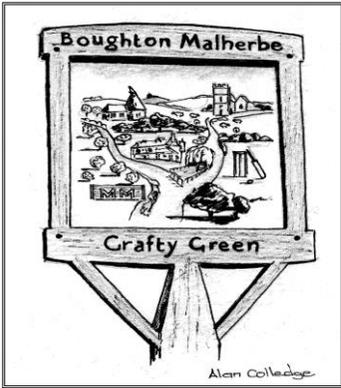


Malherbe Monthly

Number 225
April 2023



The beautiful new refectory table made from locally sourced oak and now in situ in St Nicholas Church. Picture courtesy John Collins

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 078524 92770
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	Vickie Ford email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	07791 135248
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	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Curate	Charlotte Coles Mobile 07805 092823	
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
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday at approx. 3pm by Post Office	07976 435217
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John Collins	Treasurer	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 **May** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th April**

News from St. Nicholas Church - April 2023

Back home, with our suitcases full to overflowing with Whittaker's chocolate and the finest knitting wools. No prize for guessing where Anne and I have been. Wonderful to access NZ wool in Christchurch where you could even identify the farm the sheep came from. Would that our amazing sheep breeds be so appreciated for their sustainable, renewable and infinitely versatile fleeces, grown in harmony with the planet. Yet we continue to buy and flood the markets with highly damaging, disposable, man-made 'plastic' clothing and goods, shedding hidden, indestructible fibres into every river, sea, farmland and living creature on earth. Watch out for the Alpaca fleeces (even softer than sheep wool) we are determined to learn to card and spin, with thanks to Angela and John for saving them for us.

Reminders (as always)

The church porch is open at all times. Do take shelter from the weather, or just get your breath back and relax with a hot drink and biscuit. Make use of the mini food bank under the table if you need, or add to it when you pass by. There is a larger food bank in St. Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10-4pm daily.

The main church building is only opening for services, cleaning etc., but a key can be obtained from the churchwardens. Their details are elsewhere in the magazine and on the noticeboard in the porch.

Celtic Morning Prayers are said in the side chapel each Monday 9-9.30am. Please contact Rev. John Huggins, Rev. Charlotte Coles or the churchwardens at any time if you have a prayer request. Prayers will be said in Morning Prayer time or in private if you wish.

Information

Village Coffee Morning is held every Tuesday in the village hall in Grafty Green from 11.30-2pm. Please note this is a change to our previous times. The pop-up Post Office is open from 12.45-2.15pm and most weeks various stalls will be present. Hilary with her organic home-grown meats, Corinne with her very local honey, Sylvia's jams, marmalade, Sue's cards and Pluckley tea, church eco-shop with household cleaning products. Just come in and see what is on offer. Coffee, cake and company is always available.

The Craft Group is getting into coronation fever! Crowns of all shapes and sizes are appearing, with much discussion and translation of patterns! Many thanks to John for repairing my spinning wheel, enjoying using it after so many years. He must have had enough of these repairs! (won't produce the next one (in pieces), till he has recovered!).

Lent lunches have been enjoyed using the new oak refectory table. Many thanks to all who made delicious soups and homemade bread. There have been very generous donations to the work of Christian Aid. Such a worthwhile charity serving people in need in all areas of the world.

Palm Sunday is celebrated on 2nd April, **9.30am at St. Nicolas**, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem before his death on Good Friday. The day when the people enthusiastically welcomed him into the city, throwing palm branches on the ground under the little donkey's feet, the little donkey he rode to show his humility. Everyone will go home with a palm cross on this Sunday.

Holy Week evening talks followed by Night Prayer

There will be a different speaker each evening, concentrating on Transformation of our lives, our community life, our planet and our egos

Monday 3rd April, 7.30pm at St. Nicolas, Boughton Malherbe

Tuesday 4th April, 7.30pm at St. Mary's, Lenham

Wednesday 5th April, 7.30pm at All Saints, Ulcombe

Maundy Thursday 6th April, 7.30pm at St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham

Followed by Holy Communion with washing of feet.

Friday 7th April - Good Friday 2pm An hour at the Cross in all four churches

Easter Sunday 6am Benefice Daybreak Easter Celebration at St. Nicolas

Around the fire, followed by breakfast

9.30am Easter Holy Communion at St. Nicolas

Wedding of Nicola and David on Saturday 25th March. The church looked its best with beautiful flower arrangements by Vanessa and Sandra. We send our prayers and good wishes to the couple.

Memorial Service on Saturday 21st April at 1pm for Fr. David Wright, at St. Mary's Lenham followed by refreshments in the church. You are warmly invited by the family.

Finale

Christchurch (NZ) cathedral is at last moving forward, though still not safe to enter, before groundworks are completed. Anne and I were walking past the boundary fence late at night last week, when an alarm went off right beside us! We looked around guiltily thinking it was set off by us, and guards would appear. Instantly our friends called to ask if we were alright as a 4.4 earthquake had just happened! Obviously, the quake had set off the alarm, not us. A reminder of how fragile our planet is, rejoice in its wonders and treat it with respect.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Easter

Sally Alexander

Boughton Malherbe

Parish Council

Contact Details

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(Finance, Planning, KALC)

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Vickie Ford, Parish Clerk

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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

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



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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

7th April Good Friday fish

7th-10th April Easter weekend

19th April Quiz Night

Thursday Steak Night

2 Course Set Lunch menu with a glass of house wine £25

Please call on 01622 858951 for more details and to book

Opening Hours for food 9.30am-11am breakfast, 12pm-9.30pm restaurant dining



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Helen Whately MP

Parish Update – March 2023 Maidstone – Helen Whately

Tackling tough problems

It has now been over a year that the Ukrainian people have held out against Putin's full-scale invasion. A remarkable display of courage and resolve, holding off a far more powerful neighbour determined to take away their freedom.

We should be immensely proud of the support this country has and continues to provide to Ukraine, not least here in Kent where we've taken in more Ukrainian refugees than any other county.

At times like these when the world feels like a dangerous place, it's more important than ever to keep your friends close.

That's just one of the reasons why this week's Windsor Agreement is such good news. Many thought it wouldn't be possible to find an agreement with the EU that protects Northern Ireland's place in the UK while honouring the Good Friday Agreement. But through careful negotiation and a determination to make things better Rishi has pulled the rabbit out of the hat.

It's typical of the leadership he's showing. Taking issues which matter to the British public, poring over the details, and then finding a solution. He did it with the small boats, he's done it on Northern Ireland, and he's doing it on inflation too with recent figures showing things starting to move in the right direction.

I know first-hand that he's doing it in the NHS too, where in my role as a Health Minister I've been working flat out on things like getting healthy patients out of hospital and into more suitable care - helping to bring ambulance waiting times down by over two thirds from December to January.

Things are tough at the moment, but under Rishi's leadership they'll keep on getting better. I'm working really hard to make things better at a local level too.

Last month I hosted a roundtable in Chart Sutton to crack down on rural crime, and agreed some really important next steps with police.

I've also been keeping up the fight for improvements to our local road network, and recently teamed up with neighbouring MP Tracey Crouch to press the Roads Minister for Blue Bell Hill funding.

And, after months of lobbying from Kent MPs, the Housing Department has announced a new consultation on National Planning Policy - including plans to scrap mandatory housing targets in places like Kent.

You can read more about this and lots more that I've been up to below.

And finally, it is a huge honour to represent Faversham and Mid Kent and serve my constituents, and so I'm really proud to have been reselected as the Conservative candidate for the next election.

There's lots to be getting on with locally, and I'm determined to carry on representing the area to the very best of my ability.

Making the case for Bluebell Hill funding

Bluebell Hill junction can be an absolute nightmare. It actually sits just outside Faversham and Mid Kent, but my constituents in Boxley, Walderslade and Lordswood have to deal with it every day - as do countless people driving through the county on their way to or from Dover.

Recently I teamed up with neighbouring MP Tracey Crouch to press the case for an upgrade to the Roads Minister. KCC have submitted two options to the Department for Transport to consider in the Government's ongoing third Road Investment Strategy (RIS3).

Getting this upgrade is good for local residents as well as our national road network, and I'm determined to see it happen.

Planning consultation can help us get housing right

Ask any Kent MP what issue - come rain or shine - fills their constituency postbag more than any other and I think they'd tell you the same thing: housing.

Along with other local MPs I've been fighting to get the current national planning policy reviewed, and just before Christmas we found out that we'd been successful when the Government put forward its plans for updating the National Planning Policy Framework.

Plans include a move away from mandatory housing targets towards advisory, and there's also tougher rules to make sure developers meet community commitments, as well as a renewed focus on finding more brownfield sites.

I'm writing to the Secretary of State with my constituent's views - if you'd like to pass on yours, please email me at helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Cracking down on rural crime

Rural crime can be so tough on local communities. You can feel isolated living in the countryside and it's really important that police are on hand to help.

At the end of January I hosted a roundtable in Chart Sutton with my fellow Maidstone MP Helen Grant to put some local concerns to police.

It was great to hear officers commit to doing more. We agreed a set of actions to go away and work on over the next few months, including expanding the Rural Task Force, making sure each ward has its own named officer, and reducing the time taken to answer 101 calls.

Pressing South-eastern for Bearsted solution

Recently I met with South-eastern to raise a number of constituents' concerns. This included a return commuter train for Bearsted, as South-eastern are currently saying that it simply isn't viable. I've since called a meeting with the Rail Minister to take this further. However there was some good news from the meeting, including a reduction in temporary speed restrictions, new tech to find faults before they cause delays, and better punctuality as the data in the link shows.

Could care be the right career for you? The care sector can be a wonderful place to work. I see this all the time. As well as being Faversham and Mid Kent's MP I'm also a minister in the Health and Social Care Department, and one of the things I'm tasked with is overseeing the government's work on social care.

It's one of those rare jobs where you can make a difference every day, and it can also offer really good flexibility - meaning you can fit work around other commitments like childcare. We need more people to join this fantastic workforce, and have set up a website where you can search for jobs and information: www.adultsocialcare.co.uk

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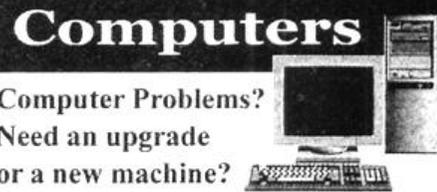
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59 BUS NEWS

Passenger numbers have so far been quite encouraging on the weekly Wednesday only service operated by Nu-Venture, to whom thanks should be given for continuing to provide a service after KCC withdrew their financial support to a large number of services countywide in February.

Subsequent to a meeting led by Boughton Malherbe Parish Council with Nu-Venture and other parishes along the route, we are pleased to say that Community Transport funding has now been secured from KCC which, in conjunction with support from local Parish Councils, will enable the service to continue until the end of March 2024.

What happens after that will be the subject of discussions between the parishes and the operator over the coming months, but if the service is to continue in whatever form it will depend on the use made of it, and this is particularly vital to support any bid for funding beyond March 2024.

Departure time on Wednesdays from Grafty Green continues to be **09.37**, with arrival in Maidstone, King Street, due at 10.33. The return service from Maidstone, King Street (Stop L2, close to Greggs), departs at **13.00**, due to arrive at Grafty Green at 13.54.

The English National Concessionary Travel pass, available to anyone who has reached state pension age or who has a qualifying disability, can be used on the bus, and for those without a pass the return fare is £4-90. As ever the message is **'USE IT OR YOU REALLY WILL LOSE IT'** so we encourage you to make use of this service to help ensure it continues.

John Collins

Between The Hills

Antiques Vintage Retro

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books, fabrics, tools, toys or anything interesting



Village Hall – April Newsletter

I hope you are keeping well. Following a suggestion made at the welcome back event following lockdown we hosted our first film night at the hall in March. On the plus side the film ran without a hitch, we sold 12 tickets, not bad for a first attempt, but sadly not enough to cover the cost of the licence fee for showing the film. Those that attended seemed to enjoy the cosy atmosphere of the hall together with the tea, biscuits and popcorn.

I will review with my colleagues on the committee whether it is an activity we can continue; it is certainly something we would like to offer going forward if there is sufficient demand for a regular film night to make it sustainable. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please let me know.

We have the following events coming up at the hall

Spring Craft Fair Sunday 2nd April 10 am to 2pm

We will be hosting our spring craft fair at the hall on Sunday 2nd of April where you can browse a 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. There will be a wide range of stall holders including beauty products, bags and lots of gift ideas. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt for the children. Any donations of cake will be very welcome and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

Village Hall Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 18th April at 7.30pm

The Village hall is a registered charity run for the benefit and well-being of the local community and we will be holding the charity's AGM at the hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th April. All are welcome to attend, so please come along, we would welcome your thoughts and suggestions as to how the hall may better serve the village

60's/70's Music Night and Meal on Saturday 22nd April – doors open at 7pm

Dougal & the Blue Cats will be performing live for us at our 60's/70's Night. There will be a complimentary glass of fizz on arrival, a three-course themed meal and a fancy-dress competition, so dust off those platforms, flairs and tank tops and get ready to boogie! There will be a pay bar and tickets are £15 per person and can be ordered from myself on 07932 112730 or by emailing bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk.

King's Coronation Event Sunday 7th May 12.30 pm to 4pm at the Church

St Nicholas Church and the Grafty Green Village Hall Committee would like to invite you to a free afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, scones and cake to celebrate the

King's Coronation at the church. There will be a magician, candy floss machine and children's activities plus a glass of fizz on arrival. We look forward to seeing you at this special community event which has been kindly sponsored by the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council.

Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman

bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

Facebook – graftygreenvillage

60s / 70s Music Night & Meal.

Grafty Green Village Hall Sat 22 April



live music from Dougal & the Blue Cats

Doors open 7.00 pm meal from 7.30 pm

Music from 8.30 fancy dress optional!

Tickets: £15 from Jon Thompson

07932 112730 or bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk

GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 AGM will take place at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 18th 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, Craft Fair and the Annual Pantomime. 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: bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk

**King's Coronation Afternoon Tea
at St Nicholas Church
Boughton Malherbe**

Sunday 7th May

12.30-4.00

St Nicholas Church and Grafty Green Village Hall Committee would like to invite you to a free afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, scones and cake to celebrate the King's Coronation.

There will be a magician, candy floss machine and children's activities.

Plus a glass of fizz on arrival.

We look forward to seeing you at this special community event which has been kindly sponsored by the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council





Spring Craft Fair



Sunday 2nd April 10.00-2.00

Grafty Green Village Hall

Wax Melts

Resin8 Crafts

Handmade cards

Avon

Ickle Bit of Love Crafts

Alan Colledge local artist

Julie Elizabeth Ceramics

Axe Works Arts

Handmade bags

Shepherd Crafts

Handmade candles

Spring wreaths, bouquets and table decorations

Vintage items

Knitted goods

Burscombe Cliff Farm meat products

Handmade crafts from St Nicholas Church

As usual our wonderful tea, coffee and cake stall will be open so that you can come along and meet up with friends.

Plus, children can win a free chocolate treat for solving our 'find the letters' treasure hunt!

We look forward to seeing you all and would welcome cake donations for the tea and coffee stall on the day



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

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

Present: Cllrs B Adams; N Eastwood; R Turner
Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford

In the absence of the Parish Council Chairman, the Clerk opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

M01/03/23 Chairman

RESOLVED: in the absence of Cllr Galton, Cllr Turner to chair the meeting.

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

M02/03/23 Apologies

Apologies from Cllr R Galton; Cllr S Prendergast (Kent County Council); and Cllrs M Round and Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council) were received and accepted.

M03/03/23 Declarations:

Any lobbying – none declared

Any interest in items on the Agenda – Cllr Turner declared an interest in agenda item 16. (M11/03/23 refers) due to being the Treasurer of Grafty Green Village Hall Committee. Cllr Turner had requested a dispensation, which the Clerk had approved in order to allow the business to be transacted.

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none declared

M04/03/23 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

Cllr Eastwood asked the Clerk to note that he objected to the second recorded resolution under minute reference M24/01/23.

M05/03/23 Public Session: no public session (five members of public present)

M06/03/23 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Report

Cllr Trzebinski had reported that Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) had approved its budget. Cllr Round had drawn the Parish Council's attention to agenda item 18. (M25/03/23)

M07/03/23 Planning Outcomes since 23rd January 2023

Noted that:

22/504534/FULL Erection of a single storey front porch extension at Pope's Hall Dairy, Sandway, Maidstone, ME17 2BH: **APPROVED**

22/505604/LBC Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations including replacement of 2no. triple casement windows with French doors, removal of oil fired boiler, modern studwork partition and door and installation of air source heat pump at Offens Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AP: **APPROVED**

22/505664/LBC Listed Building Consent for internal alterations for the installation of through floor lift with associated works at Cherry Tree Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AN: **REFUSED**

M08/03/23 Local Policing/Community

Police/Crime Report: It was noted no crimes had been reported in the Parish since 23rd January 2023.

M09/03/23 King's Head Public House Licence Review

Cllr Adams described the published Police report as very sketchy. He did not recall there being any trouble at the pub.

RESOLVED: to submit a comment to MBC as follows:

"So far as the Parish Council could see, the establishment was meeting the licensing objectives: keeping people safe, not a source of crime, not a place in which people feel unsafe, has a good relationship with neighbouring properties."

M10/03/23 Speedwatch:

RESOLVED: to defer discussion of an article on traffic calming for publication in the Malherbe Monthly until Cllr Galton was present.

M11/03/23 Coronation Event

Mr Jon Thompson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, summarised plans for a Coronation event in the Parish. The Village Hall Committee had agreed with representatives of the Parish Church to host a cream tea at the Church. There would be a Coronation service from 11 am to 12 pm, followed by Sunday lunch starting at 12:30 – 1 pm. There would also be a children's entertainer and a treasure hunt. All the community would be invited. If the weather was inclement, the event would be moved into the Church building. The event would be managed through the Village Hall Committee. The costs (approximately £900) had been set out before Parish Council members. The Committee would be talking to Platts Heath School; also would be looking at a memento for Village children, possibly a craft activity. There would be no lighting of beacons.

RESOLVED: to authorise a grant of £1,000 to fund the event

RESOLVED: to allow wool-balming of the Village Green fence (crowns), subject to approval by the King's Head.

M12/03/23 Potholes and Road Closures

The Clerk reported that she would be attending a meeting with Kent County Council (KCC) Highways Department, which had been organised by Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council, on Friday 10th March to discuss potholes, road closures and related issues.

M13/03/23 59 Bus

The Clerk reported that a bid for a Community Transport grant had been submitted to KCC and she was cautiously optimistic.

M14/03/23 Highways Improvement Plan

There were no changes to be made.

M15/03/23 Footpaths

Cllr Turner reported that he and the Clerk had walked KH427 with a Parishioner to locate the positions of the stiles for replacement. It was established that one of the three stiles earmarked for replacement did not lie along the line of the definitive map, which resulted in complications.

RESOLVED: to ask KCC Public Rights of Way to carry out a site visit.

FINANCE

M16/03/23 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 28th February 2023 were noted:

NatWest current	Nil
NatWest business saver	Nil
Lloyds current	£5,713.15
Lloyds business instant access	£40,034.20
Nationwide	£14,230.15
Cambridge and Counties	£23,685.05

The Clerk reported that she had applied for a Lloyds Bank 32-day notice account but there was a delay due to high demand, for which Lloyds had apologised. Interest would be back-dated to the time of the application.

M17/03/23 Receipts since last meeting: £20.39 Lloyds Bank interest

M18/03/23 Bank Reconciliation

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted. The Clerk reported that she had resent the claim for refund of VAT paid in 2021/22 and was awaiting payment from HMRC.

M19/03/23 Cheques to sign: Clerk's expenses £69.35; Amesis Ltd £42

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) had requested a membership fee of £60 for 2023/24 but had given the option to pay the previous fee of £36.

RESOLVED: to pay £36 for 2023/24 and to consider payment of £60 in 2024/25.

M20/03/23 Authorisation of payments since the last meeting: : Amesis Ltd £42; Mrs R Smith £129.50

M21/03/23 Lengthsman

Members had before them a draft revised contract prepared by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: not to have a contract; the lengthsman to invoice on a monthly basis, as previously agreed.

M22/03/23 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

RESOLVED: to hold both meetings on 15th May 2023.

M23/03/23 Casual Vacancy

As an election had not been called, the casual vacancy could be filled by co-option.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to advertise the vacancy in the Malherbe Monthly, asking anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to write to her in the first instance.

M24/03/23 Grafty Green Village Green Fence

RESOLVED: to proceed with repairs in accordance with the quotation from R James

M25/03/23 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document Consultation

RESOLVED: the Clerk to submit a response suggesting that MBC should purchase land for sites

Cllr Turner closed the meeting at 8.50 pm

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council



boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com

**Rill House
The Street
Ulcombe
Maidstone
ME17 1DR**

17th March 2023

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Due to a recent resignation, the Parish Council is looking to co-opt one member.

Anyone interested in serving the community in this way should send a covering letter to the Council at the above address.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Council.

Vickie Ford
Clerk to the Parish Council

Grafty Geeks

Phishing – what's it all about

Phishing is a type of online fraud that involves tricking people into providing sensitive information, such as passwords or credit card numbers, by masquerading as a trustworthy source. Phishing can be done through email, social media or malicious websites.

There are 5 types of phishing, for more information see:

<https://www.itgovernance.eu/blog/en/the-5-most-common-types-of-phishing-attack> - in summary:

1. **Email phishing** - Most phishing attacks are sent by email. The crook will register a fake domain that mimics a genuine organisation and sends thousands of generic requests. The fake domain often involves character substitution, like using 'r' and 'n' next to each other to create 'm' instead of 'm'.
2. **Spear phishing** - Describes malicious emails sent to a specific person. Criminals who do this will already have some or all of the following information about the victim, which makes the email much more convincing compared to ordinary scams.
3. **Whaling** - Attacks are even more targeted, taking aim at senior executives. Although the end goal of whaling is the same as any other kind of phishing attack, the technique tends to be a lot subtler.
4. **Smishing and vishing** - In both, telephones replace emails as the method of communication. **Smishing** involves criminals sending text messages (the content of which is much the same as with email phishing), and **vishing** involves a telephone conversation. One of the most common smishing pretexts are messages supposedly from your bank alerting you to suspicious activity.
5. **Angler phishing** - A relatively new attack vector, social media offers several ways for criminals to trick people. Fake URLs; cloned websites, posts, and tweets; and instant messaging (which is essentially the same as smishing) can all be used to persuade people to divulge sensitive information or download malware.

Top 10 tips

1. Name of Sender can trick you	2. Check for Typos	3. Don't share sensitive data	4. Don't fall for urgency	5. Hover but don't click
6. Attachments can be dangerous	7. If it too good to be true?	8. Keep your devices up to date	9. Regularly check your accounts	10. When in doubt – do nothing and delete

You can “**Report Phishing**”, which can be found in the more options section in the email. You can also permanently send emails to the **Spam folder** if you get unwanted emails from the same company or person. Check help in your email application if you need to know how to do this.

Grafty Gourmet

These delicious scones feature the classic British combination of rhubarb and custard. Serve with clotted cream for extra indulgence.

RHUBARB & CUSTARD SCONES

For the scones:-

300g of self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
50g of custard powder
1 teaspoon of baking powder
50g of caster sugar
95g of cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes
150-175ml of whole milk
1 egg, beaten

clotted cream, to serve

For the rhubarb compote:-

250g of rhubarb, roughly chopped
100g of caster or granulated sugar
1 lemon, zested
½ teaspoon of vanilla bean paste
1 drop of red food colouring gel (optional)

1. Mix the flour, custard powder, ¼ teaspoon of fine salt, the baking powder and sugar together in a large bowl. Rub the butter into the dry ingredients using your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
2. Gradually mix in the milk using your hands until you have a smooth dough. You may not need it all. Gently roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to a 2cm thickness. Transfer to a baking tray lined with baking parchment, cover and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, make the rhubarb compote. Tip all the ingredients into a large saucepan along with 2 tablespoons of water (omit the water if you're using frozen rhubarb). Simmer over a medium heat for 10-15 mins, stirring occasionally until the rhubarb has softened and is almost collapsing, and the mixture has thickened. If you're using frozen rhubarb, you may like to stir in a drop of red food colouring to enhance the pink colour. Transfer the compote to a bowl and leave to cool completely.
4. Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan and remove the dough from the fridge. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Stamp out three or four scones from the dough using a 7cm round biscuit cutter. Arrange the scones on the prepared tray, leaving a 2cm gap between each.
5. Roll the remaining dough out again as in step two, then stamp out as many scones as you can (you should get about six in total). Transfer these to the tray as well, then brush all the scones with the beaten egg. Bake for 10-12 mins until the tops are golden brown, then leave to cool completely on the tray. Serve with the rhubarb compote and clotted cream.

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Living

Friday 14th April

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00.

We begin our Spring/Summer 2023 programme with *Living* (2022). It's a beautiful drama with an Oscar-nominated performance by the fabulous Bill Nighy who plays Mr Williams, a strait-laced civil servant in 1950's London. He is one man in a sea of pinstripe suits and bowler hats, who has devoted his life to the routine of his bureaucratic job. However, everything is about to change; not long into 'Living', Mr. Williams learns that he does not have long to live. Then at the eleventh hour, he makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into something wonderful and grasp every opportunity that he can. Come and watch a great performance and find out more about Mr Williams in this poignant tale. Directed by Oliver Hermanus, certificate 12, running time 1 hr 42 minutes.

Our film on May 12th is comedy-drama, *The Lost King* (2021), which is the life-affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored. Sally Hawkins plays an amateur historian-sleuth who pursues her dream to find the mortal remains of King Richard III.

Please get in touch for more information, to join our mailing list or to become a member. **Admission:** members £4, non-members £5 **Annual membership:** £6 (over 16's only)



lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com



www.lenhamfilmclub.org



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Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

Monday and Thursday morning at 9.30 till 11 – no class on 10th or 13th April.

Wednesday evening at 7 till 8.30 – no class on 12th April.

New term: week beginning 17th April.

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

Saturday morning walks from Grafty Green– 4th March and 8th April from the village green; meet at 9.30.

Sue Burch will lead these walks taking in the wonderful views and enjoying both woodland and pasture environments.

There are regular morning walks, Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays each with a leader, and from varying starting venues usually around 3 to 4 miles in length. To enroll in this scheme email Jan Enever – jenever@btinternet.com.

Music Notes for April 2023 – B Hardy

After a plethora of local concerts around Easter, I have had to search more widely for music in April, but I think the following list gives you a high-quality choice:

- Saturday 1st April 7.30pm at St James the Great Church, East Malling ME19 6AG, An augmented East Malling Singers choir is performing Handel's *Messiah*. To join the performance or for tickets to the concert call 01622 750943.
- Thursday 13th April 7.30pm at St Eanswythe's Church, Church Street Folkestone CT20 1SE the brilliant young group Ensemble Renard present an exciting concert of 20th century music for wind ensemble. Tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ensemble-renard-tickets-535796611087?aff=ebdssbcategorybrowse or at the door.

- Friday 14th April 6.00pm to 7.15pm and 8.45pm to 10.00pm at Rochester Cathedral, ME1 1SJ, there will be two performances of an immersive tribute to Hans Zimmer and John William's most iconic music with a live chamber orchestra (The London Film Music Orchestra) in an enchanting candle-lit setting. Tickets: <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/new-events/2023/1/30/tribute-to-hans-zimmer-amp-john-williams-by-candlelight>
- Saturday April 22nd .7.30pm at St. George's Church, Church St., Gravesend DA11 0DJ, Gravesham Choral Society & Orchestra perform Mozart's *Symphony No 41 "Jupiter"* and *Great Mass in C Minor*. Tickets <https://www.graveshamcs.co.uk/events> or at the door.

For my anniversary I have chosen 10th April, the date of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi 210 years ago.(though some records show his date of birth as 10th October!).|An Italian composer best known for his operas he was born near Busseto to a provincial family of moderate means, receiving a musical education with the help of a local patron. Verdi came to dominate the Italian opera scene after the era of Gioachino Rossini, Gaetano Donizetti, and Vincenzo Bellini, whose works significantly influenced him.



In his early operas, Verdi demonstrated a sympathy with the Risorgimento movement which sought the unification of Italy. He also participated briefly as an elected politician. The chorus "Va, pensiero" from his early opera Nabucco (1842), and similar choruses in later operas, were much in the spirit of the unification movement, and the composer himself became esteemed as a representative of these ideals. An intensely private person, Verdi did not seek to ingratiate himself with popular movements. As he became professionally successful, he was able to reduce his operatic workload and sought to establish himself as a landowner in his native region. He surprised the musical

world by returning, after his success with the opera *Aida* (1871), with three late masterpieces: his *Requiem* (1874), and the operas *Otello* (1887) and *Falstaff* (1893)

His operas remain extremely popular, especially the three peaks of his 'middle period': *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore* and *La traviata*. The bicentenary of his birth in 2013 was widely celebrated in broadcasts and performances.

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

	Find the missing word?
1	___ Berry, Singer of Ding-A-Ling
2	Alfred ____, Swedish inventor of Dynamite
3	There's something about ____, A 1998 film
4	Lady Jane ____, A Queen for 9 days
5	_____ Days a Week, A popular Beatles song
6	Some Like it ____, Marilyn Monroe film
7	Samuel ____, Famous Diarist
8	___ Las Vegas', An Elvis film and song
9	Uriah ____, A David Copperfield character
10	Rod ____, In The Heat of the Night film

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Sugar	Pearl	Water	Barley
2	Fallon	Rein	Red	
3	Payment	Gift	Gesture	
4	Town	Identical	Set	
5	Tank	Hat	Lap	
6	Washing	Fruit	Gun	
7	Bomb	Bus	Tax	
8	Every	Some	Play	
9	Yellow	Pitch	Hay	
10	Pigeon	Court	Pit	
11	Working	Book	Tall	
12	Agent	Print	Flash	
13	Honey	Mouse	Door	
14	Draw	Line	Girl	
15	Solar	Nuclear	Saving	
16	Mortice	Grid	Wed	

Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2023

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

At the March meeting members of the Gardening Club were entertained and received really good advice from RHS lecturer Kevin Tooher, about getting the best out of composting!

First off, the insects that will be attracted to the compost heap are a good sign – AS they all do their bit to turn waste into humus and adding small amounts of kitchen scraps to your heap is not as effective saving it up to add when there is, say a bucket full; it will have already started the decomposing process.

Secondly, adding newspaper/cardboard in layers with the grass cuttings absorbs the moisture from the green waste and to hasten leaves to decompose faster mow or shred; the more surface area that is exposed to the microbes/bacteria the faster the decomposition. Good compost needs air, water and heat.

Nettles and comfrey leaves are a good source of nitrogen and adding those, chopped up, act as a activator and will give added nutrition. Comfrey can also be used in trenches before planting potatoes or beans and can be placed around the base of tomatoes. Making 'comfrey tea' is a free source of fertiliser and if you are not sure how to make this or need some comfrey for your garden then come to the club's next meeting on 4th April and someone will be able to answer any of your questions.

Annually, in late autumn, add farmyard manure on your garden as mulch and in three years you will have created six inches of top soil! Mulching in the spring will supress weeds, hurrah!

Happy gardening, Sue Burch



Charity Race Night
Saturday 15th April 7:30pm

Lenham Social Club (no membership required)
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* Cash only on door and for betting



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Christian Message April 2023

A living, healthy spirituality...

How in these days of worry, anxiety, high expectation and often poor support shall we manage our lives so that we can bring something of a happy healthy outlook to both ourselves and those we live amongst?

It is not for us to pretend that all is well when it is not. The call is definitely not for us to be superheroes, for this breed's unpleasant competition in some as they vie for stardom and an overwhelming sense of uselessness in others as they struggle with feelings of inadequacy.

No, no, that is not the most helpful way.

The legendary King Arthur and his knights I understand sat around the Round Table to demonstrate that they were all one. King Arthurs vision was that they were equal, and each had gifts, ideas and talents to bring to the conversation, to the table. Each knight was valued and belonged. Each had purpose and were meaningful members of community.



Can we note that we are in this thing called 'life' together? As we share in our localities, our workplaces, our communities, our families we rub up against each other - against each other's real needs, against each other's real differences and against each other's real sorrows and joys. As we do this we can ignore our neighbour or we can learn from our neighbour; we can care for our neighbour or we can be so busy with ourselves that we miss the joy of being found in one another. Often our relationships help us to discover who we really are. No man, woman, adult or child is designed to be an island. *You shall truly find yourself when you lose yourself in the service of others* spoke Gandhi.

Jesus very simple words to us are 'love your neighbour as you love yourself'. (Matthew 22:39)

Love – the word is so misunderstood and maltreated, so lacking and so needed. Love is indeed that answer, but so elusive at times. If the word love is difficult for you (I find it difficult to interpret), use another more meaningful word. Like your neighbour, care for your neighbour, receive your neighbour, be kind to your neighbour, acknowledge your neighbour, support your neighbour- as you do yourself.

Do not neglect that last bit – as you do yourself. For this is where the goodness is birthed and springs up, from within. God will supply the love (like, care, kindness, support etc); the goodness of God never runs out and is daily being reborn. God will give to you generously so

that you are helped, and then in turn you will feel able to offer that same generous love, that same help to others and hey presto, what goes around comes around....even makes the world go round...

King Arthur may have known a thing or two with his offer of sit at my table and be equally valued.

Every blessing as the Spring and Summer progress; may your spirit soar with the larks, with the warmth of the sun and the flourishing hedgerows...may you have peace in Christ.

Lorraine Apps – Huggins

Chaplain of The Living Well, Canterbury Diocesan Centre for Healing & Wholeness, Nonington.



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Ulcombe Village Hall

Bingo evening on
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**Details from Molly
Poulter**

Len Valley Benefice April 2023

Everybody is welcome

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

11.00am Harrietsham: Family-friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 5th April

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion Service (BCP)

Monday 3rd – Thursday 6th April

Series of Holy Week evening talks

followed by Night Prayer

We are all... being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory (2 Cor 3:18)

Monday 7.30pm at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

Transforming our individual lives – Cathrine Ngangira

Tuesday 7.30pm at St Mary's, Lenham

Transforming our community life – Charlotte Coles

Wednesday 7.30pm at All Saints, Ulcombe

Transforming our planet – Teresa Redfern

Thursday 7.30pm at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham

Transforming our egos – John Huggins followed by **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion** with washing of feet.

Friday 7th April – Good Friday

2.00pm Services in all four churches 'An hour at The Cross'

Saturday 8th April

3.00pm Lenham: **Messy Church – Messy Easter Cross Country to The Cross**

Sunday 9th April – Easter Sunday

6.00am Boughton Malherbe: **Daybreak Easter Celebration** around the fire, followed by breakfast

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Easter Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Easter Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Easter Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Easter Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Easter Holy Communion

Sunday 16th April

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship *with baptism*

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 23rd April

10.30am **Benefice Holy Communion at Lenham**

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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Sugar	Pearl	Water	Barley
2	Fallon	Rein	Red	Deer
3	Payment	Gift	Gesture	Token
4	Town	Identical	Set	Twin
5	Tank	Hat	Lap	Top
6	Washing	Fruit	Gun	Machine
7	Bomb	Bus	Tax	Shelter
8	Every	Some	Play	Thing
9	Yellow	Pitch	Hay	Fever
10	Pigeon	Court	Pit	Clay
11	Working	Book	Tall	Order
12	Agent	Print	Flash	News
13	Honey	Mouse	Door	Trap
14	Draw	Line	Girl	Chorus
15	Solar	Nuclear	Saving	Energy
16	Mortice	Grid	Wed	Lock

	Find the missing word?
1	Chuck Berry , Singer of Ding-A-Ling
2	Alfred Nobel , Swedish inventor of Dynamite
3	There's something about Mary , A 1998 film
4	Lady Jane Grey , A Queen for 9 days
5	Eight Days a Week , A popular Beatles song
6	Some Like it Hot , Marilyn Monroe film
7	Samuel Pepys , Famous Diarist
8	Viva Las Vegas , An Elvis film and song
9	Uriah Heap , A David Copperfield character
10	Rod Steiger , In The Heat of the Night film

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