

Frittenden Parish Magazine



April 2021 Online Version

VILLAGE CONTACTS

CHURCH OFFICIALS AND ORGANISATIONS

RECTOR		Rev Pete Deaves	852275
Email address		rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Churchwarden		Joanna Beech	852312
Churchwarden		John Stansfeld	852185
Reader		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 5221
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
Messy Church		Eileen Mounter	852268
Open The Book		Helen Stansfeld	852185
Sunday Club	Contact	Joanna Beech	852312
Website		www.frittendenchurch.org.uk	
Childline			0800 1111
Relate	Contact	via appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk	or 01892 529927

OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

<u>Cricket, Sports & Social Club</u>	Chair	Nick Bull	852105
	Secretary	Charlotte Sharp	852217
<u>Friends of Frittenden School</u>	Chair	Beks Harding	712138
<u>Pre-school</u>	Manager	Sarah Davies	852100
		Home	852130
<u>Primary School</u>	Head of School	Nichola Costello	852250
<u>Gardening Society</u>	President	Sue Martin	852425
	Chairman	Duncan Rouse	852232
	Secretary	Tricia Palmer	852430
	Show Secretary	Jeremy Beech	852312
	Treasurer / Subscriptions	Nicky Robinson	852488
<u>Historical Society</u>	Chair	Phil Betts	852243
	Treasurer	Bernard Millard	852219
	Secretary	Tor Millard	893703
<u>Marquee Hire</u>	Contact	Mike Cooper	852108
<u>Memorial Hall</u>	Chair	Rosalind Riley	852317
	Hire hall, tables/chairs, etc.	Eileen Bridges	852563
<u>Parish Council</u>	Chairman	Tony Staples	852226
(For more details of other Local Council contacts, see back page).			
<u>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	Ros Bowles pro tem	852323
	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.

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends

In a parallel universe many, many moons from here, Patrick woke up in some discomfort at 3am. Immediately, he knew he needed to take action. It all began during bedtime stories the evening before, while Patrick was lying on his side on the bedroom floor – yes, it wasn't just the children who were tired! One of the children decided to liven things up. Breaking off a small piece of pencil eraser, the child had absently dropped it into Patrick's left ear...

If you ever find yourself in a similar predicament, please don't take matters into your own hands - please, please step away from those cotton buds!

Drowsily consulting the Interweb Diagnostic Tool, Patrick was urged to seek help at the nearest emergency and accident centre. Even in his sleepy state he knew the problem wasn't going away by itself, so he headed out into the cold of the night. After listening to Patrick's profuse apologies for wasting their time, the waiting medical squad armed with an impressive array of equipment leapt into action, wry smiles tucked safely behind their surgical masks.

Very inconveniently and embarrassingly, Patrick's own attempts to remove the offending object meant that it was now tucked away right by his eardrum. An expert toting a special suction device was required, meaning another journey to the larger – and further away – establishment. Patrick dolefully headed off, desperately hoping the expert equipped with a special suction device could achieve the eviction.

A whirlwind of a 140 minutes after he'd left the house, Patrick arrived back home, heartily relieved – and relieved of the 1mm square corner of red rubber. And as he snuck back into bed, he whispered thanks to God that the younger members of the household were still snoozing, blissfully and unaware...

Wishing you a very Happy and Joyful Easter!

Pete

Stay away from those cotton buds, but do turn to the next page for the explainer for this Series of Unfortunate Events...

Why do I tell this tale of this Series of Unfortunate Events? Well, it's quite funny – at least in hindsight! *And please, if you recognise any of the characters, don't draw this episode to the attention of any of the junior ones - blissfully unaware is best!*

Secondly, with Easter coming up, there's the reminder that we aren't designed to 'go it alone'. In a nutshell, Easter tells us that sadly we can't rescue ourselves, but gloriously is that there is a Saviour who is fully able to rescue us! *That's good news worth celebrating - not just at Easter but all year round!*

Thirdly, as we move towards reduced restrictions and greater levels of freedom, this story points to the unexpected circumstances we are all in. None of us has the roadmap to navigate these uncharted territories. We don't have all the answers, and those comforting tried-and-tested approaches just won't wash.

You can read elsewhere about how we've been developing our pattern of church services that will be welcoming and accessible for everyone. And that will be true for most areas of life. Three suggestions as we move forward:

- Avoid Assumptions. *Someone said when you assume, it makes an ass of u and me!*
- Be Brave and emBrace the good things this new landscape might offer
- Collaborate and Communicate; and always Community at the Centre.

At any point if there's anything church or community related that you'd like to chat through, please know that I'm here for you. Feeling anxious or apprehensive and in need of a friendly ear (!) or a prayer? Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Pete

Change is here to stay.

Said I don't know who, but they definitely had a good point! Our pattern of services at church after Easter looks a bit different from before. Our two parishes have been worshipping more closely together over the last year, and all services are very much open to all, wherever you live. We continue to make available services online for those unable to attend.

For the next few months, our main morning services begin at 10am, and are alternating between Frittenden and Sissinghurst. As well as our morning services, we continue with our 4pm Families Together service, again alternating between the churches. For the time being these are just for families due to space and the restrictions.

Actually, all I've said so far is how we're been operating over the past several months – here comes the change... We are committed to offer a service at both churches every Sunday, so when the 10am service is in Sissinghurst we are adding a 6pm service in Frittenden – and vice versa. This exciting new opportunity of a 6pm service allows us a range of services including more traditional services such as 1662 Book of Common Prayer and, in time, Choral Evensong.

Our website and the church notice boards will always have details of where the next service is, and we'll post on the Frittenden Community Facebook page too.

The bottom line is this: whoever you are, you are very warmly welcome along to any of our services!

Pete

UNITED BENEFICE OF SISSINGHURST WITH FRITTENDEN

APRIL SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Sun	28th	Palm Sunday	Sun	11th	Easter 2
		9:30 Morning Worship - St Mary's			10:00 Holy Communion - Trinity
		11:00 Morning Worship - Trinity			18:00 Evening Prayer - St Mary's
		16:00 Families Together - Trinity			
			Mon	12th	9:00 Moving Mountains - St Mary's
Thu	1st	Maundy Thursday	Sun	18th	Easter 3
		19:30 Holy Communion - St Mary's			10:00 Holy Communion - St Mary's
					18:00 Compline - Trinity
Fri	2nd	Good Friday			
		10:00 Meditation - Trinity			
		16:00 Families Together - St Mary's	Wed	21st	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's
Sun	4th	Easter Day	Sun	25th	Easter 4
		09:30 Holy Communion - St Mary's			10:00 Morning Worship - Trinity
		11:00 Holy Communion - Trinity			16:00 Families Together - Trinity
					18:00 Holy Communion BCP - St Mary's
Wed	7th	9:00 SPACE - St Mary's			

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

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

SPACE - Silent Prayer and Communion Ending by 9:30

Moving Mountains - Prayer for the needs of the Community, held in the Upper Room

To ensure we can provide sufficient seating for Sunday services please let Joanna Beech (joanna.beech97@gmail.com) know for St Mary's if you are planning to attend and Penny Durie (duriepj@aol.com) for Trinity.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHARITABLE GIVING

2020 was a particularly difficult year for many of the charities we regularly support and was made even more so by the absence of services in church for a large part of the year. This resulted in us not being able to welcome visiting speakers and have our usual dedicated collections. We were also unable to carol sing even though we did manage a special appeal.

I am pleased to say that, although there was a substantial drop in our 'restricted' donations (down from £8,450 to £3,399), the PCC increased its 'unrestricted' giving substantially (up from £3,549 to £7,759) and so was able to make up for a large part of the difference. This would not have been possible without the generosity of all those who supported St Mary's Church last year.

This resulted in our overall charitable donations in 2020 falling only slightly from £11,999 to £11,158 with the main donations being as follows:

The Weald Family Hub	£1,534
Fegans	£1,334
Maidstone Homeless Care	£1,200
Hastings Foodbank	£1,150
The Children's Society	£1,000
Tearfund	£700
Church Army	£700
Embrace the Middle East	£700
Church Mission Society	£700
Farming Community Network	£641

Christopher Page, Treasurer

FRITTENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TALK ON THE MAID OF KENT AND AGM

On 29th 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 frittendehistory@hotmail.co.uk The Zoom link will be circulated, with the AGM papers, prior to the 29th 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.

Tor Millard

OF STICKS AND SKYLARKS

It's nesting season at last! Despite the weather, birds all across the parish are responding to the lengthening days and warmer weather (!) to search out safe places to raise their young. Some are already well-advanced; the blackbirds in our garden have been shovelling up damp mud from the edge of the pond and disappearing into the thickest part of what I laughingly call 'the shrubbery'. (Such an old-fashioned word - does anyone still refer seriously to 'a shrubbery' anymore?) Anyway, when the need for mud has been fulfilled, I've watched them removing beakfuls of moss from what I - again laughingly - call 'the lawn'... Actually I love a mossy lawn, but there's plenty to share with the blackbirds and they're welcome to it.

Some birds are not yet into serious nest building though. The titmice - especially the lovely blue tit - have been prospecting bird boxes for some weeks now, but they will not start proper nest-building until late in March. This is to ensure that the emergence of their young is perfectly timed with high levels of spring caterpillars, the main food source (along with spiders) for their chicks. Alas, global warming is disrupting these critical timings in birds and insects and we don't yet know if their breeding success rates will be damaged.

A number of other nesters have also been prominently active for some time now; the corvids are already busy building or rebuilding their nests. Rooks in particular rebuild and re-use their nests year after year, but they are not the only ones. A pair of magpies has been rebuilding its precarious nest at the top of a spruce tree at the end of our lawn, flying across the garden with enormous sticks found at the base of the hedge. And a pair of jackdaws are cheerfully doing likewise inside an unused chimney here. Both these birds can be a nuisance but they are intelligent and often comic too. It's certainly worth watching how carefully they choose one stick over another; this is no random selection but a series of deliberate choices and decisions. Are they looking for certain lengths, or rigidity, or species? Does anyone know?

One final point: please remember that many birds are ground nesters too. Please CONTROL your dogs when out in the countryside for the next few months. Dog disturbance is responsible for very significant numbers of breeding failures, in species as diverse as skylarks and plovers. Some birds nest on the woodland floor or hedgerow bottom, but others such as the skylark, nests in open grassland and farmland. It may look like 'an empty field' to us but that's where some birds nest. With all the other pressures on our wildlife, it is not fair to add uncontrolled dog walking to the dwindling numbers of birds that still live here. Be kind and be responsible - please.

Rebecca Brown



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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.

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WHAT JOY!

When recently delivering something to the rectory, I was hailed by what first seemed to be a disembodied voice. I then discovered it was emanating from the rectory garden, and saw Pete bouncing on the trampoline with a bundle of joy in each arm, Mollie and Jemimah, the latter who blew me a lovely kiss. In my 71 years of worshipping at St. Mary's this was the first time I'd seen the Rector jumping for joy on a trampoline. I hope it won't be the last!

Whilst we may be mourning the loss of a dear one, coping with serious physical or mental illnesses, worrying about the pandemic or faced with financial difficulties, let's hope that we can all jump for joy (if only in our hearts) as we hear again the wonderful Easter story and realise just how much God loves us. Happy Easter!

Eileen Mounter



REPORT BY CLLR ANDY FAIRWEATHER TWBC WARD MEMBER FOR FRITTENDEN AND SISSINGHURST

The past year has been heavily affected by the COVID situation however I have managed to keep busy and I will outline below some highlights and achievements.

At the town hall it has been a very difficult year with no face to face meetings after February 2020. The officers initially stopped all evening meetings and business was conducted during the day. It was all performed via the Skype for business platform which was at best unreliable. The Cabinet Advisory Board committees were all suspended. I joined the Kent Association of Local Councils COVID group chaired by Charles Mackonochie. Thankfully the CAB committees have been reinstated as have evening meetings and the ZOOM platform has taken over from SKYPE which is so much more user friendly.

I have continued to fully support residents when called upon. The waste collection service was a huge issue especially in the more rural areas and I had many lengthy exchanges with officers and cabinet portfolio holders to ensure things improved. Other issues including planning matters, fly tipping, and highways issues always feature greatly in my daily emails requiring response.

I have written to Helen Grant our MP on a couple of matters including the governments handling of the exams process and algorithm fiasco. Also the new planning allocation algorithm- which thankfully has now been changed.

I continue to sit on Full Council, The Communities and Economic Cabinet Advisory Board and The Licencing Committee.

Being a member of the C and E CAB I was able to talk at length during the debate on allocating funds to the Cranbrook Community Centre project. I was able to provide in depth evidence and answers to the committee well beyond the knowledge of the officer. I provided much background information and was able to answer all questions. This enabled the support of the committee to recommend almost £500,000 from TWBC which has now been paid to C and S Parish Council. This was in no way a done deal as Paddock Wood found with their application to the same committee which was not successful.

I have been involved with Cllr Sean Holden in meeting staff from the Weald Leisure Centre and discussions to improve facilities and service delivery. I spoke at TWBC in support of securing financial assistance to the Fusion group who run the centre during the COVID crisis. This thankfully passed and the centre has not been mothballed.

I have been involved in meetings with the Frittenden Community Shop committee. I assisted with its direction and planning progression. Enabling a community application thus removing pre planning advice costs and a reduced application cost. I was then able to introduce Cllr Holden to the committee at a consultation event and secure through Sean a funding grant of £10,000 from his personal allowance allocation.

I have spoken at TWBC Planning Committee opposing a large development of 44 houses in Sissinghurst. The application was refused.

I was happy to nominate 4 recipients in Frittenden and 2 in Sissinghurst for Community Hero Awards for services to the community during lockdown. All have now received certificates from the Mayor.

Working in conjunction with C and S Parish Council I have installed two doggie waste bag dispensers on The Ball Field in Cranbrook and one on The Jubilee Field in Sissinghurst. Thank you to Frittenden Parish Council for the excellent advice re the one you installed at the war memorial.

I have helped other parish councillors erect the Christmas tree in Sissinghurst along with many lights throughout the village and secured funding from the fete committee.

In conjunction with Frittenden Parish Council and The W.I. I have planted a memorial tree on the village recreation ground. The W.I purchased the tree.

So, all in all a busy year. I Look forward to a happier 2021 and hope things can get back to some sense of normality.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andy

UPDATE RE FLYTIPPING IN FRITTENDEN

I have lobbied for more support for Frittenden with regards to the high incidents of flytipping we are suffering. I am informed new posters are to be displayed and that new cameras have been purchased to proactively target offenders. So let's see if anything happens !

Enforcement officers have identified source of one incidence in Frittenden Rd and visited to issue a fixed penalty notice.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Weekly E-Newsletter

Dear All

Did you know Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have a weekly e-newsletter that keeps you up to date with new planning applications near you, bin day reminders, local events, garden waste updates and more.

Have you signed up yet?

Our weekly e-newsletter is now live. Get our latest news direct to your inbox.

Find out about planning applications where you live, get reminders about your bin collections... and more.

Have you signed up?
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LOST IN TRANSLATION

Notice in hotel room in Tokyo
Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please stop
If you are not person to do such thing
is please not to read notis

FRITTENDEN AND THE DOMESDAY BOOK OF 1873

Until 1867 only about one-eighth of the adult male population had the right to vote, but the Second Reform Bill extended the franchise — to about one third. A consequence was that, for the first time in British history, most of the electorate were not landowners. The newly enfranchised class elected the Liberal government of [William Ewart Gladstone](#), which revived the arguments of the classical economists, such as [Adam Smith](#) and [David Ricardo](#) that land value enhancement was unearned wealth that ought to be taxed. There were assertions about the concentration of land ownership by a ruling elite. However, reliable, independent data was needed to refute the attacks.

In February 1872, the [Lord Privy Seal](#), was asked

"Whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to take any steps for ascertaining the number of proprietors of land and houses in the United Kingdom, with the quantity of land owned by each proprietor".

Later that year, the [Local Government Board](#) was ordered to compile a list of landowners from [ratings](#) records. The *Return* lists holdings by size (in [acres](#), [roods](#) and [poles](#)) and estimated yearly rental of all holdings over one acre. It is laid out by county and landowner, with an identifying address for each landowner. For landowners with extensive, scattered holdings, the address may not correspond to the land's location and may be outside the county in question. The location of the land is not given. The resulting ***Return of Owners of Land, 1873*** was the first complete picture of the distribution of land in Great Britain since the 1086 [Domesday Book](#). A comparison with the 1086 Domesday survey was made in the 1873 Return's Explanatory Statement.

Unlike the original Domesday Book, the 1873 Return was not based on original research by surveyors; instead it was compiled from existing parish data which included rateable values. The valuation lists of 1873 were prepared under the provisions of the [Union Assessment Committee Act](#) of 1862, which provided for the appointment of an assessment committee by the Poor Law guardians to make a valuation of taxable properties in each parish of a Poor Law Union. The overseers of each parish were required to make out a list of all taxable properties and their annual value in the following format: occupant, owner, property description and name or location, estimated area, gross estimated rental, and taxable value. Parish valuation lists were deposited with the clerks of the unions who prepared particulars for the 1873 Return.

Although the Return was published for a political reason, it became sought-after reading amongst society in general (including the landed classes). John Bateman, in the preface to a revised version of 1883 said *'That the affairs of one's neighbours are of no little interest to men of every class of life has perhaps never been more strongly proved than by the production of and great demand for The Modern Domesday Book'*.

In the case of Frittenden, part of the Cranbrook Poor Law union, many absentee landowners can be identified. The classic example was the Mann/Cornwallis estate holding: the family had never lived in Frittenden and the proprietor in 1873, Viscount Holmesdale, was the owner of no fewer than 15,162 acres in Kent and one of only three possessing more than 10,000 acres. In Frittenden he owned some 34 holdings amounting to 1,400 acres, or some 9% of his Kentish holdings. Another absentee was Henry Hoare, owner of 3,287 acres in Kent, of which 205 were in Frittenden, covering 14 holdings.

Other land holdings were also held by persons who might, or might not have been the owners of substantial additional holdings elsewhere (we cannot readily tell, because the 1873 Return is confined to each single county); these include, Captain Tylden Pattenson of Biddenden, owning Betts Land (35½ acres) and Thorpe Farm (15¼), Miss Cullen who lived at Folkestone, owned Cole Farm (64½), Cook Barn (19½) and a Plantation (5½), and two others living yet further afield: Captain Clifton, described as of Bristol, owned 63 acres in the county, of which 5 were at Knoxbridge, and the Revd. Thomas Curteis, recorded as residing at Ryde in the Isle of Wight, 51 acres in Kent, of which 22¼ were at Balcombe.

Landowners resident in Frittenden can also be identified. However, in many cases the acreages recorded exceed their Frittenden holdings, indicating that they owned land outside of the parish, in most cases in land in adjoining parishes.

Name of Owner	Acreage owned in Frittenden from 1869 Tithe	Acreage in in Kent
Boorman, Alfred		10½
Charity, Trustees of Idenden		
Charity Farm	23	
Part of Sinksnorth	5	
Part of Sinksnorth	7	18
Cox, John		93
Durey, Matthew		
Mill	2	2
Hallward, Rev. T W O		
Glebe and Churchyard	14	23
Hickmott, James		
Lashenden	64	144
Hickmott, Stephen		
Buckhurst Hill Farm	8	51
Judge, William		55
Moore, Revd E		72
Orpin, George		9
Orpin Robert (exors)		
Broad Lake	30	30
Pullinger, William		
Union House & Brissenden	45	45
Usborne, John jun.		
Bailey Farm	17	17
Usborne, John sen.		
Pound Hill	10	19

There is an interesting anomaly in The Returns. The Revd. Edward Moore is shown as residing in Frittenden. In fact his estate, which was larger than the acreage shown in the Return, had been sold to Henry Hoare in 1867 and he had left the parish in 1869.

The conclusion of the Report on the Return relating to England and Wales, outside of London, was that there were 972,836 owners of land. However, 703,289 were owners of less than an acre, while 269,547 owned an acre or more. This latter figure was thought to be an over estimate, as anyone owning land in multiple counties, as indeed Lord Holmesdale did, would have been double counted. A later analysis of the Return calculated that some 4,000 families owned over half of England and Wales.

Phil Betts

Chmn. Frittenden Historical Society

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL PRIZE DRAW

The March winners were :

1 st Prize	No. 3	Helen Bosley	£15.00
2 nd Prize	No. 62	Roger Burgess	£10.00
3 rd Prize	No. 15	Brenda Walpole	£9.00

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. 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 (£6.00 per person for the whole year from the next draw in April, 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 852563

MORE LOST IN TRANSLATION

On a luggage trolley at Singapore airport:
Not to be removed from Crewe station

Can someone explain that one please?! Ed.



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HOW DO COURT RECORDERS KEEP STRAIGHT FACES?

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

Attorney: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

Witness: He said "Where am I, Cathy?"

Attorney: And why did that upset you?

Witness: My name is Susan!

Attorney: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?

Witness: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

Attorney: What is your date of birth?

Witness: July 18th

Attorney: What year?

Witness: Every year.

Attorney: How old is your son, the one living with you?

Witness: 38 or 35, I can't remember which.

Attorney: How long has he lived with you?

Witness: 45 years.

Attorney: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

Witness: Yes.

Attorney: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

Witness: I forget.

Attorney: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

Attorney: Now Doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Witness: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

Attorney: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

Witness: He's 20, much like your IQ.

Attorney: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Witness: Are you serious?

Thanks to John day and the MFU

THE MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE

Very excitingly Phase 1 of the building work to renovate the hall will begin on 22nd March and will last until approximately 8th July. The contractor is Mephram & Wood and their working hours are 7.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. It now seems likely that scaffolding for the roofing work will only be required at the back of the hall which will free up some car park space. If there are any emergencies or problems with any aspect of the work please call the contractors on 01580 388389. For queries on the plans and development of the hall please contact Eileen Bridges shop@acornsstores.co.uk.

We hope you will not be too inconvenienced by the work, Thank you

The Memorial Hall Committee

E FOR EDITORIAL

In this my penultimate editorial I have nothing much to say, as I need to keep a few bits and pieces for next month!

Mike Cooper

PUTTING THE EDITOR RIGHT

The word denarius is derived from the Latin deni "containing ten", as its value was originally of 10 copper coins called asses. However, the Frankish King Pepin the Short (751–768), the first king of the Carolingian dynasty and father of Charlemagne, established the European monetary system. As part of this he minted the novus denarius ("new penny"). Under this system 1 pound = 20 shillings = 240 pennies. Originally the pound was a weight of silver rather than a coin, and from a pound of pure silver 240 pennies were struck. For three centuries following the reform, the only coin minted in Europe was the silver penny. Shillings and pounds were units of account used for convenience to express large numbers of pence, not actual coins. . In England the pennies were eventually debased, leaving 240 pennies representing substantially less than a pound of silver, and the pound as a monetary unit became divorced from a pound weight of silver. In Britain the pound-shilling-penny relationship survived until 1971, as noted in the March Editorial.

Phil Betts

There you go! Ed.



FRITTENDEN WI

We held a Zoom meeting for our March meeting with Sheila Farmer giving us an interesting presentation on “What Women Wore” giving us a whirlwind run through the ages of women’s attire. For April we have Sally Botright giving a talk on “Oddities and Curiosities in London”. Our Annual meeting in May will be held by Zoom and our meeting in June will be a Garden meeting when we can all meet together outside if all goes to plan. We all look forward to the day when we can see each other face to face.

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

GOSBEE'S GOSSIP

I'd like to start with some good news for a change. Caroline and Matthew Robinson have announced the arrival of their first grandchild, as their daughter Catherine gave birth to a son on 1st February in New Zealand. I don't know her partner's name, but their son has been named Angus Ronald (after Caroline's father Ron). Their surname is Galloway. I am told that mother and baby are in good health.

Sadly, earlier this month, Frittenden lost another resident, Jeanette Kokkinos. Jeanette and her late husband Michael moved to Graylands in Dig Dog Lane in the late 1970's. We send our condolences to her son Mark and daughter Melanie. They may wish to write a little about their mum's life for next month's magazine.

Healthwise, I have had a few problems over the past 3 weeks. Firstly, my kidney specialist prescribed me a new blood pressure pill. I had a reaction to it and it left me fighting for breath within 3 days. I thought that I was heading for A and E, but I stopped taking the tablet and in time, I got over the effects. I wasn't keen to go to a hospital in the current situation of Covid. A couple of days later, I was driving when I noticed that my eyesight was becoming a bit blurry. Within 5 minutes of getting home, I had excruciating pain behind my eyes. When I was 42, many years ago, I had similar pain and I was diagnosed with temporal arteritis. I was told that this could lead to a stroke if not treated and I still take a low dose steroid every day to prevent it returning. Because of the possible risk of stroke, Hazel called 111 and I was given an emergency appointment at Maidstone Hospital. It was soon clear that there had been a build up of pressure behind my eyes. Normal pressure should be around 10, but mine measured 66. After 9 hours of treatment with drugs, and the doctor trying to relieve some pressure by putting her thumb in my eye, I was allowed home at 2.30am. I had to return at 10am the next morning for laser treatment on my eyes. This was successful, but the effects of it disturbed my sleep, and I could only sleep for a couple of hours at a time. When I did sleep, I had strange, disturbing dreams. A few days later, I had a call from Alison Edwards, the Practice Nurse from Staplehurst Health Centre (who I have known for more than 30 years). She said that my speech sounded very slurred. She said that she suspected that I could have had a minor stroke, so back to dialling 111 and I went off in an ambulance, back to Maidstone Hospital. I felt very cold. Normal body temperature is 37 c/ 98.6 f, mine was 35 c/ 95 f. I was admitted for the weekend and given several bags of saline drip, and they took 9 samples of blood. My blood pressure was low and heart beat was slow. I came home on the Monday afternoon, having been told that I had a lung infection. My discharge letter said that I also had sepsis (but they didn't tell me that). Revd Pete put me on the prayer list, which I find very humbling, like being wrapped up in a big comfort blanket. I would like to give a big thank you to Alison for encouraging me to get help, because if I hadn't spoken to her that day, I would have waited longer before seeking help and things could have got much worse. I am feeling much better now. It took a while for me to tolerate looking at light, even the TV. That was when the dull weather was welcome!

There are a few people in the village who are currently going through a very tough time health wise. I have spoken to some of them, and they have taken on their illnesses with great courage. We are all praying for them to get better. From personal experience, that does give you a boost.

I saw on TV the other day fields of daffodils in bloom. Sadly, they should have been picked when they were still in bud for florists and wholesalers, but they could not get English people to take on the work. They usually depend on Eastern European workers that are unable to travel here due to the travel restrictions and Brexit changes. They said that workers could earn up to £1,000 a week. I would have thought that that was a good incentive to work, even in cold, wet, windy conditions.

I read the other day in the Daily Telegraph that some sun creams can become toxic when they have been left on the shelf for a long time. It said that only Nivea Sun SPF 50+ contained no octocrylene or benzophenone, so I shall be looking through our cupboards, because in April and May the sun is a lot stronger than we may think. May is our sunniest month of the year.

23rd March marks the year anniversary of our first lockdown due to Coronavirus. The Government has stated that we should take a couple of minutes to reflect on the NHS workers and all who have lost loved ones to the virus. As our Prime Minister Boris Johnson was very ill with Covid, I believe that they should honour the 2.1% pay increase that was pencilled in in 2019. I know that it was before our Government has spent billions of pounds on trying to keep people in work, as well as Track and Trace, PPI and vaccines. Nurses' pay has improved a lot since I spent 56 days in Tunbridge Wells Hospital in two stints in 20017. I think that they are definitely worth it (although I might be slightly biased. I would like to put a suggestion forward. We have 800 people in the House of Lords. That could be reduced to 400. Lords are paid £300 per day. If all NHS staff are given a £1,000 bonus, it would cost around £1.3 billion.

Last month, I wrote about problems with the EU refusing to accept our shellfish. They are now banning the export of plants because they are planted in UK soil. This could put garden centre jobs at risk, and prices could increase.

I have a question for younger readers. I still sometimes look at the music singles and album charts, even though 95% of the songs and acts I have never heard of. It was a long time ago that I went with my 7 and 6 to Woolworths to buy my favourite vinyl single. I think that the monetary equivalent today is 35p. I know that you can now download music for 99p. The song 'Drivers Licence' by Olivia Rodrigo has been number one in the charts for 9 weeks. It's a good pop song, but the version that I heard on You Tube included a swear word, which is probably why I haven't heard it on the radio. 'Wellerman' by Nathan Evans ft 200 KKIDx Billen Ted Remix has spent 8 weeks at number 2. There doesn't seem to be much movement in the charts.

We lost much loved Captain Sir Tom Moore in early February. Before Christmas he and his family got to stay in Cliff Richard's mansion in Barbados. Along with guest Russ Abbot to make you laugh, you can hire the mansion for £3,000 a night. It is a little out of my price range. Captain Sir Tom Moore was the inspiration for me to walk up and down my drive 8 times a day every day in May last year to raise money for the NHS to thank them for caring for me. The wonderful people of Frittenden and my family and friends helped me to raise £4,200, well beyond my wildest dreams. I have another fund raising idea that I would like to run past you. Hairdressers are closed due to the current restrictions, and I have been told by medics to keep away from people until a few weeks after my second Covid jab. I haven't had my hair cut since last September. I ran my idea past Revd Pete when he brought round the order of service. I would like to raise some funds for Dementia research. Hazel lost her aunt to it and her father was showing signs of it (although Covid took him before it could take hold completely). It is a very cruel disease and more investment is needed to find a cure/ treatment/ prevention. When I am allowed to get my hair cut, I would like to possibly appeal for sponsorship for a short back and sides, or whatever style (within reason) is suggested. I will run the idea past Sean and Rosie at the pub. Please let me know if you have any idea for a possible style. I am having my second vaccine on 27th April, so I will have to wait a couple of weeks after that. I will ask Hazel to take a photo of my long locks if the idea gets off the ground. I have been told that I look like a Hobbit, even more so now. I just need a big beard!

There continues to be much discussion on the Harry and Meghan interview with Oprah Winfrey. What was your opinion of it? One detail that seemed bizarre. Meghan said that they got married three days before the official wedding on 19th May 2018, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury with one witness. Apparently this was the rehearsal for the wedding. She is very big on falsehoods. I am not a great fan of motor mouth Piers Morgan, but I do enjoy his 'Life Stories' programme. I think that Good Morning Britain should have stood by him. I am not keen on the 'woke' society.

Time for a bit of levity. What do you call a snowman that is having a meltdown?. A puddle. Where should you take a sick hornet? To waspital. Wishing all readers a happy Easter. It looks like the weather will get warmer after 25th March.

Lester J Gosbee

MUSIC NOTES

Rumour has it that people are planning concerts in the Maidstone area in July, if progress on taming the virus continues as at present. I'll keep my ears open and hope to get you all up to date in future Music Notes. Meanwhile I will continue to regale you with musical anniversaries in April. There are lots so here are just a few:

- 6th April - 50th anniversary of the death of Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, pianist and conductor
- 15th April – 300th anniversary of the 1st performance of G F Handel's opera Muzio Scevola
- 23rd April – 130th anniversary of the birth of Sergei Prokofiev, Ukrainian & Soviet pianist and composer
- 24th April – 100th anniversary of the birth of Luigi Infantino, Italian opera singer

Some readers may need to look up the Handel opera, but I am going to guess that Infantino is the least well known of my short list, and so it is his Wikipedia biography I will summarise this month.

Luigi Infantino was born in Racalmuto, and studied at the Parma Conservatory with Italo Brancucci. He made his debut in 1943, at the Teatro Regio in Parma, as Rodolfo in La Bohème, which was also his debut role at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, in 1945. With that company, he appeared in London as the Duke in Rigoletto, and Rodolfo. In 1948, he made his debut at the Teatro alla Scala and he sang that same year at the Verona Arena.

The tenor sang regularly in Naples and Bologna and made guest appearances at the New York City Opera in 1947. In 1949, the tenor went on a concert-tour of England and Australia and he toured England again in 1957 giving a concert at Cheltenham among others. In 1964 Infantino reprised his role of Edgardo at the Bombay Opera in India. He was also active throughout his career singing on Italian Radio (RAI), where he gave his last performance in 1973.

A stylish lyric tenor with an attractive voice, Infantino can be heard in complete recordings of La traviata (EMI, 1946) and Il barbiere di Siviglia (Cetra, 1950,). There is also a live recording of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, sung in Italian (Melodram, 1962).

Brian Hardy

By popular request the alphabet continues: **Consumption:** The act of reverence which unites musicians and alcohol in large quantities.

LITTER PICKING

We had hoped to organise a Spring Litter Pick in March but unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to proceed. Instead we will aim to schedule one for late spring, linking in with the Great British Spring Clean (which is due to take place between 28th May and 13th June).

Meanwhile if you want to do some litter picking in your immediate vicinity Frittenden Parish Council has purchased a number of litter picking kits (hi vis jackets, litter grabbers, hoops, etc). These kits are intended for use at future spring and autumn litter picks, but we are happy to make them available for short periods if you would like to borrow them for roadside litter picking in your part of Frittenden. If you would like to use them contact me by email – anthonystaples@btinternet.com.

Thank you to all who have continued to pick litter and help keep our verges tidy.

Tony Staples

Frittenden Parish Council

TERRIFIC THEMED TRIVIA

“MANNERS”

It is totally acceptable in Shanghai for people to go shopping in their pyjamas.

In Bangladesh, women do not shake hands, they greet each other with a nod.

Removing your hat as a sign of respect dates to Medieval times when Knights took their helmets off to identify themselves.

In some countries, it's rude to look someone in the eye while conversing.

In India, it's rude to open a gift in front of the person who gave it to you.

In the 12th century, King David I of Scotland offered tax incentives to his subjects who practiced good table manners.

In the Renaissance, it was good manners for diners to throw bones from their meal on the floor, not on their plate.

If you ever get to eat with our Queen, you must stop eating when she does.

Chewing gum in public is a big no-no for children in France.

It's considered rude to write in red ink in Portugal.

A small burp at the end of your meal shows respect among the Inuit people of Canada.

In Japan, blowing your nose in public is considered very rude.

At mealtimes in Japan and China, it's polite to slurp your noodles or soup.

In many Asian countries, it's proper etiquette to use two hands to offer a gift.

In Thailand, it's disrespectful to lick the back of a stamp that has the King's picture on the front.

In Mongolia, leaving a bit of food in the bottom of your bowl shows that you have had enough.

The 'OK' hand symbol is considered rude in both Brazil and Germany.

BRAIN TEASER QUIZ

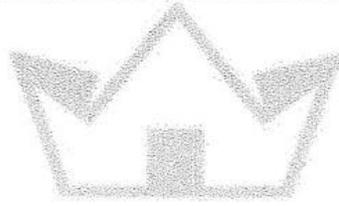
- 1) Which British Prime Minister won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953?
- 2) What links the characters of Banquo in Macbeth and Jacob Marley in A Christmas Carol?
- 3) The murder of Sandra Rivett on 9th of November 1974 led to whose disappearance?
- 4) What is the sum of degrees in the internal angles in a triangle?
- 5) Which patterned textile of tear-shaped motifs takes its name from a Scottish town?
- 6) Which mountain, until 1865, was known as Peak XV?
- 7) Which artistic movement are Degas, Renoir and Monet said to belong to?
- 8) From where are measured distances from London taken?
- 9) What colour is the bottom stripe on the American flag?
- 10) What did Henry Beck famously map out in 1932?
- 11) How many funnels did the Titanic have?
- 12) Which organisation has the motto “Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity?”
- 13) What was first sold as the “Pluto Platter” known by its more familiar name in 1958?
- 14) What links Caesar Cardini, Philippe de Mornay and Anna Pavlova?
- 15) Who wrote “The Old Man of Lochnagar?”
- 16) Which two countries have names beginning with “A” but not ending with “A”?
- 17) Which musical features the Cole Porter song “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire”?
- 18) Musky Muskrat is the sidekick of which cartoon character?

WOULD YOU ADAM AND EVE IT?

Shock Revelation. BBC News has just announced that due to the pandemic, media exaggerations have increased by over a trillion percent in the last twelve months.

Colin Bullock

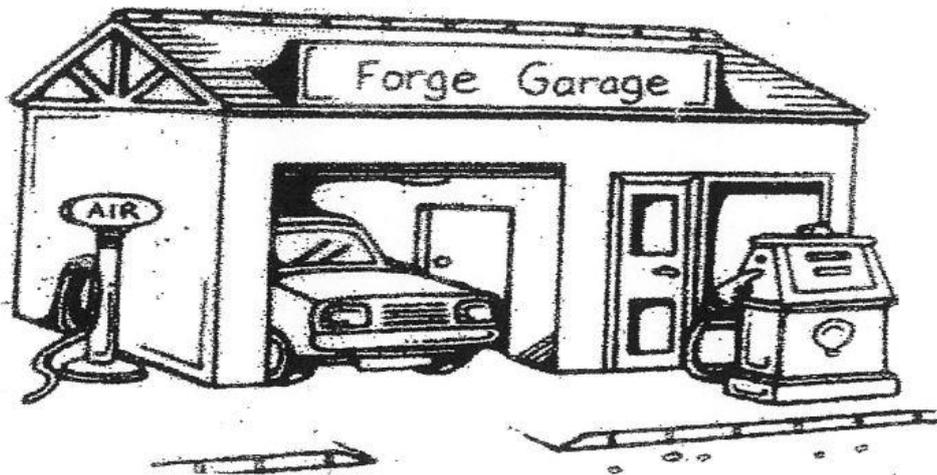
Answers on back page



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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.

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Please contact me on;

01580 852770 answerphone .. M 07484 686902

Email oliking6@gmail.com

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

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Reviews

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

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

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

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

NEWS FROM LARCHMERE

Hurting through another year – clocks about to go forward. Gosh does time fly

Firstly, I wanted to say how simply fantastic our Rainbow Computer Table is. Thanks to you all, and your kind donations, this has become the most wonderful asset to our residents, we couldn't be more thankful to you. To make it even more special 'Our beloved Robin' loves it! The picture attached says it all. Robin actually asks to come down so he can use it as an interactive game. Talking of Robin, he is all set with boiler suit and garden boots to make amends to our courtyard and help us with gardening and planting and particularly veg planting for the year. Marie in Activities has already planted various veg seeds with him for the greenhouse. We have had 2 raised beds made so that Robin and others can garden to their hearts content, and while away the sunny days growing and pruning. Also, we have found the perfect dartboard for Robin which is now set up in his room and many of the staff have already joined him in a game. He is delighted with it.

Recently, the major excitement has been letting relatives back in Larchmere to visit their loved ones. There have been tears of joy from us all when we see relatives reunite. It has lifted everyone's spirits beyond belief. Here is a picture of our lovely Mary and her daughter visiting the other day. This, of course, is the first time they have been allowed in their rooms which makes so much difference to residents and relatives as it is more comfortable and private. Oh the joy of this awful pandemic soon being over.

So much more going on. Our matron is busily organising a Summerhouse to be built in the larger garden – where residents can shelter if it is windy in the summer or a bit chilly but they still want to be outside. It is going to look beautiful. Also, plans are underway for a repaint of communal areas to give it a fresh new look plus themed painted walls to capture the residents imagination too. Also, we are having a wildlife camera set up in the garden so residents can see the activities of what goes on in the garden online.

Finally, we will be having our Strawberry Fair this summer, at some point, and will let you know a date as soon as we get the all clear. We very much hope you can come and re unite with us and celebrate what hopefully will be 'life back to normal' for all of us.

Becky Bruce





WEATHER

Weather Statistics for February in Frittenden and Countrywide:

For the first time since late February 2018, Frittenden had a spell of wintery weather between 7th and 14th February. After all the wet, dull weather in January, it was a pleasant change to see picturesque scenes. Frittenden's coldest day maximum temperature in February was on 9th, with -0.4 c/ 31.28 f. Frittenden had two further days when the maximum temperature failed to rise above freezing point, on 8th and 12th. We had 7cms/2.75 inches depth of snow. Frittenden's lowest night temperature in February was -4.5 c/ 23.90 f on 11th. We had a ground temperature of -11 c/ 12.20 f, 20 degrees of frost on the ground. The warmest day in February in Frittenden was on 21st, when temperatures climbed to 15.2 c/ 59.36 f. The rainfall/ snow total in Frittenden for the month was 37.2mm/ 1.46 inches, which is 10mm/ 0.39 inch below average. February 2020 was the wettest in many parts of the UK.

Countrywide in February, Scotland made our cold snap look rather insignificant. In the Southern Uplands, Highland Regions of Ballater, Balmoral, Braemar and Aviemore, there was level snow of 70 cms/ 2ft 2.5 inches. On 11th February, temperatures in Braemar, Aberdeenshire fell to a bone-chilling -23 c/-9.4 f, the lowest February temperature since 23rd February 1955. At Altnaharra, Sutherland it was the lowest recorded temperature since 30th December 1955 at -27.2 c/ -17 f, equalling 10th January 1982 at Braemar, Aberdeenshire, and again on 11th February in Braemar in 1895. In England, temperatures at Ravensworth in North Yorkshire dropped to -15.3 c/ 4.60 f. The lowest February temperature that I can find was on 6th in 1917, when Benson in Oxfordshire had temperatures as low as -20 c/ -4 f.

England's Central England Temperature for February was 5.1 c/ 41.18 f, which is 1 c/ 1.8 f above the long term normal. It was our coldest February since 2018, when the Beast From the East gave us a cold month with a CET of 2.9 c/ 37.22 f. The Central Scotland Temperature for February was 2.5 c/ 36.50 f. The average is 2.70 c/ 36.86 f, so it was 0.2 c/ 1.6 f above average in the series of average monthly temperatures from 1981 to 2010. The winter of 2020/21 has been the coldest since 2010. I did admire one stat: on 24th February, Santon Downham in West Sussex had a temperature range from -23 c on 11th, then climbed to 18.4 c on 24th, from 41 degrees of frost to 33 f above freezing, a difference of 74 f.

The vernal equinox, Spring begins on 20th (next Saturday). We are told that the UK is facing the deepest recession since Europe froze in 1709. Thousands perished from cold and starvation. I have looked up how cold it got then. December 1708 had a CET of 3 c/ 37.40 f, which is 2 c below average. January 1709 had a CET of -1.5 c/ 29.30 f, 5.3 c below average. February 1709's CET was 2 c/ 35.60 f, 2.5 c below average. March 1709's CET was 3 c/ 37.4 f, 3.5 c below average. April that year was the only month above average (1 c/ 0.9 f above) at 9 c/ 48.20 f, so there was 11 months some way below average temperatures. This was followed by a very wet summer. No wonder crops didn't grow.

April – If you cast your mind back to April 2020, when England had just started its first lockdown (on 23rd March). Due to the lockdown, the roads were very quiet and most aircraft were grounded. This allowed us to hear birdsong much more clearly. The sun shone day after day, and at times April felt like July. Even Easter was warm and sunny. On Good Friday Bude in Cornwall reached temperatures of 25°C/ 77°F and St. James' Park had 25.5°C/ 77.90°F. Easter Saturday again reached 25°C/77°F, then there was a huge drop in temperatures by Easter Monday 13th April. The highest temperature in the UK on Easter Monday was Cardenham in Cornwall at just 14.4°C/ 57.92°F. April 2020 was the sunniest April on record in the UK. The Isle of Wight reached 279 hours of sunshine. The average April sunshine in the South East, Southern and Central England is 169.8 hours. April was the fifth warmest on record. The average Central England Temperature for April is 10.4°C/ 50.72°F. April 2011 holds the record at 11.8°C/ 53.24°F. Many places in the South East did not record any rainfall until 17th. Frittenden recorded 30.4mm/ 1.19 inches. Kent's average rainfall for Kent is 49.2mm/ 1.94 inches.

April 2021 will have a cool, showery start in a breezy westerly. Temperatures in most places will fail to reach double figures in the areas that I forecast for. By Easter Sunday, we will be under the influence of high pressure from Scandinavia. Winds will be almost calm, except for areas close to the North Sea counties. Inland, apart from early morning frost and fog, and easterly or north easterly winds, the days will have lovely sparkling, clear blue skies. The strong April sun could boost temperatures up to 15°C/ 59°F. By

Easter Monday, there will be no heatwave, but the weather will be very pleasant. In 1946, there was a mini heatwave on 3rd April and Whitstable reached a temperature of 25.6°C/ 78°F. On 4th, Greenwich in London had temperatures of 26.5°C/ 79.7°F. High pressure will continue to dominate. More cloud will pick up from the North Sea from 8th April, and there may even be a few coastal showers. The weather will be cold and overcast from Thanet all the way up to the Lincolnshire coast, where temperatures will be around 8°C/ 46°F. A north easterly wind of around 10 – 15mph will make temperatures feel quite raw 50 miles away from the coasts. There will be a better chance of seeing some broken cloud in London, when temperatures will be around 12°C/ 54°F. The Channel coast will get some sunny spells, from West Sussex to Dorset inland, where temperatures will be around 17 - 19°C/ 63 - 66°F. Low pressure will take over around 18th bringing spells of rain, heaviest in Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset. On the plus side, this spell will introduce a breezy southerly. Thanet in Kent and CAMBRIDGE, Norfolk will break into temperatures in the low 70°Fs/ 21 - 22°F by 21st April. The warm temperatures will set off local thunder storms. The most likely places for this is Hampshire, London, Oxfordshire and East Anglia. Relatively low pressure will continue up to 28th, and there will be a lot of cloud at times with showers, but some days, especially in Central Southern England, London and Eastern Coastal Counties will get 48 hours of fine weather before or after late afternoon showers. North Norfolk and Lincolnshire will see the least of the showers, and have the highest temperatures. Between 23rd and 28th, they could get temperatures of 20°C/ 68°F each day. The rest of us will have 15 - 17°C/ 59 - 63°F, still above average by a couple of degrees. From 29th, we will have our first spell of Azores high. This will bring clear blue skies to the whole area that I forecast for. Heathrow and St. James' Park may reach 25°C/ 77°F on the last day of the month. The other areas will enjoy temperatures of 23 - 24°C/ 73 - 75°F. This will bring out the spring flowers in abundance. Hopefully by then Covid restrictions will be eased, and family groups of six will be able to meet up, or drive to local landmarks. Nothing is more uplifting to the spirits than the wonders of nature's Spring, but meeting up with family and friends to appreciate it will be perfect, even if we have to continue to wear masks.

April's Highest Day Temperature will be: 25°C/ 77°F, on the last day of the month in London. Many other places could reach at least 23.3°C/ 74°F. Lowest Day Temperature will be: 8°C/ 46°F, on many places on the east coast from Thanet to Lincolnshire. With a chilly breeze, temperatures will feel more like 5°C/ 41°F. Lowest Night Temperature will be: Just below 0°C/ 32°F, in the countryside. Areas with sandy soil that are prone to frosts such as Benson in Oxfordshire could get temperatures as low as -4°C/ 25°F. Gardeners take note, on the first few days of the month.

April's average rainfall for England is 58.7mm/ 2.3 inches. The average for Dorset for the month is 61.8mm/ 2.43 inches, Gloucester is 56.5mm/ 2.24 inches, Kent 49.2mm/ 1.93 inches and Lincolnshire 47.5mm/ 1.87 inches. This April, most places will have 10% above the long term average. Parts of north Norfolk and Lincolnshire may get less than an inch of rain.

April's sunshine average for April is 155.2 hours. Dorset's average is 176.7 hours, Kent is 172.7 hours and Lincolnshire 150.8 hours. April was an outstandingly sunny month last year, and England averaged 239 hours. The Isle of Wight was top with 279 hours, 154% above average. Many places in the South East clocked up 250 hours. This year, April will have 150 hours of sunshine, but only 130 hours on the east coast. April's Central England Temperature will be 8.14°C/ 46.65°F. Last year, April's CET was 10.4°C – 50.72°F, an anomaly of +1.9°C/ 34.2°F higher than the average. 2011 recorded a Central England Temperature of 11.8°C/ 53.24°F. This will take some beating. In fact it is one degree Fahrenheit warmer than the May average, and 3.66°C/ 6.48°F above the April average.

Lester J Gosbee

SMILES FROM ACROSS THE CHANNEL

CONSTAT À L'AMIABLE



AN UNDISPUTED / AGREED ACCIDENT REPORT



**DIY FRIENDS - LOSE YOUR INHIBITIONS
DON'T FORGET THAT NOAH'S ARK WAS BUILT BY AN AMATEUR
AND THE TITANIC BY PROFESSIONALS**

From Titou, our French cousin.

POSTSCRIPTS

1. A plane is carrying five passengers:

Nicola Sturgeon, Boris Johnson, Donald Trump, the Pope and a 10-year-old schoolboy.

The plane begins to go down and is about to crash. There are only four parachutes on board.

Nicola Sturgeon says "I have to live, I have the Scottish independence to sort out" and takes a parachute and jumps.

The Pope says "I have to live, I have to sort out the Catholic Church" and takes a parachute and jumps.

Donald Trump says "I have to live, I'm the smartest man in America" and takes a parachute and jumps

Boris Johnson looks at the 10-year-old schoolboy and says "You can have the last parachute. I'm a lot older than you and I've lived my life, yours has yet to begin."

The 10-year-old schoolboy says "Don't worry Mr Johnson. There are two parachutes left. She smartest man in America just took my school bag."

2. There were four final year university students taking chemistry and all of them had an 'A' so far. These four friends were so confident that, the weekend before finals, they agreed to go to a music festival. They had a great time but, after all the heavy partying, they slept all day Sunday and didn't make it back to campus until early Monday morning.

Rather than sitting the exam, they decided that, after the final, they would explain to their professor why they missed it. They said that they had visited friends but, on the way back they had a flat tyre. As a result, they missed the final. The professor agreed they could take the final the next day. The students were excited and relieved. They studied that night for the exam.

The next day the professor placed them in separate rooms and gave them a test booklet. They quickly answered the first problem worth 5 points. Cool, they thought!

Each one, in a separate room thought this was going to be easy.... Then they turned the page.

On the second page was written

For 95 points: Which tyre?

Thanks again to John Day and the M F U

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX COLLECTION

Despite our drastically reduced use of, and access to, cash over the last year, the box collection still raised **£178.10** for the Society, so I do thank all those who contributed.

Like many other organisations which support children, young people and families, the pandemic and its consequences have made huge demands on their services at a time when fundraising possibilities have been severely limited. One significant example is the cancellation of Christingle services, usually a major source of income for them, as well as being a joyful occasion for those who take part.

Please continue to support the Society in whatever way you can; their website has details of how you can donate.

Thank you.

Judy Staples.

2021 - BORROWING THE VILLAGE TENTS ETC

If all goes according to the current Government ‘roadmap’ we will be able to entertain up to 30 people in our gardens after 17th May, and unlimited numbers after 21st June. Time, therefore, to think about the village tents....

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, depending on your event and/or garden size. They can be put together in various ways to suit your requirements, and I am happy to visit you well in advance to discuss an appropriate layout. Please note that the tents have a tubular metal ground frame, so a smooth and relatively level site is required.

The rates below include provision of lighting – in the form of garden up-lighters which can be placed within the tents or outside if required, and all necessary cabling. They also include erection and strike of the tents by our team of volunteers, usually a few days before and after your event if you wish it, or if the weather or other bookings dictate it.

Equipment and Rates to borrow:

ITEM	VILLAGE ORGANISATION	PRIVATE BORROWER
ONE LARGE MARQUEE	£100.00	£200.00
THE HALF SIZE ONE	£75.00	£125.00
GAS BARBEQUE (1)	£20.00	£40.00
STAND-BY GENERATOR (2)	£15.00	£30.00

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 – a total so far since we started approaching £25,000.

Items for hire from the Memorial Hall – Hirer to collect and return (3)

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

A deposit of £25.00 is required for the hire of tables and chairs

Notes:-

- (1) The BBQ is supplied with a cylinder of gas, and a standby. The BBQ must be returned thoroughly cleaned.
- (2) Borrower to provide fuel – as for a 4-stroke mower engine.
- (3) To protect Village Hall chairs and tables from mud or dampness damage, Borrower is required to obtain hessian or similar matting to put down inside the tent – indeed we recommend this for any event for safety reasons. This and other items such as space heaters and a chiller trailer are available from Brooks Marquees. The person to 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 and website <http://www.brooksmarquees.com> Please tell Tom that you got his details from me, and will be using one of the village tents. Other Event companies

may also supply – but check quality before ordering as some hessian on offer is pretty unattractive – and others will refuse your request as they look on the Frittenden tents as unfair competition!

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 bookings six 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, and no cancellation fee if you do not proceed.

This comment also applies to booking matting or other peripheral kit from Tom Brooks – the earlier you make initial contact the better.

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 merely *borrowing* the kit from the village with approx value of, say, £1000, and you would like this to be covered on your contents insurance. Please ask for confirmation in writing or by Email that the items will be covered for the time they are on your property. You may incur either an administration charge or a small fee, but in our experience most insurers will provide this cover free, or you may find that it is already covered in your policy.

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

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. 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.....

Mike Cooper.

AND MORE LOST IN TRANSLATION

Instructions on Japanese driving rules:

At the rise of the hand of the policeman, stop rapidly.

Do not pass him, otherwise disrespect him.

Do not explosion the exhaust pipe.

Avoid entanglement with your wheel spoke.

Go soothingly on the grease mud

as there lurks a skid demon.

I just love the idea of a skid demon lurking in the grease mud, don't you? Ed.



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FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL

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~Lance Leadbeter~

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**THE POST OFFICE IS OPEN EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY
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THE BACK PAGE

REFUSE TRUCK SCHEDULE

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

LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS

FRITTENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

This month's Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th April. The Annual Parish Assembly will be on Wednesday 5th April followed by the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 15th.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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

POLICING

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

NEXT EDITION, SMALL PRINT, ETC.

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

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1) Winston Churchill; 2) They both appear as ghosts; 3) Lord Lucan; 4) 180; 5) Paisley; 6) Everest; 7) Impressionism; 8) The South side of Trafalgar Square; 9) Red; 10) The London Underground; 11) Four; 12) The FBI; 13) Frisbee; 14) Had a dish named after them, Caesar Salad, Mornay sauce and Pavlova; 15) Prince Charles; 16) Azerbaijan and Afghanistan; 17) High Society; 18) Deputy Dawg.

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