is perilous for turtle doves and in the last fifty years, their numbers have declined here by 98%! (If the population of Frittenden parish today were to be reduced by 98%, there would only be 19 people left here.)

So that's why I'm so excited to have heard one in my garden. Kent is known to be one of the last places they can still be found and here the wonderful efforts made by some farmers to leave, or even deliberately re-seed, field margins can be a lifeline for these birds. Moreover, the recent initiative of 'No Mow May' - which encourages people to stop mowing their lawns until the grasses and flowers have set their seeds - may also be helping, as buttercup-seed in particular is an important food for turtle doves.

But 'No Mow May? What's that?' Well, for the last few years we, and thousands of other people across the country, have left

our lawn to grow uncut throughout May and preferably into the summer. The benefits to us and to wildlife have been huge; the lawn is now studded with wild flowers and alive with insects (which are also in terrifying decline), providing pollination for the garden, feeding the bats in the evening and the birds during the day, including goldfinches feeding on dandelion seeds, and bullfinches tucking into grass seeds. No Mow May also means that we don't waste hours of our precious time pointlessly mowing the grass every weekend; and the rest of the village doesn't have to listen to noisy mower-engines...

In fact, in return for our increasingly productive agriculture - which has undoubtedly and importantly kept us fed, but also removed so much wildlife from the countryside - perhaps it's time that we all took our duty to the natural world more seriously in whatever space we have at home? Perhaps it's time we moved away from the idea that a neat garden requires a green,

lifeless carpet as a backdrop and embraced instead the softer, blowsy look of a 'lawn' which is a tapestry of taller grasses and flowers, humming with birds and insects, and kept smart by sharp mown strips around and through it.

I would strongly encourage you to try No Mow May (and June/July/August) next year. Try it in a smaller area first, if you are worried how it will look. Mow narrow paths where you need them and around the flowerbeds to keep the garden looking neat, and then sit back and relax with a cool drink one sunny afternoon, watch the wildlife, and remember how many hours of your life you've spent behind a hot, noisy, smelly mower. Whether or not it is the abundant grass and flower seeds now in our garden that have attracted the turtle doves, we cannot imagine returning to a bare, green sward in the summer - or indeed of wasting so much of our lives just cutting the grass.

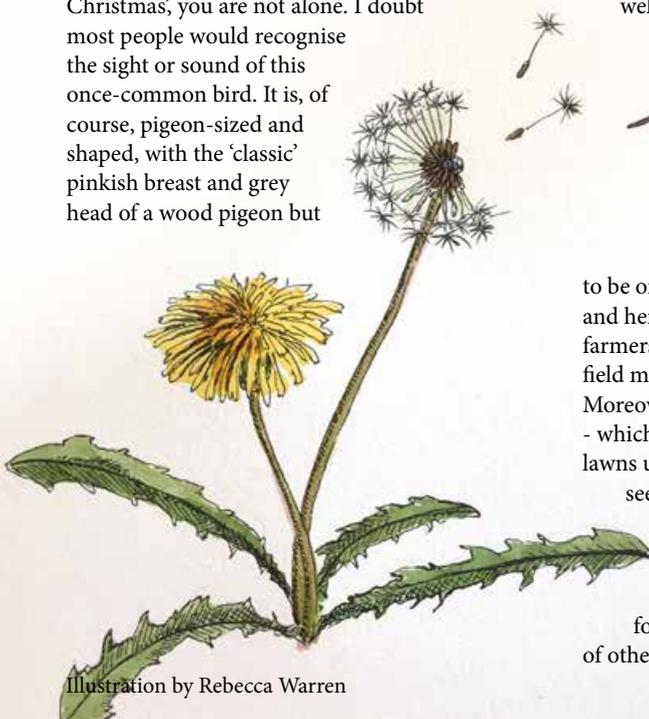


Illustration by Rebecca Warren

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The rise and fall of Cranbrook's first banks

Colin Bullock

Banks opened in Ashford and Hastings in 1791, two in Maidstone in 1795, in Tonbridge in 1796. Cranbrook's first bank was opened in 1803 by the magnificently monickered Mr Samuel Ferrand Waddington, who was a wealthy hop trader/ dealer and was situated in the building known as Church Gates (by the steps to St. Dunstan's church) which today houses Stationary Express. It is unclear what happened to this bank, but it failed and the building was put up for auction in June of 1806 after the bank closed down.

In August of 1804, a new bank opened in the property now used by Quilters Dry Cleaners. It opened as a branch of the Tenterden Bank owned by a Mr Charles King, he built the canopy of fluted pillars to match his building in Tenterden, copied from the colonnade in Hawkhurst, an early form of corporate identity. Mr King was declared bankrupt in April of 1826.



In 1813 a new venture bank was opened under the name of Cranbrook Bank, shortly after opening the name was changed to Weald of Kent Bank and was situated in the building now occupied by Nat West. The front half of the building was dedicated to the business of banking, while the back half was a gin distillery! What is today known as Bank Street, running alongside the building was originally named Brewhouse Lane.

The story of local banking came to an end in 1843 when the Weald of Kent Bank was taken over by the London and County Bank, which in turn was taken over by the Westminster Bank in 1867. This merged with the National Provincial Bank in about 1970 to become the National Westminster Bank or NatWest Bank, which of course still occupies the site.

I have failed to find any local orchestral concerts confirmed for July, although Maidstone Wind Symphony have indicated an intention to do something on July 9th, a date that clashes with at least two other local events. Perhaps people will not mind, as the BBC proms start this month. The first night is 15th July and that concert (Verdi's Requiem) will be shown on BBC2 at 7.15pm.

Meanwhile our local singers, who were busy just practicing last month, all seem to be performing in July, as listed:

Sat 2nd July 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Mill St., Maidstone ME15 6YE, Maidstone Choral Union present a Concert for Nations, which includes Mozart's Requiem with MCU Sinfonia and invited soloists. Visit <https://maidstonechoralunion.co.uk> or 07752 923084 for information and tickets

Sat 9th July 7pm at All Saints Church Biddenden, TN27 8AH, Sutton Valence Choral Society offer a concert of Summer fun, comprising music by Rutter, Sullivan, Schubert, Lloyd-Webber, Sondheim & more. Contact 01622 8910589.

Also on 9th July 7.30pm at the church of St. James the Great, East Malling, East Malling Singers present their Summer concert which includes Rutter's Gloria and Copeland's Fanfare for the common man. Tickets 01622 750943.

And again on 9th: Maidstone Wind Symphony propose a concert entitled "Thunk!" but at the time of going to press details are yet to be confirmed. See <https://www.maidstonewindsymphony.org/index.html>.

Sat 16th July 7.30pm at St. John's School, Provender Way, Grove Green, MRE 14 5TZ, Bearsted Choral Society's Summer Concert is entitled "Sacred & Profane" and includes traditional tales and texts given a contemporary twist. Tickets 0333 663366

This month's anniversary is 3rd July, the 170th anniversary of the birth of Leoš Janáček (3 July 1854 – 12 August 1928). He was a Czech composer, musical theorist, folklorist, publicist and teacher, inspired by Moravian and other Slavic music, including Eastern European folk music, to create an original, modern musical style



Until 1895 he devoted himself mainly to folkloristic research. While his early musical output was influenced by contemporaries such as Antonín Dvořák, his later works incorporate his earlier studies of national folk music in a modern, highly original synthesis, first evident in the opera Jenůfa, which was premiered in 1904. The success of Jenůfa (often called the "Moravian national opera") at Prague in 1916 gave Janáček access to the world's great opera stages. His later works are his most celebrated. They include operas such as Káťa Kabanová and The Cunning Little Vixen, the Sinfonietta, the Glagolitic Mass, the rhapsody Taras Bulba, two string quartets, and other chamber works. Along with Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana, he is considered one of the most important Czech composers.

Brian Hardy

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What's to love about the ukulele?

It's no accident that the ukulele has become such a popular instrument, often replacing the recorder as the first instrument learnt in schools. It is smaller, lighter and has fewer strings than a guitar, so is easier to manage. Parents and teachers may breathe a quiet sigh of relief that they are spared the piercing shrieks of a class of 30 beginners on the soprano recorder. The ukulele can also provide a gateway to other stringed instruments such as the guitar or banjo. But the ukulele isn't just for children and can be enjoyed by players of all ages and a range of abilities.

A bit of history...

The ukulele originated in Portugal from similar instruments such as the braguinha. In the late 1800s, Portuguese immigrants brought them to Hawaii when they came to work in the sugarcane fields. The story goes that the Hawaiians were so impressed by how the fingers of the musicians flew across the strings that they called the instrument "ukulele" - which translates as "jumping flea". The King of Hawaii at the time, King David Kalakaua, loved the ukulele. With his support, the ukulele was adapted to accompany traditional Hawaiian hula dance performances, developing the lively rhythm that characterises modern hula performances.

The ukulele is reported to have arrived in the USA in 1915, where it became important in vaudeville, jazz and country music. It was introduced to Japan in 1929 by Hawaiian-born Yukihiro Haida and Japan is often said to be the ukulele's second home. The Japanese flash mob group, Ukulele Afternoon, descend on beaches and shopping malls to play as a group. They believe that the ukulele can play any genre of music, from movie music to techno, mambo or rock.

Arguably the most famous British ukulele player is George

Formby. In fact, he played a banjolele, which is a ukulele hybrid with a banjo resonator body. He inspired George Harrison of the Beatles, who is said to have a ukulele in every room of his house. The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain is a British musical ensemble founded in 1985, featuring ukuleles of various sizes and registers. It has performed in sold out gigs across the world, from Buckingham Palace to Sydney Opera House via Shanghai and the Glastonbury festival. It also organises play-alongs with up to more than 1,000 participants at a time, at workshops for children in the UK, USA and New Zealand. It is accredited with the significant increase in British interest in the ukulele.

How to choose a ukulele?

There are four different sizes of ukulele. The soprano ukulele is the smallest at 21 inches and produces the typical ukulele sound often associated with Hawaii. The next size up is the concert (or alto) ukulele, which measures about 23 inches. However, someone with large hands might prefer a tenor ukulele (26 inches). A baritone ukulele (30 inches) uses a different tuning than other sizes of ukulele so the chord shapes are different too.

It's important to pick a good quality ukulele. Factors that can make a difference include the "action" of the ukulele, which is the angle and height of the strings and the fretboard. Poor action can be either too high (so you have to press down harder on the strings to make the chords) or too low (causing buzzing and difficulties with tuning). When choosing a ukulele, you should also look at the type of wood. Mahogany, koa, maple or rosewood are all good quality woods for the ukulele body.

Where to play the ukulele?

Staplehurst Music Centre is running a weekly ukulele ensemble on Saturday mornings at Staplehurst Primary School. To find out more about this or our other ensemble opportunities, or to enquire about music lessons, contact us through <http://www.staplehurst-music-centre.org/> or Facebook.

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Arrrgh! Pirate themed trivia

Colin Bullock

- Before joining a crew, pirates had to agree to the SHIPS ARTICLES - a code that detailed how they were to behave, be paid, and be punished.
- Pirates had bedtimes too! On captain Bart Roberts ship, "lights-out" was 8 pm.
- The "GOLDEN AGE OF PIRACY" was from 1660 to 1730.
- When Sam Bellamy's ship the Whydah sank off the coast of Cape Cod it was carrying over 4.5 tons of treasure.
- Blackbeard put burning fuses on the ends of his beard to scare his enemies.
- If a mariner had permission from a government to raid enemy ships-he was considered a privateer, not a pirate.
- The first flags of pirate ships were red, not black.

- There is no documented proof of pirates having to "walk the plank" as punishment or revenge.
- The city of Port Royal, Jamaica, was a thriving haven for pirates until in 1692 it was destroyed by a tsunami.
- The short, sharp swords pirates used in fights were called cutlasses.
- Captain Hook in J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan is loosely based on the pirate Blackbeard.
- Pirates drank grog, a mixture of rum, lime juice and water.
- Pirates used pistols that fired only one shot before they had to be reloaded.
- The nickname "JOLLY ROGER" for pirate flags comes from the French "JOILE ROUGE" meaning pretty red.
- "BARBAROSSA" which means "RED BEARD" was the name of two 16th century, savage pirate brothers.
- The skull and crossbones on pirate flags were a symbol of death. Today it is used to warn of danger or poison.
- Francis Drake raided a lot of Spanish ships for their treasure. He was rewarded with a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth the first.
- Pirates who broke ship rules could be marooned on deserted islands with no food or water.
- Cannons and gold were recovered from Blackbeard's ship, QUEEN ANNE'S REVENGE in 1996 off North Carolina.

Post jubilee themed brain twister

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.
- 11) The Bastard.
- 12) The Merry Monarch.
- 13) The Widow of Windsor.
- 14) Lackland.
- 15) Farmer George.
- 16) Rufus.
- 17) Brandy Nan.
- 18) Ironside.

(Answers on the back page)

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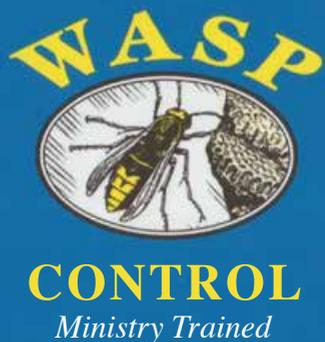


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The cat and the hedgehog

Mike Cooper

Berni and I recently visited her French cousin Titou in the beautiful Ardennes, which even Titou herself admits is “La Belle France très profonde”. We love going there as the pace of life is sufficiently slow and rural to make each day gloriously peaceful. We also seem to be treated to a lucky surprise or two each time we visit, whether it is discovering a new historic site, a small but perfect local wine fair, or a memorable produce market. This visit proved to be no exception, but in a truly astonishing way.

One evening we were relaxing with an aperitif and enjoying the open views across the garden to the cereal fields, stretching towards the green rolling hills and forests beyond. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed a movement but took no notice initially as I assumed it was Mozart, a village cat who adopted Titou several years ago and regularly visits her, and who likes lying by the big French doors opening onto the garden from the lounge. But something made me look again, and in place of the big long-haired ginger-brown cat I saw a hedgehog avidly sniffing around the area where the cat normally lay. I then noticed Mozart, sitting motionless some feet away on the other side of the terrace.

I softly called Titou and Berni and the three of us knelt on the floor on our side of the doors to watch what might transpire. We discussed whether we should intervene if/when war was declared, since Mozart has a reputation locally as a successful hunter, and never seems to be hungry. None of us had seen a live hedgehog for years, and we were entranced. But, whilst both animals were clearly fully aware of each other's presence, they seemed rather more interested in us than themselves, (see picture of hedgehog below) and studiously ignored each other. Then a bird flew low over the terrace, which caused the cat to react, at which point the hedgehog ran – but only a few feet – and then adopted the classic defensive roll. After a short time, it unrolled and returned to its sniffing and prowling about the cat's territory. The cat sat, sphinx like, staring at the hedgehog.



Although Titou doesn't usually feed the cat, she decided that it was time to get rid of a half camembert which we had earlier agreed was, interesting though it smelt, no longer fit for human consumption. Despite Berni's warning that such an item was not good for a hunting cat's tracking abilities, Titou opened the door and tossed it out onto the terrace. Mozart walked towards the cheese, his pace slowing the closer he got to it - the aroma seemingly telling him that Berni was right, and he should avoid it in favour of subsequent self-caught meals. He rather diffidently tried a small bite, but then walked away disgustedly, back to his place at the edge of the terrace.

The moment the cat left the hedgehog trotted over to the cheese and began tearing mouthfuls off it with evident enthusiasm. Cat started to approach, hedgehog rolled up, cat backed away, hedgehog unrolled.... They repeated this gentle gavotte a few times, sufficiently engrossed in their dance for Titou to go into the garden by another door and video the action until Mozart clearly became bored and left the scene altogether.

Altogether we had spent over twenty minutes intently watching the animals' fascinating behaviour, and were left with two questions:

Sometime in his youth, had Mozart tried his hunting luck with a hedgehog and been sufficiently pricked to have learnt to avoid them in the future?

The next morning the camembert had totally disappeared. Could the hedgehog possibly have eaten it all by himself, or did he trot home and return with his family for a feast?

Frittenden Community Stores & Cafe



As the Parish magazine goes to press, we are still waiting to hear whether our grant application to the Princes Countryside Fund to assist with the fit-out of the Community Shop and Café has been successful.

The total pledged by the Community now stands at £73,300. The total of our external funding currently stands at £22K, which brings the total to date to £95,300. Our target is £150,000.

We will be having a public meeting on Wednesday 13th July at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall to discuss the future of the project. We hope to see you there!

Bernie Cooper

The Village Tents

What a great turnout there was at the various events.

But, I want to talk about the turnout before and after the weekend. The Tent Team spread the word that we needed a bit of extra help, and Rosie kindly mentioned this on Facebook. As a result our Team numbers more than doubled both before and after the weekend, and what would have been a daunting task became much easier – and pretty good fun to boot!

I would like to say a big thankyou to all those who joined us during the three days to erect and then strike the tents and their contents – and also to the tent team themselves of course.

Mike Cooper

Memorial Hall update

Thanks to a huge amount of effort, and in spite of several unavoidable delays, we managed to get the Hall open for Jubilee weekend, and have already hosted three public events - the Historical Society Exhibition and two gloriously entertaining Applause events. Sadly, the floor was not finished before the agreed date, but to hurry it would have risked it not being dry.

The floor sanding and sealing is booked for 2nd August, which should mean that we can start using the Hall by 9th August. In these uncertain times, with many delays still being caused by illness among contractors, I hesitate to be more definite than that! Many people have asked about the Post Office, and again, its return is dependent on the completion of the floor as well as the technical work that the Post Office has to complete itself.

Once the Hall is open, we will be starting our online booking system, which should make life easier for most people. Those not online can always ring Eileen on 852563 as usual.

Many thanks to Mike Fitzgerald for all his hard work in organising the buying and installation of the new performance equipment. There's still plenty of work to be done but we hope that the Hall will be back in full swing before the Autumn, when all the village clubs and societies start up again.

Please come to our official opening on Friday 9th September - and remember, we will have an extra room for hire - the meeting room, useful for meetings and therapy. Details will be on our website www.frittendenmemorialhall.co.uk.

Rosalind Riley

SAVE THE DATE!! Frittenden Memorial Hall Official Opening Event

To celebrate our revamped, remodelled and newly-equipped Hall

**Friday 9th September
at 6.30pm**

Complimentary drink, delicious nibbles,
live music - and a special guest!

**Look out for details -
hope to see you there!**

The winners of the Memorial Hall Prize Draw

JUNE 2022 DRAW

1st prize	£20.00	Ian Mounter
2nd prize	£15.00	Helen Coggin
3rd prize	£10.00	Gordon Bridges

As you know half of the monthly ticket proceeds are divided between three prize winners and the other half goes towards the upkeep of the Frittenden Memorial Hall.

If you haven't managed to get around to completing a Membership Form yet, but would like to join, please email me at: shop@acornsstores.co.uk or give me a ring on 01580 852563 and I will get one to you. You can pay by cash, cheque or by bank transfer (details on the form). As we are exactly half way through the year, there are six draws left, so the Subscription until the end of the year is £6.00 per person.

Thank you for reading this and Good Luck!

Eileen Bridges Organiser

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Coffee Morning report

Fegans is a Christian charity with the vision to support children and their families in the UK. They owe their core mission and ethos to their founder James Fegan. In the late 19th Century James taught in a “ragged school” which gave elementary school classes for street boys in the evenings. Through that work James soon saw the desperate need for permanent shelter and schooling for these children. In 1870 he founded a society and opened his first home for boys in Deptford, the first of many children’s homes that brought shelter, care and hope to children and young people

Today Fegans no longer operate children’s homes but offer a range of services to children and families through counselling and parenting at their centres and in primary and secondary schools throughout London and the South East. Their counsellors work with parents and children to enable them to manage their lives, build relationships and make positive choices. We are very grateful to Nadine Cowell who spoke so movingly about their work and how important even 15 minutes a day of 1 to 1 with your child, whatever age, can make all the difference to their mental health. We raised over £70 for their work.

Many thanks to Sue Ireland from Wellbeing in the Weald who also gave us a short update on their work to promote health and wellbeing locally and build a stronger community. Activities include Wealden Men’s Shed, Men’s Cookery Classes, Crafting group, Book Club, Wednesday Drop In, Wellbeing walks, Community Allotment project and Jigsaw Exchange all operating in Cranbrook. To find out more contact them at www.wellbeingintheweald.co.uk or leave a message on 07961669575

Next Coffee Morning will be in aid of Crossroads who support carers in the community and will be on Wednesday 6th July 10.00-11.00 in Sissinghurst Parish room, next to the church.

We would love to see you.

Pat Heath, Pat Jackson and Rosie Eveleigh

Headcorn Health Walks July

Wednesday 6th: Meet at 09:30 for a 09:45 start in the car park by Charing Library, Market Place, Charing TN27 0LR. Market Place is a narrow, unmarked road on the right as you go up High Street Charing from the A20. If Market Place is full there is further parking on the other side of High Street in School Road. A circular walk of 3 miles (about one and a half hours) across grassland, trackways and part of Pilgrims Way. Some inclines interspersed with flat sections.

Wednesday 13th: Meet at Parsonage Meadow, next to Headcorn Village Hall, at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a 45 minute social stroll around the village at a pace to suit everyone. As the weather improves, we may cross fields near the village. Please wear suitable footwear.

Wednesday 20th: meet at 9:30am for a 9:45 start for a circular walk from Westwell to Eastwell. This is a 4 mile walk taking approximately 2 hours. We will be walking up steeply to the North Downs Way and then along the NDW to Eastwell, returning along country lanes.

Directions and meeting: Take a left turn off the A20 called Westwell Lane (probably sign posted Westwell, Dunn Street.) Stay on Westwell Lane until you get to Westwell village. Park sensibly along the road opposite the Wheel Inn TN25 4LQ (closed).

Everyone is very welcome to join us on our free and friendly walks but if you would like more information before doing so, or would like further details of any particular walk, please contact: Barry (barry@watersideeast.com) or Paula (07525 260539).

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FORECAST FOR JULY:

July will start very warm, or even hottish in the areas that I forecast for, but there will be an increasing risk of storms breaking out in Cotswold counties, Dorset and Wiltshire, as early as 2nd. London, the South East and East Anglia may not get the thundery breakdown until 4th. Temperatures will be around 30 c / 86 f. These areas will have a 50/50 chance of their hottest spots reaching 32 c / 90 f. The nights will be very close in the cities. London and Brighton could get tropical nights, with temperatures remaining at 20 c / 68 f. The Met Office will be giving out heat warnings. On the second week of Wimbledon, the tennis could be interrupted by storms. The weather will turn much cooler from 5th, with a cool north westerly breeze with showers, possibly longer spells of rain in the South East. The best of the sunny spells will be in Dorset and Wiltshire. Night temperatures will be in the low teens degrees Celsius, lower at 10 c / 50 f in rural areas. After 11th July, the weather will be more settled. Temperatures in the South East and Central England will be around 25 c / 77 f, but with the easterly breeze. Low pressure will arrive from mid month until 24th July and spells of rain will never be far away. It will be breezy at times from the south west. Temperatures will be around 21 c / 70 f, lower around 19 c / 66 f north of Birmingham, a bit below par, but we will get short spells of summer weather south of Bristol and Suffolk. The sun will still be at its strongest, and the odd day will reach temperatures of 27 c / 80.60 f. From 25th, higher pressure will give us all a fine end to the month. It will turn very warm, or locally hottish. July's warmest day will be possibly exceeding 30 c/86 f in the first couple of days of the month. It will be almost as hot at the end of the month. The hottest spots could be St. James' Park or Heathrow. Rainfall figures will be extremely varied. July will be the wettest month in many areas, as storms deliver large quantities of rain in a short space of time. Sometime storms pass over with just a few millimetres of rain. The average rainfall for July in England is 62.6mm/ 2.46 inches. In Kent, the July average rainfall is 46.7mm/ 1.83 inches. It is now our driest month, and also the warmest, but April, June and February only average 1 or 2mm more. All of the places that I forecast for will get double the average rainfall. July is also our sunniest month. England as a whole averages 193.5 hours of sunshine. Kent averages 218.1 hours, the second sunniest county in the UK after Dorset, which averages 218.2 hours. July sunshine hours have increased by 18 hours on average since the 1980's. Sadly, this July, many places will struggle to exceed the average sunshine hours, apart from Dorset and Wiltshire, which will be 5% above average. July's Central England Temperature will be 16.28 c / 61.34 f. In Kent, the July average CET is 17.36 c / 63.48 f. This July may just about reach the average. It will be the coolest July since 2015, which was 15.9c/ 60.62 f.

FORECAST FOR AUGUST:

August is England's second warmest month of the year, after July, with a Central England Temperature of 16.10 c / 60.98 f. In Kent, the August average CET is 17.28 c / 63.04 f. In a 31 year period since 1980, August has been the warmest month of the year just a dozen times, despite the rapidity of the shortening days, losing one hour and 50 minutes from beginning to end. On 10th August 2003, Brogdale in Faversham, Kent reached an amazing temperature of 38.5 c / 101.3 f. This was the first time that the 100 f barrier had been broken, but it was surpassed on 25th July 2019 with 38.7 c / 101.66 f at Cambridge Botanic Gardens. This August will have more high pressure, giving us a much warmer, sunnier month than last year. The month will have a very warm start in all the areas that I forecast for, with temperatures between 26 and 28 c / 79 to 82 f. In most inland places, a thundery low will move from France by 3rd, but areas north of Birmingham will remain settled and warm. High pressure will regain its influence, giving us long, fine spells between 5th and 19th August. There will be lots of blue sky days in a southerly breeze. Temperatures will mostly be between 24 and 28 c / 75 to 82 f, but from 12th, the weather will become very humid and more cloudy at times. There will be some very oppressive nights. I have never recorded a night temperature of 20 c / 68 f in Frittenden, but we could get close to that temperature during this spell. Day temperatures will exceed 30 c / 86 f, and there is an 80% chance of London exceeding 90 f. Even places as far north as Birmingham could have tropical night temperatures. The Met Office will be giving out heat warnings. It will be a great time for a holiday. From 20th August, there could be electrical storms with local flash floods, large hail stones and gusty winds. Temperatures will drop back to 20 c / 68 f by 22nd, and it will feel chilly after the hot spell. The most severe storms are most likely to be around the south coast and East Anglia. Temperatures will remain around 20 c / 68 f. The nights will be much fresher, with temperatures down to 8 to 10 c / 46 to 50 f. High pressure will build from 26th, so it will be a fine end to the month. No heatwave, but temperatures of 21 to 24 c / 70 to 75 f, not bad for the Bank Holiday. It will be fairly humid, which could bring on a local shower, even a one - bang thunderstorm (25% risk). Monday 26th August 2019 was the hottest day on record, at Heathrow with a temperature of 33.2 c / 91.76 f. In Frittenden that day, I recorded 31.03 c / 87.62 f. August's hottest day will be mid month, when a number of places could exceed 90 f / 32.2 c. I would give only a 30% chance of 35 c / 95 f being reached. August's lowest day temperature could be just 17 c / 63 f, in the Midlands in the 3rd week. There will be the odd chilly night, dropping to 8 c / 46 f in many places. Rainfall: Overall, August's rainfall will be below average, which is 69.3mm/ 2.72 inches. In Kent, the average is 53.7mm/ 2.14 inches. Some coastal parts on the South East Coast could get 100mm/ 4 inches in those storms. The average sunshine in August in England is 182.5 hours. In Kent, the average is 210.3 hours. Since 1961, in Kent, August gets 15 hours more sunshine. Having said that, last year, we had the dullest August since 1956 with a CET of 15.8 c / 60.44 f. Most places that I forecast for will get at least 5% above average sunshine this August. Down here, 240 hours is possible. The Central England Temperature will be 17.6 c / 63.68 f, equalling 2020. The average August CET is 16.10 c / 60.98 f. Wishing all readers a wonderful Summer holiday. Keep safe and well.

REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE

This service has been suspended until further notice

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	Lester Gosbee	01580 852340
	Sarah Murray	01580 852288
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Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Member for Cranbrook

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We are most grateful for your support and welcome any contributions.

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Hope you are all enjoying the magazine

The front colour band is 'poppy' or crimson - associated with the months of July and August. The symbolic meaning was of fire and associated with power and importance as is a colour that stands out. Crimson also has a Biblical meaning symbolising the presence of God and the blood of martyrs.

NEXT EDITION

Closing date for material for the September edition is 14th August .

Email: frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

To submit an article please send as a word document. We encourage colour images to illustrate your article, and please supply as high resolution (PDF or 300 DPI). If you wish to text images, or What's App please do so on 07768456935.

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

QUIZ (PAGE 33) ANSWERS

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, 11) William I, 12) Charles II, 13) Victoria, 14) John, 15) George III, 16) William II, 17) Anne, 18) Edmund II.

Frittenden Parish Magazine

Connecting our community

Send us your submissions

We want to make this magazine as vibrant and interesting as possible. If you have story to tell, a hobby to share, a viewpoint or a picture, even your favourite pet - we would love to share it.

All ages welcome, this magazine is for you and your village.

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