

Malherbe Monthly

Number 209
December 2021

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}. BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

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Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
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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 Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th December**

Front Cover: The Len Valley walkers who met in Grafty recently for a lovely walk organised by Sue Burch. We ended up in the Kings Head pub !!. Picture courtesy of Liz Burgess

News from St. Nicholas Church

New beginnings - As we begin the new church year with the start of Advent, this is the time to look forward to the coming of the new-born baby in the humble stable manger, Jesus Christ himself. The best Christmas present the world has ever known. The best Christmas present the world needs now, a gift that is always affordable and never sold out. Let us receive it ourselves with joy and pass it on to those we meet through the coming year. St.Nicolas himself knew a thing or two about Christmas!

Reminders-The Church Porch stays open for all who need a respite, from the weather, a tough walk up the hill, or just some sheltered space to enjoy the surroundings and 'recharge the batteries'. The main church building is open during services only and for the eco-shop after. A key can be obtained from the churchwardens at any other time. Their contact details are elsewhere in the magazine or on the church noticeboard.

Information - Really good news that we are about to have a 'new and improved', and enlarged, noticeboard. We have so wanted to let everyone know what is going on, with an easier to access information board, to be viewed comfortably from the roadside, pathway or bench.

Tower repairs - Seems forever that we have not been able to get permission for the repairs, but progress is being made. Please take care to avoid the west door area for now.

Morning Prayer from the gardens of Canterbury Cathedral with the Dean are every morning on Facebook or the diocesan website and is available at any time.

Celtic Prayers are said at 8.45-9.15am each Monday in the side chapel. Please contact Rev.John Huggins or the churchwardens at any time if you have prayer requests. Prayers will be said at Monday morning prayer time or in private if you wish. This time is a relaxed moment in the week to reflect in the peace of St.Nicolas, can be precious minutes to treasure through the week.

Remembrance Service - It was good to be able again to display the banners, so beautifully made and embroidered by residents, each one a potted biography of the young men from this parish killed in WW1. Each one had a lit candle and is an enduring, poignant memorial to their sacrifice for us, as well as the chance to remember those killed or injured in all areas of conflict since then.

Food Bank - As, sadly the Village shop is closing, we will have a basket in the church for any gifts of non-perishable food and toiletries for the Maidstone Homeless Food Bank. We hope that all who come will bring items to be delivered to Maidstone.

We give so many thanks to Rob, Hazel and Nick for their generosity in helping to collect much needed supplies for those in need locally over the years.

The Crafty Grafty Christmas Fair will be over by the time this magazine is published. We look forward to reporting it next month.

Services for December

5th 9.30am Communion

12th 3.30pm Baptism of Charlotte and Millicent

19th 3.00pm Carol Service

24th. 3.30pm Crib Service

25th 10am Christmas Day communion

Finale - Have just started putting out the fat balls for the birds, with no interest until the temperature has dropped over the last couple of days. They obviously know what is coming. So pleased to watch an Egret land along the Stour valley wetlands at Bowley yesterday, surprisingly close to a large heron. Flocks of small birds enjoying the stubble fields with their fallen grain and wild plants, as well as the acres of wild seed plants specially planted in field corners by woodland and dense hedgerows, a banquet for the all the birds and small mammals and consequently the birds of prey. So much to marvel at. Enjoy your wildlife watching.

Good wishes to everyone for a Very Happy Christmas

Sally Alexander

Boughton Church Eco Shop December

Thank you to all of you who have come to support the Eco Shop in the last months. It is so good to get to know more people in the community and the feedback has always been lovely. Our big news is that we are hoping to expand the Eco shop to every church in the benefice which is wonderful news. Our current problem is that we are trying to bulk buy, but we are so small, that bulk buying is not easy. With the other churches on board this will be much improved. We hope to get better prices for wholesale and will be able to order more frequently. It is especially exciting to spread the news that soon more churches will be open for refills and ethical products. We will keep you posted on the progress. In the meantime, the Eco shop is offering Christmas gift boxes filled with ethical soap, chocolate and our Faith of Nature products in beautiful glass bottles. Please come and have a look or get in contact if you would like to order one for family and friends for Christmas. As a reminder the shop is open after services (see above for times) and by demand every Wednesday from 3-5pm.

As a reminder we currently stock:

Sylvia's homemade jam and **Sally's** homemade marmalade. (£2.50/£3)

Friendly Soap palm-oil free in a variety of scents (£ 2.25/ 95g bar)

Fill Ethical Laundry liquid (£ 0.55/100ml), Washing up liquid (£0.35/100ml), Rinse Aid (£0.35/100ml), Bathroom Cleaner (£0.35/100ml), Steel and Glass cleaner (£0.35/100ml)

Faith in Nature Shower Gel (£1/100ml), Shampoo (£1/100ml) and Conditioner (£1/100ml) and Hand wash (£1/100ml)

200ml glass bottle with pump and gold screw lid (hip flask shape) empty £2.50 filled £4.50

Virunga Park chocolate milk and dark (£3.80/100g bar) – more expensive but profits directly support the Virunga National Park Bean to Bar project, which employs many of the widows of rangers killed in the protection of wildlife.

Serious Tissues Loo roll (£ 0.80/roll) As far as we know the only recycled loo roll that is made in England and for every roll sold, **Serious Tissues** plants a tree!

All liquids come as refills so please either bring your own containers or pay a deposit and use one of our containers.

I hope to see you all soon and thank you again for your brilliant support so far.

With best wishes

Vanessa (and Lily)

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Progress report on efforts to set up a replacement for the village shop.

As you will all know the Parish Council held a meeting on the 11th October to allow residents to discuss, express their views, and ask questions concerning the impending closure of the village shop scheduled for the end of December 2021.

The meeting was attended by 44 members of the public, mostly from within the Parish and a short report on the outcome was published in the November Malherbe Monthly.

The Chairman made it clear that the Parish Council could not set up and run a shop under its current legal powers. However, it was agreed that a committee formed by residents in due course would take the matter forward.

Following the meeting, the Parish Council circulated a Questionnaire to households asking for a response to the questions posed that were designed to provide information helpful to the setting up of a shop. The deadline for return was the 30th October 2021.

Separate negotiations are taking place between the Post Office and Village Hall Committee to provide a pop-up post office in the Village Hall as soon as possible, leaving the shop committee to deal with the provision of a shop and newspapers.

Responses to the questionnaire were received from **65** Residents (approx. **16%** of the Parish population) split between **29** male and **36** female residents and these responses are summarised at the end of this report.

All those who expressed an interest in joining a committee at the meeting on the 11th October and in the questionnaire responses were invited to attend a meeting on the 8th of November.

The purpose of the meeting was to explain everything done to date by the Parish Council, present the results of the questionnaire, and facilitate the setting up a shop committee to take the matter forward. This was achieved and the Parish council will now take a back seat to allow the committee to get on with the job. The Committee will report its activity as and when it is ready from now on.

Responses to the questionnaires sent to residents concerning closure of the Village Shop and Post Office. Names are omitted to preserve anonymity

Q1 Do you want a replacement for the shop.....Responses 60 yes, 2 no.

Q2. How important is it to retain the PO facility.....

Responses 56 very, 8 not very, 2 not bothered.

Q3. Do you use the shopResponses 64 yes, 3 no.

Q4. If you use the shop, approx. how often...

Responses 39 frequently, 23 not very, 0 never.

Q5. If the shop is not replaced will it cause you a serious problem.....

Responses 20 yes, 44 no.

Q6. What items from the list given do you **not** buy.....

Responses were mixed with 65 replies. 8 bought little or nothing. 10 bought nearly all or everything. 30 did not buy wines and spirits, tobacco and cigs, soft drinks, tea or coffee, and many others included some of these in their list of items not bought.

Q7. Are there any items not listed you would like to be stocked.....

Responses were mixed, 21 replies included birthday/xmas cards, stamps, deli, eggs, Korkers sausages, fresh local produce (bread, fruit, veg) cat food, papers and magazines, Sausage rolls, bakery choices, parmesan/other cheeses, basic plumbing, electrical, and DIY.

Q8. Do you have a weekly shopping order.....Response 20 yes, 45 no.

Q9. a) Would you be prepared to donate money for setting up a replacement facility.

Response 27 yes, 33 no.

b) If yes, how much would you consider donating etc.....

Response 15 replies, giving figures totalling £3,200.

Q10. Would you be prepared to buy shares in a community shop project.....

Response 30 yes, 29 no.

Q11. Would you be prepared to join a community committee etc.....

Response 20 yes, 42 no.

Q12. Roughly how many hours would you be prepared to donate.....

There were 20 responses. 17 people were prepared to donate up to a total of 65 hours collectively per week to the committee. 3 people were only prepared to donate up to 8 hours collectively per week once the shop was open.

Q13. What skills do you have that might be useful etc.....

There were 14 responses. One was only prepared to offer finance advice, 5 were only able to help once the shop was open as volunteers, one was only able to offer deliveries to house bound residents when the shop was opened.

Other skills offered were Customer services, sourcing and buying, planning, life skills, management, maintenance engineer.

Suggestions made within responses to questionnaires:

If replacement of shop is not possible:

A) Lay on transport once or twice a week to Kingswood shop and post office.

B) Arrange for computer classes to help people order supplies "on line"

End of report.

Volunteers Requested for Speedwatch

The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for the Speedwatch scheme. The scheme has been placed on hold due to the shortage of volunteers - at least 3 or 4 are required to make a scheme viable. The council believes it will complement the recently implemented speed awareness scheme

Speedwatch is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds.

The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down. If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk
at boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com or 07972 630555.

Proposed Community Shop

A group of residents from the parish came forward to form a steering committee with the aims of providing an alternative shop in the village of Grafty Green. Our vision is to be able to erect a suitable building within the centre of the village from which we hope to sell a variety of produce from local suppliers plus the usual basics.

This venture will rely very much on a team of volunteers and there are a few who have already expressed their willingness. Could I ask if you would like to be included in the team that you contact me on either my phone 01622 850381, 07803 962339 or email burch1997@aol.com.

We are also looking to provide a temporary market place for once or twice a week collection of vegetables and maybe more.

Whilst setting up the shop will take a period of time you might like to make a note that there is **fresh fish** deliveries on Tuesday afternoons – Mel will deliver to your door and her number is 07976 435217. Also, Roundoak Farm, who use Luckhurst Butchers, will take orders for **lamb and beef**. Their phone number is 01622 844491. And not forgetting that Milk and More deliver three times a week.

Newspaper Deliveries

I have negotiated with Jackie's Newspapers that they will continue to deliver your paper/magazine to the telephone box for you to collect. As a customer you will need to organise your paper requirements direct enabling you to alter/change your order and make payments direct to Jackie's Newspapers. Their phone number is 01580 763183 or alternatively go to their web page:- jackiesnews.co.uk and fill out their new customer form.

Sue Burch
Chair of the Steering Committee



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Village Hall News

I hope you are keeping safe and well and on behalf of the committee I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We hosted our Christmas Craft Fair at the hall at the end of November which provided the opportunity to purchase local craft items in festively decorated friendly village hall whilst enjoying a cup of tea, eating cake and having a catch up with your friends.

The Christmas Quiz is being held on Saturday 4th December 2021 from 7.30 pm. Tickets are £8 per person and are available either from the Post Office or directly from Richard on 01622 844648. I have been reminded that Richard will not in fact be giving the pink suit an airing he will be dressed more appropriately for the occasion as an elf.

Panto Dick Whittington 4 pm Saturday 29th January 2022

We are pleased to welcome back Gerry Graham's Touring Panto's again at 4pm on Saturday 29th January and this year they will be performing Dick Whittington. Many of you will remember their excellent performance of Jack and the Beanstalk last time they visited the hall prior to lockdown so we are looking forward to another afternoon of fun and audience participation. Tickets are available either from the Post Office, myself on 01622 851351 or will be available at the Quiz Night. The cost will be unchanged at £10 for an adult, £5 for a child or a family ticket for two adults and two children will be £25.

Cathy Hill's New Art Class – 1 pm to 3 pm Wednesday 24th November 2021

I am pleased to report that Cathy's new art class taster session was well attended at the end of November and as a result Cathy will host a regular weekly art class on a Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm until Wednesday 8th December (if there is enough demand she will host a class on the 15th December) – Classes will then start again on Wednesday 12th January in the New Year. The cost of each 2-hour session is £15 and if you would like to attend please contact Cathy on either 07927 054708 or cathyonthehill@hotmail.com.

Gardening Club – 2022 Will be the club's 25th Anniversary

The club was established in 1997 and now has a membership of over 50.

The club have a packed programme of events, with monthly meetings at the village hall with a speaker discussing a wide range of gardening topics in the Winter, (it's not all hard work - they have tea and chocolate biscuits at half time), outings to gardens around Kent in the summer a weekend away to far flung gardens in the UK, an annual garden safari, plant sale and a gardening competition.

The club also look after the planters on the village green to enhance the village environment. More recently, they have been part of the working party to plant an area within the churchyard to attract butterflies and pollinating insects.

With 2022 being their 25th anniversary I have been reliably informed that it will be a special year with lots of interesting events planned. Annual membership is £5 which also provides members with discounts at both Rumwood and The Potted Garden Nurseries. If you would like to join this friendly club make new friends and learn more about your garden and the local environment please contact the secretary Sue Burch on 01622 850381, 07803 962339 or email burch1997@aol.com.

New Hall Floor

As part of our plans to refurbish the hall we have taken the opportunity to replace the village hall floor which has provided us with many years of loyal and uncomplaining service to our local community. Sadly, all good things come to an end with our existing floor reaching the end of it's useful life.

We have replaced the floor with a hardwearing vinyl with an American light oak pattern which we hope you will like and which like the old floor we hope will give us many years of loyal service.

Carol Hulm & Liz Burgess

Carol & Liz who have been valuable members of the village hall committee for many years have decided to stand down. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank them personally for all their hard work over the years and to wish them well for the future.

Jon Thompson
Grafty Green Village Hall

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

Yoga Classes – Grafty Green Village Hall.

Monday and Thursday mornings at 9.30 and Wednesday evenings at 7

I have been practicing yoga for approximately 35 years and teaching since 2006. It is an honour to impart my knowledge to my yogis and to see the results of stronger, more flexible bodies. Yoga is also about balancing the mind and the body and to reduce stress.

To join my classes call me on 07803 962339 or email on graftyyoga@gmail.com

A Local Guided Walk – 4th December with Sue Burch

I am leading a walk this month from St.Nicholas Church – meeting at 9.30 for a 9.45 start. We will walk along the Greensand Way and then bear right onto the trackway that leads up to Coach Road. We pass through Bowley Farm and Chilston Park returning back to the church. Approximately an hour and a half walk; there are stiles to navigate.

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Children's Room Beer Garden

**Boughton Malherbe
Parish Council
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Nick Eastwood

Tel: 01622 850330

Grant Kennaird

Chris Hume, Parish Clerk

- Tel: 07972 630555`

boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

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

Save our Heathlands - News

We want to Thank Everyone for your time on our Day of Protest.

On Sunday 31st October the residents of Lenham and the surrounding villages said "Enough is Enough" and held a day of protest against Maidstone Borough Council's plans to parachute 5,000 homes into the middle of the Kent countryside. Villagers from Lenham, Harrietsham, Egerton, Charing, Charing Heath, and Platts Heath, assembled at the Lenham Community Centre to make their collective voices heard loud and clear.

Maidstone's plan for Lenham is an '**environmental destruction on a biblical scale**'.

"Maidstone Council are pursuing the greatest environmental crime of our generation. Despite the Council's new Leader Cllr David Burton claiming that climate change is at the core of every decision and action the council takes, its draft Local Plan now out for public consultation, is proposing environmental destruction on a biblical scale with the desecration of over 1,200 acres of greenfield land earmarked for housing development over the next 20 years. The hypocrisy is astounding.

The day of protest was initially organised in response to the Council's appointed PR Company intentions to hold a public consultation event at the Lenham community centre to showcase their latest plans. However, the event was cancelled last minute upon learning of the community's protest and a further rescheduled date later in November also shelved due to not being able to secure exclusive hire of the centre to stop protesters also hiring space at the same time. Instead of facing local public scrutiny the Council and their PR firm 'We Are Fabrick' have run scared and chosen to hide behind lame bureaucratic excuses. If they are so confident in their plans, they should feel no pressure in defending them.

Maidstone Borough Council has other options available to them in order to meet national government housing targets through a more sustainable and deliverable development plan. Instead, they have opted for a bad plan which protects the nimby-ruling political elite of the Borough Council with a high likelihood of it failing at examination and opening the floodgates to development in favour of sustainable development.

For everyone who has not responded to Consultation 19 please do so now. Family, Friends, Neighbours. The deadline is the 12th of December 2021. Details can be found on saveourheathlands.co.uk

Stay Safe
SOHL Committee



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 8th November 2021, 7.30pm in the village hall

Present: Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; B Adams; N. Eastwood; G Kennaird
Clerk Mr Chris Hume
1 member of the public

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** - none
2. **Apologies – none**
3. **Declarations:**
 - Any lobbying – none declared**
 - Any interest in items on the agenda –** Cllr Eastwood regarding the shop
 - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** - none declared
4. **Approval of Minutes** – approved the Minutes of 6th September and 11th October 2021,
5. **Matters Arising** – it was agreed that the council will not pursue MBC further regarding planning permission breaches at Kitsilano for now in view of failure to secure a response
6. **Public Session** – no comments from the public
7. **Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council Reports** – none present
8. **Planning Outcomes since 6th September 2021** – noted that the Hillside application had been rejected
9. **Local Policing/Community**
 - 9.1 Police/Crime Report – noted stats tabled at the meeting
 - 9.2 Speedwatch – agreed to seek volunteers through Malherbe Monthly. Clerk to arrange. Cllr Kennaird volunteered to be involved
10. **Highway and Footway Matters**
 - 10.1 **Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes** – Clerk to write to Sue Laporte at KCC with examples collected by Cllr Eastwood regarding SE Water. Clerk to report holes in Elmstone Hole Road.
 - 10.2 **59 Bus** – received an update from John Collins
 - 10.3 **Litter** – It was agreed that the Clerk will prepare a specification for a contractor to conduct the following: clear fire hydrants, clear road signs for visibility, collect litter from the roadside, clearing the ditch in Woodcock Lane. Once specification is completed and agreed by the council, then place an advertisement in Malherbe Monthly. It was agreed that the position would be for one half day a month and the cost will be added to the 2022/23 budget. Clerk to check insurance cover for a contractor.
 - 10.4 **Highways Improvement Plan** – agreed to add white lining for the whole of Headcorn Road/Lenham Road from the 30mph zone to the parish boundary to the Plan
 - 10.5 **Footpaths** – it was agreed to commission KCC to replace two stiles on KH 325 to the West of Headcorn Road at a cost of £230 each plus the cost of a KCC contractor to carry out the works. A budget of £700 will be funded from reserves. It was also agreed that the council will ask if KCC and the landowner will contribute to the cost.

- 10.6 Eastwood Road/Headcorn Road junction** – following an update from Cllr Kennaird it was agreed to abandon the plan for a planter for the time being due to practical challenges and keep the situation under review.
- 10.7 Fire Hydrants** – (i) Cllr Adams reported that the gardener he suggested was not interested in the work. Cllr Turner volunteered to clear the hydrants whilst a contractor lengthsmen is explored.
(ii) it was agreed that the council will formally support the KFRS/KALC Fire Hydrant initiative
- 10.8 White Lining on Headcorn Road** – following representations received regarding the recent works and it was agreed that the council would raise concerns with KCC
- 11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended** – Cllr Galton reported on a meeting convened by Lenham Parish Council on the garden village and a cluster meeting with MBC and the police on anti-social behaviour
- 12. Finance**
- 12.1 Note the Balance at the Bank:**
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Nat West Current | £7,124.42 |
| Nat West Business Saver | £45,000 |
| Nationwide | £14,150.58 |
| Cambridge and Counties | £22,963.65 |
- 12.2 Income since the last meeting** : note receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy from MBC £4357.92
- 12.3 Bank Reconciliation** – agreed statement circulated with the agenda
- 12.4 Any cheques to sign:** none
- 12.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting:** KCC re Footpaths map £2838: Printer Toner £69.99. It was agreed that the Clerk will find out how much it will cost to purchase a notice board to place the spare footpath map by the Church
- 13. Traffic Calming Update** – (i) discussed arrangements for impact assessment. It was agreed that a second series of traffic surveys would be conducted in January or February 2022 and we will approach KCC to fund the surveys. Cllr Kennaird is discussing a few snagging problems with KCC. Agreed to return to the issue of the 30mph signs after the traffic survey.
(ii) Representations received from Chris Wheal – it was agreed that Cllr Kennaird will contact KCC regarding the inconsistent white lining. It was agreed that the council will support the placing of bollards on the verge by Wren's Nest and keep this under review
- 14. Christmas Festivities 2021** –following advice from the group of volunteers it was agreed that the council should not organise a public event this year in view of the continuing risks associated with high levels of Covid-19 infections. However, a Christmas Tree will be erected as usual and Cllr Turner will contact Richard Tew to arrange this.
- 15. Queens Jubilee 2022** – in response to a letter from the Lord Lieutenant it was agreed that the council will support plans being developed by the Village Hall committee , including making a grant in principle
- 16. Village Green Trees** – agreed to conduct the three-yearly tree survey on the village green. In accordance with standing orders and financial regulations it was agreed agree to obtain three quotes and delegate to the Chairman and Clerk selection of a contractor. Estimated cost is £540 to be taken from reserves
- 17. Future of the Village Shop** – noted update from Cllr Galton. Noted that the community Shop Committee will hold its first meeting on the 9th November. It was agreed that the council will explore options to purchase land which might potentially assist the project.
- 18. Town & Country Planning Association membership** – it was agreed that the council will join the association the association for a year on a trial basis.
- 19. Community Infrastructure Levy** – noted income received from MBC and agreed that the priority for the use of the funds would be the village shop

- 20. Correspondence** – letter from KCC Lead Councillor regarding the 59 bus and roadworks
- 21. Further Information** – it was agreed that an Extraordinary Council meeting will be held on 6 December to discuss a response to the Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation and that a draft will be prepared in advance following discussions with the chairman of Lenham Parish Council

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Grafty Gourmet

Adapt this Christmas Rock Road however you like. It's great for using up leftover sweets and biscuits.

Christmas Rocky Road

100g of butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for the tin
250g of Christmas biscuits, such as shortbread or chocolate biscuits
75g of shelled nuts
100g of mixed dried
75g of Christmas sweets (candy canes, marshmallows or jelly sweets)
400g of milk or plain chocolate (or a mixture of both), chopped
140g of golden syrup
2 tablespoons of sprinkles, or more sweets, to decorate

- 1.** Butter and line a 20cm square tin. Break the biscuits into pieces (they need to be no smaller than a pea, but not too chunky or your rocky road won't hold together).
- 2.** Halve any larger nuts either by snapping them or carefully cutting with a knife. Then combine them with the biscuits. Halve any large pieces of dried fruit and chop or snap sweets into smaller pieces, then add these to the bowl.
- 3.** Melt 300g of the chocolate, the butter and the golden syrup carefully in a pan set over a low heat, stirring occasionally, then pour this over the biscuit and nut mixture and mix together so the chocolate covers everything.
- 4.** Tip the mixture into the tin, then level the top (it doesn't need to be completely smooth). Melt the remaining chocolate in the microwave in short blasts, or in a heatproof bowl over a small pan of simmering water, then drizzle this over the top and sprinkle with the decorations. Chill for at least 3 hrs or overnight before cutting into squares.

Dick Whittington

Dick Whittington (a Gloucester boy in search of fame and fortune) arrives in London to find the streets are NOT paved with Gold after all. Turns out to be a cheap advertising campaign from Cash Converters....

Intrigued by this strange young boy, Alice, the daughter of Alderman FitzWarren, (a ship owner and proprietor of FitzWarrens Stores), offers Dick work and lodgings. He is welcomed by Sarah the Cook and her son Idle Jack. Dick is caught up in a battle between Good, and Evil in the sinister form of King Rat. En route, Dick is befriended by Tommy, a feline with cattitude. The Rat realises help will be needed, and with a little hypnosis, enlists the aid of the

Alderman's sea captain, who is transformed from a lovable lunatic into a Maritime Monster, and frames Dick Whittington of theft. Accused of a crime he didn't commit, Dick is cast out, but the dream he has at Highgate Hill convinces him to return and prove his innocence.

The action packed pacey script takes us on a journey beyond the shores of England, with Pirates, shipwrecks, Mermaids and desert Islands to the Palace in Morocco. There are songs, dance routines, special effects, loads of comedy and a generous dollop of audience participation, leading to a breathtaking conflict between Cat and Rat, assuring Whittington Fame and Fortune, and a Happy Ending!

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PRESENTS

Dick Whittington



Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 29th January 2022 at 4pm

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WRITTEN BY
GERRY GRAHAM

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Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

White Christmas Friday December 10th Performance begins 7.30 pm, doors open 7 pm

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Make it come true in the best way of all – come and join us at Lenham Community Centre on 10th December to watch the incomparable Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and the lovely Vera-Ellen in *White Christmas* (U, 1954) singing and dancing their way through Irving Berlin's unforgettable songs. Back in the US after the war's end, song and dance team Bob and Phil discover at Christmastime that their former army commander is having a tough time running his hotel in Vermont. With the help of two talented sisters Betty and Judy, they set out to put this right. And the quest is a sheer delight to watch.

Director: Michael Curtiz. Running time: 2 hours.

We have some great films coming up for 2022. On 14th January, we're showing *Red Joan* in which the incomparable Judi Dench excels as the KGB's longest serving British spy. And, guess what, on 11th February It's No Time to Die, Daniel Craig's final appearance as James Bond. On March 11th, come and see *Hidden Figures*, about the brilliant African American women at NASA who played a pivotal role in early US space travel.

For more information, please check out our website (www.lenhamfilmclub.org), follow us on Facebook (@LenhamFilmClub) or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, then please contact us at lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com. Perhaps consider becoming a member or just come along on the night!

Admission: members £4, non-members £5

Annual membership £6 (over 16's only); pick up a form at our ticket desk.

Save Kent Green Spaces

In November, Save Our Heath Lands joined a group of 27 campaign groups across Kent trying to stop the destruction of over 15,400 acres of green fields. Campaign groups challenging the large numbers of local authority backed housing developments across Kent are coming together to show how much of the county's green space could be lost.

"Save Kent Green Spaces" wants to put pressure on the National Government to change their policy now, not when it is too late. Boris Johnson said in October this year that homes should be built: "Not on green fields, not just jammed in the South East, but beautiful homes on brownfield sites, in places where homes make sense".

Lenham and the surrounding villages support the efforts of Save Kent Green Spaces. Those that attended the day of action on the 28th Nov 2021 had a great time. It was lovely to walk across the Area of Natural Beauty looking over the greenspaces of Lenham while learning about local history, Henny Shooter provided an informative walk across Lenham, those that attended learnt so much about Lenham History and Environment. Save Kent Green Spaces Now !! You can find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/savekentsgreenspaces

We also want to thank those that took the time to oppose Maidstone Consultation 19. We greatly appreciate the effort that went into the response. Lets hope our united voice is listened to by the Inspector.



Music Notes for December 2021 – B Hardy

For December our local musicians all plan to be back with the usual popular seasonal concerts. Performances took place as planned in November so let us hope that the dreaded virus doesn't cause problems this month. As we go to press some concerts do not have all details available – if anything interests you do follow up the sources indicated because by the time you read this the information will be available. And don't forget your local church carol services as advertised – always the opportunity for a good sing. Then here is my December selection:

***Sat Dec 4th**, 4.00pm at All Saints' Church, Mill St., Maidstone ME15 6YE, Maidstone Choral Union will hold an afternoon Christmas concert which will include *Wassail* by Alexander L'Estrange and Carols for choir and Audience. Tickets from mcuconertmansager@gmail.com or choir members or at the door.

***Tues 7th & Wed 8th Dec.**, Maidstone Singers hold their annual Christmas Celebrations at St Martin's Church, Maidstone. For latest information and details see <http://www.themaidstonesingers.org.uk/>

***Sat Dec 11th, 7.30pm** at All Saints' Church, Mill St., Maidstone ME15 6YE, Maidstone Wind Symphony return with a concert entitled "Ring in the new" which includes works by Fergus Carol, James David and Prokofiev arr. Wallace. Tickets from <https://www.maidstonewindsymphony.org> or at the door

***Sat Dec 18th**, 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ, The Christmas concert of Bearsted Choral Society will feature carols, festive songs and readings, with audience participation. Tickets from <https://www.bearstedchoral.org.uk>.

***Also on Dec 18th**, 6.00pm at Sutton Valence School Chapel, Sutton Valence Choral Society present a carol concert. For details call 01622 861313.

For those looking for stop-at-home music, two items on TV to look out for when timings become available:

Gareth Malone's Christmas Concert – the choirmaster visits two hospitals to recruit for a special Christmas concert – BBC 2 TV in December, time tbc

Christmas with the Kanneh-Masons – As well as performing in their local studio the 7 siblings practice at home together. – BBC 2 TV in December, time tbc

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Murphy, 'Shrek' and 'Trading Places' star
2	David _____, 'Open all Hours' actor
3	____ Stop, Romcom with Marilyn Monroe
4	Tom _____, Comedian who was co-host of 'The Great British Bake Off'
5	_____ Wallace, 'The Dark Destroyer' in 'The Chase'
6	Mr _____, played by John Inman in the classic 'Are you being Served'
7	_____ Du Beke, Strictly Come Dancing professional
8	Jon _____, Longest serving presenter of Channel 4 News
9	_____ Green, Author of 'Brighton Rock'
10	Ginger _____, Fred Astaire's dance partner

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Card	Cat	Fire	Wild
2	Chamber	Hall	Stand	
3	Barn	Floor	Tap	
4	Beat	Side	Tunnel	
5	Language	Post	Star	
6	Bean	Front	Road	
7	Bone	Dog	White	
8	Bell	Brained	March	
9	Friend	Name	Pal	
10	Beam	Fog	Shoe	
11	Area	Bar	Tax	
12	Bean	Dressing	Fries	
13	Home	Rear	Safe	
14	Deep	Diver	Sheep	
15	Maid	Rhyme	School	
16	Africa	Deep	Pole	

News from your local MP – Helen Whatley

Building Back Better

This Autumn seems to have flown by. My Faversham and Mid Kent inbox is fuller than ever, in Westminster I've been part of the Treasury team delivering the Budget, and in Glasgow I played a small part in our historic UK COP26.

However, the mood at Westminster has been subdued. The murder of our colleague Sir David Amess at one of his constituency surgeries has been an enormous shock and sadness to us all. Sir David was an outstanding public servant whose work in his constituency made so many people's lives better. He will be greatly missed.

While his death necessitated a review of security measures for MPs, all the tributes to David were an inspiring reminder of what an MP can do for their community.

Locally I've been on the warpath about the discharge of sewage by Southern Water, securing investment and a face-to-face meeting with the Chief Executive. I've also been working with councillors and campaigners to scrutinise proposals for Lidsing and Heathlands Garden Villages. And a recent highlight of last month was visiting Maidstone Jobcentre Plus to hear how the Kickstart Scheme is benefitting young people locally.

In Parliament, the Chancellor delivered the Budget, and we are getting on with our plan to rebuild from the pandemic with a stronger economy, which works for people right across the UK. Reforms to alcohol duty and introduction of draught relief to support pubs and hospitality were a highlight of the Budget for me as Exchequer Secretary, but also important for jobs and livelihoods here in Faversham and Mid Kent.

While I truly believe the worst of the pandemic is behind us thanks to the vaccination programme, Covid hasn't gone away. My thoughts are with people who have lost loved ones, and I wish those who have been hit recently by this horrible virus a full recovery. If you are eligible, please do be sure to have your booster vaccine. Looking back to where we were a year ago, the progress we've made gives me a great deal of optimism.

A stronger, fairer economy

As Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, I've been working with the Chancellor and Treasury team on our Budget and Spending Review.

Thanks to the vaccine rollout, the Government's support for businesses, and our Plan for Jobs, our economy is recovering faster than predicted, and we want to make sure that this recovery benefits everyone.

Our levelling up agenda will see families and business across Faversham and Mid Kent benefit, including our pubs and high streets.

Standing up for local residents on local development

I'm continuing to fight to make residents' voices heard on Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan. I'm bitterly disappointed that Maidstone Borough Council has decided to go ahead with the Heathlands and Lidsing Garden Villages. I've made my concerns clear to the Council many times including in my submission last year.

While decisions about what is built locally are made by locally elected Borough Councillors, I'll continue to stand up for my constituents to make sure their voices are heard in these important decisions.

Getting GP services back on track

Like other parts of the NHS, GP practices have seen an increase in demand for services while having reduced capacity on account of Covid.

I recently visited Len Valley Practice to hear first-hand about the pressures faced by staff in general practice, and the steps being taken to increase face-to-face appointments.

Our Budget and Spending Review confirmed that the NHS budget is set to be £40 billion higher by the end of this Parliament, with £250 million of funding announced to improve access to GP appointments over the winter.

Don't derail train improvements, I tell Rail Minister

A lot of people have contacted me recently about the decision to end the Southeastern franchise. Southeastern's contract came to an end on 17 October and the franchise is now being run by the Operator of Last Resort.

I've called on the Rail Minister to make sure rail users in Faversham and Mid Kent have a reliable service and affordable fares under the new arrangements.

I've also called for vital upgrades to local stations – including renovation work at Faversham station and lifts at Headcorn station – to finally get the green light.

Grafty Green Gardening Club Programme 2021

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
5 th January	Cancelled	
9 th February	Sophia Adams	Boughton Hoard
2 nd March	Laura Brady	Vegetables & Herbs – Growing & Cooking
6 th April	Group Zoom 7.30	Flower Arrangements with a Spring Theme
Sat 8 th May	Plant Sale, on the green if fine and in Hall if wet	
4 th May	Visit to Knowle Hill Farm, Ulcombe	
1 st June	Visit to The Croft at Thurnham	
12 th June	Grafty Open Gardens	
6 th July	Visit to Godinton Garden	
3 rd August	Visit to Horton Farm	
7 th September	Chris Lane – Witch Hazel & Wisteria. Margaret Hoad Rose bowl – See below	
10/11/12 Sept	Weekend away in Herefordshire, Cotswolds Wildlife Park & Gardens, Moores Meadow Gardens, Stockton Bury Gardens,	
5 th October	Ian Gray (Mammal Society)	Hedgehogs
2 nd November	Kevin Tooher – Pruning	
7th December	Social supper	

On December 7th we are holding a Social Event with a shared supper plus a practical session to make a door wreath or table centre for Christmas. There will be some greenery and berries to choose from, or, if you prefer, you can bring some of your own.

Also, every member of the gardening club has a surprise gift of bulbs currently being delivered to you with the idea that if they flower at the right time they can be exhibited at our Spring Show in March 2022.

Planning for our 25th Anniversary year programme of events is well underway with a mixture of interesting talks that include some garden design ideas, the wilder side to your garden and some ideas of what to do with the unwanted visitors to your precious plants! We have planned the Summer Garden visits with a Garden Party in the village plus the Weekend away. More details will follow in the New Year.

On January 11th there will be a quick AGM followed by a talk by Alison Marsden on 'Garden Impact for less effort'. We hope to see as many of you as can make it over to

the village hall to share your gardening stories over tea/coffee and biscuits as we look forward to the beginning of our 25th Anniversary year.

'In our gardens' I can refer to some of the tips our excellent last speaker Kevin Tooher left us with on pruning as It is now time to prune tall bush roses, ornamental vines, overgrown deciduous hedges as well as blackcurrants. Just as important not to prune the early flowering plants that will keep our insects fed until Spring.

Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club

Friends of All Saints Church Ulcombe

Cardinal John Henry Newman was canonised two years ago - the first English saint for many years. Newman spent two summers (1926 and 1927) staying in Ulcombe with his friend, the Rev Samuel Rickards. When the Rickards' family went on holiday, Newman looked after the parish.

The Committee of the Friends of Ulcombe Church decided some two years ago that it would be good to erect a blue plaque by the church to say Newman had stayed in Ulcombe. But, because of the Corona virus a lot of people involved with blue plaques were unavailable. But now we have discovered the protocol regarding blue plaques and have gone ahead and had one made.

We thought we would make an event of the unveiling of the plaque **on Sunday afternoon, the 12th of December at 2.30 pm.** We decided the best place to erect it and where it will be seen by most people was on the garden wall of Ulcombe Place by the footpath to the church.

The plaque will be unveiled by **The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain.**

Jane Bourne, the owner of Ulcombe Place and a Roman Catholic, has kindly said she will host a tea party in the church afterwards to which all Friends and Parishioners are invited together with our Roman Catholic friends in Headcorn. During the tea party there will be a short speech about Cardinal Newman by Charles, Lord Moore of Etchingham, who is a distinguished Journalist and former editor of The Daily Telegraph, The Spectator, The Sunday Telegraph, and the authorised biographer of Margaret Thatcher.

You would be most welcome to come along to the unveiling and the tea party.

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Christian Message December 2021

Dare we hope again this Christmas-time?

For many of us, our hopes rise at Christmas. It may just be the twinkling lights, the carol-kit churches, the trees and thought of Christmas puds and seeing family and friends. Or it may be the excitement of celebrating the birthday of Jesus Christ, born all those years ago, in such strange and impoverished circumstances. Even those who like to shout, 'Humbug' find the Christmas spirit affects them (either the atmosphere or the gin!)

We need hope this year like we've needed it never before. Whether it's Covid, climate change, absurd petrol shortages, rising prices or, or, or.... it has been a year when for most of us, hope has been stretched to the limit.

Of course, not everybody finds Christmas an easy time. Those who live on their own (I have been there...), or who are estranged or distant from family, or down on their luck may struggle at Christmas.

But the real Christmas story has hope at its heart: hope illustrated by a bright star in the sky; hope in the words of Mary exclaiming that God has lifted up the humble, and filled the hungry with good things; hope that this baby Jesus will survive the wicked ways of Herod; hope that this baby would grow to the God-man Jesus, who will rescue us all from the madness that is part of who we are as humans.

So, this Christmastime, let's dare to hope. Let's dare to believe that God is good, that he sent his Son to show us that God is Love. And let's respond by loving those around us for whom Christmas isn't the easiest time of the year.



God bless you all- and may hope spring up in all our hearts this Christmas!

Rev. John P. Huggins (01622 850280)

Len Valley Benefice December 2021

Everybody is welcome

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

Wednesday 1st December

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 5th December

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Ulcombe: Creative Service

11.00am Harrietsham: Family-friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Saturday 11th December

3.00pm Lenham: **Messy Church**
Christingle

Sunday 12th December

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong *with Baptism*

3.30pm Harrietsham: **Carol Service**

Lenham: Breakfast Church will be joining the market on this day.

Sunday 19th December

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Carol Service**

5.00pm Lenham: **Carol Service**

Tuesday 21st December

7.00pm Ulcombe: **Carol Service**

Christmas Eve: Friday 24th December

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Crib Service**

3.30pm Harrietsham: **Crib Service**
11.15pm Lenham: **Midnight Holy Communion**

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th December

10.30am Boughton Malherbe: **Christmas Holy Communion**

10.30am Harrietsham: **Christmas Holy Communion**

10.30am Ulcombe: **Christmas Holy Communion**

Sunday 26th December - No Service – Boxing Day



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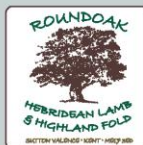
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First Aid Support – when **an ambulance has been called using 999** - Interim emergency support (first aid and AED defibrillator), prior to arrival of paramedics / ambulance, may be available (not 24/7) by calling Chris Wheal on 01622 858100 -this is a voluntary 'good Samaritan' facility for residents. It is hoped a SECAMB (ambulance) community first responder scheme may start in future

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

KCC Community Wardens:

<i>Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere</i>	07969 583923
<i>District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown</i>	07773 397125

Fire	01622 692121
<i>General Enquiries</i>	0800 923 7000
<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	01622 858100
<i>KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal</i>	

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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Card	Cat	Fire	Wild
2	Chamber	Hall	Stand	Music
3	Barn	Floor	Tap	Dance
4	Beat	Side	Tunnel	Mersey
5	Language	Post	Star	Sign
6	Bean	Front	Road	Runner
7	Bone	Dog	White	Collar
8	Bell	Brained	March	Hare
9	Friend	Name	Pal	Pen
10	Beam	Fog	Shoe	Horn
11	Area	Bar	Tax	Code
12	Bean	Dressing	Fries	French
13	Home	Rear	Safe	Guard
14	Deep	Diver	Sheep	Skin
15	Maid	Rhyme	School	Nursery
16	Africa	Deep	Pole	South

	Find the missing word?
1	Eddie Murphy, 'Shrek' and 'Trading Places' star
2	David Jason, 'Open all Hours' actor
3	Bus Stop, Romcom with Marilyn Monroe
4	Tom Allen, Comedian who was co-host of 'The Great British Bake Off'
5	Shaun Wallace, 'The Dark Destroyer' in 'The Chase'
6	Mr Humphries, played by John Inman in the classic 'Are you being Served'
7	Anton Du Beke, Strictly Come Dancing professional
8	Jon Snow, Longest serving presenter of Channel 4 News
9	Graham Green, Author of 'Brighton Rock'
10	Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire's dance partner

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