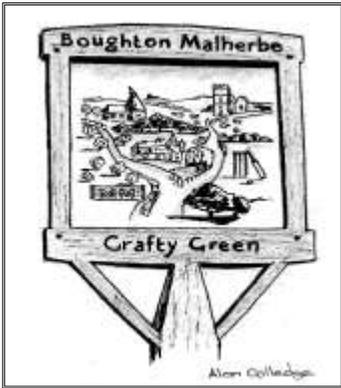


Malherbe Monthly

Number 185
December 2019



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Karen Chappell-Tay karenchappelltay@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07918 675619
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	Chris Hume email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	07972 630555
Village Hall bookings and other matters	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@gmail.com Mobile 07990 574214	853583
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	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	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Associate Priest	Mille Hart (Weds - Sun) email: revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk	297296
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield	07500 895831
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday at approx 3pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
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 **January** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th December**

Front Cover: The stall holders of the St Nicholas Church stall at the Christmas Craft Fair held in Grafty Green Village Hall on Saturday 23rd November 2019

News from St. Nicholas Church

Prayer requests can be left in the church porch, which is always open. There is a box with paper and pen or pencil. Any requests will be collected and prayers said as soon as possible.

Morning Prayer will take place in St. Nicolas at 9am on Mondays, in All Saints, Ulcombe, at 9am on Tuesdays, in St.Mary's, Lenham, at 9.30am on Wednesdays and in St.John the Baptist, Harrietsham, on Fridays at 9.30am.

Bible Study is at 10.30-12noon on Thursdays at Wierton Villa, the home of Joan Drury. The life and times of Moses is the theme. All are welcome to join the group. For more information contact Joan on 01622 853766.

Evensong, on the second Sunday each month, will be 3.30pm from Sunday 8th December.

The Village Coffee Morning will be 10.30-12noon on Wednesday 11th December. Hard to believe it will be the last one of 2019! We hope to make it a festive occasion and have some of the items from the Christmas Craft Fair available to buy. See you then!

Christmas Craft Fair despite the many late nights finishing our crafts, from fluffy cushions to aprons, handmade socks, hats and mitts and the fudge, homemade marshmallows, cakes, savouries and Sylvia's cheese scones and Alice's spicy biscuit Nativity sets, we were awake enough to really enjoy the event in the Village Hall on the 23rd November. Such a busy, friendly and welcoming atmosphere in the Hall, with the festive decorations, delicious cakes and refreshments, keeping Liz busy, and the many interesting stalls. A flurry of Christmas jumpers on show, having their first outing of the season! Well done everyone!

Christmas Services are printed elsewhere in the magazine and will be shown in the Village Shop and the church notice board. Especially experience the **Carol Service** with mulled wine and mince pies to follow, the delightful **Crib Service** for families and friends of all ages on **Christmas Eve** and the uplifting and joyous **Christmas Day Service**, all here in St.Nicolas Church.

Eco-spot I am encouraged by the changes in packaging and attitudes, as we openly discuss our environmental pollution problems and how we can, as individuals and communities, make a difference.

Sadly, I have also been disheartened by the information that to produce the batteries needed for the electric vehicles that we are told are the way forward, the manufacturers will have to do untold damage to the ocean floors to mine and gather the mineral components which will be so in demand. There must be other ways. The

obvious, perhaps unwelcome, answer is to stay 'local', holiday in our own amazingly beautiful country, buy 'local', use our own village shops, walk or cycle whenever or wherever possible 'locally' and share or use public transport.

Also, shortly, there will be an opportunity to sign a petition to protest against the New Town development of more than 5,000 houses and motorway junction proposed by Maidstone Borough Council for Lenham Heath and along the Stour Valley here in Boughton Malherbe Parish.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas!

Sally Alexander

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be in Grafty Green Village Hall on 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm



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Monday to Friday

Route number	89 Sch	59 KCC	59 #Sch	59	59
Grafty Green Kings Head	0645	0711	0930	1325	
Ulcombe The Harrow	0652	0719	0937	1332	
Kingswood Village Hall	0658	0723	0942	1337	
Kingswood Ashford Drive	0702	0726	0944	1339	
Warmlake Crossroads	0709	0732	0950	1345	
Chart Sutton Buffalo's Head	0714	0735	0953	1348	
Boughton Monchelsea Cock Inn	0719	0739	0956	1351	
Boughton Monchelsea Albion	0722	0741	0958	1353	
Linton Corner	0727	0746	1003	1358	
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	0743	0750	1006	1401	
Wheatshoaf, Loose Road	0752	0756	1012	1407	
Maidstone King Street	-	0804	1020	1415	
Maidstone Cannon Stop B	0804	-	-	-	
London Road, Somerfield House	0815	-	-	-	
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826	-	-	-	

Saturday

Route number	59 KCC	59 KCC	59 KCC	59 KCC
Grafty Green Kings Head	0733	0930	1336	-
Ulcombe The Harrow	0740	0937	1343	-
Kingswood Village Hall	0745	0942	1348	1604
Kingswood Ashford Drive	0747	0944	1350	1606
Warmlake Crossroads	0753	0950	1356	1612
Chart Sutton Buffalo's Head	0756	0953	1359	-
Boughton Monchelsea Cock Inn	0759	0956	1402	-
Boughton Monchelsea Albion	0802	0959	1405	-
Linton Corner	0807	1004	1410	-
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	0811	1008	1414	-
Langley Plough	-	-	-	1614
Sutton Road Morrisons	-	-	-	1619
Wheatshoaf, Loose Road	0815	1012	1418	1624
Maidstone King Street	0820	1020	1426	1632

Sunday and Public Holidays

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays

Notes

Sch - School days only
#Sch - Non-School days only

KCC - These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Kent County Council, Public Transport, PO Box 441, Aylesford, ME6 9HJ or email public.transport@kent.gov.uk.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Minutes of a Planning Committee Meeting held in Grafty Green Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 4th November 2019

Present: Cllrs R Turner (chair); R Galton; C. Brown; J Collins; A Allum
Clerk: Mr Chris Hume

1. Declaration of anybody filming/recording this meeting – no declarations received
2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Allum
3. **Declarations:**
 - (i) Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – none
 - (ii) Declarations of Lobbying – none
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 17th October 2019** – the Minutes were Approved.
5. **Planning Applications**
 - (i) **Public Session –**
 - (ii) **APPLICATION REF: 19/504307/FULL PROPOSAL:** Erection of a shepherds hut for use as a holiday let. ADDRESS: Hop Garden Barn Eastwood Road Grafty Green Maidstone Kent ME17 2DQ

It was agreed that the Council would **object** to this application and agreed to submit the draft response circulated previously by Cllr Turner
 - (iii) **APPLICATION REF: 19/505066/FULL PROPOSAL:** Demolition of a detached double garage. Erection of 1.no detached two bedroom chalet bungalow with associated driveway and parking. ADDRESS: Kitsilano Headcorn Road Grafty Green Maidstone Kent ME17 2AN

It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this application for the following reasons:
 - (a) The design of the proposed development is not in keeping with the surrounding properties as required by DM 33, para 5.33 of the Borough Local Plan 2017.
 - (b) The proposed property dominates a very small site and constitutes "Garden Grabbing" in contravention of Government guidance issued in June 2010.For the above reasons the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council requests that this application is refused.
6. **Further Information** – there was no further information



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

**Minutes of the Parish Council on
Monday 4th September 2019, 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; A Allum; J Collins; C Brown
Clerk Mr Chris Hume

In attendance: Cllr, Shellina Prendergast; members of public

Cllr Galton opened meeting

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** None
2. **Apologies – to receive and accept apologies for absence.** Cllrs Karen Chappell-Tay and Martin Round from MBC
3. **Declarations:**
 - Any lobbying** None
 - Any interest in items on the Agenda** None
 - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** None
4. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of 9th September 2019 approved
5. **Matters Arising** – None
6. **Public Session** – 15 members of the public were present. It was reported that the 30mph sign in Church lane had been knocked down. Clerk to report this to KCC.
7. **KCC/MBC Reports** – Cllr Shellina Prendergast reported on:
 - KCC Leadership
 - KCC Budget Consultation
 - Meeting with Helen Whately and the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Gypsy and Traveller sites
 - MBC call for sites – Lenham Heath Scheme
 - Lorry Park
8. **Planning Outcomes since 9th September 2019** – Kitsilano application withdrawn and new application submitted
9. **Points of Interest Stone** – in the light of response from the landowners of the proposed site, it was agreed to await the outcome of Sue Burch's current search for a new site before deciding on next steps
10. **Local Policing/Community**
 - 10.1 **Police/Crime Report** – E-watch report was circulated and noted. Cllr Robert Turner emphasised the need to report any police matters, and details of reporting arrangements will be in the next edition of Malherbe monthly
 - 10.2 **Speedwatch** – no report
11. **Highway and Footway Matters**
 - 11.1 **Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes** – noted gullies blocked near top of Liverton Hill, Church Road near the entrance to Mr Clark's field, and in Church Road/ Headcorn

Road. Clerk to report to KCC

- 11.2 59 Bus – Cllr John Collins reported that pilot still delayed and no date fixed as yet for start
- 11.3 Highways Improvement Plan –
- (i) Noted response from KCC received at the meeting held on the 12th September – previously circulated, including clarification to point raised by Chris Wheal
 - (ii) Noted comments and suggestions received from residents following the update article in the October edition of Malherbe Monthly circulated previously
 - (iii) Traffic Calming proposal - A number of comments were made by members of the public including the need for further consultation, the potential impact on the shop and alternative proposals for the southern end of the village. Some members of the public criticised the process adopted so far. Several members of the public expressed support for the proposed scheme and asked the council to proceed with implementation. Cllr Shellina Prendergast(KCC) explained that the scheme was owned by the Parish Council and it was their decision, but the process followed to date was appropriate as far as KCC was concerned. All comments will be considered carefully by the Council and it was agreed that an Extraordinary meeting of the council will be held in December to consider all the comments received in writing and at the various meetings of the Council/public meeting and decide on next steps
- 11.4 Litter – A representation from Charlotte Harris regarding the need for litter picking on Headcorn Road near Crumps Lane junction. It was agreed that the Clerk will explore whether the Parish Council can erect signs as suggested by Charlotte.
12. **Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended** – Cllr Galton – KALC, Lenham Heath Campaign, MBC Planning Training, Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Turner - KALC, Lenham Heath Campaign, Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Collins – East of Maidstone Transport Group.
13. **Finance**
- 13.1 Noted the Balance at the Bank:
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Nat West | £10,354.26 |
| Nationwide | £25,230.28 |
| Cambridge and Counties | £ 85,492.65 |
- 13.2 Noted income since the last meeting : VAT rebate £858.61; PSS 2nd payment £319.50
- 13.3 Bank Reconciliation – Agreed statement circulated with the agenda
- 13.4 Signed a cheque for £617.39 for the Christmas Tree Lighting Event. Noted that Christmas Tree lighting event may overrun budget by up to a maximum of £100, and an increase in the budget was requested
- 13.5 Authorised payment for Rosemary Smith for Village Green
£171.97
14. **Village Hall Improvements** – approved request for funding of £11,307.39 for Village Hall Improvements
15. **Donation From Quinn Estates** – reviewed progress to date. Noted agreement to grant of £11,307.39 to Village Hall leaving a balance of £80,042.61.
16. **MBC Call for Sites/Garden Village** – agreed to meet with Kate Hammond. Clerk to arrange a date
17. **VE Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration** – it was agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee to consider whether to organise an event. Cllr Turner to arrange
18. **Correspondence** – CPRE Kent AGM papers
19. **Further Information** – there was no further information

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

If you're reading this in the first few days of December, you still have time to get your tickets for our **Christmas quiz night** on **Saturday 7 December**. Tickets for this event will be available until the morning of Fri 6 December from the Grafty Green Post Office Stores. If you can't get to the shop, you can also get tickets via me. The price of £8 per person includes a ploughman's supper + mince pies. There can be any number of people in a team (up to a maximum of 8) but teams of 4 or less may have to share a table.

Also now available from the village shop is the **Boughton Malherbe 2020 Calendar**, featuring the Boughton Beefcake Boys! Give yourself a treat and a chuckle in a good cause. Any profits will go towards maintaining the Village Hall.

As you may know, we have spent over £11,000 on improvements and repairs to the fabric of our Hall recently, and we are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for reimbursing much of this to us, enabling us to continue running the Hall as before, whilst still retaining a 'rainy day' fund for those unexpected emergencies. Thank you Councillors, you get my vote!

Whilst on the subject of running and maintaining the Hall, minor jobs are always having to be done, and the events we run always need people to help prepare for them. This work is almost entirely undertaken by the members of the Hall Management Committee, but we have found (with the annual fete in particular) that - if asked - many of you will offer help. We really appreciate that, and those who join in invariably enjoy getting involved.

It has been suggested that, rather than rely on the same people for everything, because we happen to know them, we should canvas the whole parish for volunteers whom we might approach to help us from time to time.

It might be just making a cake for the fete, it might be helping to decorate the Hall at Christmas, it might be a bit of gardening in the narrow bed beside the Hall that we try to keep tidy, or perhaps a bit of painting or decorating.

If you would like to get involved in any way, do get in touch with me. There would be no commitment, it would just be that we would feel free to ask you, in future, if you'd like to join us in some particular project or task.

Whether you're just a 'good egg' who is willing to lend a hand and help spread the workload when it suits you, or just want an opportunity to get involved in village life but haven't known where to start, do get in touch with me and join our "Friends of The Village".

It's just a list of willing folk whom we can approach if we ever need any help. There will never be any obligation to say 'yes', but you might just find it's fun!

Finally, don't forget our **professional pantomime** at the Hall. This year we've found a different company who will perform a more traditional panto, "Jack & the Beanstalk", on **Saturday 25 January at 4 o'clock**. Do check out their reviews at www.touringpantos.co.uk

Tickets (Adult £10, Child £5, Family 2+2 £25) are available now from the village shop.

Richard Pilborough, Hall Committee Chairman.

Grafty Gourmet

This is a great but simple recipe, ideal for these cold nights. Best made a day ahead and reheated as the flavours develop a lot more.

Simple Guinness and Beef Stew

25 g butter
150 g bacon (chopped)
300 g shallots (sliced)
1 kg stewing beef
400 g wild mushrooms
1 litre of Guinness
1 bouquet garni

1. Preheat the oven to 160C/140C (fan oven). Put the butter in a frying pan over a medium heat. When the butter has melted add the bacon, followed by the shallots. Cook until golden brown and transfer to a large casserole dish.
2. Add the beef to the frying pan, season with salt and pepper and cook until browned all over. Transfer to the casserole dish. Add the mushrooms to the pan and cook for 2 minutes. Season to taste and transfer to the casserole dish.
3. Return the frying pan to the heat and use a whisk to scrape off all the bits stuck to the bottom of the pan (this is where the flavour is). Pour in the Guinness and continue to whisk for another minute to deglaze the pan. Pour the Guinness and pan juices over the beef and vegetables in the casserole dish. Add the bouquet garni, cover the casserole dish and cook in the oven for 2 hours.
4. When the beef is tender, check the seasoning, remove the bouquet garni and serve with roast potatoes or dumplings.



Jack and the Beanstalk Traditional Family Pantomime

Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 25th January 2020 at 4pm

We are pleased to welcome a **new** touring theatre group this year to provide our village pantomime.

Gerry Graham Pantos and Productions with theatre quality costumes and props

WWW.TOURINGPANTOS.CO.UK

Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £25 Adult £10 Child £5

Tickets available from The Oaks, Church Road ME17 2BA or
The Grafty Green Post Office

01622 851351 thompsonjon1960@gmail.com for ticket enquiries

Refreshments and sweets will be available plus

'flashing light up windmills' and 'LED magic star wands' only
£2.50

Recent review on their website 'Loved the pantomime. Great fun. It was an awesome evening. Enjoyed by everyone.'



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Ashford:
01233 850075
Ashford Road
High Halden
TN26 3BP

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

New Members Always Welcome - Join Us

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall, Gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available. Further information - Joan Marriott 01622 858100 or Robert Turner 01622 850325

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Contact Details

Ron Galton, Chairman

- Tel: 01622 850369

ron@boughtonmalherbecp.org

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

Robert Turner

- Tel: 01622 850325

robert@boughtonmalherbecp.org

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

Annie Allum

- Tel: 07999 724111

annie@boughtonmalherbecp.org

(JPG, Planning)

Cathreen Brown

cathie@boughtonmalherbecp.org

John Collins

- Tel: 01622 850213

john@boughtonmalherbecp.org

(Finance, Planning)

Chris Hume, Parish Clerk

- Tel: 07972 630555`

boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com

Yoga Classes at Grafty Green Village

Experience an energising, balanced practice that enables you to expand your boundaries; being able to truly relax and to feel in harmony with yourself.

Two classes each week, both an hour and a half in length.
Wednesday evenings at 7pm – last session for this year is 11th December

Thursday mornings at 9.30 – last session 5th December.

I welcome anyone to join at any of the sessions and dropping in is fine at £8 a session.

January 2020 the new term will begin on January 8th and 9th.

More details call Sue on 850381 or 07803 962339.

**Sue Burch – British Wheel of Yoga
Teacher**

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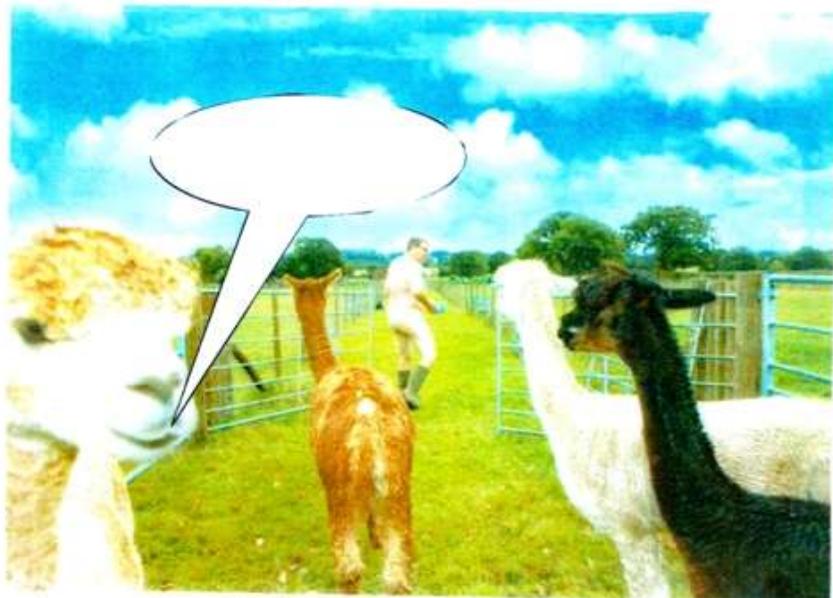


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FRIENDS. PLEASE FORWARD BY THE 15th DECEMBER
YOUR CAPTION AND CONTACT DETAILS TO
thompsonjon1960@gmail.com

OR BY POST TO:- JON THOMPSON

THE OAKS, CHURCH ROAD,
GRAFTY GREEN, ME17 2BA.

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Fritter	Split	Boat	Banana
2	Spot	Lime	High	
3	Eternity	Leader	Worm	
4	Natural	Ancient	Life	
5	Current	Holder	Joint	
6	Detector	Heavy	Scrap	
7	Surprise	Garden	Animal	
8	Driver	Cork	Top	
9	Traction	Search	Fire	
10	Training	Fly	Paper	
11	Shoulder	Roller	Razor	
12	Teacher	Mature	Grant	
13	Sentence	Open	Yard	
14	Herring	Tape	Cross	
15	Merchant	Metal	Book	
16	Social	Steel	Bee	

Find the missing word?	
1	_____ Hawn, Film star known for the movie 'Private Benjamin'
2	Roger _____, Drummer & songwriter with 'Queen'
3	_____ Summer, Singer who sang 'I Feel Love' in 1977
4	Joanna _____, Romantic novelist who wrote 'The Rector's Wife'
5	_____ Horne, Actor who co-starred in 'Gavin & Stacey'
6	Robert _____, Actor who starred in 'Meet The Parents'
7	_____ MacArthur, Record breaking British Yachtswomen
8	Alec _____, Ex BBC weatherman
9	_____ Stoppard, Doctor, Broadcaster and Advice Columnist
10	Mick _____, Lead singer with 'The Rolling Stones'

Grafty Green Gardening Club

The gardening club generally meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the village hall for talks. Membership is £5.00 for the year which entitles members to a reduced fee when attending meetings; take advantage of subsidised coach outings (excluding weekend away) and club members will be entitled to discounts at Rumwood Nursery and The Potted Garden. Non members are most welcome at any meeting for a small fee of £2.00.

Programme 2019

Date	Speaker and talk or venue for outing
January 8	AGM and Linda Ford - Sandown Castle community garden
February 5	Tim Ingrams - Snowdrops
March 5	Maureen Rainey Kent Wildlife Trust- Wild about Gardens
April 2	Spring Show, - Jean and Brian Waterman, Wild flowers of Kent
May 4	Plant Sale - village green if weather fine 10 am.
May 7	Outing - Warren Street House
June 4	Outing -Hucking, Sue Blacker- Peonies
June 6 - 9	Weekend, <u>Thurs</u> ; Ulting Wick, <u>Fri</u> , East Ruston Old Vicarage and Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden, <u>Sat</u> . Oxburgh Hall and a seaside visit for tea. <u>Sun</u> . Harvey's Nursery, Bury St. Edmunds and Fullers Mill Garden.
July 2	Outing - Pheasant Barn, Oare
Aug 3	Coach trip Nymans and High Beeches (lunch at Nymans)
Sept 3	Autumn Show, Mr. Raggett, Hambury's Gardens.
Oct 1	Sue Shaw - Travels in Peru
Nov 5	Andrew - Hops
Dec 10	Coach trip to Wisley for Christmas lights leaving GG at 2pm

Members have been alerted to the fact that there will be no meeting in the village hall in December as a trip has been arranged to see the Glow Event at RHS Wisley on December 10th. Please be aware of the change of date for this event from the published programme membership card. The coach will leave from outside the post office, Grafty Green at 2.30pm.

THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER - Start winter digging before Christmas, particularly on heavy clay soils, so the weather can break down the soil before spring arrives. This will make preparation of seedbeds an easier task later on. Prune winter vines and tall bush roses to guard against wind rock. Also a good time to clean paths and repair sheds and fences. The Seasons Greetings to all of our members and villagers too.

Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club

Lenham Film Club
at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Friday December 13th
Performance begins 7.30 pm, doors open 7 pm

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without James Stewart to begin it with **It's a Wonderful Life** (U, 1946). It doesn't matter how often you've seen director Frank Capra's masterpiece, you'll still be mesmerised by the hour and a half you spend in Bedford Falls. The unforgettable story of George Bailey and Clarence the angel will guarantee you an evening of Christmas cheer. *Running time: 1 hr 30 mins.*

Saturday December 14th is matinee day
Performance begins 2.30 pm, doors open 2 pm

Another Christmas must! Come and laugh with Woody and Buzz Lightyear in **Toy Story 4** (U, 2019), the funny and moving final Toy Story instalment. Woody and Buzz embark on an adventurous trip with old friends and some new pals. The trip leads to an unexpected reunion when Woody meets his long-lost friend Bo Peep. *Running time: 1hr 40mins.*

For more information or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, then please contact us at lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com. Keep an eye open for our posters (it's possible we might slip in an extra performance during the month), follow us on Facebook (@LenhamFilmClub), perhaps consider becoming a member or just come along on the night!

*There's no need to book, just come along. Entrance fee (cash at the door) £5 for non-members; members £4. For **Toy Story 4** matinee, £2 for children, adults as above. Refreshments available at reasonable cost. Annual membership £6 (over 16's only); pick up a form at our ticket desk.*

December Music Notes

December means Christmas concerts everywhere –I can only pick out a few, and churches throughout the area will be holding carol services and Christingle services, some of them of a high musical standard, others – especially the Christingle events - set at a friendly, informal level that all the family can join in. These music services are advertised elsewhere in the magazine, I am sure. Do try to support your local events as well as aiming for one of the main concerts in December. Here then is my short list (it's a bit heavy on the choral side, but most of the orchestras have given December a miss):

- Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th at St Martin's Church, Northumberland Road Shepway, Maidstone ME15 7LP Maidstone Singers start the Advent and Christmas music season with their regular, popular Carol concert. Tickets available from tickets@themaidstonesingers.org.uk. Also from choir members or telephone 01622 630016.
Saturday 14th, 4.00pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone ME15 6YE Maidstone Choral Union continues the theme with a carol concert that includes carols for audience and also a cheerful modern work *Wassail* by Alexander L'Estrange based on carols and folk tunes. Tickets 07752 923084 or marionhertedia@yahoo.com
- Sunday 15th December 7.00pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone (ME15 6YE), Maidstone Wind Symphony have a Christmas Celebration Concert with a variety of festive pieces. Tickets at the door or www.maidstonewindsymphony.org/event-celebration_of_christmas.html.
- Saturday 21st December at 7.30pm in the Church of St James the Great, Church Walk, East Malling, Kent ME19 6AG, the East Malling Singers' concert includes Charpentier's *Messe De Minuit*. Tickets 01622 750943 or at the door if available.

As I write I don't have tv or radio details for December but I would be very surprised if Carols from Kings is not shown on BBC 2 on Christmas Eve and on the radio over Christmas too. Look out for the timings. Always well worth recording if it isn't on BBC iPlayer!

And here are some festive items from the musicians' dictionary:

Perfect Interval: When drinks are on the house

Con Spirito: Drunk

Tutti: Ice Cream

Brian Hardy

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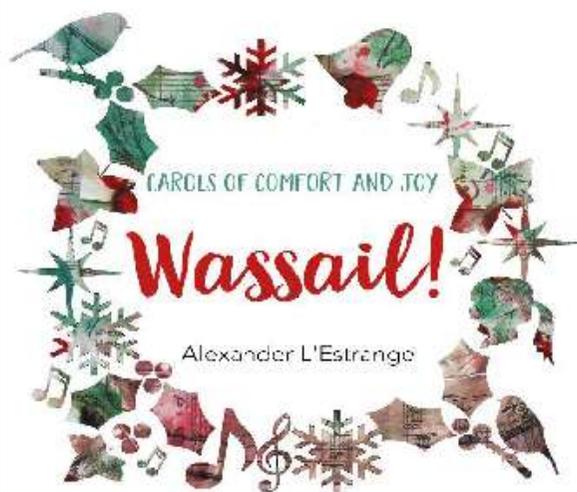
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Available on the door, from members, marionheredia@yahoo.com

or online from www.maidstonechoralunion.org.uk RCN1059314

Christian Message - December 2019

I made the mistake of looking back to last year's Christmas Christian message as I wrote this and found that way back then, "a recent survey showed that more people just wanted Brexit over with than cared what the actual outcome was". And here we are a year later!

Well Brexit has not yet come, but what has come for you in the past year, I wonder? There have probably been changes – have they been good, bad or mixed?

Way back in the first Christmas, I wonder what Mary thought of it all? She must have been so relieved when that baby Jesus was born in safety and so amazed at all the events and visitors in those early days.

What do we make of it all? Regardless of election results and Brexit outcomes, Christmas provides all of us with such an opportunity. An opportunity to stop and wonder at it all. What does this extraordinary message of God being born into our world mean to us? Will we be one of the excited and faithful ones who come to midnight communion or to a Messy Christmas service? Will we use Christmas and its services as special moments to try to glimpse the face of Jesus: I don't mean as a baby, but his face towards each one of us now.

The Bible makes the extraordinary claim that God is Love. Is it just possible that Jesus face towards each one of us reflects that? If we've had a good year is he celebrating with us, and if not, is his face shedding a tear? Because Emmanuel means, "God with us." Is it possible that the God who is love, born as Jesus, is really with us here in our villages, and present at our Christmas dinners? That HE is the biggest present we can unwrap this Christmas?

John P Huggins 01622 850280

MESSY CHRISTINGLE

SAVE THE DATE

14/12/19
3 - 5 PM

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ACTIVITIES



FUN

If you want to, come with an angel, animal, king or shepherd costume and dress up during the event

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – December 2019

Sunday 1st December

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service
9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30 am Harrietsham: Family-friendly Morning Worship
11.00 am Ulcombe: Informal Morning Worship
11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th December

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

Sunday 8th December

8.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast Service (with informal Holy Communion)
9.30 am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00 am Lenham: Morning Worship
3.30 pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Friday 13th December

6.00pm Harrietsham: Salvation Army Carol Service

Saturday 14th December

3.00pm Lenham: Messy Christingle

Sunday 15th December

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service
9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship (starting with coffee & cake)
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion
7.00pm Harrietsham: Carol Service

Wednesday 18th December

11.00am Chippendayle Lodge: Christmas Holy Communion

Thursday 19th December

7.00pm Ulcombe: Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
9.30am Lenham: Big Breakfast Christmas Service
11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
3.00pm Boughton Malherbe: Carol Service
5.30pm Lenham: Carol Service

Christmas Eve: 24th December

3.00pm Harrietsham: Family Crib Service
3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Family Crib Service
4.00pm Ulcombe: Family Crib Service
4.00pm Lenham: Family Crib Service
11.15 pm Harrietsham: Midnight Communion
11.15 pm Lenham: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day: 25th December

10.00am Boughton Malherbe: Family Christmas Communion
10.00am Ulcombe: Family Christmas Communion
11.00am Lenham: Shared with Harrietsham, Family Christmas Communion

Sunday 29th December

10.00 am Boughton Malherbe: Joint Len Valley Churches Service: Holy Communion



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Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere **07969 583923**
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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	Fritter	Split	Boat	Banana
2	Spot	Lime	High	Light
3	Eternity	Leader	Worm	Ring
4	Natural	Ancient	Life	History
5	Current	Holder	Joint	Account
6	Detector	Heavy	Scrap	Metal
7	Surprise	Garden	Animal	Party
8	Driver	Cork	Top	Screw
9	Traction	Search	Fire	Engine
10	Training	Fly	Paper	Weight
11	Shoulder	Roller	Razor	Blade
12	Teacher	Mature	Grant	Student
13	Sentence	Open	Yard	Prison
14	Herring	Tape	Cross	Red
15	Merchant	Metal	Book	Scrap
16	Social	Steel	Bee	Worker

	Find the missing word?
1	Goldie Hawn , Film star known for the movie Private Benjamin
2	Roger Taylor , Drummer & songwriter with Queen
3	Donna Summer , Singer who sang 'I Feel Love' in 1977
4	Joanna Trollope , Romantic novelist who wrote 'The Rector's Wife'
5	Mathew Horne , Actor who co-starred in 'Gavin & Stacey'
6	Robert De Niro , Actor who starred in 'Meet The Parents'
7	Ellen MacArthur , Record breaking British Yachtswomen
8	Alec Deakin , Ex BBC weatherman
9	Miriam Stoppard , Doctor, Broadcaster and Advice Columnist
10	Mick Jagger , Lead singer with 'The Rolling Stones'

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