

# Editorial

Dear Villagers,

I thought I was going to have an easy time editing this month's Contact. But no! Despite lockdown, there is still plenty going on, and lots of articles.

From the launch of Covi, The Little Green Dinosaur - book and treasure map, to writers being needed and everyone with news of Zoom meetings. We'll all be technical wizards following lockdown!

Once again a big thank you goes to Sanjeev and Sunita at The Shop, and also for the donation of the two lovely benches at the front of the shop to make things easier while we wait our turn.

It was certainly a welcome announcement (if rather muddled), from Boris that lockdown was to ease - let's hope things continue in the right direction and life can return to normal soon.

Stay well.

Best wishes

*Lois*

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### DISCLAIMER

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Our preferred typeface is Times New Roman for regular articles and notices. Submissions should be suitable for A5 format. Submissions may be abridged for space reasons and inclusion it at the discretion of the Editor/Management Team.

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# St Mary's Church letter - The Art of Precious Scars

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Dear Friends,

In 2006 three vases of the Qing dynasty were knocked over by a man who tripped, in a Norman Wisdom moment, at a museum in Cambridge. The vases, worth around £300,000, broke into hundreds of pieces causing consternation all around. Amazingly after months of painstaking work they were put back together by experts in a seamless restoration.

It reminded me of the distinctly different Japanese art of mending broken ceramics. By repairing broken ceramics it's possible to give a new lease of life to pottery so that it becomes even more refined thanks to its "scars". This Japanese art of **kintsugi** teaches that broken objects are not something to hide but something to display with pride.

When a precious item falls and breaks into a thousand pieces, we may sadly and regretfully throw them away. Yet there is an alternative way of responding. Kintsugi highlights and enhances the breaks, thus adding value to the broken object. Kintsugi is literally golden ("kin") and repair ("tsugi").



This traditional Japanese art uses a precious metal – liquid gold, silver or lacquer dusted with powdered gold – to bring together the pieces of a broken pottery item and at the same time enhance the breaks. The technique joins fragments and gives them a new, more refined aspect. Every repaired piece is unique because of the randomness with which ceramics shatter and they are enhanced with the use of precious metals. These ceramics are often worth more after repair than before they were broken.

The kintsugi technique suggests many things. Perhaps we shouldn't throw away broken objects. When an object breaks, it doesn't mean that it's no longer useful. Its breakages can become valuable. We should try to repair things because sometimes in doing so we obtain more valuable objects and the process of repair can be enriching. This is the essence of resilience. Our fault line can become our place of empowerment.

Each of us should look for a way to cope with traumatic events in a positive way, learn from negative experiences, take the best from them and convince ourselves that exactly these experiences make each person unique, and precious.



There is a popular television programme called 'The Repair Shop' where people are invited to bring along broken and tarnished objects which still have an emotional value to the owner. In the hands of experts these objects are transformed into full working order and something of their original shining quality, invariably reducing the owners to tears.

In these broken days and in our broken lives we tend to hide the broken pieces and look for hope amongst our fears.

...cont'd

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## St Mary's Church letter (cont'd) *plus* WI

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In Galilee 2,000 years ago an expert in healing human lives came amongst us and brought the route to wholeness for the human condition. Where there was weakness he brought strength, where there was sadness he brought joy, where there was fear he brought hope, where there was isolation he brought friendship. He touched those who were sick and they were healed and he met with the outcasts and they felt valued. His Spirit lives on today as we face the challenges that modern living and this pandemic have brought us.

If you are feeling a little cracked this morning remember the name of this expert in restoration. His name is Jesus.

Every Blessing

**Rev. Nigel Washington**  
Joint Interim Minister,  
St Mary's Church 714442

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## Harlington WI

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Harlington WI is abiding by all WI National Advice during the Coronavirus outbreak, regarding social distancing and isolation. Sadly this means that our WI meetings are cancelled until further notice.

We will monitor the situation and keep you updated as to when our meetings will start again.

We hope that you're all keeping safe and well during the lockdown. Hopefully, over the next few weeks, as some of the rules are eased, we'll be able to run a programme that will fit in with the guidelines as they appear.

Our WI VE Day celebrations may have been put on hold, but we hope you managed to celebrate at home. There was certainly lots of bunting about!

**For further information please contact Lin Merrison on 01525 757161.**



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## Goodby to Linda Ilott

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On April 12<sup>th</sup> the village said goodbye to Linda, a very much-loved lady who was born in Harlington and lived here for the whole of her 97 years.

She leaves behind brother Keith, now living in Essex, son Rodney and his wife Doreen, 2 granddaughters Stephanie and Maxine, and 2 great grandchildren.

Linda was born Linda Webb at 9 Church Road, (now part of Strawplaiters Cottage) near the Brinklow's grocery shop which is now Bradshaw's Estate agents, and an early memory Rodney has of the house is a big fireplace where Grandpa and Grandma Stone kept a kettle constantly on the boil. The family later moved to a row of cottages near 6 Sundon Road, since demolished, and then on to 46 Westoning Road.

Linda met her future husband, Bert, when her friend, Margaret Stone's mother, used to take in washing for the soldiers based in the village and Bert used to collect it for them. Linda always asked when he was coming in next. Bert was from Croydon and served with the Searchlights Unit for the Royal Artillery stationed at Redhills farm. It is thought he guarded the Sundon Hills Training ground.

A lovely story of their courtship is that Bert was stationed in the searchlights battery unit and Linda used to visit him there. One night it is said that as she walked back in the dark he shone his light from Sundon Hills towards the village right to her home so that she travelled safely back on foot.



During the war Bert was captured in Crete and was a POW in Germany for 4 years. Linda waited for him and on repatriation he went to Guernsey and then back to Harlington to marry her at St Mary's Church, in 1945. Her father had died three years before in an accident, so she was given away by Margaret's dad, Charles Stone. Her sister Daphne, who died three years ago, was a bridesmaid and a bell ringer at the church at the time and was in the choir with two friends; Sylvia Bottoms (now deceased) and Pearl Everett (nee Brinklow) who still lives in the village.

Once married the couple moved in to Westoning Road with the rest of the family and later moved to their own home at 13 Wingate Road, living near Margaret Hull 'Aunty Margaret' as she is still known by the family, and later again, to a bungalow in Robinson Crescent.

Like many others locally Bert went to work at Vauxhall. Linda had a career for a while as a hairdresser and at George Kent munitions in Luton and AC Delco in Dunstable. She lost a little finger in a work accident working with bottles at Whitbread's bottling plant. She also worked down at the Lee's/Wood farm in Sundon Road, as did many in the village – a tractor used to pull into the village to take them to pick peas, potatoes etc.

Cont/d...



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## Linda Ilott (cont'd) *plus* Quotation

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In their later years, the couple moved to Orchard House which is where Linda stayed after Bert's death nearly a decade ago. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2005 and she was very excited about the card from the Queen on that occasion.

Linda loved going out for fish and chips and travelling. In early years this involved caravan holidays to Great Yarmouth and Weymouth with the granddaughters, and later, holidays with friends such as the Fleckneys in Spain, Italy and Yugoslavia. On a cruise in Cyprus relatives came across Welsh singer Bryn Yemm who sang with the Treorchy Male Choir and they brought back a tape of his – she loved one hymn in particular - How Great Thou Art. Another time they were all set to go to Jamaica for a wedding anniversary, but storms prevented them, and they went to Spain instead, where unfortunately they got flooded out anyway.

In recent years Linda loved her Soaps – especially Emmerdale. Her son tells of times when a phone call was cut short if a particular favourite was about to start! She also loved her budgies and owned four or five in succession. There were many escapades and tears over these leading to frantic phone calls to family when they got out or up to mischief. At Orchard house her final beloved pet Billy was allowed free reign of the apartment and loved to 'chat' to her. She kept in touch with Sylvia Harris and they often talked on the phone about their respective budgie pets. In their early days there Orchard house was a lively place with evening shows, organ playing, sing songs, 'turns' and bingo.

Linda's cremation took place on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Because of Covid 19 it was unattended but Linda's family plan to hold a memorial for family and friends once lockdown is over. Both sets of ashes will be scattered where they spent many a happy time together on Sundon Hills, which was Linda's wish.



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### Quotation...

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Do what you can,  
With what you have,  
Where you are

*Theodore Roosevelt*

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## Crafternoon Tea *plus* HVH 100 Club

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We have now had three meetings by Zoom, and this seems to be a format that can be used whilst you are actually crafting, as long as you have an electronic device you can put down while your hands are busy. Unfortunately, this does not include phones you have to hold to your ear! If you want to be involved but only have a phone, you can still come for the conversation – please let me know if you want to do this.

Mail order sites for craft materials are still operating, so it is possible to get materials, as long as you are happy to rely on someone else's judgement for colour, if that is relevant. I am assured that Hobbycraft is still operating by this route, as is Baker Ross.

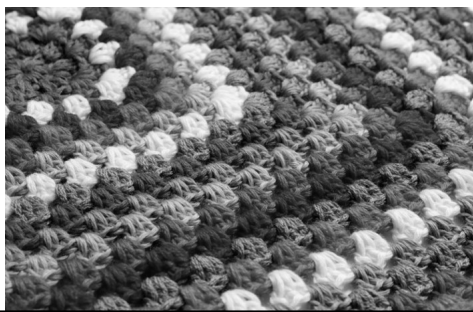
I have also checked out Deramores (<https://www.Deramores.com>) (yarns and patterns for crochet and knitting, and project packs) and LoveCrafts (<https://www.LoveCrafts.com>) (knitting, crochet, sewing, quilting), which are both mail order only companies. They are still operating, although both say that their delivery times may be extended, as they are working with reduced numbers of warehouse staff.

Our dates for Zoom meetings in June are 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The dates are also on our website, should you lose your copy of Contact, and I will put other information there – free patterns, etc. If you have not come to the group, but you would like to be included in Zoom meetings, please contact me.

**Contact: Tina Salmon**  
**([christinasalmon60@gmail.com](mailto:christinasalmon60@gmail.com)),**  
**874481, website: [https://](https://cliveandtina.co.uk)**  
**cliveandtina.co.uk**

The picture is a granny-square style blanket, really straightforward to do, if you have basic crochet skills.



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## HVH 100 Club

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The winner for May is Natalie Jeffs of Westoning Road with ticket number 91. If you wish to be part of the 100 Club and have the chance to win £50, please contact our Treasurer, Dave Thew at [hvhtreasurer@btinternet.com](mailto:hvhtreasurer@btinternet.com). The money raised each month helps to fund the upkeep of the Village Hall.

*Barbara Thurston, Secretary,*  
*HVH Management Committee*

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## LiFE Church *plus* Farewell *plus* HHT

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Loving God... Loving His people... Loving the world

As part of the Pioneer Network of churches we are able to link into our Midlands Area Hub Church in Loughborough to join in with their Sunday services at 10.30am & 4.30pm

You can find their website at: [openheaven.org](http://openheaven.org)

We are continuing to keep in contact with each other through Zoom meetings.

On a Wednesday from 7-7.45pm we have a catch up with each other and time for prayer.

Then on a Sunday at 6pm we are taking turns to lead a bible based discussion.

If you would like to join in with any of these, have any prayer requests or would like to talk to someone please contact us at.

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

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## Emma Tayler-Lightfoot - a fond farewell

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Dear Residents,

Many of you are already aware I left Harlington Parish Council's employment last month, choosing to take the offer of redundancy following an announcement of restructure. I am off to pastures new and wanted to say a 'farewell' to the many faces I saw and worked with regularly - I'll miss you all!

However, I guess with me still living in the village I'm sure we'll bump into each other from time to time and I look forward to doing so. Until then, take care, stay safe, and chat soon!.

Best wishes

*Emma*

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## Harlington Heritage Trust

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Unfortunately due to the current situation with the Covid-19 virus, we have had to cancel the car trip to Harpenden on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Sadly, for the same reason, we are sorry to inform you that we have decided to cancel the coach trip to Winchester on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. With the uncertainty of social distancing/restaurants etc. reopening, we are not in a position to advertise this trip.

Keep safe everyone.

*Barbara Thurston, HHT Secretary*

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# VE Day Last Post

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Did you hear last post played before the beginning of the 11am silence on VE Day?

The Friday Thing (TFT) / 1<sup>st</sup> Harlington Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association has long had a traditional marching band, leading the village Remembrance Sunday parade for 25 years.



Four of our buglers were happy to play on VE Day from various places around the village. Isobel and Louis Saunders (pictured left) played in their back garden in Barton Road and were definitely heard by some in Brian Road.

Rob Whittle (pictured right) played from the entrance to the Upper School and, as you may have seen, we 'live streamed' Ed Stevens (below) who kindly played at the War Memorial.



The reaction on the village Facebook group was lovely to see; thank you for all the encouraging posts; we received nearly 200 'likes' and 'loves'.



Although TFT is unable to meet face to face at the moment, we are hopeful that we will be able to get together in some form from September. We run from 8.15pm to 10pm on Friday evenings with a varied programme for girls and boys in school years 7 to 13. This includes various competitions with other local groups and trips away. We also meet mid-week for band practice providing free tuition for bugle, drums, bell lyre and cymbals. We are also looking for a drum major to lead the band from the front with our mace.

As well as leading the Remembrance Day parade we normally play at fetes and special events such as the anniversary of the Harlington station opening a couple of years ago.. Six members of our band joined with around 70 others last autumn for a tour of Normandy, during which we played at many of the major D-Day related sites including marching across Pegasus bridge! Our next tour has just been confirmed for October 2021, going to Holland to visit various places including Arnham. Our most popular annual event is to lead the parade at Center Parcs, Woburn for Father Christmas, which includes a free swim for band members!

If anyone would like to know more about either our band or TFT (either to book the band or with a view to a child joining us), please contact me on 077956342507 or [martinwallis@hotmail.com](mailto:martinwallis@hotmail.com)

*Martin Wallis, BB/GA Captain*



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# Covi - the Little Green Dinosaur

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Harlington, as you know - has its own dinosaur... 'Covi, the little green dinosaur' book is the result of the "real" dinosaur who has been running around the village delighting the children (Chris Gibson, filmed by his fiancée Danielle Proctor).

The children's story book is now on sale - [bit.ly/CoviKindle](https://bit.ly/CoviKindle). The book can be played on kindle, iPhone, iPad and laptop (download the free Kindle app to make this magic happen). It costs £9.99 on Amazon and all net proceeds are going to NHS Charities Together.

I wrote the story, which has been filmed for children to watch for free on YouTube. The Grandad character narrating has real grandchildren in the village, Sam, Toby and Logan. He is played by Chris Bearne (Susie Bearne, Banana Moon's father). The link to watch him is [bit.ly/CoviGrandadYouTube](https://bit.ly/CoviGrandadYouTube). Another reading has been performed by a Princess from [Wish Upon A Princess Parties](https://bit.ly/CoviPrincessYouTube), and can be viewed at [bit.ly/CoviPrincessYouTube](https://bit.ly/CoviPrincessYouTube).

Emily is a little girl who is distressed that her world has changed and she misses her friends and family. Covi visits and tells her of all the positive changes that are the result of the 'world being shut'. It is a lovely little tale, told in rhyme which makes it fun to read out loud. It is suitable for children from age 2 to 120!

The bright, beautiful illustrations have been created by two remarkable illustrators. One, Kaitlyn Powell is just 10 years old and lives in Harlington. The second, Chay Winter, is a 19 year old student from Luton who wants to take an art degree - we think she has a great chance at that! She is definitely one to watch out for!

Also collaborating in the project have been the children of Harlington. They have submitted drawings and videos of themselves acting out scenes from the book. These will be used both in the book itself, in the form of collages (drawings) and the video clips will be used to create a fun film as a legacy for the village.

We are super excited about this and hope the villagers love it as much as we do!

**Susie Cullen (Author) & Covi, the little green dinosaur**

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To coincide with the launch of the book, Harlington has its own Covi Treasure Map. To play download a "Treasure Map" from the Harlington Village facebook group (or pick one up from 2a Westoning Road) and set out with an adult to find him! Once you have found all 12 Covis, write down the letter he is standing with. Work out what the letters mean, write your answer on the back of your treasure map with your name and telephone number, and pop it into the letter box at 2a Westoning Road (Mailbox in Tabor Close). The winner's house, which will be chosen at random from all the correct answers - will be visited by the real Covi himself! (at a safe distance).

**Jenny Asbury (Treasure Map Co-ordinator)**



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## Messy Church *plus* Jigsaw Library

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The Coronavirus lockdown continues, but so does Messy Church! We can't actually meet, but we can learn the stories and do some of the activities that we would have done.

If you signed up on our contact list then we will email material to you. If you haven't, then it's available on our website <https://cliveandtina.co.uk> and you can download it from there. Alternatively you can email me at [clivedsalmon@aol.com](mailto:clivedsalmon@aol.com).

The April Messy Church was about Jesus after Easter. We learned about Jesus appearing to his disciples. The story for the celebration was about doubting Thomas, and if you want to see it check Harlington Methodist Church on YouTube.



One of the activities was to grow cress seed in an eggshell with a face on it. Tina tried this, and after we started again with fresh cress seed, she managed it.



In June we are going to look at an Old Testament story. Our subject will be Abraham, and how he came to be known as the father of the nation of Israel.

In the very unlikely event that the lockdown no longer affects us, Messy Church meets in the Methodist Church and Halls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month from 4 to 6 pm so our June meeting should be 20<sup>th</sup>. More likely, we will circulate things during the week before (to give time if you need to get things in advance) and put information on our website and Facebook.

Don't forget, children need an adult, Messy Church is not just for children.

*Clive*

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## Harlington Jigsaw Library

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The jigsaw library is still open, but only via phone or email contact at the moment. Just call/ text or email your request; approximate size of jigsaw if you have a preference, small or large pieces, and I will deliver to your home. It doesn't matter if you aren't already a "registered" member. Anyone can join. So why not give it a go if you are staying indoors or would like something different to do. Simply contact me when you have finished – including a photo of the finished article if you'd like to, just to celebrate!



**Tricia 07711 511729**  
**[tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com](mailto:tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com)**

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# HNH *plus* Walking4Health

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(Working in partnership with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity)

## Help During Lockdown

We now have 40 or more extra volunteers in the village – the majority of these are recent and are residents who are home because of furloughing or not being able to work or because A levels are cancelled, schools closed etc.

We still cannot drive people to appointments because of social distancing rules but we have helped by getting in shopping, dropping off and collecting prescriptions from local doctors and the pharmacies in Toddington, Barton and Flitwick, doing errands around the village, collecting in parcels etc.

We've also mown lawns, paid paper bills, posted letters and walked dogs.

Since January we have completed nearly 200 jobs, but we have plenty of capacity for more and many of our volunteers are patiently waiting to help so please do call us!

One of the reasons we have capacity is that neighbours are doing a lot for each other in the village outside of formal volunteering which is wonderful. Also Sanjeev, Sunita and the team at The Shop have made a huge difference as they are willing to drop off shopping and are also happy to sort out payment now or later. Some of our residents in lockdown for 12 weeks are running out of cash and we now have special arrangements with Tesco to call and arrange payment by debit card over the phone and swipe. We can also organise cash in return for cheques.

Finally we've been helping with food parcels and buying items in cases of particular need. We have a small budget from the Ward Councillor's Grant Fund to support residents during Covid-19 so please let us know if you see a requirement for this.

Please do call us however small you think the job is, on



**07849 835410**



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## Walking4Health

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Again our walking calendar had to be cancelled just as the weather turned warm and all the mud disappeared. But the individual walk leaders are using the time to look up new routes.

Stay safe, stay healthy and we look forward to walking together again soon.

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# Fluffy Cloud Brain Tumour Research

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**Brain Tumour  
Research**  
Funding the fight

## Full Circle

About 5 years ago when I was tidying the garden I decided as I had too many Californian poppies I would throw them out and then thought someone may like them for a small donation to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research, and that is where this plant sale started. Now in April 2020 life has become manic, despite extra time on my hands due to the lockdown. The pandemic has meant there have been more villagers and residents from nearby villages passing my house as they exercise and this has increased plant sales massively. I spent the Easter holidays pricking out, planting more seeds and trolling round my garden looking for plants growing in the wrong places, splitting and digging up plants (including the Californian Poppy hence I feel like I have gone “Full Circle”) to meet the demand and interest.

The month of April has seen the highest total of donations since I began. YOU have helped to raise £555. I couldn't believe it and had to check a couple of times!! YOU have brought the total raised to date to £2947.04. With the garden centres closed and restrictions on travelling and shopping, villagers have told me it has been lovely to go for a purposeful walk and choose a plant or two to take home for their now tidy and organised garden. I don't think Harlington has ever looked more beautiful. This crisis has given us more time to care for our homes and gardens and the beautiful weather has encouraged us out into the fresh air and garden, which in turn has filled our time and helped us to weather this crisis. Something positive out of all the worry, anxiety and what feels like mayhem.

Since Easter I have been very fortunate to have received offers of help to stock the plant display, friends to help prick out plants, offers of plant pots and garden related items such as a ladybird bird feeder, compost bin, propagators and a Karcher power wash head (which is still available for a small donation). So thank you to all those folk who have helped. You have also spurred me on to tidy my garage which I have now converted into a greenhouse and potting shed to house all the seedlings and plants as well as my 3 grow houses and any window ledge in my house!!!

So if you are looking for plants for your garden or would like to try your hand growing vegetables, please visit 132 Goswell End Road. I will shortly have the following on offer **Vegetables:** courgettes, marrows, celeriac, peppers, chillies, cauliflower, cabbage; Broccoli, Kale. **Salad:** Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers.

**Herbs:** Dill, coriander and basil. **Flowers:** Marigolds and there may also be some SURPRISES!! As well as the usual shrubs, rockery plants, perennials etc.

THANK YOU as always for your support and enthusiasm, it has been so lovely meeting some of you and being able to talk at a social distance obviously. Please take care, stay well and continue to keep gardening.

*Jane and Emma Barltrop and Alice Sulaj*





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# Harlington Society of Art & Crafts

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## Harlington Society of Arts & Crafts

I hope that you are all keeping well in this very odd, surreal world we now find ourselves in. With the lockdown still set to continue for the foreseeable future, what a fantastic opportunity to create a beautiful piece of art or craft. You can draw lots of ideas from your daily exercise as spring bursts out in the countryside. I pass some stunning peonies as I walk around the village and it has been fascinating to watch the huge blooms develop and come out. Also, at the time of writing this some bright, red poppies have appeared near the station. You could do a wonderful painting, embroidery or sculpture based on either one of these super, colourful flowers. We do truly live in a wonderful country.

We would love to see what you are all working on. Why not share your art & craft creations on our Facebook group by searching for 'Harlington Society of Art and Crafts'. Make sure it has the picture of some origami flowers (see picture below), as a header then you know that you have the right group and send a request to join. There some good examples of colourful bunting that was made for VE day. Well done those sewers!

Also, a reminder that the theme for the competition at our Annual Exhibition & Sale in October is 'Creepy Crawlies'. Fingers crossed it will go ahead, but even if it doesn't there is a wealth of inspiration right on our doorstep in our gardens and in the beautiful countryside surrounding our wonderful village.

Happy Art & Crafting and Stay Safe

*Julie Tyler (Chairperson)*



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## Methodist Chapel *plus* Lost Property

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The building is shut, but the church is OPEN. We now know that the lockdown is continuing, and it looks like the buildings will not be open for worship before the beginning of July, if then. Because of this we have not prepared the usual list of preachers for June, so we can not yet say who will be leading worship.



However, we are continuing to worship together, and since the week after Easter have been meeting via Zoom. This is a new and interesting experience, as anyone knows who has tried to get technology to work, particularly when a lot of people are involved.

Some use Windows, some Android, some Mac, some iPad, but all join in worship. We're still using hymns from YouTube – you can't sing together over Zoom, or any other conferencing system because of the digital time-lags, but we share readings and prayers. On some Sundays our preacher joins us to give the talk, expanding on the written reflection which we still circulate to everyone.

If you want to join us, our Zoom service time is **10am**, with the link sent out at about **9.30am**. Email me, [clivedsalmon@aol.com](mailto:clivedsalmon@aol.com), or phone 874481 to be added to the link email list. June preachers, who we are contacting at present, should be an interesting lot.

Ladies Bright Hour and the monthly coffee mornings are also suspended, although we may have a virtual coffee morning – watch out for notices about this. This will also give Zoom novices, if there are any left by now, a chance to try Zoom.

Obviously we can't collect for the foodbank either, and I would urge people who can, to contact the foodbank on <https://dunstable.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/> although I understand that Sanjeev is collecting items on behalf of St. Mary's. Anyone in need can also contact the Foodbank.

We note that, as the lockdown continues, isolation is a problem. People talk to each other from a distance, who might previously have just passed by. Feel free to make contact. I can't say we will always be in but leave a message. Having watched Crafternoon Tea meet, with everyone sitting in front of a laptop or tablet, doing craft and chatting (incidentally this included former Harlington residents), you will be more than welcome to join us.

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## Bracelet Found...

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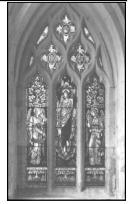
A silver/silver coloured bracelet was found at the end of April at the bottom of the Bridleway at the corner of Barton Road. The lady who found it isn't on facebook and didn't want to bother Sanjeev as they have so much going on. If you think it is yours (or someone you know), please get in touch with Contact.  
*Lois (Editor)*

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# St. Mary's Church

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Coronavirus means that there are no services of public worship in our church buildings at least until the beginning of July. What happens when we return is still uncertain, continuing Social distancing and the all-important 'R' mean 'watch this space'. Discussions continue with the government and hopefully there will be guidance soon. Meanwhile, a new style of church is developing and even if we open soon, many people will wait and 'new church' will need to continue in some form.



Our new pattern of worship within the Quintet of Churches; Harlington, Westoning, Tingrith, Toddington and Chalgrave, is a Sunday morning pre-recorded video service, involving members of those churches. The service is produced with wonderful musical support by Nicholas Hopton and editing by Dr Robert Johns, a great team effort. A service is released for viewing each Sunday morning via church web sites and Facebook. If you do not have internet access, we will deliver a service sheet to your home - please let us know and we will make sure one is sent to you.

Our Wednesday morning group continue to meet remotely in their own homes.

Useful links are: Website: [www.harlingtonchurch.org](http://www.harlingtonchurch.org).

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/>

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7667/>

We know many people are finding the isolation difficult and we have enjoyed virtual 'Zoom' coffee mornings with members of the congregation; to join one of these, contact Linda or Nigel. We are looking at ways to connect for group study, prayer group etc., but the phone is one of most important links. If you would like a chat or a prayer, or if we can support you in any way, please give us a ring on 01525 714442. Please contact Linda and Nigel to discuss weddings, funerals and baptisms by phone or through the church website or by A Church Near You.

*Rev Linda and Rev Nigel Washington Ministers and Dr Robert Johns Reader*

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## From Tricia, St Mary's Church Warden

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If out walking, you may have seen people going into church occasionally. They will be making checks or carrying out maintenance etc. Our most recent external "maintenance" work was carried out by folk from Pest Management – yes, we need to keep those little critters away from our organ and fabrics etc! Sadly, the bells are still not ringing but we aim to get repairs done as soon as we can.

The churchyard is not closed off at the moment like some are, and you are welcome to sit quietly on our bench, or walk through on the pathway, but help us by respecting the consecrated grounds, and memorials within the churchyard. Thank you.

DAILY HOPE: There is also a wonderful new phone line – for those without computers or not IT savvy. Using this freephone number, **0800 804 8044** you can be connected with personal prayers, reflections and hymns. Those I know who have tried it, say it's comforting and lovely just to sit quietly and listen.

*Tricia, Churchwarden*



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# Writers Needed!

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**D**o you enjoy writing? Do you have memories or stories about the village you'd love to share?

I'm creating a series of audio stories about Harlington, written and recorded by members of the village. These stories will be shared as a free downloadable audio walking tour of the village, with each story partnered with a fitting location. I hope this might be a nice way to connect and celebrate the community when we can't be together physically.

Stories can be written in any format, it could be a scene between four people, a first person story, a poem - it's up to you!

You could write about a story from the past (ie. when a bomb was dropped near Bunyan's Oak in WW2; when the Licinius Roman Coin was discovered in Park Leys; or your school days) or a fictional story about the future (ie. the first trip to The Carpenters after Lockdown or Harlington Carnival 2030).

I'm looking for 10-15 stories in total.

## Guidelines:

- \* Submissions should be no more than 2 A4 pages in length (font no smaller than 11).
- \* Submissions are open to any age.
- \* If you are writing a scene, please include no more than 4 characters.
- \* Ideally the memory should be linked to a specific location in Harlington.
- \* You do not have to be a village resident to contribute but stories must be linked to the village.
- \* You can submit more than one story.



## How to Submit:

Either by emailing [helenaoife@outlook.com](mailto:helenaoife@outlook.com) or by posting it to 9 Oak Close, Harlington, LU5 6PP.

Along with your story please include:

- \* Your name
- \* A contact email / phone number
- \* Whether you would be happy to record yourself reading your story if chosen, or if you would prefer it to be performed by a local actor.



**Deadline: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Any questions please email me.

If you are a local actor who is keen to be involved please also get in touch.

*Helen Morley*

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## 0 - 4 Club *plus* The Carpenters Arms *plus* Flittabus

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Harlington  
**0-4**  
Club

**We may be at home, but we can still have fun and stay in touch**

We hope you are all keeping well and safe at home.

At 0-4 Club we have been thinking of ways we can stay in touch, be positive, and support each other.

For the kids, Aimee has started running online singing and story sessions. These can be found live on our Facebook page every **Monday and Friday at 11am**. Aimee is taking requests for songs and giving shout outs to all the children singing along at home. We hope you can join us - and do spread the word to your friends - the more the merrier!

We will keep posting things to do at home and other fun ideas on our Instagram and Facebook pages - do post and share how you guys are keeping busy and having fun at home.

Stay safe, look after each other and keep in touch over the phone & online.



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## The Carpenters Arms Delivery Service

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*The Carpenters Arms* are continuing to provide their fantastic delivery service free of charge to the village.

Please watch the notice boards, Facebook or just call up for weekly specials.

See previous Contact Mags for the full take-away menu.

Also please tell us if you are celebrating a special occasion and we will do our best to make your meal a real treat!

To order, please call **07955 599706**

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## Flittabus

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The bus trips to Milton Keynes, Flitwick and Ampthill are still on pause but we hope to start them again as soon as lockdown is lifted, and we know how it might work. The Chairman, Paul Heerey, who has been our champion throughout, very sadly died quite suddenly and unexpectedly the same week we were due to launch the permanent service, indeed he was going to drive us on our first permanent route to celebrate.

Thank you for all your help and RIP, Paul.





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## 35th Village Show *plus* HGS *plus* HiB

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Last month I gave a few details about project Linus (if you missed this, please see details on our Facebook page). So, if you do have time to make a blanket or quilt for this worthwhile charity, then please get in touch and we'll make sure it is delivered to them.

Tricia 07711 511729.

As the 2020 Village Show in its usual format and size has been cancelled, we will be posting photos of some of our gardening efforts on our Facebook page (Harlington Village Show) – and please do share your gardening photos with us as well. We'd love to see how you are doing!

Happy growing – especially to those having a go for the first time this year.

*HVS Committee*

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## Harlington Gardeners' Society

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Due to the coronavirus outbreak we have decided to cancel the entire 2020 programme.

This includes the Spring Social, the Annual BBQ, the Car Outing and the Coach Outing to Kew.

Due to this lack of activity it has been decided that all 2020 memberships will be valid until the end of 2021 without further payment.

*Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary*

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## Harlington in Bloom

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We are trying to carry on with meetings and planning – not quite as normal – but via Zoom meetings and emails. We have decided on our Summer planting scheme – and we hope to be able to source the necessary plants.

**SUMMER PLANTING:** This will be on or around the **30<sup>th</sup> May**.

Most of the committee will be out, and also some of our lovely volunteers, planting individually in different areas, staggering the planting times so that we keep to national guidelines. We will be doing our best to ensure Harlington looks pretty and colourful!

NB: We have cancelled our Open Gardens event on June 27th, and instead hope to organise this in 2021.

Queries - please contact Ian on 874720 or Tricia 07711 511729.

*HiB Committee*

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or email

[Nessfit21@gmail.com](mailto:Nessfit21@gmail.com)

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# Heroes - a Poem

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## Heroes

We went up for a pay rise to maintain our wage value,  
But the banks had all had problems, no-one knew just what to do.  
And MPs cheered austerity, they would not raise our wage  
Our spending power just went on down for what seems like an age  
Oh it's savings this and savings that and people just won't pay  
But it's "all NHS heroes" with COVID-19 today  
With COVID-19 today, my friends with COVID-19 today  
Yes it's "all NHS heroes" with COVID-19 today.



They looked at all the PPE to see what we might want  
A full report showed gaps in stocks on very many fronts,  
But we only need protection on this scale when things go wrong  
And a billion gloves and paper towels aren't going to last for long  
So it's stocks are this, and stocks are that, it's logistics that's to  
blame  
But it's "all NHS heroes" when they work on just the same  
They work on just the same, my friends, and some of them will die  
Yes it's "all NHS heroes", just cheer and don't ask "why?"



In care homes round the country we pay the lowest rate  
And immigrants we don't want here, do jobs that we would hate.  
Don't give them more protection, we haven't kit to spare  
We'll have a minute's silence just to show them that we care.  
Yes it's hostile state, and send them back, and we can do without  
But it's "all care-worker heroes" when we get the COVID shout,  
And they show they love our old folk and our vulnerable out of sight  
Yes it's "all care-worker heroes", who we'll clap each Thursday night.

Whether or not they're heroes, or people much like us,  
Whether or not they "just get on", or "don't like to make a fuss"  
We owe it to the people who do things we'd rather not,  
To pay them and protect them, and spend money we've now got!  
For it's "can't spend this" and "cut back that" "no funding here at all"  
But it's "saviours of the country" with our backs against the wall,  
And it's funding this and funding that and anything you please,  
But the "hero's" not a blooming fool, you bet the hero sees.

*With apologies to Rudyard Kipling*

