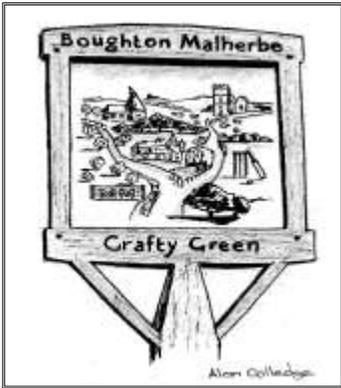


Malherbe Monthly

Number 161
December 2017



An important announcement from Boughton Malherbe Parish Council is reproduced in the middle 2 pages of this magazine

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 Shellina Prendergast shellinaprendergast@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07818 048234
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
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	858195
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	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday at approx. 12.30pm 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: Picture (courtesy of John Collins) taken at the Craft Fair held in the Village hall on Sunday 26th November. Other pictures of the fair by John on page 9

News from St. Nicholas Church

Weekly Morning Prayers continue at St. Nicholas at 9.30am on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays and at All Saints, Ulcombe on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Bible Study Group meets at Weirton Villa, Grafty Green on Thursdays, 10.30am to 12noon. Contact Joan Drury on 01622 853766 for more details.

Christmas Coffee Morning will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th December, 10am to 12noon, with a Bring and Buy, crafts and cakes in aid of the work of Tearfund. See in the magazine for more information on their work and how we have been supporting them over the last few years.

Carol Service at St. Nicholas will be on Sunday 17th December at 3pm. Do join in this uplifting Christmas Service, telling the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Experience again the Bible readings, music and carols in the beautiful setting of your Church.

Let us enjoy meeting together over mulled wine and mince pies.

Thursday 14th December, Christmas service in St. John's Church, Harrietsham

This Christmas celebration especially welcomes those with learning difficulties, their carers and friends and all in the benefice who enjoy a fun and relaxed time, with carols, stories and refreshments.

Crib Service on Christmas Eve. On 24th December there will only be one Service on this Sunday, at 3pm at St. Nicholas. This is a wonderful start to the excitement of Christmas as we welcome the arrival of the baby Jesus, as he is placed in the crib in the stable tableau during the Service, with the Christmas tree and candles adding to the very special atmosphere.

Christmas Day Service will be at 10am

Benefice Service will be St. Nicholas at 10am on 31st December

At this time of year we remember especially and pray for all those who are unwell, sad or lonely and missing family and friends. **We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas!**

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**Ken and Eve Sweet
extend a warm welcome to
The Kings Head
Grafty Green**

**A
16th Century
Coaching Inn
haunted by
"Dover Bill" -
the Highwayman!**



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

**Booking Advisable
01622 850259**

Children's Room Beer Garden

Yoga Classes In Grafty Green Village Hall:-

*Feel more energetic and flexible, reducing stress levels
Yoga is suitable for all ages, men and women. Beginners welcome. Classes
begin with a warm up, some exquisite stretches and finish with a fabulous
relaxation.*

My schedule as follows:-

**Saturday 9th December at 10 till 11.30 – all welcome to join us.
Final Yoga classes on the 13th and 14th December and new term will start
10th and 11th January.**

Wishing all my yogis and yoginis a most peaceful and happy Christmas.

For more information call me on 850381
Unwind, relax but yet energise – the magic of yoga!

Susan Burch

High Speed Broadband

It may of interest to the residents of Grafty Green that Fibre Optic Broadband is now available in the village. The newly installed green BT cabinet in Headcorn Road went live on Thursday 23rd November and is now available to order from your preferred telecom provider.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Meetings will take place at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall on the following dates:
15th January 2018, 12th March 2018

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 - Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Grafty Gourmet

It's that time of year again and this very simple recipe makes a great starter for any Christmas Dinner. Happy Christmas

Smoked Salmon Rolls with Cream Cheese & Prawns

340g of smoked salmon

200g of cream cheese

200g of cooked prawns, chopped

A large handful of chopped dill

2 lemons, 1 zested and juiced, 1 cut into wedges to serve

1 x 60g bag rocket (to serve)

1. Place a piece of cling film on a work surface and layer the smoked salmon pieces on top to form a 30 x 27cm (12 x 11inch) rectangle. Make sure there are no gaps showing in the salmon layers.

2. In a bowl, stir the cream cheese until softened. Add the prawns, half the dill, lemon zest, half the lemon juice and a good grind of black pepper. Stir everything together well and taste, adding more dill, lemon or pepper as you like.

3. Spoon the cream cheese mixture over the smoked salmon, leaving 2.5cm (1inch) uncovered along one longer edge. Roll up, using the cling film to help you, starting from the covered longer edge. Smooth the uncovered salmon edge over the roll to seal. Then wrap it tightly in the cling film, twisting the ends closed, and chill overnight in the fridge.

4. Slice the roll into 12 pieces 2.5cm (1inch) wide (leave the cling film on when doing this, as it will help to hold the pieces together). Put two pieces on each plate, carefully remove the cling film and garnish with the remaining dill. Serve with some rocket, the remaining lemon juice and a lemon wedge.

Boughton Malherbe

Parish Council

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Ron Galton, Vice Chair

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John Collins

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wjcollins@btinternet.com

(Finance, Planning)

Chris Hume, Parish Clerk

- Tel: 07972 630555`

boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com

**The famous
Pre-Christmas
Quiz Night**

**returns to
Grafty Green
Village Hall**

Saturday 2nd December

Doors open at 7.30

Quiz starts at 8.00

Tickets £8

(including ploughman's-style supper)

available from

**Grafty Green Post Office Stores
or phone Richard on 01622 844648**

Maximum 8 people per team

Grafty Green Gardening Club – Programme Of Events

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
Jan 10	AGM and Sarah Morgan	Alpines in landscape design
Feb7	Tim Ingrams	Hellebores
March 7	Nikki Gammans	Bumblebee Conservation
April 4	Alison Marsden - and Spring Show	Front gardens – making the most of your house
May 2	Steven Edney	Salutation Garden
May 6	Plant Sale 10am on the village green	
June 4	Sunday afternoon Garden Safari around our village	
June 9 -11	Weekend away Somerset, Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton,	
July 4	Boldshaves, Woodchurch	
August 1	Orangery at Mystole, Chartham CT4 7DB	
Sept 5	Tram Hatch	
Oct 3	Stephen Harmer	History of Sissinghurst Garden Autumn Show
Nov7	Fiona Wemyss	Blue Leaf Plants
Dec 2	Meal	

Christmas Meal - On Saturday December 2nd we have booked tables at the Mundy Bois (Rose & Crown) at Egerton. We will be collecting at the pub at 12.00 for a 12.30 sit down time.

AGM & Talk on Hedge Laying - The full details about our programme for 2018 will be available on January 9th. This will be our first meeting in the new year. On that evening we will hold a short AGM followed by a talk from Phil Piddle on hedge laying.

Tip of the Month - It is a good time to reduce overgrown hedges to a more manageable size. Cut back the sides until the hedge is no more than 45-60cm wide at the top, tapering it so the bottom is wider. This shaping will protect the hedge from damage by heavy snowfalls. Pay attention to dead foliage on herbaceous perennials, and generally weed and tidy borders. The sooner this is done, the less work there will be left in the busy spring period. Hedgehogs like a heap of leaves to winter in, so leave the odd pile in an undisturbed corner of the garden.

The Seasons Greeting to all of our members and friends, and once again thanks to all those who made our 20th Anniversary year so special.

**Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green
Gardening Club (01622) 757536**



**Some of the stalls at the
Grafty Craft Fair**

St Nicholas Church

**Paul Neaves
Aka
Pop's Pickles**



**Mandy Hitchins
Stained Glass**



Christmas Coffee Morning

10am-12 noon

Wednesday

13th December

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bring and Buy Raffle Crafts Cakes

All proceeds to support

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in it's work with those in need worldwide

A Gift Suggestion for Christmas, from the Boughton Malherbe History Society

If you are looking for ideas, why not give a copy of either or both of our Parish history books.

We still have copies available of:

BOUGHTON MALHERBE, A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
and

BOUGHTON MALHERBE, MORE JOURNEYS THROUGH TIME

The price is still £15 per copy, and if you would like to purchase any, they are on sale at the village shop.

Thank you, and a Happy Christmas to everyone.

Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 6th November 2017, 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall

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

In attendance: Shellina Prendergast

Cllr Turner opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it: No declarations made.
2. **Apologies** – none received
3. **Declarations:**
Any lobbying - none
Any interest in items on the Agenda - none
Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests – none
4. **Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September 2017 were approved.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - **Grit Bin at Boughton Hill** – it was resolved to await a decision from KCC regarding our application for a Grit Bin before purchasing one directly
 - **Traffic Survey** – it was resolved to await the outcome of the forthcoming meetings with Platts Heath and KCC Highways before deciding whether to commission a study or other action
 - **Community Asset** – subject to amendments it was agreed to submit the application to MBC. Cllr Galton to provide Land Registry plans. Cllr Collins to confirm ownership of the site
 - **Deposit Account** – it was agreed to open a Cambridge and Counties 31-day account and move £85,000 into the account once open. Clerk to add discussion regarding further accounts required to the next Finance Committee
6. **Public session** – No-one in attendance
7. **Planning Outcomes** – Noted that the Ledgers Cottage application had been approved with amendments
8. **KCC/MBC Reports**
Shellina Prendergast updated the meeting with regard to: (i) the Local Plan (ii) proposed relief road (iii) The Meadows site (iv) HGV Traffic . Cllr Allum to provide details of the Platts Heath meeting to Shellina. Shellina urged councillors to lobby Helen Whately with regard to Gypsy and Traveller sites
9. **8.1 Local Policing/community** – Cllr Turner reported back from the recent Police/Parish/Neighbourhood Watch Meeting. Clerk to circulate minutes. The Clerk circulated recent

crime reports from the e-watch website which councillors found helpful.

8.2 Community Warden Report – No report

8.3 KFRS – No report

8.4 Speedwatch – No report

10. Highway and Footway Matters

10.1 Liverton Hill – agreed to await outcome of meeting with KCC Highways before considering further action

10.2 Ditches, gullies, pot holes – agreed to await discussion with KCC Highways before considering further action

10.3 HGV Signage – agreed to await outcome of meetings with KCC Highways and Platts Heath before considering further action

10.4 59 Bus – Cllr Collins updated the meeting with regard to discussions with KCC regarding subsidies and the KALC Community Transport event

11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

Cllrs Turner and Galton provided feedback from KALC Maidstone Committee. Cllr Galton provided feedback from the KALC Planning workshop

12. Finance

12.1 Note the Balance at the Bank - £27,642.48 Nat West
£500.00 Santander

12.2 Income since the last meeting – PSS second instalment £499.50, Quinn Estates Donation £100,000

12.3 Bank Reconciliation – approved and signed for position at 5th October 2017

12.4 Any cheques to sign – signed two cheques to KALC for £72

12.5 Authorisation of any payments since last meeting – noted

12.6 Street Plans – Resolved that the Clerk may purchase a street plan and requested that the Clerk prepare a list of anticipated expenditure

12.7 Santander Account – agreed to close this account and move the funds to the Nat West account

13. Land at the Meadows – it was resolved, in principle, that we will contribute to the cost of a Barrister with neighbouring Parishes subject to further information about cost and quality

14. Donation from Quinn Estates – it was resolved that Councillor Galton will draft an article for the December issue of Malherbe Monthly informing residents about the donation and seeking suggestions for the use of the donation

15. Post Office Sign – noted interest in placing a sign on the village green which will be supported subject to proposals coming forward and not attached to the village sign. Cllr Galton proposed a method of providing a post behind the Notice Board to which the sign could be fixed and this was agreed subject to comment on final details.

16. Asset Register – several amendments were made to the register. Cllr Collins will clarify whether the register should show purchase price or value of assets. Clerk to review previous ledgers for cost of village sign and notice board.

17. Finance Committee Terms of Reference – Agreed various changes to the terms of reference. Clerk to review all terms of reference for standardisation and bring back to next Parish Council for approval. Standing Orders to be amended to refer to “three clear working days” notice of meetings

12. Correspondence – There was correspondence from: MBC, KALC and CPRE. This was noted

13. Further Information – noted correspondence from a resident regarding dangerous posts and agreed to convey information received from KCC Highways, but this is not a parish Council matter

The Meeting closed 9.43pm

Recycle Bin (not the one in your garden)

The **Recycle Bin** is used by Windows **computers** to store deleted items. It temporarily stores files and folders before they are permanently deleted.



3 Interesting facts you may not know about deleting documents.

Fact 1 - When you delete documents in an application (like Word) they are not actually removed from your computer. They go into the Recycle Bin.

Fact 2 - Deleted items can be restored back to their original location. To do this:

- 1) Open the Recycle Bin located on the desktop, this will list all the items you have deleted (unless you have emptied the Recycle Bin, see fact 3).
- 2) Locate the file or folder you want to restore.
- 3) Select the item, then click on Restore.



Fact 3 – Removing the items from the Recycle Bin will permanently delete them. The quickest way to do this is to right-click on the icon on the desktop, in the menu you will see the option “Empty Recycle Bin”. There will be a prompt to check that you are aware that you are permanently removing files.

Alternatively, you can do this when you open the Recycle Bin, there is an option to “Empty Recycle Bin”.



Notes:

1. You can set your Recycle Bin to “Remove files immediately if deleted”. See settings in Recycle Bin properties. **Beware** this will mean that you will not be able to restore files yourself. They can be recovered by an IT expert, but that may cost you.
2. This does not include emails. To remove emails permanently, you need to delete them from the “Deleted Items” or “Trash” folder in your email application.



If you need any help, please visit the Egerton Telecottage on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon <http://www.egerton-kent.co.uk/telecottage>. Advice is free and there is always someone there to help you. If you would like any topics covered in this magazine please email me at carolhulm@gmail.com

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):

- **Saturday 9th, 7.30pm** at All Saints' Church, Maidstone (ME15 6YE), Maidstone Choral Union starts the Advent and Christmas music season with a concert that includes Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio and Carols for audience. Tickets 01622 726193.
- **Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th December 7.30pm for 7.45** at St. Martin's Church, Northumberland Rd., Shepway, ME15 7LP, the Maidstone Singers hold their Christmas Celebration. Tickets 01622 630016.
- **Saturday 16th December 7.30pm** at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Button Lane, Bearsted (MJE15 8NJ), Bearsted Choral Society celebrate "Christmas in Bearsted" with audience participation. Tickets 01634 666730
- **Sunday 17th December 3.30pm** at Mote Hall, Maidstone - join Maidstone Wind Symphony for a live performance of the soundtrack to The Snowman to accompany a screening of the film, with 2016 BBC Young Chorister of the Year Edward Hyde. This family-friendly concert also features music from Polar Express and Home Alone Christmas, plus festive favourites. Information tel 01622 366500

My TV selection can only be Carols from Kings. BBC 2 on Christmas Eve (time tbc). It will also be on radio 4 at 3.00pm on Christmas eve and radio 3 at 2.00pm on Christmas day

Brian Hardy



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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Boughton Malherbe Parish Council is pleased to announce receipt of a donation from Quinn Estates Ltd in the sum of **£100,000**.

Quinn Estates Ltd is the developer of the Grafty Green Garden Centre Redevelopment site.

This donation is the sum of money initially set aside by Quinn Estates Ltd as part of its contribution towards what is known as a Section 106 Agreement with Maidstone Borough Council that would take effect if planning permission was granted for the development.

The original intent was for up to £50,000 to be contributed towards bringing fibre optic broadband to Grafty Green, and another £50,000 to the Parish Council for the benefit of the Parish.

It transpired that Openreach were planning to bring us Broadband for use by late 2017, and Quinn Estates Ltd did not need to contribute to this cost.

Therefore, it was agreed that we would have a separate agreement for the money to come directly to the Parish if planning permission was granted. As you may all know, planning permission was granted by Maidstone Borough Council.

Our wish is to consult with all parishioners and this is your opportunity to contribute.

We would like to receive your suggestions as to how we could best use the money to benefit the Parish. Please convey them to us by any of the following means before the **8th January 2018**:

Email: boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

OR:

By cutting off the bottom of the page opposite, filling it in, and either leaving it in the village shop or handing it to any Parish councillor.

OR:

By post to Chris Hume, Clerk to BMPC, 18 St Lukes Avenue, Maidstone, ME14 5AN

We look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Please note that for many suggestions we will be dependant on others to help bring them to fruition, and this may not always be possible. Thank you for your co-operation, and we look forward to hearing from you

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council.



WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE GRAFTY GARDEN CENTRE SITE

Cut along line -----

Name

Address

Tel No

Email

My suggestions for use of the £100,000 donation to the Parish in part or whole are:

If this space is inadequate, please continue on another sheet and attach it.

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Eclipse	Grand	Tee	Total
2	Chairs	Comedy	Instrument	
3	Word	Fire	Bow	
4	Dental	Plastic	Tree	
5	Timing	Step	Tone	
6	Cutting	Knife	Ways	
7	Pigeon	Toad	Bar	
8	Train	Story	Town	
9	Interview	Beater	Control	
10	Street	Salad	Sea	
11	Group	Team	Vice	
12	Heart	Purse	Arrow	
13	Organiser	Happy	Track	
14	Collector	Lottery	Season	
15	Licence	Spring	Slate	
16	Wave	Knee	Full	

Find the missing word?	
1	A.A _____, Writer who created 'Winnie the Pooh'
2	_____ Katy did, Classic children's fiction work by Susan Coolidge
3	Victor _____, Author of 'Les Miserables'
4	_____ Grahame, Writer of 'The Wind in the Willows'
5	Basic _____, Thriller with Sharon Stone
6	_____ Bunny, What's Up Doc
7	Jean _____, Best known for portrayal of Miss Marple
8	_____ Rue, 1960's drag entertainer
9	Kiri _____, New Zealand opera star
10	_____ Stardust and Aladdin Sane, alto-ego of Davis Bowie

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- or click

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TO REPORT: Litter; fly tipping; abandoned vehicles; dog mess;
noise:

- Call **01622 602202** (Environmental Issues MBC)

or click

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/report>

TO REPORT non-domestic Water Leaks:

- Call **0333 000 0002**

or click: <http://www.midkentwater.co.uk>

TO REPORT: Overgrown Footpaths click on:

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Temporary Road Closure – Lenham Road, Headcorn – from 11 December 2017 for up to 2 days

The road will be closed between Crumps Lane and Eastwood Road.

The alternative route is via Ulcombe Road, Crumps Lane, Headcorn Road, The Street, Ulcombe Hill, Liverton Hill and vice versa.

The closure is to enable works on an overhead structure to be carried out by BT Openreach.

Temporary Road Closure – Ulcombe Road, Headcorn – from 8 January 2018 for up to 5 days

The road will be closed outside “Oakhurst Farm”.

The alternative route is via Lenham Road, Eastwood Road, Headcorn Road and vice versa.

The closure is to enable a new electric connection to be carried out by UK Power Networks.

Urgent Road Closure - Eastwood Road, Ulcombe - 9 December 2017

It will be necessary to close Eastwood Road, Ulcombe from 9 December 2017.

It is likely the road will be closed for up to 2 Days.

The road will be closed at Eastwood Road, Ulcombe.

The alternative route is via Headcorn Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill and leading onto The Street.

This is to enable urgent remedial reinstatement works to be carried out by South East Water.

News from Helen Whately - Your MP

There's a rather odd mood in Parliament at the moment, but I'm getting on with the job and not letting that distract me. This autumn we've had good news on school funding and longer trains and challenging announcements on housing. It's been a busy time for me with lots going on locally, and new responsibilities nationally as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Justine Greening, Secretary of State of Education.

Ever since I was elected I've spoken out against development at Junction 8 and pushed for new housing to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. I have done everything I can to make the voice of local people heard in the planning process. I wrote to the Secretary of State for planning, Sajid Javid, before the plan was approved and asked him to look into it. This was my last chance to have a say and I'm glad I took it.

Mr Javid decided not to call in the Local Plan and it has now been approved. I am disappointed that he has not intervened to prevent development at Junction 8, but I remain adamant that any future building here must be at a size and design that will not harm Leeds Castle.

A few days after I wrote to him, Mr Javid announced changes to the way local authorities must calculate housing need. For Maidstone these changes could mean an increase from 883 to 1,236 more houses a year. I spoke to him immediately after he made this announcement to share my concern about the consequences of growth without the accompanying infrastructure needed.

The housing targets for Maidstone are already high and the local roads network is under enormous pressure, with congestion becoming the norm rather than the exception. Thousands more houses will see more cars on the road, more children needing places in school and more GPs and health facilities required to meet the vast increase in population.

We do desperately need affordable homes for the next generation. But new housing must be in the right places and accompanied by appropriate investment in infrastructure. One thing we need to seriously consider is whether we need a relief road south of Maidstone. Hundreds of people attended a recent public meeting to express their strong views on this subject, with the vast majority in support of a new road. While some people did raise concerns that a new road would bring more development or could be detrimental to Langley village, the general feeling was enough is enough.

People want action. That's what I've been hearing over the last two years as MP here. That's why I've frequently asked KCC what progress it's making and pushed MBC not to include new developments in the Local Plan unless it sorts out the roads at the same time. I welcome news that KCC is pushing ahead with detailed work on

feasibility, impact and possible routes, which will lead to a consultation within the next 12 months.

There have clearly been disagreements between our local authorities, which have not helped progress. This can't continue. So Helen Grant and I have decided to host a meeting to work through the disagreements and make progress. This relief road has been talked about for decades, it's time for the talking to stop and the action to start.

Speaking of investment, I was delighted when Education Secretary Justine Greening announced £1.3 billion for schools. Local schools are getting a 6.4% funding boost – that's a total of £2.7 million more than they would have received under the old funding system. Every secondary school will receive at least £4,600 per pupil next year and £4,800 in 2019-20. High-needs funding for the most vulnerable children is also going up, and there's extra support for rural schools.

It will be up to Kent County Council to decide how much each school will get, but indicative figures published by the Department for Education show that Valley Park, for example, could be getting 7% more funding.

Finally some good news on trains. Smart ticketing will be rolled out across the network next year, bringing an end to annoying paper tickets and queuing at machines. And 68 extra carriages are being added to the busiest routes on the Southeastern network. Passengers on the Maidstone East line will get more modern air-conditioned carriages and some peak-time services will double in length, meaning more comfortable journeys.

As ever, if you have any concerns you would like to raise with me, a problem you'd like my help with, or anything you'd just like me to know about, please do contact me at the House of Commons or on helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Christmas trees 2017: a message from Revd John Huggins

Alison and Peter Howard, Nash's Farmhouse, run a scheme where you donate money for a Christmas tree of your choice and half the money comes back to charity, and half to your local church. Last year they raised a magnificent £11,460 (250 trees) for churches and charity. This year there will be available a reasonable number of the traditional Norwegian spruce, and the softer, slimmer blue tinge Serbian spruce. Please contact them for a tree from 4th November. This is a great chance for you to raise funds for your parish church and some deserving charities at the same time. You need to phone or email them to fix a time and date, preferably at weekends, to select prior to collection nearer Christmas. The trees stay in the ground until collected so they stay fresher for longer.

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Christmas Market

Ulcombe Church

Saturday 2 December



2.30 pm

Craft stalls, food and cake stalls,
Christmas food, sausages, beer,
wine, raffle for hamper, quiz,
tombola, children's games



The Faversham Waites
Boughton Monchelsea Community Choir

If you would like to have a stall please
contact Molly on 01622 842988

Christian Message December 2017

I greatly admire somebody called Paul Kirby. He used to be the head Hospital Chaplain for the East Kent Trust. When he retired he was threatening to write a book called, "B*g**r off, I'm not religious!", reflecting the comment he often heard from patients when he approached them in hospital, slightly exaggerated, I suspect. (He doesn't seem to have written it yet, so don't add it to your Christmas present list...) But, as the Russian-American songwriter, Regina Spektor, says in one of her songs, "Nobody laughs at God in a hospital".

Since arriving in Len Valley, I've already had two very friendly people wish me well and add, "But I'm not religious". Well if religion is about nasty rules and a disapproving God, I'm not religious either.

But if spirituality is about knowing meaning in life, living life abundantly in its ups as well as its downs, joining communities with a God called, "Love" who loves the outcasts in society, and finding peace when all around is in turmoil, then I'm all for spirituality.

Using these words, church is about being spiritual, not religious. Christmas time is a perfect time to find a church and try it for yourself to find out.

Each of us needs to decide how we're going to approach this big festival. Is it going to be tinsel and lights and used-up credit cards? Or else: do we stare into the face of a baby born over 2,000 years ago and, in the wonder of the Christmas services, find the most awesome gift of all, the person about whom his mother said, "He has *filled* the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty"? Church is about being *filled* with good things! Come and join in- we'll miss you if you don't!

John P. Huggins (01622 850280)



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Coffee Morning – with a difference

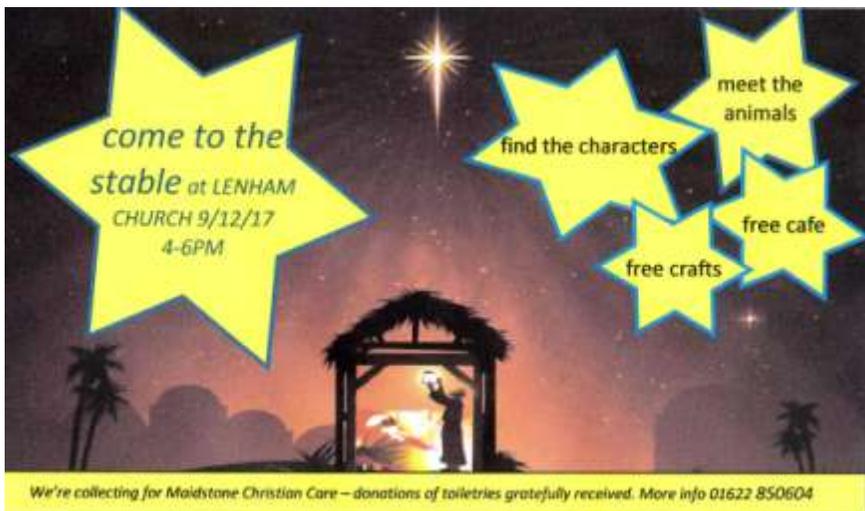
For several years monthly coffee mornings have been held in Grafty Green village hall. Cakes and coffee have been offered free and any donations have been given to a Tearfund project to provide water and sanitation in rural Zambia. But what is Tearfund? It is an organisation which was founded in 1968 to help the poor in many countries. Since then these needs have grown alarmingly.

This Christmas we have decided to ask readers of the Malherbe Monthly to a special coffee morning to raise funds for the work of Tearfund whose projects are countless. Where there is a natural disaster they are there. A current example of this is flooding in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Where there are refugees there is Tearfund. Myanmar is an example. Where there is fighting there is Tearfund. Young people grow up seeing people killed all around them. *16 year old Josephine saw many in her community in South Sudan killed. With her grandmother, 3 sisters and 4 brothers she escaped death by walking barefoot for 400km. She is now in Konyo Konyo camp which is home to about 2000 families who are surviving on food distributions from a Tearfund partner. 'It's the only help we have,' says Josephine. 'We thank God for the food distributions.'*

This Christmas let's help Tearfund to help those who lack the basic necessities of life.

Hoping to see you in the village hall between 10am and noon on Wednesday December 13th.

Sally Alexander & Joan Drury



The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – December 2017

Sunday 3rd December

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service
9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
11.00 am Ulcombe: Family Worship
11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion
3.30 pm Harrietsham: GIFT Family Christingle Service

Wednesday 6th December

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

Saturday 9th December

4.00pm Lenham: Messy Church
'Come to the stable'

Sunday 10th December

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

Thursday 14th December

7.00pm Harrietsham: Christmas Celebration
Those with learning disabilities, their carers, friends and families are especially welcome for fun and carols

Sunday 17th December

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service
9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion
3.00pm Boughton Malherbe: Candlelight Carol Service
5.30pm Lenham: Candlelight Carol Service
6.30pm Harrietsham: Candlelight Carol Service

Wednesday 20th December

10.30am Chippendayle Lodge
7.00pm Ulcombe: Carol Service

Christmas Eve: Sunday 24th December

9.30am Harrietsham: Family Crib Service
11.00am Ulcombe: Family Crib Service
11.00am Lenham: Family Crib Service
3.00pm Boughton Malherbe: Family Crib Service
11.15 pm Harrietsham: Midnight Communion
11.15 pm Lenham: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day: Monday 25th December

10.00 am Boughton Malherbe: Family Celebration with Holy Communion
10.00 am Ulcombe: Family Celebration with Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December

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

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire And Ambulance Emergencies	999
Police, Non Emergency - (Including PCSO	101

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** 'public access **defibrillator**' is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the **defibrillator**.

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 07979 864929 -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	111
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	0845 155 1000
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Headcorn Surgery	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery	01622 858341

Electricity (UK Power Networks)	
<i>Emergencies and Power Cuts</i>	0800 783 8866
	or 01243 508866

Water	<i>Emergencies</i>	0333 000 0002
Calor Gas	<i>Emergencies</i>	08457 444999
KCC	<i>Emergencies</i>	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

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

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

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

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
1	Eclipse	Grand	Tea
2	Chairs	Comedy	Instrument
3	Word	Fire	Bow
4	Dental	Plastic	Tree
5	Timing	Step	Tone
6	Cutting	Knife	Ways
7	Pigeon	Toad	Bar
8	Train	Story	Town
9	Interview	Beater	Control
10	Street	Salad	Sea
11	Group	Team	Vice
12	Heart	Purse	Arrow
13	Organiser	Happy	Track
14	Collector	Lottery	Season
15	License	Spring	State
16	Wave	Knee	Full

Find the missing word?	
1	A.A Milne, Writer who created 'Winnie the Pooh'
2	What Katy did, Classic children's fiction work by Susan Coolidge
3	Victor Hugo, Author of 'Les Misérables'
4	Kenneth Grahame, Writer of 'The Wind in the Willows'
5	Basic Instinct, Thriller with Sharon Stone
6	Bugs Bunny, Whimsy Lip Doc
7	Jean Hickson, Best known for portrayal of Miss Marple
8	Danny La Rue, 1960's drag entertainer
9	Kiri Te Kanawa, New Zealand opera star
10	Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane, also-ego of David Bowie

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