

Malherbe Monthly

Number 241
August 2024



Very talented local artist, Lily Goodwin, with some of her work in Boughton Malherbe Church at a recent Cream Tea afternoon
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	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
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
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
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 **September** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th August**

News from St. Nicholas Church – August 2024

The election is over and, as always with change afoot, we may feel unsettled, possibly threatened by an unknown future, we are fortunate to be able to freely celebrate, or grumble, about these changes. I am sure over the next few months we will be inundated with every move in the presidential election in the USA and relieved that we are not subject to such worldwide consequences of our voting pattern. There is no more important time in our history, but to continue our prayers for world leaders and nations to govern and listen with compassion and understanding of the needs of this planet and its inhabitants.

Reminders

The church porch is open at all times, for a rest, a hot drink, chat with a friend (or your dog) and as a refuge from the constant rain showers this summer. Have a read of the bible on the windowsill, (at least you won't have to carry it in your bag) and help yourself to the small range of goods in the mini food bank if you need. There is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10.00am-4.00pm daily.

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

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

Celtic Morning Prayer is said every Monday morning 9.00am-9.30am. This is an informal time with short bible readings and time for discussion and prayer, spoken or in silence. A time to acknowledge the needs of our friends, neighbours, world problems and ourselves. A helpful way to start the week.

The Village Coffee Morning takes place each Tuesday from 11.30am-2.00pm in the village hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is open from 12.45-2.15 pm at this time. There are often Alan's free-range eggs and honey, Sue's handmade cards, Pluckley tea, homemade marmalade and other delights for sale. All donations for the coffee/teas and cakes are shared equally between St. Nicolas church and a charity, chosen by popular demand. Do come and join in and have your say.

News

Bingo Night.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the evening such a success. Did not know what to expect! A lot of fun and laughter, even though I suspect many of us had no idea what to do. We were gently led through the basics, giving Richard a hard time keeping control. Very pleased to get a 'full house', but sadly beaten to the post. Was generously given a bottle of wine as a consolation prize, many thanks Jon!

Cream Teas

The first of our summer season Cream Teas afternoon proved to be very popular on the 21st July. The weather played its part, fine and dry. Many old friends joined us and the team of helpers was amazing, working hard to keep up with numbers of guests. Everyone especially enjoyed the exhibition of paintings and artwork by Lily Goodwin, displayed around the church.

Don't forget, the dates for the next ones are: Sundays 28th July, 4th August and 11th August.

Wedding

We are looking forward to the wedding of Michelle and Nick at St.Nicolas on Friday 16th August. Please pray for their happiness on the day and for all the years ahead.

Peter Bird is moving to Essex to be nearer his family in the very near future. He was married to Pauline and they settled in Grafty Green in 1988, he retired in 2000. He was one of the leading lights in The Boughton Malherbe History Society, helping to research and produce the 2 volumes, 'Boughton Malherbe A Journey Through Time', 2010 and 2014. We wish him a very happy time in his new home.

Finale

At this time, we especially remember all those enjoying family holidays, the children awaiting exam results, those leaving or changing school, and their teachers and parents. May these days make for many happy memories. For those struggling with sadness, poverty and with little hope of family fun we pray for support, understanding and better times to come.

Sally Alexander

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

Malherbe Monthly

I have been the editor, publisher and printer of Malherbe Monthly since 2006. However, later this year I will be moving away to Cornwall and accordingly the magazine will require a new editor if it is to continue as a going concern.

To help anyone or group of people who may be willing to take on these roles please find below a description of what is involved in producing the magazine. The roles are currently not paid except for the required printer supplies.

1. Send out email requesting articles and any adverts – 2 to 3 hours a month
2. Managing advertisers and adverts – 1 day a month
3. Formatting magazine with articles and adverts – 4 hours a month
4. Printing 314 copies of magazine – 4 hours a month
5. Folding magazines to A5 format – 4 hours a month
6. Batch up magazines and deliver them to the distributors - 2 hours a month
7. Format magazine for uploading issue to Parish Council website – 5 mins a month
8. Purchase printer supplies – 1 hour a month

For anyone who might be interested in taking on these roles I have available a more complete and detailed description of what each task involves. Additionally I am more than willing to show them how this is done.

Michael Hitchins

Village Hall – August Newsletter

As it is a community space in the village to be enjoyed by all I thought it might be informative to briefly explain the constitution of the hall. Originally constructed in the early 1920's the hall is a registered charity, (no.288091), it has 12 unpaid volunteer trustees who live locally who administer the running and activities at the hall.

As well as hosting the regular activities organised by various local clubs, societies, organisations and service providers such as Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi and Art class the trustees organise regular events such as quiz nights, bingo, scarecrow festivals, craft fairs, the summer fair and the Christmas Panto. The only person who is paid by the charity is the lady who comes in and cleans the hall. All income received by the hall is used to meet the regular outgoings such as insurance, cleaning and utility expenses. Any surpluses are utilised in providing further activities at the hall to be enjoyed by the community and to meet the ongoing cost of maintaining the hall in good condition.

It's your hall so if you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we could further use the hall for the benefit of the community don't be shy please let me know so that I can discuss any suggestions you have with my fellow trustees.

Our inaugural Bingo Night was held on the 29th June a good time looked to be had by all and there were lots of lovely prizes kindly donated by our generous sponsors. I will need to discuss with the other trustees but it looks as if we should hold this as an annual event.

At the time of writing Sally and her team of crack cream tea makers are preparing for the first of four cream teas at the Church which this year will be held on the last two Sundays of July and the first two Sundays in August. Looks like the weather will be kind to us again, start time is 2.30pm to 5pm.

Looking ahead we have the following coming up:-

Unveiling of the Map of Grafty Green as it was in 1752 Thursday 15th August 7pm - Cheese & Wine

Tom La Dell has kindly researched, prepared and commissioned a display map of the village as it was in 1752 and has very generously donated it for display in the village hall. To celebrate this we would like to invite you all to an unveiling of the map, followed by a brief talk by Tom explaining what the map represents and what the

village would have looked like in 1752. There will be cheese and wine provided so that we can have an opportunity for a catch up with friends and neighbours as well as learn a little more about the history of our lovely village.

Grafty Indoor Boot Fair at the Hall Sunday 8th September 10 am to 2pm

All the tables are now booked for our first internal boot fair at the village hall on Sunday 8th September between 10 am and 2pm. Entrance is free and it provides us all with a further opportunity for a village get together, as usual we will be offering tea and cakes for sale so you will have a good opportunity to stay and have a natter and any donations of cake on the day will be gratefully appreciated.

Please make a note in your diaries of the other events coming up at the hall this Autumn/Winter:-

Harvest Supper Saturday 12th October

Scarecrow Festival Saturday 26th October

Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 16th & 17th November

Christmas Quiz Saturday 7th December

Christmas Panto Saturday 14th December

Pop-Up Post-Office Service Update

I am pleased to report that the Pop-Up Post Office has functioned more efficiently during July to date and fingers crossed let's hope it remains that way!

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk

www.griftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

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

Art Classes with Cathy Hill



Exciting, artistic adventures!

Starting September 11th

Fortnightly classes - till December 4th

Choose from 3 classes:

Wednesday Afternoons at Grafty Green Village Hall 1pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday Evenings at Little Chart Village Hall 7pm - 9pm

Thursday Evenings at Grafty Green Village Hall 7pm - 9pm

The fee for the course of 7 classes is £96 (this includes one free class@ £16).
(Alternatively, you can pay for a run of 3 classes = £48 and then later, a run of
4 classes = £64.)

Learn big, bold drawing skills, boost your confidence and lose creative inhibitions, by playing around with colour, line and form. We'll do some 'mixed media', 'colour-perspective', and move into 'composition-making' and painting with acrylics.

Contact me, Cathy Hill at: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com Tel: 01233 756515 or 07927054708

Indoor Boot Fair

Grafty Green Village Hall

ME17 2BA

Sunday 8th September 2024

10.00-2.00

Come along and bag yourself a bargain

Lots of stalls in the warm and dry

There will be tea, coffee and cake so come along and catch up with friends and find that special item you didn't know you needed. Any queries please contact Jon Thompson on 07932112730 or jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk



We would welcome donations of cake on the day.

All money raised will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall

Summer is here and they are back !



Enjoy a delicious cream tea at

St Nicholas Church

Boughton Malherbe

Sunday 21st or 28th of July or

Sunday 4th or 11th August 2024

2.30pm to 5pm

£4 per person

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

Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30am

Saturdays 9.30 – 10.30am

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

Alternate Thursdays 7 – 9pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club

Doreen 01622 850287

Sue 01622 850381

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

Digital Kent

Fourth Tuesday 11.30 – 1.30pm



MAIDSTONE LANDSCAPES & PROPERTY SERVICES Ltd

BrettApproved
PAVING EXPERTS YOU CAN TRUST

*Less 15% discount
with advert* and 20% over 55's
cannot be used with other offers
ad must be mentioned at time of estimate

LANDSCAPING- Drives, Patios, Pathways, Brick/Stone Walls, Block/Stone Paving, Tarmac, Decking, Fencing, Turfing, Ponds, Water Features, Garden Clearance, Sheds/Summer & Play House Bases, Tree Surgery etc.

BUILDING WORKS- Extensions, Porches, Conservatories, Garages, Groundworks, Roofing, PVC Windows, Doors, Soffits, Fascias, Floor/Wall Tiling, Decorating etc

FULLY INSURED/WORK GUARANTEED. VERY PROFESSIONAL/FRIENDLY SERVICE
Top Quality Materials/Workmanship from design to completion - FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: 01622 851222 Mob: 07786 07 01 07

www.maidstonelandscapes.com

LOOK: Please check our reviews and other companies you may use at **www.uktc.org**

Established: 1990 Director: M. Potter



Heather's
Chiroprody
& Podiatry

Registered Surgical Chiroprpodist / Podiatrist

Established for Over 25 Years

Member of The Association of Chiroprpodists & Podiatrists

HCPC Registered G.C.S.Ch., M.Inst.Ch.P., M.F.S.Ch.



- Treatments & Consultations
- Children's Chiroprody
- Corns, Callouses & Hard Skin Removal
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Fungal Treatment
- Ingrowing Toe Nails / Toe Nail Problems
- Verruca Treatment

**01622
850376**

www.heatherschiroprody.co.uk
retreat@heatherschiroprody.co.uk

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

TCL ELECTRICAL

- ~ All aspects of domestic, commercial & industrial work undertaken*
- ~ 30 yrs City & Guilds qualified electrician*
- ~ Fully Insured & DBS checked*
- ~ Free Quotations*
- ~ Reliable & friendly service*

Tim Latham: 07766038496

Tclelectrical50@outlook.com

No job too small



BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 1st July 2024, Grafty Green Village Hall 7.30pm

Meeting Ref: 002/2024

Attendees: Cllr Eastwood (Chairman) Cllr Hook, Cllr Tomlinson, Cllr Thompson
Cllr Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Cllr) Marie Norris (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Martin Round

2. Declarations

No lobbying was declared. There were no declarations of interest made to items on the agenda. There were no changes to the register of pecuniary interests

3. Approval of the previous Minutes

The Chairman approved the APCM dated 13th May and accepted that the minutes were a true and accurate record and were signed accordingly.

4. Public Session

11 residents attended the meeting. The following items were brought to the attention of BMPC

- The Malherbe Monthly paper edition had not been received for June/July (Boughton Park area).
- There was still a vacant post on the parish council.

The Chairman agreed to contact the Editor of the Malherbe Monthly regarding the newsletter.

The co-option process had been followed and the notice had been displayed for the required timeframe. The PC were now able to co-opt to the position and anyone interested in joining the PC should contact any member of the PC or clerk for further details, an advert will also be displayed in the Malherbe Monthly and on the pc website. Any interested applicants could then be considered at the next meeting (September).

5. External Reports

- KCC -No report received

MBC

- Waste Collection- Cllr Trzebinski reported that Suez, the new waste contractor, is improving however there are still problems within rural areas with properties being missed off routes. The vehicles also have some issues

whereby the food waste collection is filling up quicker on the new smaller vehicle whilst the back of the lorry is only half full, but the alarm in the cab means that the vehicles then have to return to the depot for the food waste to be emptied before returning to the round. This would then cause a knock-on delay. Cllr Trzebinski requested that if any residents are still having issues with collections to email him directly with their full address and postcode.

- Due to the local election being called and a number of councillors new to the role, it has been a quiet period at Maidstone Borough Council. The expectation was that the coalition would announce their plan for the next 4 years.

No other items were raised with Cllr Trzebinski

6. Review and Adopt (NALC) Finance Regulations

The NALC updated regulations had been circulated to members prior to the meeting for their consideration.

7. Approval of payments in accordance with the budget

A list of payments were circulated prior to the meeting. Members of the PC agreed that all payments should be made. BMPC **resolved** to make the outstanding 23/24 payment for Churchyard maintenance along with the 24/25 payment.

8. Amesis Agreement

BMPC authorised the clerk to submit the original draft contract to Amesis for approval. It was agreed that any negotiations would need to be brought back to the Parish Council for consideration or approval.

Action: Clerk

9. Create and Establish a Working Group for Boughton Malherbe Emergency Plan

Cllr Hook was appointed as Chairman for the working group. Cllr Hook was keen to call upon members of the community who wished to be involved in setting up an Emergency plan and those with relevant skills sets would be particularly welcome (Emergency service / first aiders). More information about the working group will be made available both online and in the Malherbe monthly but residents who would be willing to be involved were asked to contact the clerk in the first instance.

Action: Clerk to promote within the village.

10. Appoint KALC representatives

BMPC have the right to appoint two representatives to attend KALC meetings. There are normally 4 meetings a year. The chairman called for volunteers Cllr Hook and Cllr Tomlinson volunteered.

Action Clerk to advise KALC of the BMPC reps.

11. Review and Amend the Highway Improvement Plan

The current Highways Improvement plan had been issued to all members prior to the meeting for consideration. The PC authorised the clerk to make the changes suggested to the HIP plan and return them to KCC Highways. If, as a result of the changes, a meeting is required with the KCC steward, the clerk will advise members accordingly. A resident questioned if there were any financial outlay required by the PC if the red markings on the road were removed due to resurfacing. The chairman advised that it was the understanding of the PC that if the markings were to fade and erode due to wear and tear and we want it replaced, then Boughton Malherbe PC

would need to fund this if however, the markings were removed by either a utility company working on the road or Kent Highways resurfacing the road, then the markings would be replaced at no cost to the parish. A resident asked if a speed survey had been conducted in the parish. The chairman confirmed that previously KCC had completed one. Their finding concluded that there was not a speeding issue on the roads that had been monitored.

Action Clerk to amend HIP and return updated version to the KCC Steward

12. Arrangements for Community Litter Pick

It was agreed that Councillors will agree a date for the Community Litter Pick. Cllrs will then advise the clerk who will begin to advertise the event.

(Secretary's Note – Following the meeting, the 11th August has been confirmed as the date for the litter pick) The Chairman confirmed that Health and safety procedures for the event were being considered and would be in place for the event. Action: Clerk & Councillors to advertise litter pick.

13. Arrangements for potential Prescription Collection Service.

There was a discussion on the above item that had originated as an idea from a local residents' concerns about vulnerable members of the community and how the parish council and local residents could assist them with collection of items of shopping, prescriptions, doctors visits etc. The PC were in full support of this initiative although it was felt that further consideration into how it could look and be run would be required and in particular, someone in a coordinator role would be needed. Action: All Cllrs to consider further, Cllr Hook to promote amongst members of the Grafty Green Coffee Morning.

14. Bio Diversity Net Gain Training

The training was not attended, no report received.

15. Matters Arising

Cllr Tomlinson provided an update regarding the incident where a man driving a car had approached local woman whilst they were out walking and running. A number plate for the car had been provided to the local beat officer, who will look into this matter further. The message that the police are keen to get out is that if you feel uncomfortable or threatened or witness anything out of the ordinary, do report it. A safety message has been put on the local Facebook page.

The clerk raised the issue about the placement of the new rubbish bin which was procured predominately for the disposal of waste collected during litter pick. The PC agreed to consider this outside of the meeting.

16. Exclude the Public

No matters for discussion.

There being no other matters the chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 8:07pm.

Signature:

Date:

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE AND ARE
PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY
JOIN US AND MAKE A LOCAL CHANGE**

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council has a vacancy
No experience or specific skills are required, just a
willingness and enthusiasm to help keep Boughton
Malherbe a vibrant and good place to live.

If you are interested please contact the clerk or any member of the
Parish council for further details

boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The Parish Council with support from local volunteers would like to organise a local **Good Neighbour's Scheme** to assist vulnerable Parishioners in times of need.

It will be established by the Parish Council and run by local volunteers to provide support for other residents who may need help on an occasional or regular basis.

In order for this scheme to work in the Parish we will need a coordinator who will be responsible for matching people who need help, with volunteers in the area who are willing to give that help.

We are aware that there are a few kind people that currently help Parishioners and we do not want to discourage this invaluable help, we just feel that we can add to the efforts of those people.

Do you need any of the following to help you maintain a good quality of life

- Small amounts of shopping purchased and delivered
- Prescription collection and delivery
- Basic errands like posting letters or collecting newspapers
- Dog walking and caring for pets during illness
- Household tasks such as changing light bulbs or batteries in smoke alarms
- Befriending
- Lifts to GP surgery, clinic, hospital, or other appointments

If you are interested in using a good neighbour's scheme or becoming a volunteer, please email Marie the Parish Clerk

boughtonmalherbecpc@gmail.com or contact one of your local councillors

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

There will be a community litter pick at 11am on Sunday 11th August 2024

If you can spare some time to help and keep our Parish the beautiful place it is, please meet your Parish Councillors on the village green. Children are welcome to attend with an adult. Hi vis jackets, litter pickers, gloves and bin bags will be provided. There will be maps provided to assist you with areas that the litter pick should include.

If you wish to register your interest or ask any questions, please drop an email to Marie our Parish Clerk boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com or contact one of your parish councillors

We hope to see you on the 11th of August

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Emergency Plan

Volunteers Needed

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council and members of the community are working together to be better prepared for dealing with emergencies such as floods, snow, major fire, or any other incidents that could have an effect on the community. We are working to create an emergency plan and need volunteers from the community with different skills who can help us. Our aim is to bring together our volunteers to create a working group to discuss issues and update the emergency plan.

Getting involved

If you want to know more about this project or would like to become involved in the Community Emergency Plan Working Group, please contact Cllr Lorraine Hook lorraine.hook.bmpc@gmail.com for more details or email the clerk to the Parish Council at boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

Grafty Gourmet

Try this great Chinese dish with beef, mangetout & cashew nuts. A tasty dish that takes just 15 minutes to make.

Beef with Mangetout & Cashew Nuts

Ingredients

50g of unsalted cashew nuts
1 teaspoon of cornflour
1½ tablespoon of low-salt soy sauce
4 tablespoons of oyster sauce
1 tablespoon of rice vinegar
1 tablespoon of honey
1 tablespoon of sunflower or vegetable oil
280g of rump steak, thinly sliced
A thumb-sized piece of ginger, peeled and cut into matchsticks
2 garlic cloves, crushed
200g of mangetout, sliced in half on an angle

1. Toast the cashew nuts in a dry wok or frying pan, tossing, until browned. Tip onto a plate and set aside. Mix the cornflour with the soy sauce to make a paste, then add the oyster sauce, vinegar and honey. When you're ready to cook, have all the ingredients prepared and close to hand – it will only take 5 mins.
2. Heat the wok until very hot. Add the oil, swirl it around to cover the base of the pan, then use tongs to place the steak pieces in the wok in a single layer. Cook without turning for 30 seconds to 1 minute, until a dark crust starts to form on the meat. Add the ginger and garlic, give everything a quick stir, then add the mangetout and the sauce. Cook for another 30 seconds to 1 minute until the beef is just cooked through and the sauce is thick and glossy. Sprinkle over the cashews and serve with rice or noodles.

KSSX

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

HELIHIKE

Kent

Walk to keep your local air ambulance flying!

Lace up your hiking boots, grab your friends
and family. It's time for Heli Hike in Kent!

3 or
7.5 mile
routes
available

New for
this year!
Mini Medic
Mile

10%
discount
Use code
'Kent10'

Saturday 21 September

The Friars, Aylesford

Be a Heli Hike hero, **sign up today!**

aakss.org.uk/kent-hike



Registered with
The Charity Commission
REGULATOR

Registered Charity No. 1021367



Scan me



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Wicked Little Letters

Friday August 9th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1 hr 40 mins

Our film for August is **Wicked Little Letters** (15, 2023) which is based on a true story from the 1920s. The seaside town of Littlehampton is hit by a plague of anonymous letters filled with such profanities that the town is in uproar. The conservative Edith (played by the one and only Olivia Colman) accuses Rose, her foul-mouthed neighbour, of being the culprit. But is Rose being wrongly accused? Led by policewoman Gladys, the town's womenfolk set out to discover the truth in the mayhem that has become a national fascination; as they investigate, they realise that something seems to be amiss. With the cast including Jessie Buckley, Eileen Atkins and Timothy Spall as well as Olivia Colman, watching **Wicked Little Letters** is a wonderful way to spend an August evening. Director: Thea Sharrock

Please be aware this film contains very strong language which will appear on screen, as we will show subtitles as usual.

Our September film, on Friday the 13th, **Green Book** is set in 1962 in the deep south of America and won a Best Film Oscar. A classical pianist teams up with a toughie from the Bronx. Save the date as this is unmissable!

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.



Decorating in Kent? Call our family business!

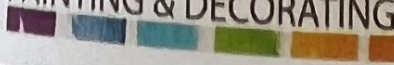
With over 30 years in the industry we are 100% committed to our customers. We have a trained & experienced team - always giving a friendly, reliable and totally trustworthy service. FSB Members - fully insured. Interior & Exterior.

"We were recommended RJ Moss by a friend and I'm so glad we chose to use Richard and the team." Hannah



R.J. Moss Ltd

PAINTING & DECORATING



*Call us for a completely
free, no-obligation quote!*

Richard: 07974815124

Luke: 07912 604533

or office: 01795 480647

W: www.rjmossLtd.co.uk

E: rjmossLtd@sky.com

Harrietsham Computers

Computer Problems?

Need an upgrade

or a new machine?

Just want some extra tuition?



For local, friendly, experienced

Help, call Mike Cuerden at

01622 859442 or

07963 020092



No call out fee
Reasonable rates
Private &
Commercial Work
No job too small

RECYCLE

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

AND

OLD PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES

AND

USED HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

TO SUPPORT GOOD CAUSES

At Egerton Computer Centre

OPEN TUES & SAT 10am -12, FRI 2-4pm

For further information contact

Ruth on 01233 756332

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	

On July 30th Club are visiting The Old Rectory Garden at Otterden. This is a four-acre woodland garden with a formal rose garden in a lovely setting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Summer is moving on but currently we can look forward to some sunshine which will warm things up in the garden. Also planned is our Autumn Show with a talk by Steven Harmer in the village hall on September 3rd and a weekend away to North Devon shortly after!

In our gardens : - it is time to lift and dry onions, cut and dry herbs for winter use and harvest the first apples and pears whilst remembering to water and feed tomatoes regularly.

Also time to prune rambling roses after they have finished flowering and to complete summer pruning of wisteria.

Looking ahead it is time to force hyacinths for Christmas and purchase and start planting daffodils for Spring flowering.

Auction of Promises

Saturday September 14th at 7 pm in Ulcombe Village Hall

The Friends of All Saints, Ulcombe, are holding an Auction of Promises in aid of Ulcombe Church

To date, there are over 30 promises. More would be happily received by Molly Poulter on 01622 842988 or mollycpoulter@gmail.com

The full catalogue will be published in the September issue of this magazine.

Sue's nature notes

The Common Blue butterfly

The commonest of the blue butterflies found in sunny grassy places where there is also bird's foot trefoil, clover, yarrow and medicks, bugle, fleabane, kidney vetch, knapweed and thistles; they gather together in the evening and rest head downwards.

They have two broods a year; June to late July or mid-August to late April, the caterpillar overwintering in the base of plants.



Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

To book call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339
Experience working through the body, in a mindful way that improves the range of movement through the joints; more flexibility, gaining stamina and strength and releasing tension and stress through deep relaxation.

New term will begin the week commencing 2nd September.

**Plummer
Electrical
Service**


**Your Local Reliable
Electrician Offering**

- Emergency Call Outs
- Fault Finding
- Electrical Maintenance
- Rewires
- And More


Call James Plummer
07912344510

ALL FiX

Plumbing & Heating



CIPHE David Jenkins
ciphe.org.uk
REGISTERED PLUMBER
 T: 01622 851186
 M: 07914 380521



Bathroom Installations	Tiling
Drains & toilets serviced	Odd jobs
General domestic plumbing	No job too small
Hot water cylinders	Fully insured
Heating and radiators	FREE quotes
Kitchen installations	No call but charges
Repairs and installation	Friendly professional advice
E: info@allfixplumbing.co.uk	W: www.allfixplumbing.co.uk

**Ken and Eve Sweet
extend a warm welcome to
The Kings Head
Grafty Green**

**A
16th Century
Coaching Inn
haunted by
"Dover Bill" -
the Highwayman!**



**Traditional Sunday Lunches
Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers**

**Booking Advisable
01622 850259**

Children's Room Beer Garden

HOLLAND & HOLLAND ROOFING LTD

Flat Roofing Specialists

"Installers of high performance flat roofing systems"

Our quotes are free of charge and arranged at a time
that's convenient for you
All work is Insurance backed guaranteed

Contact
 T: 01622 842 069
 M: 07939583618
 E: office@hollandandhollandroofing.co.uk
 W: www.hollandandhollandroofing.co.uk

Members of the
Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC)

D.FLISHER ROOFING

*Free winter check on roofs
Roofing repairs, ridge & hips
checked*

*Moss cleaned off roofs
Gutters & window frames
cleaned*

Chimneys re-pointed

**Call Dave for a quote on
01622 850659 or 07941 324286**

Mower Plant Services

**Sales Service Parts Repairs
Accessories**

**Walk Behind Mowers, Ride on Mowers,
Lawn Tractors, Brush Cutters, Water
Pumps, Hedge Trimmers, Chainsaws,
Snow Blowers, Generators, Leaf Blowers**

Parts for all Garden Machinery available.

**Give us a call or come and visit our
friendly staff to arrange the service/repair
of your garden machinery or perhaps we
can help you choose something new.**



**Sunpatch Farm, Headcorn Rd,
Smarden, TN27 8PJ**

Tel: 01622 890046

**Email: sales@mowerplantservices.co.uk
www.mowerplantservices.co.uk**

Open Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:30pm, Sat 8.30am - 1pm

PROUD TO BE SERVING THE
COMMUNITY SINCE 1965

A.W.COURT
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Your fully independent, family owned,
Funeral Directors, serving the local
community with compassion and the highest
standards of service and professionalism.

With our 24-hour emergency service,
we are only a telephone call away.

At the earliest stage possible, you will
speak directly with one of our experienced
Funeral Directors, who will be there to help,
support and guide you through the whole
of the funeral process.

Golden Charter 

**Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone,
Kent ME17 2AP.**

01622 850840

Email - enquiries@awcourt.com

Website - www.awcourt.com

A.W. Court is a Trading Division of
West & Coe Ltd, 602 Rainham Road South,
Dagenham, Essex RM10 8YP.



Invicta Chimney Sweep



**No Mess
No Dust
No Fuss**

- All types of Chimneys swept and smoke tested
- Certificates Issued
- Pots, Cows, Bird Guards etc.
- Birdnest Removal
- Chimney Repairs

**Fully
Insured**

01622 632641

0798 854 9010

www.invictachimneysweeps.co.uk





An important update on our High Court Legal Challenge

In April, Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) adopted their new Local Plan. This included a site allocation for Heathlands and brought the 5,000 home Heathlands “new town” one step closer to destroying our village.

Working with a leading environmental law firm and with the generosity of local residents who donated to our fighting fund, we launched a High Court legal challenge seeking to get the decision to adopt the Local Plan quashed.

Our claim set out three grounds of challenge in relation to the plan’s deliverability and also the education provision (or lack of) for the proposed Invicta Barracks site in Maidstone Town Centre. These were the three strongest grounds of challenge as advised by our Barrister.

We also made an application for a Cost Protection Order under the Aarhus convention to limit our exposure to costs at £10,000 in the event that our claim was unsuccessful.

High Court Judge, the Honourable Sir Peter Lane considered our case on 24th June. On review of our claim he decided to refuse permission to proceed.

This was always an expected step in the legal process and one we had been prepared for. The next expected stage would have been to request an oral hearing for our

Barrister to present further oral evidence to convince the Judge on the merits to proceed.

In considering the claim, the Judge also refused our Cost Protection Order. This was not an outcome we were expecting. We have subsequently submitted an objection on the costs decision to the High Court. We await the Judge's re-consideration in due course.

Without the Cost Protection Order in place, it leaves members of the SOHL Committee having to provide personal liability for unlimited costs which could run to tens of thousands of pounds. This is something we simply cannot sign up to do, irrespective of our determination to get Heathlands thrown out.

Regrettably, and after a lot of soul-searching, we have taken the difficult decision to no longer proceed with our claim. Although we were mindful that a challenge of this magnitude was always going to be difficult, we were hoping that we might have reached a more advanced stage of the process.

What this has brought in to sharp focus for us however is the colossal David vs Goliath nature of challenging public authorities and more specifically the Heathlands proposals which have cast an immense shadow over our rural village for the last five years.

As a small local residents' group simply trying to protect our local countryside and amenity, we have been faced with some of the biggest and most expensive Barristers in the legal system being loaded into the process to represent MBC, central Government and its associated arms-length bodies including Homes England.

The first stage of this process has accrued total costs by the aforementioned organisations of £27,900. Ironically, these Barristers are being paid for out of your local council and national taxes!

This update will likely come as disappointing news to you, as it has for us. We are determined however to make sure this is not the end of our challenge to the Maidstone Local Plan and the Heathlands proposals.

We will bring you an update on our next steps soon and we thank you for your unwavering support over the last five years and going forward.

Christian Message August 2024

Being present to others in a world of interruptions

As a father to 3 young children, I can testify to what people throughout history have discovered – that raising children is joyful, rewarding and a privilege. However, it also brings a whole new world of unpredictability! Having whatever I'm doing interrupted, by an amazingly broad range of requests, has become a standard part of life!

However, being interrupted is not unique to those who parent young children. Many of us are regularly interrupted by the next work demand, the ping of a phone notification or just by our own wondering attentions! There are ways that we can carefully cultivate interruption free times, but in most of life, interruption is par for the course.

It's in those moments that we sometimes see the worst of ourselves come out! How many of us have experienced a rush of impatience, frustration or even apathy when someone interrupts us with a need?

This is a universal challenge but in Jesus we see an amazing demonstration of being present and loving to others, even in the midst of interruption. Jesus had much to say and do, yet we still read numerous stories of him responding incredibly graciously to interruptions.

In Luke 8:40-48 Jesus has come to town (probably with a specific intention in mind) and a man named Jairus interrupts Him with a plea to come and heal his daughter. Jesus responds with compassion; changes course and goes with him. Then, a woman desperate for healing, interrupts the interruption! There is no hint of Jesus being frazzled, frustrated or annoyed, but the lady is healed and told to "Go in peace". Later, He also raises Jairus' daughter from the dead!

Jesus was present to the people around him. He truly saw them and responded to interruptions in love. What might be restricting your ability to love others? Jesus demonstrates and even helps us to become the kind of people who are really are present to others. People who respond with love, care and patience even in moments of interruption!

Ben Doggett
Pathways Church

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?



Need help with your iPad or tablet?
Struggling with Windows?
Lost your emails?
Can't find your photographs?



join us at
our popular Saturday morning clinic
between **10am and 12 noon** at
EGERTON COMPUTER CENTRE
THE MILLENNIUM HALL



GET IN TOUCH

 instructor@egerton-kent.co.uk
 www.egerton-kent.co.uk



STONEBRIDGE ACCOUNTING
ACCOUNTS AND TAX SUPPORT
FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESS

Tel: 01622 851542

Len Valley Benefice

August 2024

Everybody is welcome

‘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 4th August

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Family
friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

Wednesday 7th August

9.30am Lenham: Holy
Communion (BCP)

11.00am Harrietsham:
Chippendayle

Sunday 11th August

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 18th August

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 25th August

11.00am **Benefice Holy
Communion at St Nicholas,
Boughton Malherbe**

‘I am the way, the truth and the
life’

ONLINE • ON TABLET
ON MOBILE

COLES GROUP

VALUERS, LETTING
& ESTATE AGENTS

1% SELLING FEE +VAT

10% MANAGEMENT FEE +VAT

01622 763322

www.thecolesgroup.co.uk

POP UP BUTCHERY



FRESH AND
FROZEN MEAT
DIRECT FROM
THE FARM



HIGHLAND BEEF
JOINTS, STEAKS AND BURGERS, BRAISING
STEWING MINCE, RIB JOINTS AND MORE



HEBRIDEAN LAMB
FILLETS, RACK, LEGS, CHOPS, NECK,
SHOULDERS, BURGERS AND MINCE



RARE BREEDS PORK
STEAKS, CHOPS, JOINTS,
SAUSAGES AND BACON

PLEASE CALL THE FARM
ON 01622 844491

ROUND OAK FARM, HENIKER LANE,
SUTTON VALENCE, ME17 3ED



Thorneloe & Co

Solicitors

Now part of Hallett & Co



Based in Lenham, we provide a friendly, high quality, personal service tailored to your specific needs.

For you and your family....

- Wills, Probate and Tax Planning
- Trusts and Estate Administration
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Family and Employment Law
- Buying and Selling Your Home
- Court of Protection
- Dispute Resolution/Property Litigation
- Personal Injury

For you and your business....

- Agriculture
- Commercial Property
- Buying or Selling a Business
- Business Contracts/Finance
- Employment Law
- Dispute Resolution/Property Litigation

01622 859 416

Lenham@Hallettandco.co.uk

www.thorneloe.co.uk

St Mary's House The Square Lenham Kent ME17 2PH

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority Registered Number 50485

Emergency and Help Contact Details

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

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

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

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

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

KCC Community Wardens:

<i>Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere</i>	07969 583923
<i>District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown</i>	07773 397125

Fire <i>General Enquiries</i>	01622 692121
<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	0800 923 7000

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

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

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

WARNING

CCTV IN OPERATION



Tel: 08000 199622

www.amiga.co.uk

CCTV | Intruder Alarms | Access Control | Fire