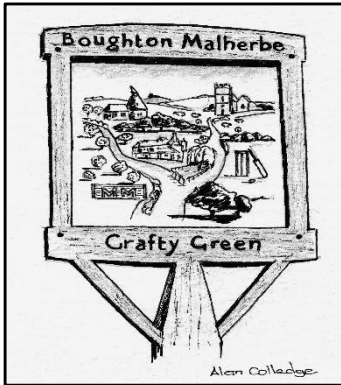




Malherbe Monthly

Number 265
Sept 2026



**Hanging around at
the Cream Teas**

Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Sarah Emberson Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk	
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Sue Birch Email: burch1997@aol.com	07803 962339
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	07803 962339
Farmers Market	Tara Musson info.grafitygreen@gmail.com	
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Tai Chi	Rhonda Bailey	07985 001782
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday PM fortnightly from January 6 outside the village hall, variable time	07976 435217
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Carol Hulm	Advertising: carolhulm@gmail.com	07990 574214
Carol Hulm	Editor: carolhulm@gmail.com	07990 574214
Nick Eastwood	Distribution: eastwood.n@gmail.com	850330
John Collins	Treasurer: jwcollins@btinternet.com	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the **October** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **26th Aug**

Local Interests and Announcements

BUS NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letter from Australia (Sydney)

Sue Birch

It's around 6.30 am when I'm woken by the noisy minors who sound like someone whistling to catch another's attention and then there's the magpies that sound like a mouth organ; the sky is often cloudless blue with the temperature getting up to around 20 degrees.



This is mid-winter however, and surprisingly, the camelias, magnolias, azaleas, hibiscus, bougainvilleas are in flower but the plain trees in Sydney are still leafless. Quite odd! The magnolias are targeted by the possums which eat the newly sprouting buds! And poinsettias grow to 15-foot trees! I was also surprised to see fresias growing wild.

Staying with my brother who is a keen Australian Rules Football fan I have watched a few games. They are fast and exciting which makes for good entertainment. The game is played on an oval, which will be used for cricket in the summer, with 10 referees on and around the ground, (who are very skilled at running backwards). A team, or squad, of 22, 18 on the ground at any one time with 4 substitutes and there is no goal keeper. It's an advantage to be able to leap high to catch the oval ball, which seems to have a life of it's own. Once you catch the ball that has been kicked the opposing team members can't challenge you but you can't hold on to it for long, passing it or kicking into play; goals are scored by getting the ball between two posts.

I have been delighted with rainbow lorikeets coming to the patio or spotting a kookaburra on the way to the beach. There are New England honey eaters and superb fairy wrens in the scrub along the coastline; ravens are common and they have blue eyes! And there is a healthy population of swallows.

During my stay there has been a national census which I am now part of.

Grafty Green Wanderers Cricket Matches for August

The last three matches in September are as follows:

13th September – Lenham at 12.30

19th September – Egerton at 1pm

26th September – East Sutton at 1pm.



LEN VALLEY HEALTH WALKS

Why walk?

Walking is good for both your physical and mental health

To keep your heart, lungs, bones and muscles strong

To maintain a healthy weight. To be more energetic

To reduce stress and depression. To meet new people

To enhance your sense of wellbeing

Plus, it's free!

Walking is an easy, gentle way to get active and stay active – and it's never too late to begin!

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

The Lenham Stroll on Wednesday afternoons is aimed at those who have difficulty walking due to recent operations, other health problems or age. We walk in and around Lenham village at a speed suited to everyone. We finish at the village tearooms for tea and a chat.

Thursday morning walks start from in and around the Len Valley. There is a medium walk of approximately 2 - 2½ miles at a moderate pace and a longer walk of approximately 3½ miles at a faster pace.

Saturday morning walks start from different venues and are 3½ - 4 miles long and at a faster pace.

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

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

New 7-week term: First class 2nd September .

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

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

'Hue do you want to feel?' – headline in the August RHS magazine.

Apparently, there has been a study/research into the effect of the colour of flowers on your emotional response; so your garden can affect your mood. We all know that, being in the garden is very therapeutic!

The initial findings were that the vivid colours 'known as saturated colours' were favoured by 60% and, not surprising, the colour that is ranked first is red and a popular second intense yellows.

Uplifting emotions like pride and joy were associated with intense yellows, oranges and reds. Cooler colours like blue, blue-greens, mauve, purple brought on feelings of calmness and relaxation.

Knowing this may help when choosing your flowering plants as to what you want to feel, especially when you come home from work.

To read more:- [rhs.org.uk/flower colour research](https://rhs.org.uk/flower-colour-research)

Grafty Green Wanderers – East Sutton - 8th August

As The Wanderers arrived at East Sutton cricket ground the light green wicket stood sharply out against the brown, bare outfield. The sun beat down as the Growlers set out their tables and umbrellas on the boundary. Baby Face won the toss and decided to field for the 35 over match.

East Sutton's regular opening pair of Yardy and Crampton walked to the wicket to face The Wanderers opening bowlers of Road Runner and Amiga Man. The first 4 overs yielded 36 runs which included 6 boundaries as the outfield was so fast any ball struck passed the fielders raced to boundary rope. The whispers from the East Sutton team behind the Scorer was that a big score of over 250 could be in the cards. The Beef joined Amiga Man in the bowling attack and in the 11th over he clean bowled Crampton for 34, leaving East Sutton at 77-1.

Young then joined Yardy at the crease to face the new bowling pair of The Brickie and Nick "Butter fingers" Morris. Yardy played a lovely shot and as the ball was collected on the boundary by Baby Face as the batsman looked to take another run. Baby Face launched a perfect throw towards Butter Fingers who was posed over the stumps with Yardy halfway down the wicket. Alas Butter Fingers failed to catch the ball, grasping desperately at thin air as the ball fell towards the floor giving Yardy enough time to reach his crease.

In the 14th over the Brickie delivered another tantalising delivery which Young sent hurtling back down the wicket. To the amazement of The Wanderers, the batsman and The Growlers, The Brickie instinctively throw out his hand to take an outstanding catch and reduce East Sutton to 96 for 2.

The young Harcourt came to the wicket to join Yardy. The pair ran between the wickets grabbing every single run they could and put on 31 runs before Yardy was given out LBW to an excellent delivery from Butter Fingers after scoring 55. East Sutton were now 127 for 3 after 19 overs, the new batsman, Ring grabbed a quick single and a well ran 2 before he was caught by Beef off another good delivery by The Brickie.

The Brickie and Butter Fingers kept the bowling tight and runs were harder to come by when Baby Face and The Benidorm swinger replaced them to deliver the final 10 overs. In his 2nd over Baby Face trapped the new batsman, Tragett LBW for 7, leaving East Sutton at 166 for 5 with 7overs to play. The bowling remained very tight and only conceded 40 runs in the last 10 overs with East Sutton finishing with 208 for 5 wickets off their 35 overs, a run rate of just under 6 an over. Harcourt finished 52 not out and Gomer 21 not out.

The Wanderers Opening pair of The Prof and Butter Fingers strode to the crease knowing they had plenty of time and a very achievable target of 209 to win.

Thompson opened the bowling with some fabulous fast and low bouncing balls which delivered 2 maiden overs. In his 3rd he duly caught Butter Fingers off his own bowling to leave The Wanderers at 17 for 1 off 5 overs. Gardner was bowling from the other end and in the very next over trapped Piers "007 " LBW reducing The Wanderers to 20-2.

The Beef then joined the Prof at the wicket and they both started to open their shoulders and sending balls racing to the boundary seeing off the opening bowling pair moving the score onto 80 for 2 off 14 overs exactly on the run rate required.

The bowling change brought on both Tragett and Gomer and the last delivery before the drinks break saw The Beef clean bowled by Tragett after scoring a fabulous 69 runs including 13 boundaries and in the next over after drinks The Prof was caught by Yardy off the bowling of Gomer after scoring 35 runs including 6 boundaries, sadly 15 runs short of his first illusive 50.

The next 2 overs would see the loss of both The Ginger and Amiga Man reducing The Wanderers to 115 for 5. Baby Face then took a slow meaningful walk to the wicket with one thing on his mind, boundaries! He stroked the ball with confidence, taking their time to play the right ball and keep the scoreboard ticking over at the required run rate required whilst mainly keeping strike. The remaining batsmen knew that they just had to keep Baby Face company at the wicket for the remaining 12 overs to get the 69 runs required for victory.

Unfortunately the next 5 overs saw the loss of The Brickie, Road Runner, The Hook and eventually Baby Face for a total of 32 runs to leave The Wanderers on 172 all out to lose by 36 runs.

Baby Face finished with 42 runs including 7 boundaries and a huge 6.

The Wanderers man of the match was The Beef with 69 runs and bowling figures of 28-1.

East Sutton laid on a fabulous after match BBQ and were entertained by 2 unnamed Growlers removing their tops and running through the wicket watering sprinklers in their bras...!

Team players nick names

Dean Cutbill - Scratchin Tendulkar	Jake Russ - No Fuss Russ
James Iles - Baby Face	Matt Smith - Mini Me
Jack Geary - The Prof	Rob McNeill - The Gorgeous one
Paul Stapley - The Brickie	Mark Tomlinson - The Benidorm Swinger
Niall McNulty - The Ginger	Jay Bray - Amiga Man
Gary Thompson - Road Runner	Nick Eastwood - The Chairman
Steve Legon - The Leg	Steve Peter - The Fireman
Dave Ryan - Dangerous	Matt Iles - The Beef
Ada Hook - The Hook	Josh Pankhurst - Panks

THE HONYWOOD & DOUGLAS CHARITY LENHAM

(Registered Charity No. 211272)

The Trustees hereby give notice that the following
Almshouse accommodation is available:

A 1st FLOOR STUDIO FLAT & A ONE BEDROOM BUNGALOW SITUATED IN LENHAM

Applicants must be 60 years of age or more, able to look after themselves independently, in need and have lived in the Parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for at least two years.

Application forms are available by
e-mailing or telephoning:

clerk.hdc@gmail.com

07889 562931.

Completed forms should be returned no later than
30th September 2026.

Woodcock Lane Planning Consultation

Response from Parish Councillors via email to Francis Amekor – copy can be found on the pa.midkent.gov.uk/on-line-applications website

Following the residents' meeting, Boughton Malherbe Parish Council has now met to consider the planning proposal 26/502516/FULL Land At Woodcock Lane Boughton Malherbe Grafty Green Kent ME17 2AP and the feedback received from our residents. Having carefully considered the views expressed the Parish Council has voted to formally object to the application for the reasons detailed below:

Views from on & near the Greensand Ridge Landscape of Local Value

The development would be visible from roads and public rights of way on the Greensand Ridge, particularly in the vicinity of St Nicholas Church, Boughton Malherbe in the Landscape of Local Value.

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment does not adequately demonstrate that these effects have been satisfactorily mitigated. In particular:

- the fifteen-year visual assessment is based only on summer conditions and does not assess winter visibility when deciduous vegetation provides substantially less screening;
- the submitted plans do not clearly identify the extent of the proposed landscape buffers;
- insufficient information is provided regarding the width, planting composition, density and ultimate height of the proposed landscaping to allow its effectiveness to be assessed.

Consequently, it has not been demonstrated that the proposal would avoid unacceptable landscape and visual effects.

Views from Public Rights of Way

For similar reasons, there is insufficient information to assess the visual impact of the development from the adjacent public footpath and highway. The application does not adequately demonstrate how proposed landscaping would mitigate views from these publicly accessible locations throughout the year. It should be noted that much of the screening of views from KH483 is on land not subject to the application and cannot therefore be relied upon.

Urban and Incongruous Appearance

The proposal introduces several suburban design features that appear out of keeping with both the character of the surrounding village and neighbouring properties. These include:

- pavements projecting prominently into the carriageway;
- roof forms that appear disproportionately tall in relation to the building footprints;
- a suburban cul-de-sac layout that is uncharacteristic of the established settlement pattern.
- the introduction of a tall two-storey dwelling immediately adjacent to an existing row of bungalows, creating an abrupt and visually jarring change in scale that is out of keeping with the established street scene.

Collectively, these elements would create an unnecessarily urban appearance that fails to respond positively to the prevailing rural character.

Placemaking

The proposed development is physically separated from the village centre by a road that provides an unattractive pedestrian environment. Although vehicle speeds identified through the 85th percentile speed are benign, the character of the road and the behaviour of some drivers discourage walking between the site and the village.

This weak pedestrian connection, together with the site's location beyond the existing village envelope and its distinct suburban character, creates an isolated enclave rather than an integrated extension to the village. This would undermine the objective of achieving successful placemaking while minimising the impact on the surrounding countryside.

Lighting

Insufficient information has been provided regarding the proposed lighting strategy to enable a proper assessment of compliance with Policy LPRQD2. Details of lighting design, intensity and measures to minimise light spill are required before the impact on the rural character of the area can be properly assessed.

Privacy

The first-floor side elevation windows serving Plot 1 are positioned at a height and proximity that would result in unacceptable overlooking of the neighbouring property unless appropriately controlled. Any permission should therefore require any relevant windows to be permanently fitted with obscured glazing and fixed shut below 1.8 metres above finished floor level.

Settlement Pattern

The proposal would extend the village envelope eastwards in a manner that is not well related to the existing pattern of development. Rather than consolidating the village, it projects built development further into the countryside, creating a more abrupt urban edge.

Flood Risk

Paragraph 3.17 of the Drainage Statement states that an emergency exceedance overflow will discharge to the downstream piped network and ultimately the receiving watercourse during exceedance events or in the event of blockage or failure of the flow control device. Whilst the statement describes this as a "safe and controlled exceedance route", it does not demonstrate that the receiving watercourse and downstream network have sufficient capacity to accommodate these emergency discharges without increasing flood risk elsewhere. In the absence of such evidence, the applicant has failed to demonstrate compliance with paragraph 181 of the NPPF, which requires development not to increase flood risk elsewhere.

Drainage Hierarchy

The Drainage Statement recommends that infiltration testing be undertaken at the detailed design stage to determine whether infiltration drainage is feasible. Until infiltration testing has been carried out, it has not been demonstrated that infiltration is not reasonably practicable or that discharge to a watercourse represents the most appropriate drainage solution in accordance with the sustainable drainage hierarchy. (Planning Practice Guidance – Flood risk and coastal change)

Finally, should you be minded to support the application, we would respectfully request that the matter be referred to the Planning Committee. This would provide an opportunity for representatives of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council to attend and make representations to the Committee on behalf of the Parish Council and our residents.

There are several ways to have your say:

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

Lobby the planning committee

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

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

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

Additional information:

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

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

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Here are a couple of articles from the Parish Newsletter that may be of interest to individuals

Energy efficiency grant for low-income homeowners

If you are a homeowner in Maidstone, you may be eligible for a energy efficiency grant of up to £10,000 to help make your property more energy efficient. Eligible energy efficiency measures include boiler upgrade, solar panels and heat pump.



To be eligible for the grant, applicants must meet ALL the following criteria:

- Be owner occupier and lived in the property for at least 3 years
- Be in receipt of means-tested benefits
- Property has valid EPC rating of D, E, F or G

The grant consists of 50% non-repayable and 50% repayable grant which will be registered as a local land charge. It will be required to be repaid on sale or transfer of the property. For more information email energy@maidstone.gov.uk.

Heating Oil Support

As part of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), Maidstone Borough Council has received funding to support low-income households affected by rising heating oil cost. If you rely on heating oil and are struggling with the recent price rise, you may be eligible for a one-off payment of £300 towards your heating oil purchase.

To be eligible for support, applicants must:

- Be in receipt of means-tested benefits or have a total household income of £33,000 or less per year
- Use heating oil as your main source of heating and/or hot water

For further information and to apply visit [Heating Oil Support](#).

Black Bin Reminders



Please can you put your house number or name on the black bin. This helps keep track of whose bin is whose. Each property should only have one black bin.

If you have a spare or old black bin, please use the link below and we will arrange to collect it.

https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/bins-and-recycling/new-or-replacement-bins#remove_a_bin_468093

Disused black bins are taken apart and the materials are recycled.

2026/07 Report for Parishes from Ziggy Trzebinski

It's has been a busy few weeks for your MBC councillors. Change is coming to local government in Kent. KCC, MBC and all of the other Borough Councils will disappear, and the county will be split into four unitary authorities as shown below unless something drastic happens in the next few months or so, to stop it.



As you can see from the map, Maidstone will be part of the West Kent unitary authority. Voting will take place in May 2027 for new councillors for each area.

From then until May 2028 the new councils and the old ones will run in parallel, re-organising, re-structuring and passing over responsibilities. In the past, responsibilities were split, with KCC being responsible for Health, Education and the Roads, and the local councils responsible for Planning, Housing and Licensing. All of these areas will be combined going forward under each of the unitary authorities.

This should be a good thing for everyone as in theory it should mean that there is one stop for decision making, particularly in planning. The new authorities will need experienced councillors to ensure some kind of continuity as the changes progress.

The amount of work involved in this re-organisation is enormous and all of the councils will be making great efforts to ensure timetables are met and the changes go through as smoothly as possible. Everything will become clearer as the job of combining the authorities progresses and there will be more information forthcoming. Watch this space!

One of the disappointments recently at MBC is that the Gipsy and Traveller DPD was proposed to be scrapped by the cabinet of MBC and the majority of councillors supported this decision. The DPD was a long time in the making and would have given MBC more control over the planning process, however despite most of the rural councillors voting against it being scrapped the vote was carried.

A positive however - you may have seen that MBC is giving away free water butts. There will be a limited supply so if you need one, please get on to the MBC website as soon as possible and apply for one. Southeast Water has also stated they will offer free water butts, so it is worth visiting their website too for further information.

The water situation is an ongoing concern for everyone, and councillors, and MPs are taking an active interest in trying to get SEW and Southern Water to improve their service. Unfortunately, it is likely to be a Marathon rather than a Sprint but with continued pressure on them I would hope that they will respond as quickly as feasible.

As usual, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Round or myself should you have any comments or questions.

Katie Lam MP's

In July, I spent an entire day with the palliative care team at the William Harvey hospital. The patients there, their friends and family, and the doctors and nurses, were all incredibly generous in showing me the work that they do.

Sadly, there was a lot of the day that was frustrating to watch, but it was also deeply moving to see just how much people love one another, and how, when everything is coming to an end, it's this simple fact which matters most. I was most touched by the patients who'd been married for decades, sitting in the wards holding hands, who just wanted to end their days as they'd spent them: at home, together. Unfortunately, the system makes this much, much harder than you would hope.



The doctors and nurses that I met were not only talented professionals, but incredibly compassionate and attentive. They dedicate their professional lives to making sure that people can live a quality life or spend their final days, weeks, and months as they wish – which usually means with family and friends, rather than in a hospital bed.

But what I saw that day in the hospital, was that while they were trying to do so, they were faced with obstacles at every turn. Hours are spent writing reports and filling in details which have already been filled in elsewhere, because of poor data storage and sharing, and hopelessly outdated systems.

The result is that doctors and nurses spend less time dealing with patients, and more time navigating the NHS system. Patients, in turn, have to wait longer for the care and attention that they need – and when it does arrive, they're often made to repeat answers to questions that they've provided before.

I raised what I'd seen with the Health Secretary and told him how much time the team at William Harvey spend gathering and sharing information, clicking through on really old systems, all on PDF – time that could instead be spent on clinical care. When are we going to move beyond a situation in which every single time a doctor sees a patient, it's like the whole interaction with the NHS is happening for the very first time?

People don't go into medicine, committing themselves to years of training, in order to navigate complex bureaucracies. They do it because they want to help people. The current system is failing healthcare professionals as much as it's failing patients, precisely because it stops them from doing what they're best at.

Village Hall News – August Newsletter

Sally will no doubt update you on this in more detail elsewhere in this magazine but the cream teas at the church were a roaring success and blessed with lovely weather. They raised approximately £2,200 which will be used to fund repairs to the church. Thank you all for your support.

Coffee Morning & Post Office Van Update

Post Office Van - Tuesdays from 11.55 am to 12.45 pm

The arrangements for the Post Office van now seem to be in place and our service is as follows; the van calls outside the hall every Tuesday morning between 11.55 and 12.45 – there is no longer a Thursday service but the van does seem to be able to function without any of the connection problems that occurred when the service was provided inside the hall.

Coffee Mornings (from September) 11 am to 1pm

From September the coffee mornings will run from the earlier time of 11 am and finish earlier at 1pm to better align with the new mobile Post Office service.

Farmer's Market returns to the hall from September every Friday 1 to 3pm

The Farmer's Market has been enjoying the nice weather on the green during July and August but will be returning to the village hall as normal from September.

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

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

Harvest Supper – Saturday 3rd October 2026

The church will be hosting their annual harvest supper at the hall on Saturday 3rd October and tickets for the event can be obtained from Sally Alexander on alexandersc@me.com.

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

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

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

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson

Village Hall Committee Chairman - jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk - 07932 112730 -

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk – facebook.graftygreenvillage



Indoor *Bootfair

**October 25th
10-2**

Grafty Green Village Hall
ME17 2BA

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

jone@grafftygreenalpacas.com.uk

GRAFTY GREEN FARMERS MARKET

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



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

Are you a trader?

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

For more details, please contact:
info.graftygreen@gmail.com

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 07803 962339

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability Susan Burch 07803 962339	Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm
Pilates Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369	Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am
Post Office	Tuesdays 11.55 – 12.45pm
Coffee morning	Tuesdays 11.00 – 1.00pm
Short Mat Bowls Joan Marriott 07503 568874	Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm
Dance Fit Sharon Harris 01622 890170	Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm
Tai Chi Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782	Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm
Craft Group Janis Carter 01622 850898	Fridays 10 -12.00pm
Art Class Cathy Hill 07927054708	Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm
Farmer's Market Tara – info.graftygreen@gmail.com	Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club Doreen 01622 850287	First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm
--	---------------------------------

The Grafty Gourmet

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
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 ideas in the heat for next year

This has been another difficult year for our garden, especially for vegetable patches; we nurture our plants protecting from pests then comes extreme heat, drought, empty water butts, and hose pipe bans.

However, in the borders some plants have survived the roses especially have given us a splendid display, grasses too.

Here's just a few to think of for next year:

- Verbena bonariensis
- All grasses
- Gaura
- Geranium rosanne
- Salvias
- Sedums
- Lavenders

Cutting back some perennials may give us some later colour and it's raining!

**Ulcombe History Society
2026 programme**

January 20th Guy Bartlett

“British women in aviation”

February 17th Derrick Parkes

“The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies”

March 17th Ed Adamson

“Kentish clerical errors”

April 21st Melanie Gibson-Barton

“Suffragettes and Suffragists – votes for women”

May 19th Adam Taylor

“Islands of the Medway Estuary”

October 20th Bertie Pearce

“Wonder workers and the art of illusion”

November 17th Ed Adamson

“Making and faking of ghost stories”

December 8th Imogen Corrigan

“The goose is getting fat”

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

EGERTON COMPUTER CENTRE

Free advice for your computing problems



• Get online



• Email



• New device set-up



• Tablets



• Phones



• PCs



• Worried about hackers & scammers?



• Email recovery



• Learn about the joys of AI

HELP CHOOSING NEXT DEVICE



• Balance Performance and Budget

• Assess Compatibility with Needs

• Compare Key Features

RECYCLING SERVICE

• Stamps

• Batteries

• Printer cartridges



EVERY SATURDAY 10-12
EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL



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



The Penguin Lessons

Friday, September 11th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2 hrs 7 mins, directed by Antoine Fuqua

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

Michael (12, 2026) is the story of the extraordinary career of the 'King of Pop, the superstar Michael Jackson, who is played in this outstanding film by his real-life nephew Jaafar Jackson. We re-live Michael's triumphs, tragedies and iconic performances from his debut aged six in the Jackson 5 and share the story of how he relentlessly sang and danced his way to the top, becoming the greatest entertainer in the world and changing the world of pop music for ever.

This musical extravaganza is a fitting conclusion to Lenham Film Club's years of pleasure in presenting a diverse range of films, some known, many new to our audience. We're extremely sad to confirm that this will be the final Lenham Film Club performance.

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

The club began in February 2019 and even though we had to take an enforced break due to Covid, we've put on a total of 74 performances and welcomed very many keen audience members! We're so very grateful to everyone who has come along and supported the club over the last 7 years.



lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com



www.lenhamfilmclub.org



@lenhamfilmclub

Decorating in Kent? Call our family business!

With over 30 years in the industry we are 100% committed to our customers. We have a trained & experienced team - always giving a friendly, reliable and totally trustworthy service. FSB Members - fully insured. Interior & Exterior.

"We were recommended RJ Moss by a friend and I'm so glad we chose to use Richard and the team." Hannah



Call us for a completely free, no-obligation quote!

Richard: 07974815124
Luke: 07912 604533
or office: 01795 480647
W: www.rjmossLtd.co.uk
E: rjmossLtd@sky.com



STONEBRIDGE ACCOUNTING

ACCOUNTS AND TAX SUPPORT

FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESS

Tel: 01622 851542



Thorneloe & Co

solicitors • since 1989

PART OF HALLETT & CO

Established in 1989, Thorneloe & Co built a strong reputation for providing trusted legal advice with a personal, client-focused approach. Following its merger with Hallett & Co in 2018, the Lenham office has continued to offer the same high standards of legal expertise, combining local knowledge with the resources of a long-established firm to support individuals and businesses across the community.

Residential & Commercial Conveyancing · Agricultural Law
Company & Commercial Advice · Probate, Wills & LPAs
Will & Trust Disputes · Personal Injury · Family Law · Employment Law
Property Disputes · Civil Litigation · Debt Recovery

www.hallettandco.co.uk

Hallett & Co

11 Bank Street
Ashford TN23 1DA
01233 625711

Thorneloe & Co

St Mary's House, The Square
Lenham ME17 2PH
01622 859416

Ford Little

14 Park Road
Sittingbourne ME10 1DR
01795 436111

Hallett & Co is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority—SRA No 00050485

TCL ELECTRICAL

- ~ All aspects of domestic, commercial & industrial work undertaken
- ~ 30 yrs City & Guilds qualified electrician
- ~ Fully Insured & DBS checked
- ~ Free Quotations
- ~ Reliable & friendly service

Tim Latham: 07766038496

Tclelectrical50@outlook.com

No job too small

ALL FiX Plumbing & Heating

CIPHE David Jenkins

ciphe.org.uk
REGISTERED
PLUMBER

T: 01622 851186

M: 07914 380521



Bathroom Installations	Tiling
Drains & toilets serviced	Odd jobs
General domestic plumbing	No job too small
Hot water cylinders	Fully insured
Heating and radiators	FREE quotes
Kitchen installations	No call out charges
Repairs and installation	Friendly professional advice
E: info@allfixplumbing.co.uk	W: www.allfixplumbing.co.uk

PROUD TO BE SERVING THE
COMMUNITY SINCE 1965

A.W.COURT
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Your fully independent, family owned,
Funeral Directors, serving the local
community with compassion and the highest
standards of service and professionalism.

With our 24-hour emergency service,
we are only a telephone call away.

At the earliest stage possible, you will
speak directly with one of our experienced
Funeral Directors, who will be there to help,
support and guide you through the whole
of the funeral process.

Golden Charter 

Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone,
Kent ME17 2AP.

01622 850840

Email – enquiries@awcourt.com

Website – www.awcourt.com

A.W. Court is a Trading Division of
West & Coe Ltd, 602 Rainham Road South,
Dagenham, Essex RM10 8YP.



Harrietsham Computers

Computer Problems?

Need an upgrade

or a new machine?

Just want some extra tuition?



For local, friendly, experienced

Help, call Mike Cuerden at

01622 859442 or

07963 020092



No call out fee
Reasonable rates
Private &
Commercial Work
No job too small

Invicta Chimney Sweep



No Mess
No Dust
No Fuss

- All types of Chimneys swept and smoke tested
- Certificates Issued
- Pots, Cows, Bird Guards etc.
- Birdnest Removal
- Chimney Repairs

Fully Insured



01622 632641

0798 854 9010

www.invictachimneysweeps.co.uk

Mower Plant Services

Sales Service Parts Repairs
Accessories

Walk Behind Mowers, Ride on Mowers,
Lawn Tractors, Brush Cutters, Water
Pumps, Hedge Trimmers, Chainsaws,
Snow Blowers, Generators, Leaf Blowers

Parts for all Garden Machinery available.

Give us a call or come and visit our
friendly staff to arrange the service/repair
of your garden machinery or perhaps we
can help you choose something new.



Sunpatch Farm, Headcorn Rd,
Smarden, TN27 8PJ
Tel: 01622 890046

Email: sales@mowerplantservices.co.uk
www.mowerplantservices.co.uk

Open Mon – Fri 8:30am-5:30pm, Sat 8.30am – 1pm

**Ken and Eve Sweet
extend a warm welcome to**

**The Kings Head
Grafty Green**

**A
16th Century
Coaching Inn
haunted by
“Dover Bill” -
the Highwayman!**



**Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers**

**Booking Advisable
01622 850259**

Children's Room Beer Garden

HOLLAND & HOLLAND ROOFING LTD

Flat Roofing Specialists

“Installers of high performance flat roofing systems”

Our quotes are free of charge and arranged at a time
that's convenient for you

All work is Insurance backed guaranteed

Contact

T: 01622 842 069

M: 07939583618

E: office@hollandandhollandroofing.co.uk

W: www.hollandandhollandroofing.co.uk

Members of the
Confederation of Roofing Contractors (CORC)

News from St.Nicholas Church – September 2026

Hard to believe the Cream Teas season is over for this year. What a time we have had, welcoming so many friends. St. Nicolas church seems to positively become even more alive on these wonderful, hospitable occasions.

Much as we have appreciated the sunny weather, being able to sit outside and enjoy the surroundings, our thoughts go out to those whose livelihood depends on well-watered crops, livestock, fruit and vegetables. It has been a devastating time for so many, watching grassland, rivers and vegetation wither away. Added to that, the water restrictions and complete water cut offs, have made life intolerable for the vulnerable and isolated communities. Thank goodness for the kindness of so many neighbours and workers.

We know that many of our gardens, trees and plants will come through eventually as the rain arrives, they can be resilient. Not so in many parts of the world. We still need to tread gently on this precious earth.

Usual reminders

Remember the porch is open at all times, for a rest on a walk, a drink, perhaps a biscuit (if they haven't all gone). There's a bible to read, hopefully a parish magazine, and a chance to leave a prayer request, if there is something on your mind. The mini food bank should soon be back in place. There is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10.00am-4.00pm daily.

If you need to fill the kettle, jug or dog bowl there is an outdoor tap round the back of the church, just follow the footpath beyond the West door.

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

Coffee Mornings

Please note the times are changing from September onwards. The new time for the Post Office van is from **11.55am-12.45pm** on Tuesdays as usual. The new times for the coffee morning will be from **11.00am-1.00pm** in Grafty Green Village Hall and will continue to cover the Post Office time, so join us for coffee and a chat while you wait!

We have another £100 to go to a charity of choice. Do come and help us decide at Coffee Morning time.

Cream Teas

Now a chance to say a big 'thank you' to everyone involved this year. We have catered and fed more than 400 friends and many new visitors over the four Sundays of July and August. I am sure the weather has played a big part in encouraging people to come and enjoy our venue, both St Nicolas and the countryside on offer.

The hard-working team have really enjoyed these days too, are now missing being together each Sunday afternoon and the friendly chat with visitors. Our church treasurer has done the sums and given us a figure of £2,200 raised and will be used to maintain the church.

Churchyard and Interior 'clean and tidy' event on Saturday 19th September

Do come along with tools, dusters, gloves etc. from **10.00am-12.30pm**.

Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to making a difference.

Harvest Supper will be in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Saturday 3rd October, 7.00pm for 7.30pm**.

Harvest Supper



Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 3rd October

7 for 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50

Includes glass of wine, beer or soft drink at the table

Contact Kenneth Alexander

07768 323367

Proceeds in aid of St. Nicholas' Church, Boughton Malherbe

Tickets are £12.50 to include a glass of wine, beer or soft drink at the table.

Contact Kenneth Alexander on 07768 323367.

Harvest Festival at St Nicolas on Sunday 11th October at 3.30pm, followed by an auction of gifts of fresh produce, fruit and vegetables, cakes etc.

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

Refreshments provided.

Weddings

The wedding of Anca and Rob took place in St. Nicolas on Saturday 22nd of August. We send them our prayers and all good wishes for their future.

India and Harry will be married at St. Nicolas on Saturday September 26th. We wish them well as they make their preparations.

This month will be a time of transition as the new season of autumn takes hold, with all its beauty, hopefully recovering from these desert conditions. A time of change too for so many families, children changing schools, maybe going to further education or leaving the security of home. We wish an exciting and challenging future for all of them.

Sally Alexander

Len Valley Benefice September 2026

Everybody is welcome



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

1 John 4 v7 (part)

Wednesday 2nd September

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 6th September

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with Baptism*

Sunday 13th September

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

Sunday 20th September

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 27th September

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Boughton Malherbe

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

Christian Message - September 2026

A picture I had in my mind is of swallows when they gather on telephone lines in preparation, I think, for their annual migration.

At first it is just one or two of them, and then there are several, and then - for just a few short days - it seems to be hundreds, before suddenly it seems that every swallow in the vicinity vanishes as they set off on their long and challenging flight back to Africa or other warmer climates for the winter. I have read that their journey from the UK might take about six weeks as they cross Europe, the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert.

It's as though something calls them to depart, and so, of course, they do. It seems to be that voice from within.

As the days shorten, the temperatures cool and the number of flying insects diminishes, they know that the time has come to move on

The gospels speak of that instinctive response which, I suggest, should also be ours. We read how the disciples were called to follow Jesus immediately, and they did! Why? Because something about his summons rang true deep within. His words and his deeds gave them a yearning for meaning to their lives.

Yes, like us, they still struggle at times with faith. They still had their doubts and questions, yet they knew they had to answer that call, which they, like us, should respond to. Jesus says - 'he who has ears, let him hear'.

I have been struggling to act on a message that I feel I have been given. But I have found inspiration from the picture of the swallows as they decide to obey their instincts. Also, from the disciples who were told to follow Jesus immediately, leaving behind what was familiar and venturing out into their unknown futures.

I wonder if you too have struggled to act on whatever you might be called into doing.

When Jesus is saying to us 'he who has ears, let him hear' it is a call to us for action where he is saying 'listen up and pay attention'.

Is he saying to you 'embrace this message and let it change how you live'. His message is always there for those who are truly seeking.

Reverend Millie Hart

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	01622 692121
General Enquiries	0800 923 7000
Home Safety Visits	

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

AMIGA FIRE and SECURITY Ltd

Domestic | Residential | Commercial

- ✓ Intruder • CCTV • Access Control
- ✓ Fire Alarms • Fire Risk Assessments
- ✓ Extinguishers • Fire Doors • Emergency Lighting

Free Surveys and Quotes Call 01622 725225

SSAIB Certified Installation and Servicing

sales@amiga.co.uk www.amiga.co.uk

Kents Local Trusted Fire and Security Partner