



Malherbe Monthly

Number 259
March 2026



Spring is on its way

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Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the **April** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **24th March**

News from the Parish Council

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

On Tuesday 24th Feb, at the Village Hall in Grafty Green, the Kent Fire and Rescue Service held a demonstration and training session on CPR and the use of Defibrillators.

The session was well attended by the public and the Fire Service demonstrated through the use of manikins and defibrillators how to administer CPR on adults, children and babies, use of the defibrillators on adults and children and even how to assist in choking incidents.

A big thank you to the members of the Fire Service, and to the instructor who made it a really interactive session and who kept it light-hearted and fun to keep our attention.



Also a thank you to the members of the public who came and took part in this valuable lesson of how to assist in life saving situations.

You will be aware that the village has a new defibrillator located outside the Village Hall, and this along with the defibrillator already on site at A.W Courts, aims to shorten the response time when emergency situations arise in our Parish.

This event was arranged by the Parish Council in conjunction with Kent Fire and Rescue Service and we are planning to hold another session soon. Keep an eye out for dates and locations.

Church Road Drain

The drain that leaks water over the southern end of Church Road has been investigated further by Kent Highways. The problem has been that it wasn't on Kent's map and so was neither known about by them nor recognized as a public asset. Following conversation with the investigating engineer I am optimistic that will now change. He expects further investigation into, and correction of, the blockage to happen in the new financial year. Sarah (our ward's Kent councillor) and I will remain on the case.

Nick Eastwood

Village Hall News – March Newsletter

Dear All,

Since last month's newsletter we have held the Pancake Evening which appeared to have been enjoyed by all and it was lovely to see so many pancakes consumed and the community coming together for a fun evening and supporting the event. I would like to offer my thanks to all those willing volunteers who made batter, prepared the pancakes did the washing up and all those other tasks that made the evening such a success.

The refurbishment of the hall is now nearing completion with the defib machine installed and working outside the hall, the new blinds and the new stage curtain runner installed, (the new curtains are being made and will be installed in a few weeks' time).

Recently we have had trouble with the mobile internet service which has worked reasonably successfully at the hall for a couple of years now. Regrettably the mobile signal for the last couple of weeks has either been non-existent or very poor, I am taking this up with O2 the provider to see if the service can be improved and I will ask the trustees to review this matter at our next meeting in early March.

The lent lunches are being organised by the Church at the weekly coffee mornings and Sally will I am sure be providing more detail on these in her section of the magazine.

We will be hosting the village hall AGM at the hall in May, (further detail will be provided in next month's magazine), but in the meantime please put your thinking caps on and if you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to take forward to further utilise the village hall as a hub for the benefit of the community we would very much like to hear from you.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson

Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk Tel 07932 112730

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk - facebook – graftygreenvillage

GRAFTY GREEN FARMERS MARKET

EVERY FRIDAY, 1–3 P.M.
GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL



Come along and enjoy a wonderful selection of local produce, home-baked treats, crafts, and more – all from your friendly local traders!

Are you a trader?

We're currently looking for producers, particularly those offering bread, cheese, or meat products to join our market community.

For more details, please contact:
info.graftygreen@gmail.com

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 07932 112730

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability Susan Burch 07803 962339	Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm
Pilates Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369	Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am
Post Office	Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm Thursdays 11.15 – 1.15pm
Coffee morning	Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00pm
Short Mat Bowls Joan Marriott 07503 568874	Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm
Dance Fit Sharon Harris 01622 890170	Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm
Tai Chi Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782	Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm
Craft Group Janis Carter 01622 850898	Fridays 10 -12.00pm
Art Class Cathy Hill 07927054708	Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm
Farmer's Market Tara – grafygreen.info@gmail.com	Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club Doreen 01622 850287	First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm
Digital Kent	Fourth Tuesday 12 – 2pm

The Grafty Gourmet

Another very simple yet great recipe. Tuscan style chicken with sundried tomatoes in a creamy sauce.

TUSCAN CHICKEN PASTA

2 tablespoons of plain flour	½ teaspoon of chilli flakes (optional)
2 medium chicken breasts, butterflied	½ lemon, zest and juice
olive oil, for frying	75g of spinach
25g of butter	100g of pappardelle pasta
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped	170g of mascarpone cheese
75g of sun-dried tomatoes, finely chopped	50g of Parmesan, freshly grated
½ teaspoon of dried thyme	salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ teaspoon of dried oregano	torn basil leaves, to serve
1 teaspoon of ground paprika	

1. Sprinkle the flour onto a plate and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Toss the chicken in the flour on all sides.
2. Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat and add ½ tablespoon of olive oil, followed by the butter. Once foaming, add the chicken breasts and cook for 4–5 minutes on each side until golden-brown.
3. Turn down the heat to low, cover with a lid and cook for another 10 minutes. Turn the chicken halfway through and make sure it is cooked through. Remove the chicken from the pan and slice into 3cm strips.
4. Meanwhile, heat a dash of oil in a frying pan and fry the garlic for 1–2 minutes over a medium heat. Once fragrant, add the sun-dried tomatoes, thyme, oregano, paprika, chilli flakes (if using), lemon zest and juice. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste.
5. Cook for 1 minute further before adding the spinach and wilting it down, stirring often to prevent anything sticking to the pan. Then add the chicken to the sauce and keep warm.
6. Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to packet instructions in a large pan of boiling salted water. Drain once you reach the 'al dente' stage, reserving a mug full of the pasta water.
7. Add the mascarpone to the sauce and allow it to melt. Tip the pasta into the sauce with some of the pasta water to loosen things up. Stir together adding little splashes of pasta water until a velvety sauce is formed. Add half of the Parmesan and stir again until melted.
8. Share among two bowls and serve with the rest of the Parmesan and a few torn basil leaves.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Meetings are held in Grafty Green Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm unless stated otherwise. Entry for guests £4. Bring your plant and seed swaps! Membership £5 - contact Doreen Hulm (Treasurer) 01622 850287

Programme for 2026

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
March 3	Alan Harvey Head of Horticulture at Hadlow College	
April 7	Spring Show and Kevin Tooher	Gardens of East Sussex
Sat May 2	Plant Sale 10 – 12 Village Hall	
May 5	Outing - Marden Meadow, guided by Vicky Golding - please car share as limited parking	
June 2	Outing - Pimphurst Farm, Bethersden TN26 3EE	
July 7	Outing - Barnfield Cottages, Wormshill, ME9 0TU	
July 24 - 26	Weekend away – Walmer Castle, Great Dixter, Butlers Farm House, Herstmonceux Castle and grounds, Driftwood, King John's Nursery, Goddards Green. Dinner bed and Breakfast at Landsdowne Hotel, Eastbourne	
August 4	Outing to Jungle Garden at Wye	
September 1	Autumn Show and Catriona	Romney Wools
October 6	Chris Stewart	The hop bine and hop pickers of Kent
November 3	Stephen Harmer	La Claire the Story of Jersey's lost garden
December 1	Social and creative activity	

Here are some gardening jobs for March

Because of the continuous rain it's been difficult to work in the garden, so many of the jobs for February may not have been done!

- Finish pruning roses
- Prepare vegetable beds
- Weed and mulch flower beds. Continue to lift and divide perennials that have got too big
- Plant dahlia tubers
- Plant early potatoes
- Sow tomatoes in greenhouse/indoors with some heat
- Sow outdoor crops (carrots, beetroot, radish and peas) towards the end of the month once the soil has warmed up and you can see weeds growing.
- Start onion sets
- Divide snowdrops and replant
- Deadhead daffs by removing the seed heads.

Yoga with Susan
Weekly classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday morning 9.30 – 11
Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30
Thursday morning 9.30 – 11

Yoga brings a sense of peacefulness and connection to yourself and others
whilst bringing more flexibility and strength into the body.

For more information or to enrol for the new term - please give me a call
07803 962339

I'm a British Wheel of Yoga teacher and have been teaching for 20 years; the
classes in Grafty Green are friendly and, of course, a relaxed atmosphere.

Ulcombe History Society
2026 programme

January 20th Guy Bartlett
“British women in aviation”

February 17th Derrick Parkes
“The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies”

March 17th Ed Adamson
“Kentish clerical errors”

April 21st Melanie Gibson-Barton
“Suffragettes and Suffragists – votes for women”

May 19th Adam Taylor
“Islands of the Medway Estuary”

October 20th Bertie Pearce
“Wonder workers and the art of illusion”

November 17th Ed Adamson
“Making and faking of ghost stories”

December 8th Imogen Corrigan
“The goose is getting fat”

We meet at Ulcombe Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm.
Guests are always welcome, admission £4

Don't get caught by Scammers – they are at it again!

Here are a few ways that the new wave of scamming is catching people out

AI Scams: Scammers using AI to create convincing phishing emails, deepfake videos, and fake voices,

Imposter Scams: Scammers impersonating trusted organizations to trick victims into providing personal information or money. They can even simulate websites you visit, such as BT and add options that make you feel they are genuine.

Investment Scams: Scammers offering fake investment opportunities to steal personal information or money.

These scams come in different forms:



Email example: If you receive an email from what looks like the bank asking you to phone them on a number in that email **DO NOT** call the number.

Instead go to your Bank's website and use their customer service number. You can also report the email to them, check your account and confirm everything is secure. If concerned you might want to cancel your cards and get them re-issued. They can advise you on this. **Do not give your bank cards to anyone**



Phone call example: If anyone phones you, saying they are from BT or EE about emails being hacked, make excuses and get off the phone, then check this on your own computer. They can trick you into allowing them access to your computer whilst you are on the phone, then they will download harmful desk sharing applications.

To make sure you are clear of viruses, use your own virus checker to do a full scan. If any issues call BT/EE yourself.



Text messages example: Google messages about your account being hacked. To check these, just look at where the message has come from. On your phone you can go to settings, then Security and Privacy to check if your phone has been compromised and follow any instructions it offers you. You can select to Block these messages for the future.

Golden Rules - Do Not

- Click on links or make phone calls from emails
- Stay on the phone to people who say they are from known organisations, hang up and call the organisation back on a number known to you (do not call them from the number they rang you on).
- Do not give your password or pin number to anyone
- Do not reply to emails or act on any messages directly, check them through the security settings you have on your devices.
- Do not give your bank cards to anyone

Stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity to relevant authorities to help protect yourself and others from these scams



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Egerton Film Society



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LENHAM
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Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale

Friday, March 13th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2 hr 3 mins, director Simon Curtis

This last affectionate visit to the world of Downton Abbey sees the Crawley family facing the challenges of the 1930s. **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale** (PG, 2025) grapples not only with Downton's financial troubles but with social scandals which have Hugh Bonneville as Lord Grantham and Michelle Dockery as his daughter Mary at their centre. The future looks dark as both the family and the downstairs staff struggle with their personal problems. The past is lovingly represented as familiar faces return to make another appearance. What of the future, however? The time for the grand houses of the past is surely over, but will Downton be an exception? Can it fight its way onwards? Only with change – and that must see the next generation leading Downton Abbey forward. Come along to the Community Centre on Friday March 13th and cheer it into the future.

As well as showing a great film on March 13th, we'll also be revealing the fabulous line up of films that we'll be showing as part of our Spring and Summer 2026 programme. There'll be more about our future films in the April issue of Focus. 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.



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- 🐰 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

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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.



News from St.Nicholas Church – March 2026

Hoping you have had time take a breath, post-Christmas. All too soon normality has returned, school, work, social events and so many routine commitments. The church calendar too, moves on. The baptism of Christ, usually celebrated on the 6th of January, marks the end of Christmas, when we, mostly, take down the tree and decorations, but the end of this Nativity season is the celebration of the presentation of the baby, Jesus, by his parents, in the Jewish temple on February 2nd. This is also called Candlemas, or the 'Feast of Lights', when the church traditionally blesses candles for the year. We, in St.Nicholas, failed on this one, but hope our candles will continue to brighten our services anyway!

And now the season of Lent is here and so we thoughtfully prepare, through the next few weeks for the sadness and tragedy of Good Friday followed by the joy of Easter Day.

Usual reminders

The church porch is open 24hours a day. Do add a comment in the visitor's book, if you have enjoyed the tea table and the shelter. The sheep and new lambs in the field are worth seeing.

If you need to fill the kettle or the dog bowl, there is a tap round the back of the building, just follow the stone path beyond the West door.

Make use of the mini food bank box, remembering there is a larger food bank at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10.00am-4.00pm daily.

If you would like a prayer request, please fill in a card and leave on the side and it will be prayed for as soon as possible in the church.

The church is open for services (see the notice boards), meetings and cleaning. If you wish to visit at other times, please contact the churchwardens for a key.

News

Shrove Tuesday pancakes. Many thanks to the Village Hall team for the excellent evening on 17th February. The pancakes and fillings were delicious.

Ash Wednesday services on 18th February in St.Mary's, Lenham, were well attended and a thoughtful and gentle start to the season of Lent in the benefice, in the morning and evening.

Lent Lunches. Thank you to all who helped with the first of the series of Bread and Soup lunches on Tuesday 24th February. Really nice to have the choice of the usual Coffee and Cake Time treats as well as 3 different soups with Kenneth's homemade bread!! Excellent curried butternut soup, Jacquie.

These will continue each Tuesday during Lent until April 24th, 12noon-2.00pm in the Village Hall. All donations will be given to Christian Aid.

Cake and Coffee Time is carrying on as usual with the Lent Lunches. We were delighted to meet friends from Holland visiting the village again after enjoying a cream tea last summer. Thank you, Kathy, for bringing Dixie and Renee, and for the chocolate gifts they brought.

A mention to the Village Hall Committee, how much we appreciate the redecorations and the new blinds etc. and for their help each week in setting up the Hall.

A hope that there is time this Lent for reflection, prayer and hope in these troubled times, with the peace and joy of Easter waiting for us.



Lent Lunches help raise over £600,000 throughout Lent and Easter every year to help fight poverty.

Thank you so much for your contribution!

Donate at caid.org.uk/lent

Thank you.



Grace

We long for a world
where food is
joyfully shared,
Where welcome is
abundant,
Where compassion
reaches all.
As we work towards
your kingdom,
We thank you God for
food for the journey.
Amen.



Download your Lent fundraising resources and read how your donations are changing lives at caid.org.uk/lent

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EASTER MESSY CHURCH

Harrietsham Church

SATURDAY 28TH
MARCH 3PM-5PM

EASTER EGG
FOR EACH
CHILD

Hunt the Easter Character,
Crafts, Games, Easter Story and
Singing, Visit the Lambs (tbc)

Please be on time for the schedule

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AT MESSY
CHURCH LVB



Len Valley Benefice February 2025



Everybody is welcome

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

1 John 4 v7 (part)

Sunday 1st March

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th March

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 8th March

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd March – Passion Sunday

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at All Saints, Ulcombe.

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

To be advised

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

Christian Message, March 2026

Reverend Richard Birch

This year all of March is contained within Lent, the longest of the Christian seasons. It began on Ash Wednesday, after we had enjoyed Shrove Tuesday and eaten our pancakes. Lent consists of forty days to remember the forty days that Jesus faced temptations in the wilderness. The final week is called “Holy Week” and we remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to loud shouts of acclaim on Palm Sunday, then events during that week leading to Jesus’ trial and crucifixion on the first “Good Friday”. By the time we reach Easter and resurrection it will be April and whomever is contributing for that month may write about that.

Traditionally people would have a kind of fast during Lent and they would not eat meat. Many Christians today will give up something for Lent, often a luxury item such as chocolate or alcohol. The purpose of this is that every time you are tempted to eat chocolate, or we are offered a drink, it reminds you that the season is Lent and it is a good time to learn self-control and what is really necessary for a good life.

My interpretation of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness is that he spent the time planning his ministry, thinking of how he would operate, how many close companions he would need, and maybe who would be some of them. He knew the final stage of his life would be desperately painful and he prepared his mind for that. During this time there were temptations to use his power for his own aggrandisement and satisfaction, but he had the strength to overcome them and remain true to his calling.

Lent can be a time for us for contemplation and self-examination. It is a good period to reflect on what drives us, what do we wish from life, what can we contribute? And then, what knocks us off our course, what are the temptations around us? When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he remained willing to confront his temptations, confident of his purpose, and trusting and faithful to God.

If we use Lent well, Jesus can help us to work out what is important to us and develop a strategy to overcome problems and temptations that stand in the way. He will always be alongside us, with his love, to help us to be the best person that we can be.



From the Editor

The Message Board will be discontinued as I've not received any articles or messages since before Christmas.

Additionally, the Link Word game does not appear to be used, as in the last edition I had made a mistake, which jumbled up the words, but heard nothing, so this will also be discontinued.

I would still be happy to receive suggestions and articles from anyone who has stories to share as well as pictures for the cover of this magazine. The copy date and my email address is on the front cover.

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies **999**
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO) **101**

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

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

Electricity (UK Power Networks)
Emergencies and Power Cuts **0800 783 8866**
Or **01243 508866**

Water *Emergencies* **0333 000 0002**
Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding **0330 303 0368**
Calor Gas *Emergencies* **08457 444999**
KCC *Emergencies* **03000 41 41 41**
Highways **03000 41 81 81**

KCC Community Wardens:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere **07969 583923**
District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown **07773 397125**
Fire *General Enquiries* **01622 692121**
Home Safety Visits **0800 923 7000**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **01622 734555**

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Bonfires, crime, dogs, domestic abuse, loan sharks, noise, pests and protection orders

Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

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