

Malherbe Monthly

Number 239
June 2024



Pauline Fisher, our organist at St Nicholas since 2009, with one of the many leaving gifts presented to her prior to her move in early May to Gloucestershire.

Picture courtesy of John Collins

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

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 078524 92770
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	TBC
Village Hall bookings	Jan Carter email janlcarter@btinternet.com	850898
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk Mobile 07932 112730	851351
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
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
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 at approx. 3pm by Post Office	07976 435217
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
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John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!

Anything for the **July** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th June**

News from St. Nicholas Church – June 2024

Good to hear the nightingales talking from tree to tree across the garden in the evenings and mornings again this year, very welcome, as we are told how their numbers have plummeted in recent years. Also enjoyed watching from the garden a few days ago, hundreds of small gulls wheeling around a small field being prepared again for wildlife re-planting. Not only the gulls, but at least four buzzards (maybe more), a kite and many other interested birds, all feeding on the disturbed grubs and other goodies being uncovered. What a joyous cacophony!

Reminders

The church porch remains open at all times. Enjoy a hot drink as you visit and take a break. Paper notes are available for prayer requests and they will be read in Monday morning prayer time in the chapel. There is a bible available on the windowsill. Please make use of the mini food bank if you need. There is a larger food bank in St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10am-4pm.

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

Church service times are on the noticeboards by the porch, the roadside and the village hall in Grafty Green.

Celtic Morning Prayer is said in the side chapel each Monday 9-9.30am. This is an informal time, with bible readings and time for prayer, spoken or in silence, for people, world problems or worries. Can be helpful to share a need in confidence.

Village Coffee Morning takes place every Tuesday 11.30am -2.00pm in the village hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is usually open 12.45-2.15pm. There are often other items for sale, eg. Local honey, free range eggs, teas, jams, marmalade, handmade cards etc. All donations for the tea/coffee and cakes are shared equally between the church and a charity chosen by the 'regulars'. You, too, can make a difference!

The monthly meditation takes place in the church at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month. The session lasts for half an hour, followed by tea and biscuits if you wish to stay. It is highly recommended, relaxing, thoughtful and silent.

News

Laura and Ollie's wedding on April 29th was a delightful occasion with friends from the village joining the celebrations and providing a much-appreciated informal reception for the couple and their family after the church service. Angela's bunting had yet another outing, as did Roy and Jacquie's marquee. Amazing refreshments were provided, including a tiered wedding cake and all very well received! The weather was a bit chilly, but did not spoil the outdoor occasion. Laura, on behalf of the couple, spoke of their gratitude to everyone for their kindness and generosity. We continue to pray for them in their new life together.

The Craft Fair weekend on 11th and 12th May, was another triumph for the organisers. Again, they created such a friendly atmosphere in the village hall. Many thanks to everyone. Our little stall was well supported and we have been able to provide more than £220 for the church.

80yrs after the D-day landings will be commemorated with the lighting of a beacon at the Old Rectory, by kind permission of the Goodwin family, on June 6th. We look forward to hosting refreshments in the church from 7pm that evening.

Cream teas will take place again this year! Keep a look-out for the dates and times on the noticeboards and magazine.

Finale

As we look forward to enjoying the summer months, we remember those for whom this time is extra stressful, with exams, leaving home or changing school or college, and for farmers as their year's work depends on good weather at this time.

We pray for those involved in preparing for the general election in July.

May we all hear the nightingales!

Sally Alexander



Would you be willing to participate in a Boughton Malherbe community litter pick?

The Parish council currently employs a lengths man who completes litter picks and various other tasks in the Parish.

It would be a great addition to support his efforts with a quarterly community litter pick.

I am sure we are all fed up with the amount of litter thrown out of cars by people passing through the Parish.

Dates to be agreed but we hope the first will be in July.

Please contact the clerk or a councillor to register your interest.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Contact Details

Nick Eastwood

Chairman

Tel: 01622 850330

nicholas.eastwood.bmpc@gmail.com

Lorraine Hook

Chairman Planning Committee

Tel: 07815 152902

lorraine.hook.bmpc@gmail.com

Christine Tomlinson

Vice Chairman

Tel: 07733 111309

christine.tomlinson.bmpc@gmail.com

Gary Thompson

Chairman Finance & Staffing
Committee

Tel: 07493 981772

garythompsonbmpc@gmail.com

Marie Norris, Parish Clerk

boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

The next council scheduled meeting is on **1st July**.
Items expected to be on the agenda include:

- Request Kent Highways to improve markings at base of Liverton Hill
- Instigate a community litter pick.
- Implement new Financial Regulations for the council
- Commence renewal of Village Emergency Plan
- Instigate a prescription collection arrangement

Members of the public wishing to attend are most welcome and are encouraged to preview the agenda and documents. They will be available on the council website a few days before the meeting. For those without internet access please contact Nick (as above)

Village Hall – June Newsletter

We held our Spring Craft Fair Weekend recently and a good time appeared to be had by stallholders and visitors alike. There was a wide variety of stalls and it was obviously hungry and thirsty work as large quantities of tea, cake and bacon sandwiches were consumed over the two days. Not only did the village hall raise funds to renovate the hall but both the Church and Platts Heath PTA were well supported raising much needed funds for both organisations.

As is the norm these days we have a busy few weeks coming up with the following events taking place:-

D Day Celebration at the Church 7 for 7.30pm Thursday 6th June

In collaboration with the Parish Council and the Church we will be holding a D Day celebration from 7 for 7.30pm on Thursday 6th June at St Nicholas Church Boughton Malherbe.

This is a free event kindly sponsored by the Parish Council and all are welcome to attend although there will be a collection for armed forces charities if you would like to make a donation. There will be light refreshments at the church followed by a candlelight procession to light a beacon at the old rectory at 9.15pm where a tribute to the fallen will be delivered.

The event will end with the last post and the Kings Head will be open after the event for anyone who would like to call in on their way home. Please let me know if you will be attending the event at jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk so that we can arrange an appropriate level of catering for the event.

Bingo Night – Saturday 29th June 7 for 7.30 pm

Arrangements have now been finalised for our inaugural Bingo Night on Saturday 29th June and tickets are now on sale at £10 per person. Bingo cards and “dobbers”, will be provided, please bring your own nibbles and there will be a pay bar. Richard the host with the most will be our compere so it should be a lot of fun. Sponsors have been very generous with gifts for the event and we have a wide range of unique and interesting prizes to tempt you – more details on these in due course. Tickets for the event can be obtained from myself on 07932 112730.

Digital Kent - Help with the Internet and anything digital Tuesday 4th June 11.30 to 1.30

Digital Kent is a free service provided by Kent County Council working in partnership with the NHS, District & Borough Councils and the social sector with the objective of tackling digital exclusion across Kent and Medway. Mark our digital champion will next be at the hall alongside the Post Office and our Coffee Morning on Tuesday 4th June between 11.30 and 1.30pm. So if you need help, please come along with your mobile, tablet or laptop, this is a free service available to all.

Finally at the time of writing we are still having service issues with the, "Pop Up Post Office", and I would like to thank all of you who have registered your concerns at the poor service. This may take some time to resolve and I thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we try and achieve our simple objective of receiving a reliable service.

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman



jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk

www.grafftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

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01622 850376
www.heatherschiroprody.co.uk
retreat@heatherschiroprody.co.uk

The Brown Barn, Bull Hill, Lenham Heath, Kent, ME17 2JA (Off the A20)

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability
Susan Burch 01622 850381

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

Pilates
Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639

Mondays 2.00-3pm
Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 11.30 – 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

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club
Doreen 01622 850287
Sue 01622 850381

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

New Pilates Class

Mixed Ability (Beginners/Improvers welcome)

Pilates teaches ease of movement and good posture.

Conditioning the whole body by lengthening, strengthening and rebalancing, helping you enjoy daily activities with greater ease and less chance of injury.



Saturdays 09:30 to 10:30 am - Grafty Green Village Hall

Introductory Offer 50% discount:

4 week course for £20 (normally £10 per session)

1 June to 22 June

To book your place please contact Cheryl

07852 602369

Email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com

Grafty Green Village Hall Bingo Night

Saturday 29th June

7.00pm for 7.30pm

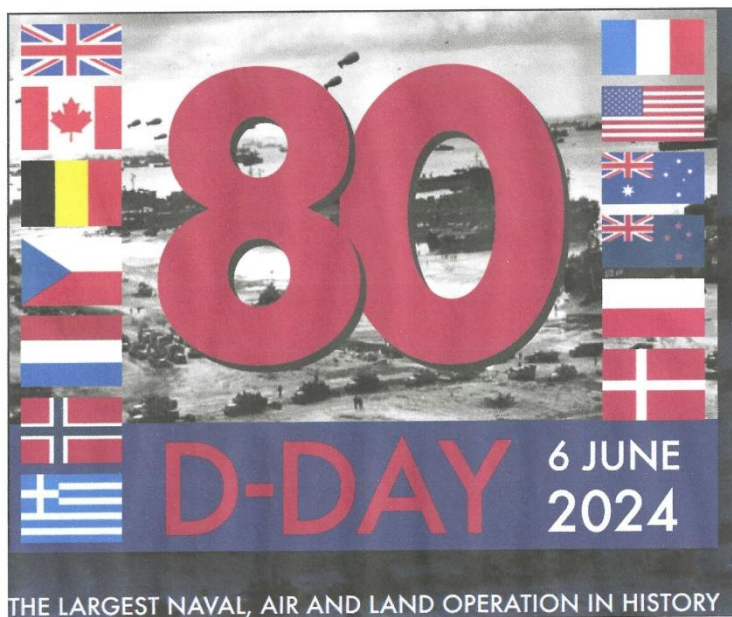
£10 a ticket from

Jon Thompson 07932112730

jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk

Bring your own snacks and
there will be a pay bar





We will be holding a D Day celebration from 7 for 7.30pm on Thursday 6th June at St Nicholas Church Boughton Malherbe.

This is a free event kindly sponsored by the Parish Council and all are welcome to attend although there will be a collection for armed forces charities if you would like to make a donation. There will be light refreshments at the church followed by a candlelight procession to light the beacon at the old rectory at 9.15pm where a tribute to the fallen will be delivered.

The event will end with the last post and the Kings Head will be open after the event for anyone who would like to call in on their way home. Please let me know if you will be attending the event at jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk so that we can arrange appropriate catering for the event.

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Maidstone

Election of Parish Councillors for

Boughton Malherbe
on Thursday 2 May 2024

I, Angela Woodhouse, being the Returning Officer at the above election, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each Candidate at the said election is as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes*
ADAMS, Barry		69
ANDREWS, Tracey		78 Elected
EASTWOOD, Nicholas William Daniel		133 Elected
GALTON, Ronald Brian Weeks commonly known as GALTON, Ron		69
HOOK, Lorraine		122 Elected
THOMPSON, Gary Robert	Independent	89 Elected
TOMLINSON, Christine		133 Elected

* If elected the word 'Elected' appears against the number of votes.

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of ballot papers
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	0
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	0
E rejected in part	0
Total	0

Vacant Seats: 5

Electorate: 415

Ballot Papers Issued: 182

Turnout: 43.86%

And I do hereby declare that, Tracey Andrews, Nicholas William Daniel Eastwood, Lorraine Hook, Gary Robert Thompson, Christine Tomlinson are duly elected.

Dated Friday 3 May 2024

Angela Woodhouse
Returning Officer



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Ref 001/2024

Present: Cllrs, N Eastwood, C Tomlinson, G Thompson, L Hook Mr R Galton (Chairman)

In attendance: Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council); Clerk Mrs M Norris

The preceding Chairman opened the meeting at 8.10pm.

1. Intention to record or film the meeting

No notifications were received.

2. Election of Chairman for Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Mr Galton called for nominations for chairman, Cllr Eastwood was proposed. The PC voted unanimously in favour and Cllr Eastwood was elected and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Galton at this point stood down and retired from the meeting.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Tomlinson was elected as Vice Chairman.

4. Election of Chairman for Planning Committee

Cllr Hook was elected.

5. Election of Chairman for Finance & Staffing Committee

Cllr Thompson was elected.

It is confirmed that all Councillors present duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance Forms.

Although Cllr Andrews had been elected by the parish, she attended the earlier Annual Parish Meeting and made a statement that she did not wish to work with Cllr Eastwood and would not be signing the Acceptance of Office Form. **Secretary's Note: By not signing the DAO form, the position is vacant at the close of the meeting and the election office will be advised.**

6. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received

7. Declarations

7.1 Declarations of Lobbying – None received.

7.2 Declarations of Changes to the register of Interest – There were no changes

7.3 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest on any items on the agenda- There were none received.

8. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2024 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

9. Public Session

In excess of 20 members of public were present as the APCM followed the Annual Parish Meeting : A resident raised the issue of rural fire safety. Boughton Malherbe have 13 fire hydrants that need to be maintained. A volunteer has kindly ensured that, at this point in time, the hydrants are fit for purpose but going forward at least half of the parish's hydrants suffer from being non visible due to vegetation etc. The resident asked if the PC would commit to keeping on top of the hydrants and ensuring that they are accessible. A map of the hydrants location and their corresponding numbers was available to the PC. The Emergency Plan was also raised as there were concerns that it was not up to date and relevant. The individual agreed to submit the request in writing.

Another resident requested that the new parish council thank the outgoing Parish Council members for their service, in particular the chairman who had been a long-standing member with many years' service to the community. Cllr Hook agreed to this and the PC requested that it be on record that the members of the previous council were thanked for the service to the parish council and the wider Boughton Malherbe community.

10. Annual Review of terms of reference for committees

- 10.1 Planning Committee - Adjourned to future meeting
- 10.2 Finance & Staffing Committee – Adjourned to future meeting.
- 10.3 Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – Adjourned to future meeting
- 10.4 Review of Land & Assets – Adjourned to future meeting
- 10.5 Confirmation of Insurance Cover – Adjourned to future meeting
- 10.6 Review of councils' memberships – Adjourned to future meeting
- 10.7 Review of Risk Register – Adjourned to future meeting.

11. Finance

- 11.1 Receipts since last meeting:
KCC Payment Grant £7,800,
MBC Precept £7,326
Interest Lloyds £23.01
Interest Nationwide £507.63
Total Income Received £15,656.64

- 11.2 It was Noted that that the following payments were paid:-
D/D Hugofox (Mar) £11.99
D/D Hugofox (Apr) £11.99
Total £23.98

- 11.3 It was Resolved to agree that the following payments were paid:-

000074	Amesis	Contract (Grass)	£60.67
000075	LCC Consultancy	Locum Clerk	£1043.52
000076	Nu Venture	Bus Service	£560.00
000077	KALC	Subscription	£306.40
000078	M Norris	Salary	£836.64

000079	Amesis	Contract (Grass Cut)	<u>£88.67</u>
		Total	£2895.90

11.4 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 8TH May 2024 were noted:

Lloyds current	£16,085.46
Lloyds business saver	£7,186.18
Lloyds 32-day notice	£41,012.95
Nationwide	£14,973.40
Cambridge and Counties	£23,685.05

11.5 Bank Reconciliation

The end of year bank reconciliation was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. At the meeting it was presented and agreed upon. The closing balance of the cashbook as of 31 March 2024 was £88,198.94

11.6 External Audit & AGAR

The Annual Governance Statement. End of Year Account statement and the certificate of exemption were approved and signed by the chairman.

The clerk confirmed that the audit with Lionel Robbins will take place on 6th June at which point the commencement date for the exercise of public rights will be confirmed and advertised.

11.7 Bank Mandate & Signatories

It was Resolved that Marie Norris (Clerk), Cllr Thompson and Cllr Eastwood and Cllr Hook would act as signatories on the Cambridge and Counties Account & the Lloyds Bank accounts.

11.8 Amesis Review of Contract

Following a request from Amesis to review the hourly rate of £14.00 set in 2022 to £15.00 and an increase to hours due to additional extra deposits, the PC resolved to agree to the pay and hours increase for a two-month period. The contract will then be revisited in further detail at the next parish council meeting.

12. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Chairman requested that the clerk have authority to use the CIL funds. He explained that the CIL funds were restricted and should be used as a priority for council spending until exhausted.

D-Day 80 Celebrations

The Parish Council were to consider sponsoring a joint celebration with the Village Hall and St Nicholas Church. An email detailing the proposal had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. The PC agreed to sponsor the event and fund to the value of £500, and a working group would be set up. The PC clerk was invited to sit on the working committee and this was agreed.

13. Christmas Party

The chairman advised that he had been approached about a Christmas Party to be held at the village hall. At this point no further details were provided albeit that the Chairman had passed on the village hall contact details. Councillors agreed in principle to the idea of a party but would wish to see further details surrounding the proposed event.

14. Schedule of Meeting Dates

It was resolved that the following dates be accepted to hold the Council meetings at Grafty Green Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm unless otherwise notified'

1st July 2024
2nd September 2024
4th November 2024
6th January 2025
5th May 2025 (including Annual Parish Meeting)

15. Engaging with Residents

Website – The PC authorised the clerk to make changes and update as necessary.
Facebook – The PC discussed the use of a Facebook page, the clerk advised that this would be best run by individuals and not as a parish council Facebook page directly. Councillors should be mindful that any interactions on social media are representative of them as individuals and are not the views expressed by the Parish Council as a collective. Residents wishing to raise matters with the PC should use the appropriate channel and contact the clerk either via email directly or through the Boughton Malherbe website.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Tomlinson raised concern about a criminal incident that had taken place in the village recently and whilst the incident had been reported to the police, Cllr Tomlinson felt that the PC should take action to raise public awareness particularly with regard to lone women. It was felt that personal safety should be highlighted to those in the village and Cllr Hook agreed to provide personal alarms to the village hall that they could give to those attending the coffee mornings. This could be publicised to widen the scope and ensure that such alarms were available to all that might benefit from them. It was also felt that information on personal security could be published via the PC and Cllr Hook and Cllr Tomlinson will coordinate with the clerk to do this.

Defibrillator Training run by Kent Fire & Rescue Service was taking place in Ulcombe and a local resident suggested that BMPC may also like to arrange something similar. The chairman agreed to look into this further. It was also suggested that the chairman of BMPC may wish to meet regularly with the chairman of Headcorn and Sutton Valence parishes as sharing knowledge discussing mutual interests would be beneficial to BMPC.

Flood Warden training supplied by KCC was also highlighted to the PC as at present the village have no Flood Wardens.

17. Items for the Next Agenda

- Amesis Contract

There being no other business the chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8:58 pm

Signature:

Date

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL



boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

Marie Norris
Clerk to Boughton Malherbe

c/o Fairview Lodge
Bowl Road, Charing
TN27 0NH

NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that due to the resignation of Tracey Andrews, a vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Parish Council.

If by Wednesday 12th June 2024 (14 days excluding weekends and bank holidays, after the date of this notice) a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made in writing to:

The Proper Officer
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House, King Street
Maidstone, Kent
ME15 6JQ

By TEN electors for the Parish, an election will be held to fill the vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

Dated: 23 May 2024

M. Norris

Clerk to the Parish Council

Helen Whately – MP

'An update from your local MP Helen Whately

'This time two years ago, my team and I were flat out helping families across Faversham and Mid Kent process their Homes for Ukraine applications.

Nearly 200,000 Ukrainians were matched in those few months, and it was a wonderful display of British generosity and kindness. Just like in those early weeks of the pandemic, we saw the true nature of people in a crisis – willing to come together and help each other out. Asylum and immigration are two of those touchpaper issues that we tend to avoid talking about. But I think that we should. Often, when we do, we find that we have far more that unities us than divides us.

Almost everyone I speak to agrees that as a rich and safe country we have a duty to help people in need around the world. People also agree that the UK benefits from having some people come and live and work here from other countries.

But the fact is there are always going to be more people who want to come and live in Britain than we can realistically make a home for. For every family who comes to live here, we need to build a new house, add another car to our roads and find them dentist appointments – all things that I know people feel keenly here in Kent.

That means we have to make decisions about who comes, and I think we can all agree that this should be a fair system, and one which people in this country have some control over. When it comes to asylum it should be those in the greatest danger, or those to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. It shouldn't be those young, fit, and rich enough to skip the queue by getting on a boat.

I think a lot of people mistake the recently passed Small Boats legislation as the government wanting to send people to Rwanda – when in fact the opposite is true. Once the scheme is up and running, people simply aren't going to risk their life crossing the channel any more.

That will give us the breathing space to create a much fairer asylum system – taking people directly from conflict zones instead of processing a backlog of people coming from safe countries like Albania.

It's important to recognise that these people aren't inherently bad or doing anything other than what's best for them or their family. The evil is in a system which

incentives them to risk their life in the hope of skipping the queue – and that’s what we’re putting an end to.

When it comes to legal migration, our decision should be based on what skills we need. Wherever you look in this country – whether that’s in our health service, in pubs and restaurants, or on our fruit farms, there are people who have come to the UK to work without whom we simply wouldn’t be able to function.

This is something that I’m acutely aware of as the Health and Care Minister, where I saw first-hand how overseas workers helped our health service get through the winter just been. In the long-run of course we want our UK workforce to fill these gaps, and last year we published the first ever long-term NHS workforce plan. But training doesn’t happen overnight, and in the meantime, we can’t leave people without the care they need.

Ultimately this issue boils down to control. The ability to choose who needs our help, and whose help we need. If we don’t talk about this issue, or we let it divide us, it makes it far harder to build a system where we have that control.

That is the system we have been trying to build. Passing the Small Boats legislation, changing the rules on dependents for Student Visas, and creating our points-based immigration system. It hasn’t been easy, but it’s worth it for a system which is fairer than ever before.

Best wishes

Helen Whately MP

Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

www.helenwhately.org.uk

Tel: 020 7219 6472; Email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk



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Established: 1990 Director: M. Potter



Housekeeper/Companion needed to support an elderly lady living with relatives in Grafty Green village.

Hours by arrangement but will include some weekend work. If you would like to find out more do contact 07557444578.

Due to space considerations Malherbe Monthly is unable to reproduce the reports that were presented to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2004. They and a report from Shellina Prendergast our Maidstone Borough Councillor are available for viewing on the Parish Council website. Click Parish Council then Parish Meetings

Volunteers wanted



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

GRAFTY GREEN Speedwatch scheme are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on local roads with the support of the police.

Speedwatch is a community based scheme where volunteers record speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. **94 %** of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months within Kent.

CONTACT US

If you would like to join the group and help please go to **<http://kent.communityspeedwatch.co.uk>** to register.

For more information, visit the Kent Police website
www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch



**Kent
Police**

Grafty Gourmet

This is another great tasting, yet very simple recipe. Serves 4 with just two salmon fillets.

SALMON PASTA BAKE

Ingredients:

350g of large pasta shells (or Penne)
1 tablespoon of olive oil or 20g butter
4 spring onions, finely chopped
150ml of single cream
4 tablespoons of half-fat crème fraîche
2 smoked salmon fillets, flaked
150g of frozen peas, defrosted
100g of asparagus, chopped into 5cm lengths
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon, plus wedges to serve (optional)
2 tablespoons of dill, finely chopped, plus extra to serve
50g of finely grated parmesan

1. Heat the oven to 180°C fan. Cook the pasta in a pan of salted water for 5 minutes (less than the pack instructions), then drain, reserving a cup of the cooking water.
2. Heat the oil or butter in the casserole dish over a medium heat and cook the spring onions for 1-2 minutes. Add the drained pasta, cream, crème fraîche and about half the reserved cooking water, then cook, stirring constantly, for 1-2 minutes until the sauce thickens. Add the remaining ingredients and enough of the cooking water to make a light sauce, stirring to coat the pasta. Season well.
3. Bake for 15-20 minutes until bubbling and golden. Scatter with the extra dill and serve with lemon wedges and a salad.



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

The Great Escaper

Friday June 14th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1 hr 36 mins

June 6, 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast during World War II. In honour of this anniversary, our film for June is *The Great Escaper* (12, 2023), the superb true story of Bernard Jordan. The spell-binding drama is set in June 2014, when Bernard, an 89-year-old Royal Navy veteran was living in a care home in Hove, Sussex with his wife Irene. Having missed the official organised trip to Normandy to attend the 70th anniversary of D-Day, Bernard decides to make his own way there. In this he has the whole-hearted support of his wife who delays his absence being noticed long enough for Bernard to board the ferry. Once in France, he revisits old haunts – together with his memories of World War II. Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson give wonderful performances as Bernard and his wife Irene in this fabulous drama, which also marked the last screen appearances for the two marvellous icons of British film. This is definitely not a film to miss. Director: Oliver Parker.

Our July film is also based on a true story. *Can You Ever Forgive Me* (15, 2018) is a dark comedy on the methods adopted by an author to redeem her failing career. Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant star and were both nominated for Oscars for their performances.!

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

Admission: members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.



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Grafty Green Gardening Club

Program of Events 2024

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 9	Joe Archer	From Kew to Kent
February 6	Sally Channon	Thanet Earth
March 5	Steve Kirk	Wild life reintroductions in Kent
April 2	Spring show plus Maureen, Christine and Sue	Encouraging wildlife visitors to your garden
Saturday April 27	Plant fair	
May 7	Vicky Golding – Outing to Marden Meadow	
June 4	Social in Bridget Samuelson's Garden, Crumps Lane	
July 2	Outing to Hawkhurst – Hands of Hope garden	
July 30	Outing – Old Rectory Otterden	
September 3	Autumn Show and Steven Harmer	Arts and Crafts movement and their gardens
September 13 - 15	Weekend away to north Devon	
October 1	Kevin Tooher	Choice trees for small spaces
November 5	Davina	The story of the Dower House garden at Chilston Park
December 3	Practical session – table decoration with guidance from Sandra Pilborough	

June 4th we are all invited into Bridget Samuelson's Garden in Crumps lane. We are very grateful to Bridget for hosting us and giving us all a good mid-summer opportunity to meet up and enjoy her garden.

Due to the wet conditions at Marden Meadows our visit was postponed for another time. Instead, a good number of us went to visit Eagleswood in Warren Street. Conditions underfoot were very good here the garden being on top of the Downs! Eagleswood has a beautiful and varied garden with an emphasis on trees and shrubs, herbaceous and woodland planting. Refreshments were supplied by the owners with proceeds going to the Demelza House Hospice.

A reminder that deposits should now be paid to our treasurer Doreen Hulm for our weekend away in Devon. A deposit payment of £50 will secure your place on the trip. There will be a reminder later when the rest of the cost is due.

In our gardens : - * Maintain beds, borders and container grown displays by weeding and dead heading.

- * Lift and divide clumps of overgrown bulbs.
- * Replenish lawns with liquid feed, cut and edge regularly.
- * Plant new plants now before the weather warms up.
- * Plant tomatoes and runner beans in the veggie garden.

Report of The Friends of All Saints, Ulcombe to the Annual Parish Meeting, 23 May 2024

The Friends of Ulcombe Church continue active. It has a hardworking committee though it's members are getting a bit elderly and we need some new and enthusiastic Committee Members who are keen to preserve Ulcombe's ancient and beautiful church.

Each year it has helped the church finances by **paying the insurance costs** of the building – over £2,000.

The Friends of Ulcombe Church started the fund-raising year with a repeat of a **Bingo Evening in April**. It was much enjoyed last year and we decided to risk a repeat. This time we enlisted the help of the Village Hall Committee and the profits were shared between us - £329.86 each.

Currently we are preparing for the **Holst Concert on the 6th of July**. It is being held at the church at 7 o'clock and given by The Invicta Wind Orchestra to celebrate the life of Gustav Holst who was born 150 years ago.

As well as the Holst pieces it will also be playing folk songs and dances such as Greensleeves, the Londonderry Air and the Song of the blacksmith.

The Invicta Wind Orchestra was founded in 1989 by Jeremy Cooper. It meets several times each year for a day of rehearsal followed by an evening concert. Members of the orchestra come from as far afield as North London, Oxford, West Sussex and Surrey as well as from all over Kent, and include former military musicians and teachers,

Tickets are available from Molly Poulter (Mollycpoulte@gmail.com) or at the door. Wine and coffee will be available.

Our third fund raising event will be an **Auction of Promises on Saturday the 21st of September**. It will be held in Ulcombe Village Hall at 7 pm. To date we have more than thirty very varied and interesting items. But there is still room for more –items, activities, help, transport etc. Offers to Molly please'

Molly Poulter

Sue's nature notes

The Brimstone butterfly.

One of the first butterflies to emerge in early spring after spending the winter hibernating in ivy, holly or bramble and is considered a woodland butterfly.

They are fairly large; the males are sulphur-yellow whilst the females are greenish white. The male will scent the female to mate and she will have one brood, laying a single egg on the rib of an alder or buckthorn leaves. They hatch in June and the caterpillar is green and will eat the leaves of the host plant, pupating in July - the pupae are green and leaf shaped hanging underneath the leaf or a twig by a silken pad and girdle.

The butterflies emerge after about a fortnight; some of the plants preferred by the Brimstone for feeding are thistles, bluebell, bugle, cowslip, dandelions, knapweed and vetches, fleabane and betony.



Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

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New term starts 3rd June for an eight-week term = £48 or £8 for pay as you go.

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Christian Message June 2024

1 John 3:1

See the love that the Father has shown us so we are right to be called God's children, which is precisely what we are.

In recent weeks, I have been recovering from surgery and so have spent more time than usual watching daytime television. Perhaps you know the programme that I'm thinking of as I write. It features an auction.

The bidding can be brisk at first, but as the price creeps up maybe only two people are left interested. As they continue to bid against each other, it raises the price a little until one gives up and the other becomes the victor as the auctioneer announces "going, going, gone."

Maybe at a decent price but maybe not as much as the seller had hoped for. And then another item fares even worse and is withdrawn as it fails to reach the reserve price. No-one has valued it enough.

And there are times when we too can feel undervalued and unappreciated. Maybe there are times when we treat others similarly? We are probably all guilty of thinking of ourselves and not valuing others. And, maybe we can more easily spot the worst and not the best in others?

I picked this passage for this month when we are encouraged to think about Father's Day. Of course, we all have had earthy fathers – some good, some not so good – but I encourage us all now to remember our Heavenly Father.

Wherever we are – we matter to him. Others may dismiss us – He will not. Wherever we are, whatever we do, our Heavenly Father loves us completely, wholly.

I don't understand it – but I gladly accept it. I pray that you do too.

Revd. Millie Hart



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June 2024

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‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

Matthew 13:31-32

Sunday 2nd June

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

Wednesday 5th June

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 9th June

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion *with baptism*

6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 16th 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 23rd June

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

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