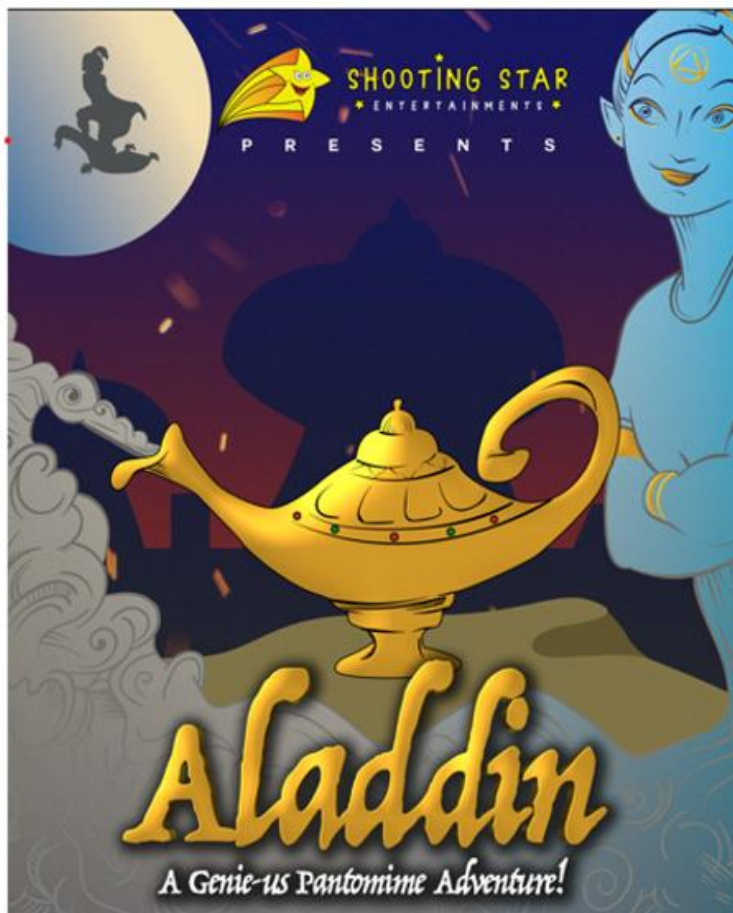


# Malherbe Monthly

Number 257  
January 2026



Grafty Green Village Hall Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 3pm to 4.30 pm

## Useful contact names and telephone numbers

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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 <a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson Email: jon@grafftygreenalpacas.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 <a href="mailto:info.grafftygreen@gmail.com">info.grafftygreen@gmail.com</a>	
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 from January 6 outside the village hall, variable time	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 **February** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email ([carolhulm@gmail.com](mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com)) by **24<sup>th</sup> January**

## January Message from Katie Lam, MP for the Weald of Kent

January can be a bit of a funny month. The decorations are packed away, the weather is doing its worst, and many of us are bravely attempting Dry January or some other New Year resolution that felt like a good idea at the time. When it's cold, dark and wet, it's tempting to retreat indoors and hibernate until Spring.



But we're so lucky to live in such a wonderful part of the country, and there are plenty of reasons to get outside, whether that's a walk through the Kentish countryside or a stroll down the high street. And there's one place many have long relied on as a refuge, whatever the weather and whatever the time of year: the local pub!

Back in December, I wrote for KentOnline about the importance of buying local. But *being* local matters just as much. Getting out, meeting your neighbours, and staying connected to your community matters all the more in rural areas. The word 'pub' is quite literally short for 'public house' – a place where people come together. But the sad fact is, if we don't keep using our pubs, we risk losing them.

Pubs have been hit especially hard recently with higher business rates and the hike in National Insurance contributions. Now more than ever, they need our help.

That doesn't mean ordering a pint every night, particularly if you're taking a break from alcohol. Our Wealden pubs offer far more than that. They're warm, welcoming places to get out of the house, see familiar faces, and enjoy yourself.

Across the Weald, pubs host regular quiz nights, chess clubs, pool competitions and charity events. They serve excellent local food, showcase local produce, and provide a space where generations mix in a way that's becoming increasingly rare. The other day, I was at the Albion Inn in Boughton Monchelsea where a patron was celebrating their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, having also celebrated their christening under the same roof!

You might strike up a conversation you didn't expect, learn something new, or just enjoy the comfort of being around others. And let's not forget one of the great British pub's best perks: most of the time, you can bring your dog with you.

January doesn't have to be grim, and supporting pubs doesn't have to be expensive or complicated. It can be a coffee instead of a pint, lunch instead of dinner, or simply turning up to a quiz night with friends. Sometimes, the best New Year resolution is just to step out of the house. Why not support a local business while you're at it?

# Kent County Council – 6 Month Review piece



**Sarah Emberson**

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

Dear Residents

As we're moving into 2026, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on what Reform UK has been doing for the people of Kent in our first six months in office. We were elected with a pledge to scrutinise the finances of KCC and make savings, address potholes and be a strong advocate for the County. Our work has been to achieve those pledges and put Kent people and businesses first. I am pleased to report, there have been a number of successes from investing in our roads, driving efficiencies and championing Kent's interests. I will focus on the highlights for now but will continue to update on our other successes as we go through the year.

## Highlights:

- We inherited a challenging financial position, KCC had debts of £732 million, was paying debt interest charges of £84k each day and had a target of £121 million in savings and increased income to achieve in 2025/26. In our first six months the debt has been reduced by £67 million and £100 million of savings made with an additional £40m of future savings found.
- We commenced the implementation of £67 million investment into road repairs, which includes the biggest pothole repair programmes in the UK. So far, 22,000 potholes have been filled, 250,000 square metres of road patching (approx. 35 Wembley Stadiums in area) and resurfaced 210,000 square metres of road
- We scrapped the 'climate emergency declaration of 2019', thereby freeing KCC from expensive and unnecessary work; enabling more small Kent businesses to tender for work; encouraging a mixed economy of energy use and bringing back common sense to the climate debate in Kent.

- We are leading the campaign to get the Eurostar service to stop at Ashford and Ebbsfleet again.
- We're lobbying central government to allow Kent some proceeds from the Dartford Crossing and the Freight Lorry Levy.
- We commenced work to produce an Energy Strategy that will encourage the construction of small nuclear reactors and prevent huge solar farms from being sited on our best agricultural land and despoiling our beautiful countryside.
- We developed a unique response to the government's Local Government Reorganisation programme, that would look after Kent's best interests, enable local community engagement, and be less expensive for Kent taxpayers.
- We produced 'Reforming Kent'; a new plan for the County, which was launched in November 2025, and which gives the direction of travel for the County Council to achieve a better quality of life for Kent residents and businesses.

I hope you'll agree; huge strides have been made and there will be more to come in the New Year!

In the meantime, I'd like to wish you and your family Happy New Year!

## **Ward Councillor Update**

The Council's attention over the coming months will be heavily focused on the ongoing local government review, particularly the discussions around moving towards a unitary authority. This is a major piece of work and is likely to shape much of our activity for the foreseeable future. There are over 7 different options for Kent and we hope that the choice will be made before the end of February, as there are tight deadlines for the re-organisation and lead into the next round of elections.

Maidstone continues to face significant pressure due to the absence of a five-year housing supply. As we are unable to demonstrate the required level of housebuilding, many areas are now at greater risk of speculative planning applications. This creates uncertainty for communities across the borough. Parish Council involvement will be crucial as the planning workload increases.

We have said before that it is vital that every incident of crime or ASB, however small it may seem, is reported to the police. Use 101 for non-urgent matters and 999 for emergencies. Even minor reports feed into police intelligence systems, helping to highlight hotspots, anticipate problems, and guide the allocation of resources. Our "beat" police have been very active and are making great efforts to control what is going on in the area and have been much more visible recently.

Water management has also emerged as a notable issue this year. Although the summer was marked by drought, the Weald experienced several challenges connected to drainage, water flow and storage. We sit near the geographical heart of Kent, with many local streams and rivers feeding into the River Beult and eventually the Medway, while the River Stour begins just north of Grafty Green. Several farmers have struggled with the movement and retention of water despite the dry conditions, highlighting how complex our local water systems can be. We recognise residents' frustration with supply breakdown and hosepipe bans as well as the associated road closures, not to mention potential flooding. We are exerting as much pressure as possible on the Companies and Authorities concerned to put matters right.

This year has also brought changes in representation and leadership. We welcomed Sarah Emberson as our new Kent County Council member, and she has already begun to make her mark. At the same time, both KCC and Maidstone Borough Council are operating under relatively new leadership teams, no small task given the increasing likelihood that the two authorities may eventually merge into one. Meanwhile, Martin Round has taken on the role of Mayor. Altogether, it has been a year defined by new faces, transitions, and a good deal of uncertainty.

As we look ahead, we would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Martin Round & Ziggy Trzebinski

## Message from the Boughton Malherbe Parish Councillors

Nick, Christine, Gary, Steve, and Lorraine would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to join us for the Carols around the Tree event on the Village Green in Grafty Green. Your presence truly made the evening special. It was a beautiful hour to pause, connect, and reflect on the joy and meaning of the season. Thank you for sharing this magical moment with us!

A special thanks goes to the wonderful choir and, of course, to Father Christmas, whose presence lit up the children's faces.

The Boughton Malherbe Parish Councillors hope you had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Music and Singing Sessions at the Kings Head

You are invited to join John Moore and Jerry Crossley at the Kings Head on the second Tuesday of the month, to participate or listen to music played on a variety of instruments. The music and songs originate from a wide range of Folk and Blues. John plays the melodeon and sings mainly folk songs. Jerry, who is well known for organising musical sessions at the Egerton Folk and Blues Club, now in Charing, plays a variety of instruments and sings a wide range of accompanied songs. We begin at 8pm. **The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.** We look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like more information about taking part, we are happy for you to contact us:

Jerry: [jerronimo@btinternet.com](mailto:jerronimo@btinternet.com)

John: [jemoore7825@gmail.com](mailto:jemoore7825@gmail.com)

John Moore

## Message Board

This section is for people to post their messages or any thoughts they would like to share with the community. Send your messages to the editor within the deadline for each month, details can be found on the contact's page 2.

### **Volunteers to distribute this magazine from Nick Eastwood**

I am looking for someone who would be willing to assist the magazine distribution team. I deliver the magazines to each distributor who then has an allocated round of houses. Having an additional person either with a round of their own or able to provide some occasional cover would be useful and I'd be pleased to hear from someone who can give it a try even on a non-committal basis.

Nicholas Eastwood 01622 850330 [eastwood.n@gmail.com](mailto:eastwood.n@gmail.com)

**Please see the return of the Link Word game on the last page of the magazine, with answers from last month included and a game for January**

### **From the Editor**

A suggestion from a reader is that we could include stories from people about their life in Grafty Green, so I would love to hear from you with your stories, including pictures.

**Front cover Photos:** Please send me any photos that you would like to see on the front cover of this magazine.  
Thank you.



## Village Hall News – January Newsletter

Dear All

Firstly, on behalf of the trustees, I should like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for all your support during 2025. Looking back over the last 12 months as well as the wide range of activities that take place at the hall we have added the weekly Farmer's Market which appears to have been well received and by the time we return to the hall for the Panto on the 10<sup>th</sup> January we will have completed the electrical rewire and redecorated the inside of the hall.

### Internal redecoration

She Paints Ltd a local firm of decorators will be undertaking the internal making good and repainting of the hall from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January ready for the reopening of the hall for the Panto on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.

### Events

The Christmas Craft Fair weekend was very popular, and the Christmas Quiz was enjoyed by all who attended although numbers were down on last year. Our congratulations go to The Wise Men who were the winning team, pictured below.

Your support of these events has raised funds which will help meet the cost of the improvements we have made to the hall.



Coming up we have the following events for you to note in your diaries:-

**Aladdin – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 can be booked via myself on 07932 112730 or [jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk).

**Coffee & Croissants Open Morning Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 10 am to 12 noon**

To celebrate the reopening of the hall after the electrical rewire and internal redecoration of the hall the trustees would like to invite you all to the hall for a pastry, cup of tea, coffee, hot chocolate or squash for the little ones so you can take a look at the hall, have a natter with friends and let us know if you have any ideas for how the hall can further be used for the community's benefit in the future.

**Farmer's Market – Kings Head Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The Farmer's Market will return to the hall after it reopens on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026. But for one day only the Kings Head have kindly agreed to host the market at the pub the week before on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 so you will not have to wait too long for your weekly visit to the market!

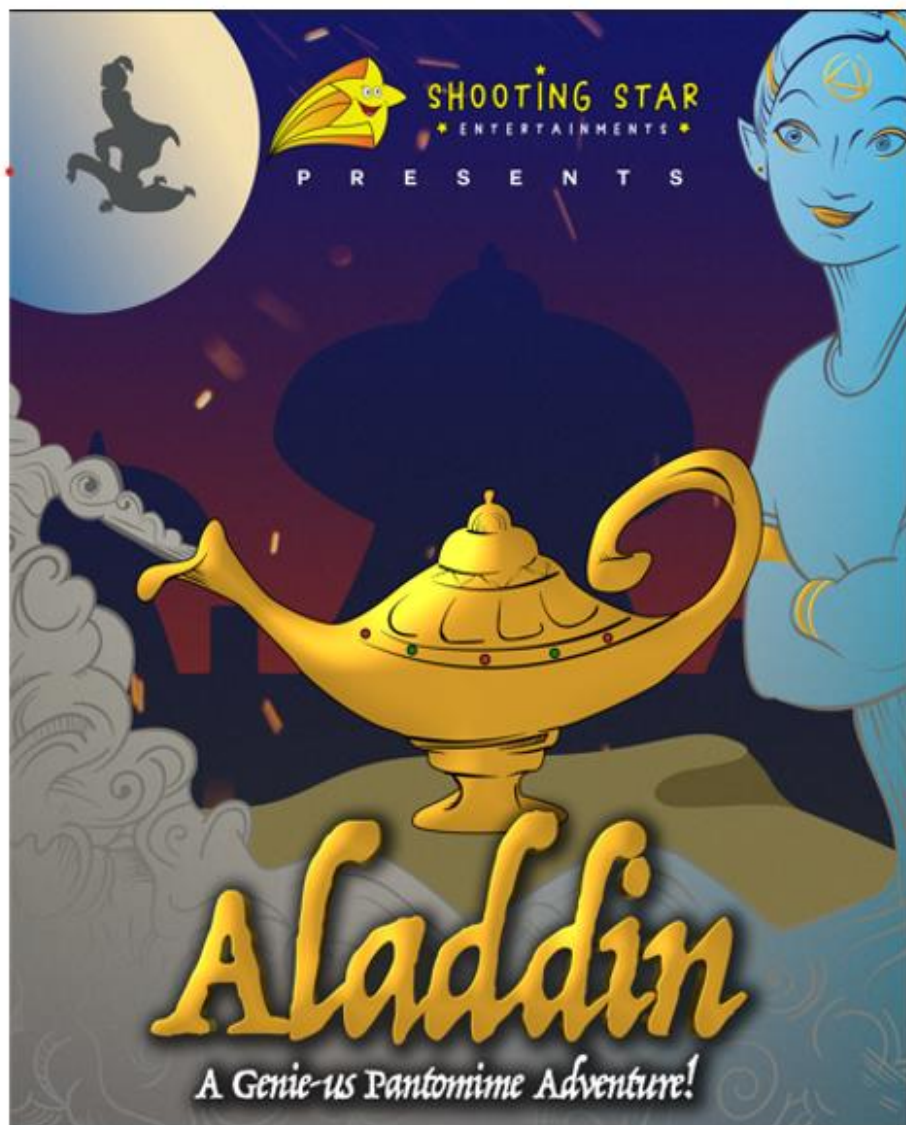
Happy New Year and Kind Regards

Jon Thompson

Village Hall Committee Chairman

[jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk) Tel 07932 112730

[www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk) - facebook – graftygrevillage



Grafty Green Village Hall Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Bacon-wrapped sausages cooked in a sherry-laced, onion-rich sauce make this French onion sausage casserole a quick and easy dinner to warm you up on these cold nights.

### **FRENCH ONION & SAUSAGE CASSEROLE**

6 rashers of streaky bacon  
375g pack of pork chipolatas  
Vegetable oil for frying  
25g of butter  
500g of onions, sliced  
2 garlic cloves, sliced  
1 tablespoon of plain flour  
100ml of medium dry or dry sherry, plus an extra splash  
1 beef stock pot  
3-4 bushy fresh thyme sprigs, plus extra leaves to garnish  
8 large thin slices of fresh baguette or similar crusty bread  
4 teaspoons of wholegrain mustard  
125g of strong cheddar cheese, grated  
Splash sherry vinegar

1. Cut the bacon rashers in half, stretch each piece by running the back of a kitchen knife blade along it, then wrap one around each chipolata. Heat the oil in a medium hob-safe casserole dish, add the pigs in blankets and brown over a medium-high heat for 4-5 minutes. Set aside.

2. Add a splash more oil if needed, along with the butter, then add the onions and a plenty of salt and black pepper. Fry gently for 5-6 minutes until starting to soften. Stir in the garlic, then cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring once or twice, until the onions have softened and turned deep brown.

Stir the flour into the onions, then cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the sherry, stock pot and 500ml hot water from a just-boiled kettle. Stir to combine, then add the browned pigs in blankets and the thyme.

3. Simmer on a low-medium heat for 20 minutes until it thickens. Meanwhile, heat the grill to high. Toast the baguette slices on each side. Spread with the mustard, then scatter with the grated cheese. Cook under the hot grill until the cheese has melted and is bubbling and golden. Stir a splash more sherry and the sherry vinegar into the casserole, season to taste, then serve with the cheese toasts, and extra thyme leaves, if you like.

## Grafty Green Gardening Club

Meetings are held in Grafty Green Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm unless stated otherwise. Entry for guests £4. Bring your plant and seed swaps! Membership £5 - contact Doreen Hulm (Treasurer) 01622 850287

### Programme for 2026

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 13	AGM and Max Jacquard,	Local creator of Tower of London poppies and other artworks.
February 3	Dilo de Alvis	Feed the Earth and the earth will feed you!
March 3	Alan Harvey Head of Horticulture at Hadlow College	
April 7	Spring Show and Kevin Tooher	Gardens of East Sussex
Sat May 2	<b>Plant Sale 10 – 12 Village Hall</b>	
May 5	Outing - Marden Meadow, guided by Vicky Golding - please car share as limited parking	
June 2	Outing - Pimphurst Farm, Bethersden TN26 3EE	
July 7	Outing - Barnfield Cottages, Wormshill, ME9 0TU	
July 24 - 26	Weekend away – Walmer Castle, Great Dixter, Butlers Farm House, Herstmonceux Castle and grounds, Driftwood, King John's Nursery, Goddards Green. Dinner bed and Breakfast at Landsdowne Hotel, Eastbourne	
August 4	Outing to Jungle Garden at Wye	
September 1	Autumn Show and Catriona	Romney Wools
October 6	Chris Stewart	The hop bine and hop pickers of Kent
November 3	Stephen Harmer	La Claire the Story of Jersey's lost garden
December 1	Social and creative activity	

### Gardening Tips - Jobs for January

- Deadhead pansies and violas to encourage plants to keep producing fresh blooms.
- Sow sweet peas, and after germination, place in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame.
- Take hardwood cuttings of shrubs.
- Force rhubarb.
- Ventilate greenhouses on sunny, mild days but don't forget to close at night.
- Trim off old hellebore leaves so flowers can be seen.
- Continue to mulch beds if not too wet or frosty.
- Clean up for Spring.....wash pots and clean greenhouses.
- Order seeds and perennials for next year and dream of Spring!

## **Sue's Blog – reminiscing!**

It was a summer's morning in 1995 when parked across the road from Myrtle House was a pantechnicon with 'Challenge Anneka' on the side; they were looking for the RSPCA Cattery at Tudor Cottage/Wren's Nest. The word soon got round the village and a small crowd arrived to observe the proceedings which the children found this all very exciting!

Daphne Shipman lived at Wren's Nest, and she had a small area in the garden which housed stray cats which Anneka was going to revamp and improve the provision for the cats.

The episode also included a project at The Big Cat Sanctuary at Smarden.

### **Yoga with Susan**

#### **Weekly classes in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Monday morning 9.30 – 11

Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30

Thursday morning 9.30 – 11

#### **New term starts 12<sup>th</sup> January**

Yoga brings a sense of peacefulness and connection to yourself and others whilst bringing more flexibility and strength into the body.

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

## **Nature Notes**

January is the month when the RSPB encourage people to take an hour to observe the types and numbers of birds that visit the garden – this year it takes place over 23 rd to 25 th January.

If you have left your garden over the winter with plenty of seed heads you may well be rewarded with birds such as yellow hammers, gold finches, chaffinches and even sparrows!

Words of advice from RSPB recommend that, as wildlife is constantly on the alert to detect danger, you know when to walk away. If you disturb an animal it will let you know; birds and mammals will use alarm calls and many will hide, run, or fly away to protect themselves. That burst of energy can be exhausting for migrant birds or animals that are nest building or raising young. If you observe these defensive behaviours, quietly retreat.

**Ulcombe History Society  
2026 programme**

**January 20<sup>th</sup> Guy Bartlett**  
**“British women in aviation”**

**February 17<sup>th</sup> Derrick Parkes**  
**“The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies”**

**March 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Adamson**  
**“Kentish clerical errors”**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> Melanie Gibson-Barton**  
**“Suffragettes and Suffragists – votes for women”**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Adam Taylor**  
**“Islands of the Medway Estuary”**

**October 20<sup>th</sup> Bertie Pearce**  
**“Wonder workers and the art of illusion”**

**November 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Adamson**  
**“Making and faking of ghost stories”**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Imogen Corrigan**  
**“The goose is getting fat”**

**We meet at Ulcombe Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm.**  
**Guests are always welcome, admission £4**



# Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

**Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time 1 hr 50 mins, director George Roy Hill*

A new year – and a treasured old film. And what a film! No matter if you’ve already watched **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** (PG, 1969), come along on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> to see our audience vote for this season. It’s a film that gets even better every time you see it – if that’s possible. Butch Cassidy, played by Paul Newman, and Robert Redford as the Sundance Kid combine their comic talents in the most unforgettable western that Hollywood ever produced. When a train robbery goes wrong, they are on the run with a vengeful posse on their heels. The posse is not going to give up its pursuit and it’s up to Butch to come up with a plan to get them out of this mess. The chase is on, over rivers and rocks and through towns, but even with the added love interest provided by Katharine Ross, they can’t shake off their pursuers – or can they? Do come and see what happens. Why? Well, as the film tagline goes, ‘just for the fun of it’.

Our February film is blockbuster **The Roses** (15, 2025) which is also a comedy, starring Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch. Their marriage goes astray bigtime and the humour is dark. A splendid film to watch on February 13<sup>th</sup>...

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

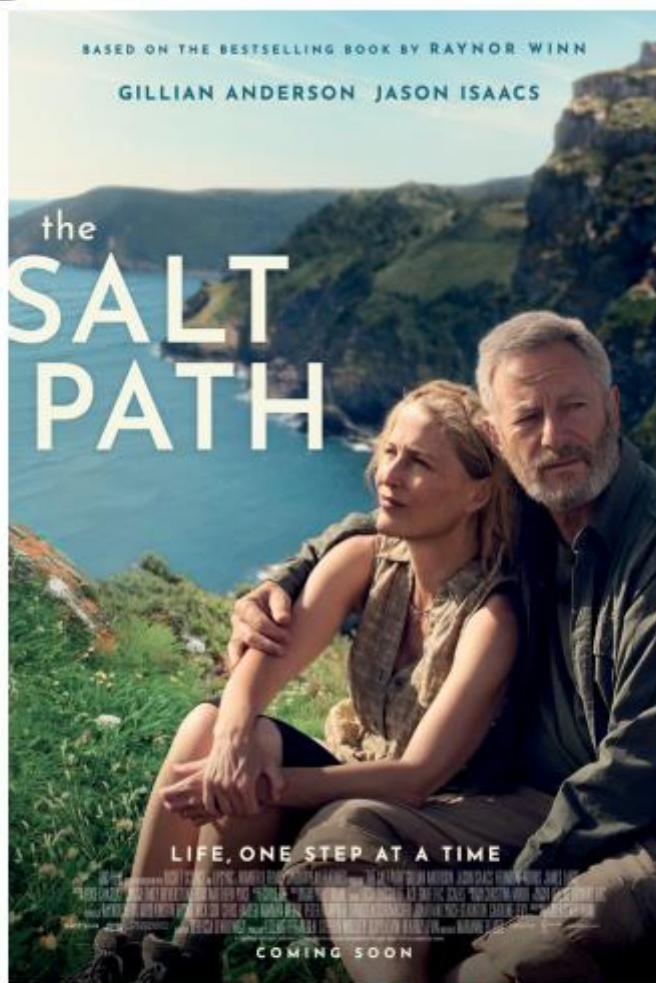


www.lenhamfilmclub.org



@lenhamfilmclub

# Egerton Film Society



**EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL**

**THURSDAY 29th January 2026**

**Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE 7.30pm**



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FOR ALL**

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# COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

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THE MILLENNIUM HALL



**GET IN TOUCH**

 [instructor@egerton-kent.co.uk](mailto:instructor@egerton-kent.co.uk)

 [www.egerton-kent.co.uk](http://www.egerton-kent.co.uk)

# Phishing – what’s it all about from the Grafty Geek

Phishing is a **type of online fraud that involves tricking people into providing sensitive information, such as passwords or credit card numbers, by masquerading as a trustworthy source**. Phishing can be done through email, social media or malicious websites.

There are 5 types of phishing, for more information see:  
<https://www.itgovernance.eu/blog/en/the-5-most-common-types-of-phishing-attack>

In summary:

- 1. **Email phishing** - Most phishing attacks are sent by email. The crook will register a fake domain that mimics a genuine organisation and sends thousands of generic requests. The fake domain often involves character substitution, like using ‘r’ and ‘n’ next to each other to create ‘rn’ instead of ‘m’.
- 2. **Spear phishing** - Describes malicious emails sent to a specific person. Criminals who do this will already have some or all of the following information about the victim, which makes the email much more convincing compared to ordinary scams.
- 3. **Whaling** - Attacks are even more targeted, taking aim at senior executives. Although the end goal of whaling is the same as any other kind of phishing attack, the technique tends to be a lot subtler.
- 4. **Smishing and vishing** - In both, telephones replace emails as the method of communication. **Smishing** involves criminals sending text messages (the content of which is much the same as with email phishing), and **vishing** involves a telephone conversation. One of the most common smishing pretexts are messages supposedly from your bank alerting you to suspicious activity.
- 5. **Angler phishing** - A relatively new attack vector, social media offers several ways for criminals to trick people. Fake URLs; cloned websites, posts, and tweets; and instant messaging (which is essentially the same as smishing) can all be used to persuade people to divulge sensitive information or download malware.

## Top 10 tips

1. Name of Sender can trick you	2. Check for Typos	3. Don't share sensitive data	4. Don't fall for urgency	5. Hover but don't click
6. Attachments can be dangerous	7. If it too good to be true?	8. Keep your devices up to date	9. Regularly check your accounts	10. When in doubt – do nothing and delete

You can **“Report Phishing”**, which can be found in the more options section in the email. You can also permanently send emails to the **Spam folder** if you get unwanted emails from the same company or person. Check help in your email application if you need to know how to do this.





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We thoroughly enjoyed our Basking Babies 'Nurture Me' course. It was great to learn massage and reflexology techniques to help with common complaints such as teething and colds. Me and my baby were so relaxed after each session. It was lovely to get to meet other mums and babies, and be able to chat over a cup of tea each week.

## **News from St.Nicholas Church – January 2026**

Writing for a New Year seems strange every time. A feeling that we need to stop and use the opportunity to remember the past year and recognise how we used that time and how we might try to not make the same mistakes again. Finding such time is always easier said than done having just gone through the rush and business of Christmas and New Year, and now hot on the heels are our new lives in 2026. But hopefully, there have been a myriad of occasions to look back on with pleasure and aim to replicate.

### **Usual reminders**

Hoping people have had the time to enjoy a break in the 'ever-open' church porch while the Christmas tree has been there, a beacon of life and light in the long, dark winter days. Remember there is a small food bank box if you need, with a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's Church in Lenham, open every day 10.00am-4.00pm. Use the cold tap round the back of the church following the path past the West Door, if you need to top up the dog bowl or the kettle.

Please use the prayer request cards if you would like. They will be prayed for as soon as possible in church.

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

### **News**

**Village Cake and Coffee Time** will be taking a break until 13th January when we will be able to appreciate the newly decorated interior. Hope you can wait for the weekly dose of cheese scones. Information as promised, the new mincemeat shortbread recipe was nothing special, so may not appear again.

**Christmas Craft Fair** was a big success and very much enjoyed. We earned about £215 to help with the church funds, so very many thanks to those who supported us.

**The Carol Service** on December 14th was a very happy and uplifting occasion, with appreciation for our time together afterwards, to chat and enjoy the mince pies and mulled wine. Many thanks to everyone for the beautifully decorated church, those who read and led the singing, those who provided the food and drink, lit the many candles and those who joined us.



**The Crib Service** on Christmas Eve was delightful!! So many thanks to those who produced the amazing costumes and persuaded/coerced friends and family to take part. The little gold star with his enormous fully lit star banner was a huge hit, as was the very smiley 'wee -donkey', who took a really smart bow to the audience as we sang the 'Little Donkey' carol specially for him. Thank you to Millie as she presented Mary with a present for her baby, actually in quite difficult circumstances.

Many thanks too, to our very special Mary, (Wendy), a newcomer to the role. Angela and Jon kept the action going, even though the Innkeeper, Jacquie, suffered a giggling fit! This was not surprising. All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed this gentle and fun action story about what might have happened in that little town, Bethlehem, so long ago.

**Christmas Day.** Revd. Millie Hart took a well-supported Communion Service in St.Nicolas.

### **Farewell**

The funeral for Florence Dean will take place at St. Nicolas on Tuesday 6th January at 11am. Please keep Florence and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

**Wishing everyone a very happy New Year**

Sally Alexander



# ***Len Valley Benefice December 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*

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

## **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Chippendayle

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Morning Worship

**3.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**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 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**11.00am** Benefice Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham

## Christian Message for January 2026

### **“Do as I have done for you”: Serving others as Jesus did**

On the night before his death, we witness the unforgettable moment when Jesus kneels to wash the feet of his disciples. Afterwards, in John 13:12-15 we read:

*<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. <sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

In Jesus’ day, a time of open-toed sandals combined with questionable animal deposits in the streets, washing someone’s feet was a grim, undignified task. It belonged to the lowliest servants and certainly not the kind of job anyone was rushing to volunteer for. In doing this for his disciples, Jesus sets a radical and challenging example for us to follow.

When we think about serving others, often our minds jump to helping those we consider less fortunate than ourselves. That is undoubtedly important and a vital way in which to give of ourselves. But what is so striking about this moment is that Jesus isn’t serving strangers, he is sacrificially serving some of his closest friends.

Someone has to do the washing up. Someone has to buy the groceries. When it comes to acts of service for those closest to us, they can become so repeated that we barely notice them or we can even do them from a sense of duty. Jesus’ example invites us to something deeper: to intentionally seek out humble ways in which we can give of ourselves to bless those we share our lives with.

As we begin a new year and perhaps think about resolutions for the year ahead, what about choosing to follow the example of the Servant King by lovingly and sacrificially serving others, both those we have not met and also those closest to us?

The key to this is remembering what we are told in 1 John 4:19: *we love because he first loved us*. The same is true of serving. Jesus has loved and served us, even to the extent of laying down his life to secure our freedom. As 2026 begins, may our love and service flow as a grateful response to that remarkable gift that we have received.

By Ben Doggett, Pathways Church

**January link word puzzle:** One word links all three – can you work it out?

No:	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	CORONATION	RUN	SPRING	
2	BLOOD	FOX	GREY	
3	CRADLE	PAW	WHISKERS	
4	DROP	PLATE	SAKE	
5	BRAKE	BRIGHT	HIGH	
6	FULL	MAGIC	VICIOUS	
7	DOG	HOUSE	ROD	
8	BACK	BOND	WISE	
9	EGG	HOP	WHISKY	
10	HIGH	JESTER	MARTIAL	
11	CABINET	DEFENCE	PRIME	
12	BEAN	BUTTER	POWDER	
13	BERRY	JET	SMITH	
14	HEADACHE	HEART	TOOTH	
15	ALL	FLAKES	TUB	
16	GUIDENCE	LICENCE	SHOTGUN	
17	BOMB	CLOCK	ENERGY	
18	MOTHER	OX	TIED	
19	DOUBLE	STRAP	UP	
20	BEECH	KETTLE	PLATE	

**December Answers: Set 1: BELLS Set 2: ROASTING Set 3: WREATH Set 4: PUDDING Set 5: COOKIES Set 6: ROAST Set 7: LIGHTS Set 8: CIDER Set 9: PIE Set 10: BOOK Set 11: NEEDLES Set 12: ORNAMENT Set 13: SANDWICH Set 14: CALENDAR Set 15: HAT Set 16: SAUCE Set 17: SCENE Set 18: SERVICE Set 19: LIST Set 20: LAND**

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