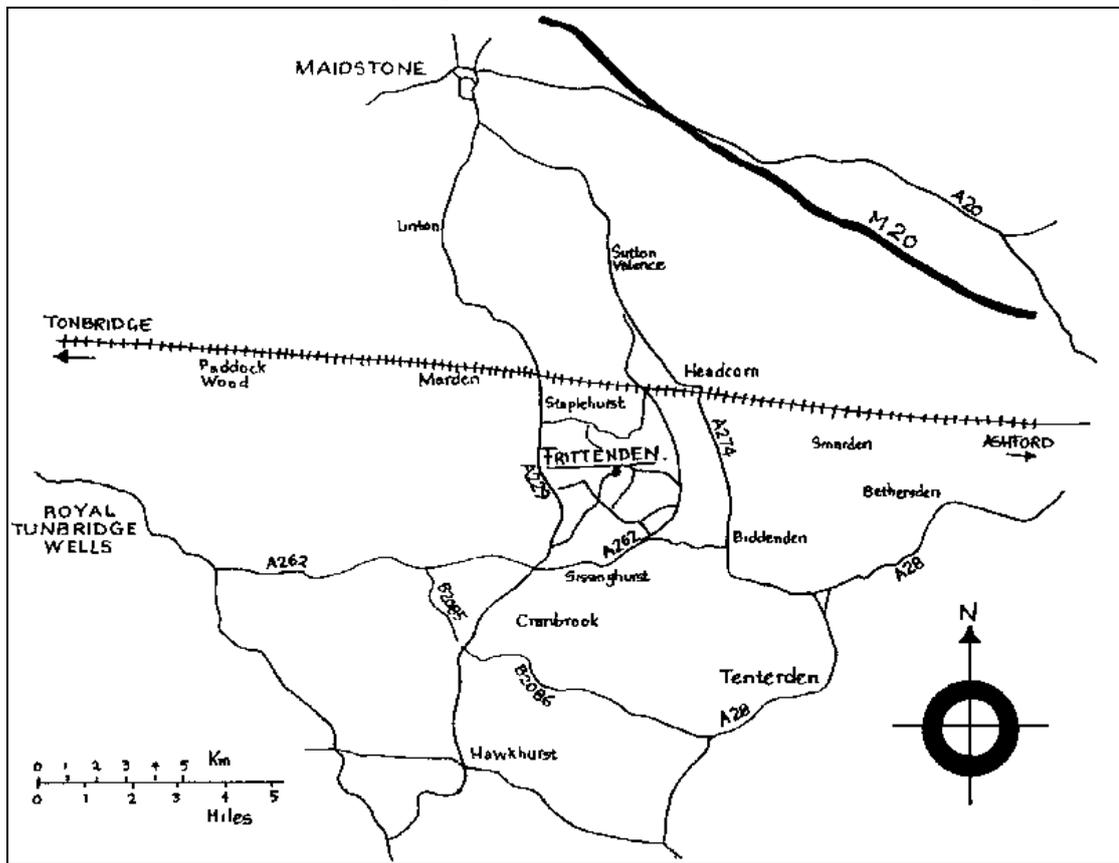


A GUIDE TO THE VILLAGE OF FRITTENDEN

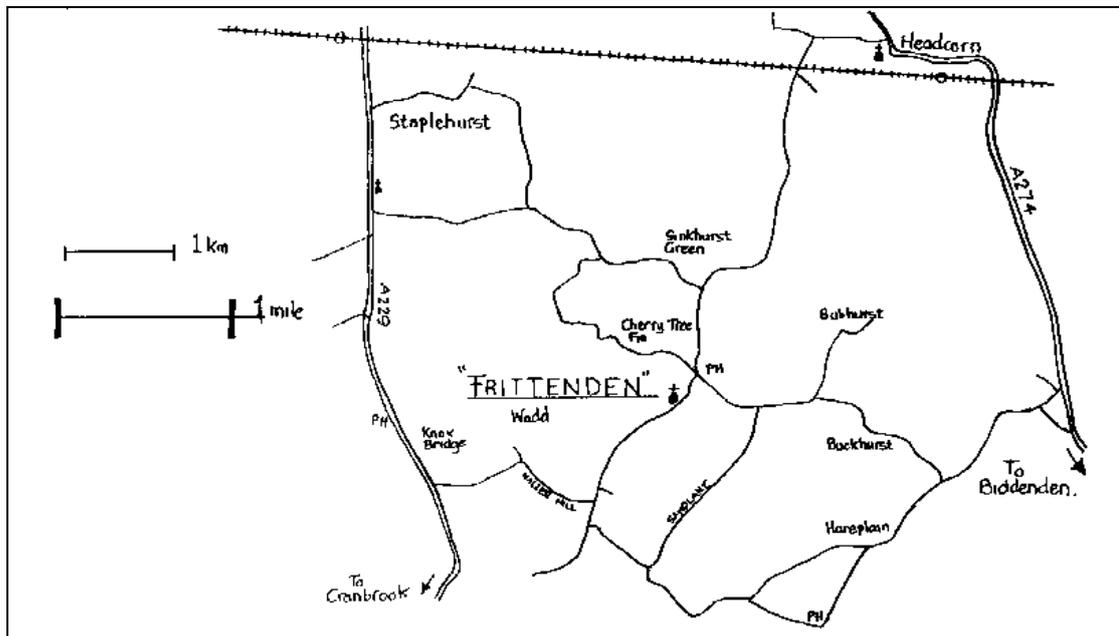


Produced by Frittenden Parish Council

LOCATION OF FRITTENDEN VILLAGE



MAP OF FRITTENDEN PARISH



Welcome to the village of Frittenden, the smallest parish in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells and I am sure you will find the friendliest. In this booklet we hope that you will find the information that you need to join in the active life of the village and to enjoy its' glorious surroundings.

Anthony Staples.....Chairman of the Parish Council

FRITTENDEN: AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE

As with many parishes in the Weald, Frittenden is not specifically mentioned in Domesday. However, its existence can be traced back to at least 804 when Friddingden is mentioned in a Saxon charter. Like many other 'dens', Frittenden was the pastureland of manors situated on the Downs.

In 'The Weald of Kent', Thomas Dearn, who owned land in Frittenden, described the village as 'obscure and inconsiderable'. However, W.T.Pike, in a directory of the Weald and Romney Marsh, 1884-5, records that:-

"since Hasted wrote [at the end of the eighteenth century], Frittenden has changed greatly for the better: no unpleasant and forlorn aspect, no deep or miry or impassable roads, but a general air of pleasantness enhanced by firm and well kept roads."

Henry VIII granted Thomas Cromwell the manors of Buckhurst and Wallinghurst in Frittenden, before they were returned to the crown following his fall from grace.

Landownership remained relatively stable during the nineteenth century; Earl Cornwallis, Rev. Edward Moore and A.L.Wollaston in 1848, being replaced by F.S.W.Cornwallis, Henry Hoare and W.H.Tylden-Pattenson, of Biddenden. Accordingly, the community was not subject to wholesale land sales or break-ups of landholdings.

Of the 42 entries under Gentry and Traders in a directory of 1855, 24 (57%) were described as farmers, in 1867 34 (71%) of 48 entries, in 1887 39 (65%) of 60 entries and in 1911 35 (55%) of 64 entries. This is probably an indication of the fortunes of this agricultural community. Hops were a consistent crop throughout the nineteenth century, although directories later add hay and corn as the principal crops.

By 1911 the village had lost its fair for pedlary which had been held on the 5th April and recorded by Pike in 1884-5. The carrier went to Maidstone on Monday's and Thursday's, the latter being one of the market days in the County Town. The community appears to have supported three shops from the mid nineteenth century, plus at least one of each of the following; carpenter, shoemaker, corn factor, blacksmith, beer retailer, butcher, miller and wheelwright. Other trades and craft appeared before World War I, viz. Insurance agent, coal dealer, brick and tile maker, builder, and a cycle agent.

The first census of 1801 shows the population of the parish to have been 551, it grew to a peak of 974 in 1891, followed by a dramatic fall to 844 in 1901, and a further fall to 787 by 1921. The population of the parish at the 1991 census was 885.

The charity of Thomas Idenden, dating from 1566, for "poor maidens' marriages, to the relief of poor householders ... and deeds of charity..." is still in existence. An annual distribution is made by the feoffees on St Thomas' Day, December 21st.

In common with other churches controlled by St Augustine's Abbey, St Mary's Church was not recorded in the Domesday Monochorum of c1094 but is shown in the White Book of St Augustine's of c1200. R C Hussey under the patronage of the Reverend Edward Moore built the present building between 1846 and 1848. The base of the tower, the only significant construction surviving the rebuilding, is thought to be 15th century.

FRITTENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Anthony Staples	Tel 01580 852226
Vice Chairman: James Tuke	Tel 01580 852372
Clerk: Emma Nightingale	Tel 01580 292576
Heather Cullingworth	Tel 01580 852340
Lester Gosbee	Tel 01580 852288
Sarah Murray	Tel 01580 852771
Rosalind Riley	Tel 01580 852317
Richard Vernon	Tel 01580 852537

The Parish Council usually meets once per month, in the Memorial Hall to consider; debate and take action on subjects which affect the life of the village. All planning applications are considered and recommendations are made to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council who has the power to decide whether or not to grant planning permission. Notices of meetings are posted on the Parish Notice Board that is situated at the entrance to the village field. Notices and minutes are also posted on the village website (see next page for address).

If you have an issue that you wish to raise with the Council, please contact any Councillor or write to our Parish Clerk Mrs Emma Nightingale, 1 Bettenham Cottages, Bettenham Lane, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8LT

ST. MARY'S CHURCH FRITTENDEN

A warm friendly welcome awaits you at St. Mary's. Founded in the 13th century, this pretty stone church with its attractive stained glass windows is well worth a visit. It is open between 8.30 am and 6.00 pm throughout the year.

Parishioners are called to worship by the bells, rung by an expert band of ringers. Sunday services in church start at 9.30 a.m. and over the course of the month we try to offer a range of services, as we aim to provide something for all, whether your preference for worship is traditional or modern, informal or formal.

We welcome families and children: on the second Sunday in each month there is an All Age Service for all the family. On term time Sundays Sunday Club provides a chance for children to take part in their own activities for part of the service, then rejoin the main service towards the end – and show the rest of the congregation what they have been doing. Messy Church is run in conjunction with our sister church in Sissinghurst on the third weekend of the month. See magazine and website for details. Occasional Family Days and Holiday Clubs are organised for children and families. Look out for details in the parish magazine or on our website.

Midweek activities include "SPACE" services, held at 9.00 am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. These services start with a period of silent reflection and some brief prayers, ending with a very simple celebration of Holy Communion. On the second Tuesday "CAMEO" provides an opportunity to meet and chat over tea, coffee and some tasty home-made cakes. St Mary's also sponsors a Friday night Youth Club in the Hall (6.00 pm) run by the West Kent YMCA. For details of other midweek activities, including study courses, look in the Magazine or visit our website.

People are always welcome to visit the church for prayer or meditation. If you would like us to pray for someone in need, just jot their name down on the pad on the table by the entrance. Alternatively you can ask the Rector or any of the congregation to include their name on our prayer chain, which will ensure that a number of people will be including that person in their private prayers.

Finally don't forget to visit St Mary's Burial Ground in Mill Lane. It is managed on a wildlife-friendly basis (for which it won an award from Kent Wildlife Trust). We hope you will find it a special place, whether you are visiting the graves of friends or relatives or just wanting to sit in a tranquil setting and escape the busyness of daily life.

St Mary's Frittenden is a small caring community ready to welcome and include visitors to services in our lovely and well-cared-for church.

Rector:	Rev Pete Deaves	01580 852275
Lay Reader:	Tony Staples	01580 852226
Churchwardens:	Joanna Beech	01580 852312
	John Stansfeld	01580 852185

Website: <https://frittendenchurch.org.uk>

BELLRINGING AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, FRITTENDEN

The eight bells in the tower of St Mary's church were cast in the Croydon foundry of Gillet and Johnson in 1929. The tenor bell (the heaviest in the octave) weighs 15cwt. 1qtr. 4lbs and is tuned to the key of F. All the bells are hung in a two tier frame ingeniously fitted into the small tower. Although they are very loud in the proximity of the church, they have a fine bright tone; they swing very easily and are generally considered to be a pleasure to ring.

The band of bellringers has suffered a succession of fortunes since the present bells were installed. In 1971 the late Jack Poile started a new band who have maintained the tradition ever since. In September 2000 the local band won the final of the Kent County Association's striking competition. As so many members of the band are getting older, some younger recruits would enable us to return to this standard.

Ringling takes place every Sunday from 8.45 a.m till 9.30 a.m and on other occasions when specifically requested, whilst practice takes place on Mondays from 7.45p.m. Till 9.00p.m. All visitors are always welcome to the tower and we would be especially pleased to welcome any recruits.

If you would like any further information please contact:-David Manger on 01622 890675.

FRITTENDEN VILLAGE WEB SITE

Visit us on www.frittenden.org.uk for a view of the Millennium Map, details of local businesses and organisations plus other details that residents want placed on the web. If you have a submission for the site, please contact the Parish Council with the details, or the Webmaster, James Tuke, on 01580 852372 or at broadsword01@gmail.com. The Parish Council vets all items before they are posted.

FRITTENDEN COMMUNITY FACEBOOK

Frittenden has an independent Community Facebook group, kindly run for the village by Lance French. We hope you find it a friendly place to post local news, events and general goings on in Frittenden. Drop by, say hello, leave a message for friends and neighbours or upload a scenic view. It is friendly and balanced and aims to ensure that posts polite and family-friendly, without excessive marketing and reposting.

FRITTENDEN C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Frittenden Church of England Primary School is a small rural school set in the heart of the village. The original school was built in 1845; a new school hall, ICT suite, library and nursery area were added in 2012.

Our admission number for Reception intake is 15; the other year groups are divided into 3 classes. The school has close links with St Mary's Church and the wider community. As well as local pupils, we have a number of children from neighbouring villages. We are very proud of our school and Ofsted report.

Frittenden CEP provides a caring, happy and positive atmosphere in which a child may fulfil his / her potential and grow in confidence. Parents have described the school as having 'a family feel' to it.

If you would like further information about any aspects of school please contact us via email – headteacher@frittenden.kent.sch.uk or telephone 01580 852250.

FRITTENDEN PRE-SCHOOL

Frittenden Pre-School is a small and friendly committee-run group which aims to provide a warm and secure environment for young children to develop basic learning skills.

The Pre-School occupies its own self-contained space, in the new extension of Frittenden Primary School. Children from just before two-and-a-half to four-and-a-half are admitted, irrespective of their parents' choice of primary school.

The Pre-School is open, during term time, from 9.00 to 12.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 9.00 to 3.00pm on Tuesdays. In the summer term an additional session is held on Thursday afternoons for children moving on to primary school. You are welcome to come and visit us at any time. The supervisor, Mrs S Davies, can be contacted by email at mail@frittendenpreschool.co.uk or on 01580 852100.

There is also a Baby and Toddler Group which meets every Wednesday in term-time in the Pre-School building, from 1.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m., and caters for children and their parents or carers. For further details, please contact the pre-school.

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL

Frittenden Memorial Hall is a registered Charity administered by the Trustees of Frittenden Memorial Hall Committee who are made up from representatives of the local using organisations. They meet bi-monthly.

Frittenden Memorial Hall is available for private parties, weddings, meetings, etc., with preferential rates for Parish residents. There is a refreshment area with kitchen and crockery available. There is also a large stage. The Hall has a capacity for 120 - 200 people depending on the function. There is ample car parking.

Fund raising takes place for improvements but it is always hoped that lettings will cover running costs. The interior of the Hall and Car Park has been refurbished within the last two years. The Village Hall car park is also home to recycling bins available for community use.

Anyone wishing to hire the Village Hall or gain more information should telephone the Lettings Secretary, Mrs Eileen Bridges on 01580 852563.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Collection day for Frittenden is Tuesday or Wednesday, wheelie bins (supplied by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council) are emptied provided they are left at the boundary of your property, normal rubbish one week, recyclable paper (green open bins), plastic, tins and bottles (brown wheelie bins) the next. Kitchen waste is collected weekly (small closed black bins). Garden waste is collected from properties which have opted in to this paid-for service on alternate weeks. Other items such as small electrical items, domestic batteries, and clothes are collected on alternate weeks. Full details of these arrangements can be found on the borough council's website: <http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling/bin-collections>.

Bulky items of rubbish (but not garden waste) can be disposed of by taking them to the refuse lorry which parks at Chestnut Close every fourth Saturday afternoon. A notice giving dates and times of the availability

of this service is displayed on the Parish Council notice board and in the Parish Magazine, or on the TWBC website.

TRANSPORT

Sadly, we have no regular bus service in the village centre, although attempts continue to secure one. The No 5 from Maidstone to Sandhurst via Staplehurst and Cranbrook runs through Knoxbridge.

LIBRARY

There are libraries in Cranbrook and Staplehurst and a fortnightly mobile library service stops in The Street near the Memorial Hall at 11.30-12.00am on alternate Tuesdays.

POST BOXES

Boxes are situated around the corner from the Pub, at the junction of Sand Lane, in Mill Lane, and at Knoxbridge.

DOCTORS

None in Frittenden, but a selection of surgeries in Staplehurst, Headcorn or Cranbrook.

VETS

The nearest practice is Pierson Stewart & Partners with branches in Cranbrook, Staplehurst & Headcorn. For full details of services available, consult the local Yellow Pages Directory.

VILLAGE SHOP

Currently there is no permanent village shop but active steps are being taken to provide one. Meanwhile a range of basic provisions are available from the Bell and Jorrocks between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm.

FRITTENDEN OIL CLUB

We have a group in the village where we join together to purchase heating oil in bulk, this saves us on average about 5 pence per litre on the current price. We buy 3 times per year and membership is free. For details look at the Parish Website or contact Howard Lilley on 01580 852225 or howardandlynda@btinternet.com

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

A selection of national & local newspapers and magazines can be obtained or delivered to your door by Pages Newsagents of High Street, Cranbrook (Tel 01580 713604) or by Jackie's News based in Tenterden (Tel 01580 763183).

CHERRY TREE FARM

In Mill Lane, Paul Hope sells home produced meat, sausages, pies and fresh eggs from the farm. Tel 01580 852217

GARDEN CENTRES

Bumbles nursery and garden centre, Knoxbridge, is situated just off the A229 between Staplehurst and Cranbrook. GreenWorld, nearby on the same road sells pet foods and accessories, and there are several others in the area. Diane Pullen, at Frittenden Orchard just outside the village on the road to Cranbrook, sells bedding plants and compost (as well as some delicious fruit in season).

FORGE GARAGE

The garage, run by Malcolm Wynne, is situated in the middle of the village. It provides routine servicing, general and breakdown repairs, preparation for MOTs and arranging independent testing, etc. Telephone 01580 852775.

PUBS

Frittenden is fortunate to have two pubs serving good food and drink.

In the centre of the village there is:

THE BELL AND JORROCKS

We are a traditional community pub set in the heart of Frittenden. We are renowned for our cask ales and home cooked food. We host a variety of entertainment like beer festivals, live music, and family shows, and we pride ourselves as a community for the support we give to many charitable events!

The Bell and Jorrocks is a great place to chill out amongst friends and a warm welcome awaits your visit.

Sean and Rosie Croucher 01580 852415.

And in Knoxbridge on the A229 there is:

THE KNOXBRIDGE

The Knoxbridge, on the A229 in the hamlet of Knxobridge, reopened as a gastro pub and provides a good selection of food and drink and also hosts a range of events

Tony Jones offers a warm welcome. Phone 01580 895374.

POST OFFICE

There is a Post Office in the Village Hall on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

THE KNOXBRIDGE CAFÉ

Situated on the A229 between Staplehurst and Cranbrook, the Café is open from 7.30am until 2.30pm, and serves breakfasts, snacks and lunches.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion exists to promote the welfare of those who are serving or who have served in the armed forces of the Crown and their dependants. The Legion's services are available to all members of the serving and ex-service community, not just to members of the Legion. A great deal of money is required to carry out these objectives and fund-raising is therefore a primary function of the organisation.

A Branch of the Royal British Legion exists in the village and the names of the officers of the committee are published in the Parish Magazine. The Hon Secretary is Mr. Howard Lilley Tel 01580 852225

WEALD OF KENT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1960 when the weald came under pressure from changing farming practices, the loss of listed buildings without consultation and the push of industry into the countryside.

Over the last fifty years the WKPS has built up a good working relationship with the KCC, local planning authorities and other environmental groups so that now its views are included in advice to members of the local authorities' Planning Committees. Thus it is able to play an active role in ensuring that new initiatives not only fit in with agreed planning strategy but enhance what is already in place. The Society's views are also sought on a wide range of governmental, county and local strategies.

For further information and details of how to join please refer to the webpage at www.wkps.org.uk

FRITTENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society, a member of the Kent Archaeological Society, meets in the Memorial Hall at 8pm on the last Thursday of the winter months. Topics covered at the meetings relate to aspects of local history of interest to the village. In addition, a summer outing is organised to a place of interest in Kent or Sussex. Membership is currently £10 annually, and visitors, for whom there is an entrance fee of £3, are welcome at all meetings.

Full details of meetings can be seen on the Society's website, www.frittendenhistoricalsociety.co.uk

The Society has an archive of documents relating to the Parish which is available to members and which forms the basis of exhibitions staged in conjunction with various village events. A survey of churchyard memorials, entitled 'Here Lies Frittenden', was published in 1994 and is available at the Village Shop. This and other items may also be purchased via the Society's website,

For further information contact the Secretary, Tor Millard Tel:01580 893703 or the Chairman, Phil Betts, Pillar Box Cottage. Tel 01580 852243.

FRITTENDEN GARDENING SOCIETY

The Frittenden Gardening Society holds several events during the year, the first of which is the Spring Show. We also hold an Autumn Show – both of these Shows are held in the Memorial Hall and members are encouraged to enter the many different classes, both floral and vegetable as well as cookery, photography and children's classes.

During the Summer we organise two or three visits to local gardens or nurseries where we try to have a guided tour followed by refreshments. We meet at the Memorial Hall so that we can car share and drive together to the garden.

We also hold a Garden Safari, which is always popular and is a great way to meet other members as we tour three village gardens and end up with a glass of wine and nibbles.

At the Annual General Meeting held in October we elect the committee and then have a garden-related talk followed by wine and nibbles, and pay our annual subscriptions. At present the membership fee is £5 per person or £10 for a family. This allows all members of the family to attend events and to enter any class in the Spring and Autumn Shows. When visiting Bumbles nursery you are entitled to a 10% discount when you show your membership card.

Mrs Tricia Palmer, Secretary
Telephone: 01580 852430

FRITTENDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.15 p.m. at Frittenden Memorial Hall.

Each meeting has a speaker followed by light refreshment and announcements of District and County Events which members may like to visit.

Interests covered by speakers over the year will include: Drama, Music, Art, Craft, Sports and Leisure, Home Economics, Education and Public Affairs.

All of these interests can be enjoyed at any level. Denman College, near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, is the W.I.'s own Residential College where any of these subjects may be studied.

W.I. Members are usually interested, helpful and articulate members of the community and will always make new members welcome. If you want to make new friends please contact the secretary.

Mrs Christine Anthony, Secretary
Telephone 01580 852355

PARISH MAGAZINE

Published each month, the magazine provides information on Church and village life, upcoming events, contact names and numbers, articles of local relevance and contributions – hopefully entertaining - from residents.

Editor	James Booth-Clibborn	01580 852538
Distribution	Mrs Eileen Mounter	01580 852268
Advertising	Mrs Nicky Vernon	01580 852537

FRITTENDEN TENNIS CLUB

At the time of going to press, the future of the Club is uncertain. The court situated on the Parish Field is open for use all year.

FRITTENDEN CRICKET SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The club was started primarily to foster the spirit of English village cricket and to arrange social events, which provide funds for the club and enhance the social life of the village. Matches are played throughout the summer months at Sandhurst Bridge Farm, where the original Frittenden cricket pitch was located. The matches are a mixture of friendly and Kent Village Cricket League. The club also organises a number of social events in the village, including our now famous Bonfire Night. Membership of the club only costs £30 for an adult and £10 for a junior/concession, which will entitle you to play matches and get involved in all aspects of the social life of the club. If you would like to play cricket or support its social activities, please contact Charlotte Hope on 01580 852217.

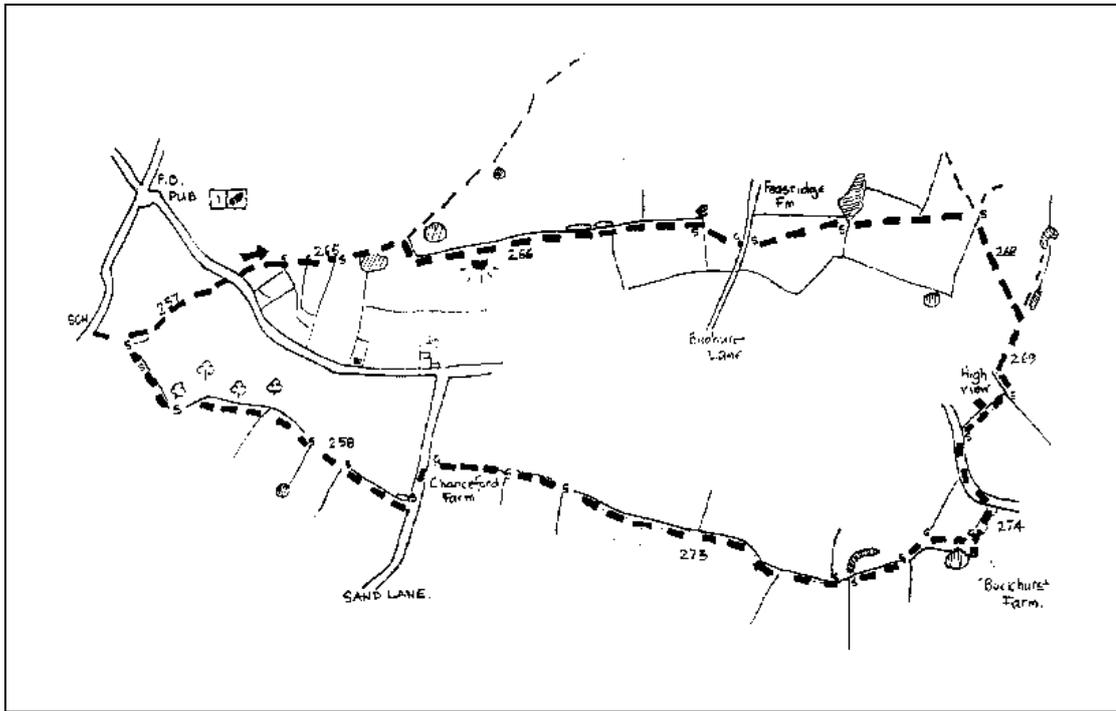
VILLAGE FOOTPATHS

There is a map of all footpaths in the village displayed outside the Village Hall.

Two circular walks that can be taken within the Parish are shown below.

Walk 1.

From the Village Pub, walk up the Biddenden Road until you reach the Telephone Exchange just past Manor Way Cottage, you will see the Telecom Microwave Mast on your left. Turn left onto footpath WC265, cross the stile and follow the right hand edge of the field. Follow the markers until you turn right onto path WC266. Follow that path across Bubhurst Lane until it intersects path WC268 where you turn right onto path WC269. Follow that back to the Biddenden Road, turn left and walk down the road until you meet path WC274 on your right. Walk up the path and turn right onto path WC273 that will take you to Sand Lane. Turn left and walk up the road until you meet path WC258 on your right. This will bring you up to Laundry Lane where if you turn right you will come out back on the Biddenden Road opposite Manor Way Cottage.



Walk 2.

From the Village Pub, walk up the Biddenden Road until you reach the Telephone Exchange just past Manor Way Cottage, you will see the Telecom Microwave Mast on your left. Turn left onto footpath WC265, cross the stile and follow the right hand edge of the field. Follow the markers until you meet path WC 264 where you turn left. Follow this path around Pound Wood until you meet the Headcorn Road. Turn right and walk down the road for a few yards till you see path WC251 on your left just past Cherry Tree Cottages. Follow this to Cherry Tree Farm where it meets Mill Lane, turn right up the lane and left onto path WC253 just before Gould Farm. This will take you back towards the village with the lake on your left, when you meet path WC255, branch left and follow it through to the Churchyard. Walk round the front of the Church and behind the Village School into the Paddock. You will rejoin the road by the gates of Frittenden House where it is but a few steps back to the Pub.

A note about this guide

Some of the organisations referred to in this guide have either suspended or severely curtailed their activities during the present COVID19 crisis. The guide will be revised once we come out of lockdown. Meanwhile if there are any organisations which have been omitted from this please let us know and we will ask you to submit details to include when the guide is updated.