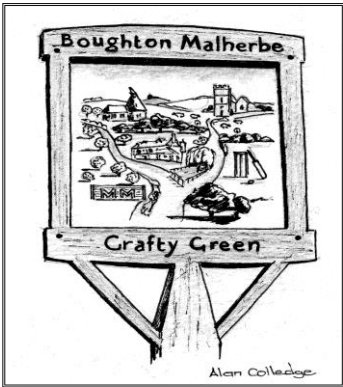


# Malherbe Monthly

Number 191  
June 2020



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath**

# Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>. BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast <a href="mailto:Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk">Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk</a>	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round <a href="mailto:martinround@maidstone.gov.uk">martinround@maidstone.gov.uk</a> Karen Chappell-Tay <a href="mailto:karenchappelltay@maidstone.gov.uk">karenchappelltay@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	890276 07918 675619
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Parish Council Clerk	Chris Hume email <a href="mailto:boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com">boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com</a>	07972 630555
Village Hall bookings and other matters	Carol Hulm email <a href="mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com">carolhulm@gmail.com</a> Mobile 07990 574214	853583
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: <a href="mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com">jdrury23@btinternet.com</a>	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	<a href="http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk">www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk</a>	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: <a href="mailto:vicar@lvb.org.uk">vicar@lvb.org.uk</a>	850280
Associate Priest	Mille Hart (Weds - Sun) email: <a href="mailto:revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk">revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk</a>	297296
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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 **July** edition should be left in  
Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on  
01622 858937 ([mfhitchins@btinternet.com](mailto:mfhitchins@btinternet.com)) by **20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Front Cover:** A Honey Bee on a Crimson Delight rose in a local garden

## **News from St. Nicholas Church.**

**The Church building** remains closed, but the church, as it's people and wider community, are alive and active as always!

**Morning Prayer** is said daily in the Parish at 9.30am. If anyone would like to join us 'virtually', please contact Rev. Anne Price on 01622 924963 or [revanne@lvb.org.uk](mailto:revanne@lvb.org.uk). Feel free to join in any day. If you have any prayer requests please contact the vicar, Revd. John Huggins or Revd. Anne or the churchwardens anytime and prayers will be said in Morning Prayer time.

**All other regular events** are still 'on hold'.

**Cream Teas** will **not** take place this year, for the first time in more than 20years! Social distancing and the vulnerability of many of our staff and guests make this impossible. We have ideas and plans, so, watch this space!

Do contact John Collins (Treasurer), if you would like to continue your support for St.Nicolas during this lockdown.

**Farewell.** We pray for George Pout and his family as they said goodbye at his funeral at St.Nicolas on May 22nd.

We pray also for Pauline Bird and her family as they say goodbye to her on May 26th.

Please continue to keep in your prayers all those who are mourning loved ones at this time.

**Eco-Spot.** What more can I say! We are all doing so much to improve our own and the whole planet's welfare at the moment. Let's continue the good work and make it the normal way of life in the future.

Any comments? Contact me on [alexandersc@me.com](mailto:alexandersc@me.com)

**Sally Alexander**

## **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

### **Traffic Calming Update**

As mentioned in the May edition of Malherbe Monthly the Parish Council held a virtual meeting by teleconference on the 4th May. We believe this to be the first such meeting in the history of the Parish Council. The meeting considered comments received from residents on the revised traffic calming scheme. The revised scheme has been displayed on the notice boards and the village shop window along with the Parish Council website. The comments received were in support of the revised scheme. The Council resolved to now invite Kent County Council to review the scheme to ensure that it meets their regulations, and to provide a costing to carry out the works for us. The Parish Council is waiting to hear back from KCC and will hold a further meeting when a response is received. The Council will continue to keep residents up to date with developments via Malherbe Monthly.

**Chris Hume**  
**Parish Clerk**  
**Boughton Malherbe PC**  
**07972 630555**

## **Helen Whately**

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

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

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



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

## Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 7.30pm held by teleconference

**Present:** Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; J Collins;  
Clerk Mr Chris Hume

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** - none
2. **Apologies** – no apologies for absence received
3. **Declarations:**
  - Any lobbying** – none declared
  - Any interest in items on the Agenda** – none declared
  - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** - none declared
4. **Approval of Minutes** – approved the Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020
5. **Matters Arising** – Clerk to place a notice on the website regarding the cancellation of the AGM
6. **Public Session** - no public in attendance
7. **Planning Outcomes since 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020** - none
8. **Finance**
  - 8.1 noted the Balance at the Bank:

Nat West	£2,703.89
Nationwide	£25,457.97
Cambridge and Counties	£86,748.22
  - 8.2 Income since the last meeting : noted MBC Precept £5581.32
  - 8.3 Bank Reconciliation – agreed statement to be signed once restrictions are lifted
9. **Traffic Calming** – It was agreed, in principle, that the revised scheme previously circulated was now the preferred scheme. It was further agreed to submit the preferred scheme to KCC for their approval and costing. Cllr Galton to draft a covering email for circulation and comment submission by the Clerk
10. **Councillor Vacancies** – agreed to commence the process by placing a notice inviting residents to request a by-election on the notice board and website. If such a request is made an election will take place in May 2021. If no request is made the Clerk will commence the co-option process.
11. **Correspondence** – thank you letter received from the Air Ambulance
12. **Further Information** - none

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

# **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

## **Coronavirus Outbreak**

The Emergency Plan Committee now has a plan to help anyone, particularly the elderly, if they are in difficulty and confined to their homes, without the benefit of family support.

Depending upon availability, we have a list of volunteers who can provide support by helping with such tasks as collecting urgent prescriptions, local shopping etc

Please Email the Parish Council Clerk, Chris Hume, if you or anyone you know is likely to need assistance, or needs urgent assistance through this emergency, and give your or your friend's name, address, telephone number and Email address, together with details of any assistance required, so that we can keep a record and respond accordingly.

The Email address is [boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com)

If the Clerk cannot respond when assistance is urgently needed, or you do not have Internet access, please speak to Ron Galton on 01622 850 369.

You can also refer to your copy of the Community Emergency Plan which might be helpful.

Please watch the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council website for any announcements.

**Thank You**  
**The Emergency Plan Committee**

## **Important Information From Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

**Government Help for the most medically vulnerable residents who have been advised to self isolate at home for a period of 3 months and do not have support from family and friends to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.**

In response to Government requests, Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) has set up a Community Hub to assist vulnerable residents within the Borough during the **Coronavirus** emergency.

The Hub aims to provide similar assistance to that set up by the Boughton Malherbe Parish Community Emergency Plan, which you can read about elsewhere in this magazine and on the Parish Council website.

It is understood that the Hub can provide the added benefit of free Grocery parcels which is something that our own Emergency Plan could not do on a regular basis.

We hope to co-operate with the Hub to ensure that its supplies and services get to the needy within our Parish, as and when required.

The news of the MBC Hub came after our own Community Emergency Plan was set up, and too late for us to establish and publish in this magazine the full details of exactly how the Hub will work, and how our Community Emergency Plan can work alongside it.

However, the MBC Hub provides an alternative choice for those in need, and if you wish to request the services it can provide please use the free phone number:

**0300 303 1650**

If for any reason the MBC Hub cannot assist, please contact the Parish Clerk or Ron Galton as requested in the **Coronavirus Outbreak** article elsewhere in this magazine.

Further information will be made available on the Parish website, as and when available.

## **Parish Councillor Vacancies**

As a result of the postponement of the 2020 Parish Council election, there are two vacancies for councillors on the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to co-opt two residents to fill these vacancies on a temporary basis until the postponed election takes place in May 2021. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in volunteering for these positions who:

- meet the criteria for eligibility, set out in s. 79 of the 1972 Act, to be a member of the council and
- are not disqualified, pursuant to s.80 of the 1972 Act, to be a member of the council.

The role involves attending Parish Council meetings and contributing to decisions taken by the Council and, potentially, taking the lead on a specific area of activity such as Highways or Crime related matters.

You will be required to complete a declaration of pecuniary interests and sign a declaration of acceptance of office at your first meeting.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk, Chris Hume, at: [boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com) or phone 07972 630555

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### **A message from Shellina Prendergast, KCC Cabinet Member for Communications, Engagement and People**

Dealing with the unforeseen challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on communities across Kent, and the impact on people, businesses and key services has been unimaginable.

Kent County Council is on the frontline of the response to the virus and has stepped up to the challenge of maintaining core services, while focussing on supporting the most vulnerable people in Kent. We have done this by working hand in hand with district and borough councils and an army of incredible volunteers in every part of the county.

I am heartened by this amazing community response and immensely grateful to the thousands of people who have given their time and gone above and beyond in their efforts to look after people that need it most.

At the most local level parish councils have worked tirelessly to coordinate help and support in their communities, keeping an eye on vulnerable people and encouraging more people to come forward and help.

Now the government has started to map out its guidance that will help us to plan and prepare for the next stage of the response to Covid-19 in Kent.

Nobody knows how long it will take to recover socially and economically from this crisis, but I assure you that Kent County Council will be at the heart of this recovery, helping residents and businesses to adjust to a new version of normality as the government's emergency measures are wound down.

While such planning is underway, we will of course maintain our focus on supporting those vulnerable people in the county who will need to be shielded and cared for some time to come. Most importantly, we will continue to ensure we are effectively working hand in hand with the amazing teams out in the hearts of communities in every part of Kent.

We will also continue to support social care providers in reducing the cases of Coronavirus in our care homes. And we will work closely with schools across Kent, as the government gives further details of their plans to reopen some year groups in the next few weeks as well as strengthening our support for businesses in Kent, particularly those in the retail and hospitality sectors.

As we develop our response and make the changes we need to, it's more important than ever to make sure Kent residents have reliable, up to date information about our services. The best ways to keep in touch are to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and check our website [www.kent.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.kent.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest updates. You can now also [subscribe to receive Kent County Council information by email](#).

Finally, I want to thank all the dedicated staff in the NHS, in local authorities and across the public, community and voluntary sectors who continue to deliver vital services through such challenging times. But equally, I also want to thank everyone who, by following the government's instructions, is helping to control the spread of Covid-19 in Kent.

With best wishes to you and your families,

**Shellina Prendergast**

# **Neighbourhood Watch - Covid 19 Advice**

## **Covid 19 Scam Prevention Advice**

Scammers and criminals are already looking for opportunities to scam people as a result of the Coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic. Happily, there are many more stories of kindness and generosity but we want to make people aware of the scams as they emerge – which they seem to be on a daily basis.

There have been reports received by Kent Police of people door-knocking and claiming to be from the Health Authority.

### **What happens:**

- The criminal knocks on your door.
- They claim to be from the Health Authority.
- They offer to do COVID-19 testing on residents.
- There are also reports of the criminal offering to take the residents temperature.

## **THIS IS A SCAM!**

### **What to do:**

- Do not let them in.
- Do not allow them to take any money or details from you
- Report to Kent Police on 101.
- If you ask them to leave and they don't, contact the police on 999.

**Please warn vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours.**

### **Report**

There has been a report of an elderly Kent resident who lost money when they gave their bank card to someone who offered to do some shopping for them. They received one of these cards through their door and an individual offered to help, however, they actually stole money from the resident and were not seen again.

### **Payment**

Don't ever give your bank or card details to anyone, even if you think you know them

very well. You could either agree to pay in cash after they have delivered the shopping or pay them online if you have the facility to do so. Or maybe you could agree another method of payment - **but never give your bank or card details.**

## **Contacts**

If you are self-isolating, you could contact one of these organisations for help and support:

Age UK 0800 678 1602

Asthma UK 0300 222 5800

BHF 0300 330 3311

Diabetes UK 0345 123 2399

Mind 0300 123 3393

Scope 0808 800 3333

The Silver Line 0800 470 8090

For advice and to report issues to **KCC Trading Standards** contact  
Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133**  
Consumer Advice scams action line on **0808 250 5050**  
Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Please remember you can also contact me should you need any further advice or help,

Kind regards,

PSE 59753 Adam Sackett  
Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer  
East Kent Police  
Police Station, Fort Hill, Margate, Kent, CT9 1HL  
Telephone: 07980683802  
Email: [adam.sackett@kent.police.uk](mailto:adam.sackett@kent.police.uk)

**Boughton Malherbe  
Parish Council  
Contact Details**

**Ron Galton, Chairman**

- Tel: 01622 850369

[ron@boughtonmalherbepc.org](mailto:ron@boughtonmalherbepc.org)

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

**Robert Turner**

- Tel: 01622 850325

[robert@boughtonmalherbepc.org](mailto:robert@boughtonmalherbepc.org)

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

**Vacant Position**

**Vacant Position**

**John Collins**

- Tel: 01622 850213

[john@boughtonmalherbepc.org](mailto:john@boughtonmalherbepc.org)

(Finance, Planning)

**Chris Hume, Parish Clerk**

- Tel: 07972 630555`

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

## **Zoom Yoga!**

I am leading two yoga practices a week using ZOOM; Tuesday morning at 9.30 and again on Wednesday evening at 7. These sessions are 40 minutes long and will include releasing tension in the body, maintaining strength and stamina and generally giving a feel-good factor. Should you wish to be included please give me a call on 01622 850381.

All the best, Sue Burch

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**"Dover Bill" -**  
**the Highwayman!**



**Traditional Sunday Lunches**  
**Fresh Fish Fridays**  
**Lunches and Suppers**

**Booking Advisable**  
**01622 850259**

**Children's Room      Beer Garden**

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Black	Beam	Sheet	<b>Balance</b>
2	Back	Bin	Cycle	
3	Card	Pad	Resistant	
4	First	Past	Pence	
5	Box	Cover	Opener	
6	Land	Shaft	Tin	
7	County	Crown	Local	
8	Cookie	Cost	Wire	
9	Arm	Farm	Scotland	
10	Bind	Killer	Pond	
11	Attack	Café	Space	
12	Concrete	Fever	Juice	
13	Minister	Number	Suspect	
14	Axe	Pocket	Tooth	
15	City	Man	Tube	
16	Book	Page	Role	

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Holly, Late US singer who sung 'Peggy Sue'
2	Errol _____, Swashbuckling Hollywood star
3	The _____, US Duo formed by siblings Richard & Karen
4	_____ Knightley, 'Atonement' star
5	Dan _____, The Eagles comics sci-fi hero
6	_____ Laurie, Played Frazer in 'Dads Army'
7	Westminster _____, Royal Church
8	_____ Recall, Action Movie
9	Bohemian _____, Classic song by Queen
10	_____ Moore, US actress who played Molly in Ghosts

# Grafty Green Gardening Club

## Programme 2020

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
7 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM and Kevin Tooher	Winter Interest
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Dr. Tim Ingram	Snowdrops
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Jacqueline Anthony	National Garden Scheme – how it works
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show, Lucy Adams from Doddington	Dry Gardens
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Plant Sale, on the green if fine and in Hall if wet	
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Coach outing to Leonardslee	
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Garden Safari	
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Outing (own transport) to Sandgate Castle Community garden	
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Visit to Doddington House Garden	
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Autumn Show & Floral Art Competition for Margaret Hoad Prize	
11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Weekend away in Herefordshire, Cotswolds Wildlife Park & Gardens, Moores Meadow Gardens, Stockton Bury Gardens, Oxford Botanical Gardens, staying at The Penyard Hotel, Ross on Wye,	
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Ian Gray, Mammal Society	Hedgehogs
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Simon Ginnaw	A Year in Mote Park
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Social and Quiz	

## Grafty Green Gardening Club - update

We remain optimistic that we can rescue some of our programme of events for 2020 when allowed and safe to do so. So, watch this space! In the meantime, a number of us have benefited from the 'distance' Plant Sale and are able to grow on our plants as usual. Another source of information at this time is the Grafty Green Facebook page.

Our planned Garden Safari will not now go ahead as advertised above but we are hopeful that this event can be held later in the year if we are allowed to do so.

Meanwhile:- Your Gardens in June have probably never looked better and with the weather improving all the time we can all spend as long as we wish enjoying them. Watering remains the main need with a good soaking during dry spells giving the greatest benefit, especially to young plants. Gaps in planting can be filled with summer bedding plants and a liquid fertiliser will bring great benefit to the lawn with no need to water it in!

**Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club**

## **Grafty Gourmet**

I thought I would do a chocolate-based recipe this month. I don't know about you, but chocolate is a good "pick me up", especially during these difficult times. And anyone who knows me, knows that I can never say no to chocolate ! This is a different kind of a brownie recipe which does not use flour. It makes it more of a chocolate indulgence. The chocolate sauce is optional, and I must warn, it is very very chocolatey ! Serve with ice cream and the hot chocolate sauce for extra "pick me up".

### **Chocolate Brownies with Chocolate Sauce**

#### **For the Brownies:**

225 grams of dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)  
225 grams of butter  
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract  
200 grams of caster sugar  
3 large eggs (beaten)  
150 grams of ground almonds  
100 grams of chopped walnuts

#### **For the Hot Chocolate Sauce:**

75 grams of dark chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)  
125 millilitres of double cream  
2 teaspoons of instant espresso powder  
1 tablespoons of water  
1 tablespoon of golden syrup

#### **For the Brownies:**

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C (150°C Fan Oven). Melt the chocolate and butter gently over a low heat in a heavy-based saucepan.
2. Take the pan off the heat and mix in the vanilla and sugar, and let it cool a little, before adding the eggs (the eggs will start cooking if the chocolate is too warm, but you do not want the chocolate to go solid again). Once cooled, Beat the eggs into the pan along with the ground almonds and chopped walnuts. Turn into a 24cm / 9-inch square baking tin. Use a foil one if possible, as this makes it easier to get the Brownie out after baking.
3. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, by which time the top will have set but the mixture will still be gooey. (Do not over cook, as the top will burn. The centre is supposed to be slightly squidgy, but will go solid once cooled). When cooled, cut carefully, four down, four across, into 16 squares.

## **For the Sauce:**

1. Break up the chocolate and put into a heavy-based saucepan.
2. Dissolve the instant espresso powder in the water and add this, along with the remaining ingredients into the saucepan, then place the pan over a gentle heat and let everything melt together.  
Once everything has melted, stir well, take off the heat and pour into a jug to serve.
3. Enjoy !

## **Raw in tooth & claw....**

I am writing this early in the month of May, and in the last few days have been hearing the cuckoo call, regularly. The old saying tells us that the cuckoo “sings his song in May” and sure enough, that he is doing. We welcome it as a sign that reassures us that the world continues as normal in spite of the dreaded virus. Yet it is a normality that is just as harsh as our epidemic. Every cuckoo we hear has reached adulthood by murdering all its stepbrothers and sisters!

Then we all love the robin, don't we? I had a friendly robin that sang beautifully and followed me really closely whenever I appeared in the garden. He would come within inches of me as soon as I started digging or weeding. I enjoyed his company, yet was aware that he was a bully to all the other birds and would attack much larger avians to preserve his territory. And of course, what he was looking for was not my friendship but worms and insects to eat! And then nature caught up with him. One afternoon recently I was kneeling in the garden dealing with some obstinate weeds and he was right up close looking for food, when something large and feathered came from behind me, brushing my shoulder. In an instant it grabbed the robin, and flew away, almost before I could move and certainly before I could identify it – though probably it was a sparrow hawk, as I know they are in the area.

So, what is the lesson? The world we live in has both beauty and brutality. As humans we are part of the world, not apart from it and not beyond its reach; we can enjoy nature but should accept that nature has its dark side which affects us just as the beauty inspires us. The Covid-19 is very much an example of that dark side but it is part of our world, not the end of it. Within a few days of the loss of my friendly robin another appeared, but one which was less “tame” - much more cautious. Eventually we too will get back to a normal life, though perhaps having learnt some lessons.

**Brian Hardy**

## Music Notes for June 2020

As I write this there are small signs of an easing of the virus lockdown, but no chance of live concerts in our area in June, if only because no musicians have met for rehearsals. However, professionals have been finding a way to perform, albeit without audience and as result good music is available to us through the media. If you have access to the internet, I would refer you to:

<https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/coronavirus/self-isolating-choirs-orchestras-perform-concerts/>.

This site gives you access to a whole range of excellent performances. They are cleverly put together recordings of choir or orchestra members performing individually at home. It looks as if it is a simple “zoom” exercise that so many of us are learning to use with our families, but be assured it is much more sophisticated. Zoom does not work successfully with joint music performance because the timing varies from individual home computer to individual – I know, I have experienced it! Each of these individual performers playing on this site has had to play and record their part to a very precise timing so that they can subsequently be put together – “mixed” – successfully with skilful editing.

Then there is the radio – a provider of recorded music that has come into its own during this emergency. In June BBC3 is planning to reintroduce live concerts. They are bringing together in the Wigmore Hall small numbers of musicians who live in the London Area to perform concerts which will be broadcast live almost every weekday in the month. The forecast programme shows that sometimes the Wigmore Hall concert will fill the 1.00pm lunchtime concert slot, and sometimes the 7.30pm “radio 3 in concert” slot. My pick of the month however is the recorded radio 3 concert on Wednesday 17th at 7.30pm from St. Paul’s Church, Knightsbridge in which the BBC singers perform English madrigals and motets.

And finally, TV. The BBC Young Musician finals will be available in full on BBC iPlayer and it is said that highlights will be shown on BBC4, but at a “time to be advised” – so look out for them. Also, a three-part instalment of the series on Beethoven is promised, but again no timings available as we go to press. In any case, as the virus emergency changes, no advanced programming for either radio or TV can be guaranteed.

**The musicians dictionary continues in lockdown:** Oboe – An ill wind that nobody blows good.

**Brian Hardy**

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## Christian Message June 2020 by Pamela Cuerden

Sat here on 26<sup>th</sup> April, just a few days before the June magazines deadline, I must focus and prayerfully write the Christian message. Normally I have two or three articles or anecdotes up my sleeve, but knowing that I must address the current situation, I have to admit that after a couple of false starts, I have been procrastinating. There are too many unknowns and by the time you read this we may no longer be in lockdown – or we may have had it extended? Who knows?

But maybe that's the point. We try to plan, organise and compartmentalise our lives into neat, orderly areas, but real life is different. We never know what is round the corner, when the phone will ring to say someone, we love is ill, has had an accident or even passed away before we have had time to see them. The path we tread isn't neat or tidy. It is filled with challenges and, sometimes, really bad and shocking news. It would be wrong to say that this doesn't matter. Of course, it does, very much, but what matters even more is our ability to cope or to seek help to enable us to get through a crisis as best we can.

For me, this means turning to God. As I fret about my daughter going off to work each day whilst the rest of the family is at home, I turn to God and ask him to bless her and keep her safe. As I find myself concerned about one son in law being laid off work and another being 'furloughed' (a word I'd never heard of a month ago) I pray that these fine young men will not be too proud to ask for help if they need it, or be affronted by my offers. As my other daughter and my son try to cope with the work load of colleagues who have been put on Furlough, I pray that they have the stamina to keep going. I pray for everyone's mental health as the novelty of being at home wears thin and we realise there are only so many times we can tidy a kitchen drawer, weed a flower bed or bake our favourite cake.

My family is not even on the front line in the way so many other people are. How much more concerned must the nurses, doctors and carers we rely on so heavily, be? How much more difficult must it be for those whose families are ill or those who have lost loved ones? And yet, I still believe God walks alongside us, and even carries us, when we need him to, if only we ask.

Where exactly IS God in all this?

He is in you when you phone your neighbour, collect their prescription or do their shopping. He is in your neighbour when they help with your weeding, clean your windows or bring you some supper. Reading the Harrietsham and Lenham Villages Community Support updates, I see God in all the wonderful volunteering going on and I hear stories from Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe about equally selfless acts. In Maidstone there are many brave people ensuring that the local hospital, essential businesses and voluntary organisations, remain open for business. The community spirit witness reading the Harrietsham Facebook page is even more prevalent than usual. I am sure it is the same in other villages.

Somehow, despite the horrific statistics we hear on the daily news, or maybe because of the seriousness of what is going on, you, God's valuable, lovely children, have risen to the occasion. It reminds me what a privilege it is to live in a close community. I thank you, and I thank the Lord, that he has shown so much of the loving way Jesus wanted us, and , indeed commanded us all to live, being played out in the acts that so many people are carrying out, every day.

I have quoted this verse of his words before but I can't think of anything more appropriate this month: **"Truly I tell you , whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."** (Matthew 25:40)

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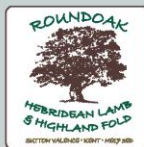
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Police, Non Emergency - (Including PCSO .....)	<b>101</b>

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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

NHS Medical Helpline	<b>111</b>
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	<b>0845 155 1000</b>
William Harvey Hospital	<b>01233 633331</b>
Headcorn Surgery                      ( <i>out of hours listen to -</i>	<b>01622 890294</b>
Lenham Surgery <i>recorded messages</i> )	<b>01622 858341</b>

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

KCC Community Wardens:

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

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

R.S.P.C.A <i>Emergencies</i>	<b>0300 1234 999</b>
Vet <i>24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service</i>	<b>01622 734555</b>

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Noise, neighbours, Smoke, Travellers. Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Black	Beam	Sheet	Balance
2	Back	Bin	Cycle	Pedal
3	Card	Pad	Resistant	Scratch
4	First	Past	Pence	Twenty
5	Box	Cover	Opener	Letter
6	Land	Shaft	Tin	Mine
7	County	Crown	Local	Derby
8	Cookie	Cost	Wire	Cutter
9	Arm	Farm	Scotland	Yard
10	Bind	Killer	Pond	Weed
11	Attack	Café	Space	Cyber
12	Concrete	Fever	Juice	Jungle
13	Minister	Number	Suspect	Prime
14	Axe	Pocket	Tooth	Pick
15	City	Man	Tube	Inner
16	Book	Page	Role	Title

	Find the missing word?
1	Buddy Holly, Late US singer who sung 'Peggy Sue'
2	Errol Flynn, Swashbuckling Hollywood star
3	The Carpenters, US Duo formed by siblings Richard & Karen
4	Keria Knightley, 'Atonement' star
5	Dan Dare, The Eagles comics sci-fi hero
6	John Laurie, Played Frazer in 'Dads Army'
7	Westminster Abbey, Royal Church
8	Total Recall, Action Movie
9	Bohemian Rhapsody, Classic song by Queen
10	Demi Moore, US actress who played Molly in Ghosts

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