



# **HARRIETSHAM HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER December 2021**

**No 80**



## **HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE**



My thanks to Carole who has managed to sort out and book speakers for our meetings in 2022, all of course subject to there being no restrictions on groups meeting up indoors. We must all hope that things will begin to improve early in the New Year.

On Monday 21st February we will be holding our first meeting of the year which will be in the afternoon in the Scout Hut Station Road, starting at 2pm when there will be the opportunity to renew your yearly membership whilst helping sort out some of the boxes of documents and photos we still have not managed to get round to during the past two years. I confirm the membership fee is still just £15.00 per person which can be paid by cheque or BACS if you prefer. I will be happy to provide our account details if this is your preferred method of payment.

Monday May 16th sees the return of a previous speaker and resident of Harrietsham Stuart Bligh who will be telling the story of William Harrison the captain of a Clipper ship, William is buried in the graveyard to the rear of St. John's Church.

On Monday 18th July we have a visit from another very popular speaker Melanie Gibson-Barton who will be giving her talk on Eva Braun a German photographer who was the long-time companion and later the wife of Adolf Hitler.

We have another nautical theme for our meeting on the 19th September when our speaker Colin Harvey will tell the story of the SS Richard Montgomery the ship which sank in the Thames estuary on the 20th August 1944 loaded with around 140,000 tonnes of explosive and still continues to be a danger to the area.

Our final meeting of the year on the 21st November is also to do with famous ships as this is about Captain John Quilliam, who was First Lieutenant of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

I shall look forward to seeing you in February and meantime wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Best wishes Peter