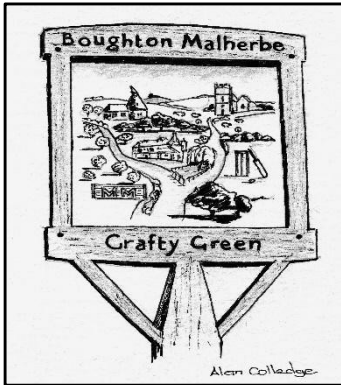




Malherbe Monthly

Number 264
Aug 2026



Blooming lovely
Thanks to Rob, for regular watering

Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Sarah Emberson Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk	
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall 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 info.graflygreen@gmail.com	
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
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Carol Hulm Carol Hulm Nick Eastwood John Collins	Advertising: carolhulm@gmail.com Editor: carolhulm@gmail.com Distribution: eastwood.n@gmail.com Treasurer: jwcollins@btinternet.com	07990 574214 07990 574214 850330 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 sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **28th Aug**

Local Interests and Announcements

Help needed! Volunteer response, thank you to Rosemary and Irene for responding to the church cleaning request, also Thank you to Rob for taking on the planter watering it's looking blooming lovely thanks to regular watering, see front cover

Grafty Green Wanderers Cricket Matches for August

The August match is versus East Sutton starting at 2pm on 8th August at Eastwood Sutton Cricket Club, East Sutton Road, East Sutton ME17 3DT

The Friday morning Craft Group's open morning was very well attended and it was wonderful to welcome so many visitors.

Guests enjoyed watching demonstrations of our various crafts and had the opportunity to try their hand at a range of activities, which proved especially popular with the younger visitors

The event was free to attend and the refreshments were enjoyed by everyone. A big thank you to everyone who baked cakes and helped make the morning such a success. We were delighted to donate £362 to the new Heart of Kent Hospice being built at Linton. This total was raised through generous donations and the raffle, including some carried over from the Christmas Fair.

Thank you to everyone who came along—we hope you had an enjoyable morning.

If you would like to find out more about the Friday morning Craft Group, please pop into the Village Hall on Friday mornings between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, or contact Janis Carter on 01622 850898.



Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
(Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006
Electoral Administration Act 2006
Representation of People Act 1983 (Schedule A1)

Maidstone Borough Council is undertaking an interim Polling District and Polling Place Review in accordance with the above legislation. The purpose of the review is to ensure that all polling districts and polling places are, as far as possible, effective, and convenient for voters and accessible to everyone.

The Council would welcome the views of all residents, particularly disabled residents, or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability, on the proposals, and (Acting) Returning Officer's representation, or any other related matters. Persons or bodies making representations should, if possible, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.

Consultation closes: 19 August 2026

If you have any queries about this consultation, please email: consultation@maidstone.gov.uk
All comments received during the consultation period will be considered as part of the review.

Please note: This is a statutory public consultation. All responses, including the respondents name and/or organisation, will be made publicly available. Contact details will be removed. All responses will be available to view at the Maidstone House Reception or on the Council's website.

Proposal – Headcorn & Sutton Valence - Grafty Green Village Hall & Filmer Hall

To use Ulcombe Village Hall (Headcorn Road, Ulcombe, ME17 1HD) for polling districts J & JA (Headcorn & Sutton Valence, Boughton Malherbe, East Sutton, Maidstone Rural East).

Returning Officer's Comments:

Grafty Green Village Hall has limited parking and no dedicated disabled bay. The hall is accessed directly from the main entrance with no space for Tellers. The entrance is also directly on the main road, which as no pavement or street lighting. Lips on all entrances to the building are considered a trip hazard.

Filmer Hall has no parking. The hall is located on a road without a footpath or street lighting. There is a lip at the entrance to the building which poses a trip hazard and the building is unsuitable for a ramp making disabled access difficult. The access through the kitchen makes it difficult for powered wheelchair users.

It is proposed that voters in the J & JA polling districts vote at Ulcombe Village Hall.



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

No yoga classes during August, but starting again on
Wednesday, 2nd September.

A regular yoga practice will give you a sense of wholeness, vitality, confidence, strength, and suppleness, enabling you to move freely without pain or injury. It boosts your immune system, rebalances the mind, and reduces tension.

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

For more information, please give me a call.

A Good Read!

A Good Read!

Last month I gave a few titles of books which I have enjoyed; following on there were some comments made to me about the article and books that others have enjoyed. In fact, I have a few lent to me for my next reading list so, I wondered ... do we need a book club in the village? Anyone interested?

I have read '***The Let them Theory***' by **Mel Robbins**; which is a self-help guide to manage everyday situations where you feel frustrated and powerless. Some useful tips that can also be passed on to friends and family when they start to complain about how a situation is getting them down.

Richard Osman's *The Impossible Fortune* – I zipped through that. It follows the characters that began with *The Thursday Murder Club*; all these novels in this series are entertaining.

Sue Burch

Grafty Green Wanderers – Smarden 24th June

The latent heat and high humidity on Wednesday evening made the cricketing cauldron that is the Smarden Cricket Ground feel like the Chidambaram stadium in Chennai. The Growlers encamped themselves in the shade of the great Oak tree as the Wanderers took to the field for this T20 match against Smarden. The Ginger, the Wanderers first choice wicket keeper was unavailable due to an injury so his understudy The Prof took his place behind the stumps.

The Benidorm swinger and the Road Runner opened the bowling. The opening batsmen of Richards and Underdown junior played themselves in hitting a few boundaries.

In the 5th over Panks took over from the Benidorm Swinger whose 2 overs had gone for 12 runs. In the 8th over the Road Runner delivered a fabulous delivery which sent Underdown's middle stump flying.

Smarden were 51-1 and the Road Runner ended with figures of 20 for 1 off his 4 overs.

Alex "Our man from BTF" joined Panks in the bowling attack bringing his pace and variety of delivery to the attack delivering a great spell of 2 overs for 8 runs.

Smarden were 70 for 1 at the start of the 13th over when The Brickie and The Beef were summoned to the bowling attack.

The batsmen kept the scoreboard ticking over running every possible single and several boundaries and at the end of the 17th over were 115-1.

At the start of the 18th over The Brickie had a glint in his eye, he gave ball an extra long polish, gave a knowing smile to Scratchin Tendulkar at silly mid-on and powered in to produce an exceptional delivery which demolished the stumps.

Phipps the new batsman made his way to the crease and cast his eye around the field as Baby Face moved the Beef to deep square leg. The Brickie, his "pecker" up powered in, the batsmen swung through the ball and sent it flying towards the square leg boundary.

To the amazement of both the Wanderers, The Growlers and the Smarden players, The Beef leapt into the air like a slightly overweight gazelle, arching his back, he plucked the ball from the air, a truly outstanding catch and a great tactical field placement.

At 115 for 3, The Brickie was now on a hat trick as Smarden's top batsmen walked to the wicket. He turned and bowled a fantastic delivery which struck the batsman on the pads but alas it was deemed to be missing the stumps.

The Brickie added a final wicket in the 20th over to end with some outstanding figures of 28-3 from his 4 overs.

Smarden finished with 139 for 4 with their opening batsmen, Richard's retiring 50 not out.

Requiring a run rate of 7 per over the Wanderers opening batsman walked to the crease. The third ball of the innings was duly smashed to the boundary by The Prof to get the scoreboard moving.

Unfortunately the first 3 overs saw the loss of the two opening batsman both being caught in the field for only 9 runs.

The Chairman and Panks were the new batsmen and provided a flurry of quick boundaries moving the score onto 42 until in the 8th over The Chairman was bowled by Hope for 11 runs.

The Beef then joined Panks at the wicket until in the 10th over, Hope struck again trapping Panks LBW for 22 runs, reducing The Wanderers to 58-4.

Baby Face then joined his brother at the crease playing himself in with a few well run singles.

In the 12th over, Smarden made a bowling change bringing Underdown senior into the attack and in his three overs he managed to clean bowl both The Beef for 21 runs and Baby Face for 13 runs.

The Hook was then caught off the bowling of Underdown junior in 17th over to leave The Wanderers 81 for 7.

With an impossible required run rate The Road Runner and The Brickie realised the next 3 overs was about pushing The Wanderers score towards a respectable 100.

After the 20 overs both batsmen were not out with The Brickie on 18 including 3 boundaries and the Road Runner on 8.

The Wanderers finished on 101 for 7 after 20 overs losing by 37 runs.

Man of the match was The Brickie with bowling figures of 28 for 3 and a rapid innings of 18 not out.

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

Lenham Match report – 3rd July

The Grafty Green Growlers set up camp next to Lenham's cricket pavilion and as the Grafty Green Wanderers took to the field there was a real sense of anticipation in the air, maybe they were mindful that on this day 50 years ago, the Israeli commandos raided the hijacked jet on Entebbe's air field and freed 103 hostages and maybe, just maybe this could be a Wanderers Day.

Having won the toss, Baby Face set his field and decided to open the bowling with Road Runner and Amiga Man. Road Runner the sun on his back powered in and delivered a fabulous series of deliveries. On his 3rd ball, the batsman swung and sent the ball high towards the boundary. To the amazement of both the Batsmen and The wanderers, the Beef leapt into the air like Rudolf Nureyev, " The Flying Tatar ", taking an outstanding one-handed catch to reduce Lenham to 0-1.

On his 5th delivery, Road Runner gave the ball another hard polish and delivered another great ball which the new batsmen smashed dipping towards the Prof who caught the low dipping ball much to the adulation of both the Team and The Growlers. Lenham were now 4-2 after the first over. Amiga Man then took up the attack and on his 4th delivery clean bowled the new batsmen and Lenham were now an unbelievable 5-3 after only 10 deliveries!

In his second over Road Runner kept a fabulous line and length and after a great 6 from the batsmen, he popped up a delivery that had remaining opening batsmen caught by Amiga Man redeeming himself for the dropped catch a few balls earlier. Lenham were now in full collapse finding themselves at 17-4 after just 3 overs.

Over the next few overs, the new batsmen played themselves in taking a few singles and the odd boundary. The Benidorm Swinger had replaced Amiga Man and in his final over the Road Runner had the batsman caught again by The Prof to give him his 5th wicket for only 21 runs off his 4 overs and enter the annals of Wanderers history as the first bowler to do so in a competitive match.

In his second over The Benidorm Swinger's delivery forced the batsmen onto his back foot, the ball hit the under edge of his bat and as the batsmen tried to kick it away, the ball fell onto his wicket and Lenham were now 43-7 after 8 overs.

As The Wanderers continued to set a tight and close field, The Batsmen tried to keep the scoreboard ticking over by hitting a few boundaries, but runs were very hard to come by as The Wanderers fielding was the best it's ever been.

The Brickie was delivering another exceptional bowling display giving away only 10 runs in his first 3 overs and his final over was a magnificent double wicket maiden as one batsmen was caught with a great reactionary catch by The Ginger who had having another excellent evening behind the stumps and then the replacement batsmen was cleaned bowled giving him some outstanding bowling figures of 2 for 10 off his 4 overs.

The final wicket went to The Beef who cleaned bowled the batsmen which meant Lenham were all out for 84 after 19 overs. Lenham cricketers applauded the Wanderers as they left the field led by the Road Runner whose 5 for 21 was the performance of the innings.

The Prof and The Chairman strode to the crease to face the opening fast bowling attack from Russell and Giles. Both batsmen played themselves in with a few early singles before the Prof struck a series of boundaries and with some excellent running between the wickets to move the score onto 43 -0 after 8 overs which included a series of byes as the Lenham wicket keeper struggled with the pace of his bowling attack.

The change of bowling attack was fruitful as in his first over a Woods delivery struck The Chairman on his pads, the bowler screamed "How's That ? ". Slim, the Umpire who had an excellent game, took an age before slowly raising his finger. The Chairman was out LBW for 7 runs including a truly fabulous boundary and The Wanderers were 49-1 off 10 overs.

Amiga Man joined The Prof at the wicket and after a jittery start Amiga Man got himself off the mark with a quick single followed by a few glorious boundaries.

In the 14th over, 20 runs short of his first Wanderers 50, The Prof was spectacularly caught off the bowling of Woods, his innings having included 5 boundaries, he left the field with an uncanny smile and greeted by a round of applause from the Growlers.

The Wanderers were now 72-2 after 14 overs and they now needed 13 to win off the last 6 overs. The Hook strode to the middle like a man who knew what had to be done and more importantly how to do it!

A few more quick singles from Amiga Man and a boundary left The Hook facing the new Bowler Milner in the 17th over with The Wanderers requiring 4 to win. Like a seasoned Pro, Hook picked the delivery off his toes and gently glanced the ball down the leg side for 2.

The Hook then left next delivery only to see the wicket keeper fail to collect it and the ball race to the boundary to complete a Wanderers victory with 3 overs to spare.

There were some excellent fielding including some great catching and very impressive bowling as well as some solid batting.

Man of the Match was Road Runner with 5 wickets for 21 runs off his 4 overs.



Note of Meeting on 24th July, 2026, Grafty Green Village Hall

Attendees: All members of the Parish Council and Ziggy Trzebinski (MBC Councillor for Headcorn and Sutton Valence) and approximately 36 villagers.

Before the discussions started, Nick Eastwood confirmed that the difference between this application and the previous applications (over 10 years ago) is that the policies are no longer relevant. SP8 is a policy that states that the village needs to have 25 new houses by 2038, which aligns with the Maidstone plans, which are currently behind in the house allocations. This fact will mean that applications will be subjected to a tilted balance, which means *the scales tip in favour of approval; permission is granted unless harms "significantly and demonstrably" outweigh benefits*.

It was also confirmed that there will be no decisions made during this meeting. There will be a separate public meeting scheduled as soon as all the information has been reviewed from this meeting.

Gary Thompson chaired the meeting with an agenda that included discussions on the points raised before, firstly confirming that the issues raised in a previous meeting had been presented to the developers, with the following responses:

- Plot 1 has been moved to the east to introduce a landscape buffer between the site and Ferndown. Following comments at the public meeting regarding anti-social behaviour, we have introduced vegetation and landscaping to deter this activity.
- We have decreased the size of the homes on plots 4, 5, and 8 to provide a greater range of dwelling sizes, to address comments raised regarding the provision of homes for first-time buyers.
- The internal road layout has been altered to avoid Root Protection Areas for trees along Woodcock Lane, to allow for their retention and maintain the character of the lane.
- The landscaping buffer to the south of the site has been enhanced further to enforce the defined edge of the site and built form of Grafty Green.

Topics for discussion and brief notes:

Highway

Kent CC is responsible for Highways, so it is recommended to email Sarah Emberson, KCC

- It was noted that there needs to be visibility of 130metres, from the entrance to the site, both sides.
- Safety on the width of road, walking to bus stop, pub, village hall, this is a concern.
- Recently, there were reflectors put in place by Kent as a safety measure in an adjacent property, these would be obscured, which were put in for safety purposes.

Drainage (surface & foul)

- Contaminated water running into the river, harming wildlife and farm animals

- Sewage needs research, as contamination is a serious concern
- Ditches are flooded

Water supply

- Water pressure has been turned down because the pipe is at risk.
- Water is the responsibility of Southern Water, whilst it is worth raising, this will not be considered a valid objection for the planning application.

Streetscene/Landscape impact/Fitting for village/Privacy

- Local plan. SP0 states it needs to be in keeping with the local area.
- Need to provide photos as evidence that the houses are not in keeping with surrounding.
- Not affordable houses
- SP9. In keeping with the village area
- Privacy. Adjacent properties overlooking, cars driving up and down the driveways

Ecology

- The survey is missing the animals that we know are there and protected species.
- Tree survey doesn't include big trees, or the root protection.
- Commissioned by the developer, which is normal.
- To argue the survey, it needs to be contested with an additional survey carried out.
- Development can be delayed whilst a survey is conducted (all seasons)
- Action: Object to the Ecology report with evidence so a further survey can be conducted.

Future expansion

This would open the floodgates to other property developers. It was stated that SP8 has opened the gate already and is part of the local plan.

Any Other Business

Electricity supply

Fire

Fire services are adequate as they are, but they are limited by the water issues, so again needs to be raised with Southern Water.

Recommendations/Guidance from Ziggy

- ❖ Send Individual emails for objections or supporting, don't use a template that is copied for people to submit. Make it concise and unique.
- ❖ Find out what policies relate to these topics so they can be quoted and or researched to see if any would be applicable as an objection.
- ❖ An Inspector/planning officer will/should visit the adjacent property.

In order to get updates on the planning application, you will need to create an account so you can then track the application. Go to <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/> and register

There are several ways to have your say:

Via website <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/planning/comment-on-planning-applications>

Lobby the planning committee

Turn up at the planning meeting - the more people who attend the better. Dates are published on the Planning Website, so once you have registered, you can subscribe to get updates.

You can also send us your comments by email to planningcomments@midkent.gov.uk or by post:

Mid Kent Planning Support
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
ME15 6JQ

Closing comments: Nick asked for a show of hands about protesting the whole development or just parts of it. There was a unanimous vote in the room to fight the whole development.

The Parish council confirmed that they will be calling it in to go to committee vote.

Additional information:

If you wish to make your views known you can find guidance on what you can and cannot include on the Maidstone Planning website: <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/planning/comment-on-planning-applications>

To find the planning application, select Search on the <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/planning/search-for-a-planning-application> application reference is 26/502516, or type Boughton Malherbe

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th July 2025 at 7.30 pm at Grafty Green Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Eastwood, L Hook, G Thompson, C Tomlinson, S Peter

In Attendance:

S Emberson, KCC Councillor
Mrs M Norris (Clerk)

26/07/01. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

- There were no declarations of lobbying.
- No further declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were made.

26/07/02. Public Session

No members of the public wished to speak.

26/07/03. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Boughton Malherbe Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11 May 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

26/07/04. County Councillor and Borough Councillor Reports

The Borough Councillor was unable to attend this meeting and had passed on his apologies no report for this period had been received.

The County Councillor who had, prior to the BMPC meeting, held a public meeting for residents advised members that:

- A summary of current water-related matters would be circulated to the Council.
- Information had been circulated regarding the Kent County Council Budget Consultation and the consultation relating to High Speed train services.
- PC Members agreed these consultations should be promoted on the Parish Council website and Facebook page to encourage community participation.

26/07/05. Planning

No new planning applications were considered at the meeting for a formal response to the planning department, although the PC are aware of two prospective planning applications and

will continue to monitor the prospective planning application for the north side of Headcorn Road and respond once a formal application is submitted

At the date of the meeting, there had been no planning notifications relating to Woodcock Lane the PC will consult with our MBC Councillor in order to arrange a public meeting for residents.

The PC members discussed the recent traveller site application and noted concerns that the Parish Council had not been consulted correctly as the principal parish. It was agreed that these concerns had already been raised with the planning authority.

The Clerk advised that information had been added to the Parish Council website explaining:

- the role of the Parish Council in the planning process;
- how residents can submit comments via the Planning Portal; and
- material planning considerations and those matters which cannot be taken into account.

26/07/06. Finance

The Clerk reported the following balances:

- Unity Trust Bank: **£78,386.02**
- Lloyds Community Account: **£1,717.00**
- Lloyds Instant Access Account: **£6,474.00**

Income received:

- Lloyds Instant Access interest: **£2.65**

Payments authorised:

- Clerk's salary (May and June): **£899.08**
- Internal Auditor (Lionel Robbins): **£140.00**
- Grounds maintenance invoices (April, May and June): **£345.75**

Total payments authorised: **£1,384.83**

The Council approved:

- the Clerk's LC1 spinal column point salary increase in accordance with the employment contract.

The Clerk also reported that since the previous meeting the following payments had been made:

- Planters: **£58.57**
- Zurich Municipal insurance premium: **£241.00**

The internal audit report was received and noted.

The Clerk advised members that, following comments from the Internal Auditor, the Council would be required to register with HMRC in respect of Employer National Insurance contributions due on the Clerk's salary. The Clerk would progress the necessary registration with HMRC.

26/07/07. Correspondence

Members considered correspondence relating to:

- Rubbish and speeding traffic along Lenham Road in the vicinity of the traveller site.
- A prospective planning application on the north side of Headcorn Road.
- Esquire Developments' proposals relating to land at Woodcock Lane.

With regard to the correspondence concerning Lenham Road, members discussed ongoing concerns about litter, highway safety and traffic speeds.

It was noted that concerns relating to the traveller site along the Lenham Road had previously been raised with Maidstone Borough Council. Members acknowledged that some improvements had been made but remained concerned about the unauthorised access kerbs, which were considered a highway safety issue requiring enforcement. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the County Councillor for further investigation with the appropriate authority.

Action

Clerk

Members also discussed reports of litter along Lenham Road and in the vicinity of the traveller sites. The Clerk agreed to report the issue through the relevant reporting portal, whilst noting that responsibility for litter clearance depends on whether it is located on the highway, highway verge or private land.

The Council further discussed residents' concerns regarding traffic speeds on Lenham Road. It was noted that previous reports to Kent Police had resulted in advice that enforcement was not practical due to the nature of the road. Members considered that the principal issue was the appropriateness of the existing 60 mph speed limit rather than widespread speeding above the limit. It was suggested that Kent Highways be asked to review the speed limit and consider whether traffic surveys or other appropriate measures could be undertaken.

Action Clerk

Further discussion took place regarding concerns over traffic speeds on Lenham Road. Members agreed that the Parish Council should continue to pursue the matter with the relevant authorities and explore what further action could be taken.

Action Clerk

It was suggested that Kent Highways be asked to provide the results of any previous traffic speed surveys undertaken on the road, and that consideration be given to requesting further monitoring or a review of the speed limit if appropriate. Members recognised that the issue related more to the suitability of the current 60 mph speed limit than to excessive speeding above the legal limit.

Action Clerk

The Council discussed ways to improve communication with residents ideas included providing a regular summary of Parish Council activities on the website and noticeboards, enabling residents to see the actions being taken on local issues.

The correspondence regarding the prospective planning application on the north side of Headcorn Road was noted. Members acknowledged that, as the proposal was at the pre-application stage, no formal comments could be made until a planning application was submitted.

26/07/08. Insurance

The Council retrospectively approved the change of the Parish Council's insurance provider to Zurich, noting that the new policy represented a significant saving.

26/07/09. Reports on External Meetings

No meetings were attended during this period so no reports were received.

26/07/10 Bus Service

As reported last month, responsibility for the 59 bus service had now transferred to Kent County Council and a new timetable had been published and could be found on the PC website.

26/07/11. Matters for Information

There were no further business raised and the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Katie Lam MP's

One of the great privileges of representing the Weald is seeing, up close, just how many remarkable people and places there are in this corner of Kent – people working hard, often against a difficult backdrop, to do the things they love and to take care of their neighbours.

That's what the Weald of Kent Awards are all about. This year you sent in so many wonderful nominations that it was incredibly difficult to whittle them down to a shortlist, but we finally managed to pick just four in each category. Here, ready for your vote, are your finalists:



Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year

Aragon Farm, Sissinghurst – some of the very finest cherries and cherry juice in Kent.

Wayfarer Wines, Woodchurch – championing Wealden wines from their prize Bacchus to a new Ortega.

Kingcott Dairy, Staplehurst – the Reynolds family's grass-fed herd produces gorgeous raw milk and cheese.

Lovejoy Farm, Wittersham – top-quality local meat sold through their own shop and across the Weald.

Independent Shop of the Year

Frank's Bakery, Headcorn – Lovingly revitalised by its new owners.

Loddington Farm Shop, Linton – a hub of local food and wine alongside a lovely café.

TN17 Food & Wine, Sissinghurst – exceptionally well-stocked shop and post office.

Webb's of Tenterden – cookware, gifts, children's shop and an incredible ironmongers.

Local Business of the Year

Cranbrook Vets – an independent vets known for offering wonderfully personal care.

Olive Tree Vets, Charing – they go above and beyond with home visits for less mobile owners.

Rockits Sensory, Tenterden – a safe and happy space for children and young adults.

The Hawkhurst Bread Shed, Marden – a thriving local business with a very loyal following.

Local Hero of the Year

Matthew Knoesen, Biddenden – Just 13 years old, Matthew is already a French Open wheelchair tennis champion.

Mildred's Trust – a food bank and anti food waste project for local families facing hardship.

Staplehurst Emergency Help Team – tireless volunteers, particularly in recent water outages.

Wealden Community First Responders – volunteers helping save lives across the Weald.

Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year

The Queens Head, Sutton Valence – one of the finest beer gardens and views in Kent.

Willows End Tearooms, near Marden – homemade food in a warm and friendly setting.

The Bell & Jorrock, Frittenden – much-loved pub at the heart of village life for the past 20 years.

The Flying Horse, Smarden – A family-run pub which has raised extraordinary sums for good causes.



Every one of them helps makes the Weald what it is. Voting is open now and closes at the end of August – so learn more about our finalists and have your say here:

<https://www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards>

Katie

Village Hall News – August Newsletter

There I was thinking there wasn't much to tell you about this month and then it all kicked off so here goes with an update.

Since the last newsletter the ladies from the Craft Group have held their very successful Community Event. I don't want to steal anyone's thunder and I am sure there will be further detail on this elsewhere in these pages but having briefly dropped in for a cup of tea and cake I can report that it was an excellently organised event with lots of families including many children learning new crafting skills and having a brilliant time. They held a raffle and raised over £100 for a local hospice so well-done ladies for hosting such an informative and enjoyable event for the local community.

Farmer's Market on the Green July & August

Just a reminder that whilst we enjoy the nice weather the Farmer's Market will be hosted on the village green every Friday afternoon during July and August. In the event of rain they will set up in the village hall as normal.

Polling Station Review

Maidstone Borough Council are undertaking Polling Place review. The consultation on the proposals for change runs until Wednesday 19 August 2026.

They are looking to stop using our lovely village hall as a polling station, (you would need to visit Ulcombe under their proposals), their argument being that the use of technology, has enabled more centralised polling places to be created.

They claim that our village hall is unsuitable because there is no dedicated disabled parking, (disabled users as you know may park outside the front of the hall), no parking generally, (there is ample parking in road), the hall backs onto a road with no footpaths and apparently the front entrance is a trip hazard.

If their proposals are approved the elderly disabled, vulnerable in our community together with those people without access to a car would have to travel to Ulcombe to vote if they would like to do so in person rather than voting locally as they have done successfully for many years. I feel that our village life is under threat, over the years we have lost our local shop, the Post Office, we have a proposed housing development in Woodcock Lane and now under these proposals we will be denied our right to vote in person in our local community.

I would urge you to have your say on whether you are for or against losing the right to vote in elections in your local village hall by providing feedback to these proposals the link is as follows:-

<https://letstalkmaidstone.uk.engagementhq.com/polling-districts-places-2026-interim-review>

Indoor Boot Fair Sunday 25th October 2026 10 am to 2pm

On a more positive note, the trustees have once again decided to host an indoor boot fair at the hall in October. Tables will be £10 each and stall holders will be responsible for taking all their unsold items away with them at the end of the event. Please let me know if you would like to book a table on the contact details below. As usual there will be refreshments of tea and cake available so you can also enjoy a natter with friends.

Cream Teas at the Church Every Sunday until the 9th August 2.30pm to 5pm

Summer is here and they are back !



Enjoy a delicious cream tea at
St Nicholas Church
Boughton Malherbe (ME17 2BD)
Sunday 19th or 26th of July or
Sunday 2nd or 9th August 2024
2.30pm to 5pm
£5 per person

The cream teas hosted by the church are now in full swing every Sunday until the 9th August. If the weather is good you can enjoy two scones, (choice of cheese, fruit or plain), butter jam and cream together with tea or coffee, (squash for the children), in the churchyard. If it's raining, we will set up inside the church. The cost is £5 per person, and all proceeds are used to help maintain the church.

Harvest Supper – October

We normally host the church's harvest supper in October, and we are liaising with our friends at St Nicholas with regard to organising this event and further details will be provided once arrangements have been finalised.

Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd November 2026 10am to 2pm

A date for your diaries - we have set the dates for the Christmas Craft Fair weekend at the village hall when you can buy a wide range of interesting locally sourced gifts for loved ones for Christmas, enjoy a natter with friends over a cup of tea and homemade cake, (and a bacon sandwich on Sunday!).

That's all for this month but as always if anyone has any bright ideas on how the hall can further be used for the communities' benefit, please let me know.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson

Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@grafygreenalpacas.co.uk - 07932 112730 - www.grafygreenvillagehall.co.uk –
facebook.grafygreenvillage

Your Village Hall Polling Station Needs You!



Maidstone Borough Council are currently undertaking an interim Polling District and Polling Place review. The consultation on the proposals for change runs until Wednesday 19 August 2026. They are looking to stop using our lovely village hall as a polling station, (you would need to visit Ulcombe under their proposals), their argument being that the use of technology, has enabled more centralised polling places to be created.

They claim that Grafty is unsuitable because there is no dedicated disabled parking, (disabled users as you know may park outside the front of the hall), no parking generally, (there is ample parking in road), the hall backs onto a road with no footpaths and apparently the front entrance is a trip hazard, (as a trustee for over 10 years I am not aware of any problems in this area).

If their proposals are approved the elderly disabled, vulnerable and those without access to a car in our community would have to travel to Ulcombe if they wished to vote in person rather than voting locally as they have done successfully for many years.

I feel that our village life as we know it is under threat, over the years we have lost our local shop, the Post Office, we have a proposed housing development in Woodcock Lane and now under these proposals we will be denied our democratic right to vote in person in our local community. Please have your say whether you are for or against by providing feedback to these proposals the link is as follows:-

<https://letstalkmaidstone.uk.engagementhq.com/polling-districts-places-2026-interim-review>

If you require any further information on this please do not hesitate to let me know.

Jon Thompson

Trustee

Grafty Green Village Hall e- jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk t-07932112730



Indoor *Bootfair

**October 25th
10-2**

Grafty Green Village Hall
ME17 2BA

*£10 per table please contact Jon
Thompson to book your stall
07932112730*

jone@grafftygreenalpacas.com.uk

GRAFTY GREEN **FARMERS MARKET**

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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

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 – grafftygreen.info@gmail.com

Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club
Doreen 01622 850287

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

The Grafty Gourmet

This is another simple but tasty recipe. Simply mix the wet ingredients with the dry. Can be served cold or hot with custard or cream.

BLACKBERRY & ALMOND TRAYBAKE SQUARES

Ingredients

300g of unsalted butter, plus extra to grease
200g of ground almonds
200g of caster sugar
160g of self-raising flour
1 teaspoon of baking powder
½ teaspoon of fine salt
2 lemons
3 medium free-range eggs, lightly beaten
60ml of whole milk
220g of blackberries

For the topping

40g of unsalted butter
40g of self-raising flour
25g of caster sugar
A pinch of salt
50g of flaked almonds

1. Heat the oven to 160°C fan. Grease and line a 23cm x 32cm baking tin with butter and baking paper, then butter the baking paper.
2. Put the 300g of butter in a small saucepan over a medium heat. It will initially melt, then foam, then begin to turn a pale amber colour with the milk solids dropping to the bottom of the pan. Once it's golden and smelling nutty and fragrant, pour it into a large jug or bowl and let it cool until tepid.
3. Meanwhile, tip the ground almonds, 200g of sugar, 160g of flour, baking powder and salt into a mixing bowl and stir well. Finely zest both lemons into the bowl.
4. In a separate small bowl, make the topping. Rub together the butter and flour with your fingertips, then stir in the sugar and a pinch of salt. Fold in the flaked almonds.
5. When the butter in the jug is just warm to the touch, gently whisk in the eggs and milk. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, then slowly pour in the butter mixture, stirring with a wooden spoon or spatula until just combined (try not to overmix). Pour the batter into the prepared tin, then gently smooth the top with the back of a spoon. Scatter over the blackberries, press them in lightly, then sprinkle the flaked almond mixture over the top.
6. Bake for 40 minutes or until the top is golden and a toothpick pushed into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then either cut and serve immediately as a pudding or transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

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
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 August

- Trim hedges. It's a particularly good month to cut evergreen hedges.
- Sow hardy annuals, direct if there's some rain! Otherwise in modules.
- Prune early flowering summer shrubs.
- Cut back lavender once it has flowered and gone grey. Don't cut into old wood.
- Keep borders tidy by deadheading annuals and perennials and cut back any dead growth. Weed as you go.
- Harvest to keep crops coming.
- Remove lower leaves of tomato plants to improve air flow and expose fruits to more light.
- Enjoy the plants that thrive in drought and take note for future planting. It's a good time to take stock and plan beds for next year. What has done well and what needs removing or dividing in the autumn.

Don't despair. It'll rain eventually and most perennials will bounce back.

Best wishes

Ulcombe History Society
2026 programme

January 20th Guy Bartlett

“British women in aviation”

February 17th Derrick Parkes

“The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies”

March 17th Ed Adamson

“Kentish clerical errors”

April 21st Melanie Gibson-Barton

“Suffragettes and Suffragists – votes for women”

May 19th Adam Taylor

“Islands of the Medway Estuary”

October 20th Bertie Pearce

“Wonder workers and the art of illusion”

November 17th Ed Adamson

“Making and faking of ghost stories”

December 8th Imogen Corrigan

“The goose is getting fat”

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

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The Penguin Lessons

Friday, August 14th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1 hr 52 mins, directed by Peter Cattaneo

Admission: Adults £5, under 16s £2; cash only, card payments not accepted.

Who'd have thought that a single penguin could have such a remarkable effect in the middle of a country at war? Come along to see its story on Friday 14th August in the charming comedy drama **The Penguin Lessons** (12, 2024). Tom (played by Steve Coogan) is a disillusioned English teacher at a school in Argentina during the 1976 coup when he rescues the penguin from an oil-slicked beach. Tom was not expecting his good deed to turn his life upside down, or that the penguin would start to have a positive effect on the whole school. Based on a real-life memoir, do share this feel-good story with us.

Our September film on Friday 11th, is also based on a real-life story – a very different one though. It's **Michael** (12, 2026), covering the extraordinary career of pop superstar Michael Jackson. And what a story that is. Don't miss it.

We're extremely sad to have to confirm to you that Lenham Film Club will cease to operate at the end of the current season. Our September performance will be our final film.

Our team is facing significant changes; our Chair and Secretary have left the village and several others on our team are no longer in a position to contribute as they once did. We're very grateful for the support of the new team members who have joined us recently, however, there are simply not enough people on the team to keep the club running smoothly every month. We've tried to resolve this problem for some time and despite exploring a number of avenues to see if others would take on running the club, we've not been able to get the required assistance.

The club began in February 2019 and even though we had to take an enforced break due to Covid, we've put on 73 performances to date! We're very grateful to everyone who has come along and supported the club over the last 7 years.



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www.lenhamfilmclub.org



@lenhamfilmclub

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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 – August 2026

Summer has definitely arrived in Boughton Malherbe! We have prepared and experienced the results of our first Cream Tea of the season at St.Nicholas. And what an amazing afternoon we enjoyed with our many guests. Thank you to our family and friends who made emergency dashes to the Co-op for extra milk and cream. Kind weather and the efficient team of helpers were also key to the occasion. Thank you to Rob for his new role of 'gatekeeper' (for the sheep), and 'welcomer' to our visitors. Also, many thanks to the Holigans Choir, based in Lenham, who entertained us with a selection of light-hearted songs.



We are now looking forward to the next three Sundays of Cream Teas, showing and sharing with our friends the atmosphere this special place can give to all who visit.

We know St.Nicholas thrives on being a place of peace and refreshment, both for the body and mind. Enjoy what it has to offer.

Usual reminders

If you cannot visit for a Cream Tea, then a rest in the porch is good too. It is open at all times. Make a hot drink, enjoy the surroundings, read a page or two from the bible and let your mind wander. You can leave a prayer request, which will be prayed for in church.

Please use the mini food bank box if you need. It is being refreshed at the moment but should be ready by the time you read this. There is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham. This is open from 10.00am-4.00pm daily.

There is a cold tap at the back of St.Nicholas if you need to fill the dog bowl or the kettle. Just follow the path round past the West Door.

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

Coffee and cake time on Tuesdays in the Village Hall carries on and is well supported. The post office van now comes between 11.55am and 12.40pm and we are open for coffees/teas etc. during and after those times. A chance to meet friends and catch up with local events.

Farmer's Market

We are not going to be at the Farmer's Market on the 7th of August but will have a stall there on August 28th. It has been very pleasant to visit the Market while it has been on the Village Green during the warm weather, with plenty of shade. We are looking forward to meeting a new French Bulldog puppy soon. She will be coming with her owner shortly and is called Rosie.



Happy birthday to Lily

In July Lily Goodwin celebrated her 21st birthday, with a photo taken in St.Nicolas. On the day she shared an al fresco tea party with friends. Many happy returns of the day and congratulations, Lily.

Help! Many thanks to the response for help with the church cleaning. Any more help would still be appreciated.

We are planning an indoor and outdoor **'Clean and tidy' on Saturday 19th September 10.00am-12.30pm**. Refreshments will be provided. If you are able to bring any tools/gloves etc. for outside and perhaps a duster or two for inside, that would be great. I'll let you know more in next month's magazine. Make a note of the date

Future Dates

Harvest Supper 3rd October in the Village Hall, details next month.

Harvest Festival 11th October in St.Nicolas, 3.30pm followed by auction of produce and refreshments.

Cream Teas in August are Sunday 2nd and 9th, 2.30pm-5.00pm. £5.00 per person.

Our thoughts go out to all who are struggling during this hot summer. We hope the farmers, their livestock and their crops stay safe from the rogue fires at this vital time.

We pray for those families travelling on holiday and all who are spending time trying to keep their precious gardens, produce and plants alive during long periods of hosepipe bans. It is helpful to meet and share at the many local events at this time, so no-one in need is left behind.

Sally Alexander

Len Valley Benefice August 2026



Everybody is welcome

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

1 John 4 v7 (part)

Sunday 2nd August

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with Baptism*

Wednesday 5th August

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 9th August

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 16th 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 23rd August

11.00am **Benefice Holy Communion Service** at Harrietsham

Sunday 30th August

To be advised - please keep an eye on local noticeboards nearer the time

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

Christian Message - August 2026

Reverend Richard Birch

We are being inundated with information via social media, TV, radio and old-fashioned newspapers. There is so much that it is not always easy to “see the wood from the trees”, to understand what all the information really means. And we now have to try and work out which information is actually true, so much of what is published on-line is false, or at least only partially true. I now find it difficult to believe anything I read on-line, unless I have found it from a number of completely different sources.

Finding the truth takes time, but it is so important before we make decisions and before we speak out publicly on matters of concern to others, and it is so much easier now to tell others of our opinions via social media. We do not always have the time or inclination to search for confirmation of a news item, particularly when we read about something that agrees with our own opinion.

There are those who depend on our inability to find the truth, or our laziness to search it out. They use lack of truth, or partial truth to form opinions, even to foment racism, anti-Semitic thoughts, Islamophobia and other antisocial behaviour.

This is not a new phenomena. The Bible contains two stories of God creating the earth, neither account is supposed to be taken as a scientific description of creation. In the first version God created the earth in 6 days and rested on the seventh. He created the sky, the earth, sea, and all living things, and finally he created man and woman together.

In the second version of the story God first created man. Eden and the plants came next, followed by the animals; finally, God took a part of the man and from it created a woman as a partner.

Some people take bits from each version and tell you that the earth was created in six days and that God created Eve from Adam’s rib. These two versions of creation are there at the very beginning of the Bible to tell us in different ways that God is the creator of everything and that he created us to be his stewards on earth. We are to care for each other and for the plants and animals. If we do this well the earth will provide all that we need and we can live in comfort.

For centuries the Bible has been used to persuade people of different theories and opinions by using certain verses and not reading all the context and all the relevant portions. These techniques are being used far more generally now by those trying to gain our favour and support for their own political purposes. It is so important that before we speak out we try to make sure we are finding all the relevant information and making wise decisions based on all the facts.

Emergency and Help Contact Details

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Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO)	101

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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)	
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Or	01243 508866

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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

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