

Malherbe Monthly

Number 233 December 2023



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas





Useful contact names and telephone Nos.

	contact names and telephone iv		
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Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898	
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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 **January** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20**th **December**

News from St. Nicholas Church – December 2023

December, the month when expectation and excitement build for children and panic sets in for parents. That is for most of us. But as I write those words, it is with a heavy heart, for those sentiments are overwhelmed by the tragedies enfolding for families where war, violence, inhumanity and treachery are daily events. Perhaps we need to remember that 2,000 yrs. ago this was exactly the same situation that the baby, Jesus, was born into. And in that same area of Israel/Palestine. Do we learn nothing from our history.

Can we hold, cherish and celebrate the arrival of every baby? For in doing so, we may yet achieve progress in our humanity and promote peace in our world.

Usual reminders

The church porch open at all times for rest, shelter and a hot drink. A small food box is there if you need, with a larger food bank at the back of St Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10-4pm each day.

If you are not aware, Tom Baker's tombstone is resting to the right side of the porch, not in use yet, I may say! Felt I must add this, as The Radio Times is celebrating the 60th anniversary of Dr Who and the information is given, together with an interview with the longest serving Dr. in their edition dated 21st November 2023. Tom Baker lived in the Old School House next to the church and occasionally gave wonderful evening events in the church, often accompanied, inadvertently, by his cat!

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

Church service times are on the noticeboards by the church porch, on the larger board by the bench on the roadside and outside the village hall in Grafty Green.

Celtic Morning Prayer is said in the side chapel each Monday morning 9-9.30am an informal time to think and pray for our communities, world issues, friends and families and those in need of prayer at this time. Please contact Rev.John Huggins or the churchwardens if you have any prayer requests and these will be said in Monday morning prayer time.

Village Coffee Morning continues every Tuesday 11.30-2pm, in the Village Hall in Grafty Green, while the Post Office is there the same day 12.45-2.15pm. There are usually other stalls at this time, local eggs and honey, Pluckley teas, Sue's beautiful gift and Christmas cards and homemade jam and marmalade.

A reminder that any donations received at the coffee morning are shared equally between St.Nicolas church and a charity chosen by the 'regulars'.

Winter Craft Fair. Many thanks to the organisers of this weekend event in the Village Hall. Delighted, as always to catch up with friends. Our stall was able to give £225 to church funds, so again many thanks to everyone, especially the 'catering crew', who kept us well fed! Not fair that the Jacob sheep lady with the beautiful wool was next to us! Jacquie and I could not resist. Many others could not resist the packets of 'Sheep Poo'. Will be in many Christmas gift boxes I expect, if they get that far!

Farewell. On Tuesday 21st November we said farewell to Nina Barlowe at her funeral in St.Nicolas. She had been a notable part of village life for many years and the church was full. She had moved away after her husbands' deaths, but kept in contact. Our prayers and thoughts go out to her family, especially her children Kate and Gordon.

Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 17th December followed by mulled wine and mince pies (not to be missed)!

Crib Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 24th December. Join in as the baby Jesus is welcomed into the stable to complete the Nativity scene in the church. Remember that St.Nicolas is our patron saint!

Christmas Day Service at 9.30am

Finale

As we prepare for Christmas, at this busiest of times, at this most magical of times, may we all take time to think of the thousands of families around the world who are in fear, in mourning, in pain at this time. May our prayers and actions bring comfort and peace to those we know and love as well as to those we will never know.

Have a Very Happy Christmas

Sally Alexander

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Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

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Village Hall - December Newsletter

It was busy time at the hall again last month where in addition to our normal clubs and societies we hosted our Annual Christmas Craft Fair for the first time over two days. Both days were well attended and for all of you who hired a stall, helped out and supported the event thank you so much it made both days fun and enjoyable and raised funds for Platts Heath School, St Nicholas Church and the Village Hall.

Carols Round the Tree, Father Christmas & Festive Refreshments at the Hall Thurs 14th December

I am pleased to let you have more detail on our Christmas Event which has very generously been sponsored by the Parish Council. So in these straightened times of high inflation it is nice to be able to offer you entertainment where you can leave your purses and wallets at home! The Christmas Event kicks off at 2.30 pm in the village hall where there will be fun and games for the children and a visit to Santa in his grotto.

At around 4pm we will adjourn to the Village Green where Ken and Eve will kindly press the big red plunger to turn the Christmas Tree lights on, followed by carols sung round the tree led by the choirs of Platts Heath School and the Church accompanied by Pauline Fisher on the trumpet.

After the carols there will be a snow machine for the children to let off some steam and then it is all back to the hall at about 4.45pm where sausage rolls, mince pies, sherry, Baileys, mulled wine, hot chocolate and squash will be served. Any child who has not had the opportunity to see Santa can visit his grotto. Young and old all are welcome and it will be an opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours and get into the festive spirit.

Stop Press – New Pilates Class Monday Afternoon 2pm to 3pm starting 8th January

I am very pleased to say that Cheryl our Pilates teacher has kindly agreed to host a second Pilates Class at the Village Hall. Classes will run from 2pm to 3pm on a Monday afternoon starting on the 8th January. Just the ticket to get fit and relax after the stresses and strains of Christmas & the New Year. Please see below information on Pilates and how to join this additional class. Cheryl is offering discounted taster sessions, (four weeks for £20), so if this is an activity you would like to consider please support this new class at the hall.

Cheryl has kindly provided the following information on Pilates and how to book the taster sessions:-

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.

A little about Cheryl

Following a back injury some 20 years ago she was advised by her Consultant to take up Pilates and it has made a huge difference to her quality of life. In 2018, after working for many years in the City, she followed my passion and qualified as a Body Control Pilates® Mat Instructor.

Classes will be starting on Monday 8 January in Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA from 2:00-3:00pm with a special introductory offer of £20 for a 4-week taster course. Come along and have a go.

To book your place or for further information please contact Cheryl on 07852 602369 Email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com

Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman

bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk Facebook – graftygreenvillage

New Pilates Class

Suitable for Beginners and Improvers

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.



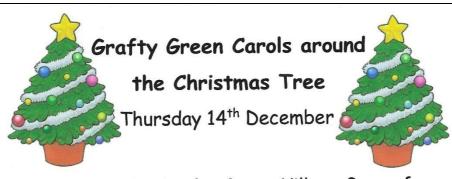
Monday 2:00 to 3:00 pm - Grafty Green Village Hall Introductory Offer:

4 week taster course for just £20.00

8 January to 29 January

To book your place please contact Cheryl 07852 602369

Email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com



4.00pm on the Grafty Green Village Green for Carols led by the choirs of Platts Heath Primary School and St Nicholas Church, snow machine and the official lighting of the Christmas Tree.

Approx 4.45pm refreshments including sausage rolls and mince pies plus hot chocolate and Mulled wine in the Grafty Green Village Hall.

Children can visit Santa in his Grotto too!

This is a free community event kindly sponsored by the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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

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

Craft Group

Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10am -12.00pm

Art Class

Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening ClubDoreen 01622 850287
Sue 01622 850381

First Tuesday of the month 7.30pm



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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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MINUTES OF A MEETING of the FINANCE and STAFFING COMMITTEE of BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL held at 7:00 pm on Monday 6th November 2023 in Grafty Green Village Hall

Present: Clirs: B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood; R Galton; R. Turner (Chair) In attendance: Mrs V Ford (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7:00 pm.

1. Anybody filming/recording this meeting: none

- Anybody filming/recording this meeting: none
- 2. Apologies for absence: none
- 3. Declarations:
 - (i) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda: none
 - (ii) Declarations of Lobbying: none
- Approval of Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee Meeting held on 16th
 January 2023: approved and signed as a true and accurate record
- 5. Review of 2023/24 Budget to date and approval of any amendments: see table below. The Chairman introduced the document, explaining that it was to be considered in preparation for setting the next year's budget and precept in January 2024. There was some discussion on funding for the 59 bus service and the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

The Chairman asked members to think about whether, in the light of increasing costs, there should be an increase in precept.

RESOLVED: accepted as presented by the Clerk

The meeting closed at 7.17 pm

	Durdensk	Divident	Astrolas	Destanted to
	Budget	Budget	Actual to	Projected to
	2022/23	2023/24	31.10.23	31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Precept	7,005	7,113	7,113	7,113
Parish Services Scheme	327	262	131	262
Bank interest		300	1,030	1,900
Community Transport			3,950	4,506
Misc				
VAT Refund	150	-	-	559
TOTAL RECEIPTS	7,482	7,675	12,224	14,340
Dalama harvahi farawal fara ana isaa waxa		22.044	02.460	02.460
Balance brought forward from previous year		22,844	82,468	82,468
DAVAGAITC				
PAYMENTS Stoff Costs Clork's Salans	4 106	4 700	2 225	4 700
Staff Costs - Clerk's Salary Other Costs	4,196	4,700	2,235	4,700
	500			
Village Green Maintenance: Grass etc	300	500	339	500
		900	450	450
Trees		500	1,467	4,500
Fencing Village Hall Hire	250	250	1,467	250
Village Hall Hire Christmas Tree	300	350	-	350
Christmas functions	300	400	_	500
	-		401	
Litter Collection/lengthsman	-	800	481	800 2,600
PRoW replacement gates	-	2,600	-	2,600
Community grants:	500	500		500
Churchyard Maintenance Air Ambulance	500	50	300	300
			982	
Community Grants e.g. Coronation event		1,000	902	1,000
Community Transport (59 bus) Emergency Plan	-	-	-	5,180
	300	300	183	300
Training Courses Internal/external Auditor	100	300	90	90
•	400	500	500	500
Insurance KALC Membership	300	250	239	239
SLCC membership fees (Clerk)	300	120	112	112
Contingency (incl defib spares)		408	112	408
CPRE Membership	36	36	_	36
Stationery, postage, admin	200	500	173	600
Total Other Costs	2,886	10,264	5,316	19,215
Repairs Fund contribution	2,000	10,204	-	13,213
Village Green Fund	400	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	7,482	14,964	7,551	23,915
Ringfenced reserves (CIL)	,	,	,	3,684
Earmarked reserve (Village Green)				-
Contingencies				
Emergency reserve		7,500		14,965
Clerk additional hours		2,010		2,010
Community bus		5,000		-
CLOSING BALANCE		1,045		52,234

^{*100%} budgeted payments 2023/24



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Planning Committee Meeting held in the village hall at 7:25pm on Monday 6th November 2023

Present: Cllrs B Adams; T Andrews (Chair); N Eastwood; R Galton; R Turner

In attendance: Mrs V Ford (Clerk)

Cllr Turner opened the meeting at 7:18 pm

1. Chairman: RESOLVED: Cllr Andrews to chair the meeting

2. Anybody filming or recording this meeting: none

3. Apologies for absence: none

- 4. Declarations:
 - (i) Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: none
 - (ii) Declarations of lobbying: none
- 5. Approval of Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on 28th September 2023: approved and signed as a true and accurate record
- 6. Planning Application:
 - (i) Public Session: no public session (1 member of the public present)
 - (ii) 23/504792/FULL

PROPOSAL: Erection of a single storey side extension to existing triple garage, with store in roof space.

ADDRESS: Grey Cottage, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton, TN27 9BP

RESOLVED: to give a neutral response with no additional comment

The Meeting closed at 7:23 pm



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th November 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Clirs B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood; R Galton (Chair); R Turner

In attendance: Mrs V Ford (Clerk)

Anybody filming or recording this meeting kindly requested to declare it: none

M01/11/23 Apologies

Apologies from Cllrs M Round and Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council) were noted.

M02/11/23 Declarations:
Any lobbying: none declared

Any interest in items on the agenda: none declared

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests: none declared

M03/11/23 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2023 and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28th September 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being accurate records of the proceedings.

Cllr Eastwood asked the Clerk to forward the results of the traffic speed survey conducted to test the viability of installing a speed indicating device (SID) in the centre of the Village.

M04/11/23 Public Session: (three members of public present)

A member of the public complained about the build quality of the new fence erected between the King's Head public house and the Village Green. The Chairman reported that he had tried to contact the contractor without success but would pursue.

M05/11/23 Planning Outcomes since 3rd July 2023:

Noted that:

23/503980/FULL Erection of a single timber framed garage with flat roof at Foxes Earth, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP: **Application PERMITTED**

M06/11/23 Local Policing/Community

Police/Crime Report: It was noted one crime had been reported in the Parish since 4th September.

M07/11/23 Liverton Hill:

It was observed that Liverton Hill had remained dry with no evidence of the spring flowing down. Members discussed the considerable volume of fly tipping on Liverton Hill, which the Clerk was asked to report to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). The Clerk was also asked to report fly tipping at the Headcorn end of Crumps Lane.

M08/11/23 Highways Improvement Plan

The Chairman reported that Kent County Council (KCC) had carried out a traffic survey to test the viability of a 40 mph speed limit along part of the Lenham Road. The results had shown there was an insufficient number of vehicles exceeding 40 mph and the proposal had been rejected.

M09/11/23 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting to discuss provision of the 59 bus service from 1st April 2024. The main action from the meeting had been to explore other sources of funding, which was being done.

FINANCE

M10/11/23 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 31st October 2023 were noted:

Lloyds current £3,005.85
Lloyds business instant access £7,139.52
Lloyds 32-day notice £40,463.92
Nationwide £14,465.77
Cambridge and Counties £24,165.11

M11/11/23 Receipts since last meeting: £175.09 Lloyds Bank interest

M12/11/23 Bank Reconciliation: The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted.

M13/11/23 Statement of receipts and payments against budget: noted

M14/11/23 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting: £540 Tree Pro Ltd (incl £45 deposit); £23.98 Hugo Fox; £144.98 Platts Heath Primary School; £1,117.48 V J Ford; £35 ICO; £84 KALC; £117.68

Mrs Mary Burgess; £170.34 Amesis Ltd; £1,467 Kingswood Fencing

M15/11/23 Authorisation of transfer between accounts: £3,000 transferred from business saver to current account by the Clerk on 29.9.23 (Lloyds bank)

M16/11/23 Information and Data Protection Policies

Members had before them various draft policies presented by the Clerk, which had been adapted for the Parish Council's use from templates provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) based on a data audit: Information and Data Protection Policy; Email Contact Privacy Notice; Document Retention and Disposal Policy; Retention of Documents Appendix A: list of documents for retention or disposal. RESOLVED: to adopt all policies as presented by the Clerk.

M17/11/23 Parish Council Email Addresses

Transference of administration to a commercial organisation was discussed.

RESOLVED: to defer the decision pending further investigation.

RESOLVED: to investigate adoption of gov.uk domain name.

M18/11/23 Carols Round the Christmas Tree Event

RESOLVED: for insurance purposes, to adopt the organising group for "Carols round the Tree" as a working group of the Parish Council.

Mr Jon Thompson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, was asked to provide a list of group members, which he kindly agreed to do.

RESOLVED: to authorise payment of £50 to the King's Head public house to cover electricity costs for the tree over the Christmas season.

M19/11/23 Licence to Install a Planter on the Highway

The suggestion of installing a planter on the grass triangle at the junction of Headcorn Road and Eastwood Road had been included on the Parish Highway Improvement Plan. During discussion, concern was expressed that installation would create a blind spot for traffic turning out of Eastwood Road.

RESOLVED: not to proceed with an application for a licence to install a planter.

M20/11/23 Insurance Cover for Cyber Attack

Following the Chairman's attendance at a recent conference, the Parish Council had requested a quotation for cyber attack insurance cover.

RESOLVED: to enquire if contracting out information technology (IT) administrative support to a commercial organisation would provide sufficient protection against an attack.

M21/11/23 Application for Kent County Council Community Transport Grant

RESOLVED: the Clerk to enquire if any grant awarded would need to be match funded.

RESOLVED: to authorise the Clerk to make an application for a grant for the 59 bus service over the next financial year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm

Grafty Gourmet

This is great Christmas drink, simple to make and ideal on those cold Winter nights.

SPICED CLEMENTINE MULLED WHISKEY

Serves 4

600ml of ginger beer
150ml of freshly squeezed clementine juice,
plus clementine slices to garnish
2 tablespoons of honey
2 cinnamon sticks
5 cloves
pinch of allspice
200ml of whisky

- 1. Tip the ginger beer, clementine juice, honey, cinnamon sticks, cloves and allspice into a saucepan, and bring to a simmer over a low heat. Cook for 5 minutes to warm through.
- 2. Remove from the heat and stir in the whisky. Divide between four heatproof glasses or mugs, drop in a few clementine slices and serve.

Ken and Eve Sweet extend a warm welcome to The Kings Head Grafty Green

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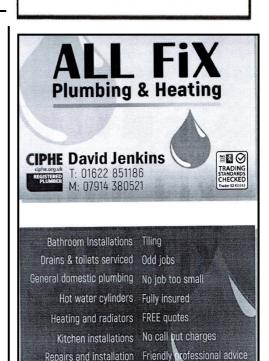
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Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

The Family Stone

Friday December 8th Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 39 mins, PG, director Thomas Bezucha.

Christmas is coming and it's time to celebrate it with **The Family Stone (2005)** and an all-star cast including Sarah Jessica Parker, Dermot Mulroney, Diane Keaton, Claire Danes, Craig T. Nelson, Luke Wilson and Rachel McAdams. In this comedy drama, Everett Mulroney, with his career blossoming in Wall Street, takes his high-flying girlfriend Meredith home for Christmas to introduce her to his family in rural Connecticut. He has the best of intentions but trouble looms bigtime. The unconventional family doesn't take to the uptight Meredith, despite her best efforts to deal with its eccentricities and hostility. In despair she summons the help of her sister Julie – but that help doesn't quite work the way Meredith expects. Everett had intended this to be the best Christmas ever. And perhaps it will be... come along and find out, we'll have mulled wine alongside our usual refreshments, plus complimentary mince pies!

An extended family issue pops up with the inimitable Indiana Jones whose goddaughter Helena turns up in **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny**, which we'll now be showing on Friday 12th January, after having been delayed from November. What better way to celebrate the new year! Welcome back, Indy.

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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- mww.egerton-kent.co.uk

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Bed	Box	Haste	Post
2	Bernard	George	Patron	
3	Brown	Hug	Teddy	
4	Airline	Automatic	Light	
5	Brown	House	Real	
6	Acute	Grinder	Right	
7	Begging	Chain	Opener	
8	Bank	Line	Stage	
9	Saturday	Sink	Soup	
10	Arms	Birthday	Day	
11	Direct	Packed	Replay	
12	Big	Cart	Rotten	
13	Dry	Foot	Gut	
14	Card	Dirty	Hat	
15	Birth	Time	Trade	
16	Blow	Cleaner	Dream	

	Find the missing word?
1	Ted, Sitcom about Priests on Craggy Island
2	Reaction, A 1986 chart topper for Diana Ross
3	Barry, American soul singer, nickname The Walrus of Love
4	Harrison, Country File reporter
5	Soap, Corrie & Emmerdale
6	and Lola, Children's cartoon series
7	Ripping, 1970s Michael Palin series
8	Benjamin, Former TV presenter, now Politician
9	Heidi, Americas Got Talent judge
10	Spirit, 1990s medical sitcom

Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2023

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic	
January 10	Dr Mick Lynn and	Which came first the Bee or the	
January 10	AGM	Flower	
February 7	Steven Harmer	The story of Plant Hunting	
March 7	Kevin Tooher	Getting the best out of	
IVIAICII /	Kevin rooner	Composting	
April 4	Caroline Halfpenny	A Gardener's response to Climate	
April 4	and Spring show	Change.	
Saturday April 29	10 am Plant sale on the Green		
Sunday May 14	Coach outing to Leonards Lee		
June 6	Outing to Faversham – Edible Culture		
July 4	Outing to Elmside, Ulcombe - Rhian Banham's Garden		
Sunday August	Coach outing to Hydo Hall		
13	Coach outing to Hyde Hall		
September 5	Victoria Golding and	Marden Meadow	
Jeptember 5	Autumn show	Warden Weadow	
September	Weekend away in Do	orset, staying in Weymouth, visit	
8,9,10	Chawton House and Gardens, Abbotsbury, Athelhampton		
0,5,10	House and Garden and Holme Gardens		
	Ylva Blid-		
October 3	Mackenzie,	Designing a Perennial Boarder	
	Madrona Nursery		
November 7	Christine Bartlett	Healthy House Plants, Happy Home	
December 5	Social – wine and cheese with slide-show		

On **December 5th** we are having our Christmas Social Evening with a slide show, this is always a very jolly event and we look forward to catching up with you all at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Last month's talk on house plants was very good and I am sure we all learned something from Christine's wide knowledge of these plants and having our questions answered afterwards accompanied by tea, coffee and biscuits!

Looking forward, our AGM and talk by Joe Archer entitled (From KEW to Kent) will be held on **9th January.** The Committee members have put together a very interesting and varied program of events for 2024. Details available on the night.

Jobs for the month ideas:

Winter digging and adding compost.

Clean paths and lawns of leaves and debris

Pile leaves up in a quiet corner for hibernating creatures

Repair sheds and fences

Prune ornamental plants, fruit trees and bushes.

Finally, Don't be too tidy in the garden in order to provide plenty of seeds for the birds to feed on and winter shelter for insects.

Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

Monday mornings 9.30 to 11 Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30 Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11

Last class this year 14th December

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

New Year classes start Wednesday 3rd January

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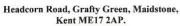


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Christian Message December 2023

One of the strange things about writing Village Mag articles is that because the submission date is so early for some of our mags, I am writing for December and thinking about Christmas whilst in late October. This is particularly ironic this year because the news is full of unholiness in the supposedly Holy Land. Hamas has committed atrocities killing Jews including children, and now Israel is bombing Gaza like the civilians don't matter. I wonder where we will have got to by the time you are reading this article?

In December we remember Christmas and at Christmas we remember the coming of the Prince of Peace. Let's remember that He was born into an occupied war zone, and was eventually killed by the army. It might seem an unpromising start for a Prince of Peace?

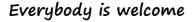
And yet peace is what we all long for. I have been so struck by a teenaged Israeli girl who had lost relatives in the initial atrocity. She was interviewed by a BBC reporter who was trying to get her to say that she wanted revenge. She didn't. She paused and said that she didn't want revenge: she wanted peace. Here from the mouth of a Jewish teenager is a glimpse of the message of the Prince of Peace!

We also long for personal peace: peace within. I was reflecting this morning how, although I've made all sorts of bad decisions in my life, my decision to accept this Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmastime, into my life at the age of 17, is unquestionably the BEST decision I ever made. I know the church can be frustrating, but the meaning and love and peace that I have known, through good times and bad, as a result of that decision have always carried me through. I am deeply grateful.

So as Christmas comes, celebrate this Prince of Peace, receive Him (perhaps once more) into your hearts and lives, and pray with me that this horribly divided world sees peace and justice, and healing and wholeness emerging.

Peace be with you.

Len Valley Benefice December 2023



Sunday 3rd December

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church **11.00am** Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 6th December

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Prayers @ Chippendayle Lodge

Sunday 10th December

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Evensorig

Saturday 16th December

3.00pm Lenham: Messy Carols 5.30pm Harrietsham: Carols by Candlelight



Sunday 17th December

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy

Communion

9.30am Lenham: Christmas Breakfast

Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion **3.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: **Carols**

by Candlelight

5.30pm Lenham: Carols by

Candlelight

Tuesday 19th December

7.00pm Ulcombe: Carols by

Candlelight

Sunday 24th December

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Crib

Service

11.15pm Lenham: Midnight Holy

Communion

11.15pm Harrietsham: Midnight Holy

Communion

Monday 25th December

10.00am Boughton Malherbe:

Christmas Holy Communion

10.30am Ulcombe: Christmas Holy

Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Christmas

Holy Communion

11.00am Lenham: Christmas Holy

Communion

Sunday 31st December

11.00am Lenham: Benefice Christmas Carol Celebration

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KCC	Emergencies	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

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District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown	07773 397125

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	Home Safety Visits	0800 923 7000

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Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

Surgical Spirit, 1990s medical sitcom	01
Heidi Klum, Americas Got Talent judge	6
Floella Benjamin, Former TV presenter, now Politician	8
Ripping Yarns, 1970s Michael Palin series	L
Charlie and Lola, Children's cartoon series	9
Soap Operas, Corric & Emmerdale	ς
Ellie Harrison, Country File reporter	t
Barry White, American soul singer, nickname The Walrus of Love	٤
Chain Reaction, A 1986 chart topper for Diana Ross	7
Father Ted, Sitcom about Priests on Craggy Island	I
Find the missing word?	

Answer	E broW	Word 2	I broW	
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Rot	JuĐ	Foot	Dry	13
AsirT	Hat	Dirty	Card	t1
Mark	Trade	əmiT	Birth	51
9qi4	Dream	Cleaner	Blow	91



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