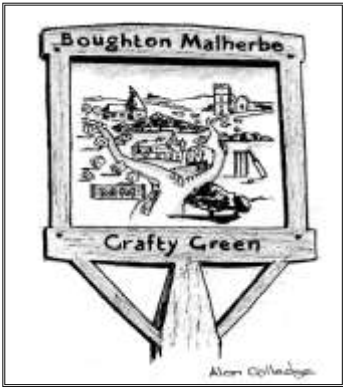


Malherbe Monthly

Number 213
April 2022



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

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Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk Mobile 07932 112730	851351
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Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **May** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th April**

Front Cover: Spring has arrived with this beautiful display of Daffodils at Boughton Malherbe Church. Picture courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

April 2022

As we are basking in sunshine this week, it seems our pleasure and comfort are trivial when compared to the daily misery, anguish and horror experienced by the people of Ukraine trying to save their families, both young and old, by fleeing their homes. The despair too of leaving the menfolk behind in extreme danger. We hope that refugees will quickly get through our regulations and be welcomed by the many who have offered accommodation here.

Thankfully we know some have already arrived locally, joining family members. There is a poignancy to this disaster at just the time we are preparing for the remembrance of the ultimate terrible sacrifice Jesus made for us all, by his death on the Cross on Good Friday. All seemed lost to his followers and to the world. But yet three days later, on Easter Sunday as we know it, he rose from the dead and has become a beacon of hope, forgiveness, love and peace for us now and for eternity.

May the light of his life shine brightly throughout the world in the days and months to come and help us to overcome evil with justice and peace as he taught us.

Reminders

The church porch is always open, enjoy the view and the peace if you need to get out of the wind and rain. The bench outdoors by the wall is lovely in the sunshine. Water is there for your dogs and any contribution to the food bank in Maidstone can be left there too.

The main church building is open for weekly services only and for access to the eco-church shop afterwards. At other times please contact the churchwardens for a key, their details are on the noticeboard in the porch and elsewhere in the magazine.

The Tower repairs are not completed. Hopefully this will be done when the cold and frosty weather is over.

Daily Morning Prayer continues on-line from Canterbury Cathedral, as do other daily and weekly services and special Lent and Easter talks and meditations.

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

Information

Reading for Lent and Easter. Rev.John Huggins has recommended the following book for use at this time. It is called 'Hearing God in Poetry', and is widely available online and in bookshops. Enjoy.

Donations for Ukraine. There is a collection point for goods for Ukraine at the back of St.Mary's Church in Lenham. Check there, or on line, for goods that are most needed at this time.

Benefice donation. The four churches of the benefice have agreed a gift of £1,500 to a charity in Lebanon to provide much needed aid.

Village Coffee time is back! We have much enjoyed getting this underway and surprising a few people coming to the pop-up Post Office. (12.45-2.15pm each Tuesday). We have had a good time catching up and comparing experiences from the last couple of years. Sue Burch has brought some of her beautiful greetings cards for sale. Looking forward to many others joining us for a chat.

Finale

The Spring flowers are a joy just now and everything in the countryside looks about to burst out in new life. May this joyous time be appreciated as we hope and pray with such longing that wars and conflicts be overcome by talking, not by threats and hatred. Let us look to the hope of Easter after the despair of Good Friday.

We wish everyone a very Happy and peaceful Easter

Sally Alexander

Parish Lengthsman

The Parish Council has entered into a contract with Ken Parish to provide a "Lengthsman" service in the Parish. This service involves collecting litter from the roadside where it is a particular problem and clearing vegetation where it obscures road signs. Ken will also monitor the condition of Fire Hydrants, especially where obscured by vegetation, for reporting to Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

If you are aware of any particular problems with litter or vegetation, please call Ken on 01622 850378 - so he can take a look.

Boughton Malherbe

**Parish Council
Contact Details**

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SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 4th June



Details to follow shortly but we have planned;

BYO picnic afternoon with entertainment
(tea and coffee provided)

Evening celebrations with music and a BBQ

THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
2022

New Parish Council Clerk

Vicki Ford has joined the parish council as the new parish clerk. Vicki lives in Ulcombe, having recently moved from the Isle of Wight to be near her daughter and grandchildren. Vicki brings immense experience having spent 13 years as a parish council clerk in the Isle of Wight, before moving to Kent.

Can I take this opportunity to thank the many people in the parish who have helped and supported me in this role over the past five years. I hope to remain in contact and wish the council well in the future.

Chris Hume, former Parish Clerk

Village Hall News – April Newsletter

I am pleased to tell you that once again the pancake evening proved popular with attendees showing a healthy disregard for their waistlines whilst enjoying a cup of tea with friends in the village. Nicki Oliver's craft making event at the hall where attendees made a unique and personalised Easter wreath was also well attended. Nicki is I understand planning to host a similar event at Christmas and is also considering organising a regular, "Craft & Natter Club", if you are interested in either or both of these events please email Nicki on nickioliver2006@yahoo.co.uk.

Pop-Up Post Office – Every Tuesday 12.45pm to 2.15pm

The Pop-Up Post Office continues to be well supported and the light refreshments provided by Sally and her elite team of volunteers is proving popular so thank you all again for your support and for the hard work of the volunteers in providing the refreshments. To run alongside the Post Office service and refreshments we have also set up a free book swap box in the hall, (on the table in the corner by the kitchen), so please come along and help yourself to a book to read and if you are able to leave a book or two for others to enjoy that would be great.

Christmas Panto

I wanted to give you advance notice that the price of the panto for next year, (Robin Hood), will regrettably be increasing by £200 to approximately £850 but as a committee we felt that the performances in the past have been of a high quality and have been popular with you so we have decided to continue with the booking. The cost of the tickets will consequently have to rise to cover this increase in cost, we will endeavour to keep this cost to a minimum. A family ticket, (two adults and two children) for the last event was £25 and we expect this will need to rise to £30 to cover the increased cost. Good value for the entertainment but still regrettable.

Children's Birthday Parties

Over the last few month's we have hosted a number of children's birthday parties at the hall. We have been able to accommodate a bouncy castle, can offer a sound system, lots of tables and chairs, toilets and baby changing facilities, a kitchen and lots of space to run around in safely at a very reasonable cost. So if you have a birthday coming up and don't know how you are going to fit all those children in the front room please give Jan Carter our booking clerk a ring on 01622 850898.

The new stage

The new stage has now been ordered and as I write we are awaiting confirmation of a delivery date in early April.

Village Hall Floor

Regrettably we have experienced some problems with the installation of the new floor where the new surface has appeared to lift slightly in a number of areas around the hall. It is still safe to use and does not immediately affect the use of the hall but it is an issue that needs attending to and we are in dialogue with the flooring contractors to remedy the issue.

Village Hall Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm and you are all invited and it would be lovely to see you.

The Village Hall committee is a registered charity, (no. 288091), run for the benefit of local residents. We host a variety of events throughout the year such as the Christmas Quiz, Pancake Evening, Craft Fair and the Annual Pantomime along with organising the annual fair on the cricket field. The hall is also used by a wide variety of clubs and societies and we make the hall available for hire to local residents for social events such as children's birthday parties.

More recently we have been able to host the Pop-Up Post Office service once a week on a Tuesday lunchtime when our local Post Office sadly closed. Every committee needs new blood and new ideas so if you have any ideas or suggestions and would like to help make a difference to your local community, meet new people and have fun please give me a call or drop me an email. Whether you are a long-standing local resident or new to the village your help and assistance in running the hall would be greatly appreciated, you will be made very welcome and I look forward to hearing from you.

Jon Thompson
Hall Committee Chairman
Tel: 07932 112730
Email: bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk

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haunted by
"Dover Bill" -
the Highwayman!



Traditional Sunday Lunches

Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers

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01622 850259

Children's Room Beer Garden



Thank you to all those that attended the Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Homes England community engagement event recently. A great big thanks to those who came along to our photo call too – it was a resounding message to MBC that the three events should have been in Lenham from the outset and that as a community, we are completely opposed to the Heathlands 5,000-home new town proposal

Many of you told us how underwhelmed you were with what was on display and what you learnt. Around 12 information boards formed the exhibition which lacked any meaningful detail. It was glossy marketing. There was no new information, there was no evidence to support their proposals. It seems no real progress has been made since their first community engagement (that we dragged them to) in January 2020 despite over £693,000 of public money being spent on it to date.

Representatives from MBC included William Cornall, the director leading the project and Leader of the Council, Cllr David Burton who turned up for the last two hours of the event. Questions put to MBC and Homes England often were not answered or entirely avoided.

SOHL maintains the view that this public engagement exercise was a waste of council taxpayers' money. SOHL has repeatedly called upon the Chief Executive, Alison Broom, to take responsibility for the leafletting fiasco which led to the majority of Lenham residents as well as those from surrounding villages simply not being made aware of the events. We strongly believe Alison owes the local community an apology on behalf of MBC. Her continuing delay and inability to do so further demonstrates her contempt for us.

A few points we took away from the engagement event:

- Heathlands is by far **not** a done deal. After almost three years, MBC and Homes England still do not seem to have a compelling case for the project nor have they overcome the significant constraints on the site and the development.
- There was some confusion over how the proposal was being funded. For weeks now, Cllr Burton and MBC have claimed that Heathlands had a £300m *grant secured* from HM Treasury. According to Homes England, this is not the case and instead the £300m would be a *loan* that the development would have to pay back. The loan has not been secured to date neither.

- Cllr Burton repeatedly told residents that Heathlands was not his first choice and instead his preferred option is the Leeds/Langley corridor. We ask why he hasn't pursued that option further, particularly given the 2017 Local Plan had a requirement to do so.
- Mr Cornall claimed that SOHL was spreading mis-information in regard to our Save Lenham Rail Station campaign. When we challenged him on this, he confirmed that they were having to look at options including moving/closing Lenham station but MBC's preferred choice was to retain it. Homes England admitted limited engagement with Network Rail to date. We asked Mr Cornall to retract and stop using his incorrect claims of 'mis-information'.
- Homes England did not believe a case could be made for the new M20 junction.

So what happens next?

Future Engagement Events: MBC and Homes England have suggested they would like to hold another community engagement event in May 2022 due to their failure to communicate last week's exercise and the leaflet fiasco. SOHL questions whether this is a good use of further public money if they will not be sharing any further detail on their proposals. What are your thoughts? Do you think there should be another event in May? Let us know so we can represent the majority view.

Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

No yoga the week beginning April 18th and new term will start April 25th.

Monday morning 9.30
Wednesday evening at 7
Thursday morning at 9.30

All classes are mixed ability.

To join a class or for more information call me on 07803 962339 or email on graftyyoga@gmail.com



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022, 7.30pm in the village hall

Present: Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; B Adams; N. Eastwood; G Kennaird
Clerk Mr Chris Hume
4 members of the public

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it - none**
2. **Apologies – Cllr S Prendergast (KCC); Cllr M Round (MBC)**
3. **Declarations:**
 - Any lobbying – none declared**
 - Any interest in items on the agenda - none declared**
 - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none declared**

The Chairman thanked Chris Hume for being a great asset to the Parish Council as its Clerk.
20. **Grant Request from the Platinum Jubilee Committee –** Representatives of the Platinum Jubilee Committee outlined the planned events and reiterated the request for funding of £800. The Clerk suggested use of LGA 1972 s137 as the power for making the grant and confirmed that sufficient funds were available from general reserves.
RESOLVED: that a grant of £800 be awarded.
The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would need confirmation of when the money would be required and bank account details.
4. **Approval of Minutes –**
After some discussion, the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2022 were approved subject to amendment of minute 14 to read:
"2022/23 Precept – Following a majority vote it was agreed to set a precept for the forthcoming financial year of £7005. This decision was taken following advice from KALC and the Internal Auditor received by the Finance and Staffing Committee on 17th January 2022. Councillors also identified previous policy intentions that might require the use of reserves at some point in the future."
5. **Matters Arising –** the Clerk advised that there were no outstanding actions.
6. **Public Session – none**
7. **Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council Reports –** No reports had been submitted but Cllr Prendergast would be available by telephone after the meeting.
8. **Planning Outcomes since 24th January 2022 – none**
9. **Local Policing/Community**
 - 9.1 Police/Crime Report – no crimes reported
 - 9.2 Speedwatch – the Chairman reported that one member of the public had expressed an interest. Cllr Kennaird said he would be willing to take the lead; the Chairman asked that he approach two further members of the public regarding volunteering, informing them that they would need to undergo a DBS check and training. The Chairman confirmed that funding

was available. He had spoken to the Chairman of Ulcombe Parish Council regarding collaboration. There was potential to share volunteers between the Villages.

10. Highway and Footway Matters

10.1 Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes – the Clerk had reported the fire hydrant problem to KCC; Cllr Turner had reported the dead badger found in Woodcock Lane.

10.2 Traffic Incidents at Crumps Lane/Headcorn Road junction –

RESOLVED: that the Clerk submit a formal response to KCC based on Councillors' comments received.

10.3 59 Bus – The Clerk reported that he had received an update from Mr John Collins. RESOLVED: that the Clerk submit the comments prepared by Mr Collins.

The Chairman had spoken to Cllr Prendergast (KCC), who had said she would support retention of the service. It was felt that the service would be better supported if the bus went to Maidstone.

10.3 Litter – noted that the Lengthsman scheme was effectively a trial. The report from the Lengthsman was noted. It was confirmed that the direct line of reporting was to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council could be flexible with the hours worked to allow additional time at the start of the contractual period, provided that the overall number of hours was not exceeded. In the event of more hours being required, prior approval from the Parish Council would be required.

10.4 Highways Improvement Plan

(i) noted there had been no changes to the plan

(ii) It was suggested that the basis for the traffic survey conducted in December 2021 may not be correct. The Clerk advised that the results be discussed with Mrs Jennie Watson (KCC Highways), along with the 20 mph speed limit proposals.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kennaïrd contact Mrs Watson.

10.5 Footpaths –

RESOLVED: that the Clerk report to KCC that the footpath between Woodcock Lane and Headcorn Road was overgrown.

The Chairman reported that there were still two kissing gates to be installed but the landowner felt the land was too wet for installation and would advise when possible.

11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended – The Chairman and Cllr Eastwood had attended the meeting concerning the Community shop.

12. Finance

12.1 Note the Balance at the Bank:

Nat West Curr. Ac.	£5,345.03
Nat West saver	£46,521.56
Nationwide	£14,150.58
Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

12.2 Income since the last meeting : none

12.3 Bank Reconciliation – noted statement on the agenda

12.4 Any cheques to sign: St Nicholas Church £500; Village Hall £195.50

12.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting: Down's Mail £189; Justin Smith Essex £29.93; KALC £42; Captivewebs £65; Mr Chris Hume £2,452.

13. Use of Reserves/Quinn Donation – Members had before them a report from the Clerk regarding the use of reserves and previous Parish Council decisions. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council clarify its policy regarding the remainder of the Quinn donation. Purchase of the Village Green was discussed and it was noted that there was an option to borrow money for this purpose.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman circulate a suggested approach to purchasing the village green to Members.

RESOLVED: that the remaining Quinn donation money (£52,899.38) be allocated for the potential purchase of the Village Green, held for a further 12 months and then reviewed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk check with the Internal Auditor the level of general reserves to be retained.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk produce and circulate a "Reserves Policy" based on the Pembury scheme for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Council conduct an annual review of its reserves to update its policy; to take place at the same time as setting the revenue budget.

14. **Downs Mail Proposal** – The Chairman voiced his support for the Malherbe Monthly.

RESOLVED: that the proposal be refused.

15. **20 mph Speed Limit** – Members argued that there would be no point in lowering the speed limit to 20 mph if 30 mph could not be enforced.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kennaird raise the matter with Mrs Jennie Watson (KCC Highways)

16. **Amendment to Employment Policy** –

RESOLVED: that the matter be deferred and the proposed amendment referred to KALC Adviser.

17. **Correspondence** - none

18. **Further Information** – none

CLOSED SESSION

19. **Appointment of Parish Clerk** –

RESOLVED: that the appointment of Mrs Vickie Ford as Clerk to the Parish Council following interviews by a Panel of the Full Council on 21st February 2022 be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Local Guided Walk

I'm leading a walk on **Saturday 2nd April**, approximately 3 miles and takes in some of our magnificent views and there will be bluebells, anemones, marsh marigolds to name a few flowers. Hopefully we could spy or hear some interesting birds.

Just turn up - Meet on the village green at 9.30 for as 9.45 start; there are two inclines and some stiles to negotiate.

Also at the end of the month; **Saturday 30th April**, meeting on the green at 9.30. Not sure where I will take you yet!

Sue Burch

Grafty Gourmet

Get the great taste of rhubarb crumble with these individual muffins. Eat on their own or with a dollop of ice cream.

Rhubarb Crumble Muffins

For the muffin mix

175g of caster sugar
175g of rhubarb, halved lengthways
then diced
2 tablespoons of sunflower oil
1 egg
1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
125ml of buttermilk
200g of plain flour

1 teaspoon of baking powder
1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda

For the crumble topping

50g of light muscovado sugar
50g of plain flour
25g of porridge oats
1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
50g of butter

1. Heat the oven to 220C (200C fan). Line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper muffin cases. Stir the sugar and rhubarb together and set aside while you make the crumble topping. Mix together the muscovado sugar with the flour, oats and cinnamon, then rub in the butter until clumpy with your fingertips.
2. Stir in the oil and egg, vanilla and buttermilk into the sugary rhubarb (don't worry if it's a little bit wet). Then, add the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda and stir well.
3. Quickly spoon into the cases, then scatter each with a thick layer of the crumble mixture. Bake for 15-18 mins until golden and a cocktail stick poked into the centre of a muffin comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

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



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

WITNESS

Friday April 8th

Performance begins 7.30 pm, doors open 7 pm

Opening our new programme is **Witness** (1985), winner of two Oscars and starring the one and only Harrison Ford. He's playing Detective John Book who's assigned to a case that brings dramatic consequences. Eight-year-old Samuel from an Amish community becomes the only witness to the murder of an undercover police officer in Philadelphia. But John Book has his suspicions as to the perpetrator, and although badly wounded by gunshot he drives young Samuel and his mother back to their Amish home, where he remains in the community. Reviewed as 'a wonderful drama, one of the best thrillers and romances of the eighties', **Witness** is directed by Peter Weir and considered one of Harrison Ford's best films. It's definitely not to be missed. *Running time: 1hr 52 mins.*

For more information, please check out our website (www.lenhamfilmclub.org), follow us on Facebook (@LenhamFilmClub) or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, then please contact us at lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com. Perhaps consider becoming a member or just come along on the night!

Admission: members £4, non-members £5

Annual membership £6 (over 16's only); pick up a form at our ticket desk.

59 BUS SERVICE UNDER IMMEDIATE **THREAT** **ACTION NEEDED**

Kent County Council is currently examining ways of reducing its financial support in 2022/23 for non-commercial bus services. To achieve the level of savings deemed necessary, KCC is proposing to cancel 48 contracts and a consultation process is underway. This closes on 20th April, with final decisions being made in May and withdrawal of services likely in August.

The 59 is one of the contracts on KCC's list of proposed withdrawals, despite the contract being awarded by KCC as recently as last October to Nu-venture to run the service until April 2023.

The 59 became primarily a feeder service to and from Sutton Road, Morrisons in February 2020 as one of a number of trials initiated by KCC and planned to run for a year with quarterly reviews taking place. Almost immediately after the 59-trial started, the first Covid lockdown was introduced and there have been various restrictions ever since until just recently.

All this means that the trial has not been a fair one and none of the promised reviews of the service have taken place. Yet the service is now proposed for withdrawal, with no accurate data to support that proposal, no opportunity for it to recover from the impact of Covid, or for examining ways to make the service more attractive and thus improve its financial performance. For example, one significant change which seems to be supported generally along the route is for the service to revert to running to and from the town centre rather than forcing people to change buses.

The East of Maidstone Transport Group and Boughton Malherbe Parish Council will be making their own representations against the proposed withdrawal but **THE HELP OF INDIVIDUAL PARISHIONERS IS ALSO NEEDED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSULTATION.**

There is a very real danger that Grafty Green will lose the 59 service in August, and if it does it will be forever. So please,

whether you use the bus service or not, it is vital that you take part in the consultation and support the continuation of the service. **THE CONSULTATION CLOSSES AT MIDNIGHT ON 20TH APRIL.** Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/bussavings to find out more and participate.

The schooldays only services, the 0643 service 89 from Grafty Green to Maidstone and the 1612 return 59 service from Maidstone, are set to continue to be operated by Arriva and are not part of KCC's consultation.

If you need any further information you can contact me on 01622 850213 or wjcollins@btinternet.com

John Collins
Boughton Malherbe Parish Council's representative on the East of Maidstone
Transport Group

Sue's Nature Notes

A couple of notes on how you can start the spring/summer season and enable the wildlife to prosper:-

There is a trend now known as '**No Mow May**' (or maybe only mow once a month through the growing season!) to allow the grass to grow longer, which will give cover to many small creatures, and for a variety of wild flowers to flourish; the insect life will increase and they are at the start of the food chain. Another upside to this is saving on fuel and your energy.

Nesting birds; you may well have seen the signs in your garden of the birds that like to nest in shrubbery/hedges but some birds nest on the ground in woodland and open fields and they will be vulnerable to being disturbed by walkers and dogs. Locally there are skylarks, meadow pipits, in woodlands nearby - woodcock, pheasants and partridge. Further afield you could come across lapwings, nightjars and a variety of ducks.

Our rail station, village, and way of life is under threat!



The 'new town' would be home to more than 12,000 new residents swamping the existing Lenham community and placing significant strain on existing services such as GPs, schools, and local facilities. Heathlands does not sufficiently make provision for enough new services.



Construction traffic for the 'new town' would blight our roads and village for the next 30 years, with hundreds of lorry movements a day along with noise, dust and vibration.



Traffic on the A20 between Hollingbourne M20 J8 and Charing is predicted to increase by over 500% bringing the road to a standstill at many times of the day.



The 'new town', would end up connecting existing Lenham village with Lenham Heath hamlet infilling nearly 900 acres of green space between them with 5,000 homes.

DO NOT STAY SILENT!

What we need you to do now

1

SIGN OUR PETITION TO SAVE LENHAM RAIL STATION
Visit www.saveourheathlands.co.uk to find out more

2

ATTEND ONE OF THE MBC PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS
Let Maidstone Council know what you think of their plans

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Music Notes for April 2022 – B Hardy

Lots of relatively local concerts in April, though almost all are choral; our orchestral societies either had concerts in March and are recovering or have concerts planned in May and are still rehearsing (or both!). Sadly there are still clashes between societies that should be co-operating for a common audience – when will a co-ordinating function re-appear? Meanwhile, make your choice:

***Sat 2nd April** 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted ME14 4EE – Bearsted Choral Society perform Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Tickets 0333 6663366

***Also on 2nd April** 7.30pm at St. James the Great church, East Malling ME19 6AG, East Malling Singers perform Brahms's *Ein Deutes Requiem*. Tickets 01622 750943

***Sat 9th April** 7.00pm at St. Mildred's church Tenterden TN30 6AT, Sutton Valence Choral Society sing Stainer's *Crucifixion* together with works by SS Wesley, Ousley and Goss. Tickets 01622 861313

***Mon 11th April** 7.30pm (time tbc) at All Saints' Church, Mill St., Maidstone ME15 6YE The Maidstone Singers will be singing Fauré's *Requiem*. For details call 01622 630016.

***Sat 23rd April** 7.30pm at St. George's Church Gravesend DA11 0DJ Gravesham Choral Society's concert entitled "Hymns of Praise" includes celebratory music by Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn. Tickets www.graveshamcs.co.uk or at the door.

Sat 30th April 7.00pm at St. Nicholas Church Allington ME16 0DE, the Invicta Jazz Orchestra holds its April Gig. Tickets at the door.



Then to (perhaps) improve your music background, the anniversary to note for April is 100th anniversary of the birth of Elmer Bernstein, American composer and conductor (1922-2004) on 4th April. In a career that spanned more than five decades, he composed "some of the most recognizable and memorable themes in Hollywood history", including over 150 original film scores, as well as scores for nearly 80 television productions. For his work he received an Academy Award for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967) and Primetime Emmy Award. He also received seven Golden Globe Award, five Grammy Award, and two Tony Award nominations.

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

Find the missing word?	
1	Bay ___ Rollers, Tartan clad teen Idols of the 70's
2	Michael ____, Accident prone Frank Spencer
3	'___ and Nelly', Children's cartoon series
4	Siegfried ____, Played by Robert Hardy in 'James Herriot
5	___ Carter, Jack Reagan's right-hand man in 'The Sweeney'
6	Dustin ____, Hollywood icon who was in 'All The President's Men'
7	___, Stiller and Kingsley connects these actors names
8	Eleanor ____, Was a double a side record with 'Yellow Submarine'
9	___ Bailey, The name of the Central Crime Courts in London
10	Betty ____, Barneys wife in 'The Flintstones'

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Bird	Foot	Slipper	Bath
2	Pitch	Stranger	Word	
3	Card	Finger	Linked	
4	Barrow	Distance	Range	
5	Angel	Christmas	Fairy	
6	Clothes	Dark	War	
7	Level	Team	White	
8	Gravy	Life	Race	
9	Hand	Pads	Horsepower	
10	Easter	Next	Benedict	
11	Paper	Report	Stand	
12	Agent	Car	Trading	
13	Ball	Clear	Palace	
14	Class	Show	Dressing	
15	Moon	Mouse	Festival	
16	Path	Deck	Attendant	

Grafty Green Gardening Club
Program of Events 2022
Our 25th Year

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
11 th January	AGM and Alison Marsden	More garden impact for less effort
1 st February	Dr Mick Lynn	Potions, Parasites and Pests
1 st March	Simon Ginnaw/Spring Show	Birds beyond the boughs
5th April	Fergus Garrett	Succession planting for a long season
3 rd May	6pm Outing to Bilting House, Godmersham, TN25 4HA	
7 th May	10am. Plant Sale, Village green (if wet in the Village Hall)	
20 – 22 May	Weekend away to West Sussex and Hampshire	
7 th June	Outing to Sissinghurst	
5 th July	6pm Garden party in the village	
2 nd August	6pm Outing to Hurst House, Hastingleigh, TN25 5 JD	
6 th September	Katherine Hook/ Autumn Show	Sloe Seduction
4 th October	Steve Edney	Think beyond the flower, plants with good seed heads.
1 st November	Tom La Dell	Brogdale and the National Fruit Collection
6 th December	Practical evening/Social	

Fergus Garrett is our speaker on 5th April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 for members and £8.00 for non-members and can be purchased with a call to Sue Burch on (01622) 850381 or Doreen Hulm (01622 850287) if any tickets are left they can be bought on the evening at the door (please check first).

From next month, May, we will be able to enjoy our summer programme with a Plant Sale, outings to local gardens and a weekend away to West Sussex and Hampshire. Events are open to members and non-members alike. Details from any committee member or through the Secretary number given below.

In our Gardens:- At last! Some sunshine to dry out the soil. Continue sowing and planting vegetables outdoors and plant container-grown fruit trees. A feed can be applied to established lawns and prune Spring flowering shrubs like forsythia immediately after they have flowered to encourage new growth to flower next year. We should cut down any dead growth left on perennials over the winter now that the new growth is showing through.

Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club

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Have a say on South East Water's draft 25 Year Environment Plan

A unique draft 25-Year Environment Plan written by South East Water now needs feedback from local residents on its strengths and weaknesses before it is published.

South East Water is the first UK water company to produce such a plan, following an intensive period working with its customers, employees and other environmental organisations to shape it. The appeal for feedback from local communities is the final stage before it is published in summer-2022.

Not only does the plan set out how the company will limit its own impact on the environment, but more importantly, how it will improve the overall health of the environment and increase its resilience to the effects of drought, flooding and growing demand for tap water.

Supplying drinking water to 2.2 million customers across the south east, the company maintains 83 water treatment works and 9,000 miles of underground pipes, as well as 33 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, two local nature reserves, Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve and numerous Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The water supplier also works with farmers, landowners and other water users to protect the quality and quantity of the rivers and underground aquifers which are used to produce an average of 520 million litres of tap water each day.

The company is now looking to expand the work of its in-house team of environmental experts to work with other local companies and individuals to improve the environment within a generation.

The consultation runs from 1st to 30th April. Read the plan and have your say on South East Water's website - southeastwater.co.uk/25YP.

Christian Message April 2022

As I write this is February Storm Eunice is in full swing outside the window and Lenham has just lost internet, electric and telephone line

You will read this in April when we hope for clear skies, warmth, extreme growth in the gardens and hedgerows, baby birds, Easter eggs & bunnies, resurrection and summer within sight...

But right now a '*storm of a storm*' rages across a bright sky



with menacing fast scudding clouds.

Storms hit our lives in a myriad of forms. An accident, a sudden bereavement, redundancy, a relationship breakup, an angry encounter, a torrid discovery, an unexpected illness and so on.

Storms of life happen. They cause us anxiety; we cannot settle or focus. We may hide under the duvet enveloping the problem in excess sleep. Conversely, we may not sleep a wink as we relive the dilemma repeatedly. De-stabilised some seek the help of friends or family, or a counsellor; others run to remote places to try to figure it all out on their own. Sometimes we are dumbstruck and other times we need to talk endlessly about the problem. We respond according to our character and life experiences. Few of us show no signs of strain whatsoever in a storm of life. Even those highly trained to cope with trauma and calamity will likely experience post trauma effects, bodily or mentally.

But what if the Holy Spirit of Jesus was present with us as the trauma or storm erupted? How might His presence help?

Jesus is known for the calming of a storm on Lake Galilee on at least 2 occasions. Once asleep in the hull of the boat whilst the disciples grappled with the raging waves, unbothered He is surprised when they wake Him asking for His help – he speaks to the storm and peace descends. On another occasion he walks across the water to Peter and friends in the boat equally showing His fearlessness in the face of the storm. The presence of Jesus changes storms. I will say that again: the presence of Jesus changes storms.

Those who watched Him die in a storm of political upheaval and religious betrayal then met Him in a resurrected state, alive, conquering and overcoming death and were changed forever for the experience of the first Easter– as He breathed His Holy Spirit upon them and gave them His peace – the very events from which the church is birthed.

It would be a lie to say that the presence of Jesus makes everything alright. We may still have to go through that surgery, divorce, redundancy, court case, bereavement. But with Christ – the anointed one - beside us we can know He will comfort, protect and guide us. His presence strengthens us to bear the storm, as we receive the Prince of Peace. The storms surrender to His authority and in His hands, they ease; we trust His wise accompaniment. For all wisdom's ways are perfect and all her paths are peace....Proverbs 3:17

Next time we hit a life-storm let us make sure, metaphorically, we have Jesus in our boat with us and with even a little faith we shall fare much better, I am confident.

Every blessing, the summer is coming!

Rev. Lorraine Apps – Huggins
Chaplain to The Living Well, Canterbury Diocese Centre for Healing &
Wholeness, Nonington.

Len Valley Benefice April 2022

Sunday 3rd April

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Ulcombe: Café Church

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Harrietsham: Family-friendly Morning Worship with Baptism

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 6th April

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church followed by joining the market.

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Monday 11th – Wednesday 13th April

Series of Holy Week evening talks followed by Night Prayer

Monday 7.30pm at Boughton Malherbe

The Christian faith and poverty: "You will always have the poor with me,

but you will not always have me" (Mt 26:11)

Tuesday 7.30pm at Lenham

The Christian faith and the body of Christ: "Take, eat, this is my body" (Mt 26:26)

Wednesday 7.30pm at Harrietsham

The Christian faith and life after death: "I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my father's kingdom" (Mt 26:29)

Thursday 14th April – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Ulcombe: Maundy Thursday service with footwashing

Friday 15th April – Good Friday

2.00pm Services in all four churches 'An hour at The Cross'

Sunday 17th April – Easter Sunday

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Easter Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 24th April

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at **Ulcombe**



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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 3	Word 2	Word 1	
Bird	Slipper	Foot	1	1
Pitch	Word	Stranger	2	2
Card	Linked	Finger	3	3
Barrow	Range	Distance	4	4
Angel	Fairy	Christmas	5	5
Clothes	War	Dark	6	6
Level	White	Team	7	7
Gravy	Race	Life	8	8
Hand	Horsepower	Pads	9	9
Easter	Benedict	Next	10	10
Paper	Stand	Report	11	11
Agent	Trading	Car	12	12
Ball	Palace	Clear	13	13
Class	Dressing	Show	14	14
Moon	Festival	Mouse	15	15
Path	Attendant	Deck	16	16
Flight				

Find the missing word?	
1	Bay City Rollers, Tartan clad teen idols of the 70's
2	Michael Crawford , Accident prone Frank Spencer
3	Noah and Nelly, Children's cartoon series
4	Siegfried Farnham , Played by Robert Hardy in 'James Herriot
5	George Carter, Jack Reagan's right-hand man in 'The Sweeney'
6	Dustin Hoffman , Hollywood icon who was in 'All The Presidents Men'
7	Ben , Stillier and Kingsley connects these actors names
8	Eleanor Rigby , Was a double a side record with 'Yellow Submarine'
9	Old Bailey, The name of the Central Crime Courts in London
10	Betty Rubble , Barney's wife in 'The Flintstones'

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