

# HARRIETSHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

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### Chairman's Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all okay and have managed to keep well and clear of this awful virus which has blighted everyone's lives this year. I will be very glad to see the end of 2020 having been locked down twice and being faced with not being able to see friends and family has been a very difficult time. Although I have found plenty of things to keep me busy especially during the summer and whilst the weather has been good enough to get in the garden I have really missed seeing everyone and the social aspects of life I have been able to enjoy in the past. With the news of several vaccines being tested and approved there is every reason to be hopeful that things will be better for everyone in 2021.

At the beginning of the year Carole and I had made good progress with scanning the old copies of the village magazine and had managed to complete right up to the end of last century. Unfortunately we could not continue with this during the lockdown as we had been using the scanner at Smarden History Society so we still have 11 years of copies to scan (2001—2011) fortunately from January 2012 all copies of the Network magazine were produced digitally.

My garage, which doubles as a storeroom not only with all of my junk but also all of the boxes containing the materials the history society have collected since we started in June 2012 is a little bit tidier with all of the sorted boxes now stacked in numerical order. The boxes contain items numbering from 1 to 1151 some of which have been scanned or copied but there are still a large

number of these to be done, there are also quite a few handwritten items which need to be transcribed to make them easier to read once they are in the archives.

Between lockdowns Carole and I were able to meet and made a decision to cancel our previously booked meetings for January, February and March 2021 due to the uncertainty of the situation with the virus and not knowing whether the village hall would be able to open for use. We are hoping that it will be possible for us to have a meeting in April but this is obviously dependent on things improving considerably in the new year. I will of course let you know as soon as possible with details of a date and venue. This obviously means the half a dozen boxes I was hoping we could sort out in January at a workshop evening will have to wait for another time.

During the first lockdown I received an email from Brian Drury with information on the Zero Station located close to the Parish boundary adjacent to Ringlestone Road, the article regarding this appeared in the November Network, I hope you found this interesting. In October I received a newsletter from the Kent Library & Archive centre containing details of the Plague notice issued to Harrietsham in 1578 when people had to cope with a very similar situation to the one we have experienced this year. Both articles and this newsletter will be added to our website shortly.

I would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and Happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to the time when we can all meet again. Peter.

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