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# Frittenden

## Parish Magazine

Connecting our community



FREE

March 2022

# Village Contacts

## CHURCH OFFICIALS AND ORGANISATIONS

**Rector** Rev Pete Deaves 852275  
rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk

**Churchwardens** Joanna Beech 852312  
John Stansfeld 852185

**Reader** Tony Staples 852226

**Treasurer** Christopher Page 852230

**Deanery Synod** James Highwood 852715

**Secretary** Vacant

**Verger** Margaret Knight 852322

**Director of Music** Morwenna Campbell-Smith  
07703 522102

**Parish Disclosure Officer**  
James Highwood 852715

**Parish Safeguarding Coordinators**  
Lindsey Moore 852553  
James Highwood 852715

**Bell Ringers**  
*Captain & Secretary* David Manger 01622 890675

**Magazine**  
*Editor* James Booth-Clibborn 852538  
frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

*Features* Rebecca Brown 852561

*Organisations* Emma Griffin 852308

*Advertising* Nicky Vernon 852537

*Art Director* Andy Lane 852769

**Open The Book** Helen Stansfeld 852185  
*Not operating at present*

**Sunday Club** Joanna Beech 852312

**www.frittendenchurch.org.uk**

**Childline** 0800 1111

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

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

## OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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

**Friends of Frittenden School**  
*Chair* Beks Harding 712138

**Pre-school Manager**  
Sarah Davies 852100  
*Home* 852130

**Primary School Head of School**  
Nichola Costello 852250

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

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

**Marquee Hire** Mike Cooper 852108

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

**Parish Council**  
*Chairman* Tony Staples 852226

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

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

**Tennis Club**  
*Chair* Nigel Casswell 852772  
*Treasurer* John Marshall 852345

**Women's Institute**  
*President* Anne Holroyd 893256  
*Vice President* Valerie Reeves 852201  
*Secretary* Aneta Godwin 714150  
*Treasurer* Jenny Croucher 852468

**Youth Club**  
*Youth Work Manager* Beth Kemp 07936 948688  
beth.kemp@westkentymca.org.uk

## UNITED BENEFICE OF SISSINGHURST WITH FRITTENDEN FEBRUARY SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

### MARCH

**Fri 4th** 16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Memorial Hall

**Sat 5th** 8:00 United Benefice Prayer Breakfast at St Mary's

**Sun 6th** First Sunday in Lent  
10:00 Family Morning Worship - St Mary's  
11:15 Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary's

**Mon 7th** 9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's  
10:00 Little Lambs  
16:30 Open The Book Rehearsal  
19:30 Bell Ringing Practice  
19:30 PCC at Oakleaves, The Rectory

**Wed 9th** 9:00 SPACE for Lent - St Mary's  
14:30 CAMEO in St Mary's Church

**Fri 11th** 16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Venue TBC

**Sun 13th** Second Sunday in Lent  
10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's

**Mon 14th** 9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's  
10:00 Little Lambs  
19:30 Bell Ringing Practice

**Sun 20th** Third Sunday in Lent  
08:30 Holy Communion (BCP) - Trinity  
10:00 Holy Communion (CW) with Sunday Club - St Mary's  
16:00 Families Together - Trinity

**Mon 21st** 9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's  
10:00 Little Lambs  
16:30 Open The Book Rehearsal  
19:30 Bell Ringing Practice

**Wed 23rd** 9:00 SPACE for Lent - St Mary's

**Fri 25th** 16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Venue TBC

**Sun 27th** Mothering Sunday  
10:00 Morning Worship - St Mary's  
(No 5.30pm BCP)

**Mon 28th** 9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's  
10:00 Little Lambs  
19:30 Bell Ringing Practice

**Wed 30th** 9:00 SPACE for Lent - St Mary's

**Fri 31st** 13:00 Colin Reeves Memorial Service  
16:30 - 18:30 Youth Club - Venue TBC

Late changes - Please check on the church website for any changes to services or events - [frittendenchurch.org.uk](http://frittendenchurch.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Church rotas - Sunday Services

Date	Time	Sidesmen	Readers	Prayer	Sound	Coffee
2nd Mar	19:30	Rob Addis Judith Addis	Jeremy Beech Joanna Beech	John Stansfeld	John Dutton	-
6th Mar	10:00	Helen Stansfeld John Stansfeld	Pete to arrange	Pete to arrange	Debbie Haine	Beech
6th Mar	11:15	Peter Braggins	Margaret Knight Paul Wigram	-	John Stansfeld	-
13th Mar	10:00	Emma Griffin Edward Griffin	John Dutton Marian Dutton	Isobel Mehrabian	Judy Staples	Booth Clibborn
20th Mar	10:00	Janin Campos Mack Mehrabian	Emma Griffin Edward Griffin	Tony Staples	John Dutton	Braggins
27th Mar	10:00	Calvin Moore Helen Stansfeld	Elaine Highwood Isobel Mehrabian	Helen Stansfeld	Debbie Haine	Campos

**Flower Rota:** No flowers during Lent

**Cleaning Rota:** Henry and Nicky Robinson **Key Rota:** Francine Edmonds - 852450

# What is Confirmation?

**Covid finally caught up with our house just before Saturday 22nd January. We're very thankful to God that symptoms were few, that the home-schooling wasn't extended, and that we're all ok! Also very thankful that nothing got in the way of the Confirmation service taking place at St Lawrence Church, Hawkhurst, that day - and grateful for the technology which allowed me to join in virtually while I was keeping my distance.**

Five teenagers from our two parishes were confirmed by Bishop Rose, along with around 20 from other churches in the area. I wasn't the only one zooming in - it was wonderful to see folks join virtually from as far as South Africa!

But what is Confirmation, and why is it called that?

In the Church of England parents may bring their children for baptism (or christening as it's commonly referred to), often at an early age, before they can

speak for themselves. Parents and godparents make promises before God, reflecting the parents' desire that their child grows in faith and within the family of the church. These promises thankfully don't rely on parents' or godparents' ability to keep promises, but rely on our promise-keeping faithful God before whom the promises are made, along with the help and support of the family of the church, along the way.

Confirmation is when the child has grown up and comes to the point where she or he wants to confirm those promises made on their behalf. The Bishop, representing the Church, prays for the Holy Spirit to fill them - God's power at work in his children - and we celebrate that those promises are being confirmed. But Confirmation isn't the preserve only of teenagers - I'm talking to a couple of former teenagers about possible Confirmation, and would love to hear from anyone, young or old, who'd like to explore this further.



# Following my nose...

Being an avid cyclist but a reluctant technology user, my preferred way of navigating ranges between a torn-out road atlas page, and simply following my nose.

Which is what I was doing the other day, teaming up with a friend even newer to the area than me. We started out skirting around Staplehurst - nothing against it, just keen to head onwards and upwards... Some familiar roads vaguely towards Smarden, then a couple of signpost-less junctions, where we randomly picked which road to take...

Quiet, peaceful country roads with next-to no cars. Glorious vistas stretching lazily away from us, dappled sunlight picking out the rich textures of the fields. And then a welcome sign: "Headcorn 3 miles." Ah, so now I know roughly where we are - and only three miles til the coffee stop! But that's when it got a bit weird.

The road does seem familiar - but I can't quite place it. I'm trying to fathom which direction we'll be coming in to Headcorn from. A moment of recognition: "Yes, I know this road!" I shout to Richard. It's got to be that Headcorn-Lenham road I always buzz along on my moped every few weeks on my way to a meeting.

But the next stretch seems less familiar, and I'm only 80% sure it's that exact road. Further on looks more familiar again, and I holler to my friend that I'm back up to 95% certainty. Then a section I completely didn't expect to be there - and back down to 50%!

It was only when Richard and I passed those trees, scene to that tragedy (thoughts and prayers for all those affected) that I was 100% confident that it was indeed that road, and the disorientation ended. Over my flat white, I mused about just how disoriented I had been, until I reached those trees. Encountering that route by bike, not moped, felt completely different.

The season of Lent leads us the path Jesus followers took en route to Easter, through confusion and disorientation. It was only when they reached the scene of Jesus' tragic death, followed by his glorious rising to new life, that their disorientation was replaced by confidence and certainty.

And it's as we walk the path they walked, facing the uncomfortable but transforming truth of Jesus' death and resurrection, it's only then that our confusion and doubts can be replaced by certain confidence.

Lent for some is about holding off from the chocolates - I could certainly do with that! But let's not miss the opportunity to see how the good news of Jesus speaks to our disorientation. Why not download the popular youversion.com Bible app, and check out Lent for Everyone by renowned theologian Tom Wright - I'd love to know what you make of it.

**Every blessing for Lent,  
Pete**





# A Hymn for Farming

Margaret Friswell

Lord, bring the day to pass  
 When forest, rock and hill,  
 The beasts, the birds, the grass,  
 Will know your finished will:  
 When we attain your destiny  
 And nature lives in harmony.

Give us when we release  
 Creation's secret powers  
 To harness them for peace,  
 Our children's peace and ours:  
 Teach us the art of mastering  
 In servant form, which draws death's sting.

Forgive our careless use  
 Of water, ore and soil-  
 The plenty we abuse  
 Supplied by others' toil:  
 Save us from making self our creed  
 Turn us towards each other's need.

Creation groans, travails,  
 futile its present plight;  
 Bound - till the hour it hails.  
 God's children born of light  
 Who enter on their true estate,  
 Come, Lord: new heavens and earth create

Suggested tune: Handel ('Rejoice, the Lord is king')

Hymn by Ian Masson Fraser (1964) raising questions of ecology and the care of the earth.

We welcome reflections to [frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com) – a poem, prayer, thought... something to help us pause and reflect.

# March is full of hope...



Winter is finally turning into early Spring; daffodils are breaking through, the weather (we hope) is becoming calmer than the past couple of weeks. ... and self-isolation rules are being lifted.

Delighted to share this latest edition of our Parish magazine. Highlights include:

- Queens Platinum Jubilee Poem 'save the date' celebrations (page 20/21)
- In the March magazine 70 years ago ...a letter from the then Rector Stanley S Edwards concerning the death of King George VI (page 13)
- Hubert Ashton shares his experience of livery companies (page 29)

- We say a special thank you to David Manger who retires after 22 years as Frittenden Tower Captain (page 17)
- and informative and fun updates from Frittenden Primary and Pre-School (page 8--11)

Thank you for all your support and especially to all those who have submitted articles, pictures, and village information

Let's keep connecting our community.

**James Booth-Clibborn**  
 Editor  
[frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com)

## Colin Reeves Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Colin on Thursday 31st March, which would have been his 82nd birthday. Anyone who knew Colin is welcome to attend, but can you let me know please – 852201 – if you'd like to come, to give me an idea of how many to expect! As we were only allowed five people at his burial service, this is an opportunity to give him a very belated send off! **Valerie Reeves**

## LITTLE LAMBS

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



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

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

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

# We have had such a busy term!

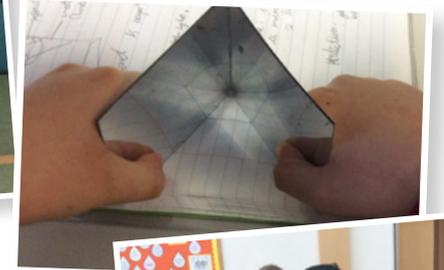
Ms Costello

Potter Class have been learning about other countries. Last week they celebrated the lunar new year in China. They set up a Chinese takeaway: and they wrote their own orders and even cooked noodles! They have recently set up their own cafe in class and the children are enjoying visiting it daily for healthy snacks.



Dahl Class have been creating balloon models – linked to science; and learning to sew! They have been doing some gardening in their outside space, getting ready for spring planting. The entire school had skateboarding lessons last week: Emily really enjoyed it!

Some of the children in Wells Class took part in a hockey festival last week, they did really well and were all very proud of them. They have been learning about light, how it travels, refracting light and changing the path it travels.



Shakespeare Class have enjoyed the skateboarding too. They were particularly good at supporting one another and being encouraging. In Gym the children can be seen practicing balancing.





**Hello from the littlest people in the village.**

With 22 children currently enrolled, there is always lots happening at preschool. We learn through play and spend our days engrossed in all sorts of play opportunities. Sensory play is a BIG favourite: Sand, shaving foam, play dough, water, gloop and slime. We love it all...luckily, so do the staff!



Being situated in the heart of the village, we are so lucky to be able to walk to the park, play in the paddock, head off over the fields to the woods and make visits to the shop, church and (when Covid restrictions lift) seeing our old friends in Larchmere House.

We took part in the Nativity Trail before Christmas and got

to hold our own Nativity performance in the church, the first one we have been able to do in over 2 years!



Since the library bus has returned to the village, we love to visit Jo, choosing books from her and reading them at mat time. This February we took part in the RSPB bird watch using books borrowed from the library as reference.



Did you know that we are a parent-led committee run preschool? We rely on the kindness of our families and the villagers to keep our little preschool thriving, through local children attending, donations and offers of help. We are currently looking to improve our outdoor space by demolishing a shed and building a raised decking area.



**Could you help our vision come to life? Could you lend a hand? Do you have carpentry skills? Or if you'd like to donate to this project. Please contact Sarah Davies on 852100. Thank you.**



**From the kitchen of the Old Dragon.**

We can offer you a large range of homemade preserves, jams, marmalades, chutneys, sauces and curds.

Free from preservatives. We use locally sourced fruit and vegetables whenever possible.

**Call Jenny & Tim anytime on 01580 852 468**

# Sissinghurst Castle in WW2

Sue Betts

Our January talk focussed on some of the history of Sissinghurst Castle Estate and the local area during the second World War. Our speaker was Peter Mellor, a National Trust volunteer for 25 years specialising in the estate's history.

Sissinghurst was bought by Vita Sackville-West in 1930 and she lived there with her husband, Harold Nicolson. During the war years they saw much of the Battle of Britain being fought over the Weald and Vita recalled watching as many as 40 planes pass overhead. On one occasion, a maid asked whether Vita would like lunch to be taken outdoors so she could watch the aerial display. Even at a dark period of the war, however, the Nicolson's "lost none of their intellectual and aristocratic aloofness".

In 1940, Harold was invited by Churchill to join the government as Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Information.

Vita did work for the Women's Land Army, though it seems she did not enjoy this. Their son, Nigel Nicolson, was in the Grenadier Guards, serving in both the Tunisian and Italian Campaigns in 1942 and 1944, respectively. The death of Nigel's commanding officer in Tunisia had a great effect on Nigel and a stone at the gate from Sissinghurst's rose garden bears the inscription Medjez el Bab, a Tunisian town and Commonwealth War Grave site.



There were a number of civilian units established in 1940 to support the Armed Forces which Sissinghurst staff and villagers joined.

The Home Guard was initially called the Local Defence Volunteers or LDV, and nicknamed 'Look, Duck and Vanish'. Sissinghurst's Home Guard was commanded by the Estate Manager, Captain Beale, who had received a Military Cross in WW1. The unit used the castle tower as a look-out post which Vita liked as the men looked "picturesque over the parapet".

Some of the Home Guard were covertly also members of Auxiliary Units which, in the event of invasion, were to have responsibility for sabotage behind the lines. Service in these units was expected to be highly dangerous with a short life expectancy and priority was given to Kent and Sussex. Captain Peter Fleming, brother of Ian Fleming, was at one time head of the local Unit.

Separate from the Home Guard was the Special Duties Branch, led by officers from Military Intelligence and initially formed of a network of civilian observers who could pass on key information.

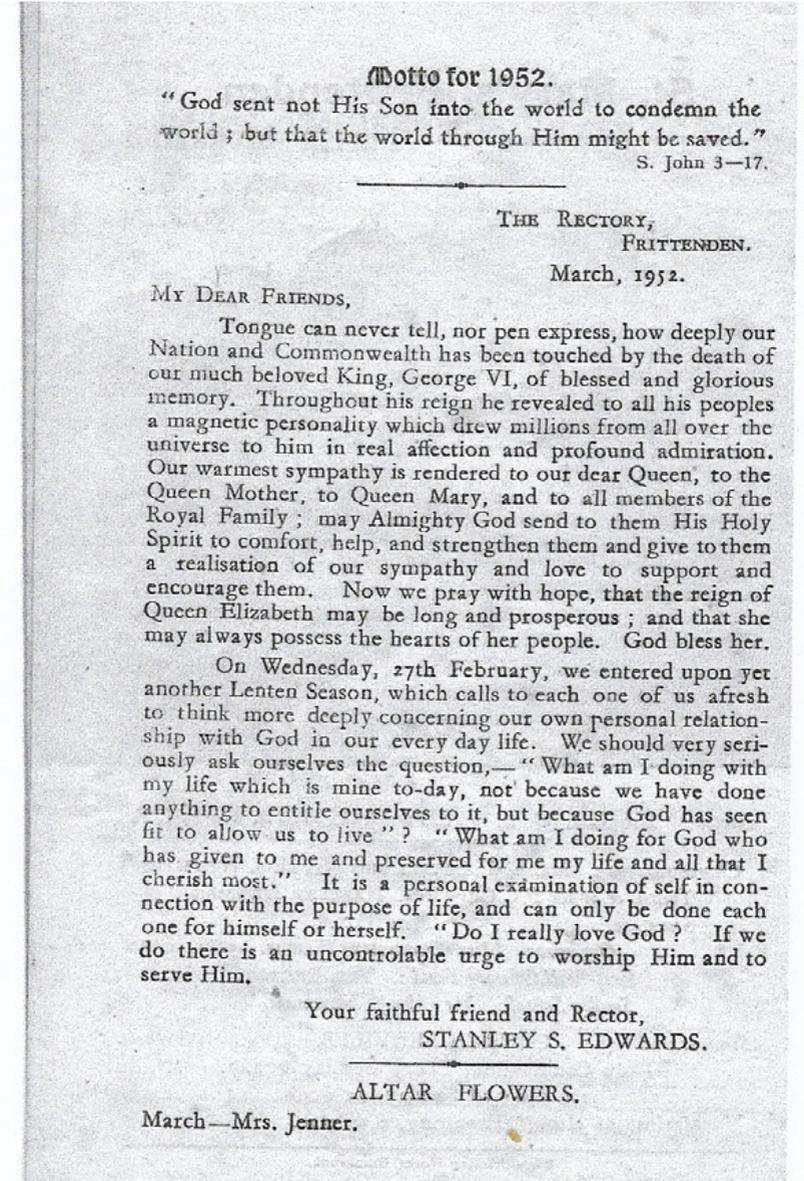
Aerial photos taken during the early 1940's show that the overall layout of the estate buildings has changed little over the years, with original farm buildings now being used as the shop, tea room, etc.

But there are now no signs of the temporary grass air strip created in 1943.

Peter brought with him various items of WWII militaria, including medals and assorted (de-activated) weapons, such as a bayonet, pistol, Sten gun, Lee Enfield rifle, and a German stick bomb. There was also a British grenade: Peter explained that while the furthest this could be thrown was 35 yards, the blast unhelpfully reached back 50 yards. So 'Look, Duck and Vanish' was probably the best strategy.

## In this magazine 70 years ago

Bernard Millard





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Photography by Hazel Gosbee

## Cirrus clouds above the Weald

We welcome monthly photography submissions accompanied by a caption to [frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com)

# Something to Ring For!

Rebecca Steele

For centuries church bells have sounded across English villages to let locals know of important events; invasion, deaths, weddings and MOST importantly Pancake Day!



foods that may be given up for Lent and the well know pancake race tradition was started.

The first ever pancake race supposedly occurred when a housewife, cooking pancakes in the Buckinghamshire village of Olney, was reminded by the 11:00 Shrivng Bell that she should be at church. She rushed down the High Street in her apron, still clutching her frying pan complete with pancake. Olney still celebrates this occurrence with their annual pancake race on Shrove Tuesday, started of course by the sound of the pancake bell from the church tower.

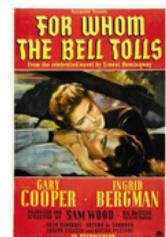
Another possible origin of the race, which I personally prefer, is that the pancakes were a bribe for the bell ringers to sound the bell early, thereby getting the apprentices off work and the holiday started early. Maybe we should resurrect the pancake bell in Frittenden? I am sure the pancakes at the Bell & Jorlocks would have everyone racing down the hill in record time. It's just a pity that Shrove Tuesday is no longer a half-holiday.....



By the time this March magazine lands on your doormat it will be Shrove Tuesday. A day that all sweet-toothed Frittenden

residents look forward to as a chance to indulge.

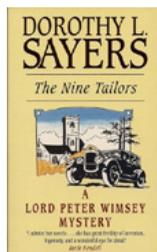
Shrove Tuesday was, in years gone by, a half-holiday and apprentices were given the afternoon off to celebrate the start of Lent. Festivities and fairs were common and a church bell was rung at 11:00 am to signify the end of work and the start of celebrations. This was the day that people made pancakes to use up



## For Whom The Bell Tolls....

For hundreds of years it was traditional to ring when a person was dying in order to protect the soul from the devil or evil spirits while on its journey. This was known as the 'Passing Bell'. Later it seems that the tradition changed slightly, so that the tolling took place after the death. Communities would be able to tell who had died by the number of times the bell was tolled. The bell would be tolled nine times, in three groups of three for a man; or six times, in two groups of three, for a woman. These six or nine "Tellers" would be followed by further tolls totalling the age of the deceased. This tolling was known as the "Nine Tailors", a name probably corrupted from "Nine Tellers", or maybe "tollers".

The tolling of a bell signifying a death was made famous in literature by Earnest Hemmingway and subsequently on the screen by Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman however Dorothy L Sayers beat Hemmingway to it with her Lord Peter Wimsey novel, written in 1934 and still the best and most accurate work of fiction based in the ringing world. If you haven't done so already, please do read the adventures of Lord Peter Wimsey but don't let the murder weapon put you off coming along to Frittenden Ringing Room at 7:30pm on a Monday evening.....



# O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells.... Richard Steele



After twenty two years serving the Frittenden community, David Manger has made the decision to stand down from the role of Frittenden Tower Captain. David, well supported by his wife Pam, has been involved with Frittenden Tower since 1966 and, over this time, has been instrumental in the Frittenden band winning and performing well in many competitions across Kent.



In 1966 David moved to Knoxbridge from Chelsfield. At the time there was no regular ringing at Frittenden. Harry Baker and his wife Alice were the only members of the Kent Association listed in the Frittenden band at the time and David joined them to provide ringing on Sundays, assisted by ringers from neighbouring towers. Alice Baker died in January 1972 and David organised a quarter peal to be rung at Frittenden in her memory, assisted by ringers from Maidstone and other neighbouring towers. This was the first significant length ringing in the tower for a number of years.

In 1973 Jack Poile decided to try to rebuild a local Frittenden band and took on the role of Tower Captain. He encouraged others from the village to join, notably the Bourne brothers who rang at Frittenden for many years. At this time David was commuting to London daily and could not commit to being available for weekly practices so, in 1975, when Jack Poile stood down as Tower Captain, Alan Bourne was persuaded to take up the role.

Alan and David taught many new ringers over the years with many familiar names in the village having a turn in the band. They concentrated on improving ringing quality for the enjoyment of Frittenden residents. The band achieved a high standard of ringing and performed well in competitions across the county for more than 20 years. Notably, in 1999 the Frittenden Band came first in the District Call Change Competition and then in 2000 the band were awarded first place in the County Striking competition.



In 2000, after 25 years, Alan Bourne retired as Tower Captain and, having recently retired from South African Airways, David was persuaded to take on the tower captaincy. In 2009 David was elected as a Vice President of the Kent County Association and awarded with honorary life membership in recognition of outstanding services to the Association. This is a position awarded to only thirty seven people since the Association was formed in 1890.



Coronavirus brought about the longest break from ringing since David started in 1952. The stairs at St Mary's now seem a little steeper and a little longer and so David has decided that it is now time to pass on some of the responsibility. I am very glad to say that he has agreed to remain in the role of Ringing Master to ensure that standards don't slip too much!

There are currently twelve members of the Frittenden Band, with ages ranging from 14 to 84 and we look forward to teaching any Frittenden residents who may be interested in learning. As long as you can manage those stairs!

# Gosbee's Gossip

Lester Gosbee

**This year, we will be celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Queen Elizabeth II is the longest serving monarch in Europe. She is a lady with an outstanding sense of duty, and still working to carry out her duties. She will be 96 on 21st April. To mark and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, a Committee has been formed to make it a weekend to remember. The Committee have many exciting ideas for bank holiday (see page 20/21). Our enthusiastic landlady Rosie is also helping. Nearer the time, volunteers will be needed to bring it all together. There could be a mini fête, and we are on the look out for a Tug of War rope, if anyone has one that we could borrow?**

The idea of holding another Village Fun Run this Easter has been suggested. If you are new to Frittenden, the course is from the Bell and Jorrocks, up the Cranbrook Road to Dig Dog Lane, Sand Lane, then back up Biddenden Road back to the pub. It is around three and a third miles, and is followed by a barbecue at the B & J. The previous fun runs have been a great way of raising

funds of local and national charities. I have previously taken part, being pushed in a pram by Roger Burgess, but I don't think that my body would cope with that now (nor would Roger's I expect!). Previous Fun Runs have raised money for Epilepsy and Heart and Kidney disease charities.

I am sure that many readers are horrified at the reports of the threat of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Hopefully, the Russians will be persuaded by the west that this is not a good idea. The last thing that the world needs after the ongoing Covid crisis is World War 3. If Russia does invade Ukraine, would any of the Baltic countries be safe?. Ukraine could be turned into another Afghanistan.

Hazel and her 3 sisters have set themselves the challenge to walk up Mount Snowdon, in Wales this summer. They are in training, going on long walks most weekends, with support and company from many other family members.

I watched some of the coverage of the Brit Awards. This year they have made the Best Male and Best Female artist category a gender neutral Best Artist category. I did smile when Adele won, and said in her acceptance speech that she loves being a woman. One in the eye for the woke society.

With the pending energy crisis looming, I think that the Government

should lift the ban on fracking. I read that the UK is sitting on 1.3 trillion cubic feet of shale gas. This could make the UK less dependable on imported energy at exorbitant prices. Hopefully, in time, greener energy will make us less dependable on fossil fuels.

I have been watching some of the winter Olympics, and on day 10, we have yet to win any medals. Hopefully we will get something from the curling.

Just a reminder, could all dog walkers please remember to take a few poo bags when you go for a walk. The Parish Council have two poo bag dispensers, one in the parish field and one by the

War Memorial in Biddenden Road. These are intended for dog walkers who have forgotten to bring a bag, but they seem to be disappearing at an alarming rate as soon as the dispensers are refilled. The parish field and the villages footpaths are for all to enjoy, and dog mess can be especially harmful to young children, so please be a responsible dog owner.

**Finally a joke or two: When I play golf, I always wear two pairs of pants. Why? In case I get a hole in one.**

**Did you hear about the hyena who drank a pint of gravy? He was a laughing stock.**



01580 893152

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## Jubilee!

This summer there's something to fill you with glee:  
The first days of June see the Queen's Jubilee!  
Yes, really! She's ruled us for seventy years,  
So hear what we're planning as festive time nears:

Processions and lanterns; the bells they will peal;  
The beacon will light up - oh yes, the real deal!  
Our concert will gladden the ears and the brain,  
And pleasure the palate, as wine flows again.

If puppets appeal, there's a workshop for you;  
Or set up a table that's wondrous to view;  
Eat, drink and be merry, and dance if you will -  
There's music of all sorts, your feet won't stay still.

A Thanksgiving service on Sunday there'll be,  
So we can say "Thank you" to Her Majesty.  
Can you make a crown? Or a pudding with pride?  
We've prizes to win, and our "Queen" will preside.  
Eat lunch all together, with barbecue fare,  
Then join in the games, and see vehicles so rare.

So why go a-roving to faraway places?  
Enjoy the fun here, with familiar faces!



And don't forget we all want to view



gardens bright with red, white and blue

# Save the date!

## Frittenden is celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - June 2nd- June 5th



Our Jubilee preparations are progressing well. We've lots of ideas for the long holiday weekend as you can see on the opposite page. Here is a draft plan of how we are trying to fit them all together, but some of the details may change as we firm up our plans.

Throughout the weekend the Historical Society will have an exhibition on display.

Our celebrations will continue during June with a series of Applause events, on Saturday June 11th, Sunday June 19th and Saturday June 25th, which will be celebrating the reopening of our refurbished Memorial Hall, as well as the Jubilee. Mike Fitzgerald and Rosalind Riley will be providing details of these events in due course.

All are celebrations are intended for the whole community: we want to make sure there is something for everyone. As details fall into place we'll update you with timings, booking arrangements and prices where appropriate (we're aiming to keep prices to a minimum).

For the moment:

- Make a note of the dates.
- Think if you can help in any way with these events and let us know.
- Let the Historical Society know (Phil Betts or Tor Millard) if you have any memorabilia.
- Think about growing some red, white and blue flowers in your front gardens.

We hope to see you there!

**Tony Staples**

(with help from Frittenden's answer to the Poet Laureate, aka Judy!)

On behalf of the Frittenden Jubilee organising committee:-

Chris and Jackie Brown	Anne Holroyd
Rosie Croucher	Lester Gosbee
Heather Cullingworth	Rosalind Riley
Barbara Dunn	Tony and Judy Staples
Mike Fitzgerald	

Thursday 2nd June	
Morning	
Afternoon	<b>Lantern-making workshop</b> (in the Memorial Hall)
Evening	<b>Lantern procession</b> (to the War Memorial) <b>Peal of bells</b> <b>Beacon lighting</b>

Friday 3rd June	
Morning	
Afternoon	
Evening	<b>Concert</b> (in St Mary's)

Saturday 4th June	
Morning	
Afternoon	<b>Table decoration competition*</b> <b>Puppetry workshop*</b> (Parish Field)
Evening	<b>Village Supper*</b> <b>Music and dancing</b> (Parish Field)

Sunday 5th June	
Morning	<b>Thanksgiving service</b> (in St Mary's) <b>Barbecue lunch*</b> (Parish Field*)
Afternoon	<b>Classic car parade</b> <b>Games and Fete</b> <b>Crown and Pudding Competitions*</b> (Parish Field)
Evening	Relax!

\*These events will be in the marquees.

# *Celebrate Mothers Day*

*With a complimentary glass of bubbles, for the*

*Mums*

*On arrival for lunch*



# *The Bell & Jorrocks*

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March*



## **Are you interested in joining the governing board of Frittenden Primary School?**

We have vacancies for two people to join our board that will provide an opportunity to work with us as we support the staff and children in our school.

If you are interested and would like to talk through this opportunity please contact Helen Stansfeld at

**[helen.stansfeld@frittenden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:helen.stansfeld@frittenden.kent.sch.uk)  
or 01580 852185**

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# Keep your friends close and your Pizza closer!

Becky Bruce

As I write this we should all be thinking about 'battening down the hatches' as storm Eunice approaches !

Here at Larchmere everyone is safe and very much looking forward to March and hopefully the promise of Spring and better weather.

I once heard a quote "Keep your friends close and your Pizza closer" - Well this month the residents had their chance at making their own pizzas to eat and boy were they good! Never done before at Larchmere, but with Dean Martin singing 'That's Amore - when the sun hits your eye like a big pizza pie' in the background the residents got ready to make their own. Our lovely Rose prepared a variety of toppings for them to sprinkle on their dough (which residents happily stretched into their desired pizza shape). Cheese, tomato, mushrooms, sausage, onion, olives and even the very controversial pineapple were

on offer !!! Great fun - flour and bits of pizza everywhere and a lot of people speaking an Italian accent badly. So much fun !

We had our 'romantics' making Valentine's cards this month - when asked who they wanted to send them to, they all wanted to send them to the staff, for all the hard work they do ! Awwww.

Also, we had one of our ladies Birthday fall on Valentine's Day and we have to let you see a picture of her special day.

Our Rainbow computer table, which so many people from the village kindly contributed to is still proving its worth. We have a couple of gentleman play solitaire on it as well as other games and one helps the other. Also the ladies (in particular)

like touching the screen and creating fireworks,



colours etc, as they swipe their hand across the screen which always brings a whoop of excitement !

I had a chat with Barbara in the village about how Frittenden is putting on the most amazing

Jubilee celebrations in

June and we are so excited in joining in and making this an event to remember for all. It's a hot topic of conversation at Larchmere plus this July we have the centenary of one of our beloved residents so we want to make an extra special occasion out of this too (maybe another excuse for a party). Also,



cross fingers, we will have our Strawberry Summer Fair this year, after not being able to hold it for the last couple of years.

Last, but not least, we have just had the best lunch at the B&J. Food was excellent as usual and Sean and Rosie provided the perfect environment for a special lunch. We are scheduling a visit once a month again - the residents so look forward to this. As CoVid starts to ease we can take our residents out more and hopefully before too long things will get back to normal (fingers crossed again). Note to Sean and Rosie on how good their food was - most residents were asleep by the time they returned to Larchmere !



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# What could happen if we do nothing about climate change?

Amy Moxey, Year 9  
Cranbrook School

**Climate change, we hear ideas about how to mitigate it all the time. But what would happen if we did nothing? Just carried on as usual? What state would our planet be in if we made no efforts to save it?**

Imagine it is 2050, we decided to ignore the climate crisis and carry on with our lives. The Earth is getting hotter, irreversibly so, parts of the planet are now inhabitable as it is simply too hot. Trees had absorbed carbon dioxide for many years but now most of the forests have been chopped down for wood or burnt by wildfires. Higher sea temperatures mean there are many more tropical storms so coastal cities have experienced catastrophic hurricanes and damage. Many people have been killed as a result of these storms and even more find themselves displaced. Now as people move to higher ground to escape flooding, places become densely populated and disease is rampant. People who have nowhere else to go find themselves living in houses flooded with water, coughing and suffering from respiratory problems due to the mould. Even if they did leave, they are only going to end up in a highly populated city or town, where people fight over the food and water

sources there still are. The conflict problems are only worsened with the constant waves of immigration coming from places that have become almost unbearable to live in, the cities cannot cope, there is not enough water for everyone. More people are starving as there is lots of food insecurity and prices have risen. Life is extremely difficult, and sense of guilt consumes people. Why didn't we do something when we had the chance?

This dystopian future would be a result of doing nothing, yet we as families and as a wider population are doing what we can. In 2021 190,729 electric or hybrid cars were sold. Electric cars cause significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than petrol or diesel cars. We can all do something to help limit climate change, it's not out of your control! For example, walking where you can or using public transport, one bus is a lot better for the planet than 50 cars! Solar power doesn't release any greenhouse gas, so they are a more environmentally friendly option. Even if you don't have solar panels, by switching to energy efficient appliances you reduce the electricity needed. Lots of our electricity and heat comes from gas, coal and oil, these release greenhouse gases.

Do something now. Or do you fancy living in a world battered by storms, overrun with riots, stripped of food and sweltering in an unbearable heat? This generation has the power to prevent a crisis, to make sure our children, the next generation, have a future.

Why would you not want to help?

**Taken from and with thanks to  
Cranbuzz the student produced  
Cranbrook School newsletter**

**So February came and went, and most of the planned music took place. Audiences in some cases were a bit thin, but from what I saw the pantos were very well attended. March has a good selection of events, and restrictions look like being very light, so go out and enjoy the music!**

**Sat 5th March** 7.30pm at St. Nicholas Church, Rectory Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 1JA, Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra concert includes Brahms's Tragic Overture and Sibelius's Symphony No2. Tickets at the door or from website <https://sevenoakssymphonyorchestra.org.uk>

**Sat 12th March** 7.00pm at Rochester Cathedral, Rochester Choral Society sings Handel's Messiah. Tickets from [tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk](mailto:tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk)

**Sat 26th March** 7.30pm at St. Nicholas Church, Poplar Grove, Allington, ME16 0DE, Maidstone Choral Union will perform Chilcott's St. John Passion and H. Schutz's Die sieben works. Tickets [mcuconcertmanager@gmail.com](mailto:mcuconcertmanager@gmail.com) or at the door.

**Also on Sat 26th March** 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, ME15 7RN, the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra continues its season with

a concert that includes Dvorak's Cello concerto and Frank's Symphony in D minor. Tickets 07817 429143

**Sat 2nd April** 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted, ME14 4EE, Bearsted Choral Society perform Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah. Tickets 0333 6663366

While I haven't any forward programme for TV in March, for those stopping at home I can point to two special concerts on radio3:

**On 4th March** at 7.30pm, to celebrate 40 years of the Barbican Centre London, the concert broadcast from the Centre includes Judith Weir's choral work Concrete and Elgar's Cello Concerto. The latter was performed at the venue's very first concert in 1982.

**On 15th March** at 7.30pm the concert by the Nash Ensemble re-creates Dame Myra Hesse's legendary recitals preformed at the National Gallery during World War II. These featured popular composers of the time including Bax, Ireland and Warlock.

**Brian Hardy**

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# Livery companies

## Hubert Ashton - Master of Skinners' Company (July)

The first mention of clothes in the bible is in Genesis when Adam and Eve 'realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves' (Gen 3.7). A little later on 'The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them' (Gen 3.21) to hide both their shame (as sinners) and maybe to keep them warm.

Livery used to mean a smart form of dress, which was associated with what was worn in a nobleman's house to identify him from another household. In medieval times groups of people started to trade in goods (especially in clothing) and formed guilds to do so. They regulated how such trades were operated including such matters as the quality of the trade and working conditions. Exclusive monopolies in particular goods and trades evolved into the King granting Royal Charters to different guilds for particular goods as diverse as furs, salt, iron, fish and wine. Philanthropy has always been at the heart of the livery companies and people who made money trading in such businesses often gave back to their company either while they were alive or, more often, after they died.

Today there are currently 110 livery companies comprising London's trade associations and guilds, the oldest was formed in the 13th century and the youngest in the 21st century. They have an order of precedence originally derived from when the Great 12 livery companies rowed behind the King on the Thames.

Most livery companies have a Master and Wardens, a Court, Livery and Freepeople. Membership is principally through the previous involvement of a parent or apprenticeship. Some companies

still exercise a trade function-for example the Goldsmiths oversee the Assay Office where objects made of precious metals are tested for purity.

I am a Skinner. The Skinners' Company used to be involved in fur trade. Not today. But we are the recipient of the generosity of former Skinners, one notable former Lord Mayor of London and Skinner being Sir Andrew Judd who founded the independent school, Tonbridge School, in 1553. Apart from Tonbridge today we are also responsible for 7 other schools: two selective grammar schools (Judd and Skinners); three academies (Skinners Kent, Marsh and Skinners Hackney) as well as a primary school (Skinners Kent) and an independent prep school (New Beacon). We provide well over 100 governors to the various schools. All Skinners provide their services for free.

In addition to education Skinners are involved in the provision of almshouses, charities and have other education and military affiliations. There is a Hall, with an unusual address of 8 1/2 Dowgate Hill, in the City of London (which is being refurbished and will not reopen until at least 2024) where we meet. Having fellowship with others is a happy by-product of being involved with the company.

Sometimes people think livery companies are secretive but nothing could be further from the truth. Many, including Skinners, have a Christian foundation although people of all and no religions are welcomed. Skinners' mottos are 'In Christo fratres' (brothers in Christ)-which is a little outdated as both men and women are involved- as well as 'To God only be all glory'. Our Royal charter was granted in 1327 but it is thought the guild existed for many years before that.

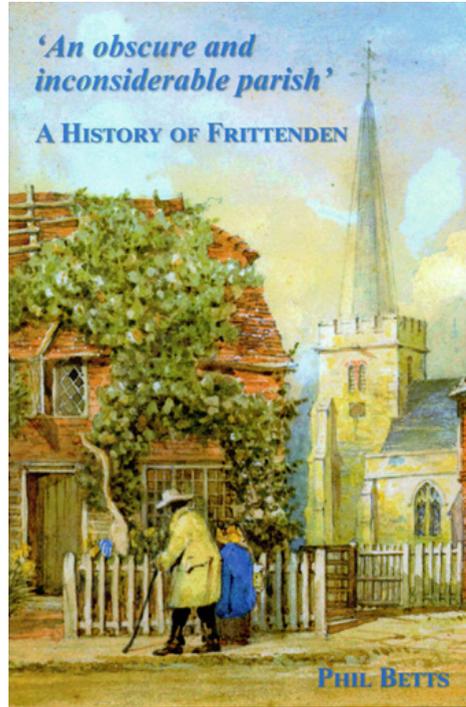
For a reason that is still beyond me (they must be desperate!), subject to election in June, I am to be Master of the Skinners' Company from this July to July 2023. It will be a busy year serving in the community. The year starts with a reception at one of our Liverymen's homes (aka Archbishop Justin's Lambeth Palace). There can't be many times in life that I shall have an Archbishop 'under' me!

# A History of Frittenden By Phil Betts

Review by Mike Cooper

I love reading and have very catholic tastes ranging from novels to science fiction, from humour to poetry, from travel to fantasy, but I do not usually read history books at all. Did I not live in Frittenden (and know Phil) it is highly unlikely that I would have even opened – let alone bought - a history book subtitled ‘an obscure and inconsiderable parish’, and it is near to inconceivable that I would be reviewing it! So, gentle reader, be patient with this my very first book review of probably the first history book I have read since leaving school...

Having finished my confession, it is with great pleasure that I can report that I hugely enjoyed reading Phil's book. As anyone who knows him would expect, it is a patently studious work, packed with detail and carefully cross-referenced to multiple sources of supporting evidence, and with an almost daunting, but fascinating, amount of additional information in the eleven appendices. And yet, I found it not only very readable, but sufficiently absorbing to lose myself in it for sometimes rather embarrassingly long periods of time. This became increasingly the case as we moved forward in time and the historical evidence, inevitably quite sketchy to begin with, became more and more illuminating. Phil also manages to inject the humorous, the unexpected, even the bizarre, to keep the reader engaged and awaiting another surprise.



For me the book provided two quite different sources of interest and pleasure. The first was an all-encompassing picture of the development of the village, its inhabitants and their *raison d'être*, and the trials and tribulations that had to be faced and hopefully overcome. It was often a surprise to see the big picture, and indeed realise how difficult, even bad, life had been from time to time.

The second was the many times when something I was vaguely aware of but certainly had no real knowledge or understanding of was brought into sharp focus by the detailed explanation of its gestation or origin or cause. The differing ‘shape’ of clusters of farm buildings, or the various issues where Kent was yet again at odds with the national norm, are but two examples of this most agreeable ‘education’.

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# The Village Tents

## Mike Cooper

We have three tents, two being 12m x 6m – 40ft x 20ft, and the third 6m x 6m – 20ft x 20ft, which are available separately or together. They can be put together in various ways to suit your requirements, and I am happy to visit you well in advance to discuss layout. A smooth and relatively level site is required.

The rates below include provision of lighting, in the form of garden up-lighters, and all necessary cabling. They also include erection and strike of the tents by our team of volunteers.

Equipment and Rates to borrow:

Item	Village organisations	Individuals
One large marquee	£100.00	£200.00
The half size one	£75.00	£125.00
Gas barbecue*	£20.00	£40.00

\*Supplied with a cylinder of gas, and a standby. The BBQ must be returned thoroughly cleaned.

Payment is preferred by BACS, to a/c name Frittenden Parish Council, a/c no 20429140, sort code 60-83-01 with your surname as the reference. If BACS is not possible, please give the Team a cheque in favour of Frittenden Parish Council.

What do we do with the money raised? After maintaining the tents and buying replacement parts as necessary, we donate excess funds to village organisations – in total since we started approaching £25,000.

Items for hire from the Memorial Hall – Hirer to collect and return, and £25 deposit required.

Upholstered chairs	60 off each per day £2.00
Folding chairs	100 off each per day £1.00
Small folding tables	12 off each per day £2.00
Large folding tables	10 off each per day £5.00

### Additional items

If you are having a large event and require additional equipment, such as matting to put down inside the tents, space heaters or a chiller trailer, these are available from Brooks Marquees, as are tables and chairs if the Memorial Hall does not have availability. Contact is Tom Brooks, but in the season he is a very busy man so please be patient if it takes a while for him to respond to your messages. Tel 01622 844874, email [info@brooksmarquees.com](mailto:info@brooksmarquees.com), or visit their website <http://www.brooksmarquees.com> Note that Brooks Marquees have recently introduced a minimum order charge of £500 + VAT so their 'add-ons' are no longer economic for small events. Acorn Hire in Staplehurst (01580 891234) hire out gas space heaters for £22/day and we can provide the necessary gas bottle as we hold stock for the BBQ. Matting may be available from other local tent hire companies like Jubilee for example, but Four Jays have recently closed down their marquee business so can no longer supply.

### Bookings.

For tables and chairs, contact the Village Hall bookings secretary, Eileen Bridges (563). For all other items contact Mike Cooper (108). We already have a number of bookings for this season, so if you are planning an event do make a provisional booking as early as you can – there is no charge for doing so.

### Insurance.

Given the value of the items - £1000 for each of the tents - all borrowers are required to confirm that they undertake to pay for any damage to or loss of items borrowed, by way of insurance.

Private individuals can make an arrangement with their own household contents insurers to cover the items for the duration of the loan, if there is not already cover in the policy for borrowed items. If you need to speak to them be sure to emphasise that you are borrowing,

not hiring, the kit from the village with approx value of, say, £1000, You may incur either an administration charge or a small fee, but in our experience most insurers will provide this cover free.

Societies or clubs should either use their existing insurer, or take out event insurance which can cover various liabilities, including the kit.

### Important – please note.

These items belong to Frittenden, and Frittenden volunteers maintain them, erect and strike them, and generally run the show, free of charge for the benefit of the village, and they are only available for use within the village. So please, don't be tempted to enthuse to a friend outside of the village about what a great deal you got, as a request from elsewhere will be politely but firmly refused, and may cause ill-feeling....



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# The violin: many stories to tell



“When you play a violin piece, you are telling a story” (Joshua Bell). And the violin has many diverse stories to tell.

Have you heard of a rabab, Devil’s instrument or a pochette? They are some of the words used for a violin over the years. The Arabic rabab was the ancestor of all European bowed instruments. A medieval legend recounts that Satan played the violin to lure people to dance into hell. A pochette was a pocket-sized violin that dancing masters carried to accompany their students in the 18th century.

The violin is traditionally one of the most important instruments in a classical orchestra. In fact, before the 1700s, the leader of the first violin section led the whole orchestra. However, the violin is much more than a classical instrument in the European tradition. The violin, or fiddle, has a key role in folk music and often accompanies dancers, ranging from traditional Irish music (like “Riverdance”), through a Scottish ceilidh, to New England’s country dance, western swing and upbeat bluegrass music in the upper South of the USA. Violin players like Nicola Benedetti, Vanessa Mae and Nigel Kennedy have crossed the boundaries of different genres to bring the violin into pop music as a star instrument in its own right. But the violin also features in many other pop songs, such as “Fisherman Blues” by the Waterboys, “Eleanor Rigby” by the Beatles and “I See Fire” by Ed Sheeran.

William Davidson, who teaches the violin at Staplehurst Music Centre, loves to explore the versatility of the violin. He worked in Hong Kong for 17 years in classical groups (including the City Chamber Orchestra and Pan-Asia Symphony Orchestra) and as a session violinist working on backing tracks for the Cantopop industry (similar

to K-pop for a Cantonese-speaking audience) and other commercial recordings. Now back in the UK for several years, he has been exploring jazz violin. He teaches students of all ages and levels, including preparation for exams (ABRSM or Trinity).

What story will you tell with the violin? Find out more about opportunities for learning or playing the violin at Staplehurst Music Centre: contact us through <http://www.staplehurst-music-centre.org/> or on FaceBook.

Staplehurst Music Centre runs on Saturday mornings at Staplehurst Primary School. We offer:

- Individual music lessons, including violin, piano, cello, guitar, ukulele, saxophone, clarinet and flute.
- Classical music ensemble (10 to 11am). The group is currently playing Peer Gynt, by Greig. No previous orchestra experience is necessary.
- Ukulele orchestra (11am to noon). The ukulele is one of the friendliest instruments: it’s easy to start playing, small, lightweight and inexpensive, and many popular songs can be adapted to it.
- Rock band (12.15 to 1.15pm), playing a mixture of popular cover songs and originals written by band members.

Children and adults are welcome in groups, ensembles and individual lessons.

**Find out more and contact us through <http://www.staplehurst-music-centre.org/> or on FaceBook.**

# Children’s Society box collection 2022

Grateful thanks to all of you who contributed to the Children’s Society through your house boxes. Despite the diminished amount of coins in circulation over the last couple of years, you raised £175.47 for the Society’s work – and of course many of you made up for the shortage of coins by popping banknotes into the boxes!

Do take a moment to go to the Society’s website and read about the work they do. They often reach vulnerable young people who “pass under the radar”, in areas where Social Services are overstretched, and they can give one-to-one help to give those young people hope.

You can read about one success story here: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/stories/matthew](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/stories/matthew)

Thank you again –

**Judy Staples**

# The winners of the Prize Draw

FEBRUARY 2022 DRAW			
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	No.16	Berni Cooper	£20.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	No.39	Pat Radford	£15.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	No.87	Joel Wheeler	£10.00

Here are the lucky winners of the February draw. The prize money has increased as we now have 90 members. As you know half of the monthly ticket proceeds are divided between three prize winners and the other half goes towards the upkeep of the Frittenden Memorial Hall.

If you haven’t managed to get around to completing a Membership Form yet, but would like to join, please email me at: [shop@acornsstores.co.uk](mailto:shop@acornsstores.co.uk) or give me a ring on 01580 852563 and I will get one to you. You can pay by cash, cheque or by bank transfer (details on the form).

Thank you for reading this and Good Luck!

**Eileen Bridges** Organiser

Contact Sarah 07891 006 521   Based in *Headcorn* 

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# Spider Stories

Colin Bullock

- A jumping spider can leap 40 times its body length; same as you jumping 70 metres!
- Spiders are capable of regenerating lost legs.
- The world's most venomous spider is the Brazilian wandering spider – it's 15 times more deadly than a rattlesnake.
- Fishing spiders can float on water.
- The world's biggest spider is wider than a football.
- The world's smallest spider is smaller than the full stop at the end of this sentence.
- All spiders are carnivores.
- There are more than 38,000 species of spiders.
- Spiders are so sensitive to vibrations that they can tell the difference between a bee and a moth in their web.
- Spiders can eat their own weight in one meal.
- Baby spiders are called spiderlings.
- After they hatch, spiderlings drift away on silk filament. This first flight is called ballooning.
- House spiders can run 330 times their own body length in 10 seconds; that's like you running the length of 6 football fields in 10 seconds!

- In some parts of the world, people roast and eat tarantulas.

## Brain Teaser

Susie's and Sally's last names are Billingsley and Jenkins, but not necessarily in that order.

Two of the following statements are false.

What is the real name of each person?

Susie's last name is Billingsley.

Susie's last name is Jenkins.

Sally's last name is Jenkins.

(Answers on the back page)



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**Historical Society**

**Kit Marlowe – Dramatist and Spy – Thursday 31st March 2022.**

Kit Marlowe lived remarkable double life as the leading dramatist of his day before the emergence of Shakespeare and as a government secret agent, probably a double agent. Geoff Doell is our guide into the life this iconoclastic and violent genius, who was involved in duels and affrays, but was also a writer of dazzling plays and poetry. Marlowe died a mysterious and controversial premature death.

Please note that we will be in St Mary's for this talk, starting at 8pm as normal.



**Frittenden Fun Run**

The Memorial Hall Committee is delighted to announce that we will be running the legendary Frittenden Fun Run on Bank Holiday Monday this year, by popular demand.

**WE NEED YOU!**

To run, to steward, to help with registration and time-keeping... If you are a First-Aider we would like to hear from you as we need to post a few along the route.

Charlotte and Dan Hunter are the main contact for the run and would like to hear from you at charlotte@charlotteboyd.co.uk.

Watch this space for more details in the next magazine - and look out for posters and Facebook posts nearer the time. Thanks to all those offering to make this great event happen.

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# Coffee Morning

We were very pleased to welcome Nigel from Maidstone Street Pastors to February's Coffee Morning.

Street Pastors are volunteers from local churches who have a genuine concern for their communities. Their main role is to make themselves available to care, listen and offer practical help. For example, bottles of water are offered to those who are dehydrated and or being sick, flip flops are offered preventing injury to feet from broken glass, blankets to keep people warm and care for those who are hurt or unwell until help arrives. They offer this service to whoever they meet on the streets of Maidstone town on a Saturday night. Their visible uniformed presence offers reassurance which makes them a welcome part of the night life of the town.

Volunteers have to be over 18, a member of a church and willing to commit to 5 hours a month. Street Pastors are not about preaching but are a practical demonstration of the love of God.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer the website is [www.maidstone.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.maidstone.streetpastors.org.uk) or 07817 250705.

Coffee Mornings are held in Sissinghurst Parish Room, next to the church, first Wednesday in the month (not January or August) 10.00am to !!.00am. Everyone welcome.

Many thanks to all who came in February. We raised £148.50 for their work.

Next Coffee Morning is on 3rd March in aid of Kent Wildlife Trust.

**Pat, Rosie, Rosemary and Ann**

# Frittenden Gardening Society Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm in St Mary's Church, Frittenden, whilst renovations to the Hall are taking place.

We look forward to seeing members and we would welcome anyone else who would like to attend. There will be a talk by Sophie Leathart entitled "Folklore and Flowers"

Light refreshments will be served at the end of the Meeting.

**Tricia Palmer**

# Headcorn Health Walks March

**Wednesday 2nd:** Meet in the car park next to St. Nicholas Church, Linton (opposite The Bull on Linton Hill), ME17 4AW at 9.30 for 9.45am start for a four mile walk around Linton. This is a fairly flat walk with no stiles but may be muddy in places. Mostly on footpaths with some stretches on roads.

**Wednesday 16th:** Meet at Parsonage Meadow, next to Headcorn Village Hall, at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a 45 minute social stroll around the village at a pace to suit everyone.

**Wednesday 23rd:** Meet 09.30 for 09.45am start for a gentle walk of 2.8 miles approx. (about 90 mins) mainly on footpaths, pasture and fields through the Leeds Castle Estate. Meet at the car park by Leeds Church (ME17 1RL). Potentially some long grass, some minor road sections, one stile, slight gradient on the return; and be aware IT CAN BE MUDDY in early spring along the River Len.

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

Our December party meeting was cancelled owing to the increasing omicron variant, so instead we held a Zoom meeting, when members chatted about their Christmas plans.

In January Morwenna Campbell-Smith gave a talk on 'The Lady Organist' and gave a demonstration on the organ, which was fascinating and is far more complicated to play than we imagined!

We were entertained once again by the Headcorn Ukulele group in February, who had us tapping our feet and some members dancing in the aisle! We provided

refreshments for everyone, including the mulled wine which had been bought for our cancelled Christmas party! Visitors were invited, and we signed up four new members!

On our next meeting on 8th March Karen Irving will give a talk on Dementia Awareness, and there will also be a Bring and Buy sale. Once again we shall be meeting in the church in the Upper Room as the hall is due to be closed for the second phase of renovations.

**Valerie Reeves**



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# Helen Grant

MP for Maidstone and the Weald

I am here to help you in any way that I can. If there is an issue of concern to you, where you believe I can assist, or if you would like to arrange a meeting with me, please email me at [helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk) or telephone **020 7219 7107**.

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# Weather Statistics:

**Lester Gosbee** lester.gosbee@btinternet.com

## January Weather Stats:

Frittenden's highest day maximum temperature in January was on 1st at 15.7 c/60.26 f. Countrywide, on the same day, it was the warmest January day at St. James' Park, London, with a temperature of 16.3 c/ 61.34 f. It was the warmest New Year's Day on record. Frittenden's coldest day this January was 18th, when temperatures fell to 4.5 c/ 40.10 f. Countrywide the coldest was 15th at Ravensworth, North Yorkshire at -0.4 c/ 31.28 f. Frittenden's coldest night minimum temperature of the month was 18th at -4.6 c/ 23.72 f, countrywide, the coldest night was -8 c/ 17.60 f. In January, Frittenden had 16 air frosts and 21 ground frosts. The lowest recorded was -9 c/ 15.80 f on 18th. January was a very dry month, with just 19.4mm/ 0.76 inches, roughly three quarters of an inch in old money, equalling 1997. The Central England Temperature was 4.6 c/ 42.8 f, which is 0.5 c/ 0.9 f above the average. Old Harry Stent, who used to farm at Whitsunden, said that if the grass grows in January, it will not grow in the summer. Let's hope that he's wrong. This January, we enjoyed more blue skies with record breaking sunshine. The Met Office has stated that there was an average of 80.7 hours of sunshine in January. The UK as a whole enjoyed 62.7 hours of sunshine, the most since 2001.

**Weather Forecast for March**, for Kent, the Midlands, Dorset and Lincolnshire: It looks like March will start with gales in the south west, from the Midlands northwards. So March will come in 'Like a lion' in many places. 1st March is the start of Spring in meteorological terms. There will be some squally showers, and snow will fall over Shropshire's highest mountains and any ground in the Midlands above 350 meters, or ground well over 1,000 feet. There will be sunshine and showers for Shrove Tuesday. Pancake racers could get wet! There will be sunny spells, and temperatures will be close to average at 9 c/ 48 f, but colder north of Birmingham. This spell of weather will last until at least 16th, with the odd quieter spell in south east Anglia. Around 5th to 8th March, we will see night fog and local air frost. A named storm will affect the Midlands and the south around 12th. Gusts of wind could reach 70mph in the Midlands, 60mph in the south east. There could be possible damage and the high winds will be accompanied by heavy rain. Temperatures will always be close to average, but London and parts of the south east could reach 15 c/ 59 f on the odd sunnier day. We will get one or two colder days with a cold north westerly wind. Temperatures will drop to 6 - 7 c/ around 44 f, even in London. From 17th March, St. Patrick's

Day (luck of the Irish), high pressure should hang around for a week. Winds will turn to the east, so all North Sea coastal counties from Lincolnshire down to Kent will be on the dull side. There could even be a little drizzle at times, as well as the odd brighter spell, but it will be mostly dull and on the chilly side at 8 - 10 c/ 46 - 50 f. West will be best, so Bournemouth, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire will bask in warm sunshine with temperatures of 18 - 19 c/ 64 - 66 f. The nights will be frosty with temperatures down to -2 c/ 28 f. There may be early fog. Low pressure will return, with more wind and rain. Rain will be less heavy, more showery in the south and south east, East Anglia and the South Midlands. Winds will be southerly, so temperatures will be above average over the whole area that I forecast for. Temperatures will be around 12 c/ 54 f in the north, and 16 c/ 61 f during sunny spells in the south. It will be reasonable weather for Mother's Day. Clocks go forward by one hour at the end of the month. I would like the clocks to remain forward by one hour. I am convinced that longer daylight days would help people with mental health issues, and the elderly who would not be so shut away in the dark at 4pm, making long, lonely evenings for many. There will be high pressure right at the end of the month, giving us long sunny spells, so after March came in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb. There could be some local fog patches in the mornings. The sun will get stronger every day. We could get some home grown evening showers, with one bang thunderstorms. Many places will reach temperatures of 15 c/ 59 f. There will be chilly nights with local frosts, so gardeners beware. It won't be too stressful weather for lambing, apart from the odd wet day, when the weakest lambs could suffer with hypothermia, even with global warming.

March's highest day temperature will be: Bournemouth at 16 c/ 66 f on 18th. The lowest night temperature during March will be -4 c/ 25 f, in Leek, Shropshire. The average rainfall for March over England is 64mm/ 2.52 inches, in Kent the average is 48.3mm/ 1.92 inches. This March will be wet for many. West Midlands could have double the average, almost 120mm/ 4.72 inches, Frittenden could have 60mm/ 2.36 inches. The average sunshine in England during March is 107.6 hours. In Kent, the average is 115 hours, and eastern coastal areas close to the North Sea will be 5% down on that. Elsewhere the average is 120 - 140 hours. So it will be a sunny March, between the showers!. The Central England Temperature for March is 6.19 c/ 43.42 f. In Kent it was 6.83 c/ 44.29 f. The CET last March was 7.2 c, this year it will be 7.5 c/ 45.5 f. Every year since the freezing March of 2013, the CET has exceeded 60 f. In 2013 it was just 2.7 c, which was the coldest since 1962. Before 2000, there was a 50% chance of reaching 60 f.

## REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE

This service has been suspended until further notice

## LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS

<b>Frittenden Parish Council</b>		
Chairman	Tony Staples	01580 852226
Vice Chairman	James Tuke	01580 852372
	Heather Cullingworth	
	Lester Gosbee	01580 852340
	Sarah Murray	01580 852288
	Rosalind Riley	07854679348
	Richard Vernon	01580 852317
Parish Clerk	Emma Nightingale	01580 852537

[www.frittenden.org.uk](http://www.frittenden.org.uk)

<b>Tunbridge Wells Borough Council</b>	
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 01580 714880  
[sean.holden@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sean.holden@kent.gov.uk)

**Policing**  
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Neighbourhood Watch Liaison  
 Sean Croucher 01580 852415

Community Warden  
 Adam Osborn 07813 695741

We are most grateful for your support and welcome any contributions.  
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 Hope you are all enjoying the new magazine

## NEXT EDITION

Closing date for material for the next edition is Monday March 14th.

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

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

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

## QUIZ (PAGE 29) ANSWERS

Because one of the first two statements had to be false, the third statement also had to be false, therefore Sally Billingsley and Susie Jenkins are the real names.

# Frittenden Parish Magazine

Connecting our community

## Send us your submissions

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

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

[frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:frittendenparishmagazine@gmail.com)

Light blue is derived from the March birthstone Aquamarine. When we talk about March, the very first thing that clicks the mind is the warmer sunny days, weather changes from the colder winter to warmer summer. The feeling of the sunshine that we miss during the winter is just another level of satisfaction. Soaking in the sun feels like heaven. Like the sun's rays, March is full of hope.



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