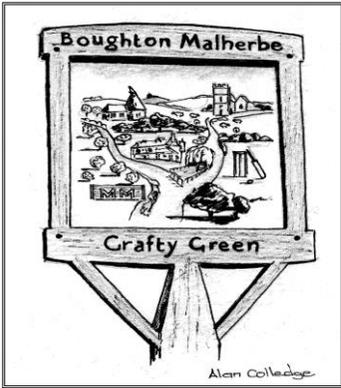


# Malherbe Monthly

Number 199  
February 2021



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath**

Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.  
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast <a href="mailto:Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk">Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk</a>	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round <a href="mailto:martinround@maidstone.gov.uk">martinround@maidstone.gov.uk</a> Karen Chappell-Tay <a href="mailto:karenchappelltay@maidstone.gov.uk">karenchappelltay@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	890276 07918 675619
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Parish Council Clerk	Chris Hume email <a href="mailto:boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com">boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com</a>	07972 630555
Village Hall bookings	Carol Hulm email <a href="mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com">carolhulm@gmail.com</a> Mobile 07990 574214	853583
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email <a href="mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk">bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk</a> Mobile 07932 112730	851351
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Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	<a href="http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk">www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk</a>	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: <a href="mailto:vicar@lvb.org.uk">vicar@lvb.org.uk</a>	850280
Curate	Charlotte Coles	07805 092823
Reader	Joan Drury email: <a href="mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com">jdrury23@btinternet.com</a>	853766
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@lvb.org.uk">churchoffice@lvb.org.uk</a> Answer phone available out of hours	850604
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John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the **March** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mfhitchins@btinternet.com](mailto:mfhitchins@btinternet.com)) by **20<sup>th</sup> February**

**Front Cover:** Daffodils out early in Boughton Malherbe – 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

## **News from St. Nicholas Church**

**The Porch** is open as always and welcomes those in need of rest, quiet prayer or time for reflection in its wonderful setting.

**Morning Prayer** is said daily, on-line, in the parish at 9.30am. Please contact Rev. Anne Price on 01622 924963 or [revanne@lvb.org.uk](mailto:revanne@lvb.org.uk), if you would like to join in any day.

If you have prayer requests do contact Rev. John Huggins, Rev. Anne Price, or the churchwardens at any time and prayers will be said in Morning Prayer time, or in private if you wish.

**Services** cannot take place in our churches yet. We will post any positive changes as soon as possible.

**Other Services** are available on-line in the benefice. Please contact the Church Office for information about these regular on-line events, including Prayer Times and services throughout the benefice. These will be continuing for the foreseeable future. Also, for information about how to access them, by phone, email etc.

The Church of England has links to regular Sunday Services on their website and how to access services by phone. If you need help do ask anyone with internet access, or churchwardens, church members etc.

**The churchwardens and PCC members** have welcomed the opportunity to support our local primary school group, with regular funding to help them access suitable food for the children attending the 'open school' at Kingswood.

If anyone would like to increase their giving to help cover this extra, much needed cost, do let the church treasurer, John Collins, know.

**Covid-19 Vaccinations** are underway very efficiently locally and we are very grateful that so many of our vulnerable, older residents are being invited to attend.

**Eco-spot.** Again, and it seems for ever, we are all doing our bit to reduce the carbon footprint. I am still surprised by, and enjoy walking on empty lanes,

little sound of planes or local vehicles and able to hear even the smallest rustle in the roadside leaves.

A very stressful event this week when our Norfolk Terrier decided to go down a large Badger Sett on his evening walk with Kenneth, a mile or so from home. It was soon dark and for the next 6 hours seven family members, and dog, scoured the fields, hedgerows, along the Stour, other Badger setts, farm buildings and woodlands, finally giving up at 10pm. I missed a footpath, got stuck in the mud by the river, falling backwards and stepping knee-high in water all in the dark! Very squelchy boots from then on!

These Badger setts seem to be very busy now, being cleaned out and preparing for the birth of new cubs at this time and perhaps all that activity was the draw for Sandy to investigate.

Sadly, we had to leave and go home, to continue searching next day.

We left the garden gate open and our backdoor wedged open, (it had to be the night of Storm Christophe with its noise and wind!) and went to bed, very late.

THEN 1.00am, as we dozed, a very muddy, wet and exhausted little terrier leapt on our bed, flopped and promptly slept. We covered him in a towel and thanked God!

**Sally Alexander**



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## Kings Head Pub – Grafty Green



Please be aware that we are still cooking Fish & Chips for takeaway on Friday Lunch and Evening.

Please order in advance by calling on **01622 850259** and we wish everyone to stay safe and well and thank you for your support.

## Yoga and Health

Practicing yoga has many benefits. It is famous for keeping you flexible which is achieved by working gently and consistently to lengthen muscles that have become tight.

When you move your body, it enables fluids to exchange and refresh, for example synovial fluids in your joints that keep the surfaces smooth, more slippery than ice on ice. Another example is the work that your lymph nodes do (over 600 or them in your body). These are in your elbows, armpits, chest, behind your ears, back of your head, pelvis and behind your knees; movement is essential for the lymphatic system to perform efficiently as part of your immune system; lack of movement will cause them to become congested so exercising now is more important.

Not only will exercise improve your overall health but it also mitigates the negative effects of stress; Yoga (which has been around for over 3000 years) recognised the importance of a healthy mind as well as a healthy body and developed different ways of being mindful. The simplest is to take a few minutes to sit and watch yourself breathing and noticing any pleasant feelings; a positive and uplifting mind will also help keep your immunity buoyant.

I am continuing to teach yoga via zoom which has been appreciated by quite a number of folk; if you would like to join me I would be more than happy to have a chat and include you. My contact details are:- [graffyyoga@gmail.com](mailto:graffyyoga@gmail.com) or phone 07803 962339

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

### **Sue's nature notes - Woodcock Lane Oak Trees**

Listening to the early spring bird song as I walk along Woodcock Lane I notice there is one particular oak tree (out of at least 60) that seems to attract more birds than the others. This oak is a short distance from the junction with Coldbridge Lane. Taking a moment to stand under this tree, which has quite a generous covering of ivy on the trunk, you may well be treated to the sight of a treecreeper or goldcrest as well as the familiar blue and great tits, all searching the crevices for insects and over-wintering pupa; at the base there could be a wren, robin or black bird.

Fascinating facts about the oak - it is said to be the host to more varieties of lichen than other tree and is able to support many thousands of different creepy crawlies, lady birds, lacewings, earwigs, spiders, woodlice, millipedes, aphids and caterpillars, these bring in the foraging birds that delight us.

Not only does the oak play host to such a wide range of wild life but stores carbon too; a single mature oak can lock up 8000 tonnes of carbon<sup>1</sup>. There must be hundreds or maybe thousands of oak trees in our parish as each field bordering this walk has a good number in their hedgerows.

Some of my information is from a book written by a local wildlife expert, Jim Flegg, 'Oakwatch' which describes the year of an oak tree and its associated woodland setting; it's a delight and which was the one that kindled my interest in oak trees. Let me know if you would like to borrow it as it is no longer in print.

<sup>1</sup>Dave Goulson The Garden Jungle.

**Sue Burch**

**Boughton Malherbe  
Parish Council  
Contact Details**

**Ron Galton, Chairman**

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[ron@boughtonmalherbecp.org](mailto:ron@boughtonmalherbecp.org)

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

**Robert Turner**

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(Finance, Planning, KALC)

**Barry Adams**

**Nick Eastwood**

**Chris Hume, Parish Clerk**

- Tel: 07972 630555`

[boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com)

**A short update from  
the Parish Council**

The Parish Council continues to operate under Covid 19 restrictions. Meetings will therefore continue to be held by teleconference. Dates for the remainder of the council year are:

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

-----  
**Extraordinary Meeting of the  
Parish Council**

The Parish council will meet again soon to co-opt a new Parish Councillor. The date of this meeting will be announced on the Parish website  
Joining details available from the Clerk.

**Helen Whately**

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

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

House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

[www.helenwhately.org.uk](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk)

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**haunted by**  
**"Dover Bill" -**  
**the Highwayman!**



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## **Village Hall News**

[www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk)

facebook@graftygreenvillage

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Regrettably the hall still remains closed during lockdown, but as a committee we are committed to opening the hall once again as soon as it is safe to do so and we will of course keep you updated with any developments as soon as we are able to do so.

Just as all of us have had to adapt in these difficult times, I would like to share with you that we held our first virtual committee meeting via Zoom which was excellently hosted by our secretary Sue Burch, the first such meeting of the committee in 100 years of the life of the hall.

I am sure that you will all agree it is not appropriate to talk of celebrations during these difficult times, but 100 years of the hall being part of village life is quite a milestone and looking forward to better times when our lives return to normal we as a committee would like to consider an appropriate way of marking the occasion

We are in the early stages of considering what we could do as a village and if any of you would like to suggest a suitable event or activities that we could consider please let me know either by telephone on 07932 112730 or by email at [bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk](mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk) so that I may put any suggestions to the committee.

**Jon Thompson**  
**Village Hall Chairman**

## Editorial

In the January issue of Malherbe Monthly I said I would ask the Parish Council in the Extraordinary Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the following two questions:

1. Does the Parish Council believe this scheme will be effective in slowing down the traffic given all the comments and discussions they have held with Kent County Council and the Highways Authority?
2. In light of point 1 does the Parish Council believe this is a prudent way of spending a large sum of public money and if so does it believe it has control of how the money will be spent now and in the future given it has no idea what the maintenance of this scheme will be.

This I did and I have to report I did not receive a satisfactory answer to either question. As can be read in the minutes of that meeting published in this magazine, it was stated that "Comments from Mike Hitchins on Traffic Calming were noted".

I tried again in the Parish Council meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to get the Parish Councillors to understand what I wanted to know about this scheme. As the minutes of the meeting are not yet available I have reproduced below the presentation I made at this meeting. Again, I have to say the replies were not helpful and it seems that the Parish Council is unable to understand why these comments need to be taken seriously.

They are faced with facts that they do not like and are unable to accept that this Traffic calming scheme in its current guise will not achieve the objective that this scheme is supposed to address. They also have ignored comments and advice made by KCC and the Highways Authority. This is documented in the minutes of a meeting between the Parish Council and KCC on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020. It states – **"KCC confirmed that as we have no street lighting and cannot have true traffic calming features (raised obstacles in the highway) our scheme is likely to have limited effectiveness. Grafty Green speed survey showed that speeds are not excessive"**.

Below is my presentation to the Parish Council during the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021:

***“Traffic Calming.*** *One of the justifications the Parish Council has put forward to proceed with this project is that of the responses it has received from parishioners. The method the Parish Council used to evaluate these responses was crude and unprofessional. It just added up the yes and no responses and came to the conclusion that the project should proceed. In business any responses to a consultation would be weighted by the points raised for and against and totalled up resulting in a much more informed and accurate position. If this method had been undertaken the Parish Council would have come to a very different conclusion.*

*The points that were stated that KCC would not fund this scheme as it did not meet its criteria and that of the Highways Authority advice that the proposed scheme would not result in effectively slowing down of the speed of traffic would have scored a high value, whereas responses that talked about the “Volume of traffic” and “Yes I would like a Scheme” would either be classed as not valid or scored a low value.*

*I think it about time that the Parish Council took notice of KCC and The Highways Authority as they have the experience and expertise on projects like this. It is clear the Parish Council does not have the expertise to run with this project.*

*This risks exposing that the Parish Councillors have not been following the guidelines in the ‘Good Councillors Guide’ and the implied ramifications that may follow an unprofessional decision to proceed with this project in its current form. This scheme has now has now taken the form of a vanity project which is completely unacceptable when dealing with public money.”*

In light of KCC comments and advice it begs the question why are the Parish Council so determined to plough on with this project and spend in excess of £50,000 of public money on a project they have been advised will not solve a speed problem that KCC states does not exist. Without physical barriers in place, you will never stop the determined drivers who will speed though the village regardless.

**Michael Hitchins**

# **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

## **Traffic Calming Update**

Following the receipt of a quotation from KCC for the cost of the agreed traffic calming scheme, concerns were raised in this magazine, the Parish Council therefore sought views of residents before proceeding. The October edition included a request for comments on the cost of the scheme, with a commitment from the council to re-think if the overwhelming response was negative. The majority of responses received were in favour of continuing with the approved scheme, however, the Parish Council felt that it should respond to those expressing concern at the cost, together with other comments received in this consultation. As a result, the Parish Council agreed to amend the scheme at an Extraordinary Meeting on the 11th January. The scheme remains the same in all respects except the chicanes will now be painted on the road surface rather than constructed from granite setts. This will reduce both the construction costs and ongoing maintenance costs. The Council is now awaiting a revised design and costing and if these are satisfactory the current expectation is that the scheme will be constructed in the summer of 2021.

However, in order to ensure that there is an impactful feature in the village centre, the council also agreed to apply for a mobile Speed Indicator Devise(SID) to be placed on a pole just to the north of the Kings Head in the region of Sunny Bank and Glenderry. This is the only suitable site in the village and the scheme will therefore be run in conjunction with Lenham Parish Council sharing sites in Platts Heath.

The Parish Council has created a Traffic Calming page on the Council's website containing key background documents and a question-and-answer section addressing comments received from local residents.

**Chris Hume**  
**Parish Clerk**  
**Boughton Malherbe PC**  
**07972 630555**



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

[www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk](http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk)

## Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7.30pm held by teleconference

**Present:** Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; B Adams; N.Eastwood  
Clerk Mr Chris Hume

Three members of public

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it. - none**
2. **Apologies – no apologies for absence received**
3. **Declarations:**
  - Any lobbying – none declared
  - Any interest in items on the Agenda – none declared
  - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests- none declared
4. **Public Session -** A representation from Chris Wheal was presented and noted. Comments from Mike Hitchins on traffic calming were noted. Following comments from Mike Hitchins it was agreed that the Council will write to Maidstone Borough Council to ask why our objections to Planning Application 20/504038/FULL were rejected and to ask them to investigate whether a breach of the planning application has occurred.
5. **Public Comments on Traffic Calming –** Received representations from residents in the Southernden Road/Lane area to consider funding improved broadband rather than traffic calming from the Quinn donation. It was agreed that this was not possible for legal and financial reasons and the Clerk will write to those making representations to explain this. The Clerk was asked to produce a summary of the questions asked by the public with factual answers for the website.
6. **Traffic Calming**
  - (i) It was unanimously agreed not to proceed with the current scheme as agreed at the Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020
  - (ii) It was unanimously agreed not to abandon the traffic calming project
  - (iii) It was unanimously agreed to amend the current scheme as follows:
    - a) To remove all of the granite setts and replace with white painted chicanes (with hatching) on the road surface at all locations
    - b) To jointly apply to KCC for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in collaboration with Lenham Parish Council to be placed at the location in the centre of the village identified previously by KCC and locations in Platts Heath

An amendment was moved by Councillor Eastwood to remove all the traffic calming features from the scheme which was rejected by 3 votes to 1.

It was agreed that the Clerk will inform KCC that this is now the revised scheme and to proceed with implementation and enquire whether the white painted chicanes can be applied with sufficient thickness to create a sensation to drivers when run over.
8. **Further Information –** update on highways problems received from Cllr. Adams

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

## **THOUGHT'S FOR THE DAY - by Chris Wheal (resident 25 years)**

Having followed the progress of the BMPC traffic scheme through numerous meetings one is left with a sense of awe and desperation: readers will have read much about the saga so I'm not going to add to this except to leave you with some thoughts and questions for BMPC – YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WHO ARE PROPOSING TO SPEND YOUR MONEY – THE QUINN BALANCE (or most of it, or may be even be more) AMOUNTING TO THOUSANDS (TENS OF) POUNDS ON A SCHEME WHICH HAS SERIOUS QUESTION MARKS AND IS OF DUBIOUS MERIT WHEREBY IMPLEMENTATION WILL NOT ACTUALLY DELIVER MEANINGFUL OR ANY IMPROVEMENT IN SPEED REDUCTION TO THE ENTIRE 30mph SECTION OF HEADCORN ROAD. IT WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON HGV's OR VOLUMES OF TRAFFIC WHATSOEVER.

Would you, as a lay person, spend an unlimited amount of thousands, tens of, pounds on any project without proper professional advice and guidance?

Would you spend thousands, (tens), of pounds on a project if any of the intended / proposed benefit(s) were questionable?

Would you spend thousands, (tens), of pounds on a project without the amount of spend being directly related to the benefit?

Would you spend thousands, (tens), of pounds on a project without the detail known?

Would you spend thousands, (tens), of pounds on a project before knowing the final cost?

Would you just spend thousands, (tens), of pounds on a project as you've got the money?

Would you spend thousands, (tens), of pounds of others people's (public – your) money without proper professional guidance and advice, full consultation and agreement to a final detailed plan and costs before agreeing to spend the money?

Would you spend thousands, (tens), of pounds on a project on a “whim” that it might work?

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED “NO” TO ANY OF THE ABOVE YOU NEED TO QUESTION BMPC – THE PARISH COUNCIL - AND MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND AND MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS KNOWN.

In case of any doubt, regularly witnessing excessive speeds on the stretch between Woodcock Lane and start of 30mph at Wren’s Nest, I am in favour of any practical traffic calming measures but **CANNOT CONDONE SPENDING ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY** without reasonable indication / justification that the spending would be proportionate to delivered benefit.

### Report from your Kent County Councillor



I am sure for many of us the fact that we are once again in a national lockdown and living under the same kind of restrictions we faced last March is difficult to take on board. Now, more than ever, we must all stay at home, protect the NHS and each other, and save lives. The big difference this time round is the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccination programme is already well underway across Kent and should give us all real optimism, no matter how difficult things may currently seem.

Kent County Council will continue to focus on adapting our services to ensure that, first and foremost, we look after those who are most vulnerable and in

need. I am pleased to say that our Kent Together Helpline is still there for anyone who needs help with food, prescriptions and related concerns linked to the virus.

An army of volunteers and an amazing community effort was critical to the response during the last national lockdown. The incredible effort to support people who are critically vulnerable or socially vulnerable helped so many, and I hope we can come together once again to care for those who need it most. Lockdown will also inevitably take its toll on businesses and livelihoods too. If you have a business, please look on the KCC website where you can find all the latest advice you need to help you through this time and find out what support is available.

We are rolling out more venues where anyone, not just key workers, can have a rapid-result, symptom-free coronavirus test. These tests will identify people who may be unknowingly spreading the virus and are another way we are trying to keep people safe and continue the fight against COVID-19.

Alongside this, we are also continuing to support our residents with the local test and trace programme, to further help reduce infection rates. We will be continuing to engage with residents and businesses to enforce the guidelines set out by the government so that we can beat the virus together and not overwhelm our health services.

Returning to a national lockdown is hard, but we have done it before and now we can do it again. The more we stick to the guidelines, play our part, support, and protect each other the sooner we can get children back to school, reunite with friends and family and return to the life we once knew. Please take care, keep safe and stay healthy.

**Shellina Prendergast**  
**KCC Maidstone Rural East**

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

Find the missing word?	
1	____ Simpson, Son of Homer
2	____ Jones, Late singer of 'The Monkeys'
3	On the _____, 1970's TV series starring Reg Varney
4	_____ Seas of Rhye, Queen's debut single in 1974
5	The _____ Girls, High kicking dance troupe on Sunday Night at the London Palladium
6	_____ Hill, Comedy great of the 60's and 70's
7	George _____, TV inspector played by Martin Shaw
8	_____ Magnusson, Former mastermind quizmaster
9	Kathy _____, Last of the Summer Wine's Nora Batty
10	_____ Hoffman, Rain Man actor

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Club	Football	Oven	<b>Fan</b>
2	Ape	Bear	Dane	
3	Guard	Hand	Towel	
4	Flour	Milk	Sauce	
5	Body	One	Thing	
6	Ave	Black	Callas	
7	Jury	Over	Parliament	
8	Book	Tall	Working	
9	Bird	Closing	Riser	
10	Meat	Sliced	Farmhouse	
11	Bus	War	Well	
12	Edge	Rocks	Teeth	
13	Jam	Night	Storage	
14	Crust	Cut	Hand	
15	Double	Riot	Up	
16	Down	Growth	Stand	

## Grafty Green Gardening Club Programme 2021

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Kevin Tooher	Pruning
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Lucy Adams</b>	<b>Dry Gardening</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Laura Brady	Vegetables & Herbs – Growing & Cooking
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Visit to Spalding Bulb fields	
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale, on the green if fine and in Hall if wet	
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Visit to Leonards lee Gardens	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Visit to The Croft at Thurnham	
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Grafty Open Gardens	
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Visit to Godinton Garden	
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Visit to Horton Farm	
7 <sup>th</sup> September	DeJaeger – Bulbs	
10/11/12 Sept	Weekend away in Herefordshire	
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Ian Gray (Mammal Society)	Hedgehogs
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	TBC	
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Visit Winter Event at Kew.	

### Grafty Green Gardening Club - update for February

Once again we regret that we cannot gather to listen to a talk on dry gardening which was to have been given by Lucy Adams. Instead, Lucy suggested that we might be interested in an updating talk on the Boughton Hoard on Tuesday 9th February. Details of the talk can be seen on the poster in the shop window. If you would like to join in on zoom please call Sue Burch on 01622 850381 and she will send you a joining I.D. and passcode. Tickets are available at the shop or with Doreen Hulm our Treasurer for £3.00 per household. We hope you will join us on the evening!

In our gardens:- February is a very hungry month for our wildlife, and putting out seeds and water for them might distract birds and small mammals from helping themselves to our buds and bulbs! Organic fertiliser will release their nutrients more slowly than inorganic ones, so they will be available to plants just as they start to grow. Now is the time to plant snowdrops and winter aconites and in the kitchen garden to plant shallots.

If you would like to join the gardening club and benefit from the discounts at two local garden centres please post a subscription of £5.00 to our Treasurer Doreen Hulm, Lavender Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

## **Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club.**

---

### **Grafty Gourmet**

This is such a simple homemade curry recipe. The chicken can be swapped with any meat of your choice, or prawns if you prefer. Chopped fresh chilli's can be added in the second stage if you prefer a hot curry. Serve with rice.

### **Easy Chicken Curry**

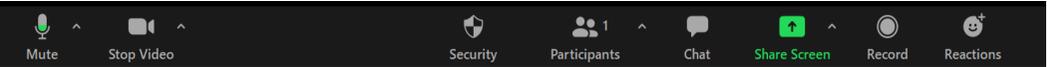
Oil for frying	1 teaspoon of ground turmeric
2 bay leaves, crumbled	1 teaspoon of tandoori masala
1 large onion, diced	1 teaspoon of mild chilli powder
3 cloves of garlic, crushed	4 chicken breast fillets, diced
1 teaspoon of ground coriander	60ml of tomato ketchup
1 teaspoon of garam masala	250ml of chicken stock
1 teaspoon of ground cumin	250ml of single cream

1. Heat oil in a large heavy based pan. Cook bay leaves for 30 seconds in the hot oil. Stir in onions and cook for 2-3 minutes until soft.
2. Mix in the garlic and all spices and stir forming a paste. Stir in the chicken and coat in the spice paste. Cook for about 5 minutes until chicken is no longer pink in colour.
3. Stir in the tomato ketchup and chicken stock. Cover and simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Stir in the cream, cover and simmer for another 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

## Zoom - Tricks and Tips

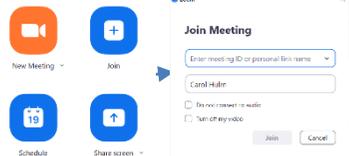
Having introduced Zoom in a previous magazine, here are a few tricks and tips to help you to get the most from your virtual meetings.

These tips apply to the Desktop Application. When you are in a meeting you will find the following toolbar at the bottom of the screen. If you cannot see it, just move your mouse to the bottom of the screen and it will appear.



	<p>Mute/unmute yourself - you can see that you are muted because there will be a line through the microphone. Remember to unmute if you have something to say, and if you are talking and no one appears to be listening to you, check you haven't accidentally left yourself on mute</p>
	<p>Turning on/off Video – it's a good idea to turn off your video if you are experiencing connection interruptions issues, especially with larger groups.</p>
	<p>Viewing Participants – showing you who is in attendance, if you are the host you can mute participants and turn off their video, particularly useful if you experience background noise, and can't see where it is coming from.</p>
	<p>Use Chat during your call - you can chat to an individual or to the whole group, useful if you wish to share a reference or website. You can also share files.</p>
	<p>If you wish to share a document or any content with the group that you have open on your own computer</p>
	<p>Use this to record the session. Particularly useful if you want to share any fun times with family or friends that were not able to attend.</p>

**Finally**, if you have a meeting ID and password, but cannot get the link to work from your email, you can open the Zoom application, click on Join, then enter the details to get into the meeting.



**Furthermore,** there are additional features available, like uploading a profile picture or changing your background in the Settings Cog, which you will find in the top right-hand corner of the application when open.

**Remember from the last article: Zoom for mobile or desktop?** It's worth bearing in mind not all Zoom meetings are equal, the desktop version is kitted out with a number of features unavailable on mobile.

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## Music Notes for February 2021

Well, I wasn't too pessimistic about the chances of live music locally in January – perhaps not pessimistic enough! There is now plenty of music to find on the internet in one form or another, and we did get the New Year's Day concert from Vienna on the TV (without an audience) but there will be nothing live locally this month. I will therefore continue on my quite different theme, as promised last month. Here are some of the significant musical anniversaries in February:

\*8<sup>th</sup> February – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of death of Georges Gillet, French oboist and music educator

\*13<sup>th</sup> February – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of Eileen Farrell, US opera singer and music pedagogue.

\*22<sup>nd</sup> February – 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Frederic Chopin, Polish composer and pianist

\*22<sup>nd</sup> February – 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of Johann Ambrosius Bach, German musician (trumpeter and organist) father to Johann Sebastian Bach.

British audiences may not know of Eileen Farrell, so I will quote from Wikipedia to give a biography:

Eileen Farrell was an American soprano who had a nearly 60-year-long career performing both classical and popular music in concerts, theatres, on radio and television, and on disc. It was said that "She possessed one of the largest and most radiant operatic voices of the 20th century." Her career was mainly based in the United States, although she did perform internationally. The Daily Telegraph stated that she "was one of the finest American sopranos of the 20th century; she had a voice of magnificent proportions which she used with both acumen and artistry in a wide variety of roles." And she was described as having a voice "like some unparalleled phenomenon of nature. She is to singers what Niagara is to waterfalls."

Farrell started as a member of the CBS Chorus on CBS Radio and in 1941 she got her own program, Eileen Farrell Sings, on which she performed both classical and popular music. In 1947 she launched her career as a concert soprano and nine years later began performing on the opera stage, leading to five seasons performing at the Metropolitan Opera from 1960–1966. She performed and recorded both classical and popular music throughout her career and is credited for releasing the first successful crossover album: I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues (1960). She continued actively up into the late 1990s. She also practised as a voice teacher, both privately and for nine years at Indiana University.

**Brian Hardy**

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## Christian Message February 2021

At the time of writing, we are still in the Christmas season, and Kent is in Tier 4. I hope that when you are reading this that we are back in Tier 3 or lower and that many of you will have had a Covid - 19 vaccination, and that the rate of infection will have gone down.

The coming of the Christ Child brought hope and light: hope of a brighter future and a light that cannot be extinguished by the darkness. We all need hope; hope of better times to come. Sometimes that hope comes amid the messiness of life. Think of the birth process itself and how the pain of labour turns into great joy at the birth of a baby. Circumstances, as we know well from last year, can change in an instant.

You will be reading this as we approach the season of Lent which begins early this year, on 17<sup>th</sup> February, and foreshadows Easter which also brings us hope: hope of new life when Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we hear the familiar words from the funeral service: '**Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust**', which is quite sobering and reminds us of the frailty of life. In life there is much waiting; waiting for Easter, waiting for a vaccine to be developed, waiting for the vaccines to be delivered and given out, waiting to see family and friends, waiting to be able to hug people again. I could go on forever here. But in the waiting we do during Lent, there is an opportunity to reflect on our own actions and to set aside some time to see if we can make some improvement on how we live our life.

Perhaps we need to stop doing something to be able to free up some quiet time. I find that people are often busy helping others before themselves, which is a good maxim, but it is also important to make space for ourselves to have time to think on the deeper things of life and question why we do the things which we do.

The ashes which are used on Ash Wednesday to make the mark of a cross on the forehead are an ancient sign of penitence dating from the middle- ages; of being sorry for something which we have done that we know is wrong and of being forgiven. Who do you need to forgive, and to whom do you need to say 'sorry'? Maybe this is the time to seek the peace that only God can give.

**'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.'**  
(Psalm 51 verse 10).

**Rev. Charlotte Coles (07805 – 092823)**

# Kent Fraud Alert System



## Vaccine scams

Please be aware of fraudsters sending out emails and texts offering vaccines.

The following is an example of such a message that was received by a Kent resident in last couple of days –

“NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here:”

(there is a link provided)

The link takes you to a page with an official looking NHS heading on a blue background & headed ' We need to prove ownership of address '

Please get a debit / credit card ready, you will need

Sort Code –

Account Number –

Long card number -

We use this to verify billing address with the bank

No payments are made during verification

[ There is a ' continue ' box. ]”

## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:



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**If you receive this or anything similar, it is a scam. The NHS will never ask you for account details. PIN numbers etc. If you receive any messages like this, then please report to Action Fraud either online at –**

**<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>**

**Or by calling - 0300 123 2040**

**Additionally, if you think you may have fallen victim to this scam, then please contact your bank immediately.**



**Kent  
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Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

## Len Valley Benefice - February 2021

*Everybody is welcome*

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

*Isaiah 40:31*

***Important – Please note:***

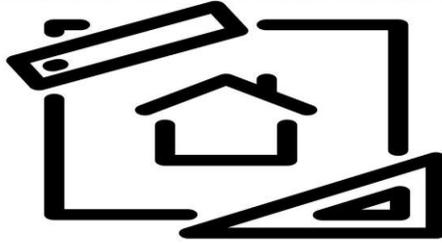
***Given the frequently changing national situation, please continue to check notice boards, website and Facebook for the latest information.***

Our **Online Worship** will continue so please join us for our weekly service.

**Traditional services** can be accessed by searching for 'Len Valley Benefice YouTube' and then looking for the correct date.

Breakfast Church are meeting by Zoom beginning at 9.30am each Sunday.

Please email [vicar@lvb.org.uk](mailto:vicar@lvb.org.uk) for the link.



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First Aid Support – when **an ambulance has been called using 999** - Interim emergency support (first aid and AED defibrillator), prior to arrival of paramedics / ambulance, may be available (not 24/7) by calling Chris Wheal on 01622 858100 -this is a voluntary 'good Samaritan' facility for residents. It is hoped a SECAMB (ambulance) community first responder scheme may start in future

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

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Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding	<b>0330 303 0368</b>
Calor Gas Emergencies	<b>08457 444999</b>
KCC Emergencies	<b>03000 41 41 41</b>
Highways	<b>03000 41 81 81</b>

KCC Community Wardens:

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

Fire General Enquiries	<b>01622 692121</b>
Home Safety Visits	<b>0800 923 7000</b>
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R.S.P.C.A Emergencies	<b>0300 1234 999</b>
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Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Noise, neighbours, Smoke, Travellers. Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Club	Football	Oven	Fan
2	Ape	Bear	Dane	Great
3	Guard	Hand	Towel	Rail
4	Flour	Milk	Sauce	Soya
5	Body	One	Thing	Every
6	Ave	Black	Callas	Maria
7	Jury	Over	Parliament	Hung
8	Book	Tall	Working	Order
9	Bird	Closing	Riser	Early
10	Meat	Sliced	Farmhouse	Loaf
11	Bus	War	Well	Fare
12	Edge	Rocks	Teeth	Jagged
13	Jam	Night	Storage	Jar
14	Crust	Cut	Hand	Upper
15	Double	Riot	Up	Act
16	Down	Growth	Stand	Under

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	<b>Bart Simpson</b> , Son of Homer
2	<b>Davy Jones</b> , Late singer of 'The Monkeys'
3	On the <b>Buses</b> , 1970's TV series starring Reg Varney
4	<b>Seven Seas of Rhye</b> , Queen's debut single in 1974
5	The <b>Tiller Girls</b> , High kicking dance troupe on Sunday Night at the London Palladium
6	<b>Benny Hill</b> , Comedy great of the 60's and 70's
7	<b>George Gently</b> , TV inspector played by Martin Shaw
8	<b>Magnus Magnusson</b> , Former mastermind quizmaster
9	<b>Kathy Staff</b> , Last of the Summer Wine's Nora Batty
10	<b>Dustin Hoffman</b> , Rain Man actor

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