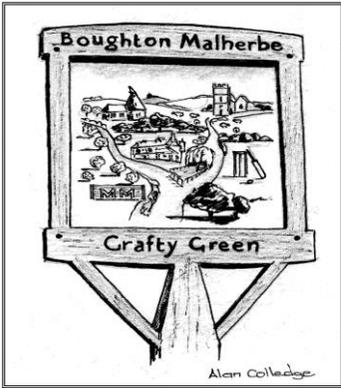


Malherbe Monthly

Number 230
September 2023



Willow's first official visit to the Kings Head pub in Grafty Green. She behaved reasonably well !!!

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 078524 92770
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	Vickie Ford email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	07791 135248
Village Hall bookings	Jan Carter email janlcarter@btinternet.com	850898
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk Mobile 07932 112730	851351
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday at approx. 3pm by Post Office	07976 435217
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
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John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!

Anything for the **October** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th September**

News from St. Nicholas Church – September 2023

Thank you to Rosemary for the beautiful tomatoes on the table at the Craft Cub meeting this morning. Ours are still very green, despite the sunshine recently. But we do have lots of figs ripening each day at the moment. Such a treat, as I never saw them on the north east coast in Yorkshire, growing up. Is climate change allowing them to ripen there now, I wonder. I think that I had only heard of a fig tree from the bible when Jesus recognised one of his first disciples, Nathanael, when he saw him sitting under a fig tree. Couldn't sit under my fig tree, though! Might need a bit of pruning.

Usual reminders

The church porch is always open, for a respite from the weather, if need be, or just a chance to sit quietly and make a hot drink from the table. Do make use of the mini food bank if you are in need. There is a larger food bank in St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily between 10am and 4pm.

The main church building is only open for services, cleaning etc. A key is available from the churchwardens at other times. Their contact details are in the magazine.

Celtic Morning Prayer is said in the side chapel each Monday 9-9.30am. Please contact Rev. John Huggins or the churchwardens if you have any prayer requests. Prayers will be said at Monday morning prayer time or in private if you wish.

Church service times are on the noticeboard by the porch and the roadside bench and outside Grafty Green Village Hall.

Information

Village Coffee Morning is held every Tuesday 11.30am-2.00pm in the Village Hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is open then 12.45-2.15pm and there are various stalls most weeks.

As intended, this has become a time for the community to meet and catch up with friends, old and new. As mentioned before, donations are shared equally between the church and a charity of the coffee 'regulars' choosing. Do come and have your say in how we spend the money, and enjoy the company and cakes. Last week we were able to give £150 to enable Platts Heath Primary school to improve their outdoor play space. Many thanks to Angela, John, Emily and the family for working hard to make this happen. We are pleased to report that homemade jams and marmalade are making a comeback.

The Cream Teas proved to be a big hit as they returned to St. Nicolas. The Team rallied around as if we had never been away! Lots of lovely helpers and seemingly delighted customers braved the weather outside or sat inside each of the three weeks. The atmosphere was welcoming and everyone seemed happy to be back. The numbers of guests were much greater than expected, exceeding 70 by our final day! Financial details to come later. Many thanks to everyone.

Sir Edward and Lady Margaret tomb update. Yet another twist in our knowledge of the family. The extensive and renowned Wotton library inherited by Sir Edward from his father Sir Thomas, was removed from Boughton to Bretby Hall in Derbyshire by the family of his granddaughter, Lady Katherine Stanhope, where it remained for 150 years, before being inherited by the Earls of Carnarvon and removed to Highclere Castle. Some of the precious books and their even more precious bindings were sold at Sotheby's by the fifth earl (of Tutankhamen fame), in 1919. At least one of them is in the Spencer Collection in the Public library in New York. Have seen pictures of this binding, the best of 16th century leather work. Also, it has been confirmed that the marble tombstones in St. Nicolas are the work of the famous royal stonemason Nicholas Stone, whose work is to be found around the country, including Westminster Abbey and royal palaces. One visitor to the church last week is planning to put this memorial in his forthcoming biography of Nicholas Stone

Summer Craft Fair is coming up fast. Lots of frantic work needed on my part! But everyone else seems well organised and looking forward to **Sunday 3rd September 12-4.00pm.**

Harvest Supper is on **Saturday 7th October 7pm, tickets will be £10**

Harvest Festival at St. Nicolas is on **8th October 3.30pm** with the usual auction of produce and refreshments after.

Finale

Autumn will be upon us far too soon. Looking forward to the colours and fruits of perhaps my most favourite time of year. We remember all those going back to school or university, many for the first time, with anxieties and excitement. We think of their teachers, hopefully refreshed from the holidays. We wish them all well and fulfilled in their work and studies.

Sally Alexander

Boughton Malherbe

Parish Council

Contact Details

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- Tel: 01622 850369

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

ron@boughtonmalherbecp.org

Robert Turner

Tel: 01622 850325

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

robert@boughtonmalherbecp.org

Barry Adams

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barr313@btinternet.com

Tracey Andrews

Tel: 07407 358292

Nick Eastwood

Tel: 01622 850330

nicholas.eastwood.bmpc@gmail.com

Vickie Ford, Parish Clerk- Tel:

07791 135248

boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com

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01622 850376 www.heatherschiropody.co.uk
retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk

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

Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

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

one of my surgeries
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

www.helenwhately.org.uk

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

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books, fabrics, tools, toys or anything interesting



Village Hall – September Newsletter

At the time of writing we are just putting the finishing touches to the plans for the Summer Fair which will be held on the old cricket field on Sunday 3rd September between 12 noon and 4pm.

It would be lovely to see you all on the day to enjoy the entertainment and for a catch up and if you are able to bake some cakes for the tea and cake tent and bring them along on the morning of the event that would be lovely as they are always popular with our hungry and thirsty visitors. We will also be holding a bottle tombola so if you have that bottle of Bulls Blood firewater hanging around that you have always been too scared to drink please donate it by handing it to a committee member or leaving it at the hall in the box for donations.

Summer Fair 12 noon to 4 pm on Sunday 3rd September on the old cricket field

The Big Top is coming to Grafty this year with circus skills entertainment being provided by Paul of Kinetic Circus and Richard's band Group Therapy, (I am not sure about you but I certainly need some of that!), providing the live music. The children can look forward to James Arnott's Punch and Judy show and there will be a range of other activities such as hook a duck, pitch and puddle and the sock lottery. Refreshments will include the popular tea and cake tent, Bert's burgers, candy floss and ice creams, together with a wide range of craft stalls. The event is a lovely way to catch up with friends and neighbours in a beautiful setting and it would be great to see you all on the day.

Harvest Supper 7 pm for 7.30 pm on Saturday 7th October

The church will be holding their annual harvest supper, (the first since lockdown), there will be a friendly convivial atmosphere a hot meal of sausage casserole followed by apple crumble and cream for dessert together with a pay bar. Tickets are £10 per head and are available from Sally Alexander on 07469 175290. Please let Sally know if you have any special dietary requirements.

The King isn't Dead he is Alive and Well in Grafty Green -Scarecrow Festival Sunday 22nd October

Not only is the Big Top coming to Grafty for the Summer Fair but a musical legend will also be in attendance. Come and meet Elvis at the Summer Fair which he will be attending ahead of the 'Musical Legends'. Scarecrow Festival. Please get busy designing your scarecrows for the event. They can be displayed either on the village

green or in your front gardens. Resources such as timber, straw or assistance with construction can be provided.

You are welcome at the Village Hall which will act as Scarecrow HQ on Sunday 22nd October from 10 am to 2pm for light refreshments of tea, cake, there will be activities for the children and a map providing the locations of all the scarecrows in the village. You can then vote on your favourite scarecrow. The winner will be displayed in Maidstone town centre the following week. Please let me have details once constructed by Friday 13th October so that your scarecrow can be included in the map.

Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman

bromley@ashlelaw.co.uk

www.graftygreeenvillagehall.co.uk

Facebook – graftygreeenvillage

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

"The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 4th September at 7:30 pm** in the Village Hall.

Everyone welcome."

The Friends of Ulcombe Church are holding an Auction of Promises on **Saturday 28 October**. If you are kind enough to give a promise (goods, help, service etc), please contact Molly Poulter on 01622 842988 or email mollycpoulter@gmail.com.



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Grafty Green Summer Fair

Sunday 3rd September

12.00-4.00

Fete Field in Church Road ME17 2BA

Come and join us for lots of fun!

**Hook a Duck, Human Fruit Machine, Bottle
Tombola and so much more!**

Craft Marquee with lots of stalls

**BBQ, ice cream, candy floss and our famous tea
tent!**

Entertainment provided by **Kinetic Circus Show
(bringing the magic of the circus to you)**

and **James Arnott Punch and Judy Show**



Shellina Prendergast – KCC Member for Maidstone Rural East.

The challenges facing Kent County Council – indeed local government nationally – are well documented and there are undoubtedly some very difficult decisions to be made in the coming months.

Ahead of this, there are a number of key consultations taking place and capturing the thoughts of residents on how we prioritise resources is a key part of that decision making process. Current consultations can be viewed on the Lets Talk Kent website <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> where you can also register to get future consultations sent directly into your inbox

Some of you will be aware that I have used my KCC member grant to support the purchase/provision of defibrillators across various parishes and am really keen to ensure that all our communities have these readily available. The Department of Health and Social Care is currently inviting interested organisations to register expressions of interest for its £1m Community Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Fund, aimed at increasing the number of AEDs in public places where they are most needed – places with a high footfall, vulnerable people, rural areas or due to the nature of activity at the site. Whilst some match funding will be required, I would urge any organisation to apply where needed as they really do save lives. Expressions of interest can be made here –

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MIwnYaiRMUyMH-9N6Jc6HLfy1IJ_IPFFotCZIB4mEYIUQ1VUWU9ISjI4MjNTVzIPWfk1SDQ2SzhRSi4u&web=1&wdLOR=c7D105139-80CB-4C2F-B9F6-3E7FFF7FD2CD

I hope the above is of some help but please do let me know if there is anything you require any further information on or if there are other matters that I can assist with.

With best wishes

Shellina

Helen Whately MP

Housebuilding is one of the most contentious issues here in Faversham and Mid Kent. I hear from people all the time who are unhappy about the scale of development locally, as well as people desperate for a house of their own. As an MP I don't have a say on what development goes where, but what I can do is influence national planning policy - something I've been working hard to do with other Kent MPs.

Earlier this year we successfully called for a consultation on the government's housebuilding strategy. The new strategy is proposing some really important changes, like scrapping mandatory housing targets for local authorities, and I wanted to make sure my constituents had their say.

That's why in the spring I sent a survey out to a number of local wards, asking questions about what's being proposed and the impact of the development that's happened so far. My team and I have been poring over the data, and on Friday I wrote to the Housing Secretary setting out the results.

You can read my full letter below, in which I set out our local red lines: that development should come with proper improvements to local services, and shouldn't come at the expense of our beautiful countryside.

While it wasn't possible to survey every household in the constituency, I'm confident that the results mirror what people think across Faversham and Mid Kent - they're in line with what I've heard from local residents for years.

Thank you to everyone who took part, and all those who've written to me in the past. This letter could mean better planning policy for generations to come.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Reference No. HW56408

18 August 2023

Dear Michael,

Re: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) review / Faversham and Mid Kent Survey

Housebuilding in Faversham and Mid Kent is a hugely contentious issue. Many new homes have been built over the last decade, but still my constituency is largely rural with beautiful countryside, historic towns and small villages full of character. My constituents cherish this and fear the impact of further development.

At the same time, we know there's a need for more homes, with waiting lists for social housing, rising rents and young people living with their parents for longer. People want rents they can afford to pay, and the chance to own their own home someday. The need for homes is a fact recognised by all the major parties, including in their 2019 manifestos.

Earlier this year I sent a survey to several wards in my constituency to gather data on what people want. I received over 2,000 replies and I've summarised the findings briefly below and at greater length on the following pages.

The concerns of my constituents split into two main areas: protecting the local environment, and the availability of local services and infrastructure.

Meeting our housing need with local support means building the right housing in the right area. The support for retirement homes, eco-homes and brownfield sites far exceeds that for larger homes built on productive agricultural land.

I'm in no doubt that Labour's policy to build over the greenbelt isn't the way forward. It would mean a green light for development on any green space, and we need to find a way to meet housing need which responds to the very real concerns of constituents like mine.

Kent MPs have been campaigning about this for years, and we were hugely grateful to hear about your plan to review the National Planning Policy Framework. As you take forwards this review, please can I ask you to take the views of my constituents into account.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whately', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

Faversham and Mid Kent / 2023 Housing Survey Results

Protecting the environment

There's a reason Kent is known as the Garden of England. It's blessed with some of the loveliest countryside you could hope to find, and for centuries has produced crops like hops and apples in abundance. It's a huge reason why people choose to live here.

That's why the government's plan to remove mandatory housing targets in areas like ours was supported by over 80% of people – something which I have long called for and am grateful has been listened to.

It's also why, when asked which of the five secondary objectives of the government's consultation were most important to them, respondents overwhelmingly opted for protecting high quality farmland - across every age group. In fact, just 3% of respondents said that the local environment wasn't a concern to them.

However, support for scrapping mandatory housing targets fell amongst younger age groups – with the most marked difference coming between home owners and those in private rented accommodation. Renters were three times as likely to be strongly opposed to these plans, which makes sense when looking at the data on affordability. Only 14% of homeowners were currently finding it difficult to afford their accommodation, versus 57% of renters - with over two-thirds feeling their current housing needs weren't being met.

This points to the need to deliver housing for future generations, while also protecting our natural environment and rural characteristics.

Environmental improvements

One way we could do that is by making sure the development comes hand in hand with nature improvement and restoration – a policy supported by more than 4 out of 5 respondents.

Even in the Garden of England we have areas which could do with some reinvigorating – like patches of wasteland in or on the edge of urban areas. This way we could deliver the accessible green space which so many people want.

The design of properties themselves also offers an opportunity for improvement. A large number of respondents raised concerns about the aesthetic of homes currently being built, and there would be much greater support for homes that were “likely to look beautiful in a hundred years”.

There was also lots of support for houses with their own energy sources like solar panels or heat pumps, as well as mandatory systems for catching and reusing water.

Water quality and availability was raised in huge numbers. Kent residents have had

enough of hosepipe bans and sewage discharges. These issues have both been exacerbated by local development, and while there's some fantastic work underway to make water companies clean up their act, we need to make sure we're planning for the future.

Last year I called for water companies to be given a bigger role in the planning process and given the same importance as other considerations like road safety. I'm reiterating that call today.

Services and infrastructure

When new housing is built it's crucial that it comes with a proportionate boost in local services. People won't support development if it makes it harder for them to see a doctor or a dentist, and that's exactly what the data we collected shows. When asked to choose the most important of the 5 main objectives in the consultation, the impact on services was ranked the highest in every single age group.

91% of respondents felt that development hadn't come with the necessary improvements in the past – rising to 94% for over 60s (the demographic most opposed to local development). This is exactly why I called in Maidstone Borough Council's local plan for review in 2017.

What should development come with?

When asked what services were important to them, 92% of respondents said health, 69% roads and 59% schools.

As a government, we are working to boost the number of GP and dentist appointments across the country, but making sure we marry these up with where development is taking place would help ease these concerns.

People also called for improvements to public transport, more community spaces, and better walking and cycleways.

When asked about how development could support the local economy, 77% wanted better transport links, and there was also lots of support for an expansion of local childcare options (especially among people aged 25-45). People also discussed the rejuvenation of local high streets (supported by lower business rates), more local skills training infrastructure, and after school clubs.

I also asked people how development could help make them feel safer, with nearly half of respondents talking about having more police locally. I'm proud that we hit our target of 20,000 more officers on the streets earlier this year, and I would expect record numbers here in Kent to start making a real difference.

Over a quarter of people also mentioned having better CCTV, and nearly a fifth better street lighting (although there were some concerns about light pollution in rural

areas).

And development would also be more supported if it came with improvements to local road surfaces, as well as better maintained footpaths and pavements for active travel.

Type and location of housing

The survey results show that a big part of the solution might be found in the type of housing that we build, and where we put it.

When asked where new housing should ideally be situated, only 2% of respondents thought building in rural areas was a good idea. That likely reflects both of the issues above - namely that it's away from local services and undermines the county's rural characteristics.

By far and away the most popular options were to spread development evenly around the borough, and place in existing urban areas through increased housing density. There was also huge support for using brownfield sites where possible, and regenerating run-down areas – a policy which won't answer all our needs but could make a very useful dent in the overall figures.

When asked what type of housing would be most preferred, there was lots of support for both first and social housing, demonstrating a thread running through a large number of the responses. While older generations worried about development's impact on the environment and local services, they also often wrote about their concern for young people unable to get on the ladder – especially local families.

The opportunity for retirement housing

Nearly 1 in 8 of all homeowners surveyed said they were actively looking to downsize but there weren't enough properties available. Hundreds of people requested a combination of solo living spaces, bungalows, and retirement communities – allowing them to live with company nearby, and easy access to care and local services.

Delivering these homes would help them and free up family homes which would then no longer need to be built – and perhaps give a local family the chance to buy a home in the area.

Alongside a lack of these properties, many also cited the high cost of moving putting them off. I expect this refers to both the moving costs themselves, but also the tax implications – namely SDLT and the Residence Nil Rate Band for Inheritance Tax.

Notes

Summary of 2,172 survey responses from residents of Faversham, Bearsted, Hollingbourne, and Swale East county division – distributed in spring 2023.

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability
Susan Burch 01622 850381

Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am
Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm

Pilates
Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639

Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 11.30 – 2.00pm

Short Mat Bowls
Chris Wheal 01622 850100

Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm

Dance Fit
Sharon Harris 01622 890170

Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm

Craft Group
Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10am -12.00pm

Art Class
Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club
Kathy 07789 831397

First Tuesday of the month 7.30pm

CHILSTON PARK

HOTEL
LENHAM, KENT

We are delighted to welcome you to Chilston Park, where we invite you to reconnect, unwind, and make our house your home. All year round you will be spoilt for choice for things to do and see within the hotel. Not to mention the abundance of upcoming events we have

on offer right now:

Jazz Afternoon Tea

Garden Party

Wedding Open Day

Warhol in New York

Murder Mystery

Christmas Wreath Making

There is something about Chilston Park that gives the perfect wedding day a little extra sparkle. Hold your dream wedding ceremony in an elegant period room; this 17th-century manor house has plenty to explore. Surrounded by 77 acres of stunning Kent parkland, Chilston Park is tailor-made for memories. Enjoy photos in the grounds, dine beneath chandeliers and finish your wedding day in a romantic feature bed. Weddings simply could not be any more idyllic.

Contact our Events Team today on 01622 859 803 to secure your place or email us on chilstonpark@handpicked.co.uk

Carols, cocktails, feasts and fireworks. Take time to savour it all and be truly immersed in the magic of Christmas with a break at Chilston Park Hotel.

Join us this year for your festive dining, lunches, dinners, company Christmas parties, or maybe you would like to join us for two or three nights, arriving on Christmas Eve.

Kick start your Christmas spirit and join us for our annual wreath making workshop that we are delighted to be offering on numerous dates this year.

Make your own Christmas wreath for the season with help from our local florist.

Arrive to a glass of Prosecco before you begin working on your wreath. Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Have you ever dreamed of your perfect wedding surrounded by the sparkle and magic of Christmas? Contact our in house team of specialist wedding planners today to enquire into our late availability and offers. They will be able to help you create the most memorable day.



CHILSTON PARK

HOTEL
LENHAM, KENT

Throughout its history, Chilston Park Hotel has been home to eminent politicians, writers, lords and viscounts. Today, this award-winning 4 Red Star country house hotel in Kent is revered for its unique styling and historic antiques, some as old as the 17th-century manor house.

Dating back to at least 1100, Chilston Park has been home to a number of well-respected families, many of which left their own stamp on the property. You can find some of their portraits within the manor house. Today, Chilston Park hotel is regarded as one of the best luxury hotels in Kent and continues to leave guests feeling joyful and special.

A classic British country house hotel conveniently located in rural Kent, Chilston Park Hotel boasts an abundance of style and charm. Set back from tree-lined lanes, the manor house at Chilston Park sits within 77 acres of Kentish parkland, making it one of the region's most spectacular wedding venues.



This Grade I listed luxury hotel offers a wide variety of unique feature bedrooms, from Mews Classic double rooms to the Manor House Master Suites. Meanwhile, its award-winning two AA Rosette restaurant has helped to establish Chilston Park Hotel's status as the ideal setting for a countryside break, a romantic wedding or an inspiring meeting venue close to London.

Every part of this country house hotel in Maidstone is remarkable, from the grand staircase at the heart of the manor house to the original features in each of the bedrooms. The roaring log fire in the Marble Lounge is most inviting after a long walk in the surrounding countryside and offers the perfect spot for afternoon tea in Kent.

Chilston Park afternoon tea has gained an enviable reputation as an unmissable experience when staying in Kent. You can even book a dog-friendly break, should you wish to bring your canine companion along too.

Whether you are planning your first visit to Chilston Park Hotel or are one of our many returning guests, we encourage you to treat the house as your own. So, relax and enjoy these historic surroundings, allowing us to deliver the high standards of guest care we pride ourselves upon.

Grafty Gourmet

The key to making the perfect Quiche Lorraine is “simplicity”. As you can see from this recipe.

Simple Quiche Lorraine

For the pastry:-

175g of plain flour

100g of cold butter, cut into pieces

1 egg yolk

For the filling:-

200g pack of bacon lardons, unsmoked or smoked

50g of gruyère cheese

200ml carton of crème fraîche

200ml of double cream

3 eggs, well beaten

pinch ground nutmeg

1. For the pastry, put the plain flour, the cold butter, the egg yolk and 4 teaspoons of cold water into a food processor. Using the pulse button, process until the mix binds. Tip the pastry onto a lightly floured surface, gather into a smooth ball, then roll out as thinly as you can. Line a 23 x 2.5cm loose-bottomed, fluted flan tin, easing the pastry into the base. Trim the pastry edges with scissors (save any trimmings) so it sits slightly above the tin (if it shrinks, it shouldn't now go below the level of the tin). Press the pastry into the flutes, lightly prick the base with a fork, then chill for 10 minutes.
2. Put a baking sheet in the oven and heat oven to 200C (fan 180C). Line pastry case with foil, shiny side down, fill with dry beans and bake on the hot sheet for 15 minutes. Remove the foil and beans and bake for 4-5 mins more until the pastry is a pale golden colour. If you notice any small holes or cracks, patch up with pastry trimmings. You can make up to this point a day ahead.
3. While the pastry cooks, prepare the filling. Heat a small frying pan, tip in the lardons and fry for a couple of minutes. Drain off any liquid that comes out, then continue cooking until the lardons just start to colour, but aren't crisp. Remove and drain on paper towels.
4. Cut three quarters of the 50g gruyère into small dice pieces and finely grate the rest. Scatter the diced gruyère and fried lardons over the bottom of the pastry case. Using a spoon, beat the crème fraîche to slacken it then slowly beat in the double cream. Mix in the 3 well beaten eggs. Season (you shouldn't need much salt) and add a pinch of ground nutmeg. Pour the filling into the pastry case.
5. Lower the oven to 190C (fan 170C). Scatter the grated cheese over the top, then place the tin on the baking sheet back into the oven. Bake for about 25 minutes, or until golden and softly set (the centre should not feel too firm). Let the quiche settle for 4-5 mins, then remove from the tin. Serve freshly baked, although it's also good cold.

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Fisherman's Friends: One and All

Friday September 8th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 52 mins

Based on a true story, **Fisherman's Friends: One and All** (12, 2022) is a follow-up to the 2019 hit comedy, in which a group of Cornish fishermen find themselves unexpectedly sprung into the national limelight with their first album *No Hopers, Jokers and Rogues*. We meet up with the Friends again as their fame is still growing, cemented with an appearance on the pyramid stage at Glastonbury. But fame comes with a cost and the fishermen struggle as they aim for a second album to match the first. Will the bonds of friendship be enough to navigate the choppy waters into which they've been driven? Come along and enjoy the evening in their inimitable company. Directed by Meg Leonard and Nick Moorcroft

Fisherman's Friends: One and All concludes our summer programme – but just wait until you hear what we have in store for October onwards in our autumn and winter programme. We'll announce our new programme in full next month.

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

Admission: members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.



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Music Notes – Brian Hardy

Dear readers, I have been producing Music Notes in various forms, for many years. Sadly, my health has deteriorated to an extent where I can no longer give the time needed for its production each month, so unless someone else takes over the task there will be no more such notes.

Thank you for the support and interest I have received from readers over the years. The invite to write further issues in my place is open!

God bless

Brian

Sutton Valence Group Practice Fete

Sunday 10th September 1-4pm
South Lane Surgery Garden, ME17 3BD

Craft stalls	Tombola	Tea	Cakes
Raffle	Ice cream	Produce	and much more

Also: Children's Talent Show:

4-8 yr. olds 9-12 yr. olds free entry
(maximum of 1 minute per performance please)

We look forward to seeing you.

Sutton Valence Group Practice PPG

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

1	Pretty _____, 1990 Movie with Julie Roberts
2	Deacon _____, Scottish band who sang 'Dignity'
3	_____ Faltskog, Singer with ABBA
4	David _____, Won the Premier League with Manchester United
5	_____ Pugh, Was the name of Ruth Madoc's character in Hi-Di-Hi
6	Hatton _____, London thoroughfare famous for the Diamond Trade
7	_____ Eye, Star of The Walking Dead
8	Rodney _____, Name shared by England Footballer & Aussie Cricketer
9	Quentin _____, Director of Pulp Fiction
10	The X _____, Talent Show

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Contest	Sleep	Spot	Beauty
2	Skinny	Sheep	Stick	
3	Shadow	Ride	Fly	
4	Sewing	Fruit	Gun	
5	Reading	Subject	Grey	
6	Maiden	Stage	Last	
7	Large	Ordinary	Special	
8	Early	Down	Words	
9	Episode	Whale	Light	
10	Works	Wool	Cold	
11	Reader	Sound	Fool	
12	Menu	Twin	Sun	
13	Brown	Cube	Cane	
14	Whistle	Glass	Mind	
15	Hand	Small	Second	
16	Curtain	Fund	Fire	

Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2023

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

On Tuesday September 5th we are holding our Autumn Show, exhibits can be set up from 6.30 pm before the meeting so we can concentrate on our speaker Victoria Holding who will give a talk on Marden Meadows.

On September 8th 9th & 10th a number of us will set off for our weekend away in Dorset staying in Weymouth and visiting four gardens. The coach will leave the village green at 9.00 prompt and be picking up at the Hilton Hotel (now the Orida) at 9.30.

Also in September on Sunday 3rd is the village fete and our club will be running a stall 'All Things Gardening'. Contributions related to the theme can be bought along on the day, no food this year but seeds, plants craft items etc. will be gratefully received on the day. The fete begins at 12.00 and finishes at 4pm. Do come and bring a friend.

In our gardens: - work can begin on our lawns by removing thatch. Be sure that moss is dead before doing this as raking live moss will help it to spread. Following this the lawn can be aerated and a top dressing applied. Now is the time to plant new strawberry plants, Autumn onion sets and sow Spring cabbages, Spring flowering bulbs and the like.

Carole Frost, Co-Secretary, Grafty Green Gardening Club

Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

New Term - Mondays 9.30 to 11 - 4th September

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30 - 6th September

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11 - 7th September.

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07803 962339



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Sue's Nature Notes

The following was seen at Samphire Hoe where the spoil from building the channel tunnel was deposited:

Samphire Hoe

Here, the earth is inside out
drilled from the belly of the English Channel
and carted here in miserable truckloads,
tons and tons of it, bulldozed and left for dead.

But beneath chalk marl's unpromising
grey nudity, the tick of life recovers.
A gull preens a single seed out of a feather.
Spores alight from the long haul of a gale.

Things grow. Leaves sprout, and the first flowers
burst in the air like astonishment.

It's a fierce soil they grow in, these pioneers,
but their roots fix nitrogen into its teeth, and tame it.
Slowly, slowly, but faster than you would imagine,
the land heals like a bruise,
colouring differently season by season,
and dresses itself, under the glare of the weather.

Now, it is rich. Sea beet, samphire, kidney vetch,
and the early spider orchid, supposedly only found
in ancient fields. It's all a lie. Here's the proof
Nature, like Love, celebrates the new.

My love. My love, be what you are inside,
Pull your substance, rough as it is from your dark heart
And spread it out under the sun.
Let people see. Let rain fall and know miracles come.

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Christian Message September 2023

This year we have had 3 more grandchildren added to our family – there are now 8 little ones amongst us. This is pure delight.

For me, to hold a newborn child is massively humbling as we wonder at the incredulity of their arrival, their very existence; wonder at who they shall become and give thanks for the life in which we share, the continuity of humankind to which they allude. Sometimes we describe these really little ones as ‘bundles of joy’, and when they are newly wrapped, freshly swaddled in breathable blankets, light as a feather, they are exactly that – joy!

The Native American Indian tribes held a precious, travelling gift in their midst – they called it their ‘Sacred Bundle’. The sacred bundle was a piece of hide, animal skin, that swaddled ancient and meaningful objects to the tribe. The hide was held secure by thongs of leather and the objects only revealed at particular times of festivity, of ritual, specific life events and occasions of deep concern for the tribe. The contents of the Sacred Bundle informed them of their past history, their culture, their purpose and their vision. Hidden and secure amongst the objects would be the tribe narrative and the elders would be the ones to hold that story like holding a compass – so that in times of disorientation or distress they could know their true direction because of these past reminders. In times of festivity and celebration they could direct their gratitude appropriately and joyously towards their backstory and their deeply ingrained identity that would lead them forward. The Sacred Bundles went wherever they went: their identity, origins, hopes and beliefs all wrapped, tied up together in one visual and symbolic collective.

What if each of us is a Sacred Bundle ourselves?

Tied up and held as we are with our past, our histories, our kinship, our experiences – born, as I believe we are, with hope and purpose firmly planted within our being. Hope that waxes and wanes at varying times in our lives we know, we experience that, but hope that somehow or other never entirely fades. Even in the most distressing or bewildering times, we still hope, if only we hope for change. Or we hope for freedom from pain or tumult. Glimmers of hope exist even when a human soul descends to the depths – hope is holding and forming around them, even then.

Life’s richness is made known in the shared experience of joys and highs, sorrows and delights – life’s sacred, holy aspects brought to birth among us as we live out our life’s call. Jesus words *I have come that you shall have life and have it in abundance or in fullness* alludes not to some heavenly impossible perfection but to the rich experience of being human and the sacredness of all life. Those stories we gather along the way.

Every blessing be yours,
Rev Lorraine Apps – Huggins
Lead Chaplain. <https://the-living-well.org.uk/>

Len Valley Benefice September 2023

Everybody is welcome



Sunday 3rd September

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

11.00am Harrietsham: Family
friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

Wednesday 6th September

9.30am Lenham: Holy
Communion (BCP)

Sunday 10th September

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy
Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe:
Choral Evensong

Sunday 17th September

8.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy
Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

11.00am Lenham: Morning
Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

Sunday 24th September

**10.30am Benefice Holy
Communion at All Saints,
Ulcombe**

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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Contest	Sleep	Spot	Beauy
2	Skinny	Sheep	Stick	Dip
3	Shadow	Ride	Fly	Over
4	Sewing	Fruit	Gun	Machine
5	Reading	Subject	Grey	Matter
6	Maiden	Stage	Last	Name
7	Large	Ordinary	Special	Extra
8	Early	Down	Words	Closing
9	Episode	Whale	Light	Pilot
10	Works	Wool	Cold	Steel
11	Reader	Sound	Fool	Proof
12	Menu	Twin	Sun	Set
13	Brown	Cube	Cane	Sugar
14	Whistle	Glass	Mind	Blowing
15	Hand	Small	Second	Holding
16	Curtain	Fund	Fire	Raiser

	Find the missing word?
1	Pretty Women , 1990 Movie with Julie Roberts
2	Deacon Blue , Scottish band who sang 'Dignity'
3	Agnetha Faltskog , Singer with ABBA
4	David Beckham , Won the Premier League with Manchester United
5	Gladys Pugh , Was the name of Ruth Madoc's character in 'Hi-Di-Hi'
6	Hatton Garden , London thoroughfare famous for the Diamond Trade
7	Trevor Eye , Star of The Walking Dead
8	Rodney Marsh , Name shared by England Footballer & Aussie Cricketer
9	Quentin Tarantino , Director of Pulp Fiction
10	The X Factor , Talent Show

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