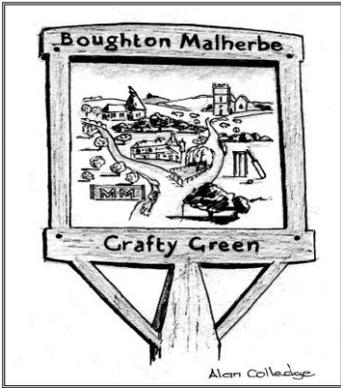


# Malherbe Monthly

Number 231  
October 2023



**Saturday 9th September** 150 friends and family gathered at St Nicholas Church to celebrate with Dean and Sarah as they renewed their vows after 30 years of marriage. We were entertained by an amazing gospel choir and everyone joined in, dancing and clapping.

## Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 078524 92770
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
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	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday at approx. 3pm by Post Office	07976 435217
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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 **November** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20<sup>th</sup> October**

## News from St. Nicholas Church – October 2023

Just back from the surgery after 'flu and Covid vaccinations. So privileged to have protection from many other debilitating diseases too. Very glad our children and grandchildren are unlikely to suffer the distress of whooping cough, measles, rubella, tuberculosis, smallpox, scarlet fever, mumps, brucellosis, meningitis, or polio, all so prevalent and dangerous in my childhood. Times when any number of children missed schooling either through illness or in quarantine for up to three weeks after exposure. But we cannot be complacent when many areas of the world still do not have access to this protection, through poverty, civil unrest, war or lethargy. May we be thankful that humanity has learned and used the knowledge to make this progress. It is up to us to support those spreading this knowledge to every corner, through amazing charities and aid agencies. Still so much to be done, and peace is the cornerstone for this to happen.

### Usual reminders

**The church porch** open at all times. Good to know that many people are using the space and enjoying making a hot drink to relax and take in the peace of the countryside. Thank you to those who leave a message. Feel free to take from the mini food box there if you are in need.

**The main church building** is only open for services, cleaning, meetings etc. please contact the churchwardens for a key if you would like to visit at other times.

**Church service times** are on the noticeboards by the church porch, the roadside bench and outside the Grafty Green Village Hall.

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

### Information

**Village Coffee Morning** is held every Tuesday 11.30am-2.00pm in the village hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is open then from 12.45-2.15 pm and there are various stalls most weeks.

Donations are shared equally between the church and a charity chosen by the coffee morning regulars. This time we will be sending donations to Morocco and Libya. If anyone wishes to donate especially to this charitable cause, please bring it to the coffee morning and it will be separately sent on by the treasurer. We can all see the needs of these countries and the horrific devastations caused by the disasters.

**Summer Craft Fair** was a huge success, enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to the organisers. The weather was perfect and the location delightful. Our little stall made around £120, so thanks to all who made it special, tiny knitted toys were particularly popular. Rosemary take a bow! Jacquie was a star, with her wonderful family, let

alone all those who supported us and the whole event. Who didn't enjoy the Punch and Judy, the tea tent and the other brilliant things on offer.

**HARVEST SUPPER IS COMING UP! TAKE NOTE!!**

**Saturday 7th October 7pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Once again, we are joining with the Village Hall Committee to host this event. We are looking forward to meeting up with old friends and new, with a new menu, but just as delicious! **Tickets from Kenneth and Sally Alexander, Angela and John Thompson, and the Village Coffee Morning are £10.**

Kenneth's phone is 07768 323367 and Sally's is 07469 175290

There are posters all around the village, if you need to check.

**Friday 6th October in the village hall, from 10-12 noon** will be making decorations with an autumn theme for the village hall Harvest Supper. Please join us for a fun morning using any containers you can find eg. small metal watering cans, baskets, planters, pots, jam jars etc. and bits of chicken wire would be helpful to stabilise arrangements, in fact anything you have lying around! Also, greenery, colourful flowers and leafy branches from garden or hedgerow would be great too. We have advice from Sandra to help us, as well as photos she has provided.

**Harvest Festival in the church is on Sunday 8th October at 3.30pm**

All donations of produce are welcome, perishable or nonperishable. So, cakes and homemade goodies, vegetables and fruit will be appreciated as well as tinned, packaged and preserves. There will be refreshments, followed by the usual auction of produce, with the money raised going to charity.

Decorations will include those made for the Harvest Supper.

**Craft Club.** The special decoration morning on 6th October will be held by the Craft Club during their usual Friday session, so are looking forward to introducing the club to others too. They would like to also like to tell everyone that you don't have to be a craft wonder to come on any Friday morning. There will be jigsaws amongst the crafty things to enjoy and good company. Lots to learn from each other. Coffee/tea and a biscuit or two, with a charge of £2 on the day, for the hall facilities.

**Finale**

A beautiful warm autumn evening outside. Hoping for more like it to shorten the winter to come. A time to appreciate the fruits of the summer, flowers, farm crops, increasing wild life and even the very noisy Tawny owls shouting to each other from woodland to woodland over the fields in the evenings. Just seen a definite path to our overladen russet apple tree, which now has no fruit below 3ft.! Badgers or foxes? They too are preparing for the winter, now stuffed with our russets!

Looking forward to us meeting at the Harvest Supper and Festival! It is good to give thanks for all we enjoy.

**Sally Alexander**

## **Boughton Malherbe**

**Parish Council**

**Contact Details**

**Ron Galton, Chairman**

- Tel: 01622 850369

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

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

**Robert Turner**

Tel: 01622 850325

(Finance, Planning, KALC)

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

**Barry Adams**

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[barr313@btinternet.com](mailto:barr313@btinternet.com)

**Tracey Andrews**

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**Nick Eastwood**

Tel: 01622 850330

[nicholas.eastwood.bmpc@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.eastwood.bmpc@gmail.com)

**Vickie Ford, Parish Clerk- Tel:**

07791 135248

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

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[retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7219 6472; Email: [helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk)

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## **Village Hall – October Newsletter**

We were blessed with glorious weather for the summer fair which appeared to be enjoyed by all.

Thank you for making cakes, helping out and coming along to support the event. Total income for the event which was made up from income from stall holders, games, food and drink sales was just over £1,600. The cost of the entertainment came in at £820 and the cost of food, drink, (beer and wine) and other sundries was £352 providing us with a profit on the day of a very creditable £428. This will enable us to meet the cost of refurbishing the PA system, (£195) and leave a surplus of approximately £233 which we can put towards hosting future events at the hall or maintaining the hall in good condition.

It is of course not all about the money, it was lovely to see the community coming together both young and old enjoying each other's company and the entertainment in a beautiful setting on a lovely summer's afternoon.

Thank you as always for your support of the village hall without this the hall would not be sustainable and a community resource would be lost so thank you again for all your help it is greatly appreciated.

As we come into Autumn we have the following events coming up at the hall

### **Harvest Supper 7 pm for 7.30 pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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. The Craft Group which meets at the hall on a Friday morning between 10 am and 12 noon will be making both table decorations for the supper and autumnal decorations for the hall and if you would like to take part you would be most welcome to join in. Sally will provide more detail on this in the Church News section of the magazine.

### **Grafty Green Scarecrow Festival Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Village Hall 10 am to 2pm**

The theme for this year's Scarecrow Festival is, 'Musical Legends', Elvis has already made an appearance and Platts Heath School are going to make a scarecrow, but whether it be Beethoven, Ernie the Milkman or Madonna please get busy designing your scarecrows for the event. They can be displayed from the beginning of October

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 Village Hall which will act as Scarecrow HQ on Sunday 22nd October from 10 am to 2pm for light refreshments of tea, coffee and cake, 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 once constructed by Friday 13th October so that your scarecrow can be included in the map. Donations of cakes on the day would as always be gratefully received for the tea and cake stall.

### **Christmas Craft Fair Weekend of Saturday & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November 10 am to 2pm both days**

We are pleased to announce that due to the high demand for stalls this year our Christmas Craft Fair will be held at the hall over two days on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of November from 10 am to 2pm on both days. There will be a wide variety of stalls on each day where you can browse jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, wax melts, wooden items, general craft items and so much more..... We will also provide a variety of refreshments so that you can have a chat with friends and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake on the Saturday and tuck into a bacon or a sausage sandwich on the Sunday with your tea or coffee.

The event will provide you with gift ideas for some unique and individual Christmas presents produced by local craftspeople. We are hoping that the choir from Platts Heath Primary School will be able to sing carols so the event should have a lovely festive feel to get us all ready for Christmas.

### **Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman**

[bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk](mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk)

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

Facebook – graftygrevillage

## **News from Helen Whately – MP**

“As many of you will know, at the start of September I was involved in a nasty road accident on the A252 which left me needing surgery on my ankle.

I am hugely grateful to the emergency services and to everyone who came to help in the minutes after the accident. It made such a difference at a horrible time, and I have been so moved by the countless kind messages that people have sent since.

The one beneficiary of all of this is my dog Alfie, who thinks me being stuck at home is terrific news. He doesn't know why I'm suddenly here all the time, but he's determined to make the most of it - and by following me around the house constantly he is doing a great job of cheering me up.

I'm hoping to be back on my feet soon, but in the meantime, I am getting on with work from home as normal.

Over the summer my team and I have been busy locally, including analysing more than 2,000 responses to my housing survey and writing to the Housing Secretary with the results.

In the letter I set out our local red lines: that development should come with proper improvements to local services, and shouldn't come at the expense of our beautiful countryside. If you haven't read the letter yet you can find it on my website.

I spent the early part of the summer calling for Operation Brock to be stood down which it then was in July, and I'm hoping that my recent letter to the Transport Secretary about the impact of ticket office closures on older and disabled passengers is also successful.

The Farming Minister Mark Spencer came to visit us in Graveney and talked to local growers about some of the challenges they're facing, and the Sentencing Minister Ed Argar came to Lenham as part of our crackdown on rural crime.

That crackdown has been a team effort with local councillors, farmers, and the police, and it's such a good example of what we can achieve when we come together locally to work on a problem.

That's why this autumn I'm launching five local priorities which I want to bring people together to work on. Having been your MP for 8 years and spoken to people every day about what matters to them, I've chosen five areas which I know people care about locally and I think we can make real progress on. They are:

### **1. More GP and dentist appointments**

Working to increase the number of GP and dentists locally, and the number of appointments available from the ones we have.

## 2. Faster police response

Working to improve the responsiveness of local police, especially in rural areas.

## 3. Investment for schools and pupils

Helping local schools to win investment, and local pupils to get more from their education.

## 4. Environmental improvements

Protecting the local countryside, improving biodiversity and getting investment in our waterways.

## 5. Help for local business to grow

Finding out what's holding local businesses back from growing, and helping them bridge those gaps.

Of course, I'm not going to hit pause on my other campaigns – like getting a new swing bridge for Faversham or keeping up the fight for a Leeds/Langley relief road. But I want to see just how much progress we can make on these issues if we put our collective might together.

Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks, and please do have a think if you can get involved in any way. Once I'm back on my feet I want us to hit the ground running! ”



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**Grafty Green Christmas Craft Fair Weekend!**  
**Come along on both Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday**  
**19<sup>th</sup> November to our Christmas Craft Fair**  
**which is bigger and better than ever!**

We will have a wide range of stalls including jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, wax melts, wooden items, general craft and so much more.....

On Saturday there will be tea, coffee and cake and on Sunday we will also have bacon and sausage sandwiches.

So come along and support your village hall, buy unique Christmas presents and chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Don't miss out on that special gift by only coming on one of the days



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10.00-2.00**

**Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA**





# Scarecrow Festival

## Grafty Green Village Hall

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 10 am to 2pm

Make your own scarecrow to display in your front garden or on the village green by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. This year's theme is, "musical legends".

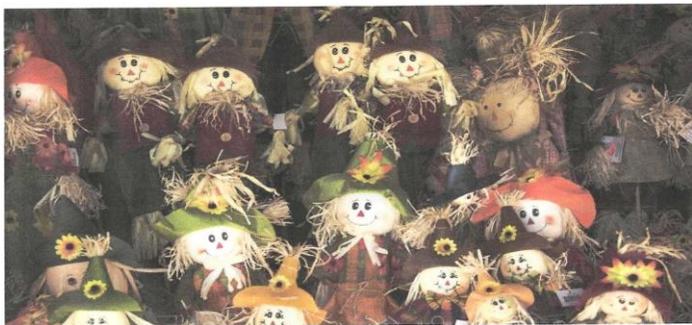
Provide details of your scarecrow, (your name, contact details, type of scarecrow and location) to Jon Thompson by email to [bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk](mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

We would like to see as many people as possible visit the Village Hall on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October between 10 am and 2pm to collect your scarecrow location map whilst enjoying a cup of tea and cake and a chat with friends and neighbours.

Go on a scarecrow safari around the village and return to the hall and vote on your preferred scarecrow.

The winning scarecrow will be displayed in Maidstone Town Centre between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

If you need any assistance with resources such as timber, straw or with building your scarecrow please contact Jon Thompson on either 07932 112730 or [bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk](mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk)



## Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

### Regular Weekly Events

<b>Yoga – mixed ability</b> Susan Burch 01622 850381	<b>Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am</b> <b>Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm</b>
<b>Pilates</b> Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639	<b>Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am</b>
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm</b>
<b>Coffee morning</b>	<b>Tuesdays 11.30 – 2.00pm</b>
<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> Joan Marriott 01622 858100	<b>Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm</b>
<b>Dance Fit</b> Sharon Harris 01622 890170	<b>Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm</b>
<b>Craft Group</b> Janis Carter 01622 850898	<b>Fridays 10am -12.00pm</b>
<b>Art Class</b> Cathy Hill 07927054708	<b>Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm</b>

### Regular Monthly Events

<b>Gardening Club</b> Doreen 01622 850287 Sue 01622 850381	<b>First Tuesday of the month 7.30pm</b>
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## Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

You may have read in the September draft minutes (elsewhere in the magazine) that the Parish Council awarded a grant to Platts Heath School towards their new outdoor play area. Chairman, Cllr Ron Galton, had the pleasure of presenting the cheque to Head of School Mr Darren Waters, while taking the opportunity to look around the area being developed and hear more about the School's plans for the playground. The Parish Council's grant of £145 will be used to purchase a mud kitchen and an outdoor storage box.



"The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 pm**  
in the Village Hall.

Everyone welcome."

## Traffic Calming & Headcorn Road - By The Way; Some Facts

Living at the Headcorn end of Grafty Green by the village gate where 60mph becomes 30mph been very aware that there has been no improvement since the traffic calming was implemented and if anything, things worsened. We've, to my knowledge, not had official comment from the Parish Council about the success / or not of the traffic calming but merely two different articles by different individuals (presumably Parish Councillors) published in Malherbe Monthly no doubt prompted by a Freedom of Information request.

Two 30mph post mounted signs either side of the road were replaced with a single small 30mph sign mounted on the white gate - in bright weather not overly visible and being on opposite side of road can be hidden from view for incoming village traffic by traffic leaving village. Now after originally raising this issue way back an answer from KCC via our clerk Vickie Ford - quote "KCC highways have informed us the speed terminal signage is incorrect it should be 600 or 750mm in size (diameter) and not 450mm (current sign size) - it will take around 4/5 months to correct this". This is of course the same KCC who initially put a national speed limit sign at Strem Farm location for going up Liverton Hill whereas the limit was 30mph! Chapter 3 - Roads Signage (the Highways Bible) states without ambiguity the signage in question 750mm (or possibly 600mm) but very definitely not 450mm.

KCC comments also go on regarding the sign removed at Wren's Nest location quote - "the signage that was removed from the verge was incorrect which is why KCC think it was removed. It was set 10/15m away from where the speed limit actually started, which shouldn't have been the case. ***It was KCC who moved it there because the original post sign was in the ditch and prone to topple particularly in winter when ditch had running water - they were told at time put sign on a cranked post where by the post would have been in dry ground at the back edge of the ditch.***

One conspicuous sign alone will not stop speeding however it will help - a nudge / reminder to many law-abiding motorists that there is a 30mph limit. Those familiar with Hollingbourne will know as you enter there are very conspicuous with 30mph signs ***BOTH SIDES*** of the road.

Changing to the subject of pot holes the long running saga of those situated between Offen Farm and Wrens Nest has as I'm sure you will have noticed come to an end with some significant patching completed - it all finally came to a head on Sunday morning when KCC placed cones complete with metal signs in the running just around the blind bend thereby causing many near misses in a very short space of time - several phone calls later temporary patches were done (this should have been

done weeks, even months earlier) and four days later the permanent patching done. Further irony was that whilst these very serious pot holes were left to fester a highways crew spent a day doing remedial 'cosmetic' patching (no actual pot holes) at Woodcock Lane where traffic speeds at the junction are literally 10mph or less. At one stage we were even told the delay in doing the pot holes was delaying in obtaining road closure permit - ***it is of course KCC who issue the permits!!!***

In all this debacle with KCC and in particular the signage problem one person, our Parish Clerk, must be thanked most sincerely for her tenacity in securing the outcome with KCC - something hitherto which had rumbled on without resolve.

**Chris Wheal**

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Katherine Costain on  
[clerk.hdc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.hdc@gmail.com)  
07889 562931.

Completed forms should be returned no later than  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

# Grafty Geeks

## Beware of Scams/Fraud – A personal story

For this article I thought I'd share with a story about an experience I had with a fraud.

I receive regular payment notifications from Google Play, as I do have subscriptions with them for games and storage. I noticed that I was getting more than normal, so decided to check. As these payments go through PayPal, I checked there first, as you ***can report problems via the App***. If it is a known supplier, they generally ask you to contact them directly, which is what I did. I went through the Google chat help option, who directed me to ***check my subscriptions in the Google Play app***, which I didn't know I could do, so that was interesting, but one of the payments of 9.99 was not shown. After hour+ with them, they concluded that I must have been scammed. ***Useful tip: You can ask to save chats you have with Bots on line, which will get sent to your email, in case you need evidence later***. I couldn't stop payments to Google play, as I need them, so I continued to research the problem.

I found that the payment was actually going to YouTube, which I discovered by selecting that payment in PayPal. I must have subscribed in the past, but no longer needed it, so I cancelled this. I got the cancellation notice and the usual "sorry to see you leaving..." email, and then eventually they confirmed it was cancelled. I just put this down to my mistake and left it at that. Until 2 days later I had another notification that a payment of 9.99 had been taken, so this time I checked this with my bank, Halifax. In the ***Halifax App*** you can select a payment and select ***"Help with this transaction"***, there are various options available, but the one for me at this time was ***"If you still have an issue and think a transaction is unauthorised, then contact them"***. As I had already discovered from Google that they felt it was a scam, I contacted Halifax. Very quickly they agreed that this was indeed fraud, and it turned out that this payment was being taken once a week since May, when I had a new card issued. They instantly refunded these payments, and it turned out that I had also had 51 smaller payments being taken, of between 0.11 – 1.29, in addition to the 9.99 per week, so in total I got back about £150. They had to stop my card and give me a new one and since then it has been fine.

Clearly I should check my account more often, but due to me changing jobs and having a crazy few month's I hadn't taken enough notice. I was also getting a lot of emails from various people during this time, so had just deleted the Google Play and PayPal notifications. It was only when I decided to review my finances after my new job had settled in that I noticed this excessive activity.

Lessons learnt for me are shown in bold and italics above, and also of course to check my bank more regularly and don't ignore any payment notifications before checking.

I hope you found this interesting and helpful if ever you are in doubt about payment activity.

## **Boughton Malherbe Community Emergency Plan.**

**The plan which has been in place since 2015 has to be amended once more because of so many recent changes.**

We are urgently in need of volunteers to bring us back up to strength with one vacancy for a co-ordinator and two more for general helpers to provide the numbers that might be needed should we suffer a major disaster, like a plane crashing in Grafty Green or lesser events that still require our assistance to help those affected.

Co-ordinators will be involved in the management of disaster assistance and helpers would be on hand to take on general help as the need arises under control of the co-ordinators. There is no prior training required and the plan is flexible to cope with any eventuality. We hope it will never need to be used.

Each co-ordinator will have a copy of the plan for use if we should have need of it in co-operation with the emergency services and Kent Resilience Forum. Each Co-ordinator will also have a confidential list of helpers they can call on if needed and available.

Helpers' duties are just to be on hand to assist if requested by a co-ordinator and they are able to do so safely. Nobody is expected to take unnecessary risks to themselves or others.

If you would like to Volunteer as a co-ordinator or helper please Email Ron Galton at [galton@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:galton@gotadsl.co.uk) giving your full name, postal address, Email address, landline and mobile telephone numbers. Please also give details if you have a useful attribute such as trained First Aider, or a useful item that you would be willing to use if needed such as a tractor, 4x4, generator, special rescue equipment etc.

The information you provide will be kept confidential and only given to co-ordinators after you have joined as a volunteer. Unused applications will be destroyed

The public will only be given the edited version of the plan which includes only the contact details of each co-ordinator should a resident need to contact any one of them for assistance.

Only co-ordinators will have the full version of the plan which contains contact details of all helpers.

It is hoped to issue the updated Emergency Plan to all residents with your November copy of the Malherbe Monthly.

If you have any questions please call Ron Galton on 01622 850 369.

Thank You to all who respond.

## Grafty Gourmet

A warming dessert with two textures of pastry. This crumble has a short crust pastry base with a crumble topping. Serve with warm custard, cream or vanilla ice cream.

### Apple & Almond Crumble

#### For the filling and base:-

8 eating apples (Granny Smith or Braeburn work well)  
50g of golden caster sugar  
½ teaspoon of mixed spice  
2 tablespoons of plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
500g block shortcrust pastry

#### For the crumble:-

50g of plain flour  
50g of ground almonds  
70g of golden caster sugar  
70g of cold butter, cut into cubes  
30g of flaked almonds

1. Firstly, make the crumble. Tip the flour, ground almonds, sugar and a pinch of salt into a bowl, then rub in the butter with your fingers until the mix resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the flaked almonds and chill until needed. Can be prepared up to two days ahead and chilled.
  2. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan with a baking tray inside. Peel, core quarter and slice the apples, then tip into a bowl with the sugar, mixed spice and flour. Toss well and set aside. Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured surface until it's large enough to line a 20-22cm pie dish. Line the dish with the pastry, then trim and crimp the edge.
  3. Spoon the apple mixture into the base, then scatter over the crumble. Bake on the hot tray for 35-40 mins until the topping is toasted and the pastry is deep golden. Leave to stand for 10 mins, then serve warm with cream, custard or ice cream.
- 

### Guided walk – 7<sup>th</sup> October

*(Coincides with the Countryfile sponsored walks weekend for Great Ormond Street Hospital!)*

Meet at St. Nicholas Church at 9.30. Sue Burch will lead the walk which will take in part of the Greensand Way, Bowley Farm, Chilston Park and back to the church. Approximately 4 miles; there are stiles, inclines and great views across the Weald.

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Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

## Allelujah

**Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time 1hr 39 mins*

We're thrilled to kick off our new Autumn & Winter programme with Allelujah (12, 2022), a warm and humorous drama that we're excited to see. How could you miss a film that includes Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi and Jennifer Saunders in its cast and is based on a play by Alan Bennett? An old people's ward in a small hospital in Yorkshire is threatened with closure due to NHS cuts. Its patients however have no intention of taking this lying down however bedridden they are. They leap to their own defence by inviting a local news crew to film their efforts to fight back with preparations for a concert. That sounds straightforward – what could go wrong? Well, you'll be coming along to find out, won't you?

Directed by Richard Eyre.

There's more leaping about in our performance on Friday 10th November, but of an entirely different nature. Yes, it's Harrison Ford back with us in the blockbuster Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny. Set in 1969, he is out once again to save the world, on this occasion from a former Nazi at NASA.

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

**Admission:** members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.



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# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood; R Galton (Chair)  
**In attendance:** Cllr M Round (Maidstone Borough Council); Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford

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

### **M01/09/23 Apologies**

Apologies from Cllr R Turner were received and accepted; Apologies from Cllr S Prendergast (Kent County Council) were noted.

### **M02/09/23 Declarations:**

**Any lobbying:** none declared

**Any interest in items on the agenda:** none declared

**Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests:** none declared

### **M03/09/23 Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

### **M04/09/23 Public Session:** no public session (five members of public present)

### **M05/09/23 Maidstone Borough Council's Emerging Local Plan:**

The Chairman welcomed James Daughtry and Andrew Wilford of Esquire Developments to the meeting. There followed an informal discussion of the provision for 25 new dwellings in Grafty Green during the life of the Borough Plan. Mr Wilford explained that Esquire wanted the views of the local community on the provision of new dwellings within the Parish, especially any thoughts on suitable land. It was acknowledged that a single development of 25 dwellings may not be appropriate for the Village, although that would bring benefits through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or a s106 agreement ("Community payback"). Any need for affordable housing should be identified. The meaning of "sustainable" in relation to a community was explored. Mr Wilford stated that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) represented an opportunity to influence planning locally, even without a neighbourhood plan. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was open-minded and suggested holding a public meeting to find out what the local community really wanted. He thanked the Esquire representatives for attending and they left the meeting.

### **M06/09/23 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Report**

Cllr Round explained that the Borough Local Plan was still not confirmed. The NPPF requires the Authority to have a Plan in place every five years; no plan was in place for 2022-27 yet. He outlined the problems relating to housing targets. Ward boundaries would be changing next May and, if there was to be a General Election in 2024, constituency boundaries would also be different, creating the new Weald constituency. The new Headcorn ward would incorporate Sutton Valence and have an electorate of around 6,500. Cllr Round reported that he was no longer an MBC Cabinet member, turning his attention to the local community.

Cllr Prendergast (KCC) had drawn the Parish Council's attention to the various consultations on the agenda and offered her help with any matters arising from the meeting.

### **M07/09/23 Planning Outcomes since 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023:** None

**M08/09/23 Local Policing/Community**

Police/Crime Report: It was noted one crime had been reported in the Parish since 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**M09/09/23 Liverton Hill:**

The Chairman reported that, as part of the process to update the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP), he and the Clerk had had a few conversations with KCC and appeared to be moving forward with the issue of the water (spring) flowing down Liverton Hill.

**M10/09/23 Gullies**

It was noted that no road sweeping had been carried within the Parish out for some time. Silt in the gutters had filled some gullies and blocked them. The Clerk was asked to raise with MBC.

**M11/09/23 Highways**

Clr Eastwood raised the issue of Woodcock Lane name plates, reporting that the slightly damaged sign adjacent to the Village Green had been replaced whereas the seriously damaged sign further along the road had not. The Chairman had also informed the Clerk, who was asked to raise with MBC.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received an email from a resident regarding highways signs and speeding, in particular the 30 mph sign at the south entrance to Grafty Green. The Clerk was asked to raise with KCC, requesting investigation.

The Chairman reiterated that he and the Clerk had discussed the HIP in detail with KCC. The feasibility of the Parish Council's requests for a 40 mph speed limit along part of the Lenham Road and narrowing of the Headcorn Road within the Village centre to accommodate a Speed Indicating Device (SID) were being tested by means of speed surveys, which had already been carried out.

**FINANCE**

**M12/09/23 Balances at the Bank:** Balances as at 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were noted:

Lloyds current	£1,884.75
Lloyds business instant access	£10,121.91
Lloyds 32-day notice	£40,287.50
Nationwide	£14,465.77
Cambridge and Counties	£23,685.05

**M13/09/23 Receipts since last meeting:** £300 Ulcombe Parish Council (Community bus); £179.47 Lloyds Bank interest

**M14/09/23 Bank Reconciliation**

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted.

**M15/09/23 Cheques to sign:** £109.67 Amesis Ltd (Lengthsman); £35 annual direct debit to Information Commissioner's Office; £118.79 Clerk's expenses (stamps and antivirus software)

**M16/09/23 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting:** £52.04 NALC (clr training); £84 KALC (clr training); £74.67 Amesis Ltd (Lengthsman)

**M17/09/23 Request for grant from Platts Heath School:**

The Parish Council had received a request for a grant towards a new outdoor play area.

The Chairman noted that the Parish Church had made a contribution. He reported that the Parish Council had investigated and does have a power to contribute to the project: the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19. The School had also confirmed it was able to accept contributions from the Council.

Clr Andrews suggested that the Parish Council purchase an item from the School's published wish list.

**RESOLVED:** to award a grant for the purchase of a storage box (£74.99) and the mud kitchen (£69.99)

**M18/09/23 Hugo Fox website charges:**

From 4<sup>th</sup> October, Hugo Fox were introducing new subscription charges for their websites, including the Parish Council's.

**RESOLVED:** to authorise payment under the bronze subscription package (£9.99 + VAT per month)

The Clerk reported that the bronze package incorporated a secure website covered by an SSL certificate, which the Parish Council's website did not hold.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to pursue the matter with Hugo Fox

**M19/09/23 Grafty Green Village Green Tree pruning:**

The Chairman had received a request for cutting back of the trees overhanging the roads to allow high-sided vehicles to pass by safely. He stated that it would be important to consider the health of the trees. The Clerk had checked with arboricultural consultants SJA Trees, who had recommended contacting local tree surgeons to carry out the work. Two quotations had already been obtained but the Chairman stated that he wished to be sure that they were being considered like-for-like.

Cllr Eastwood asked when the trees were next due for inspection by SJA Trees; the Clerk was asked to check.

RESOLVED: to give delegated authority to the Clerk to accept the lowest quotation, provided the health of the trees is given due consideration.

**M20/09/23 Graft Green Village Green Fence:**

The Chairman explained that the Landlord of the King's Head wanted the fence between the public house and the Village Green to be replaced in oak. It was noted that the gate and posts had been replaced in treated softwood but the original fence was in oak. A member of the public asked if the shrubbery and other obstacles to the replacement of the fence would be cleared and the Chairman confirmed that they would.

RESOLVED: to authorise replacement in oak of both sections of the fence between the Village Green and the King's Head public house, excluding the gate and posts, by Kingswood Fencing at a cost of £1,222.50 + VAT

**M21/09/23 KCC Emerging Local Transport Plan Public Consultation:**

RESOLVED: to submit a response as per the final draft presented by the Clerk

**M22/09/23 KCC Community Wardens Consultation:**

RESOLVED: to submit a response as per the final draft presented by the Clerk

**M23/09/23 MBC Parish Charter Survey:**

RESOLVED: to submit a response as per the final draft presented by the Clerk

Cllr Galton closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

This play is being directed by Richard Pilborough who lives Locally

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by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon

**7TH - 11TH  
NOVEMBER**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY, 7.30PM  
& SATURDAY 3PM**

---

**HAZLITT THEATRE**  
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## 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 5	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	
<b>October 3</b>	<b>Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Madrona Nursery</b>	<b>Designing a Perennial Border</b>
November 7	Christine Bartlett	Healthy House Plants, Happy Home
December 5	Social – wine and cheese with slide-show	

**On October 3<sup>rd</sup>** we are welcoming Ylva Blid-Mackenzie from Madrona, a specialist local nursery, to give us ideas about designing a perennial border; never too late to start planning!

Our stall at the village fete helped raise funds for the club as well as the Parish Hall. We welcomed new gardeners who stopped to chat and ask advice, which is a key point of our meetings; folks are always welcome to pick the brains of members who will probably have asked the same questions themselves! Our monthly meetings always ensure a warm welcome, tea and biscuits as well as informative and interesting speakers. The committee are about to plan next year's meetings and visits so if you have any ideas please contact one of us (see the front cover) We still have some garden related items for sale after the fete, eg. packets of local seeds, ceramic pots, craft items and a few plants; all looking for new homes if you are interested!

The weekend away was a great success as always. The sea at Weymouth was warm enough for a swim and the gardens that we visited looked amazing. I think we would all recommend Holme Gardens which not only had beautiful gardens but also a very reasonable garden centre attached where plants that could be seen growing in the gardens could be purchased. Remember the name if you are visiting Dorset.

### **Jobs for the month ideas:**

- Order and plant bulbs for spring flowering
- Prune summer raspberries
- Carry on deadheading late flowering rudbeckias, helenium's, dahlias etc to prolong flowering
- Harvest the last of the tomatoes, if yet to ripen put them in a drawer with a banana to do so
- Remove tomato haulms and put in the garden bin NOT the compost heap to avoid blight next year
- Order and apply nematodes for box moth caterpillar, chafer grubs, leather jackets and vine weevils

Finally, Don't be too tidy in the garden in order to provide winter shelter for ladybirds, lacewings and other beneficial insects.

### **Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch**

Monday mornings 9.30 to 11

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11

No classes the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> October; new term commences on 30<sup>th</sup> October for seven weeks.

To join a class or for more details please call Sue Burch on  
07803 962339.

**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](mailto:mollycpoulter@gmail.com)

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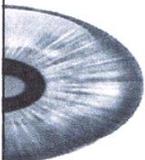
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## **Christian Message October 2023 - Do not despair**

When a calamity happens in life, we tend to try to just deal with it. It might make us tired, irritable and anxious, but we try to focus, prioritise and move on. Depending on the size of the problem, we may deal with our feelings by discussion with family or friends, or may tell no-one for fear of judgement or reprisal. When a couple of calamities happen, we have to balance both, a bit more of a challenge and a bit more to deal with in terms of emotions. In short, we are stretched and it is harder to share our thoughts about both things adequately with those we know and love.

When several calamities happen at once we can feel completely overwhelmed, not knowing how to juggle so many balls in the air or where our priorities lie. Trying to explain all this to others can feel like yet another hurdle to jump over. It is the culmination of multiple problems that can lead to depression and despair.

In 1 Kings 19 we can read that Elijah was despairing and in fear of his life. After running away, he stopped, exhausted, ready to give up. In Genesis 39 we can read how Joseph was imprisoned for something he hadn't done and had a bleak future to look forward to. In both cases, however, God sent help, enabling them to find the strength to carry on and achieve more. There are no quick fixes when life gets tough. We might need to turn to a helpline to talk through our concerns, seek advice from a doctor or engage with a professional councillor or advisor. Like those in the Bible, we also have the option to pray and ask God to guide us through our darkest hours.

My experience is this that God really does answer prayer and, not only addresses our immediate concerns, but sometimes paves the way to something better that we hadn't thought of. Blessings can come out of adversity. We need to be prepared to be patient, prepared for change, and prepared for prayers to be answered in a way other than the one we are expecting or want. God is listening, caring, and has a plan for us all.

Philippians 4, verse 6 says:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

In 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, we read:

'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.'

Sometimes, when things seem bleak, it is hard to pray for ourselves. If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, please do fill in a prayer card in one of our benefice Churches, or why not come along to a Church service and talk to someone afterwards. We would love to see or hear from you.

**Pamela Cuerden**



*Len Valley Benefice*  
***Rose Service***

***Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 11am***  
*St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham*

*'I have loved you with an everlasting love'*  
*Jeremiah 31:3*

***A service of thanksgiving to remember  
the lives of loved ones who have died***

*You are invited to bring a rose in memory of someone special,  
or collect one from us as you arrive at the church.*

*Further details from Revd. Millie Hart 07766 555415*

## Len Valley Benefice October 2023

*Everybody is welcome*

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe:

Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast  
Church

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Family  
friendly Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion (BCP)

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy  
Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast  
Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Harvest Holy  
Communion

**3.30pm** Boughton Malherbe:  
Harvest Choral Evensong

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe:  
Holy Communion



**9.30am** Harrietsham: Harvest  
Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast  
Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Harvest  
Morning Worship

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy  
Communion

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

**10.30am** Benefice Holy  
Communion at St Mary's,  
Lenham

*Identity: "We are people of  
reconciliation"*

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

**11.00am** Benefice Rose  
Service at St John the Baptist,  
Harrietsham

*A service of thanksgiving to  
remember the lives of loved  
ones who have died*

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## 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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