

Malherbe Monthly

Number 249
April 2025



PLANT SALE

GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

26TH APRIL 2025



10 -12 am

Teas, coffee and cakes available
Come and grab a bargain !

Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall bookings	Jan Carter email janlcarter@btinternet.com	850898
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
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
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
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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 **May** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email
(carolhulm@gmail.com) by **23rd April**

Village Hall News – April Newsletter

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping well many of you enjoyed a pancake or two at the hall on Shrove Tuesday and thank you once again for your support which is very much appreciated.

Coming up shortly we have the following events at the hall:

Weekly Farmer's Market at the village hall every Friday between 1 pm and 3 pm

The weekly farmer's market at the hall is proving popular with stalls selling pet treats and accessories, knitted crafts, plants and flowers, a meat stall, homemade curries, Kent and Sussex cheeses, a fruit, vegetable, eggs and juices stall, homemade cakes, homemade skin care products and scones from the church. Tea and coffee are served so you can come along and buy local produce and enjoy a relaxing cuppa and a natter with friends and neighbours.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Monday 7th April 7.30 pm

The village hall is a small local charity run for the benefit of the community and we will be holding our AGM on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm so if you would like to learn more about the work of the charity and the running of the hall or if you have any suggestions as to how the hall could be further utilised for the benefit of our community please come along we would be very pleased to see you.

Bingo Night Saturday 26th April 7 pm for 7.30pm

Back by popular demand is our annual bingo night hosted by Phil Snow of By Jingo it's Bingo. As well as the usual fun and entertainment there will like last year be a host of fabulous, interesting and unique prizes to be won. Tickets are £10 and can be ordered from myself on 07932 112730 or jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk please bring your own food and snacks. There will be a pay bar but you are welcome to bring your own booze.

VE Day Dance at Ulcombe Village Hall Saturday 10th May at 7.30pm

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE day the trustees have collaborated with our friends in Ulcombe to host a VE day Dance at Ulcombe Village Hall. There will be live bands, military fancy dress, (a prize for the best dressed lady and gent on the night). Tickets are £5 and can again be ordered from myself. Please bring your own food and snacks, there will be a pay bar, but you are welcome to bring your own booze. All proceeds will go to the Help for Heroes charity.

Community Cream Tea at the Village Hall Saturday 14th June 2025 2 pm to 5 pm

Ron Galton as some of you will know has sadly been ill recently and he would like to make a contribution to the community by way of an event where we can all come together. Ron has very kindly agreed to sponsor a cream tea at the village hall on Saturday 14th June. This will be a free event where everyone is welcome, so please come along and enjoy the scones, jam and cream in the friendly surroundings of the hall. There will be the usual tea, coffee and soft drinks together with a glass of sparkling wine.

And finally

Possible additional weekly Pilates class on Monday early afternoon

There is the possibility of an additional weekly Pilates class with a new teacher on a Monday afternoon between about 1.30 and 2.30 pm if there are sufficient numbers of attendees to make the class viable. So, if you cannot make the Tuesday morning class and are interested in attending, please let me know so that I can establish the likely support for this potential new class.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

facebook – [graftygreenvillage](https://www.facebook.com/graftygreenvillage)

There is now a weekly Farmer's Market held at Grafty Green Village Hall from 1pm-3pm

Pet treats and accessories

Scones

Knitted crafts

Pre loved books

Homemade skincare products

Plants and flowers

Hogget, mutton, goat and beef

Homemade curries

Kent and Sussex cheeses

Fruit, vegetables, eggs and juices

Homemade cakes

They will also be serving tea and coffee.

For further information please email Tara at
info.graftygreen@gmail.com



GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 2025 AGM will take place at the Village Hall
on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm**

You are all invited!

AGENDA:

- Receive the minutes of the last AGM
and deal with matters arising;**
- Receive the Chairman's report on the
work of the committee last year;**
- Receive the annual accounts and the
Treasurer's report;**
- Open discussion of the committee's work;**
- Elect a committee for the coming year;**
- Consider ideas for the future;**
- Review Hall hire fee;**
- Any other business**

***Please come along,
cast your vote and have your say.***

The Village Hall committee is a registered charity, (no. 288091), run for the benefit of the local community. We host a variety of events throughout the year such as the Christmas Quiz, Pancake Evening and the Craft Fair. The hall is also used by a wide variety of clubs and societies and we make the hall available for hire to local residents for both social and business events.

Kind regards,

Jon Thompson

Hall Committee Chairman

Tel: 07932 112730

Email: jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk



Request from the Editor.
Please can you send me any
photos that can be used for
the front cover of the
magazine.

Carolhulm@gmail.com

Thank you



Grafty Green Village Hall Bingo Night

Saturday 26th April
7.00pm for 7.30pm

£10 a ticket from

Jon Thompson 07932 112730

jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk

Bring your own snacks and
there will be a pay bar





ULCOMBE AND GRAFTY GREEN

JOIN FORCES TO COMMEMORATE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY OF V.E.DAY WITH A

V.E. DAY DANCE

7.30 pm Saturday 10th May

At Ulcombe Village Hall

Tickets £5.00 per person

Live bands, pay bar, raffle

prize for best female & male outfits

All proceeds going to Help for Heroes

Tickets from

Ziggy on 07852 492770 ziggytrzebinski@hotmail.com
or Jon on 07932 112730 - jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk



Grafty Green Community Cream Tea

Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 14th June

2.00pm -5.00pm

Come along and enjoy scones, jam and cream
with friends and neighbours

plus, tea, coffee and a glass of sparkling wine

Any enquiries to Jon Thompson 07932112730

This free community event has kindly been
sponsored by Ron Galton



Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability

Susan Burch 01622 850381

Mondays 9.30 – 11am

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 01622 858100

Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm

Dance Fit

Sharon Harris 01622 890170

Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm

Tai Chi

Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782

Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm

Craft Group

Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10am -12.00pm

Art Class

Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm

Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm

Farmer's Market

(With effect from 28th February)

Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club

Doreen 01622 850287

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

Digital Kent

Fourth Tuesday 11.30-1.30

Grafty Gourmet

This is great for those with a sweet tooth. The Italian hazelnut liqueur Frangelico is stocked by some supermarkets and is also available online. Serve with double cream and extra Frangelico.

Chocolate Tart with Crunchy Hazelnut & Frangelico

For the Praline:

150g blanched hazelnuts
125g caster sugar

For the Tart:

300g plain chocolate with 70 per cent cocoa solids, broken up into small pieces
150ml Frangelico
150g unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
4 large eggs, separated
150g icing sugar, sifted
200ml double cream, at room temperature

1. For the praline, heat the oven to 180°C. Line a baking tray with non-stick baking paper and set aside. Put the blanched hazelnuts on another baking tray and roast in the oven for about 10 minutes until the nuts turn a light golden colour. Tip on to the baking paper lined tray.
2. Pour the caster sugar into a frying pan and, over a very low heat, without stirring at all, allow the sugar to melt. Once melted you can swirl the pan around a little to ensure the sugar cooks evenly. When the sugar has become a rich, brown caramel immediately pour over the hazelnuts and leave to cool completely. Once hard, break up into pieces and place in a food processor. Process to a fine crumb and set aside.
3. For the tart, base-line a 22cm spring-form cake tin with a circle of baking paper. Place the chocolate and Frangelico in a pudding basin over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure the basin does not come into contact with the water. Melt the chocolate then, using a wooden spoon, beat in, a tablespoon at a time, the room temperature butter. If the mixture starts to separate, stir in a little tepid water to bring it together. Take off the heat and leave to cool for 15-20 minutes. Beat in the egg yolks.
4. Place the egg whites in a large mixing bowl and beat to stiff peaks. Gradually beat in the icing sugar. Fold into the chocolate. Whip the cream to floppy peaks and fold into the chocolate. Finally fold in half the praline. Pour into the prepared tin, cover with cling film and refrigerate, preferably overnight, until very firm. To serve, run a knife around the sides and release the spring-form mould. Place a flat serving plate over the chocolate tart and invert. Lift off the metal base and peel off the parchment. Dust the surface with the remaining praline and cut into thin slices. Serve with cream laced with a little Frangelico.

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
1 st April	Spring Show & Steve Edney	The Kitchen Garden + plant sales
26 th April	10 – 12 am Plant Sale Village Hall	
6 th May	6pm outing to Frittenden, Brickwall Cottages, TN17 2DH	
9 th – 11 th May	Weekend away to Suffolk, The Mill Hotel Sudbury, Middleton House, Melford Hall, Flatford Mill and Markshall Arboretum	
3 rd June	6pm outing to Woodchurch, Boldshaves TN26 3RA	
1 st July	TBA	
5 th August	Outing to East Malling Communigrow educational wellbeing garden charity.	
2 nd September	Autumn Show & Rachel Castle (Swallowfields Nursery)	Shine a light on bulbs!
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

- Continue to weed and mulch borders
- Split large clumps of perennials to create healthier plants
- Move evergreen shrubs if they're in the wrong place
- Finish off any shrub pruning
- Clear plant debris from pond (leave on the side to let wildlife get back into the water)
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Sow hardy annuals in gaps in the border, towards the end of the month
- Sow half-hardy annuals in pots or trays in the house or greenhouse with bottom heat
- Plant out sweet peas (or sow seed if not already sown)
- Direct sow veg seed in the plot once the soil has warmed up and weeds are growing
- Plant maincrop potatoes
- Plant out broadbeans
- Sow French and runner beans in pots to plant out in May
- Sow tomatoes with bottom heat if not already sown, prick out any into individual pots once true leaves appear
- Sow courgettes in pots or modules (seed on its side)
- Sow pumpkins and sweetcorn under glass/indoors with some bottom heat

This is by no means a definitive list. There's a lot to do in April if you want to do it, but don't forget to spend time relaxing in your garden!

If you have an excess of plants grown from seed, or perennial plants from division, you may want to book a table at the Grafty Garden plant sale in the village hall on Saturday April 26th in the morning.

Sue's Nature Notes

I have heard from many who have garden ponds that there have been plenty of frogs spawning this year. The fate of the spawn eventually producing tadpoles is fraught with predators eating the eggs or the temperature drops below freezing and the eggs don't survive the frost.

The main predators are newts, fish, beetles and dragonfly larvae; once the tadpoles have hatched, they need shelter to protect them from blackbirds that will also devouring them! The rate at which they develop depends on the temperature of the water.

Tadpoles are vegetarians at first and will eat algae and other pond plants – if you want to feed them you could try a little boiled lettuce!

It's fascinating to watch the development over the following weeks and to see them eventually leave the pond to grow on to adulthood. It will take two to three years before they are mature enough to breed when they will return to the pond where they were first spawned.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

No classes week beginning 21st April

New term starts 28th April

To book call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle; getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice; for more information, please give me a call.

Sue's Blog

It's been interesting as to how the sun's early morning rays land; there were a few mornings when the reflection from the windows opposite was akin to effect of a mirror flooding my sitting room with light and temporarily being so bright as to one needs to avoid being blinded by the light; this lasted only a few days. I can now gauge where the hot spots will be in the garden and the more shady areas so I can plan the planting accordingly.

As to the local bird life, the pair of wood pigeons are continuing to strut around the front garden; the male has been bowing his chest to the ground to lift his tail higher – his mate doesn't seem impressed!

The starlings continue their murmuration –synchronized - flap, flap, flap, glide - which is repeated in such unison that makes observing them a mindful moment or two.

My garden is really well stocked with spring flowers, aconites, dwarf iris, daffodils and snowdrops; their clumps need splitting and replanting – anyone want aconites or iris?

Sue



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Egerton Film Society



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THURSDAY 24th April 2025

Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

Email: egertonfilm@btinternet.com for more information



Light Refreshments and Licensed Bar.



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

The Way

Friday, April 11th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 3 mins

The award-winning **The Way** (PG 13, 2010) kicks off our Spring and Summer programme. It is the remarkable and powerful story of a father who sets out on a mission that turns into a life changing experience. The excellent Martin Sheen plays Thomas Avery, who had set out to recover the body of his estranged son who had died on the ancient Camino de Santiago, but when he arrives, he comes to an enormous decision. Inexperienced walker though he is, he decides to make the same pilgrimage himself – and finish what his son had begun. There he meets other pilgrims with heartrending stories of their own; they are all seeking greater meaning to their lives. Martin Sheen's real-life son Emilio Estevez wrote the film, directed and also plays the role of Avery's son. The result is a truly memorable and moving film as we see how the pilgrimage is a life-changing experience for Thomas. Director: Emilio Estevez, 2 hrs 3 mins

Our film on 9th May is **The Critic**, which stars the wonderful Ian McKellen as vitriolic theatre reporter Jimmy Erskine in this brilliant thriller set in 1934.

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

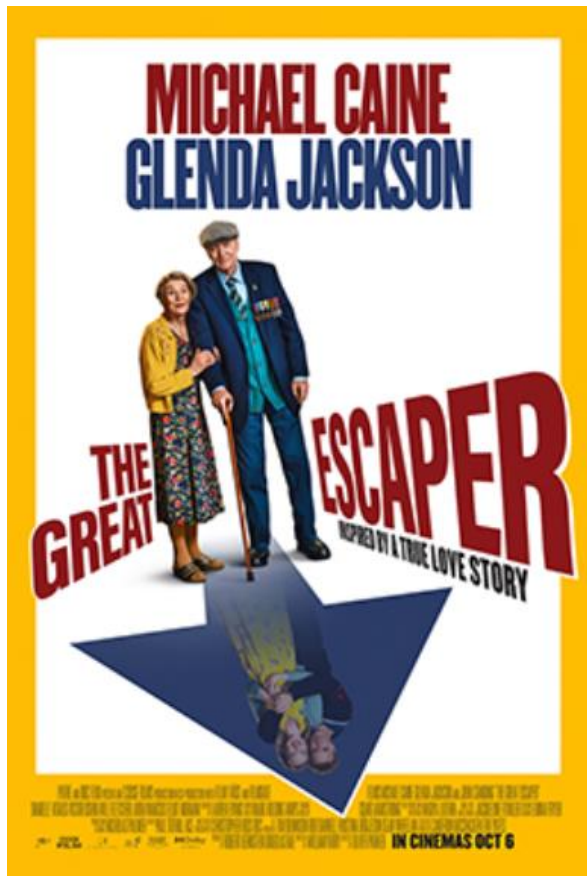


@lenhamfilmclub

Platts Heath Film Club

You are invited to our next film night on **FRIDAY 18th APRIL**. The film chosen is **The Great Escaper cert 12. Starring Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson**. The story is set in 2014 when Bernard Jordan escapes from his care home to attend the beach in Normandy as part of the 70th anniversary D Day landings.

Doors open at 7.45 p.m. for a prompt **8 p.m. start**. Suggested donation to support the upkeep of the village hall is £4. It would be helpful if you can confirm attendance. Email 1468ceb@gmail.com The hall is located in School Lane. Cars can be parked in Green Lane.



To receive film information a week before each presentation or to confirm attendance email: 1468ceb@gmail.com.

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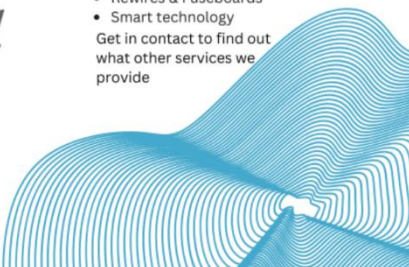
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BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3 March 2025, at 19.30 at Grafty Green Village Hall Meeting Ref: 003/2025

Present : Cllr Eastwood (Chairman) Cllr Hook, Cllr Tomlinson, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Peter, Marie Norris (Clerk)

Guests Cllr Trzebinski – MBC Ward Member for Headcorn & Sutton Valance Cllr John Britt – Chairman of Lenham Parish Council

01.03.25 Welcome and apologies for absence

The chairman welcomed everyone.

- b) Councillors had no changes to the Register of Interests to declare.
- c) There were no requests for dispensations.
- d) There were no declarations of lobbying.

02.03.25 Public Session/Open Forum

There was 8 members of the public in attendance. No matters were brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

03.03.25 Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Ordinary Parish Council

Meeting Councillors were asked if they had any comments regarding the accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish meeting that took place on the 5th January 2025. No comments were made.

Resolved: The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th January 2025 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

04.03.25. Reports from Borough / County Councillors Cllr

Trzebinski brought to the attention of the PC.

- Increased parking fees at Moat Park Maidstone.
- Citizens Engagement Group (Customer Centricity Focus Group) - Maidstone Borough Council are trying to improve services and the way these are available to residents. Focus groups are being set up and further details can be found on Maidstone Borough Council website.
- £500k for improving green spaces – Cllr Trzebinski had raised his concerns that the proposed projects are in central Maidstone and not including the more rural areas.

- Cllr Round has now returned from a fact-finding exercise in the Middle East.
- Cllr Round will be inaugurated as Mayor on 18th May 2025.

Cllr Prendergast KCC Member for Maidstone Rural East was unable to attend the meeting but provide a written report for the PC prior to the meeting. This included the following items:

- Devolution – Kent was told it would not get a fast-track devolution agreement, the Government has told the county's council leaders that they must press ahead with their proposals for local government reorganisation – that is, make plans to merge to create single authorities and make structures simpler and more efficient. Council leaders across Kent and Medway – now have until 21st March to come up with an interim proposal as to how Kent and Medway could be divided into unitary authorities, with full proposals expected by 28th November. Understandably, there will be some challenges as to how you would keep local government "local" in this new kind of structure, and that is something that all of at Kent County Council, Medway Council and the 12 district/borough councils will now have to carefully consider as we work on our initial plans and structures. I will, of course, keep you updated on progress but in the meantime, please note that Kent County Council, in the absence of a mayoral election in 2026, is preparing for the county council election on 1st May 2025.
- Budget – following a budget setting meeting on 9th February, KCC councillors voted to increase council tax by 4.99% - 2% of which is ringfenced for social care – in order to balance the budget in the face of a £150m growth in spending need. This means that the County Council share of the bill for a Band D household will go up by £1.54 per week. This was not an easy decision but government funding and emerging policies – particularly in adult social care - is leaving many local authorities with no other choice when it comes to supporting some of our most vulnerable residents than to raise council tax for working people who are already struggling to pay the bills.

05.03.25 Clerks report and update of resolutions from last meeting

An update to the resolutions from the last meeting was given under the specific agenda item.

06.03.25 Planning Applications

a) Applications for comment

There were no planning applications for discussion.

b) Decided applications

24/505101 Little Southerden, Southerden Road TN27 9LL – Refused

07.03.25.Financial matters

a) Receipts of Income As of 2nd March 2025

£12.50 Lloyds Instant Access Account

b) To authorise payments listed on the schedule

Invoice Date	Amount	Payee			Invoice No
14 Jan	£97.50	Amesjs	Litter Picking		229AK
19 Feb	£97.50	Amesjs	Litter Picking		229AL
2 March	£843.87	M Norris	Salary Jan/Feb		
14 March	£11.99	Hugo Fox	Website	D/D	
Total	£1050.86				

Resolved All payments were approved by Councillors.

c) Bank Reconciliation

Lloyds Treasures Account £157.34

Lloyds Inst Online £7,253.29

Lloyds 32 Day Notice £41.839.10

08.03.25. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr John Britt Chairman of Lenham Parish Council had very kindly agreed to attend the meeting and discuss with Boughton Parish Council how Lenham Parish Council had created and published their Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Britt provided a great insight into the process and BMPC were left with lots of items to consider. The chairman and members of the PC would like to thank him for attending.

Action: The clerk will contact Ulcombe PC to discuss what document they are producing whether it is a neighbourhood plan or a similar document.

09.03.25 KALC

Cllr Hook reported that the recent KALC meeting had covered topics of interest including Devolution and Community Governance. The minutes of the KALC meeting had been sent to all councillors.

10.03.25 59 Bus Service

Members of the PC along with John Collins had meet with NuVenture and neighbouring parish councils to discuss the continuation of the 59 bus service for FY 25/26. Funding is in place for this term and all agreed that the bus service should continue.

Resolution The PC were in agreement that the bus service should continue whilst we have funding available. The clerk will advise KCC regarding the change to the original timetable.

11.03.25 Contribution to Public House for Electricity Usage at Christmas Event

Previously in 2023 the parish council had made a donation of £50 towards the electricity bill of the public house as they very kindly supply the electric for the Christmas tree and the Christmas event. A contribution from the PC was not made in 2024 and this had now been raised with the chairman of the PC. The parish council agreed that a backdated payment of £50 should be made for 2024, however it was felt that looking forward to Christmas 2025 the PC and public house should consider whether they wish to continue with this arrangement. This would be addressed later in the year when the PC considered the Christmas events in the village.

Resolution The public house will raise and invoice for the PC for payment.

12.03.25 Grafty Green Village Hall Heater Quotes

The quotation for the supply and fit of the electric heaters had been passed to the Chairman of the PC. The parish council had previously agreed to a grant to the village hall to assist with the costs of the rewire and a payment will be made once an invoice has been received.

Resolved: The PC will action payment once an invoice made out to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council has been received.

13.03.25 Village Hall Signage

The clerk had made enquiries with KCC and the current finger signpost is jointly owned by KCC and the Parish Council. This would mean that before any additions or alterations to the sign could take place it would need to be approved by KCC via our parish Highways Improvement Plan. The clerk will request approval for an addition to the sign pointing to the village hall and report back at a future meeting.

14.03.25 Parish Council AGM

The PC proposed moving the date of the AGM from Monday 5th May 2025 (Bank Holiday). To Monday the 12th May. This was agreed by all in attendance.

Resolution The AGM will now take place on 12th May. The clerk will email all clubs and societies requesting a written report.

15.03.25 Annual Parish Meeting

The PC proposed moving the date of the Annual Parish Meeting from Monday 5th May 2025 (Bank Holiday). To Monday the 12th May. This was agreed by all in attendance.

Resolution The Annual Parish Meeting will now take place on 12th May.

16.03.25 Matter for Information

- Cllr Peter advised that he had arranged a Defibrillator trainer from the fire service who would be able to complete two training sessions (45 minutes each) on a Saturday for residents. A booking system would be made available and residents looking to attend could book a slot. A maximum of 12 attendees at each session. A date would be arranged but Cllr Peter was hopeful that this could be organised for late April /May.
- The clerk asked whether there was still a requirement for the PC meetings to move from a Monday evening to a Tuesday. The Chairman confirmed that the village hall had made other arrangements and there was now no requirement for the Parish Council to change their meetings from a Monday evening. The clerk will circulate dates for the year going forward to PC members.
- Cllr Eastwood advised that he had taken the issue with the drains forward. If a reply is not received shortly, Cllr Eastwood will raise further with our KCC Councillors
- Volunteers are needed for Speedwatch in the local community . If anyone is interested in volunteering or just finding out more information, please do contact Marie our clerk who will pass on your details to Kathy.

There being no further matters the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to close at 9.03pm.

**Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council
Meeting 12th May 7.30pm at the Grafty Green Village Hall**

News from St. Nicolas Church – April 2025

Seeing the burgeoning spring flowers in the hedgerows and gardens after these few days of sunshine and warmth, I can visualise looking into Diana's immaculate little garden along the Headcorn Road, with her treasured plants and busy bird feeders. After a long and disciplined life in this community she has earned her rest, and we will celebrate and give thanks for that life at her funeral service in her home church up the hill at St.Nicolas on Thursday 27th March. (More details in the May magazine). Especially we remember her faithfulness and support for this church, with happy thoughts, too, of her notable presence at the Cream Teas afternoons over the years. Let us pray for her and her family and friends as they mourn her passing.

Usual reminders

The church porch is open at all times. Enjoy a time of rest and peace with a hot drink, a biscuit and a remarkable view. We enjoy reading the comments of visitors in the Visitors' Book. A dip into the Bible on the windowsill can be helpful. The mini food bank box is for anyone in need and a larger food bank is available at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10.00am - 4.00pm daily.

The main church building is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. Please contact the church wardens if you require a key at other times. Church service times are on the notice boards by the porch, the roadside and the Village Hall in Grafty Green and in the magazine.

Celtic Morning Prayer is usually said on Mondays. 9.00am-9.30am. Recently, due to the cold weather, the meetings have taken place at the Old Vicarage, not in the church. Apologies if anyone has been inconvenienced.

Village Cake and Coffee Time continues each Tuesday from 12.00 noon - 2.00pm in the Village Hall in Grafty Green to coincide with the visiting Post Office, 12.45-2.15pm. Donations for the refreshments are shared equally between St.Nicolas and a charity chosen by the regulars. Soon we shall have sufficient funds to donate another £100 to a worthy cause and will be asking for ideas.

News

Lent Lunches are proving popular and our first two 'Bread and Soup' lunches have gone well, and requests for Jacquie's curried butternut squash soup especially! The Lent Lunches take place on Tuesdays 12.00noon -2.00pm, combining with the Coffee and Cake Time. Proceeds from the Lent Lunches will be donated to Christian Aid to support their amazing work in troubled areas of the world, wherever they are needed. The last Lent Lunch is on Tuesday 8th April.

Farmers' Market afternoons, every Friday in the Village Hall, 1.00pm-3.00pm have been a new venture for us. Janet, Jacquie and I have really enjoyed meeting friends and visitors over our baskets of scones. The other stall holders are so very welcoming and supportive to us, as well as bringing such a variety of products and skills. We will be there for, mostly, 2 afternoons a month. In April our dates are April 11th and April 25th.

Also a good place to sit and chat with friends over a tea/coffee and scone or cake!

Holy Week there will be lectures through Holy Week in the benefice.

Monday 14th April at St. Nicolas, Boughton Malherbe. 7.30pm-9.00pm

Tuesday 15th April at All Saints, Ulcombe. 7.30pm-9.00pm

Wednesday 16th April at St. Mary's, Lenham. 7.30pm-9.00pm

Thursday 17th Maundy Thursday at St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham 7.30-9.00pm

Friday 18th. Good Friday 'An hour at the Cross', at St Nicolas, Boughton Malherbe
2.00pm-3.00pm (also at each of the churches in the benefice)

Easter Day a Benefice Daybreak Celebration at St.Nicolas, Boughton Malherbe

At 6.00am-7.00am followed by breakfast in the church.

This is an annual celebration, not to be missed, a really joyous time in the Christian Calendar in a very special landscape at daybreak!

Holy Communion at St.Nicolas at 9.30am

We hope that you will be able to join in these services during April and through the programme for Holy Week leading to Good Friday and Easter Day, a lot to experience and reflect on.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter

Sally Alexander

Len Valley Benefice

April 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 2nd April

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 6th April

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 13th April – *Palm Sunday*

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Monday 14th – Thursday 17th April - *Series of Holy Week evening sessions*

Monday 7.30pm at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

Finding God in nature, Revd. John Huggins

Tuesday 7.30pm at All Saints, Ulcombe

Finding God in art, Canon Lorraine Apps-Huggins

Wednesday 7.30pm at St Mary, Lenham

Finding God in music, Lis Bayford

Thursday 7.30pm at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham

Finding God in helping others, Revd. David Bates

Followed by Maundy Thursday washing of feet

Friday 18th April – Good Friday

2.00pm Services in all four churches 'An hour at The Cross'

Saturday 19th April

3.00pm Lenham: **Messy Church – Messy Easter**

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday

6.30am Boughton Malherbe: **Benefice Daybreak Easter Celebration**

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 27th April

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham
'Re-Sourced in Christ – Confession and forgiveness'

Cross Country to The Cross!

Messy Church Easter

Messy Crafts

SATURDAY 19th APRIL

Starting St Mary's Church, Lenham,
3pm to leave at 3.30 pm
All welcome

Messy Church

Stick Nation: collecting & making stick crosses

Come and explore the amazing Easter story!



*If God were small enough to be understood,
he wouldn't be big enough to be worshipped*

Evelyn Underhill

Practical sessions on:

Finding God in nature, Revd John Huggins,
St Nicholas Boughton Malherbe, Monday April 14th

Finding God in art, Canon Lorraine Apps-Huggins,
All Saints, Ulcombe, Tuesday April 15th

Finding God in music, Lis Bayford,
St Mary, Lenham, Wednesday April 16th

Finding God in helping others, Revd David Bates,
St John the Baptist, Harrietsham, Thursday April 17th

All start at 730 pm. All are welcome.

Christian Message April 2025

Hope, Expectation and Joy. A Christian message for Easter.

I was thrilled to see that this year I have been asked to write the Easter Christian Message – thrilled and a little overwhelmed at where to start and how best to talk about this important Christian festival.

In December my daughter sent me a photograph of a shelf in her local supermarket. “Outrageous!” I exclaimed, when I saw that they were selling crème eggs before we had even celebrated Christ’s birth. “Yes indeed,” she replied, “they have more than doubled in price this year!” Hey ho, I suppose everything depends on our own perspective. As I sit here on a cold, wet, misty February morning, I feel a glimmer of hope as I think about April, sunny Spring weather, daffodils and bird song. From the perspective of a nature lover, April is full of hope, expectation and joy.

By 1st of April, we will be halfway through Lent. Many of us will have given something up or taken challenges on and will have failed, excelled, or a bit of both. Most of us will be looking forward to 20th April and the chance to relax and indulge in at least one ‘over-priced’ chocolate item. More hope, expectation and joy.

For Christians, Lent is important. It is a time of reflecting on our own faith, the amazing example set by Jesus when he lived here on earth, the incredible sacrifice he made for us all by dying to save us from sin and his resurrection to show he had conquered death and was returning to his father in heaven. Yes, you guessed it, even more hope, expectation and joy, but let’s explore this a little more:

During this time, we have a chance to think about God’s love for each of us, the chance to meet him, through Jesus, in this life, and the certainty of meeting him in the next. Jesus’s ministry was very short but in about three years he packed in more teaching, healing and, ultimately, suffering, than many of us experience in a lifetime. His greatest message was one of Love. Love your family, friends, neighbours and even your enemies. That’s a real challenge: It’s hard enough for us to forgive those who hurt us, lie to us or betray us, but for those experiencing a war-torn environment with serious injury, multiple bereavements or continuing hunger, it must, at times, seem an unfathomable trial. Those who do manage to carry on and still show love, are heroes indeed, and reflect the love Christ had for us all.

Everywhere Jesus went he banished suffering and gave hope. As the time of his death drew near, he tried to prepare his disciples with expectation for his sacrifice of dying on the cross. If we ask Jesus into our lives and ask for forgiveness for all our wrong doing, we can enjoy a personal relationship with him where he will guide and protect us, and we can live in the knowledge that we have a place in heaven without fear of judgement. Jesus’ resurrection proved his victory over sin and death and left a legacy of joy for us all. This offer hasn’t doubled in price in over 2,000 years. It is still free to us today. We only have to ask.

Happy Easter!

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
	<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	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

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