

Malherbe Monthly

Number 162
January 2018



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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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 **February** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th January**

Front Cover: Picture (courtesy of Tom La Dell) of an ancient Oak tree on Church Road - see article on page 7

News from St. Nicholas Church

All good wishes for a very Happy New Year

The Christmas celebrations are over and we look forward to Epiphany, the time when the Wise Men visited the baby Jesus and so spread the good news to the wider, non-Jewish world, of the arrival of this wondrous child.

The Carol Service was a highlight of the season with a full church despite the cold, gloomy weather. The decorations and candlelit church gave a warm welcome to all, with the traditional readings and carols reminding us all of the real meaning of our festivities, the birth of a child, a very special child, who eventually gave his life for us.

The Christmas Service at St. John's, Harrietsham especially welcoming those with learning difficulties, their carers and friends on 14th December, was also a very happy and lively occasion. The singing was very enthusiastic and joyful and the special tree well decorated.

At this time of writing we are still looking forward to the **Crib Service on Christmas Eve, the Christmas Day family-friendly Communion Service and the Benefice Service at St. Nicholas on Sunday 31st at 10am.**

Christmas Coffee Morning was a very successful event, raising almost £300 for Tearfund. Our **usual monthly Coffee Morning** will be on the 10th January in the Village Hall, 10.30-12noon.

In this New Year morning prayers will be at St. Nicholas on the 3rd and 5th Tuesday and at All Saints, Ulcombe on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, all at 9.30am

Bible Study Group will be starting again at Weirton Villa, Grafty Green, 10.30am-12noon on Thursdays. Please contact Joan Drury for more details on 01622 853766.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Coffee Morning, the church decorations, monthly Coffee Mornings, the refreshments, and helped in so many ways throughout the year.

Sally Alexander

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Children's Room Beer Garden

Yoga Classes In Grafty Green Village Hall

Yoga focuses on postural alignment; strengthening the core to support the spine. Yoga is a complete system to bring harmony and balance into your life together with adding suppleness, stamina and strength.

Wednesday evenings 7 - 8.30 pm
10th January to 7th February – 5 weeks £30

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11 am
11th January to 8th February – 5 weeks £30

Saturday 27th January 10 – 11.20 £7

Drop in available at £8 a session.

Further information or one to one bookings call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga Teacher) 01622 850381

High Speed Broadband

It may of interest to the residents of Grafty Green that Fibre Optic Broadband is now available in the village. The newly installed green BT cabinet in Headcorn Road went live on Thursday 23rd November and is now available to order from your preferred telecom provider.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Meetings will take place at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall on the following dates:
15th January 2018, 12th March 2018

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

New Members Always Welcome - Join Us

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall, Gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available. Further information - Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Grafty Gourmet

This is a great Winter warmer. Roast your vegetables in honey before blitzing into this smooth, spiced soup. Serve with garlicky, zesty ciabatta slices for dipping.

Sweet Potato & Butternut Squash Soup with Lemon Garlic Toast

500g of sweet potatoes, peeled and diced
1 butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and diced
1 table spoon of clear honey
1 table spoon of olive oil, plus a drizzle
2 onions, roughly chopped
3 garlic cloves, crushed
1 litre of vegetable or chicken stock
1 tea spoon of cinnamon
1 tea spoon of grated nutmeg
100ml of double cream

For the toast

1 table spoon of olive oil
3 garlic cloves, crushed
100g of butter, at room temperature
zest of 1 lemon
2 table spoons of snipped chives
1 table spoon of chopped thyme
2 ciabatta loaves, cut into slices

1. Heat the oven to 220C or 200C for fan oven. Put the sweet potato and butternut squash on a baking tray and add the honey and a drizzle of olive oil. Roast for 40-45 mins until soft and starting to caramelise at the edges, stirring occasionally.
2. Meanwhile, fry the onions in 1 table spoon of olive oil until soft, then add the garlic, chicken stock, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bring to the boil, and simmer for 5 mins.
3. Remove the sweet potatoes and butternut squash from the oven and add to the pan with the stock. Blend everything until smooth using a blender. Stir in most of the cream and bring back to a gentle simmer, and season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. To make the lemon & garlic toasts, gently warm the olive oil and garlic in a pan over a low heat for a few mins; the garlic should be softened but not browned. Remove from the heat and mix in the butter and lemon zest until smooth. Leave to cool, then stir in the chives and thyme.
5. Toast the ciabatta slices, and top each with a spoonful of garlic butter. Serve with the soup, drizzled with the remaining cream, and some black pepper.

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The Ancient Oaks of England

Around sixty years ago a Forestry Commission forester called Alan Mitchell started measuring trees as part of his work on plantations of conifers. His work also included selecting the best trees to take seed from for future plantations. Many of these were on the big estates where planting trees from around the world had been a status symbol since Elizabethan times. Alan was also a fanatical collector of data so he started measuring trees and kept a card index. When he died in 1995 he had over 100,000 records.

By then the idea of 'Champion Trees' was catching on and the tallest oak (or redwood) in Britain and Ireland generated local interest in the tallest oak or redwood in Kent or any other county.

A charity was set up called the Tree Register and it now has over 200,000 records and much of the data is online, www.treeregister.org. Needless to say the Europeans have joined in with this typically British enthusiasm and there is a European Champion Tree Forum.

All this is a lead in to say that we went to their annual conference, this year in Kew Gardens, last September. One of the speakers told us that Britain has more ancient oaks than the rest of Europe put together and since retiring from Kew he has now devoted his life to recording the British ancient oaks. To qualify, the trunk has to be over 6m circumference at about 1.5m above ground level.

This got me thinking about the Parish's large oak about a third of the way up Church Road and on the right, the one with the dead branches sticking up out of the leafy crown. I wrote a short note on it for Malherbe Monthly a few years ago but did not think about it any more.

This time we walked up the hill and put the tape round it and it came to 7.0 m circumference, 6.4 m at its narrowest point a bit below this. It is an ancient oak.

Checking on the website www.herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/ancientoaksofengland the tree is there. It was measured in 2006 in another project but the location and trunk circumference are both wrong so I will get it corrected.

Our oak is a pollard, meaning that the trunk was cut off at about 6 to 8 feet (an ancient practice so I will use feet) and the new shoots would be out of the reach of grazing cattle. Pollarded willows were common along rivers and the shoots were cut regularly for basket making. Pollarded oaks are quite rare and ours probably marked an ancient boundary, in this case almost certainly.

Tom La Dell

Why do Village Post Offices/shops close down?

Over the years many villages have lost many or all of their facilities, so I thought I would briefly try to answer the question why as far as post offices are concerned.

One thing I think it is important for the public to know is that postmasters do not receive a salary - they are agents rather than employees. Their remuneration depends on the amount of business they do and so this could be well below the minimum wage. Over the years the Post Office has lost trade in various areas. For example, with the advent of emails the number of letters sent nowadays is much fewer.

On the shop side, with supermarkets and home deliveries, the vast majority of people use their village shop very little. Not only does less trade mean less money coming in, but there are big problems of stock going out of date etc.

I think most village shopkeepers have what might be described as a social conscience - they believe what they are doing is for the good of the community. For example they see the shop as a social meeting place rather than just a commercial venture. Some continue running their shop until ill health or other personal circumstances make it impossible or very difficult to continue.

Wishing you a Happy New Year

Rob Eastwood
Grafty Green Post Office and Stores

Village Hall News

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

As Christmas disappears over our shoulders once again and we look towards the longer days of Spring, you'll be asking "what will the village hall be offering to brighten up the drab early months?" Well (surprise, surprise!) I have the answer: We are offering a communal **Pancake Day!**

Yes, in a new venture for the village, we invite you to drop in at the Hall any time between 4.30 and 6.30 on **Tuesday 13th February** for freshly cooked pancakes (sweet or savoury - or why not both?) and a chat with other hungry village folk.

Who knows, there could even be a pancake tossing competition or a pancake race for those who want to enjoy themselves even more. We don't really know what will

happen - we've never done it before. So be amongst the first to sample a new slice of conviviality and fun!

There's no ticket to buy, no seat to reserve, just drift in. It's a family affair, so all ages are welcome. There's no entertainment - save what we cook up for ourselves - it's just a relaxed get-together over traditional Shrove Tuesday fare.

We hope as many of you as possible will drop by and make the occasion sizzle!

The following month we will have another of our famed '**themed**' meals. We're not quite settled on a date yet (or indeed a theme!) but do look out in next month's magazine for these details. Something exciting will definitely happen on either the **17th or 24th March!** So, you know what to do: pencil in the event for both dates and keep them free if you can.

Finally, a few **Village Calendars** are still available for sale at the village shop. So if you have nowhere yet to write in the dates of our 2018 events, there's your answer!

A happy new year to you all,

Richard Pilborough, Hall Committee Chairman

Grafty Green Gardening Club – 2018 Programme Of Events

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
Jan 9	AGM and Phil Piddle	Hedge laying and hedging tools
Feb 6	Dr Sue Turner	How to Grow Potatoes
March 6	Helen Yemm	Late Summer Flowering Plants
March 27	Sandra Pilborough- and Spring Show	Spring flower arrangements – Practical session in time for Easter!
May 1	Colin Moat	50 Shades of Grey (shade loving plants)
May 5	Plant Sale 10am on the village green	
June 5	Outing - Little Mockbegger, Biddenden - entry £5, refreshments extra	
July 3	Outing – Parsonage Oast, Yalding – entry £4, refreshments extra	
July 26	Weekend away – North Yorkshire	
August 7	TBA	
Sept 4	Autumn Show	
Sept 9	Coach Outing to Kew	
Oct 2	Philip Johnson	How to grow sweet peas
Nov6		Hops
Dec 2	TBA	

AGM & a Talk on Hedge Laying - There will be a short AGM at the beginning of our first meeting on January 9th at 7.30 in the Village Hall. This will be followed by a talk on hedge laying by Phil Piddle.

Tip of the Month - Start winter digging before Christmas, particularly on heavy clay soils, so the weather can break down the soil before spring arrives. This will make preparing seed beds easier. Prune deciduous trees and shrubs, remove and shred pruned material. Clean moss and lichen from paths and treat timber fences and furniture with preservatives on dry days. Most important to feed birds in cold weather and provide drinking water.

**Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green
Gardening Club (01622) 757536**

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Presents an evening with

Helen Yemm

(Writer, Lecturer, Broadcaster, Daily Telegraph Columnist)

‘Onwards into Autumn’

An illustrated talk that focuses on late summer
flowering plants

Tuesday 6th March – 7.30 pm

Grafty Green Village Hall

Tickets £5 from Sue Burch – 01622 850381

The Lenham Family Festival

Following the continued success of this community event, the 2018 Lenham Family Festival will take place from Thursday 7 June to Sunday 10 June 2018. The weekend will take the following format:

- Thursday 7 June: an afternoon event at the Len Valley Community Hub Club
- Friday 8 June: an evening event at Lenham Social Club to be announced later
- Saturday 9 June: the main family day with music and entertainment on both the main stage and indoors, and refreshments and stalls galore as usual!
- Sunday 10 June: live music at the monthly market in Lenham Square

The following weekend the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra will return for another performance in the stunning setting of Lenham's historic Tithe Barn. This will take place on the evening of Saturday 16 June.

We will be announcing the beneficiaries of the 2018 Lenham Family Festival in due course. In the meantime, if you feel you would like to contribute in any way to the 2018 Festival, then we would love you to get in touch. There are many ways to contribute, just a few of which are as follows:

- Joining the committee (we meet at 7.15pm on the last Monday of each month at Lenham Community Centre - feel free to just turn up)
- Volunteering to help with the set up, take down, parking, etc at one of the events
- Financial support in the form of sponsorship, donations, raffle prizes, etc.
- Would you like to perform at the Festival?
- Would you like to be a stallholder at the main Family Day on the Saturday?

There are many ways in which to contribute and this is something the whole community can be a part of and enjoy, as well as making a difference to our chosen beneficiaries. If you feel you would like to take an active part in making this the best year ever, then please contact Tom and Janetta Sams on 01622 859412. Go on....you know you want to!

Watch out for further details in the coming months and make sure you put the 2018 Festival on your calendar. You really don't want to miss out on all the fun!

Gail Robinson (on behalf of the Lenham Family Festival Committee)

Happy New Year from Helen Whately MP

So much has happened in 2017 at such a pace, I feel I've hardly had a chance to reflect. The most important moment for me was being re-elected in June, with an increased majority. It's an honour to represent this constituency and I'm delighted that people have put their trust in me again.

Since the election Brexit has dominated the headlines, but as well as pushing for the best deal for Kent I've been getting on with my campaigns for a new hospital and a medical school, better roads and infrastructure, a good school place for every child, care for people with mental health problems and a seasonal workers scheme for farmers.

One of the big lessons from this summer is that we need to do more for young people. For people in their 30s as their careers develop, for people in their 20s as they set out in the world of work, for teenagers wondering what life will hold, and for smaller children like mine still dreaming of being ballerinas and footballers. So I was glad that the Budget included investment in technology, infrastructure and skills, including an extra £2.3 billion in research and development, £385 million in 5G and full-fibre broadband, and support for maths and science teaching. We have to give younger generations the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow, and make sure the economy develops to provide those jobs.

As well as jobs, we desperately need more affordable homes. I hope the abolition of stamp duty for first-time buyers for properties under £300,000 will help people in this area – where prices are high – get on the ladder. And the Government has committed to making sure 300,000 new homes a year are built. But new housing must be in the right places and accompanied by appropriate investment in infrastructure. Ever since I was elected I have done everything I can to make the voice of local people heard in the planning process, and in particular I have spoken out against development at Junction 8.

The housing targets for Maidstone and Swale are already high and local roads are under enormous pressure, with congestion becoming the norm rather than the exception. Thousands more houses will mean more demand for healthcare and school places and many more cars on the road. So we need investment in infrastructure – like a potential Leeds-Langley relief road and an overhaul of Brenley Corner – and in public services.

The Government recognises this, and recently announced an extra £1.3 billion for schools. Local schools are getting a 6.4% funding boost – that's a total of £2.7 million more than they would have received under the old funding system. Every secondary school will receive at least £4,600 per pupil next year and £4,800 in 2019-20. High-needs funding for the most vulnerable children is also going up, and there's support for rural schools. I was delighted to be appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary

to Education Secretary Justine Greening, and in this role I have had the opportunity to be involved in conversations about education at a national level.

There have also been positive developments in the campaign for a new hospital in Canterbury and a medical school for Kent. After numerous public meetings, marches, lobbying sessions with ministers, a debate in Parliament, delivering a petition to Downing Street and handing a letter in person to Jeremy Hunt, the NHS is finally consulting on a proposal for a new hospital. I have always said that the NHS should consider a vision for healthcare in East Kent with an excellent specialist hospital in the centre. This option is now on the table. That wasn't the case a few months ago. There's still a long way to go before the final decision is made and whatever the outcome, patients must come first.

One reason local hospitals are struggling is that they can't recruit enough doctors. That's why I'm campaigning for a medical school, to train the doctors of the future locally. I recently joined forces with 15 other MPs from across the county, and across parties, to support Canterbury Christ Church and the University of Kent's joint bid to establish a medical school.

On roads, as well as tackling traffic we need to make sure there is no return to the chaos we saw two summers ago when the M20 was closed for weeks for Operation Stack. I am disappointed that plans for a lorry holding area have been delayed, however I have always said that the key is to make sure traffic can continue to flow in both directions on the M20 when Operation Stack is in place. Highways England are now proposing to hold lorries in the middle of the motorway using mobile barriers, while allowing traffic to continue to travel in both directions. This will be a temporary solution, and we still need a proper alternative to Operation Stack. The Government is now getting straight on with trying to get a lorry park approved through the normal planning process. As part of this it is broadening its scope and thinking of ways to address the broader problems of fly-parking and the potential impact of Brexit – as well as Operation Stack.

As well as increasing the number of lorry parking spaces in the County, we need tougher rules to make sure drivers park in the right places. I want to see a ban on lorries in lay-bys and I'm pleased that Kent County Council recently started clamping illegally parked trucks after the first offence. Drivers have to pay £250 to have the clamps removed. If this pilot scheme is successful I hope it will be rolled out across the County.

This is also a challenging time for local fruit farmers. We're lucky to grow some of the best strawberries, raspberries, apples and cherries in the world here in Kent, but farmers tell me they are struggling to recruit the workers they need. It's getting harder to attract seasonal workers from across the EU, and the number of local people looking for work is far too low to meet the labour needs of fruit farms. I've been campaigning along with other MPs with fruit farms in their constituencies for the

Government to re-start a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme, which is what we had before EU enlargement to provide farms with enough workers.

Nationally, I'm campaigning for better support for people with mental health problems. The more we speak about mental health—privately, publicly and in Parliament—the more we wear away the stigma that surrounds it. As chair of the all-party group on mental health, I often speak to service users, professionals and campaigners from organisations such as Rethink Mental Illness, Mind and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. They tell me there has never been a better time to be a mental health campaigner. We have the five year forward view for mental health, a truly comprehensive and widely supported strategy to improve mental health care; a Prime Minister who is committed to fighting the injustice of inadequate treatment; and a Government which is spending record amounts on improving mental health care. We're already seeing the results locally where East Kent University NHS Trust is receiving nearly £500,000 to make specialist psychiatric liaison services available in A&E and inpatient wards. But there's more to do, and I will keep on working to make sure mental health conditions are treated just as seriously as physical illnesses.

Do keep on contacting me with your concerns and views, whether in writing, by phone or by coming to one of my surgeries. I'm looking forward to spending Christmas eating far too much and spending time with my family.

I wish everyone in Faversham and Mid Kent a very happy new year!

Helen Whately
MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

www.helenwhately.org.uk

Tel: 020 7219 6472;
Email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk



BT Superfast broadband has, **at last**, been made available in Grafty Green, we have been waiting for over 3 years since the Make Kent Faster Campaign. What do you need to do to get it.

Step 1: Use the fibre checker to see if you can get fibre broadband at your home address. <https://www.products.bt.com/broadband/availability>
Most of the time all you'll need is your landline number. Or you can put in your postcode and address.

Step 2: If fibre's available, your next step is to choose the company you'd like to supply your broadband. To see what deals are available go to uSwitch.com and look for Top 10 super-fast broadband deals.

OR: If you already have broadband you should be offered deals from your existing provider. **Note:** currently BT have a special offer until 15th January.

Beware, when you order your superfast broadband, the provider will combine your existing package and add the superfast offers to that, so you might want to review this at the same.

Benefits of having Superfast broadband means guaranteed download speed of up to 70mbps (Megabits per second) and upload speeds will be offered. See an example of what can be achieved.

Good News! We predict your download speed will now be between **34-45 Mbps** and your predicted upload speed will be between **6-8.9 Mbps**

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Your guaranteed minimum line speed is 31 Mbps. If it falls below this, BT will always try to restore your speed. If your actual line speed remains below this speed you have the right to end your broadband contract without having to pay early termination charges.

Some people in the village have said they are getting up to 52mbps download speed. The speed you are offered has many dependencies, eg. your computer equipment and how near you are to the Openreach Green Street Cabinet.

You may wish to consider if Standard broadband is fast enough for you.

An up to 17Mb broadband package is what is known as standard broadband. It is the cheapest and most widely available option for broadband – and also the slowest. The average speed you are likely to receive on a 17Mb connection is around 8Mb. This is fine if you live in a small household and consider yourself a casual internet user who browses and shops online, uses email and social media, and maybe downloads the occasional show on BBC iPlayer. However, if you have more than a couple of devices connected at once, it may struggle.

If you need any help, please visit the Egerton Telecottage on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon <http://www.egerton-kent.co.uk/telecottage>. Advice is free and there is always someone there it help you. If you would like any topics covered in this magazine please email me at carolhulm@gmail.com

January Music notes

January is in all respects an anticlimax from Christmas and the music scene conforms to this picture. Many music groups are immersed in a new regime of rehearsals following a Christmas concert, and certainly most singers are resting their voices after an excess of carols. Nevertheless I have been able to find some concerts for you to enjoy:

- **Saturday 6th January**, 7.30pm at The United Reformed Church, Week St., Maidstone: In the last of the Christmas festivities, Maidstone Choral Union present a 12th Night Concert. More mulled wine & mince pies afterwards! Free entry, with a retiring collection. No tickets required.
- **Sunday 14th January**, 2.30pm at Sutton Valence School, the Sutton Valence Music Society have arranged a concert by Alasdair Beatson, piano, and John Myerscough, cello. Programme includes works by Brahms, Fauré, and Beethoven. Tickets at the door or contact 01622 863002.
- **Saturday 27th January**, Maidstone Singers are holding a "come and sing" event with Haydn's *Nelson Mass* as the subject. Held at St. Faith's church, Station Rd, Maidstone ME14 1LH, applications are welcome from all singers – forms from MS website or from choir members. The day will end with a concert performance at 6.30pm – tickets 01622 737916 or at the door.
- **Saturday 3rd February**, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's concert includes Elgar's *Cello Concerto* featuring Sheku Kanneh-Mason (BBC Young Musician 2016) and Dvořák's Symphony No.9 "*From the New World*". Tickets 033 616 3366(booking fee applies) or at the door.

Unfortunately, as I write the radio and TV information for January 2018 is not yet available, and rumour has it that the New Year's Day concert from Vienna, won't be broadcast on BBC TV this time- I recommend you keep an eye on programme news nearer the time.

Brian Hardy

The Ulcombe Friendship Club is meeting in Ulcombe Village Hall on Thursday 25 January at 2pm. There will be a showing of the 'feel good' film, *Slumdog Millionaire*.

This will be followed by a cup of tea and cake and then a brief AGM to decide the future of the Club. All welcome. New potential members will be particularly welcome

Molly Poulter



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Link Word Puzzle - Answers at the back (don't look first!)

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Double	Country	Fire	Cross
2	Bargain	Horn	Fox	
3	Kidney	Cold	Mile	
4	Trigger	Medium	Event	
5	Surface	Penalty	Grey	
6	History	Super	Gas	
7	Warning	Riser	Days	
8	Expert	Poll	Second	
9	Mother	Ladder	Goose	
10	Proof	Paint	Axle	
11	Plaster	Broad	Away	
12	Length	Brain	Crime	
13	Estate	Secret	Free	
14	Road	Valve	Catch	
15	Wool	Candy	Bud	
16	Air	Field	Magnetic	

Find the missing word?	
1	Bob _____, London born comic who formed a big screen paring with Bing Crosby
2	_____ Easton, Singer who sang 'For Your Eyes Only'
3	True _____, Much loved Western and remake in 2010
4	_____ Diaz, The voice of Fiona in 'Shrek'
5	Steven _____, Film Director of 'Jaws' and 'Jurassic Park'
6	_____ Vitae, Old term for Brandy
7	Diana _____, Lionel Richie's duettist on ' Endless Love'
8	_____ Wise, Eric's partner for many years
9	Brief _____, Classic romantic movie
10	_____ Wainthorpp Investigates, Comic caper with Patricia Routledge

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The closure is to enable a new electric connection to be carried out by UK Power Networks.

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TO REPORT: Potholes; broken signs; traffic signal faults;
overgrown trees or hedges

- Call **03000 418181** (Highways Issues - KCC)

- or click

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

TO REPORT: Litter; fly tipping; abandoned vehicles; dog mess;
noise:

- Call **01622 602202** (Environmental Issues MBC)

or click

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/report>

TO REPORT non-domestic Water Leaks:

- Call **0333 000 0002**

or click: <http://www.midkentwater.co.uk>

TO REPORT: Overgrown Footpaths click on:

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Friday, 16th February 2018

7.30pm – 9.30pm

At St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

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Chris Roots 01622 851885

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Christian Message January 2018

A New Year's Resolution: Love and be nice

Quite often when I am studying for an essay, address or article, I come across words, phrases or even whole passages that I don't understand, that challenge me and result in me having to slowly unpick the text bit by bit. However learned the words may be, however, many Biblical messages boil down to one phrase, 'be nice', or even one word, 'love'. Such simple concepts but so much more complex to execute.

But what an exciting challenge for 2018!

When your mother-in-law buys you socks for the fifth birthday running, love her and be nice. When your husband comes home late or forgets your anniversary, love him and be nice. When you feel that people are talking about you or spreading unkind gossip behind your back, love them and be nice. It's not hard to smile and gratefully receive a ghastly, but well-intentioned, present but It is very hard to forgive, when being spoken about unkindly.

Love is not passive. Love means making that extra journey to a meeting on a cold night when you want to stay indoors and watch television. Love means finding time to visit a friend on your way home, when feeling exhausted after a long day at work. Love means investing thought, prayer and action into repairing difficult relationships.

If you want to slim, run a marathon or give up smoking, as a new year's resolution, that's really commendable and you should go ahead, but I suggest that the biggest challenge of all lies in one simple command: "that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). After all, 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament were written about the one true God, who loves us all so much that he sacrificed his only son in order that our sins may be forgiven and that we may be free to love him and one another.

If we made it our new year's resolution to ask God into our lives, 'love and be nice', what an impact that would have! Challenging maybe, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, exciting, fulfilling and joyful too, and with the extra promise of an eternal reward greater than any earthly gain.

Pamela Cuerden



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The Ulcombe History Society

2018

Hon. Chairman: Mrs Molly Poulter, MA
The Old Dalry, Street Farm, Ulcombe,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 1DP (01622 842988)
Email: molly.poulter@vfast.co.uk

Hon. Vice Chairman: Geoff Beale
Glenville House, The Street, Ulcombe,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 1DU (01622 842823)
Email: bealegeoff@gmail.com

Hon. Secretary: position vacant

Hon. Treasurer: John Moore
Eastville, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green,
Maidstone, ME17 2DQ (01622 850384)
Email: jmoore7825@aol.com

Hon. Membership Secretary: John Ware
La Corbiere, Lenham Road, Ulcombe,
Maidstone ME17 1LX (01622 842330)
Email: john@warston-free-online.co.uk



The Society meets in
Ulcombe Village Hall at 7.30pm

This year there will be eight talks,
an evening outing to Elham, a
day trip to Greenwich and
a weekend away.

PROGRAMME 2018

Membership is open to all who have an interest in local and national history.
The annual membership fee is £10. Visitors are always welcome.
Refreshments will be served

Tuesday 16 January

John Moore

Education in India: challenge and opportunity

Tuesday 20 March

AGM 7.30pm followed by

Mrs Mary Smith

A Schoolgirl's War

Tuesday 17 April

Steve Hookins

Woolwich Women at War

Tuesday 15 May

Dr Marc Morris

Bad King John

Saturday 16 June

Trip to Greenwich

Tuesday 10 July

Evening outing to Elham

Tuesday 18 September

Simon Elliott

From Ragstone to Riches

Fri 14 – Sunday 16 September

Weekend trip

Tues 16 October

Patsy Erskine-Hill

*The fire that took hold - printing, literacy
and bookselling in early Renaissance Venice,
the book capital of the world for 100 years*

Tuesday 20 November

Melanie Gibson-Barton

Wandering in Flanders Fields

Tuesday 18 December

Imogen Corrigan

*Powers behind the throne – the women
of the first millennium.*

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – January 2018

Wednesday 3rd January

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 7th January

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service

9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

11.00 am Ulcombe: Family Worship

11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion

3.30 pm Harrietsham: GIFT family worship

Sunday 14th January

8.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast Service

9.30 am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

11.00 am Lenham: Morning Worship

3.30 pm Boughton Malherbe: Evensong

Wednesday 17th January

10.30am Chippendayle Lodge

Sunday 21st January

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Saturday 27th January

8.00am Dog & Bear, Lenham: Men's breakfast

Sunday 28th January

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Family Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

11.00am Lenham: Family Worship

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**.

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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**
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**
KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal **01622 858100**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **01622 734555**

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
1	Double	Country	Fire
2	Bargain	Horn	Fox
3	Kidney	Cold	Mile
4	Trigger	Medium	Event
5	Surface	Penalty	Grey
6	History	Super	Gas
7	Warning	Riser	Days
8	Expert	Poll	Second
9	Mother	Ladder	Goose
10	Proof	Palm	Axle
11	Plaster	Broad	Away
12	Length	Brain	Crime
13	Estate	Secret	Free
14	Road	Valve	Catch
15	Wool	Candy	Bud
16	Air	Field	Magnetic
Force			
Cotton			
Safety			
Agent			
Wave			
Cast			
Grease			
Step			
Option			
Early			
Natural			
Area			
Happy			
Stone			
Hunting			
Cross			

1	Bob Hope, London born comic who formed a big screen pairing with Bing Crosby
2	Sheena Easton, Singer who sang 'For Your Eyes Only'
3	True Grit, Much loved Western and remake in 2010
4	Cameron Diaz, The voice of Fiona in 'Shrek'
5	Steven Spielberg, Film Director of 'Jaws' and 'Jurassic Park'
6	Aqua Vitae, Old term for Brandy
7	Diana Ross, Lionel Richie's duetist on 'Endless Love'
8	Ernie Wise, Eric's partner for many years
9	Brief Encounter, Classic romantic movie
10	Herry Wainthorpp Investigates, Comic caper with Patricia Routledge
	Find the missing word?

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