

Malherbe Monthly

Number 251
June 2025

Grafty Green Community Cream Tea

Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 14th June

2.00pm - 5.00pm

This free community event has kindly been
sponsored by Ron Galton



See inside for full details

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@griftygreenalpacas.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 **July** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email
(carolhulm@gmail.com) by **20th** June)

Message from Katie Lam MP

Spring is one of my favourite times of year, and there's nowhere better to enjoy this time of year than here in the Weald. It's the season of Lady's Smock, Cow parsley, and butterflies. We're really fortunate that the Garden of England has so much to offer by way of flora and fauna: the wildflowers are in full bloom and our beautiful home is teeming with insect and animal life.



As your Member of Parliament, it's my job to represent you and help solve the problems that you face on a daily basis. The most enjoyable part of my job, however, is championing our truly beautiful patch and promoting what makes it such a fantastic place to live.

That's why I'm excited to announce my brand-new Weald of Kent Awards, recognising the very best of our wonderful corner of Kent.

This summer, I hope you'll join me in celebrating the unsung local heroes who help our communities thrive. I want to shine a light on the Weald's favourite places to eat and drink, the very best Kentish produce, and the individuals, businesses and volunteer groups that go above and beyond to bring people together.

Can you think of someone in your area who deserves to be recognised? If so, I'd love to hear from you!

I'm inviting everyone in the Weald to nominate a winner from one or more of the following six categories:

1. The Weald of Kent Pub, Restaurant or Café 2025
2. The Weald of Kent Local Business 2025
3. The Taste of the Weald of Kent 2025
4. The Weald of Kent Local Hero 2025
5. The Weald of Kent Young Local Hero 2025
6. The Weald of Kent Heart of the Community 2025

If you know a worthy winner from your corner of the Weald, please do nominate them. Once the shortlist is decided, the finalists will be voted for by you, the people who know the Weald better than anyone else. I'll then announce the winner in August, and present them with a fabulous Weald of Kent Award.

Nominations will open on my website on Monday 2nd June 2025 at www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards, and will be advertised across my social media pages over the summer.

As ever, if there's anything you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk, or speak to me on 01580 388344.

Village Hall News – June Newsletter

Dear all,

In collaboration with our friends in Ulcombe we jointly hosted a Dance at Ulcombe Village Hall to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The event was well supported, and I am pleased to report that we raised £808 for the Help for Heros charity.

Coming up we have the following events to look forward to:-

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 strawberries, 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.

Quiz Night in collaboration with Platts Heath School Saturday 5th July 7pm for 7.30pm

Following the success of last year's event, we will again be collaborating with the Platts Heath PTA to host a summer quiz night at the hall on Saturday 5th July. Our quizmasters will again be the brilliant Neil and Sam, tickets will be £15 per head, with teams of 8. There will be food, (not fish & chips!), a pay bar but you can bring your own booze. It will be the usual heady mix of laughter and inebriation so a good time will be had by all and don't worry if you are shy like me and don't have any friend's we can find you a team to play with. Tickets can be purchased from myself on 07932112730 or by email jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk.

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

The weekly Farmer's Market is proving very popular with a wide array of goodies on offer from fruit and veg, curries, cakes, cheese, pet food, savouries, plants, bread and scones from the church and many other items. So please come along and support local producers whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a natter with friends in our cosy village hall.

Electrical Rewire of the village hall

I am pleased to report that we have now appointed a contractor to undertake the rewire of the hall which will be carried out in August whilst many clubs and societies take a break for the holidays, and the hall is less busy than usual. We are making arrangements for the Farmer's Market, (weather permitting!), to be held on the village green for four weeks in August whilst the hall is closed for the works to be undertaken. I will update you further as the refurbishment progresses.

As most of you will know we are always looking at ways that the hall can be used for the community's benefit and the following activities are, (or are in the process of being organised):-

Mark from Digital Kent will be attending coffee mornings on the 3rd & 24th June & 29th July

Digital Kent was set up with the objective of providing help and support in accessing digital services and if you have any issues with smartphones, laptops, tablets or IT generally Mark attends the Tuesday coffee mornings once a month between 12 and 2pm and provides a free drop-in service which users have found very helpful. There is no need to book just come along to any one of the coffee mornings detailed above and Mark will be pleased to try and help you.

Jennifer Sutton Engagement Officer Wave Community Bank - Coffee Morning Tuesday 17th June



COME AND TALK TO JENNIFER :

17TH JUNE 2025 12 TIL 2 PM

Wave Community Bank are a Credit Union, (for those of you who have watched the film think Bank of Dave), with the objective of providing advice and assistance to those people struggling financially who are not fortunate enough to have access to finance through mainstream banks and building societies thereby helping to keep vulnerable people out of debt from money lenders and excessively expensive forms of credit.

As a community we are a relatively prosperous bunch so I don't imagine that there will be high demand for their lending services, but we may know of

someone who is having difficulties that may need their help and for those of you who are fortunately well off they offer a non interest bearing savings account into which you can invest up to £200 which is in turn used to fund their lending so that for a relatively modest outlay you can help those less fortunate than yourselves. There is of course no obligation or hard sell but Jenny has kindly agreed to attend our coffee morning on Tuesday 17th June to explain how the credit union works which I felt might be both interesting, informative and rewarding for both the credit union and ourselves.

We would like to encourage more activities at the hall for the community's benefit so if for instance you know of someone who could come and talk to us about fraud and scams, (particularly relevant to the older members of our community who might be vulnerable to this type of activity), or any other area that you feel that would be of benefit to us all please let me know, (my contact details are detailed below).

Thank you all once again for your support of the hall which is greatly appreciated by the trustees.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk Tel 07932 112730

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk facebook – graftygreenvillage

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



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

***Summer Quiz in
collaboration with Platts
Heath School PTA***

***Saturday 5th July
at the Village Hall***

Doors open 7pm ~ Quiz starts 7.30pm

Tickets £15 (includes a meal)

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

Teams of up to 8

***There will be a Pay bar or you can bring
your own drinks***

***All proceeds are shared equally between
the PTA & the upkeep of the village hall***

A weekly Farmer's Market is now held at Grafty Green Village Hall every Friday between 1pm-3pm

Pet treats and accessories

Scones

Knitted crafts

Pre loved books

Homemade skincare products

Plants and flowers

Savouries

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

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



26th July 09.30-12.30
A morning of Flowers & Yoga -
'Flowga'

Visit www.ParkhousePetals.co.uk for
more details and to secure your spot.
07825 600116

The Grafty Gourmet

CHOCOLATE BROWNIES WITH HOT CHOCOLATE SAUCE

For the Brownies:

225 grams of dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)
225 grams of butter
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
200 grams of caster sugar
3 large eggs (beaten)
150 grams of ground almonds
100 grams of chopped walnuts

For the Hot Chocolate Sauce:

75 grams of dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)
125 millilitres of double cream
2 teaspoons of instant espresso powder
1 tablespoons of water
1 tablespoon of golden syrup

For the Brownies:

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C (150°C Fan Oven). Melt the chocolate and butter gently over a low heat in a heavy-based saucepan.
2. Take the pan off the heat and mix in the vanilla and sugar, and let it cool a little, before adding the eggs (the eggs will start cooking if the chocolate is too warm, but you do not want the chocolate to go solid again). Once cooled, Beat the eggs into the pan along with the ground almonds and chopped walnuts. Turn into a 24cm / 9inch square baking tin. Use a foil one, if possible, as this makes it easier to get the Brownie out after baking.
3. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, by which time the top will have set, but the mixture will still be gooey. (Do not overcook, as the top will burn. The centre is supposed to be slightly squidgy but will go solid once cooled). When cooled, cut carefully, four down, four across, into 16 squares.

For the Sauce:

1. Break up the chocolate and put into a heavy-based saucepan.
2. Dissolve the instant espresso powder in the water and add this, along with the remaining ingredients into the saucepan, then place the pan over a gentle heat and let everything melt together.

Once everything has melted, stir well, take off the heat and pour into a jug to serve.

3. Enjoy !

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
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

Here are some gardening tips for June:

- Many of the jobs for June are a continuation of the May jobs.
- Water.....especially as there's no rain!
- Continue to sow annual seeds of flowers and veg
- Finish planting up containers and hanging baskets with summer bedding
- Plant out beans, sweetcorn, courgettes, squash and pumpkins. Tomatoes, chilies and peppers can be planted up into their final pots and placed in a sunny position outside if not in a greenhouse.
- Plant out leek seedlings
- Feed containers with a liquid feed of seaweed extract weekly
- Plant out tender flowers. Pinch out growing tips to encourage bushy plants (dahlias, sweet peas)
- Deadhead roses to encourage flowering.

Sue's Nature Notes

Woodlice by Daisy Meadows – 'What is lurking nearer to the soil?'

There are 35 species of woodlice native to Britain and remarkably they are not insects but crustaceans, with shrimps, crabs and lobsters as their relatives. They have 14 legs and breathe through gills, which is why they frequent damp dark places during the day and come out to feed at night.

Children love overturning stones or containers to discover woodlice, which when picked up obligingly roll into a ball, play dead, or run away depending on their species. They have many local names but are commonly known as slaters and pillbugs, these being the ones that roll up.

Their outer shell is called an exoskeleton which they moult as they grow bigger. They do this in two stages, shedding the back half first, then the front half a day or so later. They navigate by using the two antennae at the front and the two small "tubes" called uropods sticking out of the back of their bodies. Some species also use these to produce chemicals to discourage predators. Woodlice get rid of their waste by producing ammonia which passes through their shells as a gas. Children might like to test this by keeping woodlice in a jar for a short time and then sniffing the air inside.

A common woodlouse can live for three to four years. Apart from man, its main predators are centipedes, toads, shrews and spiders.

Woodlice are a gardener's friend as they are great recyclers and play a vital role as decomposers, especially in the compost heap. They feed on decaying wood, leaf litter, fungi, fallen fruit and decaying vegetable matter.

To attract woodlice to your garden, keep areas where they can hide during the day and provide a compost heap, wood piles and fallen vegetation. You will have an army of armadillos, pillbugs, slaters, cheesy-bugs, chiggy-pigs or any other local name they are called, working for you.

Sue's Blog

I finished my last blog commenting on the dawn chorus; I am really sensitive to bird song and over the years have been able to identify many of the common visitors to the garden and the surrounding countryside. So, it was a delight that on 1st May when I was unable to teach my yoga class in the village hall we met in a local garden for a practice.

It was a perfect morning with a very gentle breeze, almost cloudless sky and the birds where **singing**! There was a garden warbler, goldfinch, coal tit, blackbird, thrush, blackcap, chaffinch, robin, dunnoek, wren, house -martin, buzzard to name a few. If you want to increase your ability to identify the birds around, you there is an excellent 'App' called 'Merlin'.

I also mentioned about the trees coming into leaf and this year the oak is before the ash and there is a saying 'Oak before the ash is a splash, but ash before the oak is a soak' so maybe we are in for a dry summer.

The range of plants in my new garden are very pleasing; the previous gardener must have liked peonies as I have four, one of which is flowering profusely, huge dark pink blooms with a beautiful scent.

The wildlife in my garden is mainly insects and birds but I do have slow-worms; so far, I have come across four as I tend the plot; very happy!

Sue

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

New term starts 2nd June – 8 weeks £48

Drop in at £8

**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.**



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Wicked

Friday, June 13th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 40 mins plus interval, director: Jon M Chu

‘We’re off to see the Wizard’, and what better way to spend a summer’s evening than in the Land of Oz with the gorgeous Oscar winning musical fantasy **Wicked** (PG 2024) in which good battles with evil. Elphaba and Galinda become friends at university although they are very different. In what way? For a start Elphaba has green skin and Galinda’s priority is her standing in the popularity stakes. All is well however until they meet the Wonderful Wizard of Oz. Then their lives are transformed in very different directions, as Glinda the Good clashes with the Wicked Witch of the West. Come along and prepare to be transported to Oz.

We’re dedicating our showing of **Wicked** to our much-loved late Treasurer, Ian George. All proceeds will go to Lenham Nursery School in his name. Do join us - in addition to seeing a great film, you’ll be helping us to support Lenham Nursery School in honour of Ian.

Music also plays a major part in our July performance, **Maria** (12A 2025), the moving story of the private life of Maria Callas, the world-famous opera singer.

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.



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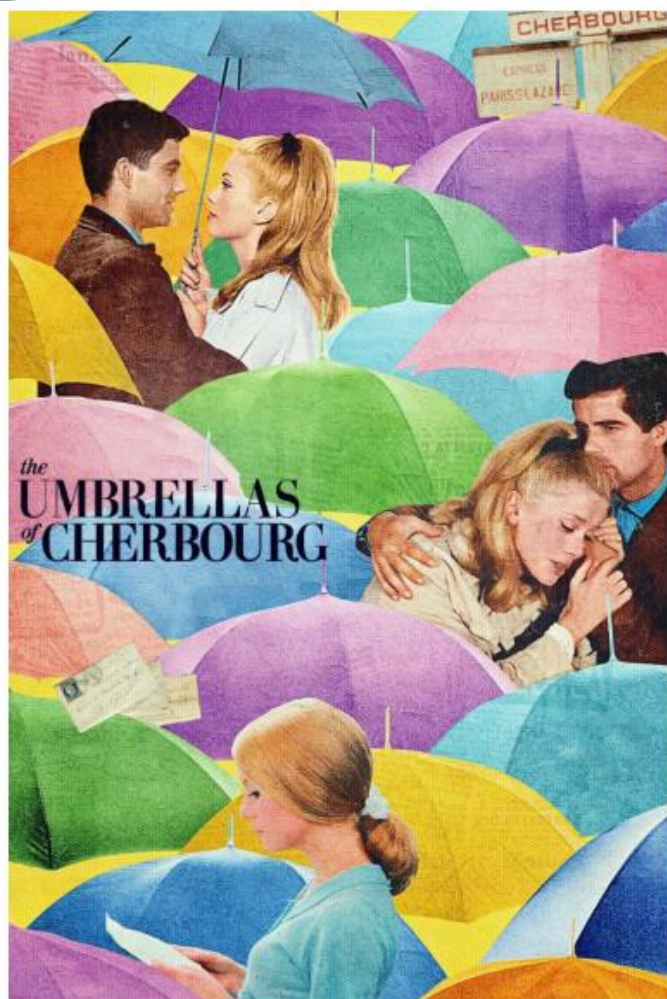


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Egerton Film Society



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PIZZA NIGHT @ THE KINGS HEAD

GRAFTY GREEN

FUTURE DATES 2025

- ☐ JUNE 2ND AND 18TH
- ☐ JULY 2ND 30TH
- ☐ AUGUST 13TH AND 27TH
- ☐ SEPTEMBER 10TH AND 24TH

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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council)

Clerk Mrs Marie Norris

The Chairman opened meeting at 7.30 pm

25/05/1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: Cllr N Eastwood elected as Chairman to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council for the next year.

Cllr Eastwood signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/05/02 Cllr Tomlinson elected as Vice Chairman.

25/05/03 Apologies

None received.

- 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) No Declarations of Lobbying

25/05/04 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

25/05/05 Public Session

No items were brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

25/05/06 County Councillor & Borough Councillor Reports

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

Cllr Trzebinski (MBC) reported over the past few weeks the council has been in a period of Purdah, during which council activities have been limited, and as a result, not much has taken place. However, starting next week, a series of snap meetings will be held where councillors will vote on the formation of committees for the upcoming year, including the Planning Committee, Scrutiny Committee, and others. Work is also continuing on the Devolution planning process. Cllr Trzebinski further noted that Cllr Round will be inaugurated as the new Mayor of Maidstone next week; however, he will continue to remain actively involved in his ward duties.

25/05/07 Planning

Application Ref: 25/501182/ Full

Proposal Erection of a part single storey part two storey rear extension.

Address 1 Wallett Court Cottages, Southerden Road, Headcorn TN27 9LN

Comments 16 May 2025

The parish council had received this application by post and it had not been included on the Maidstone Planning list. The clerk raised this with Cllr Trzebinski who agreed to investigate this further on our behalf.

25/05/08 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

a) Review of Standing Orders

Members RESOLVED: to re-adopt the Standing Orders.

b) Review of Financial Regulations

RESOLVED to re-adopt the Financial regulations.

c) Review and confirm Insurance Cover

A pre quotation questionnaire from A J Gallagher Insurance Brokers had been received by the clerk and completed. The PC are now awaiting a quotation for insurance cover for 25/26. The clerk will circulate the quotation to members when received for consideration and or approval.

d) Review of Inventory land and assets.

RESOLVED The clerk will update the register of assets to include the storage bin and amend the Speedwatch equipment valuation to £500.

e) To review the Council's and clerk's membership of other bodies: CPRE, KALC.to

RESOLVED: to continue with membership of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and KALC.

25/05/09 Adoption of the following Policies

- a) It was noted that no change was necessary and the PC will re-adopt the Document Retention Policy
- b) It was noted that no change was necessary and the PC will re-adopt the Data Protection Policy
- c) Email Contact Privacy Notice – No change necessary.

25/05/10 Meeting Dates in 2025/26

Agreed dates are: 7th July; 1st September; 3rd November; 5th January 2026; 2nd March 2026; 11th May 2026.

25/05/11 Election of Planning Committee Chairman

Cllr Hook will continue as Planning Committee Chairman

b) Election of Finance and Staffing Committee Chairman

Cllr Thompson will continue his role as Finance Committee Chairman.

c) Appointment of Officer to other External Committees

Cllrs Hook and Tomlinson will continue to represent the Parish Council at KALC meetings; other representatives will be nominated ad hoc.

25/05/12 Finance

a) To note receipts on Income.(since 3 March 2025)

Lloyds Interest -	£	13.27
Lloyds 32 Day Notice	£	61.76
MBC Precept	£	7,546.00

b) To authorise payments as per the schedule

Village Hall Hire Quarter 1	£	100.00
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Clerks Salary (March & April)	£	850.54
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Hugo Fox d/d website hosting	£	11.99
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The clerk advised the increase to salary was due an increment rise from April 2025 in line with her contract of employment.

c) To receive the bank reconciliation

As of 12th May 2025:

Lloyds Community Account -	£	4,038.58
Commercial Instant Access Account-	£	5,266.56
Lloyds 32 Day Notice -	£	42,019.91
Nationwide -	£	14,973.40
Cambridge & Counties	£	25,114.73

25/05/12/1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

Members had before them the Annual Governance Statement, prepared by the Clerk as the RFO.

RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section 1) The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

a) Accounting Statements

Members had before them the Annual Governance Statement, prepared by the Clerk as the RFO.

RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section 2) The Chairman signed the Accounting Statement.

b) Exemption Certificate

As gross income and expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year ending the 31 March 2025, the PC had met the criteria to claim the exemption from a limited assurance review.

RESOLVED: to approve the Exemption Certificate

The Chairman and the RFO/ Clerk signed and dated the Exemption Certificate

c) Commencement Date for Exercise of Public Rights

The clerk RFO informed members that the commencement date would be 3rd June 2025.

25/05/12.2 Nationwide Account

Members of the Parish Council agreed that the account held with Nationwide should be closed with immediate effect. The Chairman, as an authorised signatory, will contact Nationwide to arrange the closure of the account.

25/05/12.3 Review of Accounts held by the Parish Council

Regarding the other accounts held by the Parish Council, Cllr Thompson will carry out a review to ensure they are best suited to the Council's needs and are offering the most competitive interest rates. Cllr Thompson will report back to members with his findings and any recommendations.

25/05/12.4 Bank Mandate

It was agreed that no changes were necessary

25/05/12.5 Amesis Price Increase

The Parish Council agreed to the Amesis price increase for the lengthsmen services.

25/05/13 Disposal of Item

The Chairman informed members that, following testing, the batteries and AED for the Speed Watch equipment are no longer functioning. The Parish Council agreed that these items should be disposed of and the Chairman will make the necessary arrangements for their disposal.

25/05/14 Village Green

It had been suggested that it might be beneficial to leave a small strip of grass near the planter on the village green unown with the aim of encouraging wildlife and the growth of wildflowers. The Chairman will discuss this idea further with the Garden Club. At this stage, the proposal was put forward as a suggestion, and the Parish Council were generally in favour. They would now welcome feedback and views from local residents. Cllr Peter volunteered to re seed the bare area on the green later in the year.

25/05/15 Litter Pick

Following the success of last year's village litter pick, the Parish Council would like to organise another Community Litter Pick on Sunday 8th June at 9.30am meeting at the village green. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all necessary equipment will be provided. The Clerk will arrange for the event to be advertised on the local Facebook page and, if time allows, included in the June edition of the *Malherbe Monthly*.

25/05/16 Housing Needs Survey

Following a discussion, prompted by an email from Maidstone Borough Council inviting Boughton Malherbe to participate in the Housing Needs Survey, the Parish Council has considered the request and is happy to take part on the condition that any identified housing needs will contribute towards the overall Local Plan housing target.

25/05/17 Heathlands Development

The Parish Council would like to make residents aware that drop-in sessions regarding the Heathlands development are being held in Lenham on the 10th and 13th of May. These sessions provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the proposals and ask questions.

25/05/18 Defibrillator

The clerk confirmed that the PC was unsuccessful in its application for a defibrillator grant. A match funding option was offered; however, it was specifically tied to the purchase of a particular make of defibrillator. The PC had already acquired a defibrillator of a different make independently. The Clerk agreed to contact A W Court to inform them of this situation.

25/05/19 Boughton Malherbe Resilience Plan

Cllr Hook circulated a copy of the updated Resilience Plan, formerly known as the Emergency Plan, to all councillors ahead of the meeting. This version serves as a temporary update to the previous plan and includes revised contact details and other key information. The Parish Council intends to develop a new, comprehensive version of the Resilience Plan in due course, which is currently in the early planning stages. Further details will be shared in the future, including how residents can get involved in the development of the document.

25/05/20 Ward Representation at a Future Function

The chairman of Headcorn had contacted Cllr Eastwood to seek approval to speak on behalf of the Ward at a future function. The PC ~~were in agreement.~~

25/05/21 Any Other Business

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:05 pm

Report from MBC ward councillors

The highlight of May was definitely the inauguration of our own ward councillor, Martin Round, as Mayor of The Borough of Maidstone, which took place on Saturday 17th May.

The day started at 9.00am with the full council meeting at which Councillor Ziggy Trzebinski proposed Martin to be Mayor for the 2025/6 period. This was unanimously agreed and Martin changed into his new ceremonial clothes. After the meeting had finished Martin took his place on the podium to watch the parade of various military and cadet units based in Maidstone Walk past in his honour.

This was one of the best attended parades ever, with The Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Rose Hudson Wilkin, Air Commodore Simon Harper, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff Jonathan Neame, and senior ranking officers of both the Police and Fire Services, in attendance.

Maidstone based West Kent Regiment and Ghurka Engineers, Veterans, and Cadets all took part in the parade and all of the ward parishes were represented as well. Martin then proceeded, by the traditional horse drawn (and antique) carriage, followed by Maidstone Borough councillors, all also in full ceremonial regalia, down to All Saints Church where a service took place to mark the occasion.

Martin has planned a number of events for the year and many of those will be in our ward, so keep a look out for them.

News from St. Nicolas Church – May 2025

We will be especially praying for Rev. John over the next few months as he recovers from surgery. He had planned to be with us at St.Nicolas for our benefice service at the end of May, but with surgery re-arranged for 26th this was not to be. Please include him, Lorraine and their family in your prayers.

We give thanks for the skills of the surgeons and those caring for him. May he enjoy a time of rest and relaxation as he recovers.

Usual reminders

The church porch remains open at all times for everyone. Take a break, with a hot drink, a biscuit and maybe enjoy a quiet time reading the bible which is on the windowsill. It can always surprise us! Fill up the water jug if needed from the tap at the back of the church, around the corner beyond the west door. We may not check every day.

Personal prayer requests can be left here to be collected and said in church later. The mini food bank box is for there any one in need. A larger food bank is at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am-4.00pm. The main church building is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. Please contact the churchwardens for a key at other times.

Celtic Morning Prayer will be taking a breakthrough the summer. Details will be in this magazine when we have the autumn programme.

Village 'Cake and Coffee Time' continues as usual from 12noon-2.00pm each Tuesday in the village hall in Grafty Green, along with the Post Office from 12.45 - 2.15pm. As we share any donations between St.Nicolas and a charity, chosen by the regulars, we are pleased to have just sent £100 to the Red Cross.

Looking ahead, as there may be a need to close the hall for re-furnishment in August, we are looking forward to hosting the Tuesday 'Coffee and Cake Time', in St.Nicolas, along with the Post Office. In fine weather, we can be outside, with that amazing view.

Parking not a problem. Will keep you posted.

News

A quiet time after the business of Easter. Thinking of summer events, **Cream teas** are starting for four weeks in July, the last two Sundays of July and the first two Sundays of August, 2.30pm-5.00pm. Make a note!

If you can't wait, a **Traditional St.Nicolas Cream Tea** will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday June 14th from 2.00pm-5.00pm, bone china cups, saucers and plates included!

This will be a community event and is free.

An update on the Lent Lunches. The amount sent to Christian Aid was £290. Even better than we thought.

The Farmers' Market. The scones and homemade bread are proving popular, and we enjoy the atmosphere and friendly visitors to our stall, thank you to Jacquie and Janet and to Vanessa, Lily and Sue when needed.

Hope you have enjoyed the fine weather, even a bit too dry for the farmers and gardeners, I think. Must go out now and water my plants. The bees are loving the flowers and blossom. A solitary bee has even decided to lay its egg in a drill hole in an oak settle in our sitting room! Must have had the doors open so much into the garden this week. What a responsibility keeping an eye on it! At least it won't need to find its way out, as a fully-fledged bee till next March/April. Wish it luck!

Sally Alexander



'I have loved you with an everlasting love'
jeremiah 31:3

Len Valley Benefice

Rose Service

Sunday 29th June at 11am
St. John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham



***A service of thanksgiving to remember
the lives of loved ones who have died***

You are invited to bring a rose in memory of someone special, or collect one from us as you arrive at the church. There will also be the opportunity to light a candle during the service. Further details from Revd. Millie Hart 07766 555415

Len Valley Benefice

June 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 1st June

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

Wednesday 4th June

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 8th June

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 15th June

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 22nd June

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe
'Re-Sourced in Christ – Scripture and the mind'

Sunday 29th June

11.00am Benefice Rose Service at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham

'Re-Sourced in Christ – Community'

Christian Message June 2025

How do you spell love asks Piglet?

Winnie the Pooh answers wisely, You don't spell it. You feel it!

Well, that is true and if you want to read more about love the best and most well-known chapter in our bibles about love is 1 Corinthians 13.

The passage comes from the letter written by St Paul to the Corinthians. I believe it talks about love in three dimensions.

First of all, love deals with the past. It means that when we have dealt with whatever has happened in the past we can move on.

The second dimension is the present, it's about celebrating love here and now!

St Paul says, 'love is patient, love is kind.' As a mother and grandmother, I can certainly relate to that! I do know what it's like to have a toddler, or even a teenager in the house!

Patience is often what is needed!! Actually, in some bible translations patience is translated as 'long-suffering'! Well, that does put a smile on my face.....

And then we come to the next dimension. This is looking to the future. So, love deals with the past, equips us in the present, and it prepares us for the future. When I have baptised infants and welcomed them into the fellowship of faith in prayer, I have also prayed for the parents and godparents. It always brings a smile to my face as the words in the baptism service say that the parents and godparents have a demanding task, that is so very true, but we know that we have the help and grace of God with us. And that is true for both the beginning and the ending of our lives here on earth. On the 29th June we will be remembering our loved ones who have moved on to that future dimension. It will be at an 11am service in Harrietsham church but is for all our benefice churches. We call this our Rose service where everyone is invited to bring a rose, or to collect one from the church as you join the service. The roses will be placed on the altar during the service together with a candle. This is to remember our loved ones who may have died a long time ago, or recently.

As we all continue our faith journeys, my prayer is that you will feel and know and give love in all its dimensions. We look forward to welcoming you at any of our services where we worship God, the source and the model for us all, of love.

'I have loved you with an everlasting love' Jeremiah 31:3

Reverend Millie Hart

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	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery	01622 858341

Electricity (UK Power Networks)
Emergencies and Power Cuts **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:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere **07969 583923**
 District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown **07773 397125**
 Fire General Enquiries **01622 692121**
 Home Safety Visits **0800 923 7000**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **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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