

# Malherbe Monthly

Number 237  
April 2024



**An early Horse Chestnut tree in full leaf on Church Road**

## Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.

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Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	TBC
Village Hall bookings	Jan Carter email janlcarter@btinternet.com	850898
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk Mobile 07932 112730	851351
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
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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 **May** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20<sup>th</sup> April**

## News from St. Nicholas Church – April 2024

I remember writing in the February edition, that the church calendar was pushing us on to Easter at an alarming rate, having only just celebrated Christmas. So here we are in Holy Week with Good Friday and Easter Sunday only a few days away.

We have still managed the solemn and thoughtful events that lead us gently through this season of Lent, weekly Lent courses, Lent Lunches each week in the Village Hall, Mothering Sunday (with my very first attempt at making a Simnel cake!), Palm Sunday benefice service in Lenham yesterday, evening talks taking place around the benefice this week, Maundy Thursday service with 'washing of feet' in Harrietsham, 'An hour at the Cross' on Good Friday, Easter Sunday Daybreak outdoor service 6am at St. Nicholas and Easter Morning Service. Quite a full calendar! Hope you have enjoyed some of these events.

### Reminders

**The church porch** is open at all times. Make use of the tea/coffee and soft drink options as you enjoy its peace and rural outlook. A joy to see and hear the new lambs in the field. There is paper and envelopes if you would like to leave a prayer request, or contact Rev. John Huggins or the churchwardens at any time. Any prayers will be read in Monday morning prayer time or in private if you wish. A small food bank is there if you need, though there is a larger food bank in St. Mary's in Lenham, open daily from 10-4.00pm.

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

**Church service times** are on the noticeboards by the roadside and by the porch, also outside the Village Hall in Grafty Green.

**Celtic Morning Prayer** is said in the side chapel each Monday morning 9-9.30am. This is an informal time, with short bible readings and time for prayer, spoken, or in silence, for people, events, problems or worries. Sharing can be helpful.

**Village Coffee Morning** takes place each Tuesday 11.30am-2pm in the Village Hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is usually open 12.45-2.15pm. There are often items for sale, eg. Honey and free-range eggs, Pluckley teas, eco-household products, handmade cards, jams and marmalade. All donations received are shared equally between the church and a charity chosen by the 'regulars'.

**Lent Lunches.** Very many thanks for the generosity of those who have come to share in these bread and soup lunches. Also, thanks to those who made the soups and Kenneth who kindly made all the breads. These times have been special, being held on Tuesdays, joining the coffee regulars. Possible to start with coffee and cake, followed by soup and bread and finishing off with more coffee and cake!

All proceeds have been donated to the work of Christian Aid for its unstinting work for those in need worldwide, never more necessary than in these troubled times. The total raised this year was £326.16p. This sum has already been passed on to the charity.

**Monthly Meditations** continue at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, for just half an hour, led by Rev.John Huggins. A time of silence and thoughtfulness. So rare an opportunity in this busy world. A time to talk over coffee/tea afterwards can be useful.

**Wedding** plans for Laura and Ollie's wedding at the end of April are progressing and we continue our prayers for them.

### **Finale**

Hoping everyone has enjoyed a happy and blessed Easter and is feeling the joy of new beginnings and opportunities with warmer weather and gardens and fields bursting with precious new growth and vigour. However, world tragedies are unfolding in front of us, may we appreciate the goodness of God in giving us such treasures and for our role in following the message of hope, perseverance and love for his creation.

**Sally Alexander**



**STONEBRIDGE ACCOUNTING**  
**ACCOUNTS AND TAX SUPPORT**  
**FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESS**

**Tel: 01622 851542**

**Boughton Malherbe  
Parish Council  
Contact Details**

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- Tel: 01622 850369

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

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Chiro-pody  
& Podiatry

Heather's

**Registered Surgical Chiropodist / Podiatrist**  
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**01622 850376** [www.heatherschiropody.co.uk](http://www.heatherschiropody.co.uk)  
[retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk](mailto:retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk)

The Brown Barn, Bull Hill, Lenham Heath, Kent, ME17 2JA (Off the A20)

**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](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7219 6472; Email: [helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk)

## Village Hall – April Newsletter

For some time now the committee have been concerned that whilst we are offering a wide range of activities at the hall we wanted to expand the range available to those busy bees amongst you who work during the day. I am pleased to say that I have some good news for all you hard workers out there who deserve a rest and to take some time out after a stressful day at work!

As you may be aware Sue Burch already offers a relaxing Yoga Class on a Wednesday evening 7 to 8.30 pm, (Sue can be contacted at [burch1997@aol.com](mailto:burch1997@aol.com) if you would like more information) and the Gardening Club meet on the first Tuesday of every month between 7.30 and 9pm, (please contact Doreen Hulm on 01622 850287 for further details).

In addition to this I am now pleased to advise you that Cathy our art teacher will be offering a new art class on alternate Thursdays commencing Thursday 11th April 7 to 9pm and Cheryl our Pilates teacher is commencing a new Saturday morning Pilates class at the hall between 9.30 and 10.30 am starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Details of both these new classes are provided below.

### **New Evening Art Class Commencing Thursday 11th April 7 to 9 pm Fortnightly**

Cathy our art class teacher is by popular demand starting an additional art class fortnightly on Thursday evenings commencing on Thursday 11th April from 7pm and 9pm. Please contact Cathy on 07927 054708 or Email: [cathyonthehill@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyonthehill@hotmail.com) for more details and to book your place. Cathy is offering a discounted price of £40 for the first 3 sessions, (normally £48).

### **New Pilates Class Saturday Morning 9.30 to 10.30 am starting 1<sup>st</sup> June**

I am very pleased to say that Cheryl our Pilates teacher has kindly agreed to host a Saturday morning Pilates Class at the Village Hall. Classes will run from 9.30 to 10.30 am starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please see below information on Pilates.

#### **A little bit about Pilates**

Pilates teaches ease of movement and good posture. It conditions the whole body by lengthening, strengthening and rebalancing, helping you enjoy daily activities with greater ease and less chance of injury. The classes are mat based and are particularly safe for those with back problems. The movements are controlled and co-ordinated and can be adapted to suit the abilities of each individual person. It can work for everyone, regardless of fitness level, Pilates is often recommended by physiotherapists, doctors and other health professionals as a safe way to aid rehabilitation. It is practised by seniors and elite athletes alike.

To book your place or for further information please contact Cheryl on 07852 602369 Email: [c.stubbs8@btinternet.com](mailto:c.stubbs8@btinternet.com) Cheryl is offering a special introductory offer of £20 for a 4-week course.



## **Digital Kent - Help with the Internet and anything digital starts Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 11.30 to 1.30**

Digital Kent is a free service provided by Kent County Council working in partnership with the NHS, District & Borough Councils and the social sector with the objective of tackling digital exclusion across Kent and Medway and I am pleased to advise you that they have kindly agreed to set up a new hub at the village hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the same time as our coffee morning and the Post Office. They will provide a digital champion, (Mark), who will be on hand to help you with accessing the internet and all things digital. So if you are a dinosaur like me I can imagine Mark will be quite busy on his monthly visits to the hall!

In addition to our regular activities at the hall we also have some events coming up as follows:-

### **Quiz Night Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7 for 7.30pm**

There are still a few spaces left for our collaborative Quiz Night with the Platts Heath PTA. Tickets are £15 per person for a sausage & chip supper, (it's an extra fiver if you want fish and chips), please contact myself on either 07932 112730 or email [Plattsheathpta@gmail.com](mailto:Plattsheathpta@gmail.com) to purchase your tickets.

### **Spring Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May 10 am to 3pm**

We will also be hosting our very popular spring craft fair weekend at the hall on Saturday & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of May where you can browse a varied selection of stalls offering a wide range of interesting crafted items, have a chat with friends and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake on Saturday or enjoy a bacon sandwich on the Sunday. There will be a wide range of stall holders including beauty products, bags and lots of gift ideas. Any donations of cake will be very welcome and we look forward to seeing you at the event.

### **Bingo Night – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 7 for 7.30 pm**

Richard the host with the most will be comparing our very first bingo night at the hall. Please make a note in your diaries as this will be an event not to be missed!

### **Village Hall Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm**

Finally, I have enclosed within this newsletter a notice for the village hall's AGM. The hall is a community resource run for your benefit and it would be lovely to see you if you would like to share your thoughts on the running of the hall, (good or bad!) and to discuss any ideas you may have for the future use of the hall which would benefit the local community.

**Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman**

**[jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk)**

**[www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk)**

**Facebook – [graftygreenvillage](#)**

# **Grafty Green Village Hall**

**Bookings 01622 850898**

## **Regular Weekly Events**

**Yoga – mixed ability**  
Susan Burch 01622 850381

**Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am**  
**Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm**

**Pilates**  
Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639

**Mondays 2.00-3pm**  
**Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am**

**Post Office**

**Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm**

**Coffee morning**

**Tuesdays 11.30 – 2.00pm**

**Short Mat Bowls**  
Joan Marriott 01622 858100

**Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm**

**Dance Fit**  
Sharon Harris 01622 890170

**Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm**

**Tai Chi**  
Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782

**Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm**

**Craft Group**  
Janis Carter 01622 850898

**Fridays 10am -12.00pm**

**Art Class**  
Cathy Hill 07927054708

**Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm**

## **Regular Monthly Events**

**Gardening Club**  
Doreen 01622 850287  
Sue 01622 850381

**First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm**



## Grafty Green Village Hall

### Notice Of Annual General Meeting

The 2024 AGM will take place at the Village Hall  
on Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm

***You are all invited!***

#### **AGENDA:**

- Receive the minutes of the last AGM  
and deal with matters arising;
- Receive the Chairman's report on the  
work of the committee last year;
- Receive the annual accounts and the  
Treasurer's report;
- Open discussion of the committee's work;
- Elect a committee for the coming year;
- Consider ideas for the future;
- Review Hall hire fee;
- Any other business

***Please come along,  
cast your vote and have your say.***

The Village Hall committee is a registered charity, (no. 288091), run for the benefit of local residents. We host a variety of events throughout the year such as the Christmas Quiz, Pancake Evening and the Craft Fair. The hall is also used by a wide variety of clubs and societies and we make the hall available for hire to local residents for social events such as children's birthday parties.

Kind regards,

*Jon Thompson*

Hall Committee Chairman

Tel: 07932 112730

Email: [jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk)

Grafty Green in collaboration with  
Platts Heath School PTA  
Invite you to our annual

# QUIZ Night

***Saturday 20th April***

**GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

**DOORS OPEN 7:00PM FOR 7:30 START**



Purchase Tickets from  
[Plattsheathpta@gmail.com](mailto:Plattsheathpta@gmail.com)  
or Jon on 07932112730

*Tickets £15.00*

*Includes Chip Supper*

*Teams of up to 8*

Pay Bar Available or bring your own drinks!  
Raffle £1.00 a Ticket on the Night

# **Evening Art Classes at Grafty Green**



**Alternative Thursdays, in the Village Hall, 7 – 9pm.**

**A course of 6 classes (£16 per class)**

**Starting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**SPECIAL STARTER OFFER**

**Get the first 3 Classes for £40**

**Learn basic drawing skills using exciting and bold techniques.  
All abilities and complete beginners welcome.**

**Contact Cathy Hill: 07927 054705 [cathyonthehill@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyonthehill@hotmail.com)**

# Grafty Green Village Hall Craft Fair

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 10.00-3.00

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Lots of your favourite stalls plus for the first time:

Rose Gems

For the Love of Cookie Dough

Tatty Tay

Lauren's Printing Services

Elliot Hill Dog Products

Doodle Daze Candles

Don't miss our biggest and best craft fair ever!

Tea, coffee and cake on Saturday and tea, coffee and  
bacon sandwiches on Sunday.

Saturday is full but we have a couple of spaces on the Sunday if you  
are selling a craft that we don't already have. Please contact me on

[angelaos101@gmail.com](mailto:angelaos101@gmail.com)



# ***New Pilates Class***

***Mixed Ability (Beginners/Improvers welcome)***

Pilates teaches ease of movement and good posture.

Conditioning the whole body by lengthening, strengthening and rebalancing, helping you enjoy daily activities with greater ease and less chance of injury.



**Saturdays 09:30 to 10:30 am - Grafty Green Village Hall**

***Introductory Offer 50% discount:***

**4 week course for £20 (normally £10 per session)**

***1 June to 22 June***

**To book your place please contact Cheryl**

**07852 602369**

**Email: [c.stubbs8@btinternet.com](mailto:c.stubbs8@btinternet.com)**



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

[www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk](http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk)

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs R Galton (Chairman), B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood; R Turner

**In attendance:** Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council); SLCC Locum Clerk Helen Anderson

### Part 1

**M01/03/24 Appointment of SLCC Locum Clerk, Helen Anderson from 26 February 2024 for an initial period of 1 month at £25 per hour and 7 hours per week.**

RESOLVED: This was agreed.

**M02/03/24 Anybody filming or recording this meeting kindly requested to declare it:** Cllr Adams declared that he would be recording the meeting.

### **M03/03/24 Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **M04/03/24 Declarations:**

**Any lobbying:** none declared

**Any interest in items on the agenda:** none declared

**Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests:** none declared

### **M05/03/24 Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 12 February 2024 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

**M06/03/24 Public Session:** three members of public present: no issues were raised.

### **M07/03/24 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Report**

Cllr Trzebinski gave a short report regarding the MBC Affordable Homes Project as well as election boundary changes taking Sutton Valence into the ward area. MBC has also issued a fourth phase of the Community Resilience Fund. The deadline for applications is 24 March 2024.

### **M08/03/24 Planning Outcomes since 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Noted that:

23/505294/FULL and 23/505295/LBC Erection of a single storey side extension to existing triple garage, with store in roof space at Grey Cottage, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton, TN27 9BP. These applications were permitted on 29 January 2024.

### **M09/03/24 Local Policing/Community**

Police/Crime Report: It was noted that no crimes had been reported.

### **M10/03/24 Water Leaks**

RESOLVED: the Clerk to report a water leak on Liverton Hill to KCC.

### **M11/03/24 59 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings**

No reports were given.

### **FINANCE**

**M12.1/03/24 Receipts since last meeting:** Broomfield & Kingswood PC Bus Contribution £492.74.

**M12.2/03/24 Cheques to sign:** It was RESOLVED for the following payments to be made:

V J Ford £650.72; Amesis Ltd £60.67; NuVenture Buses £1,120; Grafty Green Village Hall £271.25.



**M12.3/03/24 Parish Services Scheme 2024/25**

Maidstone Borough Council has notified that the grant will be £210.

**M13/03/24 Parish Council Meeting AGM 2024:**

RESOLVED: the meeting will be held on Monday, 13 May 2024 starting at 7pm.

**M14/03/24 Annual Parish Meeting:**

RESOLVED: the meeting will be held on Monday, 13 May 2024 starting at approx 7.45pm.

**M15/03/24 MBC Carbon Literacy Course:**

Maidstone Borough Council is holding a Carbon Literacy Course on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26 March 2024.

RESOLVED: Cllr Galton to attend.

**M16/03/24 Matters for information, urgent matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting only or any items for discussion at the next available meeting.**

No items were raised.

**Part 2 Exclusion of Public and Press – In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings Act 1960), the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature.**

**M17/03/24 Employment of new Clerk and associated tasks.****M17.1/03/24 The appointment of a new clerk as per the recommendations of the staffing panel.**

RESOLVED: It was agreed for the position to be offered to the candidate as per the recommendation of the panel.

**M17.2/03/24 To confirm the contract of employment terms and conditions**

RESOLVED: The clerk will be offered a salary scale of LC1 10. A NALC/SLCC employment contract will be drawn up and forwarded to the new clerk for review and signing.

**M17.3/03/24 In the event that 17.1 is not accepted for any reason, to resolve on whether an extension is made to the SLCC Locum contract until such time that a permanent clerk is appointed.**

RESOLVED: This was agreed.

**M17.4/03/2024 To agree for the new clerk/or SLCC Locum to be added to the bank mandate in order to access the relevant internet banking portals.**

RESOLVED: This was agreed.

Cllr Galton closed the meeting at 8.40pm

[Date of the next meeting: 13 May 2024]

**A very brief personal message to the residents of Boughton Malherbe.  
On behalf of Ron Galton, Robert Turner, Barry Adams and Tracey  
Andrews.**

**It is not by or on behalf of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

If you have not read the article by Nicholas Eastwood published in the March Edition of the Malherbe Monthly, please do. It is a personal attack on the integrity and character of Ron, Robert, Barry and Tracey together with the Clerk, and it is believed to be a libel that also alludes to confidential information that cannot be disclosed. It breaks the strict rules by which parish councils and councillors must abide in several ways, and is thought to break the law upon which those rules are based, but that would be for a court to decide.

An apology has been requested but none received

The article contains more than 30 references that in the opinion of Ron, Robert, Barry and Tracey can be successfully challenged. The article was also published without giving them the opportunity to reply. However, that was not necessary because Ron, Robert, Barry, and Tracey believe that all right-thinking fair-minded readers will see the author and the article in their true light for what they really are.

Some right-thinking fair-minded residents have already expressed their horror and disgust at what was written and offered their support for Ron, Robert, Barry and Tracey, who are extremely grateful. Thank you.

After consideration, and taking advice, the risk is clear that to reply fully in detail to the article could be breaking the same rules as were broken by Nicholas, and disclose information in such a way that it would be breaking confidentiality within the council and externally with others, thus making a bad situation much worse. Consequently Ron, Robert, Barry and Tracey are unable to respond to the article beyond what is in this message either as councillors or otherwise, because confidential information obtained from within the council as councillors cannot be revealed.

The Parish Council, under the former chairmanship of Robert, and then Ron, has achieved many substantial benefits for our residents. It is heartbreaking to think of the possible damage to its reputation inflicted by the article. The rules are clear, and a councillor must never act alone on behalf of his council, or divulge confidential information held by the council, before or after leaving office. Nicholas has broken the rules, and acted alone, purporting to act on behalf of the council by giving his Parish Council Email address to which he invites responses.

Regardless of its content, please ask yourselves, would you write such an article, or like it if someone was to write such an article about you?

Please do not be influenced by uninformed opinion about the article. No one outside the Parish Council was witness to the events referred to by Nicholas.

In conclusion, please vote for your choice of candidates if Parish Council seats are contested at the election on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

**Ron Galton.**



**PLANT SALE**

GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB

**SATURDAY**

**27<sup>th</sup> April**

**VILLAGE HALL**

**AT 10**

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

**Refreshments and cake**

## **Parish Council Elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

### **A hope for the future from Ron Galton.**

I assume you have seen an editorial in the March 2024 Malherbe Monthly about the forthcoming Parish elections, because I am standing for election if seats are contested. Please consider what the Parish Council has achieved and I hope will achieve if you will allow me to remain as a Parish Councillor to continue serving your best interests.

I have now served for the last 20 years as a member of the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council. From the beginning I have acted variously as Chair of the Planning Committee, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Council. I have also been responsible for developing and administering the Parish Emergency Plan and have attended countless seminars and training courses, and I feel able to claim that I am the most experienced Councillor at the present time, except Robert Turner. In fact I have more experience in years of service than all the other councillors put together, except of course Robert, who is standing down after 36 years.

To promote and achieve anything, a councillor needs the backing of the council and its clerk, and with that majority backing I have been directly involved in the Parish Council achieving the following major successes among the many:

- \*The grant of £100,000 from Quinn Estates, the developer of Boughton Park.
- \*The controversial Traffic Calming Scheme at an installation cost of under £20,000 after the late removal of granite sets due to the potential for loud rumbling noise keeping residents awake at night that could not be overcome.
- \*The retention of the 59 bus to Maidstone once a week after KCC withdrew financial support for many rural bus services, including the 59.
- \*A lottery Fund grant and a KCC grant to enable the 59 bus to be fully funded for another two years. The bus is a lifeline and well used by elderly residents with bus passes from Grafty Green and other Parishes that co-operated to promote the service.
- \*The improvements to road signage at the junction of Crumps Lane and Headcorn Road, a past accident black spot.
- \*The improvements to our footpaths with the replacement of stiles with stock proof gates to benefit those who cannot easily climb over stiles.
- \*The securing of the Kings Head pub including the Village Green, as an asset of community interest, so that should it be put up for sale, we have time to put a bid together if that is what our community want.
- \*The initial negotiations with the Royal Mail to facilitate the Village Hall to host a pop-up post office every Tuesday morning that has now become a social occasion.
- \*The employment of our Lengthsman to keep the Village Green tended, rubbish cleared from our roadsides, and our fire hydrants kept clear for use.
- \* Funding, sponsoring, and contributing towards many local good causes and events.

There is still much more to do, and that is why I wish to continue for another 4 years serving you all as a councillor. In particular I want to promote more road improvements and continuation of the 59 bus beyond the current 2-year funding, because it is unlikely to ever be fully self-funding from fare revenue with so many elderly residents using bus passes. My hope is that I will be successful if the parish council election is contested, so please consider its record during my tenure, and my thoughts for its future.

## **Helen Whately – MP**

### ***'An update from your local MP Helen Whately***

Where would we be without businesses? They grow our food, harness ideas that make our lives better, and generate the tax that pays for our public services – and that's just the start.

It's good news therefore that we now have over 5.6 million businesses across the country, an increase of nearly a quarter since 2010. Better still, we're lucky to have a thriving mix here in Faversham and Mid Kent.

From farms to foundries, health-tech to rocket manufacturers – we've got all kinds.

In fact, one of the only things they all have in common is how tough they've found the last few years. Covid and then the global fuel shock have given businesses plenty to think about besides expanding.

With unprecedented support we got business through the pandemic, and over the last year we've worked hard to halve inflation. If we want to keep funding our public services, it's now time to get businesses thinking about growing again.

When I was a minister in the Treasury, I spent a huge amount of time looking at what we can do to help small businesses grow. Taking that next step can be a challenge, and we have to support businesses by getting policy right.

That's why at last month's Budget the Chancellor introduced a host of new measures to support them, including raising the VAT threshold, freezing alcohol duty to support pubs, and cutting tax for the self-employed. These measures are on top of the £11billion investment incentive introduced back in the Autumn - the biggest business tax cut in modern British history.

But it's not just at a national level that we need to get things right. There are so many things we can do at a local level to help too, and I've made it one of my 5 priorities to help our local businesses grow - with support from councils and government ministers.

Just after the Budget I sent a survey out to all of Faversham's businesses asking them what more we could be doing to support them – like making sure the town's parking policy works for them.

You can find this survey on my website, and I'd love to hear from businesses from other parts of the constituency too. Fill it in at

[www.helenwhately.org.uk/campaigns/help-local-businesses-grow](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk/campaigns/help-local-businesses-grow)

I invited the Farming Minister down to Graveney last year to listen to local growers' concerns, and have been sticking up for Stockbury's businesses as they deal with ongoing roadworks.

And last month I hosted the Maidstone Apprenticeship Fair, where local businesses like MEP Ltd from Aylesford and Bedfont Scientific from Harrietsham could seek out the next generation of skills.

Local businesses make where we live richer in more ways than one, and the more support we can give them the better. Please do think about backing local businesses when you can, and if you run a local business and you need my help, please do get in touch. I'm here to help however I can.

Together we can boost our local economy and generate all kinds of new jobs.

*Best wishes*

*Helen Whately MP'*



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## Maidstone Borough Councillor for Headcorn Ward

Cllr. Zygmunt A.S. Trzebinski



**Martin Round and Ziggy Trzebinski at Maidstone Police Station prior to meeting with Senior Officers to discuss law and order in the ward**

Hello again, This month I am writing to let you know what kind of things your Maidstone Borough

Councillors, Martin Round and I, get involved with personally. Martin has lived in Headcorn all his life and has a wealth of local knowledge which he is happy to share with me as and when the necessity arises. We are contacted on issues ranging from the emptying of bins, trimming of hedgerows, water supply problems, housing issues, planning problems and crime all the way through to licensed premises.

Local Borough Councillors are often seen as the face of politics generally and can get much to deal with whether they meet people in the street or at a local event like a Parish Council meeting or in emails. Certain issues are raised frequently on the same subject such as housing planning applications, but some are very individual like a housing need, Council Tax or health problem. Many issues that are raised with us are not part of Maidstone Borough Councils responsibility, but we can try to influence in those areas and/or pass the issue onto a relevant agency. We often work with our MPs, Kent County Council (KCC) or the Parish Councils and agencies like the Environment Agency and many others. It can be a minefield of uncertainty knowing who does what! But we always try to help and become involved in many areas of concern such as:

- Planning, Enforcement & Protection issues, including failure to comply with conditions and design specs, or with new contentious applications & sensitive landscapes. Headcorn is a Ward with many conservation and heritage concerns, and we frequently meet both residents and developers to ensure

our countryside is protected at the same time as providing new residences. This means frequent interaction with MBC Officers and key agencies.

- The Ward has major “water issues” that stretch across the Green Sand Ridge with springs that turn roads into streams or even rivers during heavy rain and then it brings a flood risk in the clay basin of the Low Weald. The area has several tributaries that lead to the river Beult and then the Medway. The source of the river Stour also lies to the North /East. The Ward is one of the most central areas of the County and thus a major start of the Counties water issues that ultimately reach the sea. We have natural, geographical/geological and management issues as well as problems made by the Water utilities companies that include leaking broken pipes, periodic absence of supply, damage to roads and frequent road closures. For us the latter two items are a constant source of frustration and we often chase up KCC on them. I led the full Council motion to challenge the utilities services and Martin demanded the scrutiny of the key agencies.
- We continually lobby for local needs such as, affordable housing, pre-school, post school and early years nursery provision and sport and recreation facilities.
- Anti-Social Behaviour/Crime, speeding and localised vandalism/abuse like Fly-Tipping. This means meetings with the Police, alerting them to some potentially dangerous situations, liaising with Council Officers and Parish Councils and has included writing to the Chief Executive of Sainsburys for their lax interest in the prosecution of theft.
- Lobbying our MPs on matters they can influence like the need to have a fully accessible train station that is inclusive to those with disabilities.
- Supporting in many ways the Parishes and special community projects like the Heart of Headcorn Community Hub.
- Dealing with the 100s of emails that include individuals or groups of people with certain “case work” from road closures in a local area, excessively high estate management charges, or problems with Council Tax or rehousing.

We also deal with “whole Borough” issues through Committees such as Audit, Licensing and Full Council. Added to this we have briefings and training sessions most of which occur during the evening. Between us we also try to attend all of the four Parish Council meetings which occur monthly or bi-monthly and assist with any MBC based topics.

Lastly we both try to get around to meet people and understand what our residents want and where they think improvements could be made. It’s a very busy role!

## **Grafty Gourmet**

The classic taste of a rhubarb crumble in the form of a muffin.

### **Rhubarb Crumble Muffins**

#### **Ingredients**

##### **For the muffin mix:-**

175g of caster sugar  
175g of rhubarb, halved lengthways then diced  
2 tablespoons of sunflower oil  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract  
125ml of buttermilk  
200g of plain flour  
1 teaspoon of baking powder  
1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda

##### **For the crumble topping:-**

50g of light muscovado sugar  
50g of plain flour  
25g of porridge oats  
1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon  
50g of butter

1. Heat oven to 220C/200C fan. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper muffin cases. Stir the sugar and rhubarb together and set aside while you make the crumble topping. Mix together the muscovado sugar with the flour, oats and cinnamon, then rub in the butter until clumpy with your fingertips.
2. Stir the oil and egg, vanilla and buttermilk into the sugary rhubarb (don't worry if it's a little bit juicy). Now, add the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda and stir well.
3. Quickly spoon into the cases, then scatter each with a thick layer of the crumble mixture. Bake for 15-18 mins until golden and a cocktail stick poked into the centre of a muffin comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

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## The Sting

**Friday April 12th**

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time 2 hrs 9 mins*

We're opening our spring and summer programme with a winner, selected as favourite in this season's audience vote. Come along to see *The Sting* (PG 1973) and you're in for an evening of sheer pleasure and laughter, even if you've seen it before. It's not often you can say that about a film, especially one set in the Chicago of the 1930s when the Great Depression was raging, but this one, starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman together with its unforgettable Scott Joplin ragtime score, most certainly qualifies. Robert Redford plays Johnny Hooker, a small-time crook who mistakenly tries to dupe big-time crime boss Doyle Lonnegan (played by Robert Shaw). When Lonnegan retaliates, Hooker asks for help from the master of the long con, Henry Gondorff (played by Paul Newman). The stakes are high and chaos ensues. You'll be gripped right up to the brilliant end of this fabulous film, which won 7 Oscars including Best Picture. Directed by George Roy Hill.

Our May performance is another winner. In **One Life** (2023) Anthony Hopkins brilliantly plays British stockbroker Nicholas Winton looking back as his younger self saves hundreds of Jewish children from the occupying Nazi forces.

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

**Admission:** members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.



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## Grafty Green Gardening Club

### Program of Events 2024

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 9	Joe Archer	From Kew to Kent
February 6	Sally Channon	Thanet Earth
March 5	Steve Kirk	Wild life reintroductions in Kent
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Spring show plus Maureen, Christine and Sue</b>	<b>Encouraging wildlife visitors to your garden</b>
Saturday April 27	Plant fair	
May 7	Vicky Golding – Outing to Marden Meadow	
June 4	Social in Bridget Samuelson's Garden, Crumps Lane	
July 2	Outing to Hawkhurst – Hands of Hope garden	
July 30	Outing – Old Rectory Otterden	
September 3	Autumn Show and Steven Harmer	Arts and Crafts movement and their gardens
September 13 - 15	Weekend away to north Devon	
October 1	Kevin Tooher	Choice trees for small spaces
November 5	Davina	The story of the Dower House garden at Chilston Park
December 3	Practical session – table decoration with guidance from Sandra Pilborough	

**April 2nd** is the date of our Spring Show and entries can be bought along a bit early so they are booked in and displayed in time for judging. Also, it is planned that Sue, Maureen and Christine give us some ideas as to how we can encourage wildlife into our gardens.

Looking forward to Saturday April 27th at 10.00 a.m. we will again be hosting a Plant Fayre in the village hall. Tables will be set up to allow us all to enjoy Coffee and Cake and a chat. Following this event, we can all look forward to our Summer outings to Marden Meadows, Hawkhurst and Otterden and a special invitation from Bridget Samuelson to a Social Evening in her lovely garden.

**In our gardens:** - Trim grey leaved plants to keep them bush like, Continue sowing and planting outdoor veg., Tie in new shoots of climbers, Plant summer flowering bulbs

Happy gardening !

**Guided Walks** – No official one this month but I am happy to lead one if you want to contact me – evenings can be a good time now the days are longer?

The next walk on the calendar is Saturday morning 4<sup>th</sup> May – not decided yet where to start from – call me for more information 01622 850381, Sue Burch

**Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch**

Monday and Thursday morning at 9.30 till 11 – no class on 1<sup>st</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Wednesday evening at 7 till 8.30 – no class on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

New term: week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> April.

To join a class or for more details please call Sue Burch on  
07803 962339.

To join a class or for more details please call Sue Burch (*British Wheel of Yoga teacher*) on 07803 962339.

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## **Christian Message April 2024**

### **Hallelujah, Christ is risen!**

When you read this, it will be somewhere around 1st April, or April Fool's Day when traditionally people play little but, hopefully not, unkind tricks on each other, up to mid-day at least.

More importantly, this year, 1st April will also be Easter Monday so celebration will be in the air, the taste of chocolate eggs may well be on our lips and Spring flowers will be brightening up the village, reminding us about new life and the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. Thoughts of Lent will be becoming a distant memory.

But as I write this, Lent is in full swing, I am half way through a Lent course, last night friends quizzed me about what I might have given up or taken on for the month, and this morning I attended a Lenten Reflection gathering at Canterbury Cathedral.

One of the Lent course exercises was a practice, devised by Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century, to read a passage from the Bible and then reread it again taking on the character of one of the people in the story. One of the Lenten reflection exercises was *Lectio Divina*, a practice which began as far back as the 6th Century, where we read a passage and then slowly re-read it again, each time thinking of a poignant word or verse on which we could meditate, ponder and pray, enjoying being in the presence of God.

These are well known methods of helping us to look at, and dig deeper, into a Bible story in order to have a personal encounter with God and discover new insights.

The Easter Day Gospel reading this year is Mark 16 verses 1-8, where we read about the miraculous rising of our Lord from the grave and his appearance to Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, at the tomb, after they found that the stone had been rolled away. It is a beautiful, but well-known passage, which you may have heard about many times before so I would urge you to read it and then read it again, applying one of these techniques. I can't predict what you will experience but pray that it brings you joy and a little nearer to our Lord who sent his only son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to free the world from sin and offer us all eternal life.

Happy Easter everyone!

**Pamela Cuerden**



## Worship Leader(s) needed.



The Len Valley churches (Boughton Malherbe, Harrietsham, Lenham, Ulcombe) are looking for people with musical talent who can support, develop and lead the worship in one or all of our churches. If you can play an appropriate instrument, have gentle leadership skills and are open to being involved in Christian worship, please do contact us for more details. This role involves some financial reward. We can also support training, for example for young keyboard players who want to learn to play the organ. Please call 01622 850280 or email [churchoffice@lvb.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@lvb.org.uk) for information.





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## *April 2024*

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‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

*Matthew 13:31-32*

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Chippendayle

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**6.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

**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 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.30am** Benefice Holy Communion at All Saints, Ulcombe ‘I am the Light of the World’

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