



# Malherbe Monthly

Number 261  
May 2026



It's Cricket Season  
Come and support the Grafty Green Wanderers  
Your local cricket team  
See details inside

## Useful contact names and telephone numbers

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Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam <a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Sue Birch Email: burch1997@aol.com	07803 962339
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	07803 962339
Farmers Market	Tara Musson <a href="mailto:info.grafygreen@gmail.com">info.grafygreen@gmail.com</a>	
Parish Council Website	<a href="http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk">www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk</a>	
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 **June** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email ([carolhulm@gmail.com](mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com)) by **20<sup>th</sup> May (earlier due to holiday)**

## Local Interests and Announcements Page

The family of Hazel Eastwood are thankful for all the cards, prayers, and other support since Hazel's death on March 28th. Her funeral at Boughton Malherbe church on April 22nd was a sad yet joyful occasion. Amongst others, it was attended by her sister born in the 1930s, a friend from the 1950s, a pupil from the 1970s, members of 3 church choirs, friends from when we ran the shop here from 2000 to 2021 and a carer from the last day of her life.

Rob, Caroline & Nicholas

\*\*\*\*\*

New members welcome to join us for weekly bowls session in the Village Hall on Tuesdays at 2.15 pm.

Beginners welcome, loan bowls available to get started.  
£ 4 per session. Contact Joan Marriott 07503 568874.



\*\*\*\*\*

Cricket Reminder: The Grafty Green Wanderers play their opening match against Little Chart Cricket Club at The Forstall, Rams Lane Little Chart TN27 0PU on Saturday 2nd May at 1:30pm.

Our second match is against the old village rivals, Egerton Cricket Club starting at 1:30pm on Sunday 24th May at Egerton Cricket Club Ground, Elm Close, Egerton, TN27 9DS.

Both matches will be played in the quick fire T20 format, which is known for its high intensity, fast pace and “ hit out or get out “ mentality.

Please come along and join the Grafty Green Growlers supporting your village cricket Team. The Grafty Green Wanderers look forward to seeing you there,

\*\*\*\*\*

### Message from Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Monday 11th May at 7.00pm at Grafty Green Village Hall**, this is an opportunity for all local parishioners to meet members of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council and to make observations and suggestions for any improvements to the village and the area within the Parish. Everyone is welcome. This will then be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Reports will be available on the website and on the green prior to the meeting.

## Village Hall News – May Newsletter

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the nice weather. Here is a quick round up of events that are taking place at the hall in the near future.

### **Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10 am to 12 noon**

The Gardening Club will be providing more detail elsewhere in this magazine, but just a quick note to let you know that they will be hosting their annual plant sale at the hall on Saturday morning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May where you can enjoy a cup of tea, cake and a natter with friends and neighbours. There will be a wide variety of plants for sale grown by club members.

### **Boughton Malherbe Annual Parish Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 7.30pm**

Again further detail will be provided elsewhere in this magazine by the Parish Council but again just a short note to let you know that this is a public meeting open to local residents so please come along if you would like to know more about the work of the Parish Council and local clubs and societies.

### **Craft Group Community Event Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 10:00am – 1:00pm**

The craft Group which meets at the village hall every Friday morning between 10 am and 12 noon will be hosting a free community event on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July where you can come along and they will demonstrate a range of crafting skills from dyeing fabric, knitting, sewing and dressmaking etc. There will be activities for young and old to try whilst enjoying tea and cake so if you would like to learn a new skill with our friendly crafters please come along. A good time is sure to be had by all.

### **Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 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!).

### **Farmer's Market Every Friday 1pm to 3pm**

The weekly Farmer's Market is continuing to be very popular with a wide array of goodies on offer from fruit and veg, curries, cakes, pet food, savouries, plants, bread and scones from the church and many other items. So please come along and support local producers whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a natter with friends in our cosy village hall. Last August the Farmer's Market was held on the village green whilst the hall was being refurbished, this proved very popular with stall holders and the local community and we are hoping to do the same this year weather permitting, but if it's raining we can all retire to the comfort of the village hall.

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 Tel 07932 112730

www.grafygreenvillagehall.co.uk - facebook – grafygreenvillage

# GRAFTY GREEN FARMERS MARKET

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



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

## **Are you a trader?**

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

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

# Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 07803 962339

## Regular Weekly Events

<b>Yoga – mixed ability</b> Susan Burch 07803 962339	<b>Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am</b> <b>Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm</b>
<b>Pilates</b> Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369	<b>Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am</b>
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm</b> <b>Thursdays 11.15 – 1.15pm</b>
<b>Coffee morning</b>	<b>Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00pm</b>
<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> Joan Marriott 07503 568874	<b>Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm</b>
<b>Dance Fit</b> Sharon Harris 01622 890170	<b>Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm</b>
<b>Tai Chi</b> Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782	<b>Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm</b>
<b>Craft Group</b> Janis Carter 01622 850898	<b>Fridays 10 -12.00pm</b>
<b>Art Class</b> Cathy Hill 07927054708	<b>Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm</b> <b>Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm</b>
<b>Farmer's Market</b> Tara – <a href="mailto:graftygreen.info@gmail.com">graftygreen.info@gmail.com</a>	<b>Friday 1- 3pm</b>

## Regular Monthly Events

<b>Gardening Club</b> Doreen 01622 850287	<b>First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm</b>
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## The Grafty Gourmet

This is a great barbecue chicken kebab recipe, with its sweet, spicy, sticky glaze. Sprinkle with spring onions after cooking.

### Barbecued Korean Chilli & Honey Kebabs

12 boneless and skinless chicken thighs  
2 tablespoons of soy sauce  
1 tablespoon of sesame oil  
1 thumb sized piece of ginger - grated  
4 spring onions – sliced

For the glaze

4 tablespoons of Korean chilli paste (gochujang)  
2 tablespoons of honey  
The juice of half a lime  
1 tablespoon of soy sauce  
1 teaspoon of sesame oil  
2 tablespoons of sesame seeds

1. Coat the chicken in the soy sauce, sesame oil and ginger. Thread each thigh on two long metal skewers, so that each skewer pierces one side of the thigh. Keep threading the chicken, making sure it's packed onto the skewers tightly.
2. Mix the ingredients for the glaze. On the barbecue, cook the kebab for 5-8 mins on each side (depending on the heat). Once nicely charred but not fully cooked through, start painting on the glaze. The honey will catch if cooked for too long. The key to nice sticky chicken, is applying the glaze in layers, turning the kebab often.
3. Once the glaze has been used up and the chicken is cooked through (it'll take about 20 mins in total), transfer to a plate and leave to cool for 5 mins before serving scattered with spring onions.

# 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
Sat May 2	<b>Plant Sale</b> 10 – 12 Village Hall	
May 5	Outing - Marden Meadow, guided by Vicky Golding - please car share as limited parking	
June 2	Outing - Pimphurst Farm, Bethersden TN26 3EE	
July 7	Outing - Barnfield Cottages, Wormshill, ME9 0TU	
July 24 - 26	Weekend away – Walmer Castle, Great Dixter, Butlers Farm House, Herstmonceux Castle and grounds, Driftwood, King John's Nursery, Goddards Green. Dinner bed and Breakfast at Landsdowne Hotel, Eastbourne	
August 4	Outing to Jungle Garden at Wye	
September 1	Autumn Show and Catriona	Romney Wools
October 6	Chris Stewart	The hop bine and hop pickers of Kent
November 3	Stephen Harmer	La Claire the Story of Jersey's lost garden
December 1	Social and creative activity	

## Here are some gardening jobs for May

Here are some gardening jobs for May:

- Harden off tender plants before planting out.
- Thin seedlings in the veg patch or containers to improve growth.
- Plant out courgettes, pumpkins and squash towards the end of May.
- Plant summer bulbs.
- Pot up dahlias.
- Plant up containers and hanging baskets for a summer display.
- Stake late emerging perennials.
- Consider the Chelsea Chop in late May.
- Cut back perennials such as phlox, achillea, aster, echinacea and helenium by 15 to 20 cm. to a bud to keep plants compact and bushy and delay flowering by around 4-6 weeks.

Try and make time to visit local NGS gardens for inspiration (and cake!)



# PLANT SALE

GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB

SATURDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> MAY

VILLAGE HALL

AT 10

A range of plants for tubs and baskets,  
borders and vegetable patch.

Refreshments and cake

## **Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

No classes week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> May

'Drop in' or to book call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle; getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice; for more information please give me a call.



**Sunday Afternoon Bands  
every Sunday  
starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> April with Megan  
Russon**

\*\*\*\*\*

**19<sup>th</sup> June, Ladies Ascot Day  
live betting, 2 course Lunch with a Glass  
of Champs.  
£45 per person.  
Prizes for best dressed**

**Ulcombe History Society  
2026 programme**

January 20<sup>th</sup> Guy Bartlett  
“British women in aviation”

February 17<sup>th</sup> Derrick Parkes  
“The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies”

March 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Adamson  
“Kentish clerical errors”

April 21<sup>st</sup> Melanie Gibson-Barton  
“Suffragettes and Suffragists - votes for women”

May 19<sup>th</sup> Adam Taylor  
“Islands of the Medway Estuary”

October 20<sup>th</sup> Bertie Pearce  
“Wonder workers and the art of illusion”

November 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Adamson  
“Making and faking of ghost stories”

December 8<sup>th</sup> Imogen Corrigan  
“The goose is getting fat”

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

**Family Fun  
and Games**

**Homemade Cakes  
and Savouries**

# **Holy Trinity**

invites you to

## **Tea in a Tent**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**2.30pm-4.30pm**

**Memorial Hall**

**Charing Heath**

**Help us fill a  
box of relief aid**



**ShelterBox**

# Egerton Film Society



**EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL**

**THURSDAY 28th May 2026**

**Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE 7.30pm**

**Admission £6.00**

Email: [egertonfilm@btinternet.com](mailto:egertonfilm@btinternet.com) for more information



Light Refreshments and Licensed Bar.



# The Choral The Life of Chuck

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time: 1 hr 50 mins, directed by Mike Flanagan*

**The Life of Chuck** (15, 2025) is a life-affirming fantasy drama based on a Stephen King story about a seemingly ordinary man, Charles "Chuck" Krantz. Chuck's story is told in reverse, starting with his death and journeying back to his childhood. Through Chuck we explore all of life's emotions - love, loss and the richness of existence. Starring the excellent Tom Hiddleston, this is a gentle and gripping tale of a seemingly ordinary man's emotional progress through the years. When did you last watch a life story running backwards? It's a winner, so don't miss this unusual and memorable film.

Another winner is our June performance, a comedy drama based on the true story of a local cinema in Wales. **Save the Cinema** has the feel-good factor and the co-operation of Steven Spielberg, so you can't miss this one either. Mark the date of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June down right away!

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

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



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- 🐰 Mama-to-be sharing & support circles
- 🐰 Pregnancy relaxation
- 🐰 Intro to baby massage

### With baby

- 🐰 Baby massage, reflexology and colic alleviation (birth-crawling)
- 🐰 Mama sharing & support circles
- 🐰 Baby yoga (3 months to pre-school)

### Events

- 🐰 Parties
- 🐰 Coffee mornings

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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 – May 2026

It's now late evening with a clear sky. I've been listening out for any sound of the nightingales beside the house yet, but Kenneth's phone only picked up the gentle distant sound of a robin! What an amazing thing that his phone can identify bird songs and tell us which birds are around. On the morning dog walks in the last few days, he has been made aware of at least 10/12 species, with their details. Quite a few have just arrived after their long-distance migration. How breathtaking are their travels each year. Here's hoping our usual, late-night, noisy visitors are safe and will join us soon.

### Usual reminders

Do make use of the church porch at any time, taking time out to relax with a hot drink in its peaceful surroundings. A chance to read the bible or make a request for prayer, for yourself, a friend or for anything on your mind.

The mini food bank is there for anyone in need. There is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10.00am - 4.00pm each day.

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

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

### Easter service

Many thanks to All Saints church in Ulcombe for their hospitality in hosting the 6am outdoor Daybreak service on Easter Day. We really appreciated the event. Even so, we were very glad to be welcomed inside for a hot drink and breakfast. We needed the woolly hats and scarves as we welcomed the sunrise on this day of all days in the Christian calendar.

### Lent Lunch update

As promised, we are delighted and very grateful to everyone for their generosity. We have been able to donate more than £238 to the charity Christian Aid. In this time of conflict around the world, with so much suffering, and deprivation, charities like these are vital to so many in need. Thank you.

**Farmers' Market** - Look forward to being back with our varied scones on Friday 1st May.

### Farewell

On April 9th, family and friends said farewell to Wendy Sanger at St. Nicolas.

On Wednesday, 22nd April the church resounded to much enthusiastic singing and music in a celebration for the life of Hazel Eastwood in the community. A fitting tribute to Hazel.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families at this time.

### Finally

Hope everyone is enjoying the new season. Despite the chill winds, the countryside and gardens are looking beautiful as always. The bluebells in the woods seem to be better than ever. I am no expert on these matters but hope this bodes well for the future.

Looking forward to learning more details of the birds around us with this new 'tool' and will be listening out for the neighbours as they arrive. Am in awe of their God-given skills.

Sally Alexander

# Len Valley Benefice April 2025



Everybody is welcome

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

1 John 4 v7 (part)

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

3.00pm Lenham: **Messy Church**

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

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 24<sup>th</sup> May

11.00am **Benefice Pentecost Service** with HC at **St John's, Harrietsham**

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

11.00am **Benefice Taizé Service** at **All Saints, Ulcombe**



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

## Christian Message, May 2026

GOD LOVES EACH AND EVERYONE OF US

For God loved the world so much he gave his only son Matt3:16

As I have sat down to start putting this together it has been the second day of sunshine after what seems like a whole month of rain. I have put my first line of washing out to dry so things are definitely beginning to brighten up.

Our gardens are coming back to life bulbs of many beautiful colours are breaking into flower and waving in the wind. As I look out of my window and just see tree busting into bud and the grass looking green birds are returning from their winter migration, I realise how wonderful Gods creation is. In Matthew's gospel (chapter 6 : 25-30) God tells us not to worry about food drink or clothes. He says just to look at the wildflowers and the birds and how God feeds and looks after them.

Here we are just coming out of winter into spring and sure enough everything is coming back to its true spender.

God promises to send us another helper to stay with us his Holy Spirit. God's holy spirit is the third part of the trinity God the Father, God the Son and God's Holy Spirit Pentecost is the day when God sends his Holy Spirit to help and guide us. If you can imagine how the people may have felt at that time a group of believers were standing together and suddenly there was a noise sounding like the loud gush of wind . If something like this happened to you can you imagine being with a group of friends and feeling frightened confused maybe! God is a God of love and compassion he did not send his spirit to alarm us but to guide and help us.

Pouring out his Holy Spirit on each one of us so that we can learn to put him first in our lives and not just fitting him in when we can or need too. Until that great day when he returns.

When we think about what God has done for each of us, God sent Jesus into the world and then leaving us with another helper his Holy Spirit. We never have to walk alone.

So, let's be full of the joys of spring and filled with love for one another just as Jesus loves each of us and is still pouring his Holy Spirit into our lives.

Angela Benjamin.

# Emergency and Help Contact Details

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

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

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

Electricity (UK Power Networks)  
*Emergencies and Power Cuts* **0800 783 8866**  
**Or 01243 508866**

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

KCC Community Wardens:

*Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere* **07969 583923**  
*District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown* **07773 397125**  
Fire *General Enquiries* **01622 692121**  
*Home Safety Visits* **0800 923 7000**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**  
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **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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