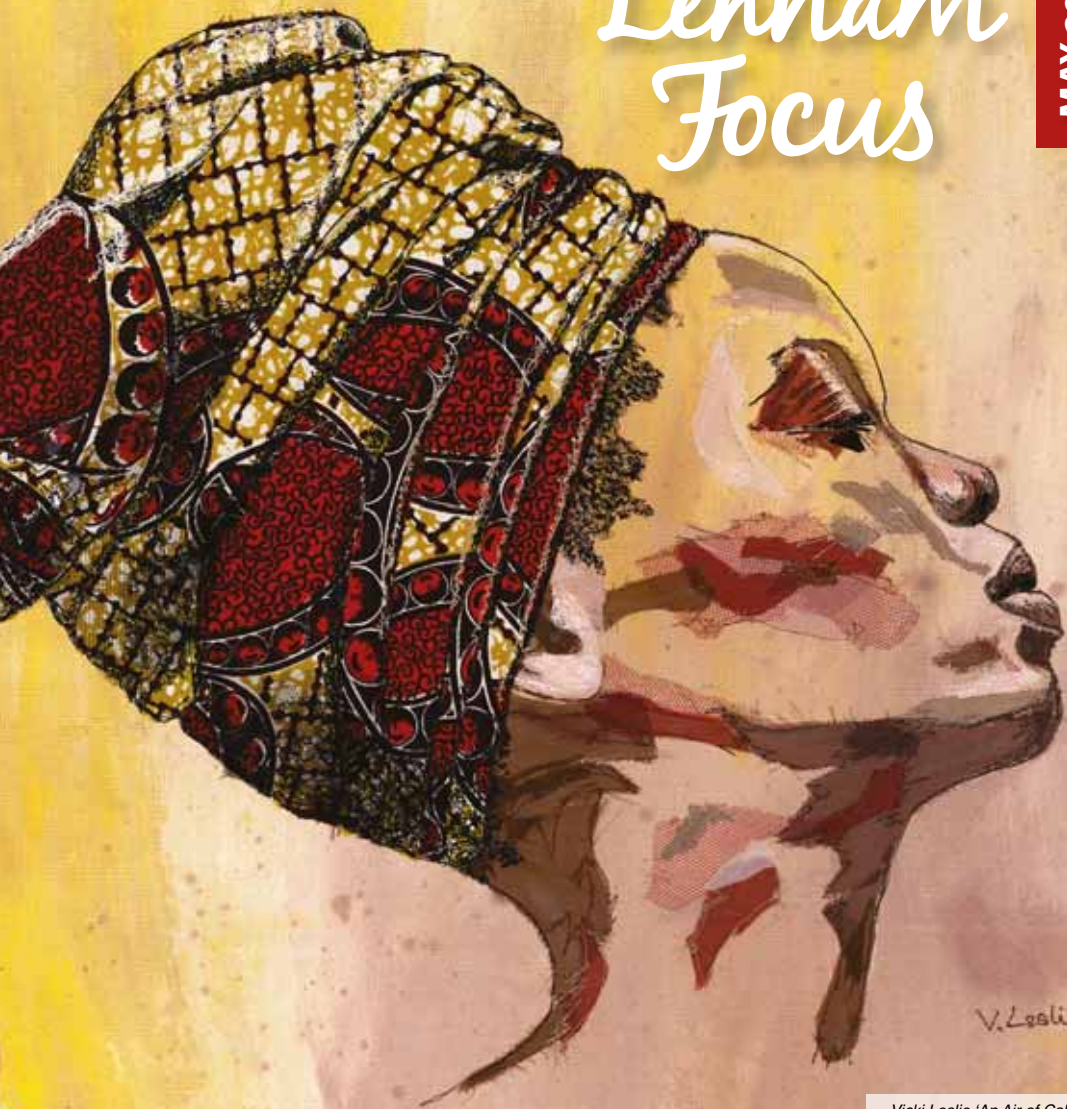


The Lenham Focus

MAY 2026 issue



Vicki Leslie 'An Air of Calm'

The Dirty Habit re-opens *p4-5*
Indoor Boot Fair *p13*
Pilgrims Way Artists exhibition *p14-15*

Progress at 'Marley' works *p31*
New GPs at Len Valley Practice *p37*
Changes at the Library *p73*

FOCUS is also online at
www.lenhamparish.org.uk
 (Click on 'Lenham Focus')

Editorial

Winner! In our March edition we offered free annual tickets for up to 2 adults and 2 children to the Historic Dockyard, Chatham. The winner of the free draw is **Lindsey Seddon**, a *FOCUS* reader from Sittingbourne. She's delighted and cannot wait to use her annual pass.

There's a lot going on in the village this month. Not least is the annual **Pilgrims Way Artists exhibition and crafts fair**, on from **15th to 25th May**, held in the lovely **Tithe Barn** in Lenham. Full details are inside, along with a 'taster' of some of the artwork on display. The front cover of this month's edition is an example of the impressive artwork you'll be able to see at the exhibition.

You will remember the devastating fire back in October 2022 that gutted the popular Dirty Habit pub/restaurant in Harrietsham.

Following extensive rebuilding work, the venue finally reopens this month and is ready for business from 5th May.

You're also invited to their '**grand re-opening**' event on **Saturday 9th May (11am-11pm)**. See inside for further information.

David Jackson | Editor

ADVANCE NOTICE: The Green Room Festival is back for its 4th year! Held in the **Tithe Barn, 28-30th August**. Includes the *James Taylor Quartet*, *London Community Gospel Choir*, *Alistair McGowan* and more!!! Book at: www.greenroomconcerts.com



Volume 33 Edition 5 (May 2026)

Circulation 2,300 to Lenham Village (plus shops, library, pubs etc.), Lenham Heath, Platts Heath, Sandway, West Street, Woodside Green, Warren Street and to various Harrietsham, Grafty Green and Boughton Malherbe outlets.

Copy Deadline:

By 1st of the preceding month to editorialsf@outlook.com or by phone/text on **07714 311008**. Photos of the village and local events are welcome.

Published by Lenham Focus

The Lenham *Focus* is published by Lenham *Focus*, a Company Limited by Guarantee, Reg No. 10870314.

Opinions expressed are those of the contributors, not the publishers; the publishers accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions; the publication of advertisements does not constitute an endorsement.

Authors of articles and advertisements are responsible for obtaining all necessary permissions. The *Focus* may forward comments or complaints directly to an author of any article and seek a response. Readers have the opportunity to a 'right of reply' in the *Focus* provided they are fully identified.

Advertising Rates and Sizes (H x W)

(approx including borders). PDF format (300dpi) preferred.

1/8 Page (45x61mm) <i>Landscape</i>	£13
1/4 Page (92x61mm) <i>Portrait</i>	£21
1/2 Page (92x123mm) <i>Landscape</i>	£38
Full Page (185x123mm) <i>Portrait</i>	£69
Special requests/inserted leaflets	POA

Editorial and Advertising: David Jackson
editorialsf@outlook.com or 07714 311008

Finance: Sue Summers
lenhamfocusinvoices@gmail.com

Proofing: Jayne Hewish

Special Interests: Danny Coorsh

Distribution: Jon Snapp 07971 249137

Designed & Printed by: fuzzmedia.co.uk

We welcome your input and comments please email me at editorialsf@outlook.com

WHAT'S ON

The Lenham Focus



Here's a quick look at the events around Lenham in the coming month. There may be more information inside.....

Got an event you'd like included next month? Send an email to the Editor.

- **Friday 8th May at 7pm:** *Lenham Film Club 'The Life of Chuck'*. **Venue:** Lenham Community Centre. **Cost:** Adults £5, under 16s £2.
- **Saturday 9th May at 8pm:** *Charity Race Night*. **Venue:** Lenham Social Club. **Cost:** £2 + £1 tote betting.
- **Saturday 9th May 11am-11pm:** *Grand reopening of the Dirty Habit, Harrietsham*. Food, drinks and live music. **Venue:** The Dirty Habit, Harrietsham. **Cost:** Free.
- **Saturday 9th May 11am-4pm:** *Indoor Boot Fair* (raising funds for the Community Centre). **Venue:** Lenham Community Centre. **Cost:** Entrance fee 50p. To book a stall contact bookings@lenhamcommunitycentre.org.uk
- **Every Friday during Spring and Summer:** *Westwell Winery pizza Fridays 4pm - 9pm*. **Venue:** Westwell Wine Estates, Charing. **Cost:** varies – check website.
- **Wednesday 13th May at 2pm:** *The Arts Society – 'The art of the cartoonist' by Harry Venning*. **Venue:** The Millennium Hall, Egerton. **Cost:** Free for members; £8 for guests.
- **Friday 15th May – Monday 25th May 10am – 5pm:** *Pilgrims Way Artists Summer Exhibition and Craft Fair*. **Venue:** The Tithe Barn, Lenham. **Cost:** £2 entry (children under 12 free).
- **Thursday 21 May:** *Plant Swap*. **Venue:** Charing Heath & Lenham Heath Memorial Hall. **Cost:** Free entry
- **Friday 22nd May – Sunday 24th May 10am – 5pm:** *Pilgrims Way Artists Craft Fair*. **Venue:** The Tithe Barn, Lenham. **Cost:** £2 entry (children under 12 free).
- **Saturday 23rd May – Monday 25th May:** *The Queen's Joust event*. **Venue:** Leeds Castle. **Cost:** Included in admission ticket.
- **Thursday 28th May at 7pm:** *'The Gunpowder Works at Faversham' Heritage talk*. **Venue:** Lenham Community Centre. **Cost:** Free for members; £5 guests.
- **Thursday 28th May at 8pm:** *Quiz Night*. **Venue:** Lenham Social Club. **Cost:** Free entry.
- **Saturday 30th May at 7pm:** *Bingo*. **Venue:** Lenham Social Club. **Cost:** Free entry.

Email the editor if you have an entry for next month's 'What's On' page...




After much anticipation, we're beyond thrilled to finally welcome you back to your favourite local!

Join us on Saturday 9th May from 11am – 11pm as we celebrate the grand re-opening of our much-loved pub. After the devastating fire in 2022, it's been a long journey to rebuild, restore, and reimagine this special place—but we're proud to say we're finally back up and running, and ready to open our doors once again.

We've lovingly restored this iconic spot to its former glory, carefully bringing back everything you know and love while adding a few fresh touches along the way. Whether you've been with us for years or are visiting for the first time, we can't wait for you to see it, feel it, and start making new memories here with us.

To celebrate, we're hosting a full day of great food, refreshing drinks, and live music in the warm, friendly atmosphere that's always been at the heart of our pub. It's more than just a reopening—it's a chance to bring the community back together, reconnect with familiar faces, and raise a glass to new beginnings.

 Dogs are very welcome in our bar and garden areas, so feel free to bring your four-legged friends along to join in the fun.

We're expecting the day to be very busy, so if you can, please share transport with friends and family. Parking will be available at Cardwell Pavilion on the day to help accommodate everyone.

Bookings are now OPEN for tables from 5th May onwards, so be sure to secure your spot if you're planning to visit during our opening week.

This pub has always been more than just a place to eat and drink—it's been a hub for the community, a place of laughter, stories, and shared moments. After everything we've been through since 2022, reopening our doors means the world to us, and we couldn't have done it without your support.

We're so excited to welcome you back. Let's make this a day—and a new chapter—to remember. See you there!

Book a table at [elitepubs.com](https://www.elitepubs.com)



'The Dirty Habit, Hollingbourne

& Nails
Newly Qualified Nail Technician
Working from home in Lenham

✦ TREATMENTS INCLUDE: ✦

- BIAB
- Gel Polish
- Classic Manicure
- Luxury Spa Manicure
- Classic Pedicure
- Luxury Spa Pedicure

Perfect for everyday elegance or special occasions ✦✦

📍 Home-based in Lenham | 📞 07949 790175

📌 @sc.nails27

AMBASSADOR
KENT AIRPORT TAXI SERVICE



YOUR 1ST CHOICE IN LENHAM VILLAGE

TRAVELLING ON HOLIDAY SOON?
GOING ON A CRUISE? TRAVELLING ABROAD?
WE SERVE ALL UK AIRPORTS / SEAPORTS /
DOCKS / CRUISES

LONDON PRIVATE HIRE / ALL SPORTING EVENTS
SALOON / ESTATE CARS OR 8 SEATER MINIBUSES
PAY BY CASH/CREDIT CARD OR BANK TRANSFER

www.ambassadorprivatehire.co.uk Email: m.barrie1@btinternet.com

**Special one-way prices to Gatwick £85; Heathrow £115; Stansted £120;
London City £90. All prices include Tolls, Tariffs and Drop offs.**

TEL 01622 734552 MOBILE 07901 521706 – Mark



**LENHAM
FILM CLUB**

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

The Life of Chuck

Friday MAY 8TH

**Performance begins 19.30,
doors open 19.00**

**Running time 1 hr 50 mins,
Director Mike Flanagan**

The Life of Chuck (15, 2025) is a life-affirming fantasy drama based on a Stephen King story about a seemingly ordinary man, Charles "Chuck" Krantz. Chuck's story is told in reverse, starting with his death and journeying back to his childhood. Through Chuck we explore all of life's emotions - love, loss and the richness of existence. Starring the excellent Tom Hiddleston, this is a gentle and gripping tale of a seemingly ordinary man's emotional progress through

the years. When did you last watch a life story running backwards? It's a winner, so don't miss this unusual and memorable film.

Another winner is our June performance, a comedy drama based on the true story of a local cinema in Wales. **Save the Cinema** has the feel-good factor and the co-operation of Steven Spielberg, so you can't miss this one either. Mark the date of Friday 12th June down right away!

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

Admission: Adults £5, under 16s £2;
cash only, card payments **not** accepted.



lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com



www.lenhamfilmclub.org



[@lenhamfilmclub](https://www.facebook.com/lenhamfilmclub)

K R S Building & Decorating Services

Internal and external decorating

All aspects of building work

from design to build

Kitchen and bathroom installations

Reliable service • Fully insured • Free estimates

Tel: 01622 851126 or 07801 544547



ICON ROOFING

Refurbishment & Repair Specialist

— A Family Run Business Established 1979 —

Fascias • Soffits & Guttering • Lead Work • Roof Cleaning • Small Repairs, Strip & Re-Tile • Moss Removal Felt Roofing & 3 Layer System Clear & Coloured Coatings

- Chimneys Moss Replant
- Kent Peg Clay Tiles

Ridges Repointed & Rebedded
Lead Work & Valleys

FREE ESTIMATES



IconRoofing27@gmail.com
07304 114603

Checkatrade.com

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME

at Morella Woods, Lenham



Discover Morella Woods - an elegant collection of beautifully crafted 1 to 5 bedroom homes, designed for every stage of life.

Set in the heart of Lenham, this charming development combines idyllic village living with modern comfort, offering the perfect balance of countryside tranquillity and contemporary design.

MORELLA WOODS

Off Old Ham Lane ME17 2LR

01622 534 491

SCAN ME



Photography, and imagery are intended for illustrative purposes. Terms and conditions also apply to Home Exchange, Smooth Move and Deposit Contribution schemes. Please speak to one of our sales consultants for more details. 03.26

**WE OFFER A
RANGE OF
OPTIONS TO
HELP YOU MOVE**

HOME EXCHANGE

We'll take the trouble out of moving - and could save you money along the way

SMOOTH MOVE

We could help sell your current home so you can buy one of ours with Smooth Move

DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

Make your move sooner with our Deposit Contribution offer - your dream home is closer than you think.



COUNTRYSIDE
Homes

AJ & NM CARR LTD

WISLEY



Thursday 28th May 2026

Join us on a day trip to RHS Wisley Gardens, the home to one of the largest plant collections in the world. Wander through the Cathedral-like glasshouse, follow the path through the world of plants with many being rare & endangered species. Feel the environment & climate change gradually as you tour through. An impressive waterfall adds to the subtropical feel. Explore the many areas of the beautiful gardens at your own pace. Visit the café or restaurants for lunch and refreshments.

£40 per person—Entrance & Coach travel

RHS Members—£25 coach travel only (RHS Pass needed)

Pick up points: 09.00 Carrs Pivington, 09.15 Dog & Bear Lenham, 09.30 The Rose Bearsted

BOOKING FORM— WISLEY— Thurs 28th May 2026

Name:..... Tel:

Address:.....
.....

Email:..... No. seats:.....@ £40 each

Pick up point:..... RHS Member: YES / NO

AJ & NM CARR LTD
Pivington Works, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent.TN27 0PG
01233 840651 office@carrscoaches.co.uk

Lenham Cricket Club

From Andy Lane (apdlane@gmail.com)

The season is nearly upon us once more.

Doesn't seem that long ago that we finished 2025. After being promoted again, Lenham Cricket Club are now playing in division five of the Kent Village Cricket league.

After a fairly stressful closed season, with the pavilion sprouting a leak, we're hoping to be underway at the end of April. Saturday fixtures will be league matches and Sunday fixtures are friendly. We've tried to keep it local this year and should be playing around the area most weekends. Fixtures for May and June are below.

As always, everyone is welcome to the ground when we are there and if anybody is interested in starting cricket or just coming back to cricket, don't hesitate to let us know.

You can contact me, Andy Lane, on **07584-052846**. Alternatively, you can find group details on Facebook just search for 'Lenham Cricket Club' and someone will get back to you.



2026 League Fixtures

9	May	Stonehouse (h)
16	May	Eynsford (a)
23	May	Pembury (h)
30	May	Meopham (a)
6	June	Knockholt (h)
13	June	Southborough (a)
20	June	Fordcombe (a)
27	June	Sennocke (h)

Sunday Fixtures

April	26	Egerton (h)
May	3	East Sutton (a)
May	10	Sissinghurst (a)
May	17	Teston (h)
May	24	B and Eastwell (a)
May	31	Challock (a)
June	7	Limpsfield Chart (h)
June	14	TBC
June	21	East Sutton (h)
June	28	'Pixies Fun Day'



HI Kent

Supporting people who are Deaf, have
Hearing Loss or Tinnitus

Together since 1986

Registered Charity No: 1052036

HEARING AID CLINIC 21 May (1:30–3pm) Lenham Community Centre

HI Kent has been helping people living with hearing loss and their families for 40 years this year and we hope to be here for a lot longer!

Please do contact us if you need any help and if we can't help, we will find someone who can. This is what we do:

Equipment assessment and provision; NHS hearing aid clinics; Deaf Awareness Training, Lip-reading classes; British Sign Language classes; Social Groups; Tinnitus Support Groups; Ear health and wax microsuction service; Hearing aid technology support; Hearing loop systems & equipment for public buildings.

We will do all we can to help you **LIVE WELL** with your hearing loss.

Contact enquiries@hikent.org.uk or 01622 691151 for dates and times.

Local Company  Family Owned

Lakelands LAWN Care

Easy way to a great lawn

Affordable lawn care
 Moss Control
 Scarification
 Weed Control
 Fertilisation

18 yrs Experience
 Cheaper than DIY
 All year round lawn care
 PAYG no contract



From as little as £20.00 per treatment
 Call for a free no obligation quote
0781 087 6440
 Email: lakelandslc@gmail.com


WISETECH
 SECURITY SYSTEMS

CCTV Systems
 Burglar Alarm Systems
 WIFI Solutions

5 Star Google Ratings
 Local, Reliable & Professional

Reach us on 01634 944161
 Or Visit
www.wisetechsecurity.co.uk








Local Painter Decorator

Top quality workmanship and competitive rates for all your interior and exterior painting and decorating. Dependable service from a mature and reliable local tradesman. Minimum fuss and disruption. Work fully costed and quoted upfront with Prices Guaranteed. Based in Lenham Village. Text or call **Russel** on **07961 580 074** Landline: 01622 859259. Email: decorator.russel@gmail.com

★ ★ An Evening of ★ ★
Light a Capella Entertainment
Quora Vocal Quartet
supported by
Holigans

Friday 12th June 7.00pm
St Mary's Church Lenham
Tickets £10.00 refreshments included
Available from
Kent Loves & Heart of Kent Hospice

PBA ELECTRICAL & RENEWABLES LTD

www.pbaelectrical.com

EV Charger specialist

- Solar PV design and installation
 - Battery storage
 - Electrical installation
 - Rewires
- Testing and Inspection

Commercial and Domestic electrical contractor
Fully insured and NICEIC Approved

Contact our friendly team today to discuss your requirements.

T: 01732 247237
E: info@pbaelectrical.com

Indoor Boot Fair

Raising Funds for Lenham Community Centre

📍 **Lenham Community Centre, ME17 2QT**

📅 **Saturday 9th May 2026 | 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

£ **£10 per 6ft table | Entrance Fee: 50p**

Come and browse pre-loved items, crafts, collectables and more at our **INDOOR BOOT FAIR!**

A fantastic opportunity to support **Lenham Community Centre**.



Lenham Community Centre

BRINGING - PEOPLE - TOGETHER

Charity No. 1166995

Refreshments Available

To book a stall or make an enquiry, please contact:
bookings@lenhamcommunitycentre.org.uk



PILGRIMS WAY ARTISTS

SUMMER EXHIBITION

AND CRAFT FAIR, 2026

May 15th to 25th 2026 - open daily 10am – 5pm



Visit our online catalogue



Admission Fee £2 - free to children under 12 years

The Tithe Barn, off High Street, Lenham ME17 2QD

Craft Fair runs from 22nd - 24th May in the adjoining Cobbled Barn.

Over 400 original paintings, ceramics, sculpture and glass to buy from some of the South East's leading artists at affordable prices.

www.pilgrimswayartists.org.uk

Pilgrims Way Artists

Some examples of the artwork you'll see at this year's Pilgrims Way Artists exhibition in the Tithe Barn.



Snowy Owl by Alan Woollett



Blue Boat Venice by LiamThompson



North Kent Marshes by Nigel Davison



Fennel Jug by Mary McFadden



The call of The Rewild by Michael Norcross



Harrietsham Lawn Tennis Club (Est. 1924)

From Andrew Rogers, Tennis Club Chairman

The Grass court tennis season is now up-and-running on our 3 grass courts situated on the Booth Field behind Harrietsham Village Hall. Our first session will be on Sunday May 3rd from 2pm and everyone is welcome to come & play. Our usual schedule for social tennis will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm and Sundays from 2pm. Members can play at anytime during the week on the 3 grass courts for singles & doubles.

We are very pleased to be able to offer professional tennis coaching again this year for children and adults - details on our website. We will be running special coaching for anyone new to tennis - do get in touch if you are interested.

On Monday mornings we will continue to run Walking Tennis - an LTA approved version of tennis played on a standard sized court where the ball can bounce twice and no running or jumping is permitted. The game is ideally suited to those who are less mobile or recovering from an injury where more gentle exercise is necessary. Sessions run from 10:00-11:30 - just come along and give it a go - all equipment will be provided. It's a fun & social session with tea, biscuits and time for a chat!

For any further details please ring **Andrew** on **079000 23399** or visit: **harrietshamlawnstennisclub.weebly.com** for the latest news.

IRELAND LANDSCAPES



All types of Hard & Soft Landscapes
Patios and Paving Roads and Drives
Concrete bases Stable bases
Fencing and Gates Turfing
Jungles cleared

RING PAUL ON 01622 844605
or 07767 683747 for free estimate

THE HONYWOOD & DOUGLAS CHARITY LENHAM

(Registered Charity No. 211272)

The Trustees hereby give notice that the following
Almshouse accommodation is available:

A 1ST FLOOR STUDIO FLAT SITUATED IN LENHAM

Applicants must be 60 years of age or more, able to look after themselves independently, in need and have lived in the Parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for at least two years.

Application forms are available by emailing or telephoning:

clerk.hdc@gmail.com

07889 562931

Completed forms should be returned no later than 31st May 2026.

A Frosty Morning in Lenham

'Thoughts on Walks' by Duncan Carey

There's a certain kind of quiet you only find early in the morning in Lenham, especially when the frost still lies across the fields and the day hasn't quite begun.

I headed out just as the light started to lift, boots crunching on frozen ground. It's a familiar walk, one I've done many times, but it never feels the same twice. That morning had its own rhythm. A rook calling from a nearby pine tree, busy gathering twigs and carefully building its nest high among the branches – a sure sign the seasons are turning.

Further along, I caught sight of a fox slipping across the edge of the field. It paused just long enough to notice me before quietly disappearing into the hedge, as if it had never been there at all.



Not long after, I spotted a little owl. I stood and watched as it moved from tree to tree, pausing each time to scan the ground below, patiently searching the field for prey.

Near the edge of the field, I noticed fresh movement in the frosty grass – tiny shapes darting in and out of a well-worn warren entrance.



Baby rabbits, full of energy, already busy with the day, their constant comings and goings wearing a clear path through the frost. A small but lively contrast to the stillness around them.

Above me, almost lost against the pale sky, a skylark rose and sang, while a yellowhammer flickered low along the hedge before vanishing again. Small moments, easy to miss, but they're the ones that stay with you.

There's comfort in these walks – the steady lines of the fields, the quiet presence of the trees, and the feeling that life carries on here at its own pace.

By the time I turned back, the village was beginning to wake, and the stillness gently gave way to the day.





TRY OUR

**ENGLISH BREAKFAST
ROLLS & SANDWICHES
COFFEE & TEA**

BREAKFAST SERVED DAILY

FROM 8AM - 1:30PM

EAT-IN, ENJOY OUR TERRACE OR TAKEAWAY

FRESHLY COOKED TO ORDER • ORDER ONLINE AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE • WWW.CHEQUERSFISHBAR.CO.UK

LENHAM DENTAL

Begin your smile journey in our newly transformed clinic
How we can help

General Dentistry
Dental Implants
Whitening
Invisalign
Facial Aesthetics
Sedation

BOOK NOW
01622 858204
www.lenhamdental.co.uk

@LENHAM_DENTAL



KENT DESIGN STUDIO

ARCHITECTURE

PLANNING

WWW.KENTDESIGNSTUDIO.CO.UK 01850 230413 INFO@KENTDESIGNSTUDIO.CO.UK

EXTENSIONS
LISTED BUILDINGS
BESPOKE DWELLINGS

MULTI - UNIT SCHEMES
EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES
AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS
BUILDING REGULATIONS
CONSTRUCTION

**Fresh Local Produce Sold
Direct by the Producer**

Lenham Country Market

MORE CHOICE*MORE STALLS

MORE QUALITY

Lenham Square 9 am – 1 pm

**NEXT MARKET
Sunday 10 May 2026**

MARKET MANAGER

Sandra Woodfall

07775 736116

E: lenhamcountrymarket@gmail.com

Exciting Progress at the Lenham Village Hub!



The first phase of our journey to create the Lenham Village Hub is well underway, and we're making steady progress! Here is a quick look at what's been happening behind the scenes:

Work Completed

We've successfully checked two big items off the list:

- **New Emergency Exit:** Safely installed and ready to go.
- **Wastewater System:** A brand-new cesspool for the kitchen area is now in place.

Kitchen Update

We hit a small bump in the road when our original kitchen installation company unexpectedly went into receivership. The silver lining? **No funds were lost**, as we hadn't paid a deposit yet!

We are now working closely with our architect to bring a new team on board, and we're feeling very optimistic about having the kitchen fully installed by the **end of May**.

The Tower & Clock Restoration

A massive 'thank you' to the **Friends of St Mary's**, the **Hatch Charity** and the many individuals and local groups who have donated so far. Your support is making the restoration of our clock face and tower roof possible!

As is often the case with historic buildings, opening things up revealed a few surprises – specifically more rotten boards and joists than we originally anticipated. While this has bumped up the project costs quite a bit, we are committed to doing the job right to preserve our village landmark for years to come.

The Project Team is working hard to keep things moving once all this work has been completed, to raise more funds to complete the project, including installing new heating, and creating a large accessible space at the back of the church that will be available for community use.

We will be sure to share more news as it happens and would like to thank you for your continued patience and support.



ELECTRICIAN

MGI Electrical

Installation and maintenance

Advice and Design

For domestic and industrial needs

07740 783646 or 01622 850055

Mangravet Gold Shop

**Still paying top prices
for your unwanted:**

**Antique Jewellery
Gold & Silver
Silver Plate EPNS
Coins & Medals**

**WE DO
HOME VISITS
OR VISIT THE
SHOP**

5 Mangravet Ave, Maidstone ME15 9BQ
01622 664140 www.scrapgoldkent.com





Kentish WARM ROOF

Ring: Kentish Warm Roofs on 01634 789025
The granary, Greenway Court Road, Hollingbourne ME17 1QD

**Professional Jet Washing
& Exterior Cleaning**

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



PATIO'S, DRIVEWAYS, ROOFS, GUTTERS, AND MORE

CALL US TODAY! 07989382986

Kentkerbappeal@gmail.com



MOWER PLANT SERVICES LTD.

Sunpatch Farm, Headcorn Rd,
Smarden, TN27 8PJ
Tel: 01622 890046



Sales, Service, Repairs & Parts
Main Dealers for Honda,
Mountfield, Stiga & Husqvarna

Open Mon-Fri 8.30am – 5.30pm
Sat 8.30am – 1pm

www.mowerplantservices.co.uk



**Helen
Whately MP**

Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent



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



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA
0207 7219 6472
@ helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk



helenwhately.org.uk



LENHAMCLOCKS

Repairs of Antique and Vintage Clocks
Clocks Bought and Sold



- Clocks bought, sold and repaired
- Watch batteries fitted
- Friendly advice about your clock
- Free estimates
- Insurance quotes

OPEN THURSDAY to SATURDAY 9:30am – 5pm

Contact **Simon Wood** on
07535 417533
or email:
lenhamclocks@gmail.com

History of a Site: Liberty View (formerly Tanyard North)

Part 2. By Henny Shotter

A friend loaned me the book ‘*The Kentish Stour*’, written by Robert Goodsall in 1953. He, a local historian and publisher, restored the building in which the pharmacy is now.

In 1948, during the restoration, the skeletons of three Saxon warriors were found in the road. The skeletons were of two men and a woman buried together in one grave. These people in one grave must have died together or within a few days of each other. Of disease? Or were they slain? Were they locals or were they travellers? Not much is known about the find and we will never know for sure. They were buried with care because one of the males was buried with his sword which had a gold inlay¹, an extremely precious item in Anglo-Saxon times.

The warrior also had a shield with a shield boss and one or two spears. Goodsall writes that this find ‘seems to prove that there was a settlement here in Saxon times’. It took almost sixty years until his suggestion was nearly proven and a possible², important Saxon building was discovered on the site.³

This possible Saxon building measured 37m x 11m and on the south side had a cobbled floor with wheel ruts showing. In order to understand the dimensions it helps to know that a football field is ca. 68m wide. The hall would then have covered more than half the width of a football pitch, from the touch line to the centre spot.

The postholes found on site form such a building which will, if confirmed, be

the largest ever found in England. In the summary the author of the report is less cautious with her conclusion. She writes: ‘The Saxon phase is presented by a massive post-built hall, whose size alone is suggestive of a royal connection.

The Royal connection takes us back to the three warriors who were, without any doubt, of high status. It also takes us to the first (A.D. 804) of three Saxon Charters concerning Lenham. It says: *Coenwulf, king of Mercia and Cudred, King of Kent grant to Eanbert, their kinsman (understood as a relative) 20 sulungs (ca. 4800 acres) of land in sewestralenham (West of Lenham) with thirteen swine pastures in the Weald.*

A Royal Connection?

We can conclude from this charter that in 804 a settlement called Lenham (spelled like this in the original charter) already existed but we don’t know whether it was in the hands of Eanbert or someone else. Lenham is an Anglo-Saxon term and has been interpreted⁴ as the homestead of a person called ‘Leana’. The question is whether this possible Saxon Hall was the ‘Homestead of Leana’, the cradle of Lenham. I wonder whether we will ever know or perhaps in another 60 years?

After these interesting finds it is very regrettable that only Phase 1 of the Liberty View development was excavated; especially as the ground on the eastern side shows very interesting circular features⁵. In the context of current planning law there is nothing which can be done

after a planning permission is given and conditions are laid down. The costs of the excavation are carried by the developer. The National Planning Framework contains policies which protect the developer from demands which could make his development uneconomical ('viability tests'). So, we can only hope that the developer allows (qualified) volunteer archaeologists onto the part of the site which is so far undisturbed and allows them to investigate the circular features. One other option would be for a sponsor to pay for some work.

This development was beleaguered with issues from the beginning, but without it, we would never have learned about this exciting aspect of Lenham's history!

References:

1. We are grateful to Maidstone Museum for sharing the description of the catalogued items with us.
2. The presented report is cautious in the assumption that this is a Saxon Hall, except in the summary
3. The excavation was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. For the complete report see: 'Land at Tanyard Farm, Lenham, Kent ; A Post-Excavation Assessment by Maisie Foster, Thames Valley Archaeological Services LTD March 2023
4. A.D. Mills Oxford Dictionary of English Place names, Oxford University Press, Oxford New York 1991
5. Thank you to Lesley Feakes for pointing these out.

The Gunpowder Works in Faversham

A talk by Tess and Ian Brown for Lenham Heritage Society

28th May 2026

Lenham Community Centre, 12 Groom Way, Lenham ME17 2QT

Doors open at 7pm,

Talk commences at 7.30pm

Entrance £5.00 non-members

LENHAM BALLET SCHOOL

RAD ballet
ISTD tap
ISTD modern
Baby Ballet
Street Dance
Adult Ballet



www.lenhamballetschoolanddance.co.uk
lenhamballetschoolanddance@gmail.com
07906 314956
LenhamBalletSchool



*The
Lenham
Focus*

Advertising Space Available



COUNTRY CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Come and visit us in store for a warm, friendly welcome,
stocking all your needs for outdoor pursuits



Our store is open 5 days a week visit us at
Ashford Road, Badlesmere, Kent ME13 0NX
Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm | 01233 742700
info@inthecountry.co.uk www.inthecountry.co.uk

SEE YOU AT



LENHAM FEST




FOOD - DRINK - ENTERTAINMENT - AND MORE!

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

THE TITHE BARN
10AM - 4PM




£2 Entry on the door for Adults. Kids go Free!

Visit www.lenhamparish.org.uk for more information. See you there!

N B CARPENTRY

Specialists in bespoke storage solutions and custom garden structures



Crafted with precision and care, we bring your ideas to life with expert woodwork for both style and function.

GET IN TOUCH TODAY!

07734 411600


nbcarpentry2000@outlook.com




Looking To Sell or Let Your Property? Experts with Experience of Selling Your Home



Your local Estate Agent is close at hand
in Our Charing Village Office

rightmove 

01233 713127

ZOOPLA  PrimeLocation



saddlersresidential.co.uk



Welcome to Tivoli Blinds

We are a small family run business based in Kent. We offer a **FREE** home measuring service and bespoke made-to-measure blinds for your home or office.

Our prices include fitting as standard by our expert installation team. Whether you're looking for something traditional, stylish or bold, you'll find exactly what you are looking for with us.

With free samples available on request and low prices guaranteed, there really is no need to go anywhere else than Tivoli Blinds!

Contact us:

Email: info@tivoli-blinds.co.uk

Tel: 07906 794273

Visit: www.tivoli-blinds.co.uk

**QUOTE FOCUS FOR 5% OFF
ENTIRE ORDER**



WILDSHARK

IBIZA ROSÉ FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026 | 12PM-6PM

£49.5*
pp

DJ | TRADITIONAL PAELLA | HALF BOTTLE OF WINE EACH

*t&cs apply

The Canterbury Auction Galleries

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1911

Auctioneers of the rare, the collectible and the exceptional



2026 AUCTION DATES

**13th & 14th
February**

Consignment deadline
19th December 2025

**10th & 11th
April**

Consignment deadline
6th March

**5th & 6th
June**

Consignment deadline
1st May

**31st July &
1st August**

Consignment deadline
26th June

**2nd & 3rd
October**

Consignment deadline
28th August

**27th & 28th
November**

Consignment deadline
23rd October

Have something to sell?

From watches, jewellery, cameras, art and antiques to 20th Century collectibles, we have a strong track record in achieving international saleroom prices.

Contact us today for a free valuation:

Telephone **01227 763337** Email general@tcag.co.uk Visit thecanterburyauctiongalleries.com

Marley Works plans progress

The team behind the proposals to redevelop the former Marley Works site wish to pass on their thanks to everyone who gave their feedback, which has now been shared with the project team.

More than 150 people visited the public exhibition held in the Dog and Bear Hotel on Friday, 27 February, and the team from Panattoni, the site's owners, were pleased to have many constructive conversations with stakeholders, near neighbours and other interested members of the public.

Panattoni, Europe's largest privately owned industrial logistics and distribution property developer, owns the 70-acre site which has more than 1,000,000 sq ft of buildings and commercial space and is identified as a key employment location within the Borough of Maidstone.

The feedback, which is still being reviewed, found that more than 53% of respondents 'definitely' support the proposals, with a further 31.2% being 'mostly' supportive, with 12.5% unsure, and only 3.1% not supportive. Creating local job opportunities, and not developing the site for housing, were cited as positive outcomes of the proposals.

David McGoughan, Senior Development Director - South East at Panattoni, said: "The regeneration of the former Marley Works offers a once in a generation opportunity to bring it back to life. We are grateful to everyone who engaged with the public consultation. We will continue to engage with the communities of Lenham and Harrietsham throughout the planning process and beyond."

The proposals include demolishing the current buildings, remediating the site, removing any waste and contaminants and recycling as much as possible. The site would then be developed for modern commercial floorspace for



general industrial, storage and distribution businesses, and/or light industrial uses, alongside ancillary office space and supported by a main estate road, with landscaping and drainage. The public right of way which currently runs centrally through the site, providing access to the Pilgrims Way is proposed to be diverted to the west to provide an improved enhanced experience for users, within a landscaped setting.

A number of residents raised the ongoing concern about the levels of traffic on the A20. When asked, more than 85% of respondents agreed that highways improvements would benefit the local community. Panattoni anticipated this and has already engaged with the Local Highways Authority to discuss any mitigations and improvements that might be required to the local highway network.

Panattoni has sought the views of residents on local community projects which could be supported by the development proposals. The top four choices for support are environmental projects, access to public space, skills and training, or sports and leisure options. Project support will be the subject of ongoing discussions with community groups, including Lenham Meadows Trust.

The public consultation has now closed and the feedback will inform and shape the emerging planning application before it is submitted to Maidstone Borough Council.

For information on the project visit www.panattoni-marleyworks.co.uk

Recipe of the Month

Noodles Shutford

Ingredients:

- 1 large pkt frozen spinach
- 1 medium onion
- 1 large pkt noodles
- 114 gm (4oz) butter
- 1 pint sour cream
- Salt & pepper

Method:

Heat the oven to 175 C (gas 4). Sauté the onions in butter until transparent. Slightly undercook the noodles and keep warm. De-frost the spinach, remove the liquid but do not cook. Add onions and butter to the noodles, then the spinach and mix well. Add the sour cream and season to taste.



Mix well and put into a buttered casserole (this can be done the day before).

Heat in the oven for 20-30 minutes before serving.

Great served with a ragu sauce.

INDEPENDENT VETS IN CHARING



OLIVE TREE VETERINARY SURGERY
YOUR PETS, OUR PASSION

TAKING NEW REGISTRATIONS NOW

01233 223400

INFO@OLIVETREEVETS.COM

WWW.OLIVETREEVETS.COM



Quality installers of aluminium bi-fold & sliding doors, roof lanterns, PVC & sliding sash windows & composite doors throughout Kent

Visit our showroom:

Let us help enhance your home, visit our new bespoke showroom which displays some of our top quality Home Improvement products. We can help you decide what would be best for your home, or come along and try out the products without feeling pressured.



Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5pm

Friday: 9am to 4pm

Saturday: By appointment only



ksehome.co.uk

KSE Home Improvements 4 Ashmill Business Park,
Ashford Road (A20) Lenham ME17 2GQ. Tel: 01622 851400 email: info@ksehome.uk

Buying a New Home? A Step-By-Step Guide to the Conveyancing Process

Lauren Keen of Hallett & Co Solicitors, explains



Buying a new home can be a daunting process. Therefore, we have decided to create a step-by-step guide of all the essentials you will need to know, to make that nerve-wracking venture one step easier.

First Steps

Your process of buying a house will begin with an Estate Agent, where you will view your future home, place an offer, and negotiate a price with the Seller.

Once a price has been agreed upon, the next steps will be to instruct a solicitor. Here at Hallett & Co, you can contact us for an initial quote of our fees, so you can decide at your leisure whether you would be interested in our services.

When you decide to instruct a solicitor, they will first need to carry out identification checks to comply with regulatory requirements.

Typically, they will request a proof of identity document, such as a passport, as well as a proof of address document, such as a utility bill. It's essential that you have these documents available when beginning your transaction, to help the process run smoothly.

A survey of the property is highly recommended prior to purchase.

Property Survey

This costs an additional fee; it is essential for buyers to ensure they are aware of any physical defects in the property.



Searches and Enquiries

The next step in the process is for your solicitor to conduct searches on the prospective property. These will be requests to third party agencies for more information to ensure there are no property defects or concerns. Searches that are typically conducted include:

- **Drainage and Water Searches** – which provide us with more information on the water providers servicing the property and the drainage systems in place.
- **Environmental Searches** – which provide us with more information on any environmental concerns that may affect the property, such as any risk of flooding.
- **Local Authority Search** – which is a search with the property's Local Authority, to highlight any charges, planning permissions or local issues affecting the property that you would need to be aware of.



It is also at this stage that the Seller's solicitor will provide your instructed solicitor with a draft contract and other relevant documents regarding the property. From this information, your solicitor will be able to raise questions, otherwise known as enquiries, for the Seller to answer to gain a clearer understanding of the property.

Monies

As a buyer, it is essential to be aware of how you will fund the purchase. It is often the case that people will apply for a mortgage with a lender to help fund the transaction. In this case, the lender will provide you with a mortgage offer, containing the conditions you must abide by to obtain the loan.

Exchange of Contracts

Once the previous steps have been completed, and both yourself and the Seller are happy with the terms of the contract, it is then time for you to sign the contract and pay the deposit. The deposit is typically 10% of the purchase price, however it's always best to consult your solicitor for advice on the specific sum.

Once contracts have been exchanged, both you and the seller will be bound by the contract's terms. Therefore, if you decide to no longer continue with the purchase from this point, you are at risk of forfeiting your deposit.

Pre - Completion Steps

Your solicitor will then draft a purchase deed, which is the legal document that shows the property has been legally transferred to you. This will need to be signed by you and witnessed by another person before completion.

Additionally, your solicitor will also ensure that you have signed the Land Transaction Return Form, which is required by HM Revenue & Customs to outline the amount of Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) you must pay. SDLT is the specific tax that is payable when purchasing a property.

Completion

This is the final stage in the process, where you will transfer the purchase money to the seller. Your solicitor and the seller's solicitor will date the purchase deed and complete the transaction. This means that the property is legally yours and you can pick up the keys!

Finally, your solicitor will then register the transfer documents, and any other relevant deeds to the Land Registry.

If you would like any further information or wish to request a property quotation from us, please email us at info@hallettandco.co.uk.



© Shutterstock



You will see regular updates on all the parish council's activities in the *Focus*, www.lenhamparish.org.uk and social media.

Lenham Parish Council budget – 2026/27

The parish council is required to create and publish an annual budget; this process must be completed by January of each year and submitted to the borough council along with the parish precept requirement. This is the part of your Council Tax Bill which is labelled “Lenham”, shows the increase as 3% and then an amount for your property. A “band D” property will pay £145.70 for the precept in this financial year, that’s the equivalent of £2.80 a week.

The parish’s budget is made up of two aspects: The revenue budget, which is supported mostly but not wholly by the parish precept, and the capital budget, which has no impact on the parish precept and is funded through other means.

The revenue budget contains the cost of all the services the parish council provides, many of which have been “handed over” to the parish council by the borough and county councils. With the “handed over” services, such as the toilets, if the parish council had not agreed to operate and maintain these they would have closed.

Examples of these “handed over” services include maintenance of the play areas, the public toilets, Maidstone Road car park and maintenance of green spaces such as the grass triangles on the A20 (where we have planters). The parish council also owns land, such as William Pitt Field, Cherry Downs picnic area, the Lenham

Cemetery and the allotments on Ham Lane, some of which it manages directly, some are managed by other organisations but for which the parish remains responsible.

It is the costs of running these aspects of the parish which make up the parish precept charge.

This year the parish council decided to use income from charges it makes and interest it receives to reduce the precept charge in terms of the overall budget. This means that the budget requirement is higher than the income the precept charge will deliver; the difference will be made up from that income. This reduced the requirement for householders in the parish in terms of the parish precept.

The capital budget is different, the cost of delivering specific capital improvements (such as the revamp of the public toilets last year and the proposed upgrades to the Maidstone Road car park and the cemetery service road this year) come from either capital investment funds or match funding.

A good example of this is the proposed new two-form entry nursery on Ham Lane. The projected cost of this is in the region of £800,000 / £900,000. The parish has committed £400,000 to this and is seeking match-funding from the borough council through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on new-builds, to fund the balance. We will hear about that application either this month or next.

Full details of the budget can be found at www.lenhamparish.org.uk or from the parish office.

Community Caretaker

We would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in the Parish Caretaker role. This has now been filled.

All the candidates were excellent and offered a variety of useful skills and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the process and put themselves forward.

It was a challenging decision, but one candidate stood out and we would like to welcome Stephanie to her new role, and we wish her the very best.

... and finally - a date for your diary

The parish council is planning the Lenham Fest which will take place on Saturday 1 August in the Tithe Barn and the Meadow (thanks to Valerie and John-Arthur for helping out with the booking!). See inside this issue of *FOCUS* for more details and look out for further information in social media and posters around the village.

Update from Len Valley Practice

From Georgia Lane, Operations Manager

It has been a busy and positive few months across Len Valley Practice, with a number of changes taking place to support both patients and staff at our Lenham and Harrietsham sites.

We were very pleased to welcome three new GPs to the practice during April, helping to expand our clinical team and increase appointment capacity. We have also recently welcomed a Clinical Pharmacist, whose role will provide additional support with medication reviews, prescribing queries and the management of long-term conditions. We hope patients will begin to see the benefits of this increased clinical support over the coming weeks.

We have also been continuing to strengthen the wider team, including recruitment to support our nursing service. Patients may already have noticed an improvement in the availability of blood test appointments, with further increases expected as new staffing arrangements continue to settle in.

Alongside these service improvements, both of our practice sites are also having

a bit of a refresh, with redecoration and general improvements taking place to help create a more welcoming environment for patients and staff alike. We appreciate your patience if there is any minor disruption while this work is being carried out.

We would also like to remind patients that Len Valley Practice operates a zero-tolerance policy towards abusive or aggressive behaviour. Our teams work incredibly hard each day to support the local community, and we kindly ask that all interactions with staff remain respectful and considerate.

Lastly, we would like to recognise Dr Lee Welsh, who recently completed the London Marathon in support of Lymphoma Action. We are incredibly proud of his achievement and grateful to everyone who supported his fundraising efforts for such an important cause.

Thank you, as always, for your continued patience and support as we continue to grow and improve the services we provide to our community.

YOUR LOCAL, FAMILY RUN BUILDERS MERCHANTS
OPEN TO TRADE AND DIY - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

- ✓ BRICKS/
BLOCKS
- ✓ DECORATIVE
AGGREGATES
- ✓ HARD
LANDSCAPING
- ✓ ELECTRICAL
- ✓ DECORATING
- ✓ COMPOST
- ✓ GARDENING
- ✓ PLUMBING
- ✓ AGGREGATES
- ✓ GAS
- ✓ TIMBER
- ✓ FIXINGS

PLUS AN IN STORE PAINT MIXING SERVICE & MUCH MORE!

WWW.BSBUILDINGSUPPLIES.CO.UK



Book Review from the Lenham Library

I have chosen a children's book this month - namely **Shrapnel Boys** by **Jenny Pearson**.

What a treat it was. It is aimed at 8-12 year olds according to its publicity but I thoroughly enjoyed it.

There is a gripping storyline set against the backdrop of the London Blitz which the author has researched extensively. The title comes from the fact that the lads go hunting for interesting bits of shrapnel after each raid and the rival gangs compete for the best finds.

Ronnie and his friend Lugs find themselves pitted against Johnny, a man who charms his way into the family by helping them with their Anderson shelter.

Ronnie's mother is completely taken in as is his younger brother Mickey who is soon working for Johnny. This ends with Mickey in trouble and needing his brother's help. The story races along as the two friends gradually uncover what Johnny is up to. The dangers of their everyday life mix with this huge threat which leads to an action packed ending with unlikely heroes.



Despite the tension and danger there are many laugh-out-loud moments. Lugs is a wonderful character and the dialogue between the two friends is hilarious. Lugs's relationship with a feral cat, Tiger, is so poignant.

Another book I would love to recommend is the classic **White Fang** by **Jack London**.

This tells the story of a wolf cub. Initially life is good for White Fang. He is inquisitive and lets his instincts help him learn to explore and hunt. But one day he and his mother come across men

“Gods” and their lives change.

Soon mother and pup are separated, and White Fang gets his introduction into the harsh realities of life. He learns the pain of separation, the pain of beatings and the pain of not fitting in with the other dogs and wolves.

White Fang is sold and has an even more sadistic owner who turns him into a fighter. Eventually White Fang is saved and begins a new life where he eventually knows kindness and trust. It is a wonderful book.



STOP
PRESS



A LEGO CLUB IS STARTING IN LENHAM LIBRARY VERY SOON ON SATURDAY MORNINGS.

Details available shortly from the library.

SERVICE LIST

- Oil Tank Install
- Oil Boiler Install
- Powerflushing
- Hot Water Cylinders
- Emergency Oil Transfer
- Air Source Heat Pump Install



Oil Fired Specialist

Oakley
& Co Heating

01622 910 149

www.oakleyheating.co.uk



info@oakleyheating.co.uk

STORAGE AVAILABLE

20ft
Shipping Containers

Secure Location

Hollingbourne Area

Contact
07922 423286

**hobbs
parker**

Uncomplicated, trustworthy
and confidential advice if you
are selling or letting ■

Ashford: 01233 506260 Tenterden: 01580 766766
www.hobbsparker.co.uk

Len Valley Active Retirement Association



LenARA is your 'go to' organisation for those over 55 who are looking for some days out, holidays, social events and activities. We are an Active Retirement Association under the umbrella of KentARA and the only county in England who has such an organisation. KentARA has recently been awarded the Kings Award for Volunteer Services – the equivalent of an MBE – of which we are very proud.

We meet in Lenham Community Centre on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm and our speakers at these meetings have included the likes of Henry VIII, talking about his six wives – and what an entertaining afternoon that was; Peter Griffiths telling us about The History of Champagne; Lucy Allen with the Ups and Downs of a Stunt Woman and Lyndsey Barrell aka Ms Cherry Bombe talking about Burlesque, Me and the WI.

On some of the other afternoon meetings we have participated in a Fun and Games afternoon, watched Phil's Films and played Chinese Bingo. So we try to put on a varied and interesting programme for all our members.

Our weekly activities include Short Mat Bowls, Zumba Gold, Line Dancing and,

if weather permits, Petanque – all at the Community Centre. We also have Ten Pin

Bowling in Ashford once a month which is followed by a nice pub lunch.

We have had some lovely days out to: Exbury Gardens in Hampshire; Brooklands Museum and The Watercress Line.

Our bi-monthly pub lunches are really popular. We have recently been on the Spa Valley Railway with a pie and mash lunch on board and we go to the Wagon and Horses at Charing, which is excellent.

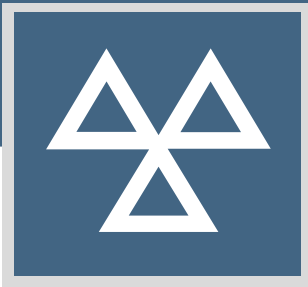
This year we have been on a five-day holiday to Torquay and are arranging another break to Thursford in November. So you can see we always have something that will interest you.



The Annual Subscription is a mere £10 per person with members paying £1 at every monthly meeting to cover the cost of teas etc. We will be collecting the subs at the May meeting on Wednesday 27th May which is also our AGM.

If you are interested in joining us please contact the Chairman, Roger Newman – email rog.newman@outlook.com or our Membership Secretary, Barbara Peacock – email barbpeaco1@yahoo.com



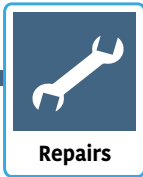


Harrietsham
GARAGE & MOT

Harrietsham Garage & MOT offers annual servicing, cambelt, clutch, brake, battery replacements, diagnostics, MOT testing, air-con re-gas, tyres and mechanical repairs. All costs are agreed before work begins, and every service includes a 12-month warranty.

MOTs

Located next to Harrietsham Train Station, we provide customer parking and an MOT viewing area with complimentary coffee. We look forward to welcoming you and taking care of your vehicle.



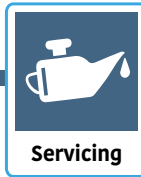
Repairs



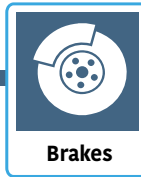
Tyres



Diagnostics



Servicing



Brakes



Wet Belts



01622 859 580

www.harrietshamgarage.co.uk

Unit 4, Station Road Industrial Estate, Harrietsham, ME17 1JA

Monday	8am - 5pm
Tuesday	8am - 5pm
Wednesday	8am - 5pm
Thursday	8am - 5pm
Friday	8am - 4pm
Sat/Sun	Closed

Lenham Primary School



Term 4 Highlights

We have had another amazing term at Lenham Primary School. The children ended Term 4 with our much loved Easter Bingo, wonderfully organised once again by our dedicated PTA.

Term 4 was packed with exciting learning opportunities. Year 4 braved new challenges during their adventurous day trip to PGL, followed by a second visit to Ashford where they explored the topic of rivers. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School sessions, learning how to use fire lighters safely and practising their whittling skills. Year 2 also had a fantastic time on their visit to Hever Castle, diving into history in a hands-on way.

We were proud to mark both Neurodiversity Week and Sign Language Week. One of the true highlights was a special assembly where every child took part in signing What a Wonderful World. It was a moving moment for staff and pupils – some of our teachers were even reduced to tears. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised £130 for the British Deaf Association. We also joined in with

Comic Relief, dressing in our own clothes and raising a further £130 for charity.

Now, as we enter Term 5, things are wonderfully busy once again. This is an important time for budget setting, and our hardworking Year 6 pupils, who are preparing to complete their SATs. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and cannot wait to see all that they achieve.

Without getting political, we recognise that education is facing a period of change nationally, which can feel unsettling.

With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff for their continued hard work and unwavering commitment to our children.

I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to our parents and wider community. This year, we have been overwhelmed by the support shown—whether through donations of equipment, help at events, or financial contributions.

Thanks to this generosity, our children are already benefitting from 37 new Chromebooks and a wonderful new sandpit. Your support makes a real difference, and we are truly grateful.

Lenham Dance Studio is OPEN
Beginners. Medallist. Competitive. Wedding. Social.

Dance like 'Strictly'
Ballroom & Latin Lessons for ALL
Following all current Guidelines

PRIVATE LESSONS
GROUP LESSONS
Must be booked in advance



www.gdcschoolofdancing.co.uk
01622 850800

PETER HUMPHRIES
CARPENTER & BUILDER

Reliable, Good quality work
Over 25 years experience
Based in Lenham
Please call;



Home 01622 858719
Mobile 07753162407

Lee Davey

CARAVANS LTD

Kent's leading supplier of premium caravans since 1948

Situated in the heart of Kent, we stock the very best new and recent used touring caravans. Whether you are looking to buy a new Bailey or Coachman, or one of our immaculately prepared and warranted pre-owned caravans, we are confident we offer a service that is second to none.



Visit our premises and you will find a large showroom, extensive outdoor display area and a well-stocked leisure shop. In conjunction with our industry scheme approved and factory trained workshop, we offer all you might need to get away on your caravan journey.



East Street, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1HN

Call: 01622 859301 **E-mail:** enquiries@leedaveycaravans.co.uk

Or visit our new website: www.leedaveycaravans.co.uk



PLOT OR NOT?

If you think your land or property has development potential, why not give us a call without obligation and in confidence.



WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LAND AND PROPERTY WITH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Many of our clients retain our services and, in the majority of cases, pay our fees saving property owners significant costs.

Commercial buildings for residential conversion, former public houses, redundant buildings for redevelopment, buildings for conversion or replacement, houses for improvement, large sites on the edge of town, barn conversions, large gardens in residential areas and major regeneration projects.

Contact Stephen Donnelly on
07739 514350 or **01892 579937**
website: sjd-projects.com
email: steve@sjd-projects.com

For regular updates, visit us at
twitter.com/projects



Tèlīsà
特里萨
Tai
Chi
Optimal Fitness Lifestyle

**Strengthen your body;
find Inner Peace.**

**Tai Chi class at
Lenham Community Centre.
Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm.
All welcome.**

Classes also available in Maidstone.
Workshops and private tuition also
available in my Studio in Biddenden.

For more information contact
Theresa 07734 108683
telisataichi@gmail.com
www.telisataichi.co.uk

Mick Claydon Carpentry

carpentry

kitchen design

installation

garden rooms & decking

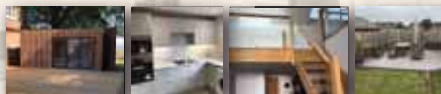
timber & laminate flooring

painting & decorating

shopfitting

general maintenance

FREE ESTIMATES



m.claydon@btinternet.com

07565 036013

Lenham WI

The latest news from Chris Godden

In March some of our members attended the Federation AGM at Gravesend where we voted on the resolution which will be taken up by National – the most popular was to have “Accessible Public Toilet Facilities to Promote Dignity, Health and Social Inclusion”.

We, as the WI, were asked to support local authorities and civil society to reverse the closure trend and ensure dignity for all. This resolution will then be voted on at the Annual General Meeting in June. In April some of us attended the Federation Day at Ditton with some interesting speakers – Beth Hilton whose life passion is for fostering dogs for the last fifteen years,

Pete Benson who gave a talk about Tales of a Film Prop Man, and Lucy Lewis who is the first female bomb disposal expert.

After a busy couple of months we are now looking forward to a few events arranged by the West Kent Federation. On 15th May an Author’s Day has been organised in Sevenoaks. Four authors will be there to talk about their latest books.

There is a watersports event at Mote Park where we can participate in either paddle boarding or kayaking. This has proved to be a very popular event in the past.

Next month we have our National Federation of WIs AGM which is to be held online this year. We will be meeting together to watch this event as it goes out live and will have the opportunity to vote for or against the resolution.

Later in the month there is a Dabble Day in Hildenbough so if you are interested in trying a new craft this is the event for you. There will be the opportunity to try making Fondant Flowers, Bead Jewellery,

Para-rope Knotting (not sure what that is all about!) and Patchwork. This is my quilt that took me 30 years – on and off – to make and it is completely hand stitched.

As far as Lenham WI is concerned we have our own AGM this month and we are always looking to recruit new members so if you would like to come along and see what we get up to we meet at Lenham Community Centre on the second Thursday of every month at 7.30pm.

You can come first as a visitor to see if you enjoy it and hopefully make some new friends along the way. Please contact me, Chris Godden, on the email below.



If you want to join us, we meet at Lenham Community Centre on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Please come along and see what we get up to.

To find out more please contact rgodden@btinternet.com

A.W.COURT
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PROUD TO BE SERVING
THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1965



Your fully independent, family owned, Funeral Directors, serving the local community with compassion and the highest standards of service and professionalism.

With our 24-hour emergency service, we are only a telephone call away.

At the earliest stage possible, you will speak directly with one of our experienced Funeral Directors, who will be there to help, support and guide you through the whole of the funeral process.

GOLDEN CHARTER 
FUNERAL PLANS

A.W. Court Funeral Directors

Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2AP
Telephone: 01622 850840

Email: enquiries@awcourt.com Website: www.awcourt.com

A.W. Court is a Trading Division of West & Coe Limited.
602 Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8YP.



MERCURE

HOTEL

MERCURE MAIDSTONE GREAT DANES HOTEL

Something to Celebrate?

Celebrate in style from just £2026

Special offer when you book your celebration for up to
40 guests to take place in 2026*

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Private Event Room & Bar Hire 7pm - midnight
- An Arrival Drink
- 3 Item Finger Buffet plus selection of sandwiches
- DJ & Disco & Dancefloor
- Cake Stand and Knife
- Additional Guest £26 pp

Our gift to you

A complimentary bedroom for the guest of honour
with breakfast the following morning

*Offer based on Park View Suite. Supplement for larger rooms. Dates subject to availability, terms and conditions apply, Offer is not able to be used in conjunction with any other promotions

E: events@mercuremaidstone.co.uk T: 01622 585 565 opt 3



Lenham Meadows Trust

Countryside and community

LENHAM MEADOWS TRUST AGM



Followed by a presentation by **Ben Williams**, Ranger and Director of Hollingbourne Meadows Trust, to talk about their work to protect the local environment, including the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**To be held in the Granary (opposite the Tithe Barn),
Lenham at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th June 2026**

Free entry, all welcome, free refreshments.

We still need helpers

For example, on social media, secretarial and volunteer coordinator roles.

For a 'without commitment' more detailed explanation, including the approximate time needed for each of the posts, please contact the Trust's Chairman, **Danny Matthews**, either by phone on **07831-308267** or by email at **chairman@lenhammeadowstrust.org**.

**Please email us if you'd like to know more about the Trust or to join our mailing list.
Follow us on social media for the latest news, details of events and photos of our projects**

SPARKLES

*Domestic & Commercial
Window cleaning*

Pure Hot Water
Fed Pole Technology

- Conservatory Cleaning
- Fascia/Cladding Cleaning
- Solar Panels
- Gutter Cleaning System

Tel: 07856 110682

Web: www.sparkles-kent.co.uk
www.facebook.com/sparkleskent

Web Design



Arpent Design

07572 797531

pete@arpent.co.uk



Paul TANN Ltd

All aspects of groundwork undertaken

Driveway renovation including Resin
Patios and Paving

Foundations

Drainage

Fencing

Stonework

No obligation free estimates

Marshall's approved contractor

Call t: **01795 890292** m: **07873 965231**

paultann.co.uk   [paultannltd](https://www.instagram.com/paultannltd)





KENT BESPOKE SHUTTERS.
YOUR LOCAL SHUTTER SPECIALISTS



Ready to talk Shutters?

kentbespokeshutters.co.uk

01622 933559



HOME DESIGN VISITS – EXPERT ADVICE – UNRIVALLED PRODUCT QUALITY

All this from one plumber!

Bathroom Installations	Tiling
Drains & toilets serviced	Painting
General domestic plumbing	Decorating
Leaking pipes	Odd jobs
Replacement taps	No job too small
Kitchen installations	Fully insured
Repairs and installation	FREE quotes
Power Flushing	No call out cost

and friendly professional advice



T: 01622 851186 M: 0791 438 0521
info@allfixplumbing.co.uk
www.allfixplumbing.co.uk



The Council meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

Our committees also meet once a month.

These are:-
Finance & General Purposes
Planning & Implementation

Please see the notice boards and website for the dates of these.

All meetings are held at the Lenham Community Centre at 7:30pm.

Parishioners may attend all meetings.

Contact details: Lisa Westcott

(Clerk) 01622 829034

clerk@lenhamparishcouncil.org.uk

www.lenhamparish.org.uk



*Kent's premier
garden room installer.*

ANGLO BUILDERS

GARDEN ROOMS



Explore innovative solutions and expert
guidance to optimise garden space



- Sheds & Shelters
- Gyms & Saunas
- Log Cabins
- Garden Offices
- Pods & Yurts
- Summer Houses
- Play Rooms

TEL: 07405881368

CALL US!



**VISIT US:
WWW.ANGLOBUILDERS.CO.UK**





philip jarvis
INDEPENDENT
ESTATE
AGENT



VILLAGE & COUNTRY HOMES

RESIDENTIAL SALES & LETTINGS

- Local knowledge
- Wealth of experience

BOOK NOW FOR YOUR
FREE MARKETING CONSULTATION

☎ 01622 858241

✉ homes@philipjarvis.co.uk

📍 1 The Square, Lenham, Kent ME17 2PH

🌐 philipjarvis.co.uk



Lenham Gardening Society

From Margaret Baines



This month's meeting is on 21st May at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Sophie Leathart will give her talk about 'FOLKLORE OF FLOWERS'. The competition will be for 1 slice of Gingerbread and/or 1 sprig Blossom.

All are welcome to the meetings except in February, July and November which are for members only. Members pay £1 entrance with non-members paying £1.50. Annual subscription is £7 per person. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available in the interval and a raffle held before the evening closes.

Diary Dates:

9th June – Day trip to Whitstable and the Enchanted Garden with cream tea £25pp. TBC.

14th July – Day trip to Folkestone. £15pp.

22nd August – Lenham Garden Show.

Rotary Club of Ashford Funds Three ShelterBox Units for Global Disaster Relief

The Rotary Club of Ashford is delighted to announce that we have funded the provision of three ShelterBox units, enabling vital emergency support for families affected by disaster and conflict around the world.

ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that provides immediate, practical aid to people who have lost their homes due to earthquakes, floods, cyclones, conflict, and other humanitarian crises. Each iconic green ShelterBox contains a carefully selected range of essential items designed to help a family survive and begin rebuilding their lives.

Typical contents include:

- A robust, family-sized emergency tent
- Thermal blankets and ground mats
- Water purification equipment
- Solar lighting
- Basic tools and repair kits
- Cooking sets and other essential household items

These life-saving supplies offer displaced families safety, dignity, and the means to start recovering at the most desperate of times.



Our club is proud to support this extraordinary work. Funding three complete ShelterBox units represents a meaningful contribution to global humanitarian efforts, and we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone whose generosity made this possible.

Together, we continue to demonstrate the Rotary spirit of service above self, helping communities near and far when they need it most.

WE ARE A GROWING CLUB BUT CAN ALWAYS DO WITH MORE MEMBERS

If you'd like to be involved in support of good causes locally and internationally, visit: www.ashford-kent-rotary-club
Email: ashford.rotary.1120@gmail.com

CHILSTON PARK HOTEL

YOUR PERFECT WEDDING



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION

LUXURY WEDDING VENUE IN MAIDSTONE

SANDWAY, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME17 2BE

01622 859803 CHILSTONPARK@HANDPICKED.CO.UK HANDPICKEDHOTELS.CO.UK/CHILSTONPARK

*Hand*PICKED HOTELS

  @CHILSTONPARKHOTEL

Nature Watch

By Darren Hammond

The Nuthatch Suite

One of the visitors to our gardens that you should look out for is the Nuthatch. A bird that has a lot of character and the spirit to match and one of my favourites (although I seem to say that about many of the animals that I find in the gardens and fields about Lenham).

It can be found in and around woodlands all the way up to the southern part of Scotland and the good news is they are on the increase in numbers, however they do face difficulties with habitat loss as the forests are cut down.



What to look for

The nuthatch is a smallish bird that is roughly the same size as a great tit, perhaps a little larger, and it has a grey/blue back with a light brown/orange-ish front. It “wears” a kind of an eye mask with the black line going from its beak across its eyes and down to its neck.

They can sort of look like a woodpecker. In fact they can be seen to grab a nut and then put it in place in a tree and peck at it to eat it in the same way a woodpecker does.



Where to find them

The Nuthatch is usually found in trees, where it moves in short, hopping motions without using its tail for support. It is very agile and can hop up a tree and even down, which is very unusual for a bird, and is one way to tell for sure if it's a Nuthatch. In fact they are pretty much the only bird that can hop DOWN a tree in the UK. They prefer mature woodlands with tall trees and plenty of bark crevices for foraging and will visit gardens looking for food, especially if you have a bird feeder or two - particularly if the garden has a tall mature tree or two.



What do they eat?

So despite the name Nuthatch, they are known for eating things other than nuts. In the spring and summer, for instance, they will eat mostly insects, including beetles, caterpillars, spiders and larvae. But in the winter, as the live food becomes scarcer, they eat nuts, seeds, and acorns which make up the bulk of their diet at this time and if you have these things available in feeders they will be more likely to visit your garden.

Nesting

Nuthatches normally nest in tree cavities, often occupying old woodpecker holes. Amazingly, six to eight eggs are laid, with the chicks hatching after around two weeks. Fledging normally occurs after around three to four weeks.



Nuthatches mate for life and each pair will defend their territory very vigorously. Another unusual trait they have is their need to use mud to

make the opening to a nest narrower helping to keep out predators.

How should you prepare your garden to entice them in?

Attracting Nuthatches to your garden can be a rewarding experience, as these birds are both incredibly interesting to watch and help control insects. They will happily visit gardens with mature trees and well-stocked feeders as mentioned earlier.

Considerations when setting things up to attract them include leaving out suitable food, ensuring shelter and maintaining a peaceful setting that mimics their natural habitat.

Having a garden that is fairly quiet helps as they can be shy, even though they have a reputation for being very brave.

The mighty Nuthatch

For such a small bird they certainly have a big attitude. They will scare off other birds from their food source and some that are much larger, like woodpeckers.

But not only do they take on birds, they have also been seen taking on squirrels to move them off their food.

Such a feisty little bird that is truly one of the most unique and captivating birds found in the UK.

Window Fix Direct Kent

The Caring Company Working For Quality



The WFD Group

Window Fix Direct Kent - Kentish Warm Roofs - Warmer Roofs Direct - Window Fit Direct

Double glazing repairs and installations

Window and door locks

Glass unit

Window and door handles

Window and door hinges

Gaskets

Cat/dog flaps

Letterboxes

Security upgrades

Conservatory roof repairs/replacements

Conservatory Warm tiled roofs

For Free Quotes & Advice Please Call

01634 789025

Email: paul@windowfixdirectkent.co.uk Web: www.windowfixdirect.co.uk

Address: The Granary, Greenway Court Road, Hollingbourne, ME17 1QD

INSTALLsure
installer insurance, sorted



FENSA
Approved
Member Since 2001



WarmerRoof



FCA

Trustpilot



The Friends of
St Mary's Church, Lenham

UPDATE

TOWER ROOF APPEAL

You've probably noticed the scaffolding around the church tower recently. The tower roof required a full refurbishment due to deterioration and the presence of a leak into a corner of the belfry.

We knew this was to be a very significant job but couldn't know the full extent until the boards on the roof were lifted. Unfortunately, lifting the boards exposed rotting wood in some major beams; just what we didn't want to find! A lot of the wood had to be replaced, making this an even larger job than anticipated. This is the largest, most costly project that the Friends have undertaken since our inception in 2013. The cost has been in excess of £51,000.

The Friends were able to cover over half of the cost, thanks to consolidating funds from donations, membership and events and we received substantial donations from the Hatch Charity, the Friends of Kent Churches, the Benefact Trust and the Parish Council. However, we have depleted our resources very significantly.

[We would be extremely grateful, should you be in a position to help us with a donation towards the cost of the roof restoration; our payment details are below.](#)

Bank Transfer: Account name:

Friends of St Mary's Lenham

Sort Code: 517055 **Account No:** 81611544

Cheque Made out to:

Friends of St Mary's Lenham

Deliver to: Jan Enever, 23 Grovelands, Old Ashford Road, Lenham, ME17 2QR

Completing the tower roof restoration will be a major achievement in our quest to maintain our ancient building for years to come; we hope that you can help.

SAVE THE DATE – JAZZ IN ST MARY'S, SATURDAY 11TH JULY

Come along to St Mary's Church, Lenham and listen to the sounds of Doctor Jazz, a great local 7-piece jazz ensemble.

We'll be serving wine, soft drinks and canapes during the interval, at which point we'll also hold a super raffle. The doors will open at 19.00; Doctor Jazz will start playing at 19.30 and the evening will end around 21.45.

Tickets will go on sale on 1st June from Kent Loves..., 11 High Street Lenham and will be priced at £15 per person. Tickets are advance purchase only and numbers will be limited.

All profits from the event will go towards our work to preserve and protect our Grade 1 listed church building, ensuring that it continues to stand as a beautiful focal point in the village. We hope that you'll be able to join us to enjoy what we're sure will be a great sing-along occasion – do save the date!

Please email us if you would like to sign up to receive regular updates about our work or if you would like to become a member. You'll also find more information about us and a membership application form on our website.



www.friendsofstmarylensham.org



[@FriendsofStMarysLenham](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofStMarysLenham)



enquiries@friendsofstmarylensham.org

Simple Wellbeing: The speed of time

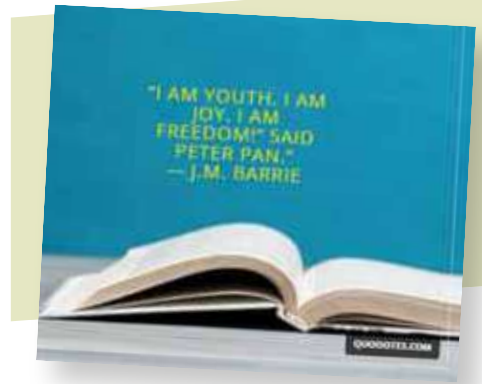
By Vladimir Barkanov

Have you ever felt as though time speeds up with each passing year? When we were children, days seemed to last forever. But once we reach adulthood, it can feel as if there is only a blink of an eye between waking up and going to bed. What is going on? Does time really move faster today?

For the time to run faster, the rotation of our planet would need to increase. Has that happened? Yes—slightly. As a result, some days in 2025 were around one millisecond shorter than 24 hours. This means that time itself is running much as it always has, and our sense of acceleration is rooted in perception rather than physics. What, then, shapes that perception?

We often hear people say that “life has got busier”. But has it truly become busier than before? And what about people who are retired and no longer busy – do they feel that life slows down? Or consider when we are on holiday; are we still “busy” then?

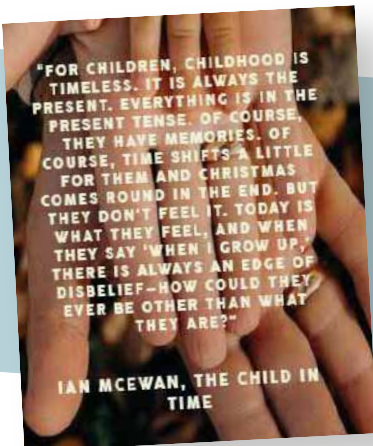
The answer to the speed of time lies in perception – but not in our perception



of time itself, but in our perception of our lives. What do I mean by that? Think back to yourself as a child, or, if your own childhood memories aren't so vivid, observe a young child you know. How does a child perceive the world? When a child sees a tree, it isn't an oak or a maple – it is simply “Wow!” Flowers are “Pretty!” or “Beautiful!” Everything is new and special when we are young. That is why a child's day feels so long: it is filled with so many things.

As we grow up, we become used to all these things. In a sense, this is necessary; it helps us function in the world without becoming overwhelmed or distracted.

But the payment for this convenience is time. So, can we slow time down again? We cannot unlearn everything we know about the world to make it wonderful and surprising again. So, what can we do? Two things. First, pay attention to the small details in your day. Allow yourself to notice a few “Wows” or “Pretties” instead of simply seeing trees and flowers. Second, try something new. Buy lunch somewhere different. Walk a new route. Taste new food. Explore art. Join a social group, a choir, or amateur dramatics. These are the ways we can slow down our experience of time and enrich our lives.



**Family
Fun &
Games**

**Homemade
cakes &
savouries**

Holy Trinity

invites you to

Tea in a Tent

Saturday 6th June 2026

2.30pm – 4.30pm

Memorial Hall

Charing Heath



Help us fill a box of relief aid





- **Limited memberships available**
- **Brand new fitness facility**
- **Fully equipped and air conditioned**
- **Expert personal trainers**
- **Community support and motivation**



DRIVE HEALTH & FITNESS
THE RIDGE GOLF CLUB
CHARTWAY STREET
ME17 3JB



01622 234235

contact@drivehealthandfitness.com





Wealth Management and Financial Planners



Investment Advice



Regular Savings



Inheritance Tax Planning *



Retirement Planning

Guiding you through your financial journey

For both individuals and business clients

*Invest Planning, Inheritance Tax Planning and Tax Planning are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Arrange a free consultation, we're here to help



01622 633 035



Info@scionfinancial.co.uk



www.scionfinancial.co.uk

Scion Financial Ltd is an Appointed Representative of Blacktower Financial Management Limited and a member of the Nexus Global (IA Network) which is a trading name of Blacktower Financial Management Limited who are authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority, registered number 188811



Piano Lessons

PianoLessonsByRob.co.uk

100% 5 Star Google Ratings

40 Plus years' experience

ABRSM & Trinity Exam Prep

Free Trial Lesson (Beginners Welcome)

1 The Paddocks, Lenham

07504 515610



Eat in or take away

Traditional Fish and Chips

Pies Chicken Southern Fried Chicken Kebabs

Kids Meals Burgers Savories Sauces Drinks

Breakfast & fresh ground coffee from 8.00 am

Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 2.30 pm

and 4.30 pm - 10.30 pm

Saturday 8.00 am - 10.30 pm

Sunday 11.00 am - 9.00 pm



The CHEQUERS

The Square Lenham Kent ME17 2PH

Telephone: 01622 859 878



D. LUCKHURST

— GENERAL BUILDER —

07776 479524

Daniel Luckhurst

07776 479524

d.luckhurstgb@outlook.com

@d.luckhurstgeneralbuilder

My services cover all aspects of general building, including renovations and property improvements.

In carpentry, I specialise in bespoke woodwork, framing, decking, fitted furniture, wardrobes, under stairs storage and media walls.

Harrietsham Computers

**I come to you when it suits you
No call-out charge**

Computer problems, virus attack?
Need an upgrade, repair, or new machine?
Want help with networking, wireless networks, or
broadband? Machine running slowly?
... or just want some extra tuition?

**For local friendly,
experienced help and advice**

call Mike Cuerden on 01622 859442 or 07963 020092



LOCK FIT

Lenham local & trusted locksmith

- Emergency locksmith services
- UPVC window & door repair specialist
- Lock changes and security upgrades
- Emergency burglary repairs
- Misted window replacement
- Doors and windows that won't open or close

**Contact us today
for a free no obligation quote**

T: 07726 776600

✉ mike.wright@lockfit.co.uk

No call out fees EVER

Cheekatrade



SR Interiors

Painting & Decorating Services

- Internal and external decorating
- Professional decorating at a competitive price
- Dulux approved, over 30 years experience
- Fully insured

Mobile: 07816 149502

Email: info@sr-interiors.com

Web: www.sr-interiors.com



Afsaneh's Foot Clinic

Registered Member of the British Association of Foot Health Professionals

Afsaneh Smith MCFHP MAFHP

- Ingrowing Toe Nails
- Fungal Treatment
- Corns, Callouses & Hard Skin Removal
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Verruca Treatment

Telephone: 07506 376 264 / 01622 853 640

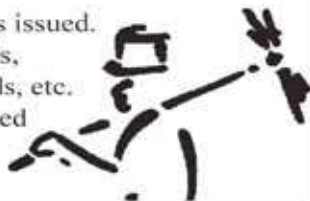
Email: afsaneh_motamedi@yahoo.com

Hubbard's Farm, Lenham Heath, Maidstone ME 17 2BX

INVICTA CHIMNEY SWEEPS

YOUR LOCAL SWEEP

Certificates issued.
Pots, Cowsls,
Bird Guards, etc.
Fully insured



NO MESS NO DUST NO FUSS



TEL: 01622 632641

www.invictachimneysweeps.co.uk

GUILD OF MASTER SWEEPS MEMBER



LEEDS  CASTLE

THE QUEEN'S - JOUST -

23 - 25 May 2026

◆ AN EXHILARATING DISPLAY OF COMBAT AND ACTION ◆
ELEGANT AND UNUSUAL EQUESTRIAN ◆ MEDIEVAL LIVING AND FEASTING

INCLUDED IN YOUR ADMISSION TICKET



North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK

Rotary
Weald of Kent



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY 14th JUNE 2026

Register online from 1st March.

www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live music.

Choice of 1,3,6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your own fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation



All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service.

Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.

Supporting



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247).
Registered address: 7 Redman Place, London E20 110

Join our classes
for pregnancy,
baby and beyond

Basking
Babies®

Find your village, have fun & bond with your baby

Friendly, relaxed & informative classes,
beneficial for both adult & baby.

During pregnancy

- 🐰 Mama-to-be sharing & support circles
- 🐰 Pregnancy relaxation
- 🐰 Intro to baby massage

With baby

- 🐰 Baby massage, reflexology and colic alleviation (birth-crawling)
- 🐰 Mama sharing & support circles
- 🐰 Baby yoga (3 months to pre-school)

Events

- 🐰 Parties
- 🐰 Coffee mornings

AWARD
WINNING
CLASSES

Join Gemma's classes in Weald of Kent:
Gemma Debnam
Qualified Basking Babies Instructor
07305 882 972
gemmadebnam@baskingbabies.co.uk
baskingbabies.co.uk/wealdofkent



We thoroughly enjoyed our Basking Babies 'Nurture Me' course. It was great to learn massage and reflexology techniques to help with common complaints such as teething and colds. Me and my baby were so relaxed after each session. It was lovely to get to meet other mums and babies, and be able to chat over a cup of tea each week.



OUTDOOR LIVING

LENHAM

OPEN 7 DAYS



PERGOLA **SALE** UP TO £1000 OFF PERGOLAS

Pergolas, Gazebos, Garden Buildings | Garden Furniture to include Dining Sets, Lounge Sets, Benches, Bistro Sets, Garden Kitchens, BBQ's, Fire Pits, Outdoor Mirrors, Ornaments, Pots and so much more!

Unit 2, Ashmill Business Park, Ashford Road, Lenham ME17 2GQ info@outdoorlivinglenham.co.uk

www.outdoorlivinglenham.co.uk 01622 231399

THE PATIO > WAREHOUSE



UNIT 3, ASHMILL BUSINESS PARK, ASHFORD RD, LENHAM, ME17 2GQ. TEL: 01622 231399

W. WWW.THEPATIOWAREHOUSE.CO.UK E. INFO@THEPATIOWAREHOUSE.CO.UK F. [INTHEPATIOWAREHOUSE](https://www.instagram.com/inthepatiowarehouse)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND TRADE 7 DAYS A WEEK

WALL TILES FLOOR TILES
FLOOR TILES WALL TILES



THE STONE TILE COLLECTION
ASHFORD ROAD LENHAM ME17 2DL

 **MOLEY AND BOO**

ANTIQUES, VINTAGE, RETRO, COLLECTABLES, GIFTS



OPEN 7 DAYS

ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, ME17 2GQ

01622 231399

WWW.MOLEYANDBOO.COM

FREE PARKING ON SITE



Who'd A Thought It.
Champagne & Oyster Bar & Rooms

The 'Who'd A Thought It'

is full of surprises. Tucked away in the sleepy Kent countryside, our boutique hotel is a hive of character, quirkiness and outrageous unconventionality.



NEW GARDEN ROOM NOW OPEN FOR EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

Our luxurious AA 5* hotel, restaurant and champagne bar welcomes you to have a truly unique and memorable experience, whether you join us for a night, a meal or simply a drink.

We offer classic English dishes, carefully prepared with local ingredients with plenty of attention to detail. Browse our website at www.whodathoughtit.com to see the menus and our charming selection of bedrooms, should you wish to stay overnight with us.

**Special celebration meals and functions are our speciality
and you can be assured of a great time and top-class service.**

Live music on our terrace

Call or email us NOW, or use the website for online booking.

Tel: +44 (0) 1622 858 951

Email: joe@whodathoughtit.com

Address: Headcorn Road, Grafty Green,
Nr Lenham, Kent, ME17 2AR



CRANBROOK MUSEUM AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY C.I.O.

Open April to October. Tuesday to Saturday
also every Sunday in August 2pm – 4.30pm

VISIT FREE

Donations welcome

Three floors of Exhibits in 15th Century building with cottage garden

'Wheels of Time'
Children's History Detective Trail

EXHIBITIONS 2026

APRIL and MAY

The history of Cranbrook's Railway

JUNE, JULY and AUGUST

George Devey – Benenden's Architect

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER

A history of clock and watch making in Cranbrook

Carriers Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JX

www.cranbrookmuseum.org Facebook @cranbrookmuseum

Registered Surgical Chiropodist / Podiatrist

Established for Over 25 Years

Member of The Association of Chiropodists & Podiatrists
HCPC Registered G.C.S.Ch., M.Inst.Ch.P., M.F.S.Ch.

Heather's
Chiropody
& Podiatry



- Treatments & Consultations
- Children's Chiropody
- Corns, Calluses & Hard Skin Removal
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Fungal Treatment
- Ingrowing Toe Nails / Toe Nail Problems
- Verruca Treatment

M: 07595 497348

T: 01622 850376

www.heatherschiropody.co.uk
retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk

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

REBELLION BIKE

CYCLE REPAIRS

PRICES FROM £30

PRICES INCLUDE
COLLECTION &
RETURN OF YOUR
BIKE IN ANY OF
THESE LOCATIONS



rebellion.bike/bike-repairs
07356001291 (WHATSAPP OK!)
TOM@REBELLION.BIKE

FOR ELECTRIC BIKE CONVERSION KITS,
PARTS & CUSTOM E-BIKES
**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE
REBELLION.BIKE**

MBC awarded Gold at the Wilder Kent Awards

This is to recognise the council's long term commitment to tackling the biodiversity and climate emergencies across the borough.

The award celebrates organisations making a meaningful difference for nature, climate resilience and local communities, and reflects the wide ranging and practical action Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) is taking to protect and enhance Maidstone's natural environment.

From investing in nature recovery and river restoration to embedding biodiversity into planning, land management and community engagement, MBC has placed climate transition and nature recovery at the heart of its work.

Through initiatives such as its Nature Recovery Fund, MBC has supported locally led environmental projects, helping farmers, landowners, charities and community groups restore habitats, improve water quality and strengthen biodiversity across the borough. Also MBC is delivering a growing programme of practical, on the ground action. This includes a conservation grazing trial using sheep to improve habitat management, the installation of living pillars to support pollinators and the development of food forests that combine community benefit with biodiversity gain. Plus urban and community wilding and encouraging residents to connect with nature through initiatives to celebrate the borough's green spaces and the natural environment.



Shelley Wilcken, Biodiversity & Climate Change Manager; Clls Clive English, Rachel Rodwell and Michael Summersgill



NORTHDOWNS
COSMETIC
CLINIC

Wrinkle reduction facial injections

Dermal filler treatment

Excessive armpit sweating treatments

By Local GP - Dr Andrew Reed
BSc (Hons), MB BS, FRCGP,
DRCOG, DFFP, RCPATHME

Consultations and treatments within
Len Valley Practice following
15 years of experience

See www.northdownsclinic.co.uk
for further details or email on
enquiries@northdownsclinic.co.uk

GOWERS GARAGE



Servicing and Repairs

To most makes
and models of
Cars and Vans

Free Local Collection
And
Return Service Available

Tyres, Exhausts, Welding,
Batteries
MOTs Arranged

Tel: 01622 858210
92 High Street Lenham
Maidstone Kent ME17 2LB

Changes at our Lenham Library

Goodbye to Kathryn & Marilyn; hello to Kat

Lenham Library has been at the centre of the village for at least 50 years, and despite many changes and advances in technology, its heart remains the same; providing access to free books and other resources that people might not otherwise be able to afford.

We offer printing and photocopying services, free events and activities, as well as 100's of books, guaranteeing we have something to take your fancy; be it the latest thriller, a cookery book, or help with your homework!

For many years, the staff team has consisted of **Kathryn** and **Marilyn**, who have endeavoured to answer every enquiry, found books wherever possible, and greeted every customer with a smile. Both local to Lenham and have been for many years; Kathryn has worked a remarkable 33 years in Lenham library. They've known many customers through life's inevitable changes, some of them since birth!

This past year they both made the difficult decision to retire; Marilyn left in November last year, and Kathryn finished at the end of March. We don't need to tell you how faithfully they served your library; getting to witness the many 'thank you' cards, flowers and even a poem that Kathryn received within her last week, the same being done for Marilyn also, speaks of the impact they have had on the local community.

We thank them both for their tireless hard work and commitment to the library. And though the librarians are changing, we want to ask for your continued support regarding an invaluable local resource. We have a new staff member **Kat**, who is eager to help and get to know the community, and we are hoping to have another staff member soon. We have lots of plans for the library; we're planning to start regular children's activities and are eagerly waiting (some of us even counting down!) to the highlight of our year... the **Summer Reading Challenge**!

Decked out in style!

At **Andrew French Fencing** we build high quality decks, fences, gates, pergolas and more.

Offering competitive pricing and bespoke solutions so you can relax in the outdoor space of your dreams.

With more than 22 years' experience in the gate manufacture and fencing trade I have a proven track record of delivering quality results for my customers.

From close board or picket to chain link or railings you can be sure your garden will be secure and looking great.

Decking or a new patio can transform your garden giving you the perfect outdoor space for entertaining or relaxing.

I use quality treated deck boards and natural Indian sandstone to give that extra special look. Gates and pergolas can be functional or statement pieces in your garden. Made to measure and customised to your requirements.



**Contact me today for a FREE quote.
Appointments are made to fit your schedule.**

Call 07788 971584 | Email frenchandrewp@live.com | www.andrewfrenchfencing.com

An update from your local MP, Helen Whately

Nothing is more irritating when driving along a country lane than spotting a load of junk fly-tipped by the side of the road.

Every time I see a familiar unsightly mound of old mattresses, broken furniture, bin bags or building waste, I feel a surge of anger at whoever thought it okay to dump this stuff. And I know I'm not alone. I get lots of emails about fly-tipping and litter.

Clearing up fly-tipping on public land and highways costs taxpayers millions of pounds a year. If it's on farmland, it usually falls to hard-pressed farmers to remove it. Despite the increasing use of CCTV to catch fly-tippers, the problem is getting worse. I'm investigating why. Is it because few fly-tippers are caught, or because those who are get trivial penalties - or both?

Councils can issue Fixed Penalty Notices of up to £1,000 for fly-tipping and seize vehicles. For the most serious cases, the law allows prison sentences for up to 5 years. Yet in practice most of the penalties imposed for fly-tipping are low-level fines, and clearly many fly-tippers are never caught at all.

According to the House of Commons Library, in the year to September 2025, there were 25 people sentenced for fly tipping offences in Kent. That was 18 less than the previous year. The custody rate was 4.0% and the average fine (excluding companies) was £466.

There are around 20,000 fly-tipping incidents reported in Kent each year, so these figures show the majority of offenders are getting away with it. This ties in with what I hear from residents who report fly-tipping, who tell me



Helen keeping the community clean during a litter pick session

even when there's something in the waste to identify its origin, little action is taken.

I want to get to the bottom of why fly-tipping is getting worse and get action taken to fix that. I'm investigating what's causing the increase (Tip closures? Higher waste charges?) why fly-tippers aren't being identified even if there's evidence to do so, and why the sentences for those who are caught seem so lenient.

The good news is that I'm not alone in working to tackle this. In March the Government announced that drivers could get penalty points on their licences for fly-tipping and pushed councils to seize more vehicles. I'll be keeping a close eye on whether these proposals get put into practice.

Please contact me if you have ideas or a way you can help.

e: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

t: 0207 219 6472

35 YEARS
EXPERIENCE



SMALL
PROJECTS
CATERED
FOR



YOUR GARDEN TRANSFORMATION COMPANY

Landscape and Garden Contractors



- Full landscape and design service
- Pond and lake construction
- Hedge cutting
- Winter tidy ups
- Garden, scrub and woodland clearance
- Decking and pergolas
- Turfing
- Seeding
- All types of fencing
- Paddock maintenance
- Driveways
- Full maintenance and grass cutting
- Paths
- Jet Washing
- Retaining walls
- Chipper hire (with operator)
- Specialists in post and rail installation
- Land based contractors



- PRUNING & FELLING
- STUMP GRINDING
- COMMERCIAL GRASS CUTTING
- CROWN LIFTING & THINNING
- DEAD & DANGEROUS TREES
- ALL TYPES OF IVY REMOVAL
- AWKWARD ACCESS
- TALL HEDGE REDUCTIONS
- ASH DIEBACK

Call us today on 01795 899246

**24/7
CALL OUT**

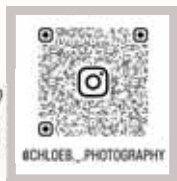
email: landandlandscaping@gmail.com www.www.landandlandscaping.co.uk

ChloeB

photography

Get in touch

- Facebook **ChloeB photography**
- Instagram **chloeb._.photography**
- Email **chloe.brett.photography@gmail.com**
- Website **www.chloeb-photography.co.uk**



Tai Chi and Qigong

Lenham Community Centre
Monday 9:30-10:30am ~ Tai Chi
Monday 10:45-11:45am ~ Qigong

Come along and join us –
First class free!

For further information and to check
availability, please contact Rhonda
07985 001782

Email: bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk
www.abundantenergy.uk



MASTER FLOORS

CARPET

VINYL

LUXURY VINYL TILES

LAMINATE

ENGINEERED WOOD

Telephone: 01233 22 11 66 Mobile: 07974 227690



Family run business

25 years experience

www.masterfloors.co.uk



A day in the Osteopath Clinic

With Chris Tempest "The Lenham Osteopath"

No.28 High Street, Lenham ME17 2QD

www.thelenhamosteopath.co.uk

Welcome to this edition of a day in the clinic with the Lenham osteopath. It's been several weeks since I last spoke to you about various health issues and this month, I have a new one for you.

Recently I have found a number of patients coming to see me with lower back issues - thankfully most will resolve within weeks/months but unfortunately, we have seen that discogenic issues are on the rise. Be careful when lifting!

DISCOGENIC SPINAL PAIN

Discogenic pain involves degenerative changes of the intervertebral disc (the squidgy part in between the bones of the spine) including structural defects that can result in biomechanical instability and inflammation.

What are the symptoms of discogenic pain?

Pain on: Bending forward, sitting, sneezing, coughing (you may find relief when you lay down).

Pain in the back of your thigh or buttocks, especially when sitting down. Neck pain when you try to tilt your head into flexion (dropping your chin to chest).

Muscle spasms in the neck or arms when you do some upper or lower body movements.

How long can it last?

Unfortunately, if you cause inflammation to a disc - it can take months, not weeks, to recover. Often arising from a radical injury arising from lifting a heavy object, lifting far too heavy in a gym environment (squats/deadlifts) or overloading the spine by trauma induced pressure. The dull diffuse pain may last for months, but any associated pain, pins & needles/parasthesia hopefully should be able to be treated and therefore resolved faster.

How can it be treated?

There are various techniques in practice that we use to resolve and speed up the symptoms/



process of discogenic pain. The main would be decompressive manual therapy, followed by and complemented with exercises, non-steroidal anti inflammatory drugs and painkillers if needed. Medical acupuncture can also really excel in this condition - we've had some incredible results in practice using this method. All of the above aim to reduce inflammation and improve mobility.

What about long term effects?

Most patients will make a full recovery within the timescales discussed. However, there may be some patients who may not reach 100%, but these are very rare cases.

How do I avoid getting it?

In short, the most common affected for a disc injury is male, 20-40 yrs of age. If you're within that group, be very cautious when lifting heavy objects and be sure not to overdo it! Keep the spine strong but also supple - flexibility/stretching will help tremendously and obviously regular osteopathic treatment will help to achieve this.

For more help or to book a consultation

Call 07749980096

@christempestosteopath

www.chris-tempest.com

The Arts Society Egerton

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts



WEDNESDAY 13th May at 2.30 pm (doors open from 2.00pm)
at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS

THE ART OF THE CARTOONIST

Presented by **Harry Venning**, cartoonist for several UK publications and UK Strip Cartoonist of the Year for 'Clare in the Community' which he adapted into a Radio 4 sitcom.

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join.



To find out more please visit: www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk or contact our Membership Secretary, Christine on cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377



Thorneloe & Co

Solicitors

Now part of Hallett & Co



Based in Lenham, we are an independent family practice providing a friendly, high quality, personal service tailored to your specific needs.

For you and your family.....

- Wills, Probate and Tax Planning
- Trusts and Estate Administration
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Family Law and Employment Law
- Buying and Selling Your Home
- Court of Protection
- Dispute Resolution / Property Litigation
- Personal Injury

For you and your business....

- Agriculture
- Commercial Property
- Buying or Selling a Business
- Business Contracts / Finance
- Employment Law
- Dispute Resolution / Property Litigation

01622 859 416

Lenham@Hallettandco.co.uk

www.hallettandco.co.uk

St Mary's House The Square Lenham Kent ME17 2PH

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority Registered Number 50485

Countryways Quilters and Stitchers

From Pamela Gillard



In April we started the construction of a Weekend bag in readiness for our summer getaways. So that will be the focus of May, with the finished item ready to stuff with beach gear and take off by the end of the month. Or it can be sold at our **Quilters craft fair on June 2nd. That will be fun. You should pop in between 1:30pm and 4pm to see some of the things we make.**



I hope you'll come and join us at one of our meetings and try your hand at something new or just enjoy the company, have a chat and a cup of tea. It's an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon.

Our meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month except December and we'd love to see you. We meet in the Osborne room in the Lenham Community Centre from 1:30 to 4:30. If you'd like more information on our group or a copy of our 2026 programme, please contact me, Pamela Gillard at 07914 809946 or email moonbeamspinner@gmail.com



40
Years in IT



Troubleshooting, repair, malware & virus removal, Wi-Fi, networking



Device setup, data transfer, SSD upgrade, supply new & refurb kit



PC & Mac, upgrades, maintenance, mobile & tablet Setup + much more

Slow PC or laptop? Why not give your old device a boost by upgrading it with a Solid State Drive (SSD)? Give me a call for a quote.

Lenham Based, I come to you, or drop it off to me
Fast & Friendly Service, No Call-Out Fee

£25 per ½ hour
(min charge 1 hour)

Call Mark on **07867 90 55 22**

Email: mark@mscomperv.com

OSTEOPATH



Helping relieve the symptoms of:

- Sciatica
- Arthritis
- Frozen shoulder
- Headaches
- Back/Hip/neck pain
- Fibromyalgia
- Acute pain
- Chronic pain
- Nerve compression & more...

MR C.R. TEMPEST

D.O. M.Ost GOsC. Cert MA -
Registered Osteopath & Medical Acupuncturist

Appointments available until 8pm mid week
No.28 High Street, Lenham, ME17 2QD

07749 980096 www.chris-tempest.com or
www.thelenhamosteopath.co.uk

Christian Message

From Angela Benjamin

GOD LOVES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.

For God loved the world so much he gave his only son Matt 3:16

As I have sat down to start putting this together it has been the second day of sunshine after what seems like a whole month of rain. I have put my first line of washing out to dry so things are definitely beginning to brighten up.

Our gardens are coming back to life bulbs of many beautiful colours are breaking into flower and waving in the wind. As I look out of my window and just see tree busting into bud and the grass looking green birds are returning from their winter migration I realise how wonderful Gods creation is. In Matthew's gospel (chapter 6: 25-30)

God tells us not to worry about food drink or clothes. He says just to look at the wild flowers and the birds and how God feeds and looks after them. Here we are just coming out of winter into spring and sure enough everything is coming back to its true spender.

God promises to send us another helper to stay with us his Holy Spirit. God's Holy

Spirit is the third part of the trinity God the Father, God the Son and God's Holy Spirit Pentecost is the day when God sends his Holy Spirit to help and guide us. If you can imagine how the people may have felt at that time a group of believers were standing together and suddenly there was a noise sounding like the loud gush of wind. If something like this happened to you can you imagine being with a group of friends and feeling frightened confused maybe!

God is a God of love and compassion he did not send his spirit to alarm us but to guide and help us. Pouring out his Holy Spirit on each one of us so that we can learn to put him first in our lives and not just fitting him in when we can or need too. Until that great day when he returns.

When we think about what God has done for each of us, God sent Jesus into the world and then leaving us with another helper his Holy Spirit. We never have to walk alone. So let's be full of the joys of spring and filled with love for one another just as Jesus loves each of us and is still pouring his Holy Spirit into our lives.

Tel: 01622 851542



STONEBRIDGE ASSOCIATES

Accountancy and Business Services

FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESS

Len Valley Benefice **Everybody is welcome**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
1 John 4 v7 (part)

Sunday 3 May

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 6 May

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 10 May

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Saturday 16 May

3.00pm Lenham: Messy Church

Sunday 17 May

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 24 May

11.00am Benefice Pentecost Service
 with HC at St John's, Harrietsham

Sunday 31 May

11.00am Benefice Taizé Service at
 All Saints, Ulcombe

Check local notice boards for more details

Please note that during 2026 some services may need to be altered or cancelled at short notice due to circumstances beyond our control.



PHOENIX PAINT SOLUTIONS LTD

Water Lane Farm, Harrietsham, Maidstone, ME17 1DE

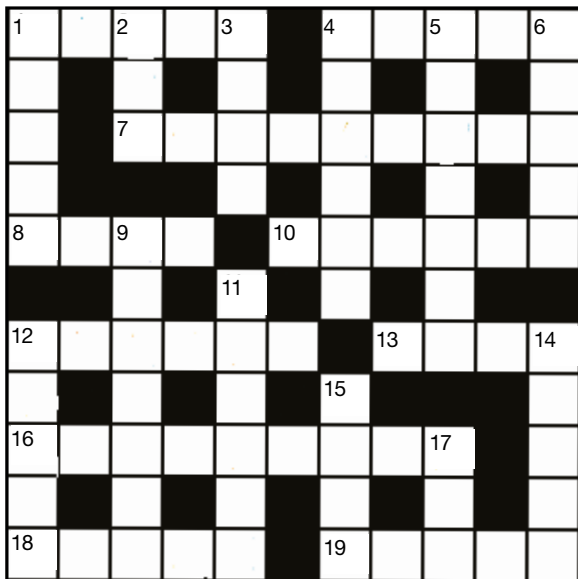
T: 01622 535538 M: 07830 323233



FREE ESTIMATING, INSURANCE WARRANTY REPAIRS,
 END OF LEASE ADVICE AND QUOTES, COLOUR CODING.
 WHEEL REFURBISHMENTS AND EXPERT GUIDE FOR ANY REPAIRS.
 COLLECTION / DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE
 OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 5PM MONDAY - FRIDAY
 EMAIL: OFFICE@PHOENIXPAINTSOLUTIONS.CO.UK
 WEB: WWW.PHOENIXPAINTSOLUTIONS.CO.UK

Focus PRIZE Crossword May 2026

The winner of March 2026 is Jenny Fairhall of Lenham. Well done!



Across clues

1. Preliminary study of an invention. (5)
4. Trinidadian dance under a pole. (5)
7. A self-contained unit of writing. (9)
8. A slight quarrel. (4)
10. Types of outside activities not undertake al fresco. (6)
12. Type of footwear for indoor or outdoor use. (6)
13. Local name for the River Thames through Oxford. (4)
16. Type of car that does not have a standard gear lever. (9)
18. Someone who helps people run a complete marathon.(5)
19. Bet. (5)

Down clues

1. Word for heavy machinery. (5)
2. Cut or prune a tree, for example. (3)
3. One of three in a school year. (4)
4. Myth or saga. (6)
5. Rich open areas of grassland. (7)
6. Not on this hand but the(5)
9. An obsessional follower of something. (7)
11. A grower of our food. (6)
12. Put one's foot down heavily. (5)
14. Someone skilled in using needles on clothes. (5)
15. Pack things away. (4)
17. A wheel with projections on it. (3)

Answers for April 2026
Focus Crossword



A **£10 voucher**, donated by your crossword compiler, will go to the first correctly completed crossword picked from your entries. Please complete the box below and hand your entries into the Lenham Parish Council offices at 1a High Street Lenham or into the Lenham library by **no later than 23 May** where they'll be placed in an envelope. The winner will be notified direct and announced in a future issue of *Focus*.

Name Phone No

Address



Messy Church



St Mary's Church, Lenham

Saturday 16th May 3pm-5pm

* Hand Print Canvas * Lego * Giant Balloon Tennis

* Pin the Wings on the Butterfly

* Games Table 10+ * Tattoos * Cress Cups

* Bath Bombs and much more

Including Our famous Messy Party

Tea



Join the fun at Messy Church!

Free Event

Everyone Welcome

Join us on facebook @Messy Church LVB



LVB



GREAT OFFERS!!



SHOP LOCAL!!

OFFERS FOR MAY 2026!
BUY ONE GET ONE
FREE ON AD-BLUE

BUY A HOZELOCK AUTO REEL
AND GET A HOZELOCK SPRINKLER
HALF PRICE

£10 OFF ALL PUMA SAFETY TRAINERS

GREAT PRICES ON APACHE
AND TIMCO WORK SHORTS

SAVE £5 ON POLYVINE
HEAVY DUTY VARNISH

FREE 6" WALL BRUSH
WITH EVERY TIN OF BEDEC BARN PAINT

PLUS – HAVE A COFFEE ON US!



OPEN MON-FRI 6.45am - 6pm
SAT 8am - 5pm
MAY 4TH AND MAY 25TH 8am - 5pm (CHARING ONLY)

☎ 0333 404 7777 WWW.FIXINGSWAREHOUSE.CO.UK