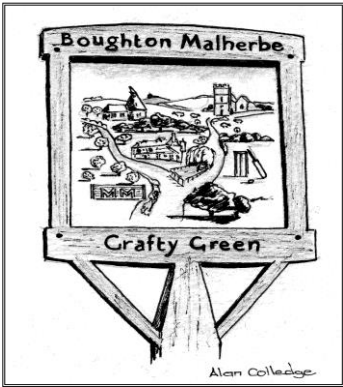


# Malherbe Monthly

Number 211  
February 2022



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath**

## 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	Chris Hume email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	07972 630555
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
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Curate	Charlotte Coles Mobile 07805 092823	
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
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
<b>Malherbe Monthly Production Team</b>		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

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

**Front Cover:** Sheep enjoying a meal in a field at Boughton Malherbe

# News from St. Nicholas Church

## February 2022

Sadly, Covid is still top of the news. Good news is that the many friends and neighbours who have had the disease recently, despite being fully vaccinated, etc. only have had mild symptoms and made a quick recovery. A real confirmation of the importance of responding to the invitations we have all had from the NHS, so many thanks for their work.

A positive note is that the days are getting longer and the first shoots of spring are around us. I saw the snowdrops today by the church porch. A definite reminder that there is still much tidying-up needed in my garden or I won't even see the new flowers!

Perhaps this could be a message to make preparations for a 'tidy-up' in our lives in general and look forward to a fresh year ahead and how we want to relate to a newer way of living; what we can safely put aside and what we might need to hold onto, in response to our troubling overuse of precious resources, amassing too much 'stuff' and so much else.

## Reminders

The church porch. If it is still too chilly to sit for long on the bench by the churchyard wall, do make use of the seating in the porch and recover from the stiff climb up the hill. It is always open.

**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 elsewhere in the magazine and in the porch.

**Tower repairs** are not yet completed, so do avoid the fenced-off area.

**Morning Prayer** and other on-line services from Canterbury Cathedral are available on the diocesan website. They are well worth joining in.

**Celtic Prayers** are said each Monday morning in the side chapel in St.Nicolas. Please note that the timing has returned to 9-9.30am. If you have any 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

**Lent** is fast approaching. We look ahead to the possible Lent courses available and will pass on any information next month

Lent lunches will be a subject for discussion and hope that they will be able to return in some form this year. Again, we will get the news out as soon as possible.

**Service times** should soon be more settled and will be printed in the magazine again. For now, the times and venues will be on the church noticeboard and by the Village Hall.

**Village Coffee Mornings.** The return of Village Coffee Mornings are also under discussion and we look forward to passing on any information as soon as possible.

**Wotton Family.** We were delighted to meet a member of the family with a long and illustrious connection with Boughton Malherbe, it's historic Boughton Place and St.Nicolas Church and the powerful Tudor monarchs. We were able to pass on information unknown to the present family and it was much appreciated. They hoped to be able to continue this new connection with us.

### **Finale**

Not much has been happening here over the last few weeks. We have been keeping a very low profile, as we have had to do many days of daily testing following successive positive contacts! Fortunately, we are fine and hoping everyone remains well and those we are ill make a full recovery.

**Sally Alexander**

St Nicholas Church,  
Leeds

*Invites you to a*

**SNOWDROP  
DROP-IN**

On

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

**10.00am – 12.30pm**

Come and visit the flowering churchyard  
and enjoy **Coffee, Tea or soup**

**Car parking adjacent – ME17 1RJ**

## **Job Advert – Parish Clerk – Boughton Malherbe**

A vacancy has arisen for the post of Clerk to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council resulting from the upcoming retirement of the current Clerk.

Boughton Malherbe is a small parish incorporating the village of Grafty Green, the hamlet of Boughton Malherbe and the surrounding countryside, sitting on the greensand ridge between Lenham and Headcorn in the district of Maidstone.

This is a part time role requiring 7 hours per week. The role is home-based with flexibility as to when the hours are worked and attracts a salary between £10.44 and £11.55 per hour (national SCP 7-12) - pay award pending - depending on experience/qualifications.

Council meetings take place bi-monthly in the evening, and occasionally there is a requirement for committees to meet between council meetings.

Duties for this interesting role include:

- attending evening Parish Council Meetings, usually held on Monday. Additionally, there is a requirement to hold the Annual Parish Meeting each year as well the occasional day-time meeting/site meetings
- preparing the agendas and taking minutes
- giving procedural advice to councillors
- carrying out the Council's administrative tasks
- managing all aspects of the Council's finances including budgeting, monitoring expenditure, VAT and the production of all relevant accounting statements as well as the audit process.
- dealing with general enquiries and correspondence
- updating and co-ordinating the Parish Council website

The successful applicant will have good communication, administrative and literacy skills as well as a basic IT skill set covering the various packages required to carry out the functions of the Clerk. The Clerk needs to be organised, have the ability to be flexible and able to show initiative. Where required training will be provided.

The ideal candidate will have previous experience in a local government/clerk role and some experience of managing budgets.

## **How to apply:**

Please email a covering letter and CV to ***boughtonmalherbec@gmail.com***. If you would like to know more about the role and have an informal chat before applying, please call our Chairman Cllr Ron Galton 01622 850369 or the current Clerk Chris Hume on 07972 630555.

### **The Honywood & Douglas Charity Lenham**

(Registered Charity No. 211272)

The Trustees hereby give notice that the following Almshouse accommodation is available:

#### **A ONE BEDROOM BUNGALOW SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF LENHAM**

Applicants must be 60 years of age or more, able to look after themselves and have lived in the Parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for at least two years.

Application forms are available by writing to Jan Rimmer (Clerk) at the address below. Completed forms should be returned no later than

**28th FEBRUARY 2022.**

Clerk Address: Mrs J Rimmer  
16 The Cloisters  
Ham Lane  
Lenham  
Kent  
ME17 2PZ

## Editorial

Included in this month's magazine are the minutes of two recent Parish Council Meetings. The first on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January was a meeting of the Finance and Staffing committee and the second on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January was a full Parish Council meeting. It should be noted that all 5 Parish Council members attended both meetings.

The meeting of the Finance and Staffing committee primarily involved a discussion about the forthcoming budget for 2022/2023 and how it was to be financed. The main change to the budget was the proposed increase in the Council Clerk's salary, which is to be increased from 4 to 7 hours a week. This was deemed necessary as the current clerk was working far in excess of 4 hours a week due to increased involvement in responding to Maidstone Borough and Kent County Council's demands.

As a result of this increase in Staffing costs, the Parish Council decided in the meeting to increase the **Parish Precept (the bit that is raised through your Council Tax)** from £5731 to £7523.

It should be noted here that currently (as of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022) the Parish Council has £91,324 in its bank accounts. Bearing in mind that the total expenditure for 2022/2023 is expected to be £7982 it would seem reasonable to fund this increase in the budget from reserves rather than increasing our Council Tax Bills through the Precept. The recommendation by the committee to increase the Precept was recorded in the minutes and was to be confirmed to the Full Parish Council at the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

During the Full Parish Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January the budget was again discussed. Taking note of comments made by email and from the public session in the meeting from residents of the Parish a number of changes were made to the budget. Most of these were of a minor nature and the result was the budget and the resulting Precept was voted on and passed. However, the Precept was now set at £7005 but the increase was still to be taken from the Precept instead of from the substantial reserves the Parish hold.

Again, it should be noted that the Council has underspent its income in 9 of the past 10 years and as a result built up reserves over time.

The reasons given by the Parish Council for not taking this increase from the reserves were that Policy decisions taken in previous meetings had meant that the reserves were earmarked for future projects. However, these commitments do not hold water, they are just pure '**aspirations**'. They were quoted during the meeting and include:

1. Buy the Village Green
2. Buy land for the proposed Village Shop
3. Buy land and construct a car park for the Village Hall

All of these commitments are fine in themselves but are any of them **realistic**? For example, how can we justify holding reserves when the Parish Council has no idea what any of the

proposed acquisitions would cost, if any land would be available to purchase or if the Village Green is for sale or will ever be. Additionally, in the case of the Village Green why would the Parish need to buy it as it has been a Village Green for many years and the Parish rents the land for a pepper corn rent from El Group.

It should be noted that a substantial amount of the reserves are made up from 2 donations made to the Parish and held by the Parish Council. They were £15,000 from a legacy and £100,000 from Quinn Estates. Additionally, recently the Parish Council received £4357 from Maidstone Council, being a Community Infrastructure Levy raised from planning applications. This just further increased the reserves because the Parish Council does not realistically have any projects on which to use this income.

Another justification for not using the reserves was made by the Parish Council. It said that advice received by the council from KALC (Kent association of Local Councils) and from the Parish's Internal Auditor has recommended not to use the reserves but to fund the increase from the Precept. This is simply not true.

Below is a copy of this advice that is taken from the Agenda of the Finance and Staff Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022:

Item 6.2 – advice regarding funding a budget increase from reserves

**(i) Advice from KALC**

it's usually NOT prudent to run down reserves (particularly now= time of uncertainty). So, on 1) **just best practice not a legal requirement**. I think on 2) again, I would be concerned as its about sustainability and I think as above risk. you refer to spending from Reserves. This can only be from the General Reserve and really for the first year only NOT a long-term solution **UNLESS you have very large reserves**, if so why??

**(ii) Advice from Internal Auditor**

**In the end it's up to the councillors.**

I note Clive and David's comments and agree with the general sentiment but in the context of a £2.4k increase with reserves **35 times** that amount the general sentiment hardly applies.

As long as there is a reasonable business case for the increase in hours (e.g. reflecting what already happens or real additional work) **I have no issues with plans to increase the precept or to use the balances to fund the additional expenditure**

I have **highlighted** parts of the advice that mean there is no issue with funding this budget increase from reserves. We have large reserves and the internal auditor says he has no issue with this.

Which leads me to ask why are we being asked to pay more for our Council Tax through the Precept for it only to be added to reserves which are already at an inflated level





# 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 6.55pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in Grafty Green Village Hall

---

**Present:** Cllrs: R. Turner, R. Galton, G Kennaird; B Adams; N Eastwood

Clerk: Mr Chris Hume

Cllr Turner opened the Meeting at 7.30pm.

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it** - none
2. **Apologies** – none
3. **Approved Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**
4. **Matters Arising** – none.
5. **Matters Arising** - none
6. **Parish Council Staffing** –
  - 6.1 noted the comparison of the Clerk's hours with other similar sized parishes and agreed that the Clerk's hours are increased to 7 hours per week. It was further agreed that this committee will keep this under review and ask the new Clerk to monitor their hours and report back to the Committee
  - 6.2 reviewed the advice from KALC and our Internal Auditor below regarding funding the cost of the increased Clerk hours from reserves and agreed in principle to fund the increased cost through the precept, subject to approval by the full council
  - 6.3 reviewed and agreed a revised job description for the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to reduce the number of tasks by consolidating points 17 -24 into two tasks supporting councillors with these functions
  - 6.4 agreed to move from a single point salary for the Clerk at SCP 9 (£10.86) to a range dependent on experience and qualifications covering SCP 7 to SCP 12 (£10.44 to £11.53). However, it was agreed that the Council will retain discretion to appoint at a higher level in order to attract the right candidate, if necessary
  - 6.5 received the resignation from the current Clerk Mr Chris Hume and agreed a timetable, process and advert for the recruitment of a new Clerk
7. **Review of Draft 2022/23 Budget** – agreed the draft budget below for 2022/23 for recommendation to the full council. It was noted that the budget is subject to further amendment once the PSS is known. Cllr Eastwood proposed that the budget increase from

2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET

	£	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Notes
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Precept		5731.48	7523	
Parish Services Scheme		409	327	guesstimate - no details available
		6140.48	7850	
VAT Refund		200	150	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>6340.48</b>	<b>8000</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Staff Costs - Clerks Wages		2498	4196	
Other Costs				
Village Green				
Maintenance		500	500	
Village Hall Hire		250	250	
Christmas Tree		300	300	
Litter Collection		100	0	
Churchyard				
Maintenance		500	500	
Emergency Plan		0	0	
Training Courses		300	300	
Internal Auditor		70	100	
Insurance		370	400	
KALC Membership		300	300	
Contingency		50	50	
Chairman's Expenses		50	50	
CPRE Membership		36	36	
Stationery, postage		200	200	
<b>Total Other Costs</b>		<b>3026</b>	<b>2986</b>	
Repairs Fund contribution		500	500	
Village Green fund			300	for repairs and tree surveys
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>6324</b>	<b>7982</b>	

<b>Staff Budget</b>	Salary	4033	7 hours per week at £11.08 assumes 2% increase - award pending
	Mileage	113	250 at 45p per mile
	Expenses	50	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4196</b>	

2021/22 be funded from reserves rather than an increase in the precept by removing items that are not commitments. It was agreed to delete the Christmas function and fund this in 2022/23 from an anticipated underspend in 2021/22 carried forward into reserves. It was also agreed to delete the TCPA membership and litter collection in view of the lengthsmen plans. These three deductions, plus any increased PSS, will be used to reduce the increase in precept. It was agreed that any staffing costs above budget in 2022/23 arising from the appointment of the new Clerk will be met from reserves.

8. **2022/23 Precept** – agreed to recommend a precept of £7550 to the full council, subject to amendment by the Clerk once the PSS is known.
9. **Further information** - none

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

**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**

Tel: 01622 850288

**Nick Eastwood**

Tel: 01622 850330

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

**Grant Kennaird**

**Chris Hume, Parish Clerk**

- Tel: 07972 630555`

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

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& Podiatry

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Established for Over 25 Years  
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[retreat@heatherschiroprody.co.uk](mailto:retreat@heatherschiroprody.co.uk)

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

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- Fungal Treatment
- Ingrowing Toe Nails / Toe Nail Problems
- Verruca Treatment





# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk

## Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 24th January 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 Ziggy Trzebinski (MBC)

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.** - none
2. **Apologies** – none
3. **Declarations:**

The Clerk made a statement reminding councillors and members of the public present of the council's standing orders regarding public contributions to meetings. The Clerk advised councillors that if they made significant changes to the draft budget and precept at this meeting, they should hold a further meeting before the end of the month to enable the public to consider a new draft budget. The Clerk also reminded councillors that they must not have a closed mind with regard to the decision on the budget and precept, and if they had fixed view they should declare it under this item as an interest and not take part in a vote on these items.

**Any lobbying** – none declared

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

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

4. **Approval of Minutes** – approved the Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021
5. **Matters Arising** – Cllr Kennaird reported that KCC are looking at the white lining issues on Headcorn Road
6. **Public Session** – comments were received from 3 members of the public with regard to items 13 and 14, saying that, as the council has large reserves, and no plans for their use, the increase in the budget should be funded from reserves rather than an increase in the precept. Additional comments had been received and distributed to councillors prior to the meeting.  
Martin Le Voi spoke on behalf of residents of Boughton Park about a series of traffic accidents at the junction of Crumps Lane and Headcorn Road and asked the council to lobby for improved road signage
7. **Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council Reports** – Cllr Ziggy Trzebinski (MBC) updated the council with regard to (i) four yearly elections (ii) cabinet system of decision making being introduced
8. **Planning Outcomes since 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021** – noted Wallet Court application had been rejected and had been referred to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal
9. **Local Policing/Community**
  - 9.1 Police/Crime Report – one crime reported
  - 9.2 Speedwatch – noted that there was one volunteer, David Jenkins. Agreed to seek further volunteers through the village Facebook Group, Cllr Kennaird to arrange. Cllr

Galton to contact Ulcombe regarding possible collaboration

**10. Highway and Footway Matters**

**10.1 Liverton Hill, Ditches, gullies, potholes** – tree on verge in Woodcock Lane. Clerk to report to KCC and MBC

**10.2 Traffic Incidents at Crumps Lane/Headcorn Road junction** – following a meeting with the MP, MBC, Police and KCC on anti-social behaviour and speeding on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, KCC have agreed to survey the entire length of Headcorn/Lenham Road and consider whether action is required on speed limits and signage. The Parish Council has been invited to a meeting to discuss the findings.

**10.3 59 Bus** – John Collins reported that service reliability had improved since Nu Venture had taken over. Further meetings with KCC were upcoming to discuss the long term future of the service.

**10.3 Litter** – noted voluntary activity by Rosemary and Michael Smith. Clerk to thank them on behalf of the council.

**10.4 Highways Improvement Plan**

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

(ii) agreed to ask KCC if they would agree to add to the HIMP, improvements adjacent to the fire hydrant opposite Liverton Hill Farm to protect the hydrant from coverage with debris.

**10.5 Footpaths** – noted that the kissing gates replacing stiles on KH325 will be installed in February and the landowner will provide vehicular access. KCC report that they have contributed to the cost through the discounted price of the gates

**11. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended** - as above, item 10.2, Cllr Galton speeding meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January

**12. Finance**

**12.1 Note the Balance at the Bank:**

Nat West Curr. Ac.	£7168.93
Nat West saver	£46,520.78
Nationwide	£14,150.58
Cambridge and Counties	£23,486.79

**12.2 Income since the last meeting** : noted Cambridge and Counties interest £523.14

**12.3 Bank Reconciliation** – noted statement on the agenda

**12.4 Any cheques to sign:** none

**12.5 Authorisation of any payments since the last meeting:** Wynsdale Waste Management £66; Richard Tew, Christmas Tree £199.99

**13. 2022/23 Budget** – the following changes were made to the draft budget circulated with the agenda:

- Remove chairman’s allowance £50
- Remove Contingency £50

The following changes were then agreed by a majority vote

- Remove repairs fund contribution £500
- Increase village green fund to £400

It was agreed that a further council meeting to ratify these changes, and seek further public comments, was not required as the changes agreed were not significant.

**14. 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, that recurring expenditure such as the increased costs of staff, should not be funded from reserves. Councillors also identified previous policy commitments that might require the use of reserves at some point in the future.

15. **Future of the Village Shop** – noted update received from the shop committee
16. **Lengthsman** – noted feedback from insurers and report from Headcorn PC regarding fire hydrants and amended the specification for the Lengthsman. Clerk to design a recruitment process and advertise the role.
17. **Honeywood and Douglas Trust** – agreed to nominate William Alexander as replacement for Mike Davidson as Trustee from the parish. John Collins (who was in attendance as a member of the public) was asked to report this to the Clerk
18. **Tree Survey** – agreed to proceed and award the work to SJA
19. **Disposal of Historic Hard Copy Planning Applications** – agreed that the Clerk can dispose of hard copy planning applications held by the council
20. **Correspondence** - none
21. **Further Information** - none

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23
<b>£</b>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Precept	5731.48	7005
Parish Services Scheme	409	327
	6140.48	7850
VAT Refund	200	150
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>6340.48</b>	<b>7482</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Staff Costs - Clerks Wages	2498	4196
Other Costs		
Village Green Maintenance	500	500
Village Hall Hire	250	250
Christmas Tree	300	300
Litter Collection	100	0
Churchyard Maintenance	500	500
Emergency Plan	0	0
Training Courses	300	300
Internal Auditor	70	100
Insurance	370	400
KALC Membership	300	300
Contingency	50	0
Chairman's Expenses	50	0
CPRE Membership	36	36
Stationery, postage	200	200
<b>Total Other Costs</b>	<b>3026</b>	<b>2886</b>
Repairs Fund contribution	500	0
Village Green fund		400
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>6324</b>	<b>7482</b>

## **Village Hall News – February Newsletter**

By the time you read this newsletter we will have held our Christmas Panto Dick Whittington at the hall, I am sure you will all have had a great time and thank you for your support.

As usual there seems to be a lot going on at the hall at present and I would just like to update you on the following:-

### **Pancake Evening 4.30 pm to 6.30pm Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Once again we will be hosting our pancake evening fitting it in between bowls club in the afternoon and gardening club which will follow on after the event. We will be offering a selection of sweet and savoury pancakes together with the usual refreshments so please come along and enjoy a delicious pancake and spend some time over a cup of tea with friends. As well as the pancakes there will be activities to keep the children entertained.

### **Dance Fit Every Wednesday 11.30am-12.30pm**

I am pleased to advise that Sharon is now hosting a new dance fit class every Wednesday. Dance Fit is an easy-to-follow cardio workout and beginners are welcome, it is suitable for anyone aged over 16. The cost is £5 per session and you should bring trainers and a bottle of water. Please contact Sharon Harris 01622 890170 if you would like to come along.

### **Pop Up Post Office – Every Tuesday 12.45pm to 2.15pm**

The introduction of the Pop-Up Post Office in the hall was a great success, with the equipment working well and approximately 20 customers visiting the Post Office using a variety of services, thank you again for your support. A couple of issues follow on from the introduction of the service.

The Post office desk is sited near to the front door of the hall, (the 4G reception is better in that position), if there is a queue of people waiting to be served, please come into the hall rather than wait outside we will put some chairs out in the hall for people to sit more comfortably in the warm whilst they wait to be served.

Now that the service is up and running we would like to combine a, "coffee morning", type of event to run alongside the Post Office service so that visitors can come and visit the Post Office and enjoy a cup of tea and have a natter with friends and neighbours. In order to host such an event regularly we would need some volunteers to provide this service. If you would like to help, please let me know.

## Film Club

We are still working on hosting a regular film night and I hope to have some more news on this for you in the coming months.

## Committee Members

We would like to recruit some more committee members to help organise and run activities at the hall. Please let me know if you are interested and would like to know more details on what we do.

Kind regards,  
Jon Thompson  
Grafty Green Village Hall  
Tel 07932 112730

# DANCE FIT

Every Wednesday

11.30am-12.30pm

Starting 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

*Easy to follow cardio workout.*

*Beginners welcome.*

*Ages 16- seniors (health permitting)*

*£5 pay as you go.*

*Trainers /Gym shoes to be worn.*

*Please bring own bottled water.*

*Sharon Harris 01622 890170*

**Any health problems please get your doctors consent before attending your first class.**



# Helen Whately

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

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

House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

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

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## Grafty Gourmet

Pork, cider and apples are a great combination in cooking, for a reason. This great recipe blends both the sweet and the salty flavours together for a real winner !

### Sausage & Cider Casserole

1 tablespoon of sunflower oil	1 tablespoon of tomato purée
8 good quality pork sausages	2 tablespoons of plain flour
200g of smoked bacon lardons	300ml of dry cider
50g of butter	300ml of fresh chicken stock
2 medium onions, chopped	8-10 fresh sage leaves, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed	1 tablespoon of wholegrain mustard
2 small parsnips, chopped	2 small eating apples
3 large celery sticks, chopped	A squeeze of lemon to serve (optional)

1. On the hob, heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole dish (with a lid). Add the sausages and brown them all over, then transfer to a plate.
2. Add the bacon lardons to the casserole dish and fry for 5 minutes until the fat is crisp and brown. Transfer to the plate with the sausages.
3. Drain off all but 1 tablespoon of the oil from the casserole dish and add half of the butter and, when melted, add the onions and garlic. Cover and cook for 10 minutes, stirring now and then, until soft and lightly browned.
4. Take off the lid, stir in the parsnips and celery and cook for 2 minutes more. Stir in the tomato purée and flour, then gradually stir in the cider and stock and bring to the boil.
5. Return the sausages and bacon to the casserole dish, then stir in the sage and mustard. Cover and put in the oven and cook for 40 minutes.
6. When the casserole is ready, melt the remaining butter in a non-stick frying pan. Quarter, core and slice the apples into wedges. Add them to the pan and fry gently for 2-3 minutes until golden all over and just tender. Season with a little salt and pepper.
7. Remove the casserole from the oven, stir in the apples and season to taste (add a squeeze of lemon if you think it needs it). Serve with baked potatoes or mash and greens.



## **Lenham Film Club**

*at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way*

### **It's Here!!! No Time to Die**

**Friday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Performance begins 7 pm, doors open 6.30 pm (please note earlier start)**

Prepare yourself for a great evening. **James Bond** is coming to Lenham! Come along ready for a 7 pm start, slightly earlier than usual, to watch his 25<sup>th</sup> action drama, **No Time to Die (12A 2021)**, the last one to star Daniel Craig. It's a long film, but you won't even notice that. There'll be an interval so that you can get your breath back in time for the thrills and shocks of the second half.

In **No Time to Die** James Bond has peacefully retired from active service. With Madeleine Swann, his lady friend from Blofeld times, Bond is basking in the Jamaican sun when his old friend Felix Leiter pays him a visit. His mission? Sounds easy. He's come to ask Bond to help him in his search for a kidnapped scientist, Bond agrees – but it leads to his tracking down of a mysterious villain (played by Rami Malek) whose weapon is a dangerous new technology. And that means trouble! Bigtime.

*Director: Cary Joji Fukunaga. Running time: 2hrs 43mins.*

For more information, please check out our website ([www.lenhamfilmclub.org](http://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](mailto: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.*

## Music Notes for February 2022 – B Hardy



As I write it looks as if all the planned January events will take place, albeit with reduced numbers of performers and audience. By the time you read this you will have a fair idea as to whether the performances I have listed for February are likely to come to fruition in spite of virus restrictions. As usual I have included the local pantos that I know of – if there are others please let me know in good time next year. All good pantos include enough music, song and dance to justify being named in “music notes” and certainly deserve to be well supported. The second half of the month seems quiet, but looking further ahead March looks busy. So, my February list is:

**\*Friday 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm & 7.30pm** – It’s the musical event of the year, Leeds village panto at Leeds Village Hall ME17 1N. This time the subject is “Rapunzel”. Tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ladsrapunzel](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ladsrapunzel).

**\*Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, ME15 7RN, the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra continues its season with a concert that includes Beethoven’s *Violin Concerto* – soloist Benjamin Baker, and Vaughan Williams’ *Symphony No.5*. Tickets 07817 429143 nor on the door.

**\*Wed 9<sup>th</sup> to Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Feb,** 7.30pm + 2.30 matinee on Saturday, the Hollingbourne panto for 2022 is “Goldilocks and the Grannies”. This is always a quality production. Tickets call 07977 497324

**\*Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 7.30pm at the Central Theatre 170 High Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RG, Chatham, the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra’s concert includes works by McCunn, Canteloube, Delius and Beethoven. Tickets from the box office 01634 338 338 or at the door.

No news of TV for February so I revert to the educational bit: 1<sup>st</sup> February will be the centenary of the birth of Renata Tebaldi (1 /2/1922 – 19/12/2004). She was an Italian soprano popular in the post-war period, and especially prominent as one of the stars of La Scala, San Carlo and the Metropolitan Opera. Often considered among the great opera singers of the 20th century, she focused primarily on the verismo roles of the lyric and dramatic repertoires. Arturo Toscanini called her voice “la voce d’angelo” (“the voice of an angel”) and La Scala music director Riccardo Muti called her “one of the greatest performers with one of the most extraordinary voices in the field of opera.”

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

<b>Find the missing word?</b>	
1	___ Blyton, British writer of Children's books
2	King ___, Father of Regan, Cordelia & Goneril
3	___ ___ Duffy, A Poet Laureate
4	'First among _____', A 1984 Jeffery Archer best seller
5	'___ in Love', A book and TV series by D H Lawrence in 2011
6	'The ___ Duckling', Penned by Hans Christian Andersen
7	'The ___ ___ Gang', A 70's spin off from school based 'Please Sir'
8	'___ to watch girls go by', A big hit for the late Andy Williams
9	'Dr Finlay's _____', A TV favourite set in Scotland
10	'___ once in my life', An early Stevie Wonder hit

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Back	Man	Snow	<b>Plough</b>
2	Bedroom	Mind	Old	
3	Beach	Big	Hammer	
4	Point	Proof	Rubber	
5	Chair	Under	Yard	
6	Lip	Mind	News	
7	Attention	Life	Wing	
8	Assistant	January	Pitch	
9	Change	Fortune	Wonder	
10	Bit	Medium	Occasion	
11	Charger	Hen	Pack	
12	Cap	Cleaner	Contact	
13	Black	Mill	Mint	
14	Barrier	Coral	Knot	
15	Gold	Hour	Bull	
16	Action	Petrol	Foot	

**Grafty Green Gardening Club**  
**Program of Events 2022**  
**Our 25<sup>th</sup> Year**

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

On 1st February Dr Mick Lynn is visiting us in the Village Hall and will talk on the subject of 'Potions, Parasites and Pests'. The talk will begin at 7.30 and last for about an hour. So, if you have any questions on the subject please bring them with you and these can be discussed over tea/coffee and biscuits. There will also be a raffle for which donations are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

In our gardens it is time to cut back overgrown shrubs before the nesting season starts and finish pruning our fruit trees. Check plant supports are secure and get equipped for the season ahead, there are some good offers to be found. Time to re-pot or top dress our plants in pots. Dahlia tubers can be started into growth and snowdrops divided and replanted. In the kitchen garden prepare seed beds for planting. It is also time to apply organic fertiliser.

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

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## Christian Message February 2022

As a teenager I had an outstanding mane of long curly hair. My enviable locks would bounce on the shoulders of my big baggy jumpers as I embraced a rather relaxed approach to life! It was during this phase of life that a friend asked me about my Christian faith. I confidently declared, "Basically, Christianity is just about loving God and loving everyone else!"

In the years that have followed, my hair has returned to a more conservative length and my understanding of my faith has certainly become more nuanced. But there was a simplicity to my thinking at that time that challenges the modern, knitwear version of myself to re-evaluate what's really important.

A few years ago, I became a father and that launched me into a completely new journey of discovery. So far, the most significant shift in my thinking has been in the area of love. Currently, the give/receive ratio in my relationship with my three young children is quite firmly stacked with me on the giving side! And yet despite that, I love them with everything I've got and find myself wanting to show them more of that love everyday.

I was recently reading 1 John 4, which is an incredible passage of scripture when it comes to thinking about love. In it we're reminded that God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to die in our place.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

Because of this incredible display of love, by a God who is love, we're implored to love each other.

*'Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.'* (1 John 4:11-12)

That's not always an easy thing to do, especially when we feel we get nothing in return from the people we ought to love. But here's seven words of scripture with limitless depth: - *'We love because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19)

Sometimes it feels so unnatural to love others. Christianity is not about doing so simply because it's a good thing to do. Christianity celebrates that God took the first

step and an invitation is made for us to love others having first received God's love for us. He loved us despite the fact that we're prone to being so unlovable! I'm so grateful for this magnificent love that He has displayed through Jesus!

**Ben Doggett**

## **Len Valley Benefice February 2022**

*Everybody is welcome*

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

*Jeremiah 6:16*

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

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

**3.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Lenham: Breakfast Church will be joining the market on this day.

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**9.30am** Ulcombe: Creative Service

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

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Morning Worship with baptism

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

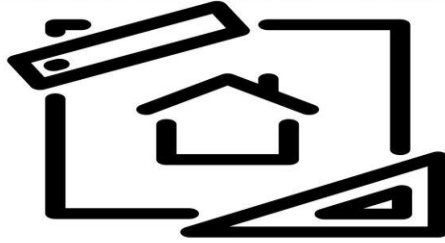
**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**11.00am** Benefice Holy Communion at Harrietsham



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## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

16	Dog	Red	Horse	Hot
15	Gold	Hour	Bull	Rush
14	Barrier	Coral	Knot	Reef
13	Black	Mill	Mint	Pepper
12	Cap	Cleaner	Contact	Lens
11	Charger	Hen	Pack	Battery
10	Bit	Medium	Occasion	Rare
9	Change	Fortune	Wonder	Small
8	Assistant	January	Pitch	Sales
7	Attention	Life	Wing	Span
6	Lip	Mind	News	Reader
5	Chair	Under	Yard	Arm
4	Point	Proof	Rubber	Bullet
3	Beach	Big	Hammer	Head
2	Bedroom	Mind	Old	Master
1	Back	Man	Snow	Plough
	<b>Word 1</b>	<b>Word 2</b>	<b>Word 3</b>	<b>Answer</b>

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	<b>End</b> Blyton, British writer of Children's books
2	King <b>Lear</b> , Father of Regan, Cordelia & Goneril
3	<b>Carol Anne</b> Duffy, A Poet Laureate
4	'First among <b>Equals</b> ', A 1984 Jeffrey Archer best seller
5	' <b>Women</b> in Love', A book and TV series by D H Lawrence in 2011
6	'The <b>Ugly</b> Duckling', Penned by Hans Christian Andersen
7	'The <b>Fen Street</b> Gang', A 70's spin off from school based 'Please Sir'
8	' <b>Music</b> to watch Girls go by', A big hit for the late Andy Williams
9	'Dr Finlay's <b>Casebook</b> ', A TV favourite set in Scotland
10	' <b>For</b> once in my life', An early Stevie Wonder hit

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