

Frittenden Parish Magazine



H. J. Thomson
May 3 07.

Frittenden Church.

May 2020 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 & Deanery Synod		Tony Staples	852226
Treasurer		Christopher Page	852230
Deanery Synod		James Highwood	852715
Secretary		Vacant	
Verger		Margaret Knight	852322
Director of Music		Morwenna Campbell-Smith	07703 522102
Parish Disclosure Officer		Judy Staples	852226
Parish Safeguarding Coordinators		Judy Staples & James Highwood	852226/852715
Bell Ringers	Captain & Secretary	David Manger	01622 890
Magazine	Editor	Mike Cooper	852
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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>Ring a Friend in Frittenden</u>	Contacts	Angela Parish & Brenda Croucher	852249/448
<u>Royal British Legion</u>	Chairman	Mike Burden	01622 432866
	Hon Sec.	Howard Lilley	
852225			
<u>Tennis Club</u>	Chair	Nigel Casswell	852772
	Treasurer	John Marshall	852345
	Membership Secretary		
<u>Women's Institute</u>	President	Anne Holroyd	893256
	Vice President	Ros Bowles	852323
	Secretary	Christine Anthony	852355
	Treasurer	Valerie Thomas	762821
<u>Youth Club</u>	Contact	Lorraine Burford, YMCA	07927 282129

DEFIBRILLATORS - These are now available at the shop, at the pub, at Larchmere and there is also a mobile unit available for use at village events. Last updated 16th March 2020

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends

To this day I can still remember the pink carpet swimming alarmingly. Six-year-old, floppy-haired me, heading downstairs from the first floor opticians, blinking through my first ever pair of spectacles. Suddenly the world looked totally different, and I didn't like it.

Now, with my complex prescription, specs now wonderfully enable 'sharp vision with just one pair of lenses, whether you're driving, using your phone or reading' - and I've never looked back!

2020 - the year the world changed right before our eyes. Changes global and local happened almost overnight, and it feels like the carpet has been pulled from under our feet. *Where do you go with that?* Sorry, bad question when you can't go out...

A pair of glasses that give us a healthy perspective - wouldn't that be amazing? As a Christian, the lens I'm learning to see the world through is the world-changing life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Meeting Jesus turned my life upside down - or, more accurately, is helping turn things the right way up.

Starting in May, we begin a series called *Meeting Jesus*, looking at the Jesus encountering people in Mark's gospel - and how he meets us today. Details on the website, where you can also catch our online services.*

All are warmly welcome at our virtual Sunday services, or at one of our reflective, perspective-forming weekday services. And in our virtual Prayer Hub we pray for you all – do get in touch with anything you'd appreciate prayer for specifically.

See you very soon,

Pete

* *The most recent service is always accessible via local number 01580 234185*

ST MARY'S SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Our normal services are suspended during the lockdown but that doesn't mean we aren't meeting. Each week we are recording a virtual service led by Rev Pete Deaves with contributors from across the two parishes of Sissinghurst and Frittenden taking part, recorded from their own homes. We are also including a variety of music from CDs and the internet as part of these services. Accompanying each service is an order of service so that you can follow along and join in the songs.

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

Across both parishes we are listening to the Sunday service at 10am so even though we are not able to meet in person we are meeting virtually.

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

In addition to the Sunday services, there are two services of night prayer, or Compline, available on Tuesday and Friday evenings. There is no set time for these but you may wish to listen before retiring to bed.

Our bi-monthly service of reflection S.P.A.C.E. will be available as a pdf on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

We are also meeting for virtual prayer meetings, using zoom, praying for our country and our community. If there is anything you would like us to pray for please email Rev Pete Deaves at rector@frittendenchurch.org.uk

FRITTENDEN YELLOW CARDS

Towards the end of March the Parish Council & St Mary's Church arranged for a yellow card to be put through every letterbox in the village providing some phone numbers to call if you need some help, or if you would like to offer help to others in our community. So far over sixty people have offered to help – which is tremendous, thank you all!

The offers range from shopping and picking up prescriptions, to dog-walking, phoning for a chat, cooking meals, taking pets to the vets and lots of other things.

We now have a system in place to quickly match requests for help, with those offering. So if you know of anyone who is in lockdown and not able to get out, or needs something collecting, or is an essential worker who can't get to the shops - do encourage them to use this facility.

Call Howard Lilley on 852225, Rosie Croucher on 852415, Rev Pete on 852275, John Stansfeld on 852185, Joanna Beech on 852312 or any Parish Councillor. You can also click on 'Logging a request for Help' on the church website frittendenchurch.org.uk.

Stay safe and well!

Joanna Beech & John Stansfeld, Churchwardens

MESSY CHURCH

Sadly we won't be able to hold our normal Messy Church this month,
but look out on the Church website and Facebook on

SUNDAY 17TH MAY



For ideas for creative fun for all the family, devised jointly
by St Mary's Frittenden & Trinity Church Sissinghurst

FRITTENDEN MEMORIAL HALL PRIZE DRAW

Winners of the April 2020 draw were:

1 st Prize	Berni Cooper	£25.00
2nd Prize	Anna Heggerty	£15.00
3 rd Prize	Sarah Wheeler	£10.00

If you would like to participate but have not yet been able to submit a Membership Form and the subscription fee, don't despair, I will need £5.00 for each person to cover the remaining five months (**cheques should be payable to Frittenden Memorial Hall**) and a completed application form. I will send you one by email if you have given me your address.

If you want to contact me my email address is still: shop@acornsstores.co.uk

Currently we have 99 members which means we have £50.00 each month in prize money, and the other £50.00 goes towards the running of the Frittenden Memorial Hall.

Thank you in anticipation and Good luck!

Eileen Bridges

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

I hope you managed to have a Happy Easter although I know this is a very difficult and uncertain time for many. Some residents will be isolating and may have been out of circulation now for over three weeks. Some may be unwell or worried about the current situation. Others will be not working and furloughed.

In totally unprecedented times some of the best is coming from groups and individuals. What an amazing and huge support network has been implemented in Frittenden. The combined efforts of The Church, The Parish Council and The Borough Council has seen every home receiving the yellow card asking for and offering help. An army of volunteers have been recruited and already many people requiring help have been given assistance. I have co-ordinated an exact scheme in Sissinghurst.

Sean and Rosie at The Bell and Jorrocks have provided the innovative Pop Up Shop. This has been invaluable to many and ensured difficult to obtain and essential foodstuffs are available. I can certainly vouch for the Veg Box which was amazing.

From the Town Hall. Firstly apologies for the cancellation of the black bin garden waste collections. At a time when so many of us are spending so much more time at home and busy in our gardens producing more green waste than usual. To some, and I agree, this is an essential service and unfortunately many will have to heap up grass cuttings and other horticultural waste until the service re starts. I can't reverse the decision which was taken due to extreme staff shortages and sickness. Any months missed will be added to the end of the year's contract.

Many staff at the Town Hall have been re deployed to different roles such as the community hub response efforts, the crematorium and housing.

TWBC have had notification of over 1,600 people that are considered "Shielded" Every one has been contacted and made sure they know where to go for support. Over 100 packages have been sent out to households.

TWBC HELPLINE 01892 554497 Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm

KCC 24/7 HELPLINE 03000 41 92 92

Business Support Advice Line 03333 602 300

Meanwhile Kent Police are receiving nearly 1000 calls a day to report breaches of government advice. This can be done via www.kent.police.uk PLEASE NOT VIA 999 except in an emergency.

Please keep safe and well

Andy Fairweather

Borough Councillor for Frittenden and Sissinghurst

andy.fairweather@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

07976 290185

COLIN ARTHUR REEVES

31st March 1940 – 2nd April 2020

Colin was born in Mitcham, Surrey, where he was raised with his older sister Heather, brother Alan and younger sister Hazel who are twins. There are less than four years between the four siblings, so his mother had her hands full when they were young, especially during the early years of the Second World War. Colin's mother was the second youngest of twelve siblings and he spent happy years in Mitcham with aunts, uncles and cousins living nearby.

When Colin was 14 the family moved to Biggin Hill and spent several happy years there, and was where he started his carpentry apprenticeship in 1956. In 1963 his parents moved to Crawley in Sussex, by then Heather and Alan were married so just Colin, his parents and sister Hazel moved there. Because Colin had established a social life in the Biggin Hill area he often came over that way at weekends and it was on one such weekend in 1964 that I met him at a dance, the rest as they say, is history! In 1966 Colin's parents moved to Wiltshire to take over a pub, which had been a long held ambition of his father's. Heather and Hazel moved down there but Colin and Alan remained in Kent.

We were married on 9th September 1967 on a lovely sunny day. We had bought a new house in Staplehurst and David and Karen were born whilst living there. At this time, Colin started working for George Wimpey, the building firm, as a finishing foreman. He worked on a small building site and was responsible for ensuring that the work was finished to a high standard. Over the years he worked his way up to Site Manager of a large development and was responsible for organising all the trades to work together and to make sure that the work was completed to a high standard. By then we were living in Frittenden, having moved here on 11th April 1979. Colin left Wimpey and started working for Pelham Homes in 1988 and retired in 2002. He took to retirement easily and enjoyed growing vegetables, he was out there early in the morning preparing the ground and looking after the growing plants. He also had more time for going to football and cricket matches, and to join in local activities – he was chairman of the Gardening Society for several years and ran the Memorial Hall prize draw (formerly the Harbour Club) for a while.

Colin was a keen follower of Ipswich Town Football Club, his grandparents lived in Ipswich so his father would take him to local matches when they went to visit them. Afterwards he and David travelled there on many occasions to watch a home match, and he took out a season ticket when he retired. He was also a keen supporter and season ticket holder of Maidstone United, and during the summer he had a season ticket to Canterbury Cricket Club and sometimes went to Lord's to watch international matches.

We became grandparents in 2011 and regularly looked after Lauren, but by the time George was born in 2014 Colin was unable to enjoy the same relationship with him that he had with Lauren.

By then I noticed that Colin wasn't as alert as he used to be, and after several tests he was eventually diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) which is related to Parkinson's, with dementia. He spent just over two years in Larchmere where he was settled and happy thanks to the care and devotion of the staff there.

Valerie Reeves

REMEMBERING COLIN

Colin was a much loved and respected member of Frittenden Gardening Society. He was Chair of the Society for over 7 years from 2007 until he retired from that position in October 2014. He then took on the position of Membership Secretary until he resigned in 2016. He was meticulously thorough in everything he did for the Gardening Society and was very good at organising everything. He took on the challenge to increase our membership to over 100 and was very successful in meeting this challenge. In many ways it is due to Colin that we have such a thriving Society today. We send our deepest condolences to Valerie and her family and Colin will be remembered very fondly and as a real Gentleman by all in the Gardening Society.

FRITTENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 24th March. Due to the social isolation measures strict social distancing was in place and only three members were able to attend (Cllrs Staples (chair), Vernon, and Cullingworth). The Chairman noted that the meeting was quorate. No members of the public were present.

Principal matters discussed and agreed were:

1. A scheme for delegating authority for day-to-day decisions, to include the authorisation of all payments, to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman during any period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation is to enable the Council to fulfill its responsibilities to its residents. This is provided for by the Scheme of Delegation at S.101(1)(a) of the 1972 LGA.

Formal meetings would not be held for the foreseeable future but the situation would be reviewed by the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and vice-chairman in the light of advice from local and central Government. The council would continue to consider and comment on all planning applications, doing so by email correspondence.

2. The Council agreed to set up a Hardship Fund which would be funded by public subscription. A new bank account with Unity Trust Bank would be set up in the name of Frittenden Parish Council to service this fund.

3. Payments for the month, totalling £707.99 were agreed. No unusual items were included.

See the Parish Council website frittenden.org.uk for a full set of minutes.

Footnote: Since this meeting legislation has been passed which allows Parish Councils to meet remotely. Our meetings on Tuesday 21th April and Tuesday 19th May will be held via Zoom. Parishioners wishing to attend must apply to the Parish Clerk beforehand.

Tony Staples

EXTRACT FROM A NOTEBOOK IN NORA BEARSBY'S PAPERS

I have been asked to talk of the Amenities in Frittenden as far back as I can remember. There were many wells, nearly every house or cottage had a well. Or there were one or two wells at a central point for various houses. The Bell had access to two wells – the well behind Charity – now Jubilee Cottage – & one by Kent House, Ashbees. The one at Ashbees sometimes got very low. Most wells today have been filled in, more is the pity. All these had strong springs to refill.

Well House gets its name now because of the very big well in the garden.

The position of quite a few I can mention; in Street Farm, The School House – Chestnut Close, I think outside of No.9 in the garden. There are two at the back of the Poplars one at the back of RyeCot. All these were the only means of Drinking water & was carried by Yoke with buckets.

The one I remember with the strongest spring is the one at Comenden Lodge West. Main water came to Fritt in 1924-25. The man who mainly was responsible for this was the Rev Stooks. A thanksgiving service was held in the village on the first Sunday after the water was turned & our piano was pulled to the window of the Bell & my sister Ethel now Mrs Evans played the hymns, one hymn I remember was Where Streams of living waters flow.

Water for washing etc was used from storm water small wells water tanks and butts etc. I remember that water had to be pumped to the attic at the Bell by a long handled pump every day& we had to take this in turns & it took 100 pumps to fill it on normal use

Thanks to Phil Betts for this

FRITTENDEN HARDSHIP FUND

**Are you in financial need as a result of the COVID 19 situation?
Unable to access any of the Government Schemes at the moment?**

If so we may be able to give you some help.

Frittenden Parish Council has set up a Hardship Fund, funded entirely by voluntary donations from local residents, in response to this situation. Small grants will be available to Frittenden residents. Applications will be assessed promptly and if successful payment can be made directly into your bank account. If you wish to claim please contact any of the names below, or any Parish Councillor.

Would you like to contribute to this fund? If so you can make a bank transfer to a dedicated bank account in the name of Frittenden Parish Council:

Sort code: 60-83-01

AC no: 20422723

(or by cheque payable to Frittenden Parish Council, 1 Bettenham Cottages, Bettenham Lane, Biddenden, TN27 8LT)

Details of applications and donations will be treated in strict confidence in accordance with the rules of the Hardship Fund. See the Parish Council website, www.frittenden.org.uk, for the full set of rules.

Contact details for the Hardship Fund:

Email: frittendenpc@gmail.com or phone

Tony Staples	852226	Heather Cullingworth	852340
Rosalind Riley	852317	Garry Lawrence	852124

Frittenden Parish Council

A BIT OF ADVENTURE

I am a keen sailor and I am sometimes asked if I have ever come close to disaster. The answer is yes, I have twice. This is the tale of one of them.

In 2012 I was on my yacht "RAYLAH" with an Australian friend and we had been storm bound for a week in 'Cooktown' far up on the North East coast of Australia. Cooktown was the place in Australia that Captain Cook landed in his ship 'Endeavour' and is a small isolated settlement of 2500 people, with one Main Street and a few shops. We are told by the harbourmaster to put out double anchors because the current on the river is so strong and to tie our dinghys in different positions around the boat each night because the salt water crocodiles look for patterns of behaviour and will take you out of your dinghy or off your diving platform. Recently a crocodile had taken a fisherman out of a metal dinghy and they found his thumb in the crocodile's stomach when they caught it.

However, most importantly from my point of view Cooktown was the last sheltered harbour before committing to a 6 day passage north around Cape York and then east across the Gulf of Carpentaria to Gove. Cape York is the 'finger' of land pointing North towards Papua New Guinea on the top right hand corner of Australia. The passage is tricky for a number of reasons. Firstly the prevailing wind and current is north running so it is difficult to turn back, reefs (The Great Barrier Reef) are encountered all the way up to Cape York. It was on one of these reefs that Captain Cook struck and then had to throw 38 tons of stores overboard including the canons before she could be floated off to sail up the Endeavour River to Cooktown where I was now anchored. We then had to encounter the perilous Torres Strait between Cape York and Papua New Guinea which has 580 reefs, fierce tidal streams and sometimes illegal immigrant boats. Once through the Straights your troubles are not over because then comes the Gulf of Carpentaria which takes 3 days to cross, is very shallow and has a fearsome reputation akin to the Bay of Biscay, with fast changing weather and short high breaking waves. Two days after we crossed it two boats were rolled over in a storm.

Meanwhile back in Cooktown I saw what I thought was a break in the weather. Many an impatient sailor has come unstuck when the desire to get going has coloured their judgement after reading the weather forecast. No other boats were leaving the anchorage so it was with some concern that I headed out and set course for the north. We weaved our way over three days through the reefs all the way up to Cape York and the Torres Straits. Unfortunately we arrived in the dark and decided to take what is called the "Albany Passage" which has no navigation buoys so no lights and total reliance on the GPS. We rounded the Cape York light at 3 am under a full moon on a totally flat sea; it was a nice feeling to be on the top of Australia!

We then spent three days crossing the Gulf of Carpentaria and again our luck held with flat seas and a fair wind until we arrived in Gove in Arnhem. We were welcomed by being 'buzzed' by a customs and immigration plane asking our details over the VHF Radio and did we have any immigrants on board and also by the harbourmaster telling us to be careful when pulling our dingies up the beach because of Crocks and that the time Zone had gone back half an hour.

We were on the north coast of the Northern Territories, which is mainly Aboriginal land, and some of the remotest in Australia, with few towns, dirt roads that are closed when it rains and permits required for some areas.

Gove is a very isolated fly in/fly out settlement which exists to serve one of the biggest bauxite (Aluminum) strip mines in the world and it had a huge smelting plant which towered over the harbour illuminating it at night with thousands of lights.

When you leave Gove you have a dilemma, your way is barred by a very thin (about 2 miles across) peninsular jutting out northeast approx 90 miles into the sea that needs to be sailed around or through and all of the passages through have problems.

I struck up a conversation with a local mariner to ask his advice, he told me the most direct route to take, and these are the descriptions given on the chart, is THE HOLE IN THE WALL or otherwise known as THE CALGORI RIP passage. However timing is absolutely critical and you must be on the first of the ebb immediately after high tide otherwise you will not be able to control the boat with whirlpools, and 6 knots of contrary current. BUT if a strong South –Easterly wind is blowing you get standing waves and crossing should never be attempted unless the timing is perfect "or it is lethal" (Quote from the Pilot Book). I find a picture of the passage, which looks like a knife cut through cliffs and is very narrow but I did not know that the photo had been taken in the widest part of the passage on a very still day.

We are the only boat leaving Gove the next day under heavy cloud. It's blowing a strong south-easterly, the worst possible wind but the forecast is for the wind to drop to 15 knots. It doesn't and hours later, we approach what seems like an endless line of impenetrable cliffs stretching in to the distance. There is a big sea rolling in behind us and we are going too fast and have arrived an hour early. The HOLE IN THE WALL then appears looking almost like a crevice with sheer sides and impossibly narrow. First I think I have the wrong location, this is not what I saw in the photograph. I check the chart, this is the hole!

The day is overcast, the wind is howling, we are the only boat in the area and the coast is uninhabited. Either side of the entrance is a rock face with no beach but boulders at the base and the sea is crashing in on them. I am having reservations, I have been through rock passages in Scotland with fast rips but nothing this narrow. I keep telling myself that it will be wider as I get nearer but it stays the same. We are now getting closer, the steady sea rolling in behind is turning into a confused heaving mass covered in white foam, like a top loading washing machine! RAYLAH is getting more difficult to control, her 18 tons being thrown around like a dinghy. The bow of the boat is rearing up in front of me and every time I throw the wheel across she is slower to come round, I'm losing control and sometimes I can't believe she'll come back. Hold your nerve Jeremy it should get better. We are only an hour early. The sea around the entrance is mad, one moment we are thrown close to the rocks on one side, then the other.

This is crazy we are going to die, I decide to retreat. I look to the left and right, no room to turn; I would go straight on the rocks. No choice, I have no choice, I push up the engine revs as much as I dare and head for the 'hole' praying the engine will not overheat. My speed has dropped from 6.5 to 1.5 knots; I am wrestling with a boat that is going nowhere. The channel is so narrow, there is only room for one boat with only depth in the centre. I have whirlpools, rips and turbulence. Slowly slowly we move down the channel with its vertical sides, and half way along I start to breathe again, the water flattens, speed slowly picks up and a huge feeling of relief comes over me mixed with a feeling that we came so very close to disaster.

Jeremy Elsom

CANCELLED

I have received confirmation of the cancellations of the Cancer Research North Downs Walk, organised by the Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent, and the Biddenden Flower Festival.

Sadly, I suspect you can safely assume that anything that has previously been advertised herein or elsewhere recently has also been cancelled.

Mike Cooper.

E FOR EDITORIAL

Like most of us I suspect, I'd like to talk about anything except Covid-19 and Corona Virus. But I want to tell you about an interview I heard with an ex-patient on the television the other day. He was of a certain age, and had been very ill indeed in intensive care for over a week, but was now released from hospital and at home. Apart from offering his profuse thanks to the staff who had cared for him – he described them as 'angels' – he asked the media as a whole a question. Rather than reporting every day on the number who had died during the past 24 hours, why did they not report on the number who like him had been through the illness and were now out the other side and recovering? Why could they not give us all some good news, he asked?

Berni and I discussed this and came up with a couple of theories. Firstly, of course, it is sad but true that as a general principle good news is simply not newsworthy enough to displace the really bad. But also could it be in part that the powers that be think the grim news about numbers of deaths might encourage the general public to take looking after themselves more seriously, to obey social distancing guidelines, and to stay at home? This we found credible, but disturbing also, in the way that Orwell's Ministry of Truth was disturbing.....

OK. It's look on the bright side time. Thanks to Pete and the team at St Mary's for the amazing job they are doing keeping services and other events going, for anyone to participate in virtually. Thanks to Sean & Rosie for the pop-up shop, which seems to double in scope every time one takes a look at it. Thank heavens for the generally fine weather we are having – just imagine how much more miserable life would be if it were cold and damp and dark by 4pm. Thanks to all in the community who are looking out for others, running errands for them and the like. And finally, thanks to our local garden centre Bumbles, who are taking orders and delivering so that we can plant our vegetables or beautify our gardens. Mind you, both my plants and my back could do with some rain to excuse/permit a few days off the gardening!

Keep safe, keep well, and keep happy.

Mike Cooper.

REUNION

A group of guys, all turning 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the newly opened Royal Oak in Muswell Hill because the waitresses were young, pretty, and wore mini-skirts.

Ten years later, aged 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Royal Oak in Muswell Hill because the waitresses were quite attractive, the food and service was good and the beer selection was excellent.

Ten years later, aged 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Royal Oak in Muswell Hill because there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and quiet – with no loud music – and it was good value for money.

Ten years later, aged 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Royal Oak in Muswell Hill because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a toilet for the disabled.

Ten years later, aged 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Royal Oak in Muswell Hill because they hadn't been there before.

Thanks to John Day and the M F U

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES FEATURING THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING.

Resources with special content for **children** in red. Chatterpack is well worth browsing. With acknowledgment to APPLAUSE for some of the links. Advice on access [here](#) and [here](#).

Chatterpack – Boredom-busting resources	A huge, fantastic resource page filled with online resources that people can get involved in whilst at home – concerts, virtual museum tours, online learning, literature, new skills and much more.	Free
Chatterpack – for schools & families	Masses of home learning and activity resources – school subjects + arts, culture, activities etc	Free
Chatterpack – for families of children with special needs	Another huge list of resources too numerous to detail here for Speech and language, OT, and many other SEND resources for families and schools	Free
64 Million Artists!	To keep us connected, curious and creative - daily creative challenges during May and activity packs for engaging others in the community.	Free
Google Arts& Culture	Learn something new every day!	Free
BBC Arts Culture in Quarantine.	Plenty to watch, listen and do here – theatre, music, dance, visual arts and activities .	Free
ENTS24	Lists of upcoming streaming events – all music genres are here, plus comedy, drama and more.	Many are free.
Tate Gallery	Plenty to see and do here for all ages including “Play, make and explore” for Tate Kids.	Free
National Theatre	Every Thursday at 7pm for some of the best British theatre.	Free to stream, available 1 week
Barbican	Something for everyone across the arts to “read, watch and listen to” on their website.	Free
Andrew Lloyd Webber Musicals	Complete performances released every Friday at 7pm.	Free to stream, available for 48 h
Filmed On Stage	Musicals and plays released daily for streaming via YouTube.	Free
Mubi	A new film every day, 30 available at any time. World film from classics to modern masterpieces.	7 d free trial, 3m if Kino member
BFI	Thousands of classic and cult films from across the decades. [30 d free trial with Amazon Prime].	Free 14 d trial, then subscription
IntoFilm	50 film guides with activities for children.	Free
Disney films	New app for smart devices and TVs	Free 7 d trial
Royal Opera House	Ballet, opera and rehearsals “from our house to your house”. Some will appeal to children.	Free
Marquee TV	On demand world ballet, opera, contemporary dance, theatre and documentaries.	Free 30 d trial, then subscription
Sadlers Wells	Performances and dance workshops for young and old.	Free
Metropolitan Opera	Different opera production streamed each day at 7.30pm New York time.	Free to stream, available for 23 h
OperaVision	Learn about opera + creative drama activities for children and live streams from around the world	Free

Mike Fitzgerald (with apologies to those who don’t like opera – but now you can sample!)

OF NESTS AND NOSES

In these strange and unsettling times, I draw comfort from the wonderful unfolding of spring around the village. Whatever happens to us as individuals, the great burgeoning of nature in April and May provides a certain perspective to our situations. This is by no means to diminish the difficulties and distress that many people are experiencing, but it offers - at the very least - a small antidote. The intense blue of bluebells in the hedges and woodlands, the cheerful yellow faces of celandine in the grass and the seas of white wood anemones, like tiny stars fallen out of the sky and now lying scattered under the trees - all these things continue, whatever is currently affecting our own lives.

This weekend, cuckoos have returned to the parish, flying all the way here from central Africa. Everyone knows that they lay their eggs in other birds' nests; this relieves them of the need to look after their young, so by June they will be heading back to Africa, leaving their chicks to fledge and follow some weeks later. It seems an awfully long journey for a mere two months in the UK, but then they do choose perhaps the best two months to be here!

We are lucky, of course, that we live in an area where the countryside is on our doorstep and it is lovely to see so many people enjoying the peace and quiet of the virtually empty roads and the network of parish footpaths (albeit from the safe distance of 2m or more!). But if you are walking your dog, please remember that there are many birds that nest on the ground, from skylarks in open fields to woodcock in dense woodland. Dogs that are let off the lead at this time of year in the countryside are seriously damaging to the breeding success of such birds; your dog may be a big softie at home, but blundering about in a field, along a hedge or in woodland it will at disturb and kill birds on their nests. Just because we 'can't see any birds' in a field, does not mean they aren't there, so keeping your dog on its lead is one of the most helpful and responsible things you can do to protect the biodiversity of the parish.

Rebecca Brown

THE LIGHT BROKE THROUGH

The Light Broke Through
Britain, once roaring with inventions and world dominance
Alas, it was struck down like a flash of lightning.
Everything that was our once loved country
Has just turned to fighting.
World peace has just gone
And the one thing standing between the largest giant we have ever seen
Is us, beautiful Britain.
As my eye weeps a tear,
All I hear is death, destruction and fear.
Fear is what makes the darkness come through;
But there is always hope in Britain
Though it may be tough at times,
Though death always comes,
One day, when the trees are dancing and the blood goes into the river,
The light will break through;
The light will break through forever.

Max Lilley, aged 12, who wrote this as part of his school WW1 history project.

Max is grandson of Howard & Lynda, who thought this appropriate for these dark times.

GOSBEE'S GOSSIP

Due to the current outbreak of coronavirus, we are living in really strange times. I would say that it is the first time that all world leaders have put the welfare of the people before finances. In this country, never before has the Government tried to help so many people and businesses at one time. Sadly, charities, and small businesses could end up in dire straits by the time it has passed. Even our Prime Minister Boris Johnson caught the virus. It will take some time before he will be recovered enough to take up the reins of the country again. I have been joining in with the Thursday night 'Applause for the NHS'. I think that Rosie and Sean and their family at the Bell and Jorrocks also deserve a round of applause for setting up their pop up shop, keeping the village supplied with essentials. We are so lucky to live here. Just looking out of the window, we can see nature at its best. We are allowed an hour's exercise a day, and we all live within walking distance of a footpath without the need to drive.

Frittenden has very sadly lost a couple of well known gentlemen who have lived in the village for many years. Edward (Ted) Lelean sadly died on 11th March aged 83. He was a loving husband to Shirley, Dad to Cindy, Kim and Colin, Grandad to Matthew, Lauren, Thomas and Willian, and Great Grandpop to Ezra. Ted was born in Deptford, London in 1936, and as a child he moved down to Staplehurst with his family at the beginning of World War 2. He was evacuated to Penzance where he stayed with Miss Rowena Cade, the Billeting Officer who lived at and designed the Minack Theatre at Porthcurno. Ted spent many a day playing around the Theatre. On his return, Ted went to Staplehurst Primary School and then Swattenden. He was called up for National Service in 1955 with the Buffs, Royal East Kent Regiment and was stationed at Wuppertal, West Germany. After his discharge in 1957, he met Shirley, whose parents ran the Hare and Hounds pub at Hawkenbury. They married on 19th December 1959 at Staplehurst Church and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last December. The family moved to Frittenden in 1961, first at Great Hungerden and moving to Weald View in 1963 until 1988 when Ted and Shirley moved to Great Hungerden. In the 1970's, Ted, with many villagers regularly raced banger cars at Whitsunden Farm. When the village tennis court was first installed, Ted played with his fellow villagers, finishing off with a few glasses of his homemade cider. Luckily this was after the game, not before. During the 1980's and 1990's, many a weekend was spent at the pub or Village Hall. Ted retired from his Haulage Company 'View Transport' in 1998 and spent time travelling with Shirley around the UK and Europe in their motorhome. Later in life, Ted was happier spending time pottering around his garden and spending time with his beloved family. He will be greatly missed. Many thanks to Cindy for that information. I would just like to add that Ted and Shirley used to put on great parties with their friends, Ron Walters, Cyril, Bob and Lesley Sharp and Charlie Baker, Bob Hollins and 'Long John'. They certainly knew how to have fun. In those days, Frittenden had its own disco. Sometimes I was the DJ. I rarely spoke, just played the music. They often had an auction, sometimes for a gallon of whisky for children's charities. I shall miss Ted, but have fond memories. Our love and condolences to all the family.

Sadly the village also lost long term Frittenden resident Colin Reeves after a long illness. Colin was a huge fan of sport, supporting Ipswich Town and also following Maidstone. Colin organised the annual Cricket Tour, which I know is still going each summer. My son Richard really enjoys it. Colin also belonged to Frittenden Gardening Society with his wife Valerie. Sending love and condolences to Valerie, Karen and David, and Colin's grandchildren. It must be especially difficult to say goodbye to loved ones, as funerals are now limited to so few people and with close contact not allowed. Sadly at the weekend, we lost not a villager, but a regular visitor of the Bell and Jorrocks Rob Compton. Rob lived in Staplehurst, and never lost his Cornish accent. He had some stresses in his life after his son Martyn suffered 75% burns in Afghanistan, spending months in hospital, but recovering well enough to marry his childhood sweetheart, local girl Michelle Clifford and they now have their own family and were a great joy to Rob. Martyn was friends with my son Richard at school. Rob was the same age as me and was suffering from cancer. I often think how lucky I have been, but only due to the fantastic NHS. I am one of the so called 'most vulnerable' at

the moment with my medical problems and history. This means that I am confined to home and unable to help others. I have called a few people to make sure that they are getting the help that they need. I saw on the news that old boy Tom Moore, who is almost 100 years old was hoping to raise £1 million. The latest is that he has raised £4.5 million, and the money is still rolling in. As you probably know, due to sepsis, which damaged my nerves around my spine, I am unable to walk any distance without holding onto my walker or wheelchair and stopping frequently to rest before the pain becomes too much. If anyone would like to sponsor me, I would like to walk up and down my drive, from the archway to the road twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon every day in May, which would be 124 lengths, to raise some money for the NHS. Would anyone be prepared to sponsor me? Please email me if you would, on lester.gosbee@btinternet, or text me on 07999 447213.

Hazel has been spending her time clearing brambles from a very old overgrown metal framed greenhouse/ conservatory in the front garden. It's looking great and will be a fantastic barbeque area when it is finished. I have been sowing seeds, trying to raise tomatoes and melons that look like they have got Covid19. It seems very strange not having children running around the house. Hazel has shared photographs of bluebells in Pound Wood. It is a spectacular show.

I watched the first episode of the new series of Britain's Got Talent on Saturday. It was a welcome relief from all the heavy news at the moment. I hope that the rest of the series is as good. TV schedules are all different at the moment and Hazel has been re-watching the series 'Waterloo Road' from the beginning, while sewing a cross stitch tiger. It was based in a school, like a slightly more modern (from 2006 onwards) Grange Hill. I have seen some and found it very watchable.

I hope that you all keep well and safe. In the word of the late comedian Dave Allan, who ended his show with "Stay safe and may your God be with you".

The World lost a big star since the last magazine, Kenny Rogers. His singalong country songs sold millions. He had a number one hit with the song Lucille with the line "You picked a fine time to leave me Lucille, with four hungry kids and the crops in the field...". I thought that it was "Four HUNDRED kids and the crops in the field". I hope that it brings back some memories.

Lester J. Gosbee



FRITTENDEN

Well, I was very optimistic last month wasn't I? Lock down hadn't started when I wrote it. Sadly, like everybody else, all our meetings and outings have had to be cancelled until further notice. What a lot of parties and reunions there will be when it is lifted – something to look forward to. In the meantime, all of you take care and keep safe.

If, when all of this is over, you would like to join us we meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Anne Holroyd on 01580 893256 or Christine Anthony on 01580 852355 for further information.

Christine Anthony

CANINE TRIVIA & TOUGH PUZZLE

A puppy with miniature pinscher and poodle parents is called a pinny-poo.
Every day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born in the USA, 22,000 in the UK.
If humans varied in size as much as dogs, the smallest would be 2 feet tall and the tallest 31 feet.
The Alaskan Malamute can withstand temperatures to minus 70 F (-56C).
It costs around \$60,000 to train a US Navy Seal dog.
Sirius, known as the Dog Star, is 25 times brighter than our sun.
The smallest dog breed is the Chihuahua, it's also the name of a Mexican State.
The wet surface of a dog's nose helps them sort out the different odours they smell.
The Basenji dog from Africa doesn't bark, it yodels.
Dogs have a sense of smell that is at least 1000 times better than humans.
Yorkshire terriers were originally bred to catch and kill rats.
Australian cattle dog Bluey was the oldest dog on record, he died at 29 years and 5 months.
The coat of arms for Canada's Yukon Territory includes a Husky dog.
Dogs are considered puppies for the first 2 years of life.
All of the Collies that played Lassie in the films and TV series were male.
You can buy a diamond collar for your dog that can cost up to \$3 Million.
Dogs carry their puppies around by grasping the loose skin on their necks called the scruff.
Matching sunglasses are available for you and your dog.

TOUGH PUZZLE

A visitor to a zoo asked the zookeeper how many birds and how many beasts were in a particular section of the zoo. The zookeeper replied: **“There are 45 heads and 150 feet in this section and with that information you should be able to figure out the answer to your question”**. Can you help the visitor?

Colin Bullock

Answer on the Back Page.

DEALING WITH RUBBISH - SINGAPORE STYLE

Bro Dowling's niece Carole recently sent me a video showing how Singapore disposes of its domestic waste. Click on the link below. You don't need a Dropbox account just ignore that.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rmfugl76y3ihndh/VID-20190513-WA00141.mp4?dl=0>

This video shows how Singapore burns all its domestic waste in an incinerator operating at 1000°C, which for example instantly destroys a crisp packet that would take 500 years to decompose in landfill. The incineration process destroys 90% of the waste, producing heat used to generate electricity, and the toxic flue gases are filtered to remove any smoke particles above 1 micron, i.e. clean air emerges from the chimney.

The remaining 10% ash, also toxic, is shipped to an isolated reservoir on an island, where it is stored underwater, effectively keeping it out of contact with the environment. If only all countries did the same, the video says, the world would be a much cleaner place. Many countries do of course employ incinerators (there is a big one in south London for example, visible from the train) but the Singapore trick is to incinerate all waste, thereby avoiding landfill completely.

I found the video interesting, if a little idealistic and self-congratulatory. It also did not answer the question of what happens to the ash once the reservoir is full....

Mike Cooper for Carole MacDougall

WEATHER FORECAST FOR MAY

May will start as April left of, with a cool north westerly airstream, with a mix of warm sunny spells and scattered sharp showers, hail and one-bang thunderstorms with some gusty winds. There is the chance of the odd slight air frost in those frost hollows. Temperatures will be up to normal. In those sunny spells, high pressure will be building, bringing good weather. It is a shame that the May Day Bank Holiday has been moved this year to Friday 8th May, as last year's holiday was a record cold one, when Plymouth in Devon was the warmest in the UK at 13.8 c/ 56.84 f. This year, the original May Day date of 4th May will have a temperature of 20 c/ 68 f. The temporary May Day on 8th will have a fine spell of weather for celebrations. This spell could last for 11 days . It will feel quite summery at times, and some places will get 10 hours of sunshine per day. May is the UK's sunniest month in the UK with 185.9 hours of sunshine for the month. Having said that, many counties in the UK have July as their sunniest month. In this fine spell, temperatures will rise widely up to 25 c/ 77 f, but I do not expect anywhere in England and Wales to get temperatures into the 80 f's. Low pressure will take over, bringing widespread thunderstorms around 16th, followed by cool, showery weather. Temperatures will drop to 15 c/ 59 f. The weather will remain changeable up to 22nd May. There will be the odd warmer, brighter day, when temperatures will pop up to 18-19 c/ 65 f. An anticyclone over Scandinavia will push cool, often cloudy weather down all North Sea Coastal counties. There will even be some drizzle on that Norfolk/ Lincolnshire coast. Temperatures will be very disappointing for the time of year with temperatures at 14 - 15 c/ 57 - 59 f. West London, Cambridgeshire to Leicester will have fine, warmer weather. Here, temperatures will be close to or a little above average, at around 18 c/ 64 f. On clear nights, Bournemouth could have temperatures that drop close to freezing. Fruit farmers in Dorset, Wiltshire, Hereford and Worcester will also have some early morning fog that will cause concern. Low pressure will bring many areas a spells of rain (rather than persistent). All areas will then enjoy warm, sunny spells that could set off an evening thunderstorm. All areas that I forecast for will be above the late May average of 17.8 c/ 64.04 f. The average in Central Southern England is 17.5 c/ 63.50 f, for Dorset and Lincolnshire it is 17 c/ 62.60 f. Most places will have temperatures 2.8 c/ 5 f above average.

May's Highest Day Temperature will be: 25 c/ 77 f (I do not expect anywhere in England and Wales this May to exceed a temperature of 26.7 c/ 80.06 f), Lowest Day Temperature will be: Around 14 c/ 57 f (But Skegness, Lincolnshire and Cromer, Norfolk may not exceed 10 c/ 50 f), and Lowest Night Temperature will be: Close to 0 c/ 32 f (On sandy soil around Bournemouth). Average rainfall for May in England is 58.4mm/ 2.32 inches. The average for Dorset is 58.9mm/ 2.35 inches, Lincolnshire 48.4 mm/ 1.92 inches, and Kent 51.1mm/ 2.04 inches. Where storms do not occur, rainfall totals will be close to or even a little below average, but all Channel Coastal counties and the London area could have 150% of average rain. The sunshine average for May in England is 190.6 hours. The average for Dorset is 206.5 hours, Lincolnshire 193.8 hours and Kent 207.3 hours. Over the whole of England, May is the second sunniest month of the year. The average May Central England Temperature is 11.23 c/ 52.28 f, Last May's CET was 11.1 c/ 51.98 f, which was 0.2 c below average. This May the CET will be 12.1 c/ 53.78 f, which is 1 c/ 1.80 f above average.

Lester J Gosbee

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Translation of 'Permanent Under-Secretary' on Japanese business card:

Everlasting typist.

MUSIC NOTES FOR MAY 2020

As all readers will be aware, every one of the concerts I listed in my April notes was either cancelled or postponed indefinitely. There are no live concerts scheduled for May – and that's nationally of course, not just locally. It gives us all the chance to dig out our CDs, records, and perhaps even tapes if we still have the equipment to play them.

As I write Radio 3 has just published its schedule for May, so I can make some recommendations of best listening there. Also the BBC offers a weekly free download of a concert via its classical music website www.classical-music.com. They only release details of that a week in advance, so no recommendations there, but well worth checking. TV does not yet promise any recorded programmes, now live concerts are not available, though BBC4 did broadcast the remarkable virtual choir performance by Tenebrae on Easter Sunday and I'm sure you will be able to find a view of that on the internet.

Radio: I have often mentioned in the past and would continue to recommend tuning to radio 3 (digital or 90.2-92.4 MHz FM) on Sunday at 3.00pm and Thursday at 3.30pm for Choral Evensong. 6th May is scheduled to be from Salisbury Cathedral, and should be of the best. Then there is the Beethoven Roots Festival, radio 3 in concert, 18th-21st May daily at 7.30pm. As well as the full cycle of symphonies there will be key contemporary music to illustrate the development. That is something special.

A number of national orchestras are offering recorded concerts through the internet and I give suggestions below.

Internet:

London Symphony Orchestra-The LSO has launched 'Always Playing', a series of full-length concerts from its archive, which will be streamed live at the orchestra's usual performance times: 7.30pm on Thursdays and 7pm on Sundays. Find it on <https://www.youtube.com/user/Lso>

Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra- The Nordic orchestra has an online streaming service, which features concerts from the past year, including a performance of Britten's Peter Grimes, which the orchestra performed at the Royal Festival Hall in 2019. Find it via <https://www.bergenphilive.no/>

Metropolitan Opera - The Met has launched 'Nightly Met Opera Streams', a free series of operas streamed on the Met Opera's website during the coronavirus closure. Find details on <https://www.metopera.org/calendar/#/on-stage?year=2020&month=4>

Having said all that, those who have internet access can check daily on what programmes are available, and those who still have a newspaper can do the same. In fact, if you can use the internet, you can find and listen to any particular piece of music you choose. It is the way music listening is going. Sounds wonderful, but you tend to miss out on that amazing piece that you didn't know existed!

More from the Musicians' Dictionary:

Interval: Time to go to the bar

Perfect interval: Drinks are on the house

Brian Hardy

LOST IN TRANSLATION II

Sign in Indian National Park:

Ramganga River is inhabited by crocodiles.

Swimming is prohibited.

Survivors will be prosecuted.

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
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 19th May, preceded on Tuesday 5th May by the annual Parish Assembly. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 16th June.

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 June edition is Friday 15th May. 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 ANSWER

Answer:- There are 30 four legged beasts and 15 two legged birds.