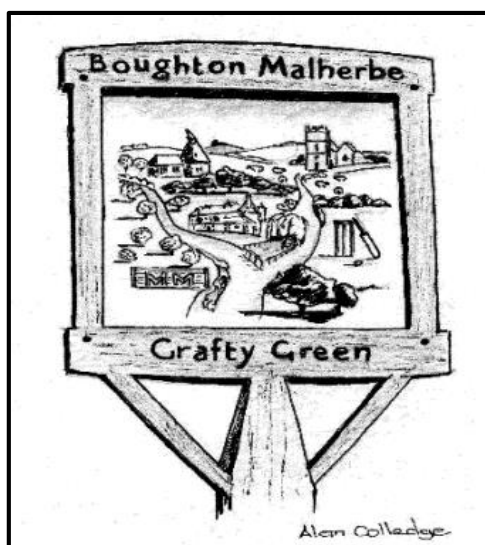




Malherbe Monthly

Number 255
October 2025

Harvest Supper



Saturday 11th October

Full details inside

Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Sarah Emberson Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk	
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Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson Email: jon@grafygreenalpacas.co.uk	07932 112730
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	07803 962339
Farmers Market	Tara Musson info.grafygreen@gmail.com	
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Tai Chi	Rhonda Bailey	07985 001782
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday PM fortnightly by the red "phone" box (date to be posted on the box)	07976 435217
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Carol Hulm Carol Hulm Nick Eastwood John Collins	Advertising: carolhulm@gmail.com Editor: carolhulm@gmail.com Distribution: eastwood.n@gmail.com Treasurer	07990 574214 07990 574214 850330 850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the **November** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **25th October**

Message from Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)

"We've had a great response to the consultation, so thanks to all for your support.

Please see below to learn about our new seasonal newsletter – **featuring vital content for parish magazines and community newsletters** throughout the year:



"With around 40% of businesses in Kent located in rural areas, Kent Fire and Rescue Service is working to help landowners and rural businesses stay safe from fire and other emergencies.

*To support this, the service has launched a **seasonal newsletter** that will include relevant safety advice and updates - such as wildfire warning advice, changes in fire safety legislation, and the latest developments in rural firefighting equipment and vehicles.*

*The aim is to help farmers and rural business owners **prepare, act, and protect what matters most.***

You can sign up to this newsletter by clicking here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKORGKF/signup/46917>

There's also now a dedicated web page with lots of useful guidance and advice

- <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/farms-agricultural-and-rural-businesses>

Message from David Jenkins, Stream Farm

A resident, considering involvement into a speed watch campaign supported by the Kent Police has asked for the following to be included in this month's magazine.

Calling for volunteers to help with a speed watch campaign, if interested please use the following link to register www.communityspeedwatch.org



Community Speedwatch Online

#CommunityEngagement: Speeding has reached epidemic proportions and calls for a paradigm shift in the way we tackle it. That shift must include a change in the perception and management of community volunteers involvement with road safety. <https://web2.communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-The+Scheme.php?m=20..>

www.communityspeedwatch.org

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Be a Heli Hike hero!

Grab your glow sticks, fancy dress, and get ready to shine.
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When?

Saturday 25 October



Where?

Mote Park, Maidstone

Join us for a fun, feel-good walk
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local air ambulance charity.
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aakss.org.uk/night-hike

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Egerton CC v Grafty Green Wanderers – 20th September 2025

The Grafty Green Wanderers were once again back in action at Egerton for their penultimate game of the season. With rainy conditions forecast for the morning, all players were glad to see the inclement weather blow over by the 1pm start.

Grafty Green being put to work in the field after losing the toss. On a soft and green wicket, Josh Pankhurst (0 for 43) and Gary Thompson (0 for 46) opened the bowling. The Egerton batsman playing and missing whilst dispatching the odd bad ball to the boundary. An opportunity arose in the fifth over when Pankhurst nicked off the opening batsman. Stand in keeper Jack Gearey (replacing a holidaying Niall McNulty) unable to cling on to the ball. After 10 overs, Egerton CC were on 56 with no loss. Paul Stapley, on at first change, pinned down the Egerton batsmen with line and length medium pace bowling resulting in the first breakthrough and Jack Gearey, not making the same mistake, catching one behind the stumps. Clarry McCague also bowled well from the other end supporting Paul Stapley to build pressure which lead to another caught behind from Paul's pin-point accuracy with the ball. After 20 overs Egerton CC were 115 for 2 – at 6 runs per over it felt par for the course. Previous games had only last 20 overs, so match fitness was to be questioned in the final 10 overs.

The last 10 overs swung in favour of each team, James Iles taking some heat from the Egerton batsmen and ultimately returning figures of 2 for 47. Some hard hitting in the final overs against specialist death bowler Clarry McCague (0 for 36) meant Egerton CC finished on 195 for 4 after 30 overs. The pick of the bowlers for Grafty Green Wanderers being Paul Stapley; 6 over, 18 runs for 2 wickets.

The Egerton CC bowlers used the new ball to great effect; a combination of speed and swing pinned down the Grafty Green batsmen. Jack Gearey opening managed to cream the ball at the cover fielder and Jack left the field being caught for 6 runs. David Ryan, wearing a significant amount of body protection and worried about the climbing ball from the Egerton opening bowlers departed the field for a duck. Clarry McCague steadied the ship however a middle order collapse left Grafty Green on 29 for 6 after 11 overs.

Some resistance by Josh Pankhurst was cut short when he was bowled for 11. Nick Eastwood managed to partner Clarry as he went on to score 50 runs and retire out. James Iles joined Nick Eastwood at the crease and carried on from where Clarry had left off. By this point the comeback was on and after 20 overs Grafty Green found themselves on 107 for 7. After James Iles retired on 50 Steve Legon managed a few runs before succumbing to the Egerton bowlers and with Nick Eastwood being caught out it was back to Clarry McCague and James Iles to re-enter and bring the victory back home. With 50 runs required off 30 balls, it was a tough ask. 32 runs required off 12 balls and then 16 off 6 meant game on.

Unfortunately, it wasn't to be. The first ball of the last over finding it's way down Long On's throat meant Grafty Green Wanderers coming up 16 runs short.

Our thanks go to Egerton CC for hosting us along with Carol scoring on our behalf and the Grafty Green Growlers for all their support on the day.

Village Hall News – September Newsletter

Dear All,

Electrical Rewire

I am pleased to report that the village hall reopened after refurbishment on time on the 1st September and at the time of writing we are working on a few minor snagging issues which by the time you read this article should have been resolved. On behalf of the trustees, I would like to thank Tim Latham of TCL Electrical a local electrician for working so hard and diligently in delivering this project for us on time so that there was the minimum of disruption for hall users.

Internal redecoration

The redecoration is the next phase of refurbishment which is planned for the Christmas break. The last Farmer's Market will be held on Friday 19th December after which we will close the hall and it is hoped we can arrange for the decorators to complete the work over the Christmas & New Year break. If the work can be scheduled during this period, we will open as soon as the works are completed in the New Year. We will have to be advised by the decorators how long they expect the works to take and will agree a mutually acceptable timeframe with them and as soon as we have any information on this, I will let you know.

You are still able to indicate your choice of preferred colour on the big noticeboard in the hall and I am pleased to report that pink whilst a lovely colour is not a popular choice. The resident comedian who would like a tartan colour scheme is also sadly likely to be disappointed. There is still plenty of time for you to vote and I would urge you to do so.

InPost Parcel delivery and collection box

A few weeks ago we were approached by Inpost about installing a parcel box outside the hall which could be used by local residents to deliver and collect parcels. Our neighbours in Church Road have subsequently raised objections and in view of this the trustees have decided to cancel any plans to install the parcel box.

Forthcoming Events

On a more positive note, we have the following activities planned at the hall:-

Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th November 10am to 2pm

We will have a wide range of stalls including jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, personalised items, wooden items, general craft and new stalls that we have never seen before!

On Saturday there will be tea, coffee and cake and on Sunday we will have bacon sandwiches to go with your cuppa.

So come along and support your village hall, buy unique Christmas presents and chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Christmas Quiz Saturday 13th December 7pm for 7.30pm

It's that time of year again for you to get your thinking caps on, it's the usual teams of 8 but if you are sad like me and have no friends never fear we will find you a team. There will be a best Christmas Jumper competition and a raffle. In a slight change from last year there will be no meal provided or a bar so please bring your own food and drink – tickets are £10 a head and can be booked via myself on 07932 112730 or jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk.

Aladdin – Saturday 10th January 3pm to 4.30pm

Oh no it isn't oh yes it is! We will be hosting our annual Christmas Panto in January! This year it is Aladdin and as usual it is sure to be lots of fun. Tickets are £15 for an adult which includes a free child ticket, (under 11), additional child tickets will be charged at £5 per child and once again can be booked via myself on 07932 112730 or jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk.

That's about it for this month it's been great seeing everyone coming back to the hall and thank you as always for your support.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk Tel 07932 112730

www.griftygreenvillagehall.co.uk facebook – graftygreeenvillage

Grafty Green Christmas Craft Fair Weekend!

Come along on both Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November to our Christmas Craft Fair which is bigger and better than ever!

We will have a wide range of stalls including jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, personalised items, wooden items, general craft and new stalls that we have never seen before!

On Saturday there will be tea, coffee and cake and on Sunday we will have bacon sandwiches to go with your cuppa.

So come along and support your village hall, buy unique Christmas presents and chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Don't miss out on that special gift by only coming on one of the days



Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November
10.00-2.00

Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA



*It's that time again!
Time for the famous Grafty Green*

Christmas Quiz!

***Saturday 13th December
at the Village Hall***

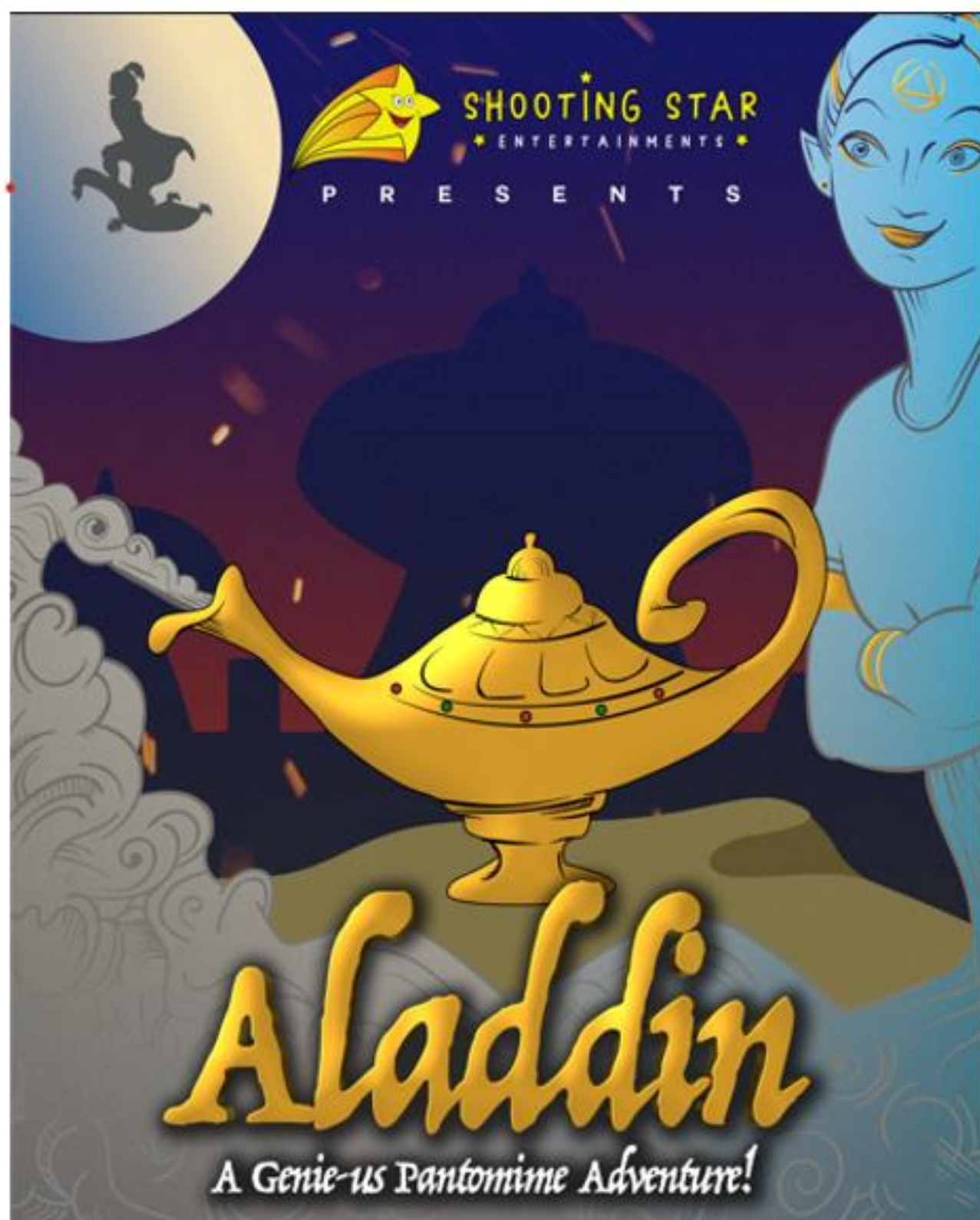
***Doors open 7pm ~ Quiz starts 7.30pm
Best Christmas Jumper Competition***

***Tickets £10 (Please bring your own food
and drink)***

***from Jon on 07932112730 or
jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk***

Teams of up to 8

***Ticket sales go towards the upkeep of the
village hall & the proceeds of the raffle will
be shared with Platts Heath PTA***



Grafty Green Village Hall Saturday 10th January 3pm to 4.30 pm

Tickets are £15 per adult which includes a free child's ticket - extra child's tickets are £5

To book tickets please contact Jon Thompson on
either 07932 112730 or jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 07932 112730

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability
Susan Burch 07803 962339

Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am
Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm

Pilates
Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369

Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm
Thursdays 11.15 – 1.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00pm

Short Mat Bowls
Joan Marriott 07503 568874

Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm

Dance Fit
Sharon Harris 01622 890170

Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm

Tai Chi
Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782

Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm

Craft Group
Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10 -12.00pm

Art Class
Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm
Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm

Farmer's Market
Tara – grafftygreen.info@gmail.com

Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club
Doreen 01622 850287

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

Digital Kent

Fourth Tuesday 12 – 2pm

The Grafty Gourmet

This seasonal recipe makes for a great starter or is great for lunch. Serves 6.

Blue Cheese, Pear & Walnut Tart

For the pastry:-

50g of [walnut halves](#)

150g of [plain flour](#)

80g of cold [unsalted butter](#) (chopped)

1 [egg yolk](#)

For the filling:-

1 tablespoon of [butter](#)

1 tablespoon of [olive oil](#) (plus an extra 1-2 teaspoons)

4 [shallots](#) sliced into half-moons

small bunch of sage - finely chopped

200g chard stalks finely chopped and leaves roughly chopped

2 [pears](#) - halved, cored and sliced

3 large [eggs](#)

grating of [nutmeg](#)

150g of [crème fraîche](#)

150g of gorgonzola dolce (or vegetarian alternative), torn into bite-sized pieces

50g of [walnut halves](#)

1. To make the pastry, blitz the walnuts in a [food processor](#) until they resemble breadcrumbs. Add the flour and a large pinch of salt. Pulse briefly to combine, then add the butter and pulse until it resembles large crumbs. Add the egg yolk and pulse until the dough comes together (add 1 tablespoon of cold water if it seems dry). Squash the dough into a disc, then wrap in baking parchment and chill for at least 30 mins.

2. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan. Heat the butter and 1 tablespoon of oil in a heavy-based frying pan or skillet over a medium heat, and cook the shallots, sage and chard stalks for 5-8 mins until soft and starting to caramelise. Add the chard leaves and continue to cook until wilted, then remove from the heat.

3. Put the chilled pastry between two sheets of baking parchment and [roll out](#) to the thickness of a £1 coin. Use it to line a 20cm tart tin, then chill for 30 mins until firm. Toss the pear slices in 1-2 teaspoons of oil on a baking sheet.

4. Scrunch up another sheet of baking parchment and use it to line the pastry case, then fill with baking beans. Bake for 15 mins, alongside the pears. Remove both from the oven. Remove the parchment and beans from the pastry case, then bake for 8-10 mins more, until the bottom is golden and crisp.

5. Lightly beat the eggs in a bowl, then season with some nutmeg and [whisk](#) in the crème fraîche. Stir in the blue cheese. Pour half the mixture into the tart case, then layer in two-thirds of the chard mixture. Arrange the roasted pear slices and remaining chard mix on top, then pour over the remaining cheese mix. Place the walnut halves spread evenly on top, then bake for 28-30 mins, or until golden and cooked through. Leave to cool for 20 mins, then slice and serve.

The Grafty Gourmet

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Meetings take place in Grafty Green Village Hall, usually on the first Tuesday of the month and begin at 7.30. Members contribute £2 for each meeting where we have a speaker and guests (always welcome) £4.

Outings take place from May to August this year and the cost and final details will be sent out prior to the event.

Membership £5 - contact Doreen Hulm (Treasurer) 01622 850287

Programme for 2025

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
7 th October	Kevin Tooher	The Edwardian gardens of Sussex
4 th November	Ed Flint (head gardener at Tidewell Manor Robertsbridge)	Roses and friends
December	Leeds Castle light show	

Gardening Tips

Gardening tips for September

- Keep raking leaves from lawns and paths, store in empty compost bags or in a wire cage to make leaf mould.
- Plant spring bulbs leaving tulips till later in the month, try species tulips in pots, save bulbs for next year.
- Reduce the height of Buddleias shrub roses, and hydrangeas to prevent wind rock.
- Choose a sunny day to cut off sunflower heads collect the seeds for the birds or hang up for the birds to peck.
- This is a good month for dividing perennials before the frosts and for tidying up, leave seed heads for birds and insects to eat through the cold months.

Sue's Blog – nature notes

Ivy bees! For the last few weeks there have been a mass of bees, very busy tunnelling into the soil in one of the flower beds, gradually the numbers have increased to thousands and not just in my garden; they have progressed into the lawns which are now covered with mini mounds of soil. Ivy bees are very docile; the males don't sting and the females' sting is weak.

The autumn colours are becoming more obvious and, interestingly, the south side of a tree's leaves change colour first.

I came across a poem by Gerald Manley Hopkins, Inversaid, written in 1881 – the last verse:-

*'What would the World be once bereft
Of wet and the wilderness? Let them be left
O let them be left, wilderness and wet,
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.'*

I was struck that someone was that concerned about the wild spaces as to include it in a poem!

Yoga with Susan = weekly classes

Grafty Green Village Hall
Monday morning 9.30 – 11
Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30
Thursday morning 9.30 – 11

No yoga the week beginning 20th October. New term starts 27th October.

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle, getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice.

For more information or to enrol for the new term - please give me a call 07803 962339

Lenham Film Club
at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way



LENHAM
FILM CLUB

California Suite

Mr. Burton

Friday, October 10th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 4 mins, director Marc Evans

Mr. Burton (12, 2024) is a wonderful film that charts the story of the wild schoolboy who would go on to become Richard Burton, the famous actor who ranked alongside the Beatles and royalty in ability to grab newspaper headlines, not only through his acting ability but also his love affairs. How could the son of a Welsh miner achieve such prominence? The answer stems from his youth, the springboard for his later life. This unforgettable film relates how the young Richie Jenkins reached his world-wide fame owing to his teacher in Port Talbot, Philip Burton. He became the father figure in Richie's life, spotting first his potential and then helping to propel him to international stardom. With a first-class British cast, including Toby Jones, Lesley Manville and Harry Lawley, this is a brilliant film so please don't miss it.

Our film for November Friday 14th is **The Salt Path**, which is based on the true story of a couple who walk the 630-mile South West Coast Path along the beautiful and rugged Devon, Dorset and Cornish coastline.

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

Admission: Adults £5, under 16s £2; cash only, card payments not accepted.



lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com



www.lenhamfilmclub.org

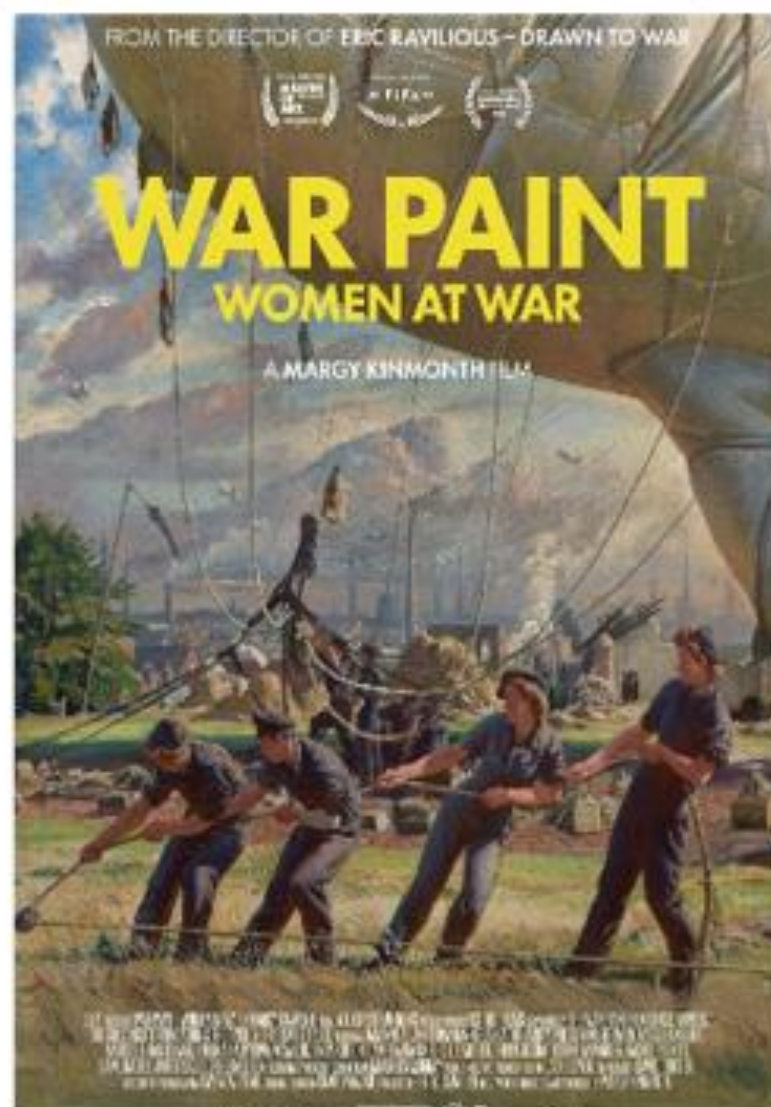


@lenhamfilmclub

Egerton Film Society

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Including introduction from Director Margy Kinmonth



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THURSDAY 9th October 2025

Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

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THURSDAY 30th October 2025
Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE 7.30pm
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Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N Eastwood; (Chairman); L Hook; C Tomlinson; G Thompson;

In attendance: Clerk Mrs Marie Norris

The Chairman opened meeting at 7.30 pm

25/09/01 Apologies & Declarations of Interest

a) Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Peter due to work commitments. This was accepted by the Parish Council members. Apologies were also received from Cllr Ziggy Trzebinski b) No declarations of changes to the Register of Interests.

c) No Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or other interest on any items on the agenda. d)

No Requests for Dispensation.

e) Cllr N Eastwood advised that he had been lobbied regarding the agenda item 25/07/09 Traffic Calming Measures

25/09/02 Public Session

The Chairman opened the public session, there were 8 members of the public in attendance, matters brought to the attention of the parish council included

- **A number of residents expressed opposition to the possible installation of an in-house parcel locker outside the Village Hall.**

Concerns raised included issues related to safety, parking, lighting, and increased traffic. The Chairman advised that, at this stage, the proposal was not a matter for the Parish Council, as it was currently being explored by the Village Hall Trustees. The Chairman recommended that residents share their views on the potential installation directly with the Village Hall Trustees when a proposal is raised for consultation. The PC chairman advised that, following a discussion with the village hall chairman, no decisions had been made regarding the parcel locker. Initial enquiries had simply been made with the company to assess whether the Village Hall could be a suitable location **in principle**. It was confirmed that no final decision would be made without first holding a consultation period with residents.

- **Traffic calming measures and Speed watch were also discussed**, following concerns raised by residents about the speed of vehicles passing through the village. The Chairman agreed to raise the

issue with the KCC Borough Councillor to seek advice on whether any traffic calming measures could be considered or implemented.

- A general request was made for residents interested in participating in the **Community Speedwatch** initiative. Anyone wishing to volunteer is encouraged to contact either **David Jenkins** directly or the **Boughton Malherbe Parish Clerk**. An advert seeking volunteers will also be published in the *Malherbe Monthly* newsletter.

There being no further items for discussion, the Chairman closed the public session at 7:55 pm.

25/09/03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the Boughton Malherbe APCM held on the 7th July were agreed and confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 29th July were agreed and confirmed as a true record.

25/09/04 County Councillor & Borough Councillor Reports

No report was received by the County Councillor or Borough Councillor for inclusion at the meeting.

25/09/05 Progress and Update of resolutions from the last meeting.

Cllr Thompson agreed to follow up a request for a quote for an addition to the finger sign on the village green.

25/09/06 Planning

a) Items for discussion.

Application Ref: 25/50371/Full

Address: Little Southernden Road, Headcorn Kent

Comments due by : 5th September 2025

The parish council considered the application and no comments were raised.

b) Planning decisions received since the previous meeting. No planning decisions were received.

25/09/07 Finance

Bank Balance (Statement as of 1 September for Lloyds Accounts Only)

Lloyds Community Account (1062)	£3,763.43
Lloyds Inst Online (4862)	£3,276.44
Lloyds 32 Day Notice (00LS)	£42,288.20
Nationwide -	£14,973.40

Receipts Received since July Meeting 2025

Interest (Lloyds Ending 4862) £6.37

Schedule of Payments for September 2025 Meeting for Approval

<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>	
April 2025	560.00	Nu Venture	3152
June 2025	560.00	Nu Venture	3161
July 2025	700.00	Nu Venture	3187
August 2025	560.00	Nu Venture	3192
August 2025	100.43	Amesis	
Jul/Aug	885.12	M Norris	
	£3365.55		

Resolution The schedule of payments for September and the Bank Reconciliation had been sent to the PC prior to the meeting and payments were authorised accordingly. The clerk advised that the bank reconciliation for the 2nd quarter will be circulated at the end of September 2025.

25/09/08 Bank Account Review

Following a review of the Parish Council's bank accounts and the interest rates received, it was agreed that the funds currently held in the Nationwide and Lloyds 32-Day Notice accounts would be transferred to the Cambridge & Counties Bank account, in order to benefit from a more favourable interest rate. It was further agreed that the Nationwide account could be closed once the transfer is complete. The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to carry out these changes.

25/09/09 Planning Policy Advice

The Parish Council received a response from the Neighbourhood Planning Department at Maidstone Borough Council following its earlier correspondence addressing several planning-related matters. The Council had sought clarification on topics including Parish Infrastructure Plans, Neighbourhood Planning, and the Local Plan.

Based on the advice received, it was agreed that no further action is required at this time, and the Parish Council will not proceed with developing a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage. Accordingly, this item will be removed from future agendas but may be revisited if a need arises in the future.

25/09/10 Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish approved the Eyre & Elliston invoice of £164.92 and were made aware that the invoice had already been paid by J Cheney directly and therefore payment would be made to reimburse Mr Cheney directly.

25/09/11 Traffic Calming Measures

This item was discussed during the public session, and it was agreed that the Chairman would speak with the Borough Councillor to seek advice on whether any further traffic calming measures could be considered or implemented.

25/09/12 Local Government Service Pay Award

The PC noted the pay service increase to the clerk in accordance with her contract.

25/09/13 Purchase of Wreath for Remembrance Service

The Parish Council authorised expenditure of £100 for the purchase of a Remembrance wreath. The Clerk will arrange the purchase.

25/09/14 Christmas Preparations

The parish council authorised a budget of £500 for the Boughton Malherbe Christmas Celebration. The clerk will contact pc members to arrange a suitable date in December for the event.

25/09/15 Any Other Business

No items were brought to the attention of the PC.

25/07/14 Items for the next agenda

- 26/27 Precept

25/07/15 Date of the next meeting Monday

3rd November 2025.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30 pm

News from St.Nicholas Church – October 2025

October already. A time to reflect on the preceding months and seasons. Autumn and the end of summer are here. A time to wonder at the harvest gifts we have been given this year. Our plot of fruit trees has exploded with more than we thought possible and we can look forward to the colourful beauty of autumn in our countryside in the next few weeks, generous gifts we have not earned.

Despite this we cannot ignore the troubles of the world, that humankind has been responsible for. Those suffering from the ravages of war and oppression need our prayers, kindness and generosity, hoping everyone has heard the bell ringing out from St. Nicolas recently. This bell has been rung at 11am for the last 2 weeks, giving a sign and opportunity to visit the church for half an hour, light a candle and offer a prayer for peace and reconciliation and an end to terror and destruction in the Middle East, Ukraine and so many other places. 30 minutes seems such a small offering, when God gives us so much more. Thanks to Vanessa and her family for this symbol of hope.

Any donations are for the work of MSF (Drs. without borders), working hard and in danger in Gaza and other war-torn places.

Usual reminders

The church porch is open at all times. Relax there on your walk, with a hot drink and watch nature at work around you. Read a page or two of the Bible, it can surprise you. Use the mini food bank if you need. There is the larger bank at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am-4.00pm.

Personal prayer requests can be left in the porch and will be prayed for in church as soon as possible.

There is a cold tap at the back of the church building, around the corner beyond the West Door, if you need to fill the jug, kettle or dog bowl.

The main church building is open for services, cleaning, meetings etc. If you wish to visit at other times, please contact the churchwardens for a key.

Village Cake and Coffee Time is back in the village hall each Tuesday from 12.00 noon-2.00pm, timed to coincide with the Post Office 12.45-2.15pm.

This month we are pleased to donate more than £100 to the MSF funds, with more donations to come.

News

Farewell

The funeral of radio presenter James Whale MBE took place at St.Nicolas on Monday 8th September. The service was attended by many public figures, including Eamonn Holmes, Nigel Farage, Jeremy Kyle and featured a performance by Matt Goss. James Whale was a well-known radio and television broadcaster. He was awarded an MBE in recognition of his contribution to broadcasting and his charity work, particularly his founding of the charity Kidney Cancer UK. The funeral was designed by his family as a celebration of his life with tributes making it a memorable and personal farewell.



Revd. Dr. John P. Huggins



Retirement of Revd. Dr. John Huggins on Sunday 14th September took place at a service in St.Mary's in Lenham followed by a lunch in the community hall. There were many thanks for his and Lorraine's work over the last 8 years in the benefice and their kindness, hospitality and friendship in the community. They will be truly missed. We wish them well in their new home in Seaford.

Wedding

Jessica and Jonathan will be married at St. Nicolas at 1pm on Thursday 2nd October. Please pray for them as they prepare for their wedding and for their future life together.

Harvest Supper (see the poster)

The supper is on Saturday 11th October at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall in Grafty Green. Tickets are £12.50 for 2course meal to include wine/beer/ soft drinks on the table. Please contact Kenneth Alexander on 07768 323367 for tickets

Harvest Festival is at 3.30pm at St.Nicolas on Sunday 12th September. Gifts of produce will be very welcome. Non-perishable gifts, tins, packets etc. will be donated to the food bank in St.Mary's in Lenham. Fresh produce e.g. fruit, vegetables, cakes etc. will be auctioned after the service, as we enjoy refreshments together. The collection will be donated to a charity.

Don't panic. We have just been shopping in Sainsbury's, and it is full of Christmas things!! Fortunately, we have lots to do and enjoy before then.

Sally Alexander

Harvest Supper



Saturday 11th October

7 for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50

Includes glass of wine, beer or soft drink at the table

Contact Kenneth Alexander

07768 323367

Proceeds in aid of St. Nicholas' Church, Boughton Malherbe

Len Valley Benefice

October 2025

Everybody is welcome

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you, do not fear.

I will help you. *Isaiah 41:13*



Wednesday 1st October

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 5th October

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 12th October

9.30am Harrietsham: **Harvest** Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: **Harvest** Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: **Harvest** Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Harvest** Evensong

Sunday 19th October

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 26th October

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St John's, Harrietsham

Christian Message October 2025

On Giving Thanks with a Grateful Heart

My childhood seemed to be full of adults continually telling me that I should be grateful. They may have been right but I got so fed up with the message, I began to hate the word and even resent it. As I became more aware of the world round me, however, I began to realise that I was, indeed, blessed in many ways, and had so much to be thankful about – yet I still avoided the G word!

[1 Thessalonians, 5: 18](#), tells us to ***‘Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.’*** All well and good when things are going well, but it’s not so easy when you trip over the cat, spill the milk, break a glass bottle and have to spend the morning cleaning the floor. Or isn’t it? Part of maturing is seeing the positive in situations. Maybe we should not curse the cat but delight in a clean floor!

Adverse situations can give us a chance to take stock and others to shine. Three years ago this month, I was all set to retire from my main job. Two weeks before my last day, I went upstairs to bed early, feeling a bit unwell, and found it increasingly difficult to use of my left hand and arm. By 1am I was in the stroke unit of the local hospital but thanks to quick thinking medical staff, I was home withing 72 hours.

In the 18 months that followed I had physiotherapy, many tests, a lot of sleep and time to read and think about life. I read frightening statistics about the percentage of people who survive one, two or three years, but was tenacious about exercises and could work, using a keyboard, after three months, and drive after five months. A year later I was grateful to move into the next band of statistics and now, after three years, am thrilled to be enjoying my family, Church life, our local communities, a little work, hobbies and life generally.

‘Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.’ Colossians 3:17.

To say I am grateful to the professionals who treated and advised, is an understatement, but I am also grateful to family and friends (many from the Len Valley) who took time to pray, visit, give advice, laugh and joke, drive me from A to B and put up with me not being able to function ‘quite right’. Thank you so much. God continues to work miracles through you all.

I am aware that people suffering terminal conditions or who have lost loved ones may find this somewhat simplistic but in dealing with Ankylosing Spondylitis, another, long-term condition, each day, I truly believe that ***‘The LORD is my strength and my shield’***. [Psalm 28: 7](#) goes on to say: ***‘in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.’***

I have to admit that the adults in my childhood were right! Let’s remember to always give thanks with a grateful heart. As a friend recently said to me “Every day is a blessing and an opportunity.”

Pamela Cuerden

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies	999
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO)	101

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** 'public access **defibrillator**' is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the **defibrillator**.

NHS Medical Helpline	111
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	0845 155 1000
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Headcorn Surgery (<i>out of hours listen to</i>	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery <i>recorded messages</i>)	01622 858341

Electricity (UK Power Networks)		
<i>Emergencies and Power Cuts</i>		0800 783 8866
	Or	01243 508866

Water	<i>Emergencies</i>	0333 000 0002
Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding		0330 303 0368
Calor Gas	<i>Emergencies</i>	08457 444999
KCC	<i>Emergencies</i>	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

<i>Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere</i>	07969 583923
<i>District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown</i>	07773 397125
Fire <i>General Enquiries</i>	01622 692121
	0800 923 7000

R.S.P.C.A	<i>Emergencies</i>	0300 1234 999
Vet	<i>24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service</i>	01622 734555

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Bonfires, crime, dogs, domestic abuse, loan sharks, noise, pests and protection orders

Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

WARNING

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