

# *Frittenden Parish Magazine*



*March 2021    Fifty Pence*

# VILLAGE CONTACTS

## CHURCH OFFICIALS AND ORGANISATIONS

<b>RECTOR</b>		Rev Pete Deaves	852275
Email address		rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Churchwarden		Joanna Beech	852312
Churchwarden		John Stansfeld	852185
Reader & Deanery Synod		Tony Staples	852226
Treasurer		Christopher Page	852230
Deanery Synod		James Highwood	852715
Secretary		Vacant	
Verger		Margaret Knight	852322
Director of Music		Morwenna Campbell-Smith	07703 522102
Parish Disclosure Officer		Judy Staples	852226
Parish Safeguarding Coordinators		Lindsey Moore & James Highwood	852553/852715
Bell Ringers	Captain & Secretary	David Manger	01622 890675
Magazine	Editor	Mike Cooper	852108
	Advertising	Nicky Vernon	852537
	Distribution	Ian Mounter	852268
Open The Book		Helen Stansfeld	852185
Sunday Club	Contact	Joanna Beech	852312
Website		<a href="http://www.frittendenchurch.org.uk">www.frittendenchurch.org.uk</a>	
Childline			0800 1111
Relate	Contact	via appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk	or 01892 529927

## OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

<u>Cricket, Sports &amp; Social Club</u>	Chair	Nick Bull	852105
	Secretary	Charlotte Sharp	852217
<u>Friends of Frittenden School</u>	Chair	Beks Harding	712138
<u>Pre-school</u>	Manager	Sarah Davies	852100
		Home	852130
<u>Primary School</u>	Head of School	Nichola Costello	852250
<u>Gardening Society</u>	President	Sue Martin	852425
	Chairman	Duncan Rouse	852232
	Secretary	Tricia Palmer	852430
	Show Secretary	Jeremy Beech	852312
	Treasurer / Subscriptions	Nicky Robinson	852488
<u>Historical Society</u>	Chair	Phil Betts	852243
	Treasurer	Bernard Millard	852219
	Secretary	Tor Millard	893703
<u>Marquee Hire</u>	Contact	Mike Cooper	852108
<u>Memorial Hall</u>	Chair	Rosalind Riley	852317
	Hire hall, tables/chairs, etc.	Eileen Bridges	852563
<u>Parish Council</u>	Chairman	Tony Staples	852226
(For more details of other Local Council contacts, see back page).			
<u>Ring a Friend in Frittenden</u>	Contacts	Angela Parish & Brenda Croucher	852249/448
<u>Royal British Legion</u>	Chairman	Mike Burden	01622 432866
	Hon Sec.	Howard Lilley	852225
<u>Tennis Club</u>	Chair	Nigel Casswell	852772
	Treasurer	John Marshall	852345
	Membership Secretary		
<u>Women's Institute</u>	President	Anne Holroyd	893256
	Vice President	Ros Bowles	852323
	Secretary	Christine Anthony	852355
	Treasurer	Valerie Thomas	762821
<u>Youth Club</u>	The Club is not able to function at the moment. Later, we hope....		

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

Last updated 15th March 2021

## FROM THE RECTOR



Unconventional, yes, but as placards go, this one is definitely ‘up there’. When the ‘normal’ message doesn’t seem to hit the mark, it’s no surprise that this person decided to try something different.

When I first visited Yangon, Myanmar, in my own version of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, trying something different was also needed. I’m proud to be an eighth Burmese due to a mysterious Burmese great-grandfather\*, and one day I knew I’d have to go there myself! Attempts to contact my distant relatives by phone had gone nowhere, so I jumped in a taxi to the address I’d been given.

Standing there knocking at a door, 5500 miles from home, I’m thinking: What *on earth* am I doing?! The door opens... and my fears are proved groundless - I was welcomed with open arms! Completely unexpectedly, meeting the Burmese branch of my family felt like a homecoming. And Easter, the celebration that this 40 day season of Lent leads up to, is a bit like an unexpected homecoming - let me explain.

At Easter, Jesus opens his arms to each of us, inviting us into his family in a way that we could never bring about ourselves. By Easter we hope to be offering physical as well as continuing our online/dial-in services. But whatever the means, can I encourage you to look out for opportunities this Easter to explore this ‘homecoming’ Jesus offers. It’s at great cost to himself, yet offered freely to me and to you.

Stay safe - and enjoy the signs of Spring and new life starting to appear,

***Pete***

*\* Incredibly, although my great-grandfather died when I was 12, my step-great-grandmother is still going strong at 102! The rest of the Burmese family is also well, I’m happy to report.*

## ST MARY'S SERVICES DURING MARCH

### SUNDAYS

Our normal Sunday morning services will continue to be suspended for most of March, but subject to government advice we hope to be able to restart services in church on Palm Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> March), and have services in Holy Week and on Easter Day. Keep an eye on the website for details.

In the meantime, each week we are listening together to a pre-recorded service led by Rev Pete Deaves, with contributors from across the two parishes of Sissinghurst and Frittenden, recorded from their own homes. We are also including a variety of music from CDs and the internet as part of these services. Accompanying each service is an order of service so that you can follow along and join in the songs.

You can listen to these services by clicking on the Audio tab on the church website [frittendenchurch.org.uk](http://frittendenchurch.org.uk) and this will also give you access to the service sheets in pdf form.

Across both parishes we are listening to the Sunday service at 10am so even though we are not able to meet in person we are meeting virtually. At 11am on a Sunday morning we are meeting by zoom for coffee and chat for half an hour, this is a good chance to catch up.

If you don't have access to the internet you can listen to the latest service by dialling a dedicated local phone number 01580 234185.

### WEEKDAYS

**SPACE** – During Lent, which includes the whole of March, our mid-week service of reflection will be available as a pdf on the website on Wednesday mornings from 9am.

**Lent Groups** - 'CONTENTMENT' is this year's Lent Course where we will be exploring Jesus' promise that anyone who believes in Him will never again hunger or thirst. Do zoom in at 8pm on Wednesdays or 10am on Thursdays, or join us by phone - call Pete on 852275 if you need help.

**Prayer Breakfast** – On March 8<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting via zoom at 9am for a 'bring-your-own' prayer breakfast. We will be praying for our community and our country as well as individual needs. If there is anything or anyone you would like us to pray for please email Rev Pete Deaves at [rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk) or call on 852275.

Please keep an eye on the website for the latest details.

*Joanna Beech, John Stansfeld, Churchwardens*

## ANOTHER FIRST FOR FAMILIES TOGETHER!

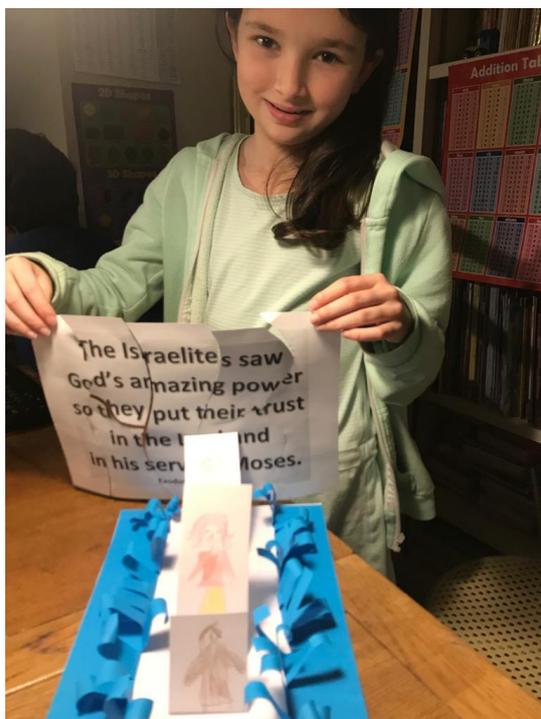
We seem to be continuing in a season of 'firsts'... Formerly *Families at Four*, the new name for our Sunday afternoon service is *Families Together*. Lately 'together' means we meet via zoom from the comfort of our homes – it's different, but we've been having a great time...

And in a first of its kind, the last Sunday of January saw several families from our newly renamed Families Together service take part in our main online service! Almost every part of the service, from being welcomed along, to the final blessing was pre-recorded by the children. They also kindly allowed us to see some of the things they had created during previous weeks.

A huge thanks to everyone who was involved, it was just incredible what everyone achieved, especially alongside the pressures of home-schooling. That thanks comes from me on behalf of the many people who commented on how inspiring and uplifting they had found the service.

If you didn't catch it first time round, look under Audio tab in [frittendenchurch.org.uk](http://frittendenchurch.org.uk) and be prepared for a very special listening experience.

### *Pete & Claire*



## CAN YOU HELP A CHURCH CHOIR IN TANZANIA?

I have been approached, by email, by a friend of mine in Tanzania asking if I can help him to raise funds for “his” choir in the town of Nzega in Tanzania. My friend’s name is Gomegwa and I know him through the charity FUM (Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala). FUM has had links with Cranbrook School for many years which resulted in teams of mainly sixth form students raising money for projects in Tanzania and then visiting Tanzania in their summer holiday to see and work on their project. This may have been refurbishing classrooms in a primary school, or even being part of the building of a primary care clinic. These were always in remote villages in the Tabora Region, sometimes where the villagers had never before seen a person with white skin. Gomegwa, who is now retired, was the Clerk of Works for the Nzega District Council and used to be the person overseeing our projects and it was in this role, on several occasions, I was lucky to get to know Gomegwa.

In 2015 Cranbrook School and FUM invited Gomegwa to join us in England. We paid his fare; a Clerk of Works could not afford the air fare to England. It was at this time that Gomegwa came with me to a service at the Frittenden Church. He remembers this very well and that is why he thought I might be able to help him with “his” choir.

Gomegwa has recently been made the Patron for the choir at his church, the Huduma Choir at the Pentecost Church in Nzega. Gomegwa is trying to raise the funds for his choir to get some new instruments and microphones. Please, if you can help me to help Gomegwa please contact me either by email, [jo.taylor0404@gmail.com](mailto:jo.taylor0404@gmail.com), or by phone or text, 07773 196697. FUM cannot help Gomegwa directly as our constitution limits our support to health care, education and water supplies for communities.

Thank you for reading this, and I hope you like the photos that Gomegwa sent to me. The brief video he also sent is wonderful; such harmonious voices. And thank you in advance to anyone who can offer a little help to Gomegwa and his choir.

*Jo Taylor*

**Gomegwa with his choir**



## The Huduma Choir in the Pentecost Church



## FRITTENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### TALK ON THE MAID OF KENT AND AGM

On 29<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding our AGM, followed by a talk about Elizabeth Barton, known as the Maid of Kent, who was a Canterbury nun in the reign of Henry VIII. Her visions and prophecies bought her national and international attention, but ultimately led to her execution in 1534. This free Zoom event is open to members and non-members, so if you would like to join us please email the Secretary, Tor Millard on [frittendenhistory@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frittendenhistory@hotmail.co.uk) The Zoom link will be circulated, with the AGM papers, prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

### COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Historical Society currently has a vacancy on its Committee, which consists of 6 members, including a chair, treasurer and secretary. This usually meets 3 times a year to formulate the schedule of talks, plan any special events or exhibitions, and prepare for the AGM, which is held each April.

There are 6 meetings for Society members each year, held in the hall, between October and April. Prior to each meeting, Committee members help to set up the seating, and any other facilities needed, and then assist in clearing the Hall after the meeting and ensuring it is locked and secure, usually followed by a debriefing in the Bell and Jorrocks.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee can contact the Chair, Phil Betts, on 852243 or by email at [pfjb21@outlook.com](mailto:pfjb21@outlook.com).

*Tor Millard*

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## Cherry Tree Meat

Cherry Tree Farm, Mill Lane, Frittenden TN17 2DT

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

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

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

**Call Paul on 01580 852217 or 07885 509751 or email [paulhope2226@gmail.com](mailto:paulhope2226@gmail.com)**

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## THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

As you will know, I have been editing the magazine for rather a long time, and I have decided that the time has come for me to step down and let someone younger and more publishing-savvy take over. I intend therefore to make the May issue my last, which will exactly complete 20 years in the job.

This matter has been discussed with the Rector Pete Deaves and the Churchwardens Joanna Beech and John Stansfeld, and you may remember seeing in recent issues an appeal for volunteers to join a new 'magazine team', and also a survey of recipients' preferences - the overall feedback from which was very positive and its principal conclusion was that the magazine should continue to be available in hard copy.

These, and informal discussion around the village, have had some positive results. James Booth-Clibborn has agreed to head the team, and as Ian Mounter has decided to retire also, Mike Bedford will be taking over distribution. However, a new Advertising Manager is required to replace Nicky Vernon (also 20 years in the job!), as are several new distributors since some of the existing ones wish to retire. We are also looking to put together an editorial team to bring new ideas and skills to the magazine.

The Advertising Manager has to invoice and collect fees for annual renewals in the spring and occasional new advertisers throughout the year, and thus needs administrative and interpersonal skills. Distributors really only need to enjoy walking around their part of the village, and maybe chatting to recipients of the magazine when they collect the annual subscriptions!

The overall objective is to modernise and redesign the magazine, to publish it in colour, and make it available both in hard copy and online, the latter with live links to sites mentioned in articles or advertisements. It is also intended to keep the magazine focussed on the village community as well as the Church so people not involved in the Church would be most welcome on the team.

Could it be that you fit the bill for one of these positions? Our parish magazine has always relied on new people getting involved. If you find yourself wondering 'perhaps this could be me' then please contact any of the above mentioned people as soon as you can. That way we can ensure that our - your - magazine goes from strength to strength.

***Mike Cooper***

Contact details:

James Booth-Clibborn - [jamesboothclibborn@gmail.com](mailto:jamesboothclibborn@gmail.com)

Mike Bedford - [michaelbedford477@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelbedford477@btinternet.com)

All others in the Parish Magazine.

### THANK YOU IAN

I would like to invite you all to join me in thanking Ian Mounter for his tireless and cheerful work organising the distribution of the Parish Magazine over these many years.

***Mike Cooper***

## CENSUS DAYS IN FRITTENDEN

Formal censuses were introduced into the UK in 1801. Prior to this any attempt to estimate the size of a population required a calculation using ‘population reconstruction’ techniques based on parish registers. One such reconstruction of a sample of Wealden parishes in 1560, including Frittenden, was undertaken by Michael Zell in 1994. In the case of Frittenden, this was based on transcripts of St Mary’s parish registers, made by the late Joy and Phyllis Hope. These transcripts are held at Cranbrook Museum. Zell’s reconstruction concluded that Frittenden had a population of some 400 in 1560.

The earliest “census” in the UK was an ecclesiastical survey, in 1676, the so-called Compton Census. This was a count of conformists, papists and nonconformists, for most of the parishes of England and Wales. At Frittenden, someone had annotated the return:-

*“at Frittenden, 215 ‘persons of years of discretion men and women’ and near 100 ‘under age boyes and girles’*

This is significantly lower than the 400 estimated for 1560, quite possibly reflecting the demise of the broadcloth industry which had been centred on Cranbrook.

At the time of the Compton Census, Robert Newton, the Rector of Frittenden, analysed Nonconformity in his parish:

*“Professed Presbyterians wholly refusing society with the Church of England as to so much thereof as is established with us in Frittenden we have not above 2 or 3 obstinate dissenters:*

<i>Anabaptists or so suspected we have</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Quakers</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Brownists</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Newtralists between Presbyterians and</i>	
<i>Conformists there are between</i>	<i>30 &amp; 40</i>
<i>Licentious or such as profess no kind of Religion</i>	<i>11 or 12</i>
<i>Other infrequent Resorters to their Parish Church we have</i>	
<i>Between 30 and 40 living and residing in Frittenden”</i>	

In 1851 a Religious Census was taken at the same time as the national census. The Rector, Edward Moore, completed the return for St Mary’s, giving details of the number of places, or “sittings”, available together with the number attending 30 March. It was possible to purchase a right to a particular pew. These pews usually had doors, while those without doors were available to non-paying parishioners.

*Sittings: Free 152; other 303; total 455*  
*Attendance on 30 March: Morning 119 + 73, total 192;*  
*afternoon 179 + 73. total 252.*

Average attendance during the previous 12 months had been:-

*Morning 130 + 100, total 130 [possible transcription error];*  
*afternoon 200 + 100, total 300*

In addition, Moore noted that

*of the 303 ‘other sittings’ 162 are appropriated to the children attending the Church Schools , and that space is calculated for children accordingly, and not for adults.*

This compares with the return for the Providence Chapel signed by James Hickmott, owner:

*Sittings: about 20 all free                      Standing Room: 20*

*Attendance on 30 March: Morning 30, afternoon 100.*

*Average attendance: Alternate Sundays, about 130*

As noted above, the taking of a national census began in the UK in 1801 and has continued every 10 years since then, with the exception of the wartime year of 1941. The first four censuses were administered on the basis that enumerators were asked only for simple numerical data such as totals of males and females and rudimentary information on occupations and ages. With only a few exceptions, working lists of names, usually of household heads, have been lost.

The General Registry Office was established in 1837 to conduct each census. There had been serious concern that enumerators might make up information if the system did not allow for the possibility of checking their work. The solution adopted was to require enumerators to record the names of every individual, which made it possible for households to be revisited and the information checked. As a result, in 1841, for the first time, enumerators were given forms, termed household schedules, for issue to all households in their districts. Enumerators were expected to help the householders where necessary.

Among Frittenden's Enumerators between 1851 and 1891 were:-

1851	Edward Murphy, at the Post Office, the Post Master
1861, 1871	James Hope, at Waller Lane Cottage and Old Barn, Farmer and Surveyor
1871, 1881, 1891	John Thomas Hollman, at the National Schools, Schoolmaster and organist
1881, 1891	George Pope, Pound Hill, Foreman on Roads & Farmer

Frittenden was divided into two enumeration districts, divided by the Cranbrook to Headcorn, road into east and west. After census night the enumerators collected the schedules and transferred the information the census enumerator's books (CEBs). After local checking these were sent to the Registrar General's Census Office, established each decade to oversee the census and to undertake statistical analysis for the production of published census reports. Under a 100-year confidentiality rule, the CEBs, transferred to the Public Record Office, have gradually been made available for public scrutiny and form the starting point for many genealogists.

Frittenden's census population has ranged from 551 in 1801 up to a peak of 949 in 1871. At the last census in 2011 it was 888

The next national census is scheduled for 21 March this year, although coronavirus may prevent this. 2021 was, in any event, thought likely to be the last manual census given the wealth of digital population data now available. This will be a great loss to historians.

***Phil Betts***

***Chmn Frittenden Historical Society***

## OF FAT AND FEATHERS

As I write, an arctic wind is scouring my garden but the snow is glittering a brilliant white in the sunshine. It's glorious but challenging weather, for us and for wildlife. Yesterday I was distracted from work by a lovely fox that trotted into the garden at lunchtime and crunched up some of the crab apples that are still lying under the tree. Foxes arouse different responses in people, of course. Having lost many hens and ducks to them over the years, I understand both the negative and positive views of them as a species, but I regret the label of 'vermin'. They are undeniably beautiful creatures, doing what they are designed to do - survive and breed. And that's no more nor less that what humans do, too.

If life is tough in this weather for foxes, how do tiny mammals and birds survive? One especially tiny bird, which seems completely unequipped to face sub-zero temperatures, is the beautiful goldcrest. Our smallest native bird, it weighs about the same as a 20p coin and is an indistinct browny-green-sandy colour, except for a striking blaze of gold extending from beak to nape between thick black stripes. In females, this blaze is pure yellow, but the males have a central orange flash as well. Feeding on a range of insects, they have to maintain their fat reserves whatever the weather - in a single cold night they can use up to 20% of their body weight just staying alive.

Alas, even with their 'HERE I AM' colouring, goldcrests are hard to spot, favouring dense vegetation and constantly skittering from branch to branch. There are believed to be over half a million breeding goldcrests here, so this is one of an ever-dwindling list of bird species that are not in decline. In winter our resident population is boosted by migrants from Scandinavia, seeking relief from the bitter weather there. Imagine these tiny birds flying across the North Sea? No wonder sailors have long-reported goldcrests perching on their boats as they cross the ocean. It's a long way for very little wings.

*Rebecca Brown*



**Rebecca's painting, and French cousin Jean's photo, of a Goldcrest**

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*Tor Millard*

## FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL PRIZE DRAW

**The winners in February 2021 were :**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	No. 17	Barbara Essex	£15.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	No. 39	Sue Ramsey	£10.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	No. 19	Sue Betts	£8.00

We have 68 members so far, but of course if anyone else would like to join, it is not too late.

If you would like a Membership Form, please either phone or email : [shop@acornsstores.co.uk](mailto:shop@acornsstores.co.uk). and I will send you one. The completed form should be either emailed back to me, or, popped through the letterbox of the old shop next to Acorns. Normally we request either cash or cheque, however this year it may be easier to send the money (£7.00 per person for the whole year from the next draw in March, 2021 until September 2021) by BACS. Make sure that when you return the Membership Form, the payment method is clearly stated. Also, when a BACS payment is made please state the member's name. All the details for a BACS payment will be on the Membership Form.

I do hope that this is clear, however if you have any questions please phone me:

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

Thank you for reading this and Good Luck!

*Eileen Bridges 01580 85256*

**"ASK FRITTENDEN GARDENERS!"  
your local gardener's online question time!**

**Thursday March 18th at 8pm via Zoom - FREE event open to all**

We all need to chat to our fellow gardening Frittendonians and we can't because there's a pandemic! Let's get together for advice, info and encouragement.

Frittenden Gardening Society is putting up three of its Wise and Learned committee members to give a little introduction and answer questions on useful gardening topics.

Duncan Rouse - multiple cup winner for vegetables and RHS judge will talk about what he is doing in the veg patch

Sue Martin, holder of the national collection of Geums, will discuss propagation in the decorative garden

Diane Campos, keen amateur and winner of many first prizes at our shows, will focus on Dahlias, the most fashionable flower of the current age

All panellists will answer general gardening questions too - no question too small - beginners welcome!

To register for this FREE event, email [FrittendenGardening@gmail.com](mailto:FrittendenGardening@gmail.com). Send us your questions in advance on any gardening topic, of which we will address a selection on the night. You need not (yet...) be a member of the Frittenden Gardening Society, all are welcome!

You will receive a reply nearer the time with the Zoom link.

*The Gardening Society thanks Frittenden Parish Council for their support in hosting this event.*

**GARDENING SOCIETY SPRING SHOW- CANCELLED**

Sadly the Gardening Society has decided that the Spring Show due to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March is to be cancelled because of the Covid situation. We are very sad that this event cannot proceed, but hope that the Autumn Show on 4<sup>th</sup> September will go ahead.

Do please note the virtual event planned for on 18<sup>th</sup> March which is outlined elsewhere.

**FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL**

Please do not be alarmed at any changes you see inside the Hall - these are preparatory to the start of works. Noticeboards, artwork, furniture, books, equipment etc are being moved or removed for safety or relocation.

Work will start on 1st April.

*Rosalind Riley*

## **DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY GRAVE IN NEED OF TLC?**

My name is Steve Davies, married with three grown up daughters, in my spare time and weekends I clean forgotten military graves.

A former soldier, 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets 74/81, I currently live in Hawkhurst. Three years ago I was attending a family christening in Sandhurst and wandered outside. There was a dirty overgrown war grave of an 18 year old Rifleman in the Rifle brigade (my antecedent regiment), killed six weeks before the Armistice. I came back the next day and sorted it out and the rest is history.

I have to date cleaned and renovated 12 Victoria Cross graves in the South East and helped put a headstone on a George Cross recipient's grave, unmarked since 1949. I have cleaned and renovated over sixty non-Commonwealth War Graves Commission military graves in the area including raising funds for a forgotten WW1 soldier who did not qualify for a CWGC one in Hawkhurst.

An amazing researcher, Jane Robinson, works closely with me. She seeks out the family/relatives and we make every effort to contact them.

Recently, having received personal requests via facebook, I have been renovating family graves; forty-five have been completed so far. Whilst I fund the work on the military graves myself, I do charge a modest sum for cleaning the non-military graves. This covers the cost of materials, fuel and cleaner (the expensive part). Please do contact me on the email address below if you have a family memorial in need of attention.

I am also happy to help and advise on anything cemetery based be it permission process and cleaning/refurbishing.

*Steve Davies*      [belgrano53@gmail.com](mailto:belgrano53@gmail.com)

(Pete passed this to me having seen it in the Brenchley Parish Mag with several photos and other background. He thought we should publish it in case Steve's help would be of use to any of our parishioners. Ed.)

### **FROM THE KENTISH EXPRESS, 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 1948**

#### **BERRIES SPRAYED WITH POISON**

#### **CHILDREN WARNED**

In an attempt to stop the increase of mosquitoes which have been a source of worry at Lydd, a large area of Lydd ranges – on which blackberries grow in abundance – has been sprayed with a poisonous chemical.

A notice in the town states – "It is highly dangerous to pick or eat any blackberries in this area. All persons are particularly warned to prevent children doing so."

Range Supt, E. d'Arcy Clarke told the Kentish Express that the spray used was a mixture of D.D.T. and Diesel oil.

This mixture would not necessarily be fatal to anyone eating fruit sprayed with it, but would cause extreme discomfort.

*Thanks to John Stansfeld*, whose comment says it all. "How times have changed!"

# THE ETYMOLOGY OF POP GOES THE WEASEL

*Half a pound of tuppenny rice,  
Half a pound of treacle.  
That's the way the money goes,  
Pop goes the weasel.*

*Up and down the City Road,  
In and out the Eagle.  
That's the way the money goes,  
Pop goes the weasel.*

*Every night when I go out,  
The monkeys on the table.  
Take a stick and knock it off,  
Pop goes the weasel.*

*A penny for a ball of thread,  
Another for a needle.  
That's the way the money goes,  
Pop goes the weasel.*  
(First published in 1852)

There has been much debate over the years about the meaning of '*Pop Goes the Weasel*'. A hugely popular music-hall song, its memorable and seemingly nonsensical lyrics spread like wildfire throughout Victorian London and indeed beyond. But is there more to this rhyme than meets the eye? Let's delve a little.

For centuries the indigenous poor and the immigrant population had lived in Spitalfields, Hoxton and Shoreditch, they were areas of high poverty and even higher crime. With the arrival of the Huguenots in the 1680's, who were escaping religious persecution in France, they settled in these same areas, bringing with them their weaving and textile making skills, it became the centre of the cloth manufacturing business in London. Packed with sweatshops, the local workers did long shifts in the factories or laboured in their own homes making clothes for very, very low wages.

It is theorised that this rhyme was created to highlight the plight of these poor workers.

In the textile industry, a spinners '*weasel*' was a mechanical thread measuring device in the shape of a spoked wheel that accurately measured out yarn and made a popping sound to indicate the correct length had been reached. The mind numbing and repetitive nature of work is captured in the final line of each verse, indicating that no matter where your mind wandered to, reality was never far away and when the weasel goes '*pop*', it got your attention and brought you back to your boring weaving chores.

The rest of the lyrics can be seen as a snapshot of mundane, everyday life in Shoreditch, of having enough money to buy food ('*Rice and Treacle*'), spend on rare visits to the '*Eagle*' music hall on '*City Road*', or pay for their tools of the trade (*A penny for a ball of thread, / Another for a needle*).

Then there is the reference to a '*monkey*'. A monkey was a slang term for a glazed jug or tankard specifically for drinking ale or rum from. '*Knocking off a stick*' meant to drink alcohol to excess, so a raucous night out might easily have used up every penny of the workers wages ('*That's the way the money goes*'), leaving nothing to live on for the rest of the week.

Whatever the intentions of the original authors of this rhyme, it may not or may not have made the country aware of the poverty and deprivation suffered by these factory workers or indeed done anything to help alleviate their plight, but the story has withstood the test of time and is as popular today as a nursery rhyme as it ever has been.

*Colin Bullock*



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## E FOR EDITORIAL

Time for a few bits of nostalgia this month even if, as the old joke has it, ‘it ain’t what it used to be’! As I was putting this issue together, a couple of (first) namesakes sent me some messages from the past. Firstly, Mike Bedford reminded me that it was 50 years ago on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1971 that we woke up to a new monetary system in the UK – decimal currency. Like me, some of our older readers might be a little surprised that we said goodbye to florins, shillings, pennies and the rest such a long time ago, but our younger readers can no doubt not comprehend the illogicality of ever splitting pounds into 20 shillings and 240 pence. The penny symbol was d, for denarius, the Latin name for the coin – which I have always found a bit confusing as they apparently cannot be traced back before the seventh century, long after the Romans were here. Phil will no doubt put me right on this...

The second dose of nostalgia came from Mike Ashbee, who sent me some old newspapers “from his birth year”. Actually the oldest was a copy of the Times from 1882; isn’t he doing well for 138! Next was a daily Express of 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 reporting on the declaration of war on Germany and quoting the subsequently famous “England expects ...” axiom. There were also two from 1939, the Times of March 24<sup>th</sup> which covered amongst other things the visit of the French President and his wife to London, and in stark contrast the visit to Austria by Hitler, complete with his navy, to welcome them back into the German Empire, and the Daily Express, of 4<sup>th</sup> September announcing the declaration of war on Germany the previous evening.

There were also several cuttings of a more recent and more local nature, dated October 1994, showing Mike literally pulling the plug on the old Frittenden mechanical telephone exchange and turning on the new digital unit, the last in Kent to be modernised. (Why did that not surprise me – it falls into a similar category to comments when one sees a police car in the village that he must be lost!). Mike was invited to do the honours as he was the grandson of the first telephone user in the village – which in contrast to the decimalisation date somewhat surprised me that it had been relatively recent.

And finally, Mike had sent me a 1939 copy of “Illustrated” magazine, covering, racing, films, general news and other articles. Here my eye was drawn by the advertisements, and how many brands still survive, and of course by the prices then of various items. Warner’s Ideal Holiday Camps were there, as were Remington, the Prudential, Players cigarettes (10 for 6d), Maltesers (2d a bag), a Hoover upright for 80 shillings or 3/6d a week, Quality Street (6d a quarter pound), a free cookbook by Stork Margarine, and finally Cadburys Easter Eggs 2d to 5s – less than 1p to 25p! Mind you, the average hourly wage for men then was 1/6d, and about half that for women.

No prizes, but spot the other bits of nostalgia in this issue....

*Mike Cooper.*

## LEXOPHILIA

1. Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
2. How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
3. England doesn’t have a kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
4. I tried to catch some fog, but I missed.
5. They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
6. I changed my iPod’s name to Titanic. It’s syncing now.
7. Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
8. I know a guy who’s addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
9. I stayed up all night to see where the sun went and then it dawned on me.
10. The girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I’d never met herbivore.
11. When chemists die they barium.

*Thanks to John Day and the MFU*

## THE 1996 OYSTER, FOIE GRAS AND CHAMPAGNE TOUR DE FRANCE

For many years I've been on little jollies to the continent; my logbook shows names like Rotterdam, Midden Zeeland, Nordhorn, Munster and Ghent in my old Tiger Moth 'PMX. A club trip with David Timmis in 'WEF to Hilversum when 'PMX blew a mag. Visits to La Ferte Alais, Avranche, Diest, and Antwerp in my Stampe 'AYIJ plus several other weekends away in my Jungmann 'BYIJ.

1996 was planned for a long time to be more of a holiday than weekend fly-ins using both India Juliets. Unfortunately for various reasons, two of the original four team members dropped out and the honour fell on Trevor Beadle and myself to make the trip. The Jungmann was chosen as the preferred mount as it's at least 15 knots faster than the Stampe and uses less fuel too!

First of June was a warm day with a stiff northerly breeze blowing across Headcorn's runway 29 when we filed a flight plan for Dieppe routing Headcorn to Boulogne (harbour not VOR), and then following the coast to Dieppe. No problems until we were about 2 miles from our destination when a large storm filled the path ahead, but admitted dodging around and reducing the revs to save the Hoffman from losing its leading edge in the rain, we slipped onto runway 31 with the wind now blowing 220/15-20 Knots.

I learned about flying from that! Try to remember to read NOTAMS, or try to find someone who does. Dieppe doesn't have customs or sell fuel AT WEEKENDS. However, the controller took a liking to one of us (I hope it was Trevor) and did the necessary in providing fuel. The only customs I've ever come across in France are in Deauville and Le Touquet so the passport ceremony was not forthcoming. From Dieppe we flew to Angers via L'Aigle where we stopped briefly for fuel, which is now £1/ litre!!!

Angers is the home of the French school of Stampe aerobatics and hosts the Coupe d'Anjou aerobatics trophy in August. This is a contest strictly for Stampes and is a weekend worth attending. I believe the only foreigner to have won the contest was Roger Graham and he did it in a Tiger Cub Stampe. Another reason for going to Angers is to visit their aviation Museum and gaze in wonder at the massive wooden hanger, hoping it will last the night with the Jungmann inside! Memories of the collapse of the hanger at Headcorn which caused the loss of 'PMX flooded back. The main reason for our visit this time however was to introduce Trevor to the airport hotel and its wonderful Fruits de Mer platter. Oysters, prawns, whelks, cockles, mussels, clams, winkles, crab and scampi are served on a plate about a yard in diameter and they are all out of season if you believe the old wives tale that they shouldn't be eaten unless there is an 'R' in the month. "So much for the old wives tales", we said as we eased the first Oyster down.

Sunday was another beautiful day as we headed for La Rochelle on the Atlantic coast about one hour away. This airport has flights to and from Paris/CDG on Friday, Sunday and Monday, but we encountered only three English aeroplanes and one German that day, all going to Gibraltar via Portugal.

La Rochelle has a thriving aeroclub whose members made us most welcome and gave us space in their hanger for the night. One of the club members owns a hotel which was both close to the harbour and quiet. Sunday 2nd June was the Fête des Mères and there was a funfair with some exciting rides to try after we'd had a dozen or so oysters and mentally crowned the "Young Mum of the Day". Trevor is quite a dab hand at aerobatics, but a bit of a wimp when it comes to going on the monster twister and other rides but I did manage to get him on a couple before we crept off for an oyster supper.

La Rochelle to Arcachon is another hourish trip and is best done at low level to avoid the French training area between Bordeaux and the coast stop the oyster beds to the south of la Rochelle are absolutely massive, about half the size of Kent and produce 1 billion of the little beauties a year. At least that's what Trevor told me.

The flight was along the coast and the beach was golden sand all the way with about six people on it two of whom were topless! The only other aircraft we encountered on this leg was a Transall that had landed at 'Rochelle just before we left and then flew past our port side a couple of hundred feet below us before turning off at Royan heading up the Gironde towards Bordeaux. Like a mini Hercules, it trails loads of black exhaust smoke from its two engines.

Arcachon has a 2km long runway with a large grass area to the south and one of the fanciest control towers I've ever parked under, all paid for courtesy of the local Chambre de Commerce. No landing fees of course and a place in the hanger for us too. The town is a pretty place which relies on tourists for its trade and luckily there weren't too many so the hotel rooms were discounted. 250FF for a 3-star hotel is really good value for a twin bedded room with ensuite facilities and satellite TV as well. We decided that this was to be our last night on the oyster diet and quickly found our way to the oyster HQ restaurant. We had a dozen each to start with followed by a nice piece of skate (*Raie*) but whereas I opted for the ice cream, Trevor chose a dozen of the '*grosse*' oysters each the size of a fried egg! Suddenly a single room at 1000FF was beginning to look a lot more attractive than a night in the same room with an exceedingly amorous ex-RAF pilot. Fortunately the Bordeaux rouge seemed to neutralise the effects of the oysters and we both past a pleasant night.

The front cockpit of a Jungmann is like a sauna in the summer and with the temperature at 34° C on the ground we stayed around Arcachon for the morning dabbling out shows in the sea hoping for a corner flight later in the day.

We took off from the shimmering concrete at 1630hrs and flew more or less due east and crossed the Garonne near Cadillac. Turning north-ish we crossed the Dordogne at Liborne and from then on followed the N89 to Perigaux. I called in at Perigaux some years previously when another Trevor and I had brought the Jungmann up from Spain. Then we'd only called in for fuel, this time we intended to sample the local delicacies, foie gras and truffles. On landing, we found an Air Littoral Bandeirante by the tower and as we filled up another landed, soon to be followed by a glider landing on the grass will stop where, oh where, do we have these kind of airfields in the UK with peace and harmony existing between all types of flying. I'm sure this is what Wilbur and Orville had intended.

The hotel here was as usual around 250FF and about 300 yards from the old quarter which is full of seemingly excellent restaurants will stop we chose the appropriately named Coeur de Perigaux and started off proper foie gras followed by maigret de canard with a truffle sauce, then the cheese board and fruit.

The breakfast room of our hotel overlooks the old Market Square and as we munched our way through our muesli, I could just picture the locals directing the guillotine to execute the pilot who declared an emergency when his GPS failed him (as recently reported ing-ASIL). This was going to be a busy day with around 3hrs flying so we thought we'd beat the heat by having a reasonably early start. The best made plans of mice and men etc. The hanger was locked and no one knew who had the key! Thank goodness for the pompiers who eventually managed to track it down after an hour or so. We said goodbye to a Stearman and a Hornet Moth, both belonging to a M de Cadenet. I hope he gets to fly them occasionally, but judging by their more than 'concours' condition, I would doubt it.

Perigaux to Chateau Villiers, 1hr 10mins. This is an absolutely classic French aerodrome just a single grass strip with one hanger, a lovely clubhouse and bar and a very pleasant couple running the lot, including the maintenance. No radio of course - heaven! The airfield is about 3nm South West from the larger Chateauroux airport and no doubt you could see the Air Inter Airbuses doing circuits if you landed outside lunch hour. Luckily, we landed at 1230hrs will stop soon we were en route to Epernay, our longest leg of 2hrs. The Jungmann sauna didn't let up for a second but we had our minds on other things, namely the three years it takes to produce the nectar discovered by Dom Perignon from the acres of vines we found ourselves flying over. On my 1995 trip, I'd visited both Reims/Prunay and Epernay. Prunay is controlled concrete and Epernay is acres of uncontrolled grass with runways in all directions. Double heaven when you consider the short taxi ride takes you to wear most Frenchmen consider the centre of the alcoholic universe to be. Personally, I think Epernay is a wonderful town with a really relaxed atmosphere and plenty to see including miles of caves containing millions of bottles of Champagne. Worth visiting also are the Moet & Chandon house and the Mercier house with its almost Disneyworld trip through the cellars on a laser controlled train.

Dinner this evening was possibly our best meal of the trip. Trevor started with foie gras and I opened with oysters cooked in champagne and cheese sauce. These dishes were followed by salmon and a champagne-based ragout. Naturally, we watched this down with the right stuff, 1986 Pol Roget which was surprisingly inexpensive at 140FF a bottle.

Although we didn't have any idea of our route when we left Headcorn, it was loosely planned to come home via St Omer and Calais but having wine and dined on some of France's most famous products in their

natural habitats, the harsher Belgian style of food in the Pas de Calais region just didn't seem to be correct for our next few meals so we decided to come home and perhaps gain a few brownie points with our respective families. With Le Touquet being quite a long way from Epernay plus the fact they charge landing fees and Abbeville requiring 24hrs notice for customs, we opted for Amiens which coincidentally has a very good airport restaurant.

Leaving Epernay, we decided to have a look at Laon Cathedral which is the oldest one in France and both Notre Dame in Paris and Reims cathedrals are based on its design. It is a very spectacular building viewed either from the ground or air. Our arrival at Amiens was badly timed as the restaurant was full of gendarmes and workers from the nearby industrial estate so we had to make do with a baguette fromage and Coke on the terrace.

After lunch we saw the controller, flight planned, refuelled and arrive back at Headcorn after a flight of 1hr 10min. The haze over the channel was not very helpful but you can generally find horizon, even if it is down low.

Our total touring flight time was 12hrs 45min and we covered 1150nm giving us an average cruise of 90kts using 32litres/hr; not bad for a 45 -year-old Spanish copy of a German masterpiece.

Oh and if it appears that we spent a fortune on gourmet food, you're wrong as the most expensive meal we had was 160FF which is just over £20, not including drinks and represented to us excellent value on a memorable trip and courtesy of the sauna, I lost three pounds in weight.

Hopefully next year's trip will be just as good but to where I don't know, maybe the Mediterranean area. If you want to come along and don't forget your tie-downs. We didn't have to use them but you never know.

### ***Keith Palmer***

(Originally published in "The Tiger Rag", in October 1996. Keith tells me that in vintage aircraft navigation was generally done pre GPS with wristwatch, map and compass, and that the radio seldom worked. Ed.)



## **FRITTENDEN WI**

Most of our members have had the vaccination so we are optimistic about the future and look forward to the day when Frittenden WI will be able to meet each other in person and start our busy programme again.

We held a Zoom meeting for our February meeting with Peter Batty giving us an interesting presentation on "Plants and Foods that changed History" and for March we have Sheila Farmer giving a talk on "What Women Wore". The West Kent Federation also run occasional interesting talks online for members.

Our programme for 2021/22 starting in June is fully planned with outings, visits and speakers which everyone is looking forward to.

We are always glad to see new members and in normal times we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.15 in the village hall (not June or August). Contact Anne Holroyd on 01580 893256 for further information.

*Ros Bowles*

### **A SHAGGY DOG STORY**

A man sees a sign outside a house - 'Talking Dog For Sale.' He rings the bell, the owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden.

The man sees a very nice looking Labrador sitting there.

"Do you really talk?" he asks the dog.

"Yes," the Labrador replies.

After recovering from the shock of hearing the dog talk, the man asks, "So, tell me your story."

The Labrador looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I was sold to the SAS. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one imagined that a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years".

"But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Heathrow Airport to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded several medals".

"Then I got married, had a few puppies, and now I've just retired."

The man is amazed. He goes back into the house and asks the owner how much he wants for the dog.

"Ten quid," the owner says.

"£10!?! But your dog is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him for so little?"

"Because he's a liar, he's never been out of the garden."

*Howard Lilley*

## GOSBEE'S GOSSIP

I will start with some sad news, former Frittenden resident Stephen Croucher's funeral was held at the Burial Ground in Mill Lane on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. It was a very wet morning for the mourners. Stephen was one of 5 children born at number 2 Weald View. The eldest was Nat, then Stephen then Mike, then two sisters, Barbara and Cynthia (who sadly passed away a couple of years ago). Stephen and his wife Shirley had one daughter Amanda, who sadly passed away in 2010. Stephen's two eldest granddaughters Kimberley and Kelly were also raised at Bakery Close with their grandparents and dad, and they looked upon Stephen as a second father figure. His first job was at Frittenden Brickworks, then he was a self employed builder until he retired. Stephen had 6 great grandchildren. He had been unwell for more than a year. Condolences to all of Stephen's family.

The recent very cold spell with snow has been an opportunity for children and adults to get out and about to enjoy it as much as they can with all the distancing regulations. When I walk out to my garden to read my thermometers, I have heard lots of people having fun at the 'Upper Knock', where there is a nice slope for sledging. Some clear blue skies have improved the fantastic icy landscape. As I can't walk around the fields, Hazel has been taking photos to show me the winter wonderland. Between 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, the weather will be much more mild. Having said that, I have been doing some homework with the Met Office, and they say that this 'Second Beast From the East' has a 75% chance of returning in late February, so there may be the chance of some more sledging.

I had my Covid vaccine on 9<sup>th</sup> February at Headcorn Aerodrome. It was very well organised, not even having to get out of the car. A huge thank you to all the amazing volunteers that spend hours in the freezing cold, as well as the brilliant scientists that have made it possible. The Government also deserves the credit for ordering the millions and millions of doses before it was even confirmed that it would work, three months ahead of Europe. I know that the UK has the highest number of deaths from Covid than any other country in Europe, but we are far more densely populated. France and the UK have a very similar population, but France is 126% larger than the UK. Italy is 24% larger than the UK, with 7 million less people. Sadly Italy is likely to join the UK with more than 100,000 deaths from Covid. There are a few percent of the population who will not abide by the rules, which is totally selfish. Our friends on the Continent are more likely to respect the rules of Government. We are also the most obese country in Europe. It is not all doom and gloom. I read that a million people have given up smoking since last March, so well done if you are one of them. Speaking of Europe, I thought that the Brexit Agreement was for frictionless trade. Now France will not take our shellfish. Are they still trying to punish us for leaving?. On the farming front, beef and lamb prices have never been so high. Not so good for consumers. The Government must not allow cheap imports where animal welfare is well below the UK. Shepherds beginning their lambing season must be fed up with the constant wet, wet, wet. It must be a nightmare. I am quite pleased that I don't have that worry any more. It was lovely to see the lambs at Headcorn Aerodrome, all in their clear waterproof coats to protect the lambs from the wet and cold wind. I never used those coats, if the weather was really bad, we tried to keep them in a bit longer, in the stables and barns, but as we got busier and busier, we ran out of room and had to let out the strongest ones. It was very stressful for them and us at times. My biggest regret was not buying a quad bike earlier. It would have saved a lot of time and effort (if it hadn't been stolen, of course!).

Our Chancellor Rishi Sunak has so far proved to be quite brilliant. It will be interesting to see what he comes up with in his budget on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Personally, I do not think that it is the right time to put up taxes. Lowering them would encourage us to go on spending sprees to boost the economy. Hopefully restrictions will be lessened to coincide with the start of British Summer Time, so that churches can open for Easter services. Hopefully the services industry can open of course with caution. There will probably need to be mask wearing. We are told that we are in the worst recession since 1709, when the severe frost lasted throughout November and the winter months, causing great famine in the UK and Europe. Thousands of people died. We were in the midst of what was known as a 'mini ice age'. In that time, summers were often wet and cold.

We have been watching the Channel 5 series, Ben Fogle's New Lives in the Wild, where people have given up the rat race and begun new lives being self-sufficient. In one episode, the featured man took away Ben's phone for the duration of his stay, so Ben wrote a letter to his young daughter. Ben struggled to spell the word candle, admitting that he is dyslexic. I can spell that, but get very frustrated trying to spell even the

simplest words. Last year, Hazel bought a smart speaker , and I find it very useful for spelling, provided that I pronounce the word correctly, otherwise I get some very interesting replies!.

A question for you, what was the first film that you saw in the cinema?. Hazel's first film was Grease in 1978. Mine was the Hayley Mills and Alan Bates film Whistle Down the Wind in 1961.

Revd Pete Deaves handed me the service for 14<sup>th</sup> February, which included the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. Judy Collins' version rose to number 5 in the charts in 1970, and stayed in the charts for 67 weeks. It was very beautifully sung, one of my favourite hymns. It is well worth a listen if you are able to. In 1972, the pipes and drums of the military band the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards took Amazing Grace to number one for 5 weeks (stats courtesy of the Guinness Book of Records). My father liked the bagpipes. My father was in the Argyll and Sutherlanders in the First World War, as a sniper on the front line. It was a miracle that he came home in one piece.

*Lester J Gosbee*

## MUSIC NOTES

So lockdown continues, with its effect on live music locally. There is still plenty of music to find on the internet in one form or another and some excellent short performances are currently doing the e-mail rounds, but I will continue my quite different theme, that of the significant musical anniversaries in March. There are lots, including several relating to well-known musicians, here are just a few:

\*8<sup>th</sup> March – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of Sir Thomas Beecham, British conductor and impresario.

\*14<sup>th</sup> March – 340<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of Georg Philip Telemann, German composer

\*16<sup>th</sup> March – 10th anniversary of death of Modest Petrovitch Mussorgsky, Russian composer

\*23<sup>rd</sup> March – 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of death of Bernhard Anselm Weber, German composer & music director

\*25<sup>th</sup> March – 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of Béla Bartok, Hungarian composer and pianist

My readers will probably know something about all of these, but Telemann, though famous in his time, may be the least well-known to non-organists nowadays, so here is an extract his Wikipedia entry:

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767) was a German Baroque composer and multi-instrumentalist. Largely self-taught in music, he became a composer against his family's wishes. After studying in Magdeburg, Zellerfeld, and Hildesheim, he entered the University of Leipzig to read law, but chose a career in music. He held positions in Leipzig, Sorau, Eisenach, and Frankfurt before becoming musical director of Hamburg's five main churches in 1721. His career prospered, but his personal life was troubled: his first wife died less than two years after their marriage, and his second wife had extramarital affairs and accumulated a large gambling debt before leaving him.

As one of the most prolific composers in history he was considered by his contemporaries to be one of the leading German composers of the time and was compared favourably both to his friend J. S. Bach, who made Telemann the godfather and namesake of his son Carl Philip Emanuel, and to G.F.Handel, whom Telemann also knew personally.

He wrote much music for organists, including 48 chorale preludes and 20 small fugues to accompany his chorale harmonisations for 500 hymns. His music incorporates many national styles, and he remained at the forefront of all new musical tendencies. His music stands as an important link between the late Baroque and early Classical styles.

*Brian Hardy*

By popular request the alphabet continues: **Artistic Grants:** Huge sums of money given for useless musical endeavours, always to other musicians.

# LOCKDOWN TRIVIA & RIDDLES

## FOODIE THEMED TRIVIA

The most popular fruit in the world is the grape.

Potatoes have been farmed for over 9000 years.

Until about 500 years ago, farmed carrots were every colour but orange, most were purple.

There is a variety of lemon called BABOON.

Rice is the staple food for roughly half of the world's population.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, 7,000 different types of apple were grown; today less than 100 are.

Ant eggs are a high-end, expensive food in Mexico, known as 'escamoles' or 'Mexican Caviar.'

A fully ripe lime is pale yellow, not green.

An avocado has 30% oil.

Fried tarantulas are considered a delicacy in Cambodia.

Bunches of bananas are called 'hands' and each banana is called a 'finger.'

Egyptians were eating watermelons 5,000 years ago.

The 'blue' in blue cheese is mould.

Eating cheese at the end of a meal slows tooth decay.

In Thailand, crickets are farmed for food.

Candy floss is sugar spun into fine strands and was first sold at the 1904 World's Fair.

Noodles originated in China more than 2,200 years ago.

Mushrooms are 80-90 percent water.

Half of all salt is mined; the other half is harvested from the sea.

Tootsie Rolls are named after the manufacturer's daughter Clara, her nickname was Tootsie.

## MAKE YOU THINK RIDDLES

- 1) You are in a room with three monkeys; one has a stick, one has a banana, and one has nothing. Who is the smartest primate?
- 2) Can you combine four plus signs with eight 8's to make 1000?
- 3) You are driving a bus in London. At the first stop, two teenagers get on. At the second stop, the two teenagers get off, but a woman and a child get on. At the third stop, three men get on. Your bus is red and white and the weather is bright, dry sunshine. What colour is the bus driver's hair?
- 4) You are in a science class being taught by Mrs. Winslow. In her experiment she drops a pound coin into a glass of water that is 20 degrees Celsius and another pound coin into another glass that is 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Which coin sinks to the bottom the fastest?

*Colin Bullock*

Answers on back page.

## FROM THE KENTISH EXPRESS, 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 1948

### LADY MISTAKEN FOR A FOX

Mrs J. G. Derry, 45, of Ford-Lane, Wrotham Heath, is in the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone, suffering from gunshot wounds in the chest and stomach as a result of an accident.

Mrs Derry was with her husband, a retired naval commander, on Saturday afternoon, and when going through an overgrown plantation near their home a gun was fired and she collapsed severely wounded.

#### DRESSED IN BROWN

At the time a local man was out shooting foxes, and it is understood that he mistook Mrs. Derry, who was dressed in brown, for a fox.

Since admission to hospital Mrs. Derry's condition has shown some improvement.

*Thanks again to John Stansfeld*

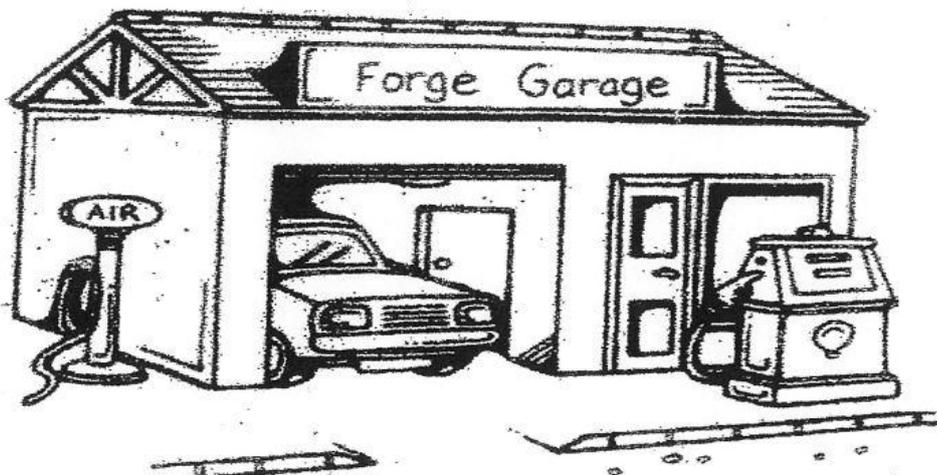
(Ladies- don't wear brown when out walking! Ed.)



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## KINGY TECH – NEW BUSINESS

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

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

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

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Email [oliking6@gmail.com](mailto:oliking6@gmail.com)

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

No charge if I can't help you

## Reviews

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

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

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

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

## LARCHMERE

Our residents have turned out to be a 'feisty' bunch. In the effort to try as many different, weird and wonderful things as possible to keep our lovely friends entertained, we came upon the idea of shooting Reindeer! A bit radical you might think? far from it – believe me they took to it like a duck to water!! We collected a whole load of toy guns with foam bullets (we have carers with children which really helped) set up the living room with obstacles to hide behind (we really wanted trees as that's where most reindeer would hide from being shot but we had to make do with furniture and the odd nurses screen). Then, of course, there was the problem of actually finding the reindeer, this was soon sorted as the staff volunteered to be reindeers (dressed with Antlers and all) ! The object of the game was quite simply for the residents to shoot as many reindeer as possible and once shot the reindeer would fall to the floor, on their back and wobble their legs in the air as they took their last breath. Let me tell you, most residents were a 'crack shot'. June Trivett's face was one of steely determination as she rattled out the bullets – the reindeer didn't stand a chance. Anthony couldn't load his bullets quick enough, and as the reindeer 'pranced' (as Reindeer's do) around the living room he fired endless bullets – mainly at the reindeers 'rears' let me tell you ! Please see below pictures, though the best way for you to see how fun it was is to go to Larchmere's Facebook page where this is a video. Obviously, the reindeers took a few days to recover. There were reindeers in bandages, head wounds, hooves that needed treating – it was like a scene from Bambi - but they soon recovered with expert care from our nurses.

Another thing we have tried and is working well is listening 'to the old radio shows'. The residents started chatting one day about how wonderful Hancock's half hour was 'back in the day' and also the Goons. I set up an afternoon with their favourite beverage and a piece of cake and via youtube (which we have on our TV now) we listened to 'Blood Donor' by Tony Hancock. I didn't realise how funny it was – everyone was in raptures and could quote many of the lines. 'That's very nearly an armful'. We then listened to an episode of the Goons called 'Tales of Old Dartmoor' – Harry Secombe is a prison Governor needing to recruit more prisoners. Wonderful stuff. We even had the residents sing 'Ying Tong Piddle I po' – for the rest of the afternoon. For those not familiar, this song was released by the Goons back in 1973 and got to No. 9 in the charts. What a jolly bunch we have here.

Finally, 'The Selfridges' experience. We have a shop day every two weeks which is proving to be very successful. At first it was just your normal chocolates, deodorant, stamps, that kind of thing but due to residents asking for special items it has turned into a rather large enterprise with a wide range of things to buy – hence the name 'The Selfridges Experience'. We sell teddy bears, hand warmers, gorgeous jewellery, make up, beautiful scarves, gloves, fluffy bed socks to name but a few things. Always something new to tempt a resident to purchase. I think I enjoy it as much as they do! Gives me a chance to shop (albeit online and at Aldi's)!! And I am delighted to say that our lovely Robin comes down for this as he likes to top up on peppermints and chat to his fan club!

*Becky Bruce*

## MORE ONE-LINERS

We are what we pretend to be, and so we must be careful what we pretend to be.

*Kurt Vonnegut*

Freedom of opinion is a farce unless factual information is guaranteed and the facts themselves are not in dispute.

*Hannah Arendt*

(Rather appropriate for our times, I thought. Ed.)



## WEATHER

Weather statistics for January 2021: Frittenden's warmest day in January was 28<sup>th</sup> at 13.2 c/ 55.76 f. Only two further days of the month reached temperatures in double figures, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. UK wide, the warmest day was at Pershore College, Worcestershire with a temperature of 14.2 c/ 57.56 f. Frittenden's coldest night of January was on 9<sup>th</sup>, when temperatures fell to -4.44 c/ 24.08 f. The coldest night temperature in the UK was on 31<sup>st</sup> at Braemar, Aberdeenshire with -13 c/ 8.60 f. This is the coldest temperature recorded since 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012, when Holbeach in Lincolnshire dropped to -15 c/ 3.92 f. In January, Frittenden had 17 ground frosts, with the lowest grass minimum temperature of -7.12 c/ 19.22 f on 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a very wet month. Kent's average rainfall for January is 69mm/2.76 inches. This January Frittenden had 120mm/ 2 inches of rain, 51mm above average. 18 days of the month recorded 1mm or more, only 3 days recorded no precipitation. The Central England Temperature for January was 3.1 c/ 37.58 f, which is 0.7 c/ 1.26 f below the long term average. I predicted that it would be 3.5 c/ 38.30 Frittenden has had 8 days of snow cover, equal to the very cold December in 2010 when the Central England Temperature was -0.7 c/ 30.74 f, the coldest December since 1890 when it was -0.8 c/30.56 f. Central England Temperatures take in the whole month's temperatures. One week of extreme cold doesn't necessarily make the month's averages way below normal if the rest of the month is mild. Any month when the average is 2 c 35.6 f or colder would be classed as very cold to extremely cold. I hope that this makes the monthly averages a bit clearer.

February, up to 14<sup>th</sup>, our lowest day maximum temperature was on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at -0.4 c/ 31.28 f. Our hardest frost was on 11<sup>th</sup> at -4.5 c/ 23.90 f, but the grass minimum temperature was -11 c/ 12.20 f. We had lower temperature in the Beast from the East in 2018. We also had 7 inches of snow that year, only 3 inches this year. On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Frittenden had temperatures down to -11.32 c/ 11.66 f, our coldest night since 12<sup>th</sup> November 1987 when it was -13 c/ 8.60 f.

Countrywide, Scotland is having a very cold spell. Braemar's temperatures fell to -23 c/ -9.4 f on 11<sup>th</sup> February, almost 42 degrees of frost, and the lowest UK temperature since 30<sup>th</sup> December 1995 when Altnaharra fell to -27.2 c/ -17 f, 49 degrees of frost. This low temperature was the first recorded on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1895 at Braemar and again on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1982. -23.94 c/-9.4f is the lowest temperature recorded in a February since 11<sup>th</sup> February 1995 when Braemar fell to -25 c/ -13 f. In the current cold spell, the lowest temperature was at Ravensworth, North Yorkshire -13.1 c/ 8.4 f on 11<sup>th</sup>. This was the lowest night minimum temperature since 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 when it was -15.6 c/ 3.92 f at Holbeach, Lincolnshire

I have written my next long range forecast, so if you would like a free copy to be emailed to you, delivered through your door or would like to collect one, please let me know on 01580 852288, or by email to [lester.gosbee@btinternet.com](mailto:lester.gosbee@btinternet.com). I did predict a colder winter, because since 1659, all years that end with a December followed by a year ending in a 1 have all had cold or extremely cold spells. Many of these years have months that have CETs averaging below 2 c/ 35.6 f, apart from 1921, which had close to average winter months with the odd cold snap. That year had a very mild January with a CET of 7.3 c/ 45.14 f, almost a degree up on our mild 6.4 c January 2020.

March 2021 Forecast: In folk lore, March is known as the month of many weathers. The sun is now strong enough to boost temperatures under the right conditions. On 29<sup>th</sup> March 1929, temperatures equalled the record from 1965 at 25°C/ 77°F. The same temperature was reached at Cromer and Santon Downham, Norfolk, but the highest March temperature was at Mepal, Cambridgeshire on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 25.6°C/ 78.06°F. Aboyne in Aberdeenshire reached 24°C/ 75.20°F. Many a summer in Scotland has been less warm. 1947 was the coldest winter, with the coldest February on record (records go back to 1659) with temperatures as low as -1.9°C/ 28.58°F. This was followed by a freezing March with a temperature of 3.6°C/ 38.48°F. The average Central England Temperature for March is 6.19°C/ 43.12°F. In 1947, many lambs and ewes were lost in snow drifts, then later in the month, severe flooding occurred after the thaw. 2013 was even colder, but thankfully there was much less snow. That March, the CET was 2.7°C/ 36.86°F, the coldest March since 1962, when it was 2.8°C/ 37.04°F. In fact, 2013 equalled the March of 1892 at 2.7°C/ 36.86°F.

March 2021 will have a chilly start with a widespread frost, but lovely sunny mornings. Frost hollows will see temperatures as low as -6°/21°f in areas such as the South Midlands, Suffolk, Norfolk and Dorset. Even Kent could see temperatures dropping to -4°C/ 25°f. Winds will be calm and north westerly. There will be some early morning fog patches, which will be freezing until the sun gets to work on them. Day temperatures will be around 5°C/ 41°f by 4th/5th March. High pressure will be to the south west of the UK, bringing us a spell of warm, southerly winds. There will often be a lot of cloud, but also some warm, sunny afternoons. Holbeach in Lincolnshire could reach 20°C/ 68°f, very pleasant so early in the month. Having

said that, Channel coastal counties could have lower temperatures of 10°C/ 50°F due to the cold Channel wind. By 9th March, low pressure will be back in charge, and weather fronts will bring bands of rain followed by showers with squally winds. There could be hail and one-bang thunderstorms. This period of weather will start mild in south westerly winds, but by mid-month, winds will be more north westerly. In well sheltered parts of the Weald of Kent and Sussex, there will be night frosts. So no heatwave for St. Patrick's Day on 17th. High pressure from Scandinavia will dominate our weather for at least 10 days, with a cold north easterly wind. The Spring vernal equinox is on 20th, and North Sea counties may see snow granules, and temperatures will be around 4°C/ 39°F, but in Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, as well as counties bordering Wales, there could be local frost and some nice spells of sunshine. Temperatures will be around 11- 13°C/ 52 - 55°F, a shade above average. Low pressure will win out by 28th, when British Summertime begins. There will be spells of wet and windy weather with gales in the Bristol Channel and the English Channel. There could be respite of 18 hours between weather fronts. Temperatures will be close to late March averages, between 10 and 12°C/ 50 to 54°F.

March's Highest Day Temperature will be: At Holbeach in Lincolnshire at 20°C/ 68°F on 5th or 6th. London will not exceed 17°C/ 62.60°F. Lowest Day Temperature will be: 1°C/ 33.8°F, early in the month where fog lingers in some frost hollows, again, later in the month at Peterborough, Cambridge and Norwich, Norfolk on 21<sup>st</sup> and Lowest Night Temperature will be: -6°C/ 21°F in Thetford, Norfolk, the South Midlands and Dorset. March's average Rainfall is 64mm/ 2.52 inches. Dorset averages 73.6mm/ 2.89 inches, Kent 48.3mm/ 1.92 inches, Lincolnshire 43.4mm/ 1.79 inches. March will be our third month in a row to have above average rainfall. Many places will get 7.5 to 15mm above average, locally 25mm, just under one inch. England's average sunshine for March is 107.6 hours. Dorset average 117.2 hours, Kent 115 hours and Gloucestershire 110 hours. Most places this March will get 5% below average, but Dorset and Cotswold Counties that border Wales could get 140 hours, which is 25% above average. March's average Central England Temperature is 6.19°C/ 43.16°F. Last March it was 7°C/ 44.60°F, 1.4°C/ 1.52°F above average. This March, the CET will be 5.5°C/ 41.90°F, which is 0.7°C/ 1.26°F, below average. A real mixed bag for shepherds. Lambs do not like cold and wet weather, as they get hypothermia. Fruit farmers will be pleased with the colder winter as it makes flowering later, hopefully missing the later frosts. Grass needs a temperature of 6°C/ 42.80°F. March 2021 will be a slow start for grass growing apart from in the West Country.

*Lester J Gosbee*



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## THE BACK PAGE

### REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE

Due to the Corona virus outbreak, this service has been suspended until further notice.

### LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS

#### FRITTENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Tony Staples (Chairman)	01580 852226
James Tuke (Vice Chairman)	01580 852372
Heather Cullingworth	01580 852340
Lester Gosbee	01580 852288
Sarah Murray	07854679348
Rosalind Riley	01580 852317
Richard Vernon	01580 852537
Parish Clerk Emma Nightingale	01580 292576
Website	<a href="http://www.frittenden.org.uk">www.frittenden.org.uk</a> .

**This month's Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.**

#### TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

#### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall 01622 671411  
Member for Cranbrook - Sean Holden - [sean.holden@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sean.holden@kent.gov.uk) or 01580 714880

#### POLICING

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

### NEXT EDITION, SMALL PRINT, ETC.

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

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

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1) You are, 2)  $888+8+8+888= 1000$ , 3) You should know the colour of your own hair, 4) 20 degrees Fahrenheit is below freezing, so the water in that glass would be ice.

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