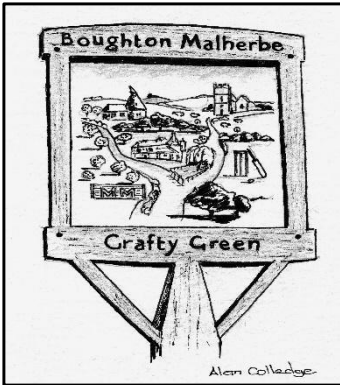




Malherbe Monthly

Number 266
October 2026



Churchyard Tidy-up
More details and pictures included inside

Useful contact names and telephone numbers

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Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
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Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbepc@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.grafitygreen@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	
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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 **November** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **26th October**

Local Interests and Announcements

BUS NEWS

Following the decision by Arriva to no longer provide the morning and afternoon schooldays only services between Grafty Green and Maidstone, replacement services will be provided by Nu-Venture from 1st September 2026. Reproduced below are the details as supplied to the Parish Council by Nu-Venture.

“Working with Kent County Council, and supported by Government Bus Grant Funding, Nu-Venture will operate Bus 559 from 1 September 2026 to maintain important transport links for residents and students in Boughton Monchelsea, Chart Sutton, Kingswood, Ulcombe and Grafty Green following changes to existing Arriva bus provision.

Nu-Venture bus 559 will operate to support scholars and students travelling to schools in Maidstone from Grafty Green (0643), Ulcombe (0650), Kingswood (0656), Chart Sutton (0712) and Boughton Monchelsea (0717).

The morning bus 559, which part-replaces Arriva bus 89 at these places, connects with Nu-Venture bus 13 and other Maidstone-bound buses at Morrisons, Sutton Road.

The afternoon 559 will be similar to discontinued Arriva bus 59 and will operate as a through service from Chequers Bus Mall at 1612 via Loose, Linton Corner, Boughton Monchelsea, Chart Sutton, Kingswood, Ulcombe and Grafty Green.

Bus 559 is operated on a commercial basis by Nu-Venture.

Kent Travel Saver and Kent Travel Saver 16+ continue to be accepted on Nu-Venture services subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. Contactless and Cash payments are available on all Nu-Venture buses. Longer-period tickets may be available on our App for some services”.

P.S. to the letter from Sydney

I'm home again having spent some quality time with my brothers and the extended family; both brothers live in the Eastern suburbs, Waverly and Randwick which are neighbouring districts, close to the ocean which I saw every day.

Watching the Pacific Ocean, so blue, reflecting the colour of the sky, sometimes from a convenient bench or just standing and staring. The ever-changing sea; sometimes lazy and gently lapping the sandy beaches or the rocky outcrops and some days it would be restless but only a couple of times quite turbulent which added to the soundscape of crashing waves and pounding seas. You can walk miles along a well-maintained clifftop path which is also popular with joggers.



This was the time the whales migrate south enabling me to witness a pod or two pass by – glimpsing a flash of a tail or more exciting one breaching the surface to explode into the air and crash back down like a small car being dropped into the vast ocean, then nothing except the occasional spray coming from their blow holes. Another joyful moment was spotting a group of dolphins passing close by, looping their way effortlessly through the water.

There were some surprises – walking through the various routes to the beach you might find a little bookcase built onto a garden fence for passers-by to exchange their books or there might be a glossy ibis scratching around the nature strips and a kookaburra waiting in the wings to snatch an unearthed lizard.

There are well planned and popular children's playgrounds where mums would gather to a chat whilst the youngsters explored the climbing nets or ride down the slide. I was impressed with the amount of sports fields and opportunities for everyone to play a game or train more seriously.

Sue Birch

Poem from Molly Poulter

The Coat

The coat hung on a hook just by the front door. She saw it every time she passed – a green waterproof Barbour with bright red lining, reminding her of the past. Though her children said she should get rid of it, she couldn't bear to part with it.

And so it hung there year after year, reminding her every time she walked through the front door. Then came the migrant crisis. She looked at the coat and thought of all those struggling to find shelter - cold, wet and hungry. She wrestled with her conscience but couldn't bring herself to part with it. It was the only thing she'd kept. She'd got rid of everything else. But the coat was so much part of his life – his love of fishing and the outdoors - that it helped to keep his memory green.

As Christmas approached, she found herself caught up in the usual rush to buy presents. One bright sunny morning she set out to the shops wearing just a lightweight coat. As the morning progressed, the sky became blacker and the heavens opened. With no umbrella and just a thin coat, she was soaked through. The bus arrived late and was crowded, and she sat there shivering with the cold and wet.

As she walked through the front door, she saw the coat and knew she must part with it. She took it off the peg, folded it carefully and slipped a little note into the pocket. 'My husband always wore this when he went fishing. Take good care of it.' Then, trying not to cry, she took it to the depot where they were collecting clothes for the refugees.

She found it difficult to forget the coat. Every time she walked into the house, the first thing she saw was the empty hook.

Some months later a letter arrived. 'Dear lady, thank you for the coat. It saved my life – we were all so cold and wet. I too am a fisherman. In a little pocket I found some fishing flies, a photo of you and a small card with your address. Your husband must have loved you very much. One day I hope come to Britain so may be I meet you. Jaques.'

Walks this month led by Sue Burch

Saturday 24th October, meet at 9.30 at Lenham Community Centre car park for a circular stroll to the Heathside Corridor. The route takes you through arable farmland to the ground which was once part of Chilston Park but now divided by the motorway and the high-speed rail link. This was once parkland with some ancient trees to admire.

Saturday 31st October, meet at 9.30 at Hollingbourne Railway Station (plenty of free parking) to walk uphill to the North Downs Way, commanding magnificent views; returning downhill to emerge into Hollingbourne near the Dirty Habit, past the church and back to the station; lovely little café there for refreshments.

Yoga with Susan - weekly classes

Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday morning 9.30 – 11

Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30

Thursday morning 9.30 – 11

No yoga the week beginning 19th October. New term starts 26th October.

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle; getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice.

For more information or to enrol for the new term - please give me a call 07803 962339



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!

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

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

To join us, or for more details please contact the group co-ordinator:

Jan Enever on 01622 851623 or email: Jenever@btinternet.com



LEN VALLEY HEALTH WALKS

Started in June 2013, we are a voluntary run group with trained walk leaders.

We walk three days a week, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning and Saturday morning.

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 the 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.

Jan Enever
Group
Organiser
March 2025

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th September at 7.30 pm at Grafty Green Village Hall

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

In Attendance:

Mrs M Norris (Clerk)

26/09/01. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

- There were no apologies of absence
- No changes noted to the Register of Interests
- No further declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were made.
- Cllrs Eastwood and Thompson made a declaration of lobbying in respect of Myrtle House , Planning application reference 26/503215

26/09/02. Public Session

There were four members of the public in attendance. The chairman invited them to speak and the planning application for Myrtle house was discussed.

26/09/03. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Meeting July 2026 and the minutes of the Boughton Malherbe Planning Meeting -18th August 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

26/09/04. 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.

26/09/05. Planning

a) The following planning applications were considered:-

APPLICATION REF: 26/503215/FULL

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing outbuilding and stables, provision of 3no. parking spaces. Erection of agricultural barn with associated yard and landscaping.

ADDRESS: Myrtle House Headcorn Road Grafty Green Kent ME17 2AR

It was RESOLVED that the application be refused and be taken to the planning committee if contrary to the officer's decision.

b) Planning Appeals submitted for consideration

Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for installation of kitchen wall lining on aluminium frame, raising of beam in chimney breast, installation of steel lintels over windows, external security fittings comprising 4no. security cameras and 5no. lights, and removal of paint from chimney breast (works completed).

Location: Little Southernden, Southernden Road Headcorn – Resolved No comment would be submitted.

c) The following planning decisions were received from Maidstone Borough Council

26/501970/FULL

PROPOSAL: Conversion of double garage space to be included into existing annexe, single storey rear extension and changes to external fenestration

ADDRESS: 7 Boughton Park Grafty Green Kent ME17 2EF

Decision / Granted

26/09/06 Finance

(a) The following receipts of income have been received.

Maidstone Borough Council Parish Services Scheme £67.00

Lloyds bank Interest £5.50

(b) It was RESOLVED to agree that the following payment was made:-

D/D Hugo Fox 23.98

D/D Lloyds Bank Service Charge £8.50

Amesis Litter Picking Services (July) £104.53

M Norris Salary Jul/Aug £899.08

Total £1036.09

(c) The Bank Reconciliation was presented at the meeting. Balance at bank as of the 7th September are Cambridge & Counties £78,386.02, Lloyds Community Account £367.13, Lloyds Instant Access £6,480.01

26/09/07. Correspondence

a) An email received 28/08 concerning water leaks on Liverton Hill

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact KCC to ask whether they would be prepared to provide a testing kit, of the type they use to test for chlorine, so that the water from the leak can be tested to help establish whether it is spring water. In addition, the water leaks would be included on the Highways Improvements plan, and to send a separate letter to KCC to advise that the public road at Liverton Hill is being damaged by the continual erosion caused by the flow of water and to request a copy of the most recent inspection report relating to this location.

b) Notification of the HIP plan from KCC Highways

The PC agreed that a reduction in the speed limit from Park House down to the existing 30 mph speed limit sign should be placed on the Highways Improvement Plan to initiate discussions with a highways officer.

26/09/08. Christmas Planning

Resolved The parish council agreed to arrange an event similar to last year. No date was agreed but the PC will discuss further to arrange a December date.

26/09/09 Matter for Information, urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting only or any items for further discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Peter raised concerns about vehicles reversing onto his driveway and the potential risk of damage to the verge and drain cover. The clerk requested that he provide photographs of the verge and drain cover to her.

Email re Solar Panels & Battery Storage Village Hall – Noted Chairman to draft a reply requesting further information

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

Approved:

Dated:

Report for parishes from Ziggy Trzebinski

Well, it's all change again, or at least for the moment. When I said last month that the new unitaries would swing into action next year unless something drastic happens, I was more thinking of practical or administrative delays but indeed the government have now paused the process and will review the situation. No-one quite knows what that may mean at the moment, but certainly it would now be very difficult for elections for the new unitaries to be held next year. A lot of time, effort, planning and resource has been put into this so far, so it can only be hoped that it will not be wasted. I end this paragraph with the same comment as last month on the subject - watch this space.

The government have also changed the planning process from the 31st October 2026. Without going into too much detail, simple applications such as an extension, one- or two-house developments etc. will be decided by the council planning officer. Whilst the Parish Council and the Borough Councillor can comment on any application they cannot call it in for the committee to review. For larger developments the Chairman of the MBC Planning Committee and the Chief Planning Officer may agree to refer an application to the planning committee, but they must both agree to do so, or the decision lies with the Chief Planning Officer. It should only be referred to the planning committee if there are significant issues to be discussed. This of course is subjective so we will just have to see how things work out but it will probably take decision making away from your MBC councillors in most cases. Again - watch this space.

August is always a bit quiet, but elsewhere my motion at the last full council meeting regarding the amount of litter on our rural roads, and detailing steps to resolve the problem, was referred to an advisory committee. Unfortunately, the only thing that really came out of it was a commitment to promote, in association with parish councils, "volunteers" to litter pick the rural roads and to launch an anti-littering campaign focussed on rural communities. These steps fall far short of my expectations and both myself, and Martin Round will be looking to apply more pressure on the subject of litter as well as fly-tipping.

One of the factors that came out of the committee meeting however was that Headcorn and Sutton Valence is actually the cleanest rural ward in the Borough. You may well wonder how this can be, given the amount of litter on our roads. The answer is that there were only 15 reports of litter made to MBC last year for the ward. Like fly-tipping, crime, and ASB, I would encourage everyone to report incidents as without an evidence base it becomes difficult to argue our corner.

Catapult crime is also being brought into the limelight and there is to be a period of 12 months monitoring of the frequency and severity of incidents. There has been a steady increase over the last few years, and the modern catapults are very dangerous indeed, particularly when the projectiles are ball bearings. Again, if you do see any instances of this, please report them.

Katie Lam MP's

Celebrating the Very Best of the Weald

In early September, I hosted the second annual Weald of Kent Awards at The George in Bethersden, (who also happen to be one of last year's winners)! We were also very lucky to have previous finalist Bun Buddies catering the event with their delicious burgers.



It was a wonderful evening celebrating some of the brilliant people, businesses and community groups that make the local area so special. This year, we had nearly 200 nominations for just 20 finalist places, and almost 2,000 of you voted. That's a remarkable amount of effort just to say thank you to somebody else, and I think it says a great deal about the generous and warm community we're so lucky to have here in the Weald.

Our finalists for Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year were Sissinghurst Cherries at Aragon Farm, Wayfarer Wines at Woodchurch, Lovejoy Farm in Wittersham and Kingcott Dairy in Staplehurst. The winner was Kingcott Dairy, where Steve and Karen Reynolds make a Kentish Blue that Cambridgeshire's Stilton has nothing on.

For Independent Shop of the Year, our finalists were Frank's Bakery in Headcorn, TN17 Food & Wine in Sissinghurst, Loddington Farm Shop and Webb's of Tenterden. The winner was Webb's, where you can walk in, describe the thing you need without the first idea what it is called, and somebody will find it.

For Local Business of the Year, our finalists were Rockits Sensory in Tenterden, Cranbrook Vets, Olive Tree Vets in Charing and The Hawkhurst Bread Shed, who took home the award. Julian and Lauren's sandwiches and salads now seem to be in every café for miles around.

Our Local Hero finalists were The Mildred Trust, Matthew Knoesen, the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team and the Wealden Community First Responders (who won the award). They're all volunteers who step away from their own jobs and give up their evenings to help people at some of the very hardest moments in their lives.

And for Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year, our finalists were The Queens Head at Sutton Valence, Willows End Tearooms near Marden, The Flying Horse at Smarden and The Bell and Jorrocks at Frittenden. The winner was The Bell and Jorrocks, where Sean and Rosie Croucher have been behind the bar for twenty years, and where it feels as though almost everything in the village is organised.

All of these people represent the very best of the Weald: people who work hard, look out for others and make our communities better every day. Many thanks to Alex and the whole team at The George for letting us take over their pub garden, and to Bun Buddies for the food, and to David Catt and Ragstone Ridge Wine for the bottles our winners took home. Most of all, thank you to everyone who came. It was great to see you all in person, and after an afternoon like that, I'm already looking forward to next year.

Village Hall News – October Newsletter

By the time you read this newsletter we will have probably hosted the Annual Harvest Supper at the village hall on behalf of the church always a friendly, fun and happy occasion and no doubt Sally will update you further on the this elsewhere in the magazine.

The new arrangements for the Coffee Morning & Post Office Van visits now seem to be working well and just as a reminder the new times for these are as follows:

Post Office Van - Tuesdays from 11.55 am to 12.24 pm

Coffee Mornings – Tuesdays from 11 am to 1pm

Farmer's Market every Friday 1 to 3pm

The Farmer's Market back in its usual location of the village hall every Friday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm. It offers a range of locally sourced goodies from fresh fruit and vegetables, curries, cakes and savouries, plants, pet foods, locally produced meats and much more. You can also enjoy a cup of tea and a natter with friends. All are welcome and if you haven't been before it would be lovely to see you.

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

We will be hosting the annual indoor boot fair at the hall on Sunday 25th October. There are a couple of tables still available at £10 each so if you fancy doing a bit of decluttering before Christmas, please let me know. Admission is free and as usual there will be refreshments of tea and a selection of delicious cakes available for you to enjoy.

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

The Christmas Craft Fair weekend will be held at the village hall on Saturday and Sunday 21st & 22nd November 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, with bacon sandwiches on Sunday.

New post box at the village hall

As always, you can communicate with myself or any of the trustees by telephone, in person or by email, but as trustees we felt it would be useful to install a post box at the hall and register the village hall with Royal Mail to provide an additional means of communication in case this were needed. We were very excited to receive our first piece of mail the other day, (we don't get out much), sadly it was a demand for payment of a TV licence fee!

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson

Village Hall Committee Chairman - jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk - 07932 112730 - www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk – facebookgraftygreenvillage



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.co.uk



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

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 – 12.45pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 11.00 – 1.00pm

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

Farmer's Market

Tara – info.graftygreen@gmail.com

Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club

Doreen 01622 850287

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

The Grafty Gourmet

Creamy chicken with a taste of the Southwest: apples and cider. This is comfort food at its finest.

Creamy Cider Chicken Casserole

6 boneless chicken breasts, skin on
salt and freshly ground black pepper
75g of butter
3 tablespoons of olive oil
2 onions, peeled and sliced
4 tablespoons of plain flour
2 tablespoons of wholegrain mustard
2 dessert apples, peeled, cores removed, sliced into batons
110g of button mushrooms, sliced
250ml of chicken stock
300ml of cider
1 tablespoon of finely chopped fresh sage
250ml of double cream
300g of cheddar cheese, grated

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius. Season the chicken breasts with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
2. Heat a large frying pan until smoking, then add half of the butter and oil. Fry the chicken breasts in batches, skin-side down first, for 1-2 minutes on both sides, or until golden-brown all over.
3. Transfer the chicken breasts to a deep-sided roasting tray and roast in the oven for 25 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. Keep warm.
4. Return the pan to the heat and add the remaining butter and oil. Add the onions and cook for 4-5 minutes, or until softened but not coloured. Stir in the flour and the mustard and cook for a further 1-2 minutes. Add the apples and mushrooms and cook for a further minute, then pour over the chicken stock.
5. Bring to the boil, then add the cider and return to the boil. Cook for 1-2 minutes, then lower the heat, add the sage and stir in the cream. Simmer for a further 5-6 minutes, then season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
6. Pour the sauce over the chicken so that it is completely covered.
7. Preheat the grill to high. Sprinkle the cheddar cheese over the chicken and place under the grill for 4-5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted, golden-brown and bubbling.

Serve with vegetables or baked potato.

The Grafty Gourmet

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
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	

Hello readers of Malherbe Monthly,

Hope you are enjoying this Indian summer weather, much easier to work in the garden although we do need a lot more rain.

The members, and particularly the committee, of Grafty Garden Club are wondering if you can help us?

Doreen Hulm has been our treasurer for 16 years and her late husband Les for 10 years prior to that, Doreen has recently decided that it is time she stepped back and let someone else take up the reins; could that be you?

We are hoping that someone will come forward before the AGM in January so that they can shadow Doreen who says she is happy to continue to support the new post holder for a few months after if required. Apart from being "on the door", the post entails attending our committee meetings (about five a year) and obviously keeping the books throughout the year, ensuring that bills e.g hall hire, speakers fees are paid, and income from meetings, plant sales, trips etc are accounted for. Doreen also keeps the membership list updated, which she and I juggle so that I can ensure members are contacted regularly.

If you would like to discuss the position with Doreen, she is happy for you to contact her on either 01622 850287, 07748 592281 or hulm692@btinternet.com The committee really hope that someone will come forward to join our friendly group and help maintain the smooth running of our club. You do not have to be a member but obviously we would welcome you to do so, which you will see from our programme meets monthly.

Ulcombe History Society

Don't miss our special talk this month Ulcombe village hall from **Master Magician and member of the Inner Magic Circle, Bertie Pearce**, when he will be telling us all about the origins of magic through to the modern day, the art of illusion and the most famous magicians. Bertie is an accredited Arts Society lecturer and a wonderfully entertaining speaker - we are sure that it will be a most magical talk!

Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm and entry for non-members of the history society on this occasion is £5.

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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EVERY SATURDAY 10-12
EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL



Funded by donations which will be passed on to Egerton Parish Council

Egerton Film Society



EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL

THURSDAY 29th October 2026

Doors 7.00pm – PERFORMANCE 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

Email : egertonfilm@btinternet.com for more information



Light refreshments and licensed bar.

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News from St.Nicholas Church – October 2026

Truly into the beautiful Autumn season. The evenings are drawing in so quickly, but we have been enjoying lovely sunset skies and calm weather. Maybe it is time for more rain though. I have been delighted that many garden plants that I was sure were lost forever have now reappeared and giving more life to the area than I thought possible. Should definitely have more faith in God's creative planning for our planet.

Usual reminders

Continue to make the most of the peace in the church porch, open at all times, for rest, thoughtfulness and perhaps make a hot drink and chat with a friend or spare a few moments to read the bible and make a note in the visitors' book. Perhaps a prayer request on one of the cards on the windowsill.

The mini food bank has been cleaned and will be topped up. Unfortunately, a bottle of detergent had leaked and turned everything in the box black! Really difficult to clean, but it smelled nice. Remember there is a larger food bank at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am-4.00pm daily.

There is a cold tap round the back of the church building, follow the path beyond the West door. Do use it if you need to top up the kettle, jug or dogs' bowl.

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

Coffee Mornings

The new timings seem to be appreciated, and the Post Office van is making a predictable visit. The coffee mornings starts at 11am now and finish at 1.00pm, with the PO van available from 11.55am-12.45pm on Tuesdays as usual.

The generosity of our friends has made it possible to donate £100 to Demelza House and soon another £100 will be available for a charity as well as the church. So keep your 'thinking caps' on for suggestions for another worthwhile charity.

Churchyard tidy

On Saturday September 19th the churchyard 'came alive with the sound of strimmers. Not only strimmers, but secateurs, loppers, wheelbarrows, chopping, pulling up and carting branches, brambles, carpets of ivy, scraping out drains, gullies and everything else in between, let alone the conversations and discussions. What a time we all had!

Liz (with Molly) and Rosemary found time to make sure the church interior was not ignored either – see front page.

So many thanks to everyone and hoping there were not too many sore backs the next day.



Harvest Supper on Saturday 3rd of October in Grafty Green Village Hall at 7 for 7.30pm.

Harvest Supper



There is still time for you to reserve your ticket for this annual event. **Please contact Kenneth Alexander on 07768 323367 for tickets at £12.50 each and they will still be available at the Farmers' Market in the village hall in Grafty Green on Friday 2nd October, at the church stall 1.00pm-3.00pm.**

See the posters around for more information.

Harvest Festival will be in St.Nicolas at 3.30pm on Sunday 11th October, followed by an auction of gifts of fresh produce, fruit and vegetables, cakes etc. as we enjoy a cup of tea and refreshments.

Non-perishable gifts will be given to a food bank.

Please note that Evensong will be at 3.30pm on the second Sunday each month from now through the winter months.

On October 18th at Harrietsham at 11.00am there will be a benefice service to celebrate with Revd. Millie Hart as she retires from her ministry here in the Len Valley.

On October 25th there will be a change of service. There will be sung Eucharist at St.Nicolas at 9.30am and not a benefice service.

A reminder that the Remembrance Service will be at St.Nicolas on November 8th at 10.30am and no Evensong on that day.

Weddings

India and Harry celebrate their wedding at St.Nicolas on Saturday 26th September. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for their future life together.

We look back at a summer full of difficulties for the countryside, with drought and hosepipe bans, water outages and searing heat for everyone, their gardens and animals included. But resilience is coming to the fore now and farmers are preparing for the future, despite the setbacks. We wish them well with their plans for our food supplies and for the countryside. What a joy today when a tiny tree creeper came into the house and searched the timbers, nooks and crannies for insects. He/she appeared to be having problems with one foot. Managed to carefully pick him up from the windowsill and remove a large number of cobwebs and carry him outside. What a privilege to hold such a beautiful creature. We'd already had the usual visitations of robins and bluetits in the house checking for random crumbs etc. this morning, but it seems the message has spread round the neighbourhood, what might be next?

Will continue the saga.
Sally Alexander

Len Valley Benefice October 2026

Everybody is welcome



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

1 John 4 v7 (part)

Sunday 4th October

9.15am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Harrietsham: **Harvest** Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: **Harvest** Holy Communion

Wednesday 7th October

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 11th October

9.15am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Harvest** Festival Evensong

Sunday 18th October

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

celebrating the ministry of Revd. Millie Hart upon her retirement

Sunday 25th October

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.15am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: **Harvest** Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

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



Holigans Winter Warmers

Friday 4th December 7pm

St Marys Church, Lenham

Join us for an evening of songs and singalongs at our popular Christmas Concert, all proceeds will go to the Lenham Village Hub Project & Heart of Kent Hospice

Donations for refreshments available during the interval

Tickets on sale 31st October from Heart of Kent Hospice charity shop & St Mary's Church Lenham Saturday Coffee Morning

Tickets: £5 Adult - Under 18's £1

To secure your entry, please purchase your tickets in advance.

No tickets will be sold at the venue on concert day

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