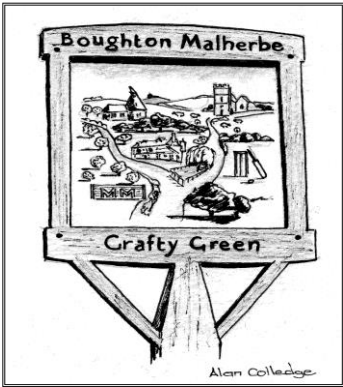


Malherbe Monthly

Number 221
December 2022



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas



Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

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
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Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
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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 **January** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th December**

Front Cover: Christmas is coming !!!!. The Christmas Tree on the Village Green recently erected by Richard Tew and Mark Davis. Lights to be added shortly.

News from St. Nicholas Church - December 2022

Are you enjoying the sports on TV? Perhaps because I grew up in Yorkshire, I really enjoyed the Rugby League World Cup. So good to see the equal coverage being given to the women's games, the wheelchair matches and the men's. Would that it was the same in all walks of life. Not sure I am yet as positive with the football. We can hope that much good will come out of it.

Reminders

The church porch is open at all times so you can enjoy a cup of coffee/tea in its shelter. A box has been added under the table, as a mini food bank for anyone who is in need. Please use the contents in the box as you see fit. It is also there for anyone to donate basic, non-perishable foodstuffs. There has always been a basket for food bank donations in the porch, but now, as many may be struggling to make ends meet, there is an urgency for us to be more positive with our giving.

There is a list in the porch of preferred items requested by the Homeless food bank in Maidstone.

The main church building is open for services only. Please contact the churchwardens for a key if you wish to visit at other times, their details are elsewhere in the magazine and on the church noticeboard.

Celtic Morning Prayers continue to be said in the side chapel on Mondays, 9.00-9.30am. If you have any prayer requests, please contact Rev. John Huggins, Rev. Charlotte Coles or the churchwardens at any time. A note may also be left in the basket in the porch. Any prayers will be said at Morning Prayer time or in private if you wish.

Information

Village Coffee Time with the visiting stalls goes from strength to strength. Not all the stallholders are present every week but keep an eye on the noticeboard outside the hall to see if your favourite items are available. I have bought a few locally made Christmas presents here. There are plans for a special:

Christmas Coffee Morning on Tuesday 20th December 10.30-2pm.

with mince pies as well as the usual treats.

Blankets!!

Some bags of wool/yarn have been donated and there are plans afoot to make them into blankets. Initially for comfort on winter mornings in the church! But if any other use is identified, they can be donated to anyone in need in these difficult times.

Friends at the **Coffee Mornings** are already offering to knit squares from the gift, but anyone is most welcome to join in. Bring your needles to the Coffee Mornings and a start can be made (needles and tuition can always be provided!).

Donations at the Coffee Mornings are being divided equally between St.Nicolas church and a charity identified by the Tuesday 'regulars'. In the last few months, two gifts of £100 have been given for aid to Ukraine and another £150 will go to maintain funds for the Aspire Group of local primary schools, to enable their governors and staff to provide for families in need at this time.

Annie Allum, Chair of Governors of the Aspire Federation is hoping to visit on a Tuesday in the New Year and talk about this school grouping in our community.

Craft Fair yet another successful and well supported and appreciated event in the Village Hall on November 20th. Well done and thanks for all the hard work the organisers put in to make it so enjoyable. The St.Nicolas' stall made more than £195 for church funds.

Don't forget!!

Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 18th December with mince pies and mulled wine. A good time to also check out the alterations and new refectory table.

Crib Service at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve, 24th December that very special time when everyone can join in the completion of the nativity scene in the church, with the arrival of the baby, Jesus, in the crib, surrounded by his parents, the shepherds and the animals in the stable. What more could one want for the children to be a part of this gentle but momentous story, before the over-excitement of Christmas Day.

Christmas Day Service at 11am with Communion

Finale!

Not quite 'bats in the belfry', but bats dropping into the sitting room from a great height!. A few sleepy bats have dropped into the top sitting room in the Oast house, with quite a thud apparently, one even making its way into the already in-use shower! A helpful bat volunteer came over to assess the situation and advise how to block the way into the house from their roost. The biggest problem is accessing a long enough ladder.

All should be well and each bat has survived, helped by a pile of jumpers and hopefully re-joined the roost safely. These have been likely identified as Soprano Pipistrelles, as they are so close to the Mill Pond for their favourite midges.

So a happy Christmas for the bats!

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone
from all at St.Nicolas.

St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, especially remembered on December 6th and for his gifts to children at Christmas. Read his story, the original Santa Claus, Santa, Father Christmas.

Sally Alexander



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Parish Council
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01622 850376 www.heatherschiropody.co.uk
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

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London, SW1A 0AA
www.helenwhately.org.uk

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

Village Hall News – December Newsletter

At the time of writing we are preparing the hall for the arrival of Gerry Graham's Touring Panto who will be performing Robin Hood this year.

We held the Christmas Fair at the hall on Sunday 20th November and I would like to thank you all for supporting the event, eating cake and chatting with friends, there was a lovely Christmas atmosphere and we raised just over £400 for the village hall which will help us finance future community events at the hall. I should also like to thank the stall holders who provided such a lovely array of Christmas gifts, the Platts Heath Primary School Choir for singing so beautifully and all those who generously gave of their time baking cakes and helping make the event such a success.

Christmas Quiz – Saturday 3rd December 7pm for 7.30pm start

I am pleased to say that Richard ably assisted by his elves will be hosting his very popular annual Christmas Quiz which will be held on Saturday 3rd December 7.00 for 7.30 start. Tickets are £10 per person and the format will be the usual teams of eight, a pay bar, supper, lots of unwarranted heckling and insubordination usually caused by inebriation. Please save the date, dust off those Christmas jumpers and organise your teams. For those of you like me who don't have any friends don't worry we can find you a team on the night! Please contact Richard on 01622 844648 to secure your booking.

Dates for your diary in the New Year

We will be hosting our popular pancake evening on Tuesday 21st February.

An Easter Craft fair on Sunday 2nd April

A 60's/70's Night on Saturday 22nd April &

A film night probably sometime in March – please let me have your suggestions for a suitable film that you would like to see.

New Clubs and Societies at the Village Hall

The Village Hall is a small local charity and the trustees are always looking for new ways that we can host events, clubs and societies at the hall for the enjoyment, well being and benefit of our small local community so if you would like to host a club, society or activity at the hall please let me know on 07932 112730 it would be great to hear from you.

Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman

News from your local MP – Helen Whatley

There's been a lot of change in Westminster recently.

I know Rishi Sunak will be an outstanding Prime Minister. I worked with him in the Treasury and saw his grip of the economic challenges we face first hand. There is no one better to steer our economy through these difficult times. He showed during his time as Chancellor that he will always support the most vulnerable when times are tough, both with the furlough scheme and with the energy support package.

We now need to get on with the job. We must steady our economy and bring inflation under control. We need to transform our domestic energy network while standing with Ukraine against Putin. And we need to unblock our NHS as we go into winter.

I was honoured to be appointed Minister of State in the Health Department at the end of October. Both of my parents were doctors, and fixing our healthcare system was the reason I first considered standing for Parliament.

As Minister of State for Social Care I've got straight to work on the challenges currently facing our care system – getting healthy people out of hospital and back into care where they belong, finding more people with the right skills to join the care workforce, and making sure residents' loved ones aren't prevented from visiting them. I'm also continuing to work hard as your local MP, and you can find an update on some of my local campaigns below.

If there's anything I haven't touched on that you're interested in, or you feel I can be of any assistance, then as always I'd be delighted to hear from you at helen.whatley.mp@parliament.uk

Cost of living roundtables in Faversham and Maidstone

Everyone is being hit with the rising cost of living at the moment. But for some families, even doing everything right, it's becoming increasingly hard to make ends meet. That's why I hosted two roundtables recently, one in Maidstone and one in Faversham, to bring local organisations together to discuss how we can make sure support reaches those that need it.

With many people who have never needed financial support before now struggling it's not always easy to find out who they are. It's so important to reach out if you're struggling. The cost of standing up to Putin's war in Ukraine will not last forever, and in the meantime it's vital that support reaches those that need it

Campaigning for an Operation Brock Taskforce

People are fed up of the disruption caused by Operation Brock. This year alone has seen two long spells of the barrier being in place – causing misery to motorists and

businesses. That's why I've called for a new Taskforce to be set up to come up with long-term solutions that mean we don't need to turn the M20 into a giant lorry park each time there is disruption at the Channel Ports.

I got Kent MPs together with the Transport Secretary to discuss the idea, and we're now hoping to get the green light to go ahead. Getting Kent moving is crucial for unlocking our economic potential and improving our environment.

Getting local voices heard on Maidstone's local plan

Maidstone Borough Council's new Local Plan will determine the future of development in our community for the next decade. It's crucial that we get these important decisions right and that the views of local residents are heard by decision makers. I've written to the Planning Inspectorate to express these views directly to planning officers.

I've stressed that any new homes need to come with improvements to infrastructure – including a Leeds-Langley relief road to ease traffic problems in these villages. I've also made clear the huge concerns local residents have about the two proposed 'garden villages' at Lenham Heath and Lidsing.

Big boost for community transport funding

I know how tough it can be to get around in rural places like Faversham and Mid Kent. Driving isn't an option for everyone, and access to reliable public transport is so important to some people's lives; so they can get to work, go and see a doctor, or just simply go to the shops. It's no surprise then that some people were worried when they heard about KCC's plan to stop subsidising certain rural bus routes, and prioritise funding for the services people are using more often.

I, along with councillors like Shellina Prendergast, have been pressing KCC to consider local solutions to help these residents. It's great to hear that they're now going to increase Community Transport Grant Funding from £100,000 to £450,000, with a scheme opening to applications later this month.

Happy Christmas

Finally, I want to wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas. Times are tough right now, and I know that this isn't going to be an easy Christmas. But I'm so pleased that for the first time in three years we will have a proper Christmas – one with no restrictions, together with our family and communities.

And together, just as we did with the pandemic, we will get through these difficult times.

59 BUS NEWS

Nu-venture is making some changes to the 59 timetable, some of which affect Grafty Green.

During the closure of Ulcombe Hill for water main renewal work, the **services from Grafty Green to and from Maidstone Town Centre** are continuing to run **on Mondays and Wednesdays only** but the departure times have been tweaked to allow people a bit more time in Maidstone.

From Monday 12th December, the departure from Grafty Green will be at **09.37**, arriving in Maidstone, King Street, at 10.33.

The return service from Maidstone, King Street (Stop L2, close to Greggs), will depart at **13.00**, due to arrive at Grafty Green at 13.52.



Please note that there will be no services from Grafty Green on the days between Christmas and New Year, the service resuming on Wednesday 4th January.

John Collins

It's that time again!

*Time for the famous
Grafty Green*

Christmas Quiz !

*Sat. 3rd December
at the Village Hall*

Doors open 7.00pm ~ Quiz starts 7.30

*Tickets **£10** (includes Ploughman's Supper)*

*from Richard on **01622 844648***

~~~ Teams of up to 8 ~~~

~~ Pay bar ~~ ~~ Free nibbles ~~



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs B Adams; N Eastwood; R Galton (Chairman); G Kennaird; R Turner
Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford
Cllr Z Trzebinski (Maidstone Borough Council)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm

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

M01/11/22 Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Prendergast (Kent County Council) and Cllr Round (Maidstone Borough Council) were received and accepted.

M02/11/22 Declarations:

Any lobbying – none declared

Any interest in items on the Agenda – none declared

Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests - none declared

M03/11/22 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

M04/11/22 Public Session – three members of public present: no public session

M05/11/22 Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Report

Cllr Trzebinski reported that MBC's project to acquire 1,000 houses specifically for Maidstone residents was well on its way. MBC had run cost-of-living help sessions giving advice on saving money and claiming benefits and would be running a session in Headcorn after Christmas; details would be sent to the Parish Clerk for advertising as widely as possible. The Meadows planning enquiry had been adjourned.

M06/11/22 Planning Outcomes since 5th September 2022

Noted that:

22/503594/FULL Demolition of existing stables and erection of a single storey building to form annex accommodation for elderly family members at Pig And Whistle, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AS:

APPROVED

22/503588/ NMAMD Non-material amendment application in relation to planning permission

21/502575/FULL: Removal of three rooflights which were part of the consented proposal. Installation of a new window to the existing bathroom, the window glazing will be obscured. Change from a Larch boarded finish to the extension to smooth render due to unavailability of timber cladding to match the existing.

Installation of a new rooflight to the extension flat roof at Misty Meadow, Lenham Road, Headcorn, TN27

9LJ: **APPROVED**

22/503858/FULL Erection of a wrap around side and rear extension to detached garage; New external brick wall with piers and new front entrance gate; New brick paved external hard standing at Willington Lodge, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AT: **APPROVED**

22/503480/FULL Demolition of existing outbuilding, erection of 1no. outbuilding including repositioned site access and associated landscaping at Barnside, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP: **REFUSED**

22/504184/LAWPRO Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey side extension at Kitsilano, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN: **APPROVED**

22/503658/FULL Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings, erection of replacement single storey dwelling and carport/storage structure, and relocation of driveway entrance with new five-bar gate at Hillside, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP: **APPROVED**

M07/11/22 Local Policing/Community

Police/Crime Report: It was noted that the latest information was for September and 1 crime had been reported.

M08/11/22 Speedwatch: Cllr Kennaird reported that he was trying to encourage support for digital training. One volunteer was waiting for confirmation that non-digital training could be carried forward. The Chairman volunteered to undertake training if it would help to move the project forward.

M09/11/22 Water Leaks

The Chairman reported that South East Water appeared to have finally fixed the long-standing leak at the junction of Woodcock Lane and Church Road.

M10/11/22 59 Bus

The Chairman stated that members of Kent County Council had voted on 20th October to support the proposed cuts to the bus subsidy on a number of routes which included the 59 service. He invited Mr John Collins, the Parish Council's representative on the East of Maidstone Transport Group, to comment. Mr Collins reported that he had discussed the service with the operator, Nu-Venture. One option going forward would be for the Parishes along the route to work together to apply for grants and fund the service on a couple of days per week. It was noted that Nu-Venture provided a very reliable service; and that passenger numbers had increased since the temporary service, introduced due to the closure of Ulcombe Hill, had run into Maidstone town centre. Cllr Trzebinski offered to move forward with the other Parishes and liaise with Cllr Prendergast.

The Chairman thanked Mr Collins for all his work on behalf of the community with the East of Maidstone Transport Group.

M11/11/22 Highways Improvement Plan

There were no changes to be made.

M12/11/22 Footpaths and Grafty Green Stile Replacement

The Parish Council discussed the replacement of three stiles along public right of way KH427. Kent County Council had offered to supply three gates free of charge but had informed the Parish Council that one stile was not positioned on the actual right of way, which complicated plans for its replacement.

RESOLVED: to go ahead with replacement of two stiles positioned on the public right of way; and to defer replacement of the third.

RESOLVED: to try to obtain three quotations for the installation of the two gates.

M13/11/22 Councillor Reports on any External Meetings

Cllr Turner reported that he, the Chairman and the Clerk had visited NatWest Bank in Maidstone to transfer both account balances to the newly-opened Lloyds Bank current account.

Cllr Eastwood had attended a meeting organised by Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council to address the matter of road closures.

Cllr Trzebinski left the meeting.

FINANCE

M14/11/22 Balances at the Bank: Balances as at 31st October 2022 were noted:

NatWest current	Nil
NatWest business saver	Nil
Lloyds current	£48,211.79
Nationwide	£14,230.15
Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

M15/11/22 Receipts since last meeting: £8.42 bank interest; £163.50 Parish Services Scheme

M16/11/22 Bank Reconciliation

The statement prepared by the Clerk was accepted and signed.

M17/11/22 Statement of receipts and payments against budget

The statement to 30th September 2022 prepared by the Clerk was accepted.

M18/11/22 Cheques to sign: Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex £50; V J Ford £12.50

M19/11/22 Authorisation of payments since the last meeting: Amesis Ltd £67; KALC £60; V J Ford £1,026.48; Grafty Green Village Hall £500

M20/11/22 Lloyds Bank

RESOLVED: to appoint Cllr Kennaird as an authorised signatory

RESOLVED: to open an instant access savings account to sit alongside the current account

M21/11/22 Photographing, Recording or Broadcasting Meetings

It was noted that the Clerk had reworded the standing agenda item regarding declarations of recording meetings to make absolutely clear that such declaration is not mandatory.

RESOLVED: to adopt the Photographing, Recording or Broadcasting Meetings Policy presented by the Clerk

GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

M22/11/22 Tree Maintenance

It was noted that a further inspection of the silver birch had been recommended for the autumn.

RESOLVED: to authorise SJA Trees to carry out an inspection of the trees on 18th November at a cost of £365 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: to go ahead with remedial work recommended consequential to the inspection, subject to Councillors' agreement via email beforehand.

M23/11/22 Fence replacement

Three quotations for replacement of the fencing had been received.

RESOLVED: not to pursue replacement of the fencing at this time.

RESOLVED: to ask R James & Sons for a quotation to repair the existing perimeter fence (possibly 2 new posts and 2 new rails); and for a quotation to install a gate which would allow access for a large mower.

M24/11/22 Maintenance

MBC had informed the Parish Council that its grounds maintenance team could not help with grass cutting. Some discussion on the positioning of the planters and arrangements for watering during summer took place.

RESOLVED: to dispense with the planters.

RESOLVED: to ask the Lengthsman if he would be prepared to mow the grass and also suggest how to deal with the arisings.

M25/11/22 Community Catalysts Project Kent

RESOLVED: to advertise the project on the Parish Council website and notice board

M26/11/22 Maidstone Design and Sustainability Development Plan consultation

RESOLVED: the Clerk to prepare a draft comment relating to the "Movement" section of the Plan and circulate to members prior to submission.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FoI)

M27/11/22 Response to FoI Requests

The Parish Council had previously delegated authority for responding to FoI requests to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: to amend Standing Order 15 (b) (viii) to read: "The Proper Officer shall ... respond to requests made under freedom of information legislation and rights exercisable under data protection legislation, in accordance with the Council's relevant policies and procedures."

M28/11/22 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public under subsection (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for the items 17.2 and 18 of the agenda items on the grounds that they comprise a complaint against the Parish Council and information relating to an individual respectively.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

CONFIDENTIAL

CM01/11/22 Fol: Consideration of the Chairman's report in response to a complaint regarding requested information being withheld

CM02/11/22 Proposed correspondence relating to Grafty Green Village Green

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.04 pm

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Minutes of a Planning Committee Meeting held in the village hall at 7.00pm on Monday 7th November 2022

Present: Cllrs B Adams; N Eastwood; R Galton; G Kennaird (Chair); R Turner
Clerk: Mrs Vickie Ford

Cllr Kennaird opened the meeting at 7 pm

1. **Declaration of anybody filming/recording this meeting – none**
2. **Apologies for Absence – none**
3. **Declarations:**
 - (i) **Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – none**
 - (ii) **Declarations of Lobbying – none**
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 24th October 2022 – approved and signed as a true and accurate record**
5. **Planning Applications:**
 - (i) **Public Session – none**
 - (ii) **APPLICATION REF: 22/504534/FULL**
PROPOSAL: Erection of a single storey front porch extension
ADDRESS: Pope's Hall Dairy, Sandway, ME17 2BH
RESOLVED: to support the application

The Meeting closed at 7.01 pm



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the FINANCE and STAFFING COMMITTEE of BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL held at 7:05 pm on Monday 7th November 2022 in Grafty Green Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: B Adams; N Eastwood; R Galton; G Kennaird; R. Turner (Chair)
Clerk: Mrs Vickie Ford

Cllr Turner opened the Meeting at 7:05 pm.

1. **Declaration of anybody filming/recording this meeting – none**
2. **Apologies for Absence – none**
3. **Declarations:**
 - (i) **Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – none**
 - (ii) **Declarations of Lobbying – none**
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2022 – approved and signed as a true and accurate record**
RESOLVED: in accordance with minute ref 6.1, the Clerk to monitor her working hours and report back to the Committee in January 2023
5. **Review of 2022/23 Budget to date and approval of any amendments – see table below**
RESOLVED: accepted as presented by the Clerk
6. **Review of Terms of Reference for the Finance and Staffing Committee**
RESOLVED: to recommend to Full Council as presented by the Clerk, subject to further review at the January 2023 Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.29 pm

	Budget 2021/22.	Budget 2022/23	Actual to 31.10.22	Forecast to 31.3.23
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Precept	5,731	7,005	7,005	7,005
Parish Services Scheme	409	327	327	327
Bank interest			27	600
Misc				
VAT Refund	200	150	-	709
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,340	7,482	7,359	8,641
Balance brought forward from previous year			85,966	85,966
PAYMENTS				
Staff Costs - Clerk's Salary	2,498	4,196	2,053	4,310
Other Costs				
Village Green Maintenance:	500	500		
Grass etc			203	500
Trees			775	2,150
Fencing			-	3,000
Village Hall Hire	250	250	-	250
Christmas Tree	300	300	-	300
Christmas functions	300	-	-	-
Litter Collection/lengthsman	100	-	298	600
PRoW replacement gates	-	-	792	2,000
Community grants:				
Churchyard Maintenance	500	500	-	500
Platinum Jubilee event	-	-	793	793
Village Hall Centenary celebration	-	-	500	500
Air Ambulance			-	50
Emergency Plan			-	-
Training Courses	300	300	170	300
Internal/external Auditor	70	100	90	90
Insurance	370	400	489	489
KALC Membership	300	300	229	229
SLCC membership fees (Clerk)	-	-	120	120
Contingency (incl defib spares)	50	-	238	238
Chairman's Expenses	50	-	-	-
CPRE Membership	36	36	36	36
Stationery, postage, admin	200	200	205	500
Total Other Costs	3,326	2,886	4,938	12,645
Repairs Fund contribution	500	-	-	-
Village Green Fund	-	400	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	6,324	7,482	6,991	16,955
Ringfenced reserves (CIL)				4,358
Earmarked reserve (Village Green)				52,899
Contingencies				
Emergency reserve				
Clerk additional hours				770
Election fees				2,500
CLOSING BALANCE				17,125

Grafty Gourmet

These mince filled gingerbread cases, topped with mini gingerbread men combine two great Christmas flavours together.

GINGERBREAD MINCE PIES

For the filling

400g of mincemeat

50g of stem ginger finely chopped, plus 1 tablespoon of ginger syrup from a jar

For the pastry

250g of plain flour plus extra for dusting

¼ teaspoon of ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon of ground ginger

25g of cold unsalted butter cut into small pieces

3 tablespoons of golden caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling

1 egg, beaten

You'll also need 8cm round biscuit cutter. mini gingerbread person biscuit cutter

- 1.** For the pastry, tip the flour, spices and butter into a large bowl with a large pinch of salt. Rub together with your fingertips until the mix resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar. Add the egg and use a cutlery knife to mix everything until the ingredients start to clump together. Tip out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead briefly until you have a smooth dough. Or, pulse the ingredients together in a food processor. Shape into a disc, then wrap and chill for at least 30 mins.
- 2.** Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan. Mix the mincemeat with the ginger and syrup. Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured surface to a 3mm thickness. Stamp out 12 discs using an 8cm biscuit cutter and lightly press into a 12-hole cupcake tin.
- 3.** Fill each pastry case with 1 tablespoon of the mincemeat mixture. Re-roll the pastry scraps and stamp out 12 mini gingerbread people, then place one on top of each pie.
- 4.** Bake for 20 minutes. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then lift out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Dust with icing sugar. Will keep in an airtight container for up to four days.



JINGLE & MINGLE

*Come along and join us for a
local community event on
Wednesday 14th December from
4:30pm.*

*To be held at St Ed's Village Hall for
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Children's Room Beer Garden



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

TOP GUN: MAVERICK

Friday 9th December

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 10 mins

Christmas is the time for breath-taking surprises – and action-drama Top Gun: Maverick (PG13, 2022) provides them a plenty in our December performance. It's a sequel to the 1986 winner Top Gun, carrying on Captain Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell's story, with Tom Cruise once again playing the captain. By now Captain Mitchell has had thirty years' experience in the aviation world and indisputably earned his 'Maverick' nickname. Turning down a rise in rank which would have grounded him he takes on the challenge of training a detachment for a special mission. A very special mission for no living pilot has ever experienced it before. Does that deter 'Maverick' Mitchell? No way. He takes it on even though it means confronting not only the dangerous mission in the air but ghosts from his past when he meets his former girlfriend, Penny. This blockbuster is the highest grossing film of the year – and it deserves it. Come, fly with us and have a great evening.

The new year will be music to your ears – it's Elvis. Friday the 13th sees our January performance with Tom Hanks starring in the story of the amazing life of the king of Rock 'n Roll who changed the music of the world.

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



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Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

Monday and Thursday mornings at 9.30 and Wednesday evenings at 7

Just three weeks of yoga sessions for December 2022; the last class Thursday
15th December.

New Year classes start with the Wednesday evening 4th January 2023

To join my classes call me on 07803 962339 or email on
graftyyoga@gmail.com

The Patient Participation Group at Sutton Valence group practice are holding a Christmas fair on **Friday 9th December** 12-2pm at Sutton Valence village Hall to raise vital funds for medical equipment. There will be craft stalls, Raffle, Tombola, Spring bulbs, Tea Coffee & Cake and information from various health groups.

June Bick

Music Notes for December 2022 – B Hardy

It is December and the season of Advent so people are looking forward to Christmas. Our musicians locally are providing a plethora of Christmas concerts, many of them sadly clashing on dates. There must be something to attract you, and although I have not listed them, there will be lots of local church carol services – look in your magazine for details.

Here is the local list:

***Tues & Wed, Dec. 6th & 7th, 7.30pm** in St. Martin's Church, Northumberland Rd., Shepway, ME15 7LP, Maidstone Singers provide their Christmas Celebrations, which include a glass of wine & light refreshments as well as Christmas music. . Tickets 07802 575656.

***Sat Dec 17th, 7.30pm** in St Peter's Church, Bearsted ME15 8NJ, Bearsted Choral Society's Seasonal event is entitled '*Christmas in Bearsted 2022*'. It will comprise Christmas carols, music, readings and more - with audience participation! Tickets 0333 7773366 and at the door.

*Also on **Sat Dec 17th, 7.30pm** but at St. Dunstan's Church, Stone Street, Cranbrook, TN17 3HA, Cranbrook Choral Society and Cranbrook Town Band lead a concert of music, carols and audience participation. Tickets 01580 714828 or at the door.

*And still on **Sat Dec 17th, but 6.00pm** at Sutton Valence School Chapel Me17 3HM, we have Sutton Valence Choral Society's Christmas Concert. Tickets (which include glass of wine & mince pie) 01622 861313 or at the door.

*And again on **Sat Dec 17th but at 1.30pm** in Maidstone Leisure Centre, Maidstone Wind Symphony's event is "Festive Fanfare". A Christmas mini-market is open from 1.30pm and a family-friendly Concert starts at 3.00pm. Plus, there will be singing and dance performances from students at New Line Learning Academy. Tickets https://www.maidstonewindsymphony.org/event-mws_christmas_spectacular.html

***Tues Jan 6th, 7.30pm** at Maidstone United Reformed Church, Week St., Maidstone, ME14 1QU Maidstone Choral Union's 12th Night concert comprises Epiphany Carols for Choir and Audience. Tickets 01732 885749 or at the door.

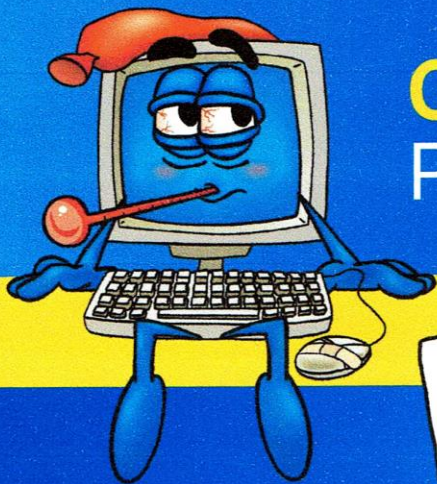
To watch out for on Tv: For Christmas it has to be Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Matthew Bourne's production will feature on BBC2 on 23rd December, time to be declared. I suspect the Vienna New Years' day concert will be televised but no tv details care available as we go to press.

Selected on radio: Christmas Day, BBC radio 3, 1.30pm, Kings College Festival of 9 lessons and carols.

Anniversary

My anniversary this month is 22nd December, the birth date of Giacomo Puccini (22 December 1858 – 29 November 1924). He was an Italian composer known primarily for his operas. Regarded as the greatest proponent of Italian opera after Verdi, he was descended from a long line of composers, stemming from the late-Baroque era. Though his early work was rooted in traditional late-19th-century Romantic Italian opera he later developed his work in the realistic verismo style, of which he became one of the leading exponents. His most renowned works are *La Bohème* (1896), *Tosca* (1900), *Madama Butterfly* (1904), and *Turandot* (1924), all of which are among the most frequently performed and recorded of all operas.





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

Find the missing word?	
1	Henry _____, Actor who played The Fonz in 'Happy Days'
2	_____ Bolan, Glam Rock singer and front man of 'T Rex'
3	Chris _____, First TV presenter on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'
4	_____ Shop, Saturday morning kids show with Noel Edmonds
5	Telly _____, US actor who played 'Kojak'
6	_____ Bristow, Late dart player known as 'The Crafty Cockney'
7	Tracey _____, UK artist remembered for her Messy Bed
8	_____ Peter, Long running children's programme
9	The 'Golden _____', In which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe
10	_____ Ballet, 1980's pop group whose only No 1 was 'True'

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Language	Post	Star	Sign
2	Dancing	Through	Day	
3	Bike	Range	Ash	
4	Hamper	Table	Site	
5	Sheep	Biscuit	Tired	
6	Target	Test	Session	
7	Treasure	Costume	Anthem	
8	Happy	Main	Field	
9	Research	Cattle	Stock	
10	False	Class	Size	
11	Play	Side	Sing	
12	Cards	Role	Field	
13	Though	Taste	Here	
14	Reception	Shotgun	Ring	
15	General	Common	Local	
16	Forecast	Beaten	Map	

What can Neighbourhood Watch do for you?



Neighbourhood Watch schemes are groups of volunteers who work in partnership with Kent Police and other organisations/agencies.

They can give advice on security and safety within a designated area and help to make sure that elderly or vulnerable members of the community are not targets for criminals.

There are thousands of Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Kent and Medway.

To find out more, or to become a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator:

Email: 61170@kent.police.uk

Visit: www.kent.police.uk/neighbourhoodwatch

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
5 th 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	6pm Arnold Yoke, Back Street, Leeds.	
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
6th December	Practical evening/Social	

On 6th December we are going to be joining together for a seasonal evening and making wreaths, swags or other door hangings to display at Christmas. You can bring along a contribution of greenery, berries or dried flowers if you prefer but there will be greenery available for you to use. In addition to our usual Coffee, Tea and biscuits members are invited to make a contribution to a table of light refreshments.

In the New Year our first meeting will be on 10th January 2023 with a talk by Mick Lynn entitled 'Who Came First: The Bee or the Flower'. As usual in January the talk will be preceded by a very short AGM.

In our Gardens: - It's time to earth up the tall sprouts to prevent or minimise wind rock. Bay trees in exposed areas should come in under cover to protect them from the cold although in well drained soil and sheltered conditions they can survive as our winters get warmer. Winter digging of heavy clay soil can be started now and organic matter introduced at the same time. Outside taps and exposed pipes will need insulating to prevent bursts. Bring in those Christmas bulbs to bring them into flower. A happy Christmas everyone!

Carole Frost - Secretary

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Christian Message December 2022

God comes to us!

I have a suspicion that we are all searching for God. We may not call it that, but we are all longing for a world where peace and love reign, where disease and the nastiness of life at least take backstage, and where life has a meaning- not just that we are all some empty, chance-event that evolution has sprung out with no sense other than survival.

There's a reason that Christmas is such good news. I mean I know that it's the best excuse to eat too much chocolate, followed closely by Easter. But no, not that. The reason that Christmas is such good news is that in all our secret searching we discover not a God who is distant, but a God who is searching for us!



The good news of Christmas is the amazing news that God comes to us, as one of us. Yes, I know the whole stable thing is a lovely story, but the real point isn't the stable but *the infant Jesus who is born as God amongst us*. This means that God knows what it's like to be human: both the 'ups' and the 'downs'.

One of the carols reminds us that God is called "Emmanuel". That means: *God is with us*. (It's in the

Bible in Isaiah 7:14.)

God is with you, on your side, only ever wanting the best for you. That's the good news of Christmas: God comes to us.

Celebrate!

Rev. John P. Huggins (01622 850280)

Len Valley Benefice December 2022

Sunday 4th December

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

9.30am Ulcombe: Café Church

11.00am Harrietsham: Morning
Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

Wednesday 7th December

9.30am Lenham: Holy
Communion Service (BCP)

Sunday 11th December

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy
Communion

11.00am Lenham: Morning
Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe:
Choral Evensong

Saturday 17th December

5.00pm Harrietsham: Carols by
Candlelight

Sunday 18th December

8.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Christmas Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe:
Carols by Candlelight

5.30pm Lenham: **Carols by
Candlelight**

Wednesday 21st December

10.30am Lenham: **Messy
Christmas**

7.00pm Ulcombe: **Carols by
Candlelight**

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: **Crib
Service**

11.15pm Lenham: **Midnight Holy
Communion**

Sunday 25th December

10.30am Harrietsham:
Christmas Holy Communion

10.30am Ulcombe: **Christmas
Holy Communion**

11.00am Boughton Malherbe:
Christmas Holy Communion

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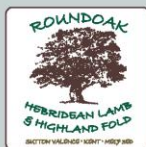
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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Language	Post	Star	Sign
2	Dancing	Through	Day	Break
3	Bike	Range	Ash	Mountain
4	Hamper	Table	Site	Picnic
5	Sheep	Biscuit	Tired	Dog
6	Target	Test	Session	Practice
7	Treasure	Costume	Anthem	National
8	Happy	Main	Field	Event
9	Research	Cattle	Stock	Market
10	False	Class	Size	Economy
11	Play	Side	Sing	Along
12	Cards	Role	Field	Playing
13	Though	Taste	Here	After
14	Magnetic	Mouse	Mine	Field
15	Hardened	Record	Damage	Criminal
16	Sake	Away	Fit	Keep

	Find the missing word?
1	Henry Winkler , Actor who played The Forz in 'Happy Days'
2	Marc Bolan , Glam Rock singer and front man of 'T. Rex'
3	Chris Tarrant , First TV presenter on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'
4	Swap Shop , Saturday morning kids show with Noel Edmonds
5	Telly Savalls , US actor who played 'Kojak'
6	Eric Bristow , Late dart player known as 'The Crafty Cockeye'
7	Tracey Emin , UK artist remembered for her Messy Bed
8	Blue Peter , Long running children's programme
9	The 'Golden Hind ', in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe
10	Spandau Ballet , 1980's pop group whose only No 1 was 'True'

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