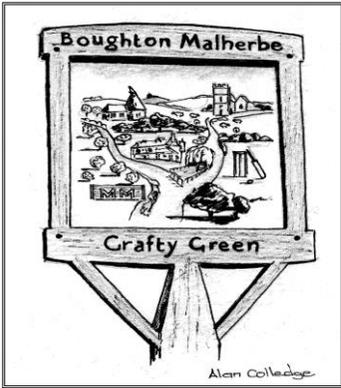


Malherbe Monthly

Number 229
August 2023



View from Park Road towards the North Downs, where the new forest planted by the Forestry Commission is located. Pictures courtesy of Christine Hollingsbee

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
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Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	Vickie Ford email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	07791 135248
Village Hall bookings	Jan Carter email janlcarter@btinternet.com	850898
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk Mobile 07932 112730	851351
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Curate	Charlotte Coles Mobile 07805 092823	
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
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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 **September** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th August**

News from St. Nicholas Church – August 2023

Summer must be here; the combine has had to stop/start as the rain has arrived. A relief for the parched gardens and stressed gardeners, but not so good for the now 'overcooked' cereal crops. But how lucky we are to be spared the horrors of the heatwave damaging so much in the rest of Europe and many other parts of the world. We will have a crop to harvest and fruit and vegetables in the fields and gardens. Thank you to Janice and John for their excess beans appearing at the Coffee Morning and Colin's cucumbers at the bowls afternoon!

Usual Reminders

The church porch is always open and we are aware that the tea and coffee making facilities are well used and appreciated. Do sign the visitors book when you can as we enjoy the comments and seeing the many parts of the country and so many connections our visitors have to this part of Kent.

Feel free to make use of the mini food bank if you are in need. There is the larger food bank in St. Mary's church in Lenham, which is open every day between 10am and 4pm.

The main church building is only open for services, cleaning etc. A key is available from the church wardens at other times. Their contact details are in the magazine. Of course, it will be open for the afternoon Cream Teas on 6th August 2.30-5pm.

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

Information

Village Coffee Morning is held every Tuesday 11.30am-2pm in the Village Hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office opens there 12.45-2.15pm and there are various stalls most weeks. I would like to remind everyone that the eco household products are always available at 15% discount, as the Homethings company have agreed to provide a discount service especially for us in Grafty Green. So good to have no plastic, only fully bio-degradable products. Most products are in small packets, with powder to be reconstituted in your own containers at home, so no heavy bottles to carry and no huge plastic containers for refills. Why not come and look on Tuesday morning coffee time. You can check the company's credentials on-line.

This month we are pleased to be able to give £100 to help with improvements to the outdoor play area at Platts Heath Primary School. Thank you to all who come to the coffee time.

Cream teas are back! We held our first event at St. Nicolas on Sunday 16th July. So many thanks to all who worked hard to make it such a great occasion. There were new faces helping for the first time and a time for others to remember all those years of greeting our hundreds of visitors. We enjoyed being able to see Sylvia and Diana sitting down and chatting, the first time in 25yrs!! We are looking forward to our next on the 30th July and our final one on 6th August, all at 2.30-5pm.

Farewell to Charlotte. On Sunday 23rd July we celebrated the time Charlotte has been here with us as Curate in the Len Valley Benefice, with a service followed by a lunch outside at St. Nicolas. Despite dire weather warnings, the sky cleared and we all enjoyed sitting in the sunshine. Many thanks to Roy and Jacquie for the use of their marquee, and coming so early to put it up. It made our hospitality and service of the food for everyone so much easier. We shall miss having Charlotte with us and send all our good wishes for her future ministry in Ashford.

Sir Edward and Lady Margaret tomb. We had a visit from an archaeologist from Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Andrew Linklater last week. He gave us valuable advice as to how we can progress with the careful protection of the 400-year-old tomb, with his extensive experience of church monuments and buildings. Hopefully we can move forward with more confidence. He will keep in touch and put in writing his suggestions for us to think about and keep the community informed.

Congratulations to Vanessa Goodwin. She has been awarded a PhD from Edinburgh University after a rigorous time of study. We are in awe of her determination and hard work.

Finale

Thoughts and prayers for those taking longed-for holidays at this time, especially the children and families. May they take their break in safety and fun together. We think of all those who have had to flee the excessive heat and fires raging worldwide, and the damage such disasters due to the natural world, its wildlife and productivity. We look forward to a time when humanity can learn how to take better care of this beautiful planet we have been given.

Sally Alexander

Boughton Malherbe

Parish Council

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retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk

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

Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

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

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

www.helenwhately.org.uk

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

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Village Hall – August Newsletter

We will shortly be embarking on our events and activities at the village hall for the late summer through to Christmas and I just wanted to update you on what is planned over the next few months and ask for some help with the Summer Fair which will be held on the old cricket field on Sunday 3rd September between 12 noon and 4pm.

If you are able to bake some cakes for the tea and cake tent that would be lovely as they are always popular with our hungry and thirsty visitors to the event, we will be holding a bottle tombola so if you have that bottle of bulls' blood firewater hanging around that you have always been too scared to drink please donate it by handing it to a committee member or leaving it at the hall in the box for donations by the door. Alternatively if you are able to spare some time either helping set up the field or helping manning one of stalls for a short period on the day please let me know, any help and assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

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

The Big Top is coming to Grafty this year with circus skills entertainment being provided by Paul of Kinetic Circus and we are hoping to provide some live music. There will be a range of other activities such as hook a duck, pitch and puddle and for the gamblers amongst you the ever-popular human fruit machine and sock lottery. Refreshments will include the popular tea and cake tent, Bert's burgers, candy floss and ice creams, together with a wide range of craft stalls. The event is a lovely way to catch up with friends and neighbours in a beautiful setting and it would be great to see you on the day.

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

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

Scarecrow Festival 10 am to 2 pm Sunday 22nd October

Following the success of last year's event we will once again be hosting the annual Grafty Green Scarecrow Festival. The theme for this year's Festival is 'Musical Legends'. That could be anything from Beethoven or Mozart to Beyonce or Madonna! Please get busy designing your scarecrows for the event. They can be

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

Winter Craft Fair Sunday 19th November 10 am to 2 pm

Our Winter Craft Fair will be held at the hall on Sunday 19th of November from 10 am to 2pm where you can browse handmade jewellery, cards, resin gifts, wax melts and other craft items. Have a chat with friends and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake. Providing you with gift ideas for some unique and individual Christmas presents produced by local craftspeople.

Christmas Quiz Saturday 2nd December 7pm for 7.30 pm

Richard ably assisted by his elves will once again by popular demand be hosting his annual Christmas Quiz again - the format will be the usual teams of eight, a pay bar, ploughman's supper, lots of unwarranted heckling and insubordination usually caused by inebriation. Please save the date, dust off those Christmas jumpers and organise your teams. For those of you like me who don't have any friends don't worry we can find you a team on the night! Tickets are £10 per head from myself on 07932 112730.

Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman

bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

Facebook – [graftygreenvillage](#)

**Grafty Green Village Hall
Summer Fair**

Sunday 3rd September 12.00-4.00

Fete Field in Church Road



Come and join us for lots of fun including traditional games, craft stalls, BBQ, ice cream, candy floss, fabulous tea tent, music and the Kinetic Circus Show!



Win a prize on the bottle tombola
or try your luck on the human fruit machine





Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood; R Turner

In attendance: Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council); Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford

In the absence of the Parish Council Chairman, the Clerk opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

M01/07/23 Chairman

RESOLVED: in the absence of Cllr Galton, Cllr Turner to chair the meeting.

Anybody filming or recording this meeting kindly requested to declare it: none

M02/07/23 Apologies

Apologies from Cllr R Galton were received and accepted; Apologies from Cllr S Prendergast (Kent County Council); and Cllr M Round (Maidstone Borough Council) were noted.

M03/07/23 Co-option of a Member

RESOLVED: to co-opt Tracey Andrews as a member of the Parish Council.

Cllr Andrews signed the acceptance of office form and book.

M04/07/23 Declarations:

Any lobbying: none declared

Any interest in items on the agenda: none declared

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests: none declared

M05/07/23 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the annual meeting held on 15th May 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M06/07/23 Public Session: no public session (five members of public present)

M07/07/23 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Kent County Council (KCC) Reports

Cllr Trzebinski reported that he had resigned from the MBC Planning Committee but would be attending the Committee's meetings as and when required. He had received many emails regarding the water supply; and had notified the Leader of MBC that he would be asking a question at the next Council meeting with the aim of the Council sending a letter to South East Water (SEW).

Cllr Turner remarked that the water supply problems had most likely not arisen from a shortage but from a lack of ability to process. Cllr Trzebinski said that MBC was looking at all issues regarding water.

Cllr Round had been working on the traffic diversions during the road closures through Leeds.

Cllr Turner enquired if MBC was pressing for the long-delayed resurfacing of the M20 between junctions 8 and 9. Cllr Trzebinski undertook to pursue.

Cllr Prendergast (KCC) had reported that, for medical reasons, she was trying to avoid driving late in the day and therefore had sent apologies. However, she would be happy to pick up on any issues outside of formal meetings. She was continuing to support Lenham with their efforts on Heathlands and had recently, with Helen Whately MP, met with senior officers at Kent Police HQ to discuss the ever increasing rural crime issues. She noted that there were now named constables in every area and expressed her hope that

the Parish Council would have already made contact and addressed any issues. Cllr Trzebinski commented that he was asking for Police Officers to visit the Villages as part of their beat.

M08/07/23 Planning Outcomes since 15th May 2023

Noted that:

23/501050/FULL Erection of 2no. mixed-agricultural buildings, for housing of livestock and storage of hay and machinery on a seasonal rotation (retrospective) on land at Land at Ash Tree Farm, Woodcock Lane, Boughton Malherbe, ME17 2AZ: **GRANTED**

22/505186/FULL Insertion of a rooflight (retrospective); and

22/505187/LBC Listed Building Consent for the installation of 1 rooflight, insertion of 2 staircases and an internal window (works complete) at Woodsden Barn, Lenham Road, Headcorn, TN27 9LJ: **GRANTED**

M09/07/23 Local Policing/Community

Police/Crime Report: It was noted two crimes had been reported in the Parish since 15th May 2023.

Cllr Turner asked if a meeting with the Police had been arranged and the Clerk reported that she had suggested a time and place but was awaiting a reply.

M10/07/23 Traffic Calming Scheme

Members had before them two proposed reports based on data from the two traffic surveys carried out before and after the traffic calming scheme was installed.

RESOLVED: Due to the unauthorised disclosure of the reports to an unknown number of residents, to publish both in the Malherbe Monthly.

The Clerk was asked to draft a covering note for publication with the reports to give a brief explanation; and to circulate to Councillors for their consideration.

M11/07/23 Liverton Hill, Ditches, Gullies, Potholes, Water Leaks

Cllr Adams stated that Crumps Lane was unsuitable for use as a diversionary route.

It was noted that the potholes near to Offen Farm had still not been repaired.

Cllr Adams was asked to inspect the large hole at the end of Eastwood Road.

M12/07/23 59 Bus

The Clerk reported that, thanks to contributions of up to £825 and £300 from Kingswood and Broomfield and Ulcombe Parish Councils respectively, an agreement had been signed with Nu-Venture which would secure the once-weekly service up to 31st March 2024.

Cllr Eastwood asked if passenger numbers were available; the Clerk advised that these had been circulated on a monthly basis. Cllr Eastwood stated that he did not regard the service as sustainable in its current form without financial support from other Parish Councils along the route. He asked the Clerk to organise a further meeting for all parties concerned, which she agreed to arrange for September.

M13/07/23 Highways Improvement Plan

The Clerk had been contacted by KCC Highways Community Engagement Officer, who had asked the Parish Council to review and update its Highways Improvement Plan (HIP).

RESOLVED: to delete item 3, which related to maintenance of the originally-proposed traffic calming scheme and was no longer required; to remind KCC that the repainting of road markings was still outstanding (item 1)!

M14/07/23 Footpaths

It was noted that public right of way KH481 between Headcorn Road and Church Lane had been cleared.

M15/07/23 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings Attended

Cllr Turner reported that he and the Clerk had attended a Parishes meeting with Helen Whately MP on Friday 30th June. The MP had undertaken to follow up the resurfacing of the M20 concrete road surface between J8 and J9, which had been promised around 20 years ago, with the Secretary of State for Transport. The question of whether street cleansing was taking place in the Parishes had been raised: the Clerk agreed to check if this was happening in Boughton Malherbe.

FINANCE

M16/07/23 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 27th June 2023 were noted:

Lloyds current	£3,350.61
Lloyds business instant access	£10,104.96
Lloyds 32-day notice	£40,124.98
Nationwide	£14,465.77
Cambridge and Counties	£23,685.05

M17/07/23 Receipts since last meeting: Lloyds Bank interest £67.17; Parish Services Scheme £131.00

M18/07/23 Bank Reconciliation

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted and signed.

M19/07/23 Statement of receipts and payments against budget: noted.

M20/07/23 Cheques to sign: Amesis Ltd £109.67; Clerk's salary £1,117.48

M21/07/23 Request for Grant from KSS Air Ambulance Charity

RESOLVED: to award a grant of £300

M22/07/23 Society of Local Council Clerks:

RESOLVED: to pay the Clerk's professional fee of £112

M23/07/23 Notice board

RESOLVED: to retain the existing notice board

M24/07/23 Grafty Green Village Green

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been requested to replace **both** sections of the fence between the King's Head public house and the Village Green, excluding the gate. Some discussion of exactly which additional sections of fence around the Village Green required replacing followed.

RESOLVED: to delegate authority to the Clerk and all Councillors present to make a final decision after inspection of the fence immediately following the end of the meeting.

M25/07/23 Parish Christmas Party

RESOLVED: to authorise organisation of a Christmas party on the Village Green in partnership with the Village Hall Committee, budget £500.

M26/07/23 KCC Emerging Local Transport Plan Public Consultation

The Clerk suggested that, since the closing date of the consultation was 18th September, comments could be agreed at the next full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: to prepare draft comments for consideration at the meeting on 4th September.

Cllr Turner closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Following the installation of the Grafty Green traffic calming scheme in September 2021, the Parish Council conducted a second traffic survey. Its intention was to publish an analysis of the results in the Malherbe Monthly magazine, to include comparison with the results of the survey conducted in April 2021.

Two proposed reports analysing the two sets of results were under consideration for publication by the Parish Council.

Due to the unauthorised disclosure of **both reports** to an unknown number of residents, the Parish Council believes it is only fair that **both** are published.

In each case, the articles proposed represented the views of an **individual member of the Parish Council**; the Parish Council view has not been determined.

The Parish Council would like to apologise for the long delay in publishing the traffic survey results.

Please address any questions about the traffic scheme or disclosure to the Parish Council Clerk Tel: 07791 135248 or by email at boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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

Everyone welcome."

Report 1:

"Grafty Green Speed Reduction Scheme Review

Speeding within the village was identified as an issue many of you wanted to address. As such, a design was produced that took into account the number of challenges present to try to reduce speeding through Grafty Green. One of the determining factors that lead to the scheme that was installed, was the lack of street lighting along Headcorn Road. A factor that meant that speed humps, cushions or chicanes would not be permitted by Kent County Council to be constructed. The scheme that was implemented was considered by Kent County Council and Boughton Malherbe Parish Council to be the best physical opportunity to help reduce speed considering the constraints for the area it was being installed in.

In September 2021 Kent County Council installed speed reduction features within Grafty Green that were funded by Boughton Malherbe Parish Council.

Speed surveys were undertaken before and after the scheme was installed so that the impact of the scheme could be assessed. Surveys were carried out in both April 2021 and December 2021. The survey location is shown below



The results of these surveys are shown below. Both the average speed is shown and the 85th percentile speed. For information, the "85th percentile" speed is a speed at which 85% of traffic will be travelling at or below a along a road.

Survey Date	Direction	Average Speed (mph)	85% Speed (mph)
Apr-21	NB	33.9	39.8
Dec-21	NB	33.36	39
Difference		-0.54	-0.8

Northbound Traffic

Report 1 continued:

Survey Date	Direction	Average Speed (mph)	85% Speed (mph)
Apr-21	SB	35.8	41.9
Dec-21	SB	34.75	40
Difference		-1.05	-1.9

Southbound Traffic

A reduction in speed was recorded in both northbound and southbound directions after the implementation of the scheme. With the speed of 85% of the traffic reduced by 0.8mph travelling northbound and by 1.9mph travelling southbound.

Vehicle speed issues are best deterred through enforcement, if you would like to support the Grafty Green Speedwatch scheme please contact the clerk at boughtonmalherbpc@gmail.com"

Report 2:

During development of the scheme we promised that it would be assessed as to effectiveness. To this end, new surveys were commissioned, one in April 2021 outside Stock's House and then two outside both Stock's house and the King's Head, to complement that done outside the King's Head in 2018. Unfortunately, the April survey was during level 2 COVID restrictions and the December surveys during level 4. The change in COVID restrictions over the two surveys outside Stock's House and the lapse of time for the two surveys outside the King's Head cast doubt over the usefulness of these datasets for the purposes of assessing impact of the scheme. This has led to the council not being able to provide as convincing an assessment as it should have. The council apologises for this lack of foresight.

To illustrate the problem with the COVID affected surveys, the following table shows the percentage of cars exceeding the speed limit and compares that with national survey data (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1083254/spe0116.ods). Whilst there is an improvement in compliance shown at Stocks House, it is not as great as the improvement nationally.

		# Cars	avg	% >30	% >30 Nationally
st	2021-04-22	7821	35.2	81.5	50.7
st	2021-12-10	10023	34.2	79.0	45.7

Location	Heading	Start Date	# vehicles	Avg Speed	85%ile	% over 30
King's Head	n	2018-07-03	5329	28.5	35.9	41.6
King's Head	n	2021-12-10	5727	28.8	35.2	42.5
King's Head	s	2018-07-03	5564	30.2	37.2	51.8
King's Head	s	2021-12-10	6271	30.5	36.8	53.4
Stock's Hse	n	2021-04-22	4895	33.9	39.8	75.0
Stock's Hse	n	2021-12-10	5787	33.4	39.0	71.8
Stock's Hse	s	2021-04-22	5115	35.8	41.9	84.8
Stock's Hse	s	2021-12-10	5744	34.8	40.0	83.6

Overall the results are inconclusive but it can be deduced that the scheme has not had a big impact.

Helen Whately MP

Calling for an end to Op Brock delays

We've all been there. Whether it's the morning commute, a lunchtime errand, or nipping out to pick up the kids from school – almost everyone in Kent has had a 20-minute trip turned into a nightmare thanks to traffic caused by Operation Brock.

I'm sure, like mine, hearts across the county will have sunk at the news that it's set to restart in July.

Although it's disruptive, Op Brock makes sense when responding to exceptional circumstances, like strikes or extreme weather. But this latest deployment appears to be in preparation for summer holiday traffic – something that happens every year.

Blocking up Kent's roads every time there's a school holiday or delays at the ports isn't a long-term solution. It's not fair on people stuck in jams, it's not fair on families stuck at home, and it's not fair on our local businesses either.

Take the wonderful Leeds Castle as an example. In the summer holidays families come from far and wide to visit, and the money that raises helps to keep the castle going over the winter. But when the M20's jammed it puts lots of people off going. The castle simply can't survive if that happens every summer.

That's why straight after receiving the news of the latest Brock deployment I sent a letter to the Transport Secretary Mark Harper. I made it clear that Kent is bearing the brunt of a national issue, and we need a national solution as soon as possible.

I asked him what ministers are doing to reduce the reliance on Op Brock, and when we can expect a permanent, alternative plan. I also asked when the resurfacing of the M20, which was postponed in December because of Op Brock, will be rescheduled.

The next step will be arranging a meeting with the Roads Minister to discuss this in more detail. I will do whatever I can to speed things up, and I know that other Kent MPs will too. Local bodies like Kent Highways have got bags of knowledge about this issue, and we need to bring people together to find a way forward.

Kent is the UK's gateway to Europe, but it's also our home. I'm going to keep fighting for a solution which recognises that. In the meantime, please do get in touch with my office to report if you're affected. The more information we have, the louder our voice will be.

Let's get those Brock barriers put away once and for all.

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability

Susan Burch 01622 850381

Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am

Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm

Pilates

Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639

Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 11.30 – 2.00pm

Short Mat Bowls

Chris Wheal 01622 850100

Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm

Dance Fit

Sharon Harris 01622 890170

Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm

Craft Group

Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10am -12.00pm

Art Class

Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club

Kathy 07789 831397

First Tuesday of the month 7.30pm



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THE MILLENNIUM HALL



GET IN TOUCH

 instructor@egerton-kent.co.uk
 www.egerton-kent.co.uk

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

Grafty Gourmet

This recipe does not really need an introduction. Just indulge !

GIN & TONIC CHEESECAKE

250g of digestive biscuits
100g of melted butter
600g of cream cheese
100g of icing sugar
zest and juice of 1 lime, (plus extra zest to serve)
50ml of gin
280ml of double cream
250ml can of gin and tonic
2 tablespoons of caster sugar
1 lemon, (half juiced, half finely sliced)
2 medium meringues, crushed

1. Butter and line a 23cm loose-bottomed tin with grease proof paper. Put the digestive biscuits in a plastic food bag and crush to crumbs using a rolling pin, or blitz in a food processor. Transfer to a bowl, then pour over the melted butter. Mix thoroughly until the crumbs are completely coated. Tip them into the prepared tin and press firmly down into the base to create an even layer. Chill in the fridge for 1 hr to set firmly.
 2. To make the filling, place the cream cheese, icing sugar and lime zest in a bowl, then beat with an electric whisk until smooth. Tip in the gin and double cream, and continue beating until the mixture is thick and completely combined. Now spoon it onto the biscuit base, and spread to the edges. Smooth the top of the cheesecake down with the back of a dessert spoon or spatula. Leave to set in the fridge overnight.
 3. Pour the can of gin and tonic into a pan, add the caster sugar and lemon juice and boil hard. Once it has reduced to a syrup (about 3-4 minutes over high heat), cool a little, then add the lime juice and the slices of lemon and toss in the syrup. Allow to cool completely.
 4. To serve, remove the cheesecake from the tin and place onto a serving plate. Top with a handful of the crushed meringues, then drizzle with the syrup, scattering the lemon slices on top as you go. Add a final dusting of lime zest, slice and serve.
-

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Matilda the Musical: afternoon family fundraiser!

Friday 11th August

Performance begins at earlier time of 16.30, doors open 15.30.

Our August film will be a very special afternoon showing of **Matilda the Musical**, a new 2022 adaptation of the Tony and Olivier award-winning musical starring Alisha Weir as a wonderful Matilda and Emma Thompson as the formidable Miss Trunchbull. It's a fabulous story for young and old.

Doors will open at the earlier time of 15.30, the film will begin at 16.30 and we'll include an interval part way through the film. In addition to being great fun for all ages, this will be a special fundraising performance in honour of Jim Myers. Jim, who sadly passed away earlier this year, was a founder member of Lenham Film Club and as such, we're wanting to dedicate a performance to him and a cause close to his heart. All takings from the performance will therefore be donated to Lenham Nursery School Big Build Project, which is raising money to build a wonderful new school in Lenham.

We'll be holding a great raffle in the interval with prizes including two annual adult Leeds Castle tickets worth £60 and a fabulous chocolate cake donated by Kerry Slevin Cakes. And in keeping with the chocolate cake scene from the musical, we'll be selling lots of chocolate cakes in addition to our usual refreshments.

Matilda the Musical is certificate PG, is directed by Matthew Warchus and the running time is 1hr 58 mins plus a 20-minute interval. There's no advance booking, just come along and join us for this fun film, enjoy some cake and support a great local cause.

Then on September 8th we're showing **Fisherman's Friends: One & All** (12, 2022). The sequel to the 2019 comedy follows the next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends amazing true story. Following the unexpected success of the band's debut album we re-join them a year later as they struggle to adjust to their new lives.

Please get in touch for more information, to join our mailing list or to become a member. **Admission:** members £4, non-members £5 **Annual membership:** £6 (over 16's only)



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Music Notes for August 2023 – B Hardy

In August the “Proms” are in full swing; they started on 14th July and continue through to 9th September. As well as the daily live performances, there are daily broadcasts on radio 3, and some of the most popular concerts are shown on TV. For this month I recommend Walton’s *Belshazzar’s Feast* – Celebrated American baritone Thomas Hampson is the soloist for this epic Old Testament ‘biblical blockbuster’, conducted by Klaus Mäkelä, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (4 August).

I have to admit that having mentioned what is probably well known to many of my readers, I have struggled to find to recommendations locally this month. All major local choirs and orchestras are all “on holiday” so I have included two items from the Hever Castle Festival, and that actually runs throughout the month with a variety of events (not all musical). There are also lunchtime concerts in August at Canterbury Cathedral but I have been unable to find at the time of going to press. So here is my much-reduced August list; if your August concert isn’t here, please remember to let me know earlier in future!

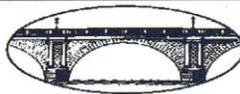
- Friday 11th & Saturday 12th August, 8.00pm at Hever Castle Two Sisters Theatre there will be performances of Donizetti’s opera *The Elixir of Love*. Box office 07379 488 477 Gates open 6.30pm.
- Sunday 27th August at Hever Castle Two Sisters Theatre (TN8 7NG) at 8.00pm, The last night Festival Prom Concert. Box office 07379 488 477 Gates open 6.30pm.
- Wednesday 30th August, 7.30pm at Rochester Cathedral, An organ recital as part of the Rochester Cathedral Organ Festival. Tickets at door or book online
<https://shop.myonlinebooking.co.uk/rochestercathedral/sessions.aspx?tid=36>

My anniversary is 18th August, the date **Antonio Salieri** was born in 1750. He was an Italian classical composer, conductor, and teacher, born in Legnago, south of Verona, in the Republic of Venice, and spent his adult life and career as a subject of the Habsburg monarchy.



Salieri was a pivotal figure in the development of late 18th-century opera. As a student of Florian Leopold Gassmann, and a protégé of Christoph Willibald Gluck, Salieri was a cosmopolitan composer who wrote operas in three languages. He helped to develop and shape many of the features of operatic compositional vocabulary, and his music was a powerful influence on contemporary composers.

The death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1791 at the age of 35 was followed by rumours that he and Salieri had been bitter rivals, and that Salieri had poisoned the younger composer, yet it has been suggested this is false, and it is likely that they were, at least, mutually respectful peers.



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

1	___ & Scratchy, cartoon characters in 'The Simpsons'
2	Roger __ ____, Late actor who was known as Trigger in 'Only fools and Horses'
3	_____ Gadget, TV cartoon about a blundering detective
4	Sid ____, Eastender actor who played Ricky Butcher
5	_____ Cleaver, Hug Grant's part in Bridget Jones Diary
6	Tim _____, Director of the 2001 film Planet of the Apes
7	___ Watson, Who played Hermione in Harry Potter
8	The Great _____, F Scott Fitzgerald Jazz age classic adapted to the big screen in 1974 and 2013
9	_____ Garros, French aviator after whom a Tennis venue is named
10	Kenny _____, Scotland's most capped footballer of all time

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Lie	Life	Tide	Low
2	Bread	Grass	Whiskey	
3	Keeper	London	Petting	
4	Dog	Last	Lop	
5	Reference	Road	Weather	
6	Artic	Eater	Hill	
7	Big	Hill	Notch	
8	Band	Chair	Fire	
9	Common	Elizabethan	Probation	
10	Park	Pool	Racing	
11	Ache	Ring	Sympathetic	
12	Hearth	Persian	Sheepskin	
13	Electric	Glass	Jellied	
14	Active	Consul	Rata	
15	Desert	Poison	Race	
16	Box	Hard	Pin	

Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent

Weald of Kent Rotary are holding a dinner at the Krishna Indian Restaurant in Headcorn (41 High Street Headcorn, Kent TN27 9NL).

All profits raised will be sent via Rotary International to the Turkey-Syria Appeal.

To book a place and arrange payment please email us on booking@wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

Cost : £25.00 per person.

Availability : 60 people. Open to members and non-members.

Menu :-

Popadum

Naan Bread

Pilau Rice

Chicken Korma (mild)

Chicken Dhansak (warm)

Chicken Madras (hot)

Vegetable curry

Host Rotarian : Chris Jesson.



Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2023

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

Summer events continue and this month we were treated to a most enjoyable evening as guests of Rhian Banham who has a very interesting garden with some lovely colour combinations. In fact, there was something of everything in Rhian's garden including a number of outdoor spaces where members were able to enjoy some tasty food and drink and a catch up. Thank you, Rhian!

A good number of us are looking forward to a coach trip to RHS Hyde Hall on Sunday August 13th. The coach will leave Grafty at 9.00 am and should be back at 5.30 to 6pm dependent upon traffic. Cost of the coach trip is £18 for members £20 to non-members; entrance is free as the club is an affiliated member of the RHS. There are still a few places to fill if you would like to join us and maybe bring a friend? We look forward to seeing you on the day.

In our gardens: - At last some rain and we can top up ponds and give everything a good water. Time to prune rambling roses after flowering and complete summer pruning of wisteria. Collect seed from plants that you favour and cuttings from tender perennials.

Lift and dry onions and cut and dry herbs for use in the Winter ahead. Later in the month we; can start to divide perennials. And then it is time to relax and enjoy our hard work.

Enjoy your gardening! Carole Frost.

Sue's Nature Notes

'No mow May' meant I cut the majority of my lawn at the beginning of June and not since – I have been able to enjoy a longer flowering of the ox-eye daisy as well as self-heal, clover and birds-foot trefoil which has made a lovely patchwork of colour which various insects have also enjoyed. Now I am treated to bull finches feasting on seeds in the lawn; such a delight.

I was somewhat concerned about the lack of butterflies up to mid - July when there are now plenty of red admirals, peacocks, commas, meadow browns, hedge browns and some skippers which I have recorded and sent in to the Butterfly Conservation web site for their survey.

Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

No classes during August

New Term - Mondays 9.30 to 11 - 4th September

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30 - 6th September

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11 - 7th September.

To join a class or for more details please call Sue Burch on
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Christian Message August 2023

August is a month when many of us will be taking holidays- or else thinking wistfully in my case of a holiday taken earlier. We've had bizarre weather this year, with just so much rain, followed by just so little rain and just so many cold winds, and I imagine we're all hoping for some sun for our holidays.

Of course, all this odd weather is probably related to the global climate crisis. This was particularly obvious last year with country fires. The Christian faith teaches us that God loves the whole world. The most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16, says (literally) that "God so loved the whole *cosmos*, that He gave His only son" that it would be freed for eternal life. So, it's not just humans that God cares about, and if God cares about the whole world so should we.

The trouble is, we are not very good at it. We need to learn a completely new way of thinking where we don't just care about the cost of things, but the carbon cost of things- in other words how much carbon dioxide equivalents things cost- in their manufacture, and transport and how we use them.

I've been using a book called, "How bad are my bananas?" (by Mike Berners-Lee, a professor at Lancaster Uni) to help educate us in the Len Valley Benefice.

It turns out bananas are quite good to eat, because they are transported by boat, which reduces their carbon footprint. However, eating strawberries that are flown in from abroad is a disaster. Amazingly, the milk in a cup of coffee can make up as much as three quarters of its carbon footprint (much more than the electricity used to boil the kettle) because of the methane production linked to the dairy industry. Going on holiday and staying a night in a hotel can be expensive in terms of carbon footprint, depending on how it does its laundry, overheats (or air-con's) its rooms and what kind of food it uses.

And one long haul flight (say Hong Kong return) is the equivalent of about 25 return trips to Glasgow in a small electric car, or 75 trips if you go business class. The point here is simply that there's so much that we don't know, and we need to educate ourselves because, remarkably this stuff still isn't taught in schools. **Why bother?** So that our children and grandchildren are spared the worst of a world where the climate is against us- much, much more than the inconvenience of a bit of rain and cold winds!

God bless you all.

John P. Huggins (01622 850280)

Len Valley Benefice August 2023

Everybody is welcome



Sunday 6th August

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Morning
Worship

11.00am Harrietsham: Family
friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion *with baptism*

Wednesday 2nd August

9.30am Lenham: Holy
Communion (BCP)

Sunday 13th August

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 20th August

8.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy
Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

11.00am Lenham: Morning
Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

Sunday 27th August

10.30am Benefice Holy
Communion at Boughton
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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Lie	Life	Tide	Low
2	Bread	Grass	Whiskey	Rye
3	Keeper	London	Petting	Zoo
4	Dog	Last	Lop	Lap
5	Reference	Road	Weather	Map
6	Artic	Eater	Hill	Ant
7	Big	Hill	Notch	Top
8	Band	Chair	Fire	Arm
9	Common	Elizabethan	Probation	Era
10	Park	Pool	Racing	Car
11	Ache	Ring	Sympathetic	Ear
12	Hearth	Persian	Sheepskin	Rug
13	Electric	Glass	Jellied	Eel
14	Active	Consul	Rata	Pro
15	Desert	Poison	Race	Rat
16	Box	Hard	Pin	hat

	Find the missing word?
1	Itchy & Scratchy, cartoon characters in 'The Simpsons'
2	Roger in 'Only fools and Horses'
3	Inspector Gadget, TV cartoon about a blundering detective
4	Sid Owen , Eastender actor who played Ricky Butcher
5	Daniel Cleaver, Hug Grant's part in Bridget Jones Diary
6	Tim Burton , Director of the 2001 film Planet of the Apes
7	Emma Watson, Who played Hermione in Harry Potter
8	The Great Gatsby , F Scott Fitzgerald Jazz age classic adapted to the big screen in 1974 and 2013
9	Roland Garros, French aviator after whom a Tennis venue is named
10	Kenny DalGLISH , Scotland's most capped footballer of all time

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