

# Malherbe Monthly

Number 263  
July 2026



**New Post Office Van – Tuesdays 11.55 – 12.45**  
From July 1<sup>st</sup>, subject to future adjustment in the future

## Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Sarah Emberson <a href="mailto:Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk">Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk</a>	
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam <a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Sue Birch Email: burch1997@aol.com	07803 962339
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	07803 962339
Farmers Market	Tara Musson <a href="mailto:info.graftygreen@gmail.com">info.graftygreen@gmail.com</a>	
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Tai Chi	Rhonda Bailey	07985 001782
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday PM fortnightly from January 6 outside the village hall, variable time	07976 435217
<b>Malherbe Monthly Production Team</b>		
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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 **August** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email ([carolhulm@gmail.com](mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com)) by **25<sup>th</sup> July**

## Local Interests and Announcements

**Help needed!** Our beautiful church on the hill, St Nicholas , needs some volunteer cleaners, it's not arduous cleaning just general dusting, polishing occasionally, hoovering and when necessary, mopping the floors, Janet does the brass, so we don't have too! You can work with one of the cleaners or if you have a friend, it's best to work with someone. It's once a month if there is a month when you can't make it it's not a problem.

**Please call Liz on 07788 868174, or 01622 850377.**

### **59 BUS NEWS**

The big news is that the Wednesday only service to and from Maidstone is going to continue, with funding from Kent County Council and thanks to the involvement of the operator Nu-Venture. It is now included within a larger contract which is due to run until July 2028.

There is no change to the route which remains Kingswood, Ulcombe, Grafty Green, and then Maidstone Town Centre via Headcorn and the A274 (and also Otham). There is, however, a **change to the timetable from 8<sup>th</sup> July** with a slightly earlier departure and giving more time in Maidstone before returning.

**From 8<sup>th</sup> July** the bus will leave **Grafty Green** village at **09.44**, (also calling near the Who'd a Thought It and the Old Pig and Whistle just afterwards), before stopping in **Headcorn, Forge Lane junction**, (opposite Costcutter) at **09.53**, **Sutton Road (Morrisons) 10.14**, due to arrive in **Maidstone Town Centre** at **10.27**.

It returns from **Maidstone, King Street stop L2** (outside of Greggs) at **13.45**, an hour later than previously, and runs via the A274 to **Sutton Road (opposite Morrisons) 13.57**, **Headcorn (Forge Lane junction) 14.18**, and **Grafty Green** at **14.27**, before proceeding on to Ulcombe and Kingswood.

The English National Concessionary Travel pass, available to anyone who has reached state pension age, can be used on the bus, and for those without a pass the adult return fare is currently £5-25.

This service has been described as a 'lifeline' for the communities it serves, so it is vital that good use is made of it to help ensure it continues.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

### **Grafty Green Wanderers Cricket Matches for July**

The next match is on 3rd July at 6pm v Lenham at Lenham cricket ground.... The ground is situated at the corner of Ham Lane and Lenham High Street. From the A20 head into Lenham Square. Proceed up the High Street, passed the Fire Station and the club is on the right-hand side.



## LEN VALLEY HEALTH WALKS

### **Why walk?**

Walking is good for both your physical and mental health

To keep your heart, lungs, bones and muscles strong

To maintain a healthy weight. To be more energetic

To reduce stress and depression. To meet new people

To enhance your sense of wellbeing

Plus, it's free!

Walking is an easy, gentle way to get active and stay active – and it's never too late to begin!

Our walks are on Wednesday afternoons, and Thursday and Saturday mornings. We have walks for all abilities

The Lenham Stroll on Wednesday afternoons is aimed at those who have difficulty walking due to recent operations, other health problems or age. We walk in and around Lenham village at a speed suited to everyone. We finish at the village tearooms for tea and a chat.

Thursday morning walks start from in and around the Len Valley. There is a medium walk of approximately 2 - 2½ miles at a moderate pace and a longer walk of approximately 3½ miles at a faster pace.

Saturday morning walks start from different venues and are 3½ - 4 miles long and at a faster pace.

Come and join our friendly sociable group and enjoy the beautiful countryside we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.

# Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

Drop in £8 a session' call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339 for more details.

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.

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## A Good Read!

The following are some novels that I have enjoyed:

**The Dark is Rising** by *Susan Cooper* – it's meant to be a children's book, but it is thrilling, well written and had been selected by a guest of Desert Island Discs!

**A Little Trickerie** by *Rosanne Pike* – her first book with a very different writing style set in the early Tudor period; you would not want to live then!

*Janie Bolitho* – she wrote seven crime novels set in Cornwall; the first one I picked up from the selection of books in the Village Hall '**Framed in Cornwall**'; it's an easy read.

So too is *Clare Baldwin's Pastures New*' her first novel and has an interesting story line.

I have been recommended to read **The Names** by *Florence Knapp* which I have asked the Library for – I'm 154 on the list so I will probably have to buy it!

## Grafty Green Wanderers Cricket team – Match Report 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The late May heatwave was in full flow as the Wanderers arrived at Egerton Cricket ground to play their “ Old Rivals “ in a 30 over match. As the Growlers encamped under the shade of their umbrellas on the hill, the 32-degree heat made it feel like playing at The Wankhede stadium in Mumbai rather than the Kent countryside. The absence of Docker, their motivational coach meant that Baby face had to give the rallying cry to The Wanderers and on winning the toss, decided to field.

The Prof was nursing a severe hangover after his exploits from the previous day but still committed to play whilst The Benidorm Swinger had decided not to play due to his extended holiday commitments so the Egerton opening batsman had to face the new Wanderers opening bowlers of Road Runner and Amiga Man.

The first 12 overs was a truly magical display of cricketing prowess from The Wanderers. Road Runner and Amiga Man delivered an outstanding bowling display with Road Runner taking 2 wickets in his 6 overs with 3 maidens for only 14 runs including a great catch by The Ginger and clean bowling C Brandreth for a golden duck. At the other end Amiga Man had 2 wickets for 18 runs off his 6 overs, clean bowling J Woods for a duck, getting T Brandreth caught by The Beef and running out C Lumley for 17.

The great bowling coupled with some excellent fielding by the whole team left Egerton at 37 for 5 after the first 12 overs...

The new Egerton pairing found themselves in an invidious situation and slowly went about their business looking to take singles at every possibility to keep the score ticking over. The Brickie was again bowling tidily only giving away 11 of his first 3 overs whilst in his 2nd over, the Beef did have a memorable 9, yes a 9 ball over, his 3rd over produced 2 successive wickets a run out and another fabulous catch by Ginger behind the stumps.

Egerton were now 61 for 7 after the 18th over when S Wellhard came to the crease with a look of determination on his face but runs were still hard to come by off the bowling of both The Brickie and Baby Face. In true Wanderer commitment, in the 24th over, Mini Me thrust out his hand to stop a certain boundary off a strongly hit ball but rather than hitting the centre of his palm the ball dislocated his index finger which required him leaving the field to go to hospital for medical attention.

The 12th man is generally always the bridesmaid and rarely the bride but not today as Scratchin Tendulkar left his scorebook duties and ran to take his place on the field. The Brickie finished with very respectable figures of 32 for 1 off his 6 overs and Egerton were 90 for 7 with 6 overs remaining.

S Wellhard played a great final 6 overs, hitting some great boundaries as well as grabbing the singles to ensure he stayed on strike. He lost his partner lbw from a great delivery by The Beef which ended a partnership of 60 and left Egerton at 121 for 7.

The last 3 overs saw a flurry of late boundaries as Wellhard threw caution to the wind hitting a magnificent 6 off the last ball of the innings to give him 54 not out and leave Egerton at 143 for 8. The Beef finished with figures of 26 for 2 off his 6 overs.

After a small break Egerton took to the field as The Prof and Amiga Man strolled to the crease with a real sense of both purpose and belief that this could be a Wanderers Day. The Prof still looking for his illusive 50 faced some tight and precise bowling which tested his patience. Meanwhile Amiga Man was pushing the score along with a few boundaries and running a magnificent 3 in the 6th Over.

In the 7th over it felt like Egerton had been watching replays of The Prof's previous dismissals, Lumley bowled the ball that teased The Prof to play that shot, the shot that he shadow practices away from the nets, the shot that could generate boundaries but never really connects in a match but rather drops into the waiting fielders hands. The Prof was out for 6 and the Wanderers were 31 for 1 off 6 overs .

A few overs later, the bowler changed and his first delivery caught Amiga Man completely unaware, he was clean bowled for 18 runs. The Beef then joined the Chairman and immediately drove the ball to the boundary, setting out his intent for his innings. The Chairman had played a crucial role supporting his fellow partners including a fabulous boundary but finally lost his wicket to an LBW decision and The Wanderers were 86 for 3 after 14 overs.

The Brickie then partnered The Beef and kept the scoreboard ticking over with a series of singles and boundaries with The Beef mainly keeping the strike he finally retired not out in the 23rd over with a fabulous 53 runs. Baby face then strolled to the wicket knowing the Wanderers only needed 5 runs of the last 7 overs to win the match. The Brickie selflessly took a quick single leaving Baby Face to stroke the next ball to the boundary to claim victory and the adulation of The Growlers on the hill.

A well-deserved victory to The Wanderers and the man of the match was Road Runner with his outstanding bowling figures of 14 for 2 off his 6 overs with 3 maidens.

If you have some cricketing prowess and want to come along to join the Team, please feel free to contact Paul on 07803 610800.

*Report written by Dean Cutbill*

#### **Team players nick names**

Dean Cutbill - Scratchin Tendulkar	Jake Russ - No Fuss Russ
James Iles - Baby Face	Matt Smith - Mini Me
Jack Geary - The Prof	Rob McNeill - The Gorgeous one
Paul Stapley - The Brickie	Mark Tomlinson - The Benidorm Swinger
Niall McNulty - The Ginger	Jay Bray - Amiga Man
Gary Thompson - Road Runner	Nick Eastwood - The Chairman
Steve Legon - The Leg	Steve Peter - The Fireman
Dave Ryan - Dangerous	Matt Iles - The Beef
Ada Hook - The Hook	Josh Pankhurst - Panks

# Update on the recent meeting with regards to the proposed housing development in Woodcock Land

A meeting was held on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> June at the Village hall to assist people from the village, to come together to help to understand the next steps, to help make a decision , gather thoughts and help.

The meeting was well received with over 30 people in attendance. So, thank you to all who made it and apologies to anyone in the village who was not aware of the meeting. It was circled on Facebook and a small WhatsApp group.

Another meeting will be held once the plans go live on the Maidstone Borough Council website, as this is when we can properly come together to discuss the next steps, so I will ensure that I will pop a notification of this through as many people's front doors as possible. It will also be advertised in the village hall notice board.

There were many thoughts being swapped around mainly in how we approach the developers to either voice our concerns, to offer alternatives to the concerns mentioned, or merely to let the developers know that they are going to be objecting to the plans.

The worries, concerns and upset of this development, was clear to see and hear from all the discussion being had , with regards to the build, not just when its complete but during the duration of the build. Some of these are listed below, and I am sure there are many others.

## **See below:**

Road Safety on a 60-mile and hour single track road, with a dangerous blind bend, with no footpaths and no area to add those

Our poor roads are already under pressure and are in poor repair.

Pollution

Sewage, Water Pressure, Flooding, Water supply.

Where would the lorries park while the build is going ahead, where would they wash these lorries down, the number of lorries using that road every day.

Dust, dirt and noise.

Street lighting, Loss of those lovely black skies.

Trees are being cut down.

And of course , the beautiful wildlife that use that land, birds, bats, small mammals and snakes , as well as the land itself being frequented by badgers, hedgehogs, birds of prey and owls. We are also aware of turtle doves nesting in the trees; all this will be lost.

Grafty Green is a farming community all of which are over 100 years old. We are a small village with very little amenities, including no shop and public transport only once a week.

At the meeting there was an idea to create a petition, so this has now been arranged, and by the time this goes out, hopefully someone would have knocked on your door to give you the opportunity to sign, of course there is no pressure and it is still a personal choice as to which way everyone will go with regards to the development, and your personal choice will be respected.

It's a small thing, but Grafty Green is worth fighting for and we will do all we can to show how we feel. At least we can say we have tried everything.

Below are details included on the petition:

### **Petition against the building of 9 dwellings on Woodcock Lane, Grafty Green, Kent**

***Grafty Green is not a sustainable location for new housing, minimal public transport of 1 day per week, no amenities and 2 pubs.. The proposed site will be set back from the rest of the village with its access located on a single-track road opposite a farm entrance just down from a blind corner that moves from 60mph to 30mph near to the access of the site, there are no footpaths and the verges are already in dire condition. The village is located in the centre of a large farming community all of which are over 100 years old surrounded by green fields, the farm traffic should take priority therefore continual construction traffic will impact the roads which are mainly single track and already in a substandard condition. The land in Woodcock Lane is greenfield therefore there is currently no provision for mains services along a road which already suffers from flooding issues, the water pressure is very low and at times the water supply is nonexistence adding anymore dwellings or hard landscaping of any type will cause more flooding and supply issues both for the residents and the farms livestock. The site has been left untouched for many years, and the mature hedgerows forms an important ecological corridor supporting pollinators, birds, bats, small mammals and snakes as well as the land itself being frequented by badgers, hedgehogs, birds of prey and Owls. The loss of this site and hedgerows would significantly reduce local biodiversity, disturb foraging, nesting sites which is critical for maintaining the health and character of the countryside.***

***We the undersigned residing in Grafty Green object to the proposed planning and development of Greenfield land to erect 9 houses in Woodcock Lane, Grafty Green.***

Once the information comes live on the Maidstone Borough Council website, if there is anyone who is going to be objecting to the build and need some assistance to complete the document , or don't have access to a computer or laptop and would appreciate some guidance, we are going to offer some help with times to be arranged in the village hall with someone who can sit down with a laptop to help complete the paperwork. We are also offering an option to be part of a WhatsApp group to exchange details, if this is something you would like to do, please let me know, but if you're happy to just be informed through door to door that is also ok.

I am happy for you to email me with any questions with regards to the help in completing the form, obviously I cannot answer questions with regards to the build or the developers and I am not part of the parish council, so if this is a question you feel more directed to them, please contact one of the councillors.

My email address is [nickioliver2006@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nickioliver2006@yahoo.co.uk)

If anyone wants to see the details that were submitted when Ulcombe has recently had their planning development refused, please see the below link, it may help someone with more information.

The recent Ulcombe site: [Erection of 20\(no\) dwellings \(including 8\(no\) affordable dwellings\), with 48\(no\) parking spaces, open space and landscape buffering with access from Eastwood Road. - Land At Eastwood Road Ulcombe Maidstone Kent ME17 1ED](#)

Thank you for reading. Further updates will be provided as and when the news goes live, details of the next meeting will be circled as soon as possible.

In the meantime, there is a meeting being held in the village hall on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm, to meet with your KCC Councillor, if you have concerns, ideas or questions about local services, roads, highways, education, community safety, or other KCC Matters, please come along.

*Take care Nicki and Mark*

## **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

### **The Parish Council & Planning Applications**

With the current public concern about planning, it is a pertinent time to remind, or inform, parishioners that the Maidstone Borough Council planning site at <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/> allows users to sign up for email alerts to planning applications submitted within a defined region. Parishioners have the opportunity to submit responses within a deadline (usually 3 weeks). They may also request the parish council to consider the application and submit its own response. As we have to give public notice for our meetings that needs to be done quite promptly to allow us to meet the deadline. It is also more compelling upon the parish council if reason is given as to why it is in the public interest to submit a response.

When we call a council meeting, we issue a notice on our website and on the notice board on the green.

# MEET YOUR KCC COUNCILLOR

Your voice  
Your community  
Your county



MONDAY  
6<sup>th</sup> JULY



6:30 PM



GRAFTY GREEN  
VILLAGE HALL

Do you have concerns, ideas, or questions about local services, roads, highways, education, community safety, or other Kent County Council matters?

Come along and meet your local KCC Councillor for an informal discussion.



*All residents welcome.*

Working together for our community.

Kent  
County  
Council  
kent.gov.uk



## Katie Lam MP's

One of my favourite things to do in the summer is to visit many of our fantastic local vineyards here in the Weald.

Kent has a long history of growing vines, stretching back centuries, but in recent years our corner of the county has become home to some of the finest vineyards and wineries in the country. From family-run producers to internationally recognised names, they're helping put the Weald on the map while supporting local jobs, tourism, and our rural economy.



But just like many of our farms, pubs and independent shops, our vineyards are being squeezed by red tape, high taxes and rising production costs. All of this pushes up prices, making it harder for our producers to compete and harder for people to support them.

I recently went to a friend's wedding in France. Driving around Provence the following day, I popped into a little vineyard with a tasting room – not unlike one of our own small family producers here (though of course, none could truly compare with those we have here at home!).

I bought a nice bottle of white for €18, roughly what you might spend on, say, a bottle of Biddenden Ortega (£15.95, about €18.50). But these two vineyards are not competing on even playing fields.

Because whilst the French wine producer and the Kentish one are both paying sales tax (VAT in the UK) of 20%, in England, our vineyards are also paying another 18% – nearly £3 on a £16 bottle – in alcohol duty. The equivalent tax in France? Just three-euro cents, €0.03. That means the Kentish producer is paying nearly twice as much tax per bottle as the French, and that means the vineyard needs to charge its customers almost a third more per bottle to make the same amount of money.

And that's before business rates, corporation tax, national insurance or packaging duty, and before you factor in the huge subsidies the French government pays to their winemakers!

Over the last few months, I've written to every vineyard across the Weald and taken their concerns directly to HM Treasury. The new duty system is far too complicated, and it's often smaller vineyards that are hit hardest. The Government must do more to help English wine producers grow and succeed. It can't be right that English vineyards face higher costs and tighter margins, imposed upon them by the Government, than many of their French competitors.

But the future of English wine remains incredibly bright. The quality of British sparkling wine is now recognised around the world, and many local producers are telling me that this season's grapes are looking particularly promising.

So, if you're looking for something to do this summer, why not spend an afternoon exploring one of our local vineyards? Enjoy the countryside, learn about the winemaking process, and perhaps treat yourself to a bottle of British wine and support local.



On a related note, nominations are now open for my Weald of Kent Awards 2026. If there's a local hero, independent shop, business, farmer, grower, producer (including wine!), pub, café or restaurant that deserves recognition, I'd love to hear from you. You can find out more and submit a nomination here: [www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards](http://www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards)




Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA



# Grafty Green Craft Group FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Demonstrations and the opportunity to  
have a go and free kits to take home!  
Children welcome with a responsible adult



11th July  
10.00-1.00

Knitting, crochet, sewing, dyeing,  
decoupage, diamond art, floristry,  
embroidery, spinning and free tea, coffee  
and cake

Please apply for your free ticket by  
contacting [wendywoeellis@aol.com](mailto:wendywoeellis@aol.com)  
or 07983543840 to ensure we  
have enough tea, coffee, cake and  
kits.



# CHRISTMAS



**CRAFT  
FAIR  
21st and  
22nd  
Nov 10-2**



**SAVE THE DATE**

Visit both days so you don't  
miss a thing!



**TEA COFFEE  
AND CAKE ON  
SATURDAY**

**CRAFTY GREEN  
VILLAGE HALL  
ME17 2BA**

Tea coffee and bacon  
sandwiches on  
Sunday



# GRAFTY GREEN FARMERS MARKET

**EVERY FRIDAY, 1-3 P.M.  
GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL**



Come along and enjoy a wonderful selection of local produce, home-baked treats, crafts, and more — all from your friendly local traders!

## **Are you a trader?**

We're currently looking for producers, particularly those offering bread, cheese, or meat products to join our market community.

For more details, please contact:  
[info.graftygreen@gmail.com](mailto:info.graftygreen@gmail.com)

# Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 07803 962339

## 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 11:55 – 12:45**  
Subject to adjustment

**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 – [griftygreen.info@gmail.com](mailto:griftygreen.info@gmail.com)

**Friday 1- 3pm**

## Regular Monthly Events

**Gardening Club**  
Doreen 01622 850287

**First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm**

# The Grafty Gourmet

## BARBECUE CHIPOLTE PORK AND PINEAPPLE SKEWERS

A very simple yet great recipe. These Mexican inspired skewers are great to throw on the barbecue. The pineapple helps to tenderise the pork, which has a smoky heat from the chipotle marinade.

For the Tajin (Tajin is a Mexican condiment):

1 teaspoon of chipotle chilli flakes  
2 tablespoons of sea salt flakes  
Zest of 1 lime

For the skewers:

2 pork tenderloins (about 450g each)  
1 small pineapple, peeled  
3 garlic cloves  
¼ small red onion  
1 tablespoon of chipotle paste  
½ teaspoon of ground cumin  
½ teaspoon of oregano  
1 clove  
1 tablespoon of vegetable oil  
1 lime, cut into wedges  
Corn tortillas to serve  
Salsa or hot sauce to serve

Metal skewers

1. To make the Tajin, mix the chipotle chilli flakes, sea salt and lime zest in a pestle and mortar and grind together.
2. Add 120g of the pineapple to a blender with the garlic, onion, chipotle paste, cumin, oregano, clove, veg oil and a pinch of salt. Blend until smooth. Halve the pork tenderloins lengthways, then cut into thin slices widthways. Pour the pineapple mixture over the pork. Stir to coat, then marinate for at least 4 hours (ideally overnight) in the fridge.
3. Core and cube the rest of the pineapple (you want the cubes to be the same width as the pork slices, so they sit flush on the skewers and cook evenly). Using metal skewers, on each skewer thread on a cube of pineapple, followed by about 5 slices of pork. Repeat until you get to the end of the skewer, then finish with a lime wedge.
4. Cook on a hot barbecue, turning regularly until nicely charred and cooked through (about 10 minutes). Serve immediately, sprinkled with Tajin, alongside tortillas, salsa and/or hot sauce.

# Grafty Green Gardening Club

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

## Programme for 2026

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
July 7	Outing - Barnfield Cottages, Wormshill, ME9 0TU	
July 24 - 26	Weekend away – Walmer Castle, Great Dixter, Butlers Farm House, Herstmonceux Castle and grounds, Driftwood, King John's Nursery, Goddards Green. Dinner bed and Breakfast at Landsdowne Hotel, Eastbourne	
August 4	Outing to Jungle Garden at Wye	
September 1	Autumn Show and Catriona	Romney Wools
October 6	Chris Stewart	The hop bine and hop pickers of Kent
November 3	Stephen Harmer	La Claire the Story of Jersey's lost garden
December 1	Social and creative activity	

## Here are some gardening jobs for July

July is all about maintaining the garden.

- Dead head roses, bedding plants and perennials in the borders. This will keep the plants flowering.
- Pick sweet peas regularly to keep them coming.
- Water containers regularly and feed weekly. Best to water in the early morning or late evening and to soak plants at their roots. Keep an eye on anything newly planted as these will need extra water.
- Feed tomatoes and greenhouse crops weekly.
- Plant bulbs for autumn displays.....nerines, sternbergia and colchicums.
- Harvest veg so that they keep producing.
- Thin out congested apples to leave just one which will grow bigger and healthier.
- And there's always weeding!

**Ulcombe History Society  
2026 programme**

January 20<sup>th</sup> Guy Bartlett

“British women in aviation”

February 17<sup>th</sup> Derrick Parkes

“The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies”

March 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Adamson

“Kentish clerical errors”

April 21<sup>st</sup> Melanie Gibson-Barton

“Suffragettes and Suffragists – votes for women”

May 19<sup>th</sup> Adam Taylor

“Islands of the Medway Estuary”

October 20<sup>th</sup> Bertie Pearce

“Wonder workers and the art of illusion”

November 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Adamson

“Making and faking of ghost stories”

December 8<sup>th</sup> Imogen Corrigan

“The goose is getting fat”

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

# EGERTON COMPUTER CENTRE

Free advice for your computing problems



• Get online



• Email



• New device set-up



• Tablets



• Phones



• PCs



• Worried about hackers & scammers?



• Email recovery



• Learn about the joys of AI

## HELP CHOOSING NEXT DEVICE

• Balance Performance  
and Budget

• Assess Compatibility  
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# Catch Me If You Can

Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time: 2 hrs 15 mins, directed by Steven Spielberg*

For July we celebrate the work of legendary director Steven Spielberg and bring you the winner of our audience vote for this season, **Catch Me If You Can** (12, 2002). Thank you Audience, for selecting this stylish comedy drama set in the 1960's, a perfect choice for a summer's evening. **Catch Me If You Can** is based on the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr (played by Leonardo DiCaprio), a con man who poses as a pilot, doctor and lawyer and cashes forged cheques worth millions, all before his 21st birthday. He is constantly pursued by tenacious FBI agent Carl Hanratty (played by Tom Hanks). Steven Spielberg gives us a splendid evening of thrills and laughter combined, so do come and share it with us.

And we provide more comedy and drama the following month. Our performance on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August is **The Penguin Lessons**, which like **Catch Me If You Can** is based on a true story. This time the story is about a penguin whose life is saved by a disillusioned English teacher. The penguin turns out to have his own ideas about what happens next.

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



## News from St.Nicholas Church – July 2026

What a season of sporting events this summer, cricket, tennis, football, athletics, rugby league, rugby union and so on. These are taking place on the international stage, let alone all the local and school sports. I am in awe of the dedication, discipline, teamwork and sheer hard work the participants put into their chosen field. Every year there seem to be more records shattered.

Certainly, an example to everyone that getting out and sharing our efforts and interests with others can bring amazing rewards. We don't all have to win or exhaust ourselves, just taking part can change lives. We can give many thanks to those who work to organise the many opportunities available just in our own community, church and Village Hall. I particularly enjoy the music and singing in our second and third Sunday church services. The quiet of the first Sunday service is equally welcoming. Join us anytime, no previous knowledge required! There are always refreshments and company after, if you feel like it.

### Usual reminders

Same as always. The church porch is open at all times. Feel free to make a hot drink, relax in the peace of its surroundings, read a verse or two from the Bible, request a prayer or make use of the mini food bank if needed.

We were pleased to join our prayers to requests left in the porch in June.

Also remember there is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am - 4.00 pm.

There is a cold tap round the back of the church, if you need to top up the kettle or dog bowl. Just follow the path past the West door.

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

Local art society spent a few hours at the church in June. I hope they enjoyed the visit and we would love to see any of their artwork.

**Coffee and Cake time is proving popular.** Now with a change in the visiting Post Office. We have had a preview of the large van that will soon be the regular feature outside. Hopefully a more reliable opportunity for everyone. The timing is a little different, but coffee and cake will still be there! As always, the donations are shared between St Nicolas church and a charity chosen by the regulars.

We are about to give another £100 to benefit the aid work and workers in the DRC in Africa struggling to contain the Ebola epidemic. There is a desperate need for improved sanitation and clean water. Will keep everyone updated.

## **Farmers' Market**

Still enjoying our days at the Friday market. At the moment we are able to almost sell out most days! Our church stall is there the first Friday of the month and we are also able to use a card reader, which makes it easier for many people. We provide a variety of savoury and sweet scones. Catching up with friends, old and new is a joy, as well as the lovely stall holders. Do come if you haven't already visited.

Help! The dedicated, very small group of volunteers who keep the church looking welcoming and fresh are hoping others would like to come and give a hand in its upkeep. This is a very special ancient, historically important and listed building in our midst, available to all in the community for many centuries, for so many family events and celebrations, with no outside support. It serves us all by its presence and deserves to be cherished for future generations. Liz Burgess would be pleased to give more information and advice; you can see her notice. If you haven't seen it, her contact details are on 07788 868174, or 01622 850377. Join the family!

## **Cream Teas season is now here!**

We are gearing up to meet everyone in July and August. The excitement is rising.



Dates are on the **Sundays of July 19th and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2nd and 9<sup>th</sup>**

The times are from 2.30pm - 5.00pm each day, with a price of £5.00 per person.

Provided is unlimited tea, coffee or soft drink, two scones, plain or fruit. Cheese scones are also available, all homemade. On the tray will be your choice of jams, with butter and whipped cream.

*Sally Alexander*

# ***Len Valley Benefice July 2026***



Everybody is welcome

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

*1 John 4 v7 (part)*

## **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Chippendayle

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship *with Baptism*

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Morning Worship

**6.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**11.00am** **Benefice Holy Communion Service at All Saints, Ulcombe**

*Please note that during **July** some services may need to be altered or cancelled at short notice due to circumstances beyond our control.*

# Christian Message - July 2026

## Time to rest

When you read this in July, I expect your thoughts will be of the summer, holiday time and even, perhaps, a breakaway somewhere. As I write this in May it's not very summery but I, too, am about to enjoy a little break with my husband and four dear friends who we join every year. Our bags are packed, a route planned and arrangements made regarding our pets. We are looking forward to good company, delicious food, local attractions and a welcome rest.

The Bible presents rest as both a physical necessity and a spiritual gift from God. From the very beginning, it is woven into creation itself—God rested, it says, on the seventh day after His work (Genesis 2: 2–3), setting an example for us all.

In the 10 Commandments we are told of the importance of rest. Exodus 20: 8–11 reminds us to pause regularly in order to remember who God is and all that he provides.

Beyond physical rest, the Bible also speaks of a deeper rest found in God's presence. Psalm 23 portrays the Lord as a shepherd who leads His people to peaceful places. Jesus echoes this in Matthew 11: 28–30, inviting the weary to come to Him for rest—not just for their bodies, but for their souls.

Sometimes, in the busyness of daily routine, we fail to see the direction our life is taking or to notice areas we are neglecting. We need time to sit back and try to see the bigger picture, recharge and reset.

Ultimately, the Bible points to an eternal rest with God (Hebrews 4: 9–11), where striving ends and creation is renewed. Rest, then, is not just the absence of work; it is the presence of peace—found in trusting and abiding in Him.

God loves us and wants the best for us. We are of no use when burnt out and fractious. When we rest, be it on a Sunday or any other day, we enable ourselves to then serve God and each other more effectively.

I hope you really enjoy your summer. Please do try to make time for a good rest enabling you to then continue onwards and upwards with renewed strength in mind, body and spirit.

Pamela Cuerden (May 2026).

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Lenham Surgery (*recorded messages*) **01622 858341**

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