

Malherbe Monthly

Number 240
July 2024



The Boughton Malherbe beacon lit on June 6th to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Picture courtesy of John Collins

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Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
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Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
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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 **August** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th July**

News from St. Nicholas Church – July 2024

At last! This weekend we have had sunshine and warm weather. Maybe it will last a little while to lighten our spirits, even our clothing perhaps. Shook the spiders and cobwebs from the garden umbrella for the first time this year. One very large spider remained rigid, with surprise, no doubt. Yesterday we welcomed friends from around the benefice for a combined Sunday service at St Nicolas, with Rev. John Huggins preaching on the theme of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. As always, this subject seems so relevant to us in our rural surroundings, with sheep and lambs on the doorstep. Our visitors always comment on and appreciate the beauty of the landscape we can so often take for granted.

Reminders

The church porch remains open at all times, with the opportunity to make a hot drink and relax. There is a bible on the windowsill to dip into and cards for prayer requests. Any requests will be prayed for during Monday morning prayer time in the church. Make use of the mini-food bank if you need. There is a larger food bank in St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10am-4pm.

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

Church service times are on the noticeboards by the porch, by the roadside and outside the village hall in Grafty Green.

Celtic Morning Prayer is said in the side chapel each Monday morning, 9.00am-9.30am. This is an informal time with short bible readings and time for prayer, spoken or in silence, for people, world problems and worries. A comfortable and special time to start the week.

The monthly time of meditation, on the first Saturday, is taking a break in the summer and will return in the autumn. Will keep you posted.

Village Coffee Morning takes place every Tuesday, 11.30am-2.00pm in the village hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is usually open there from 12.45-2.15pm. There are often items for sale, free range eggs, local honey and fruit in season, teas, jams, marmalade, handmade cards etc. All donations for the tea/coffee and cakes are shared equally between the church and a charity, or cause, chosen by the 'regulars'. £100 was recently given to help fund a project in Platts Heath Primary school and a selection of thank-you letters from the children was displayed in the hall last week. They were delightful.

News

The commemoration of the D-day landings of 80yrs ago was well supported on June 6th. Many thanks for the funding from the Parish Council and the hard work of the team in organising the event. The display of photos, information and even a few tins of Spam, in the church, was a real talking point while we enjoyed the generous supper, before taking our candles and walking down to the Old Rectory for the lighting of the beacon. The national commemorative reading was given by John Collins. The evening ended with a recording of the Last Post. In the evening light, it seemed, for many older local people, especially poignant, as so many thousands of troops had passed through this area, camping in our fields and woods, before leaving for France.

Baptism

On 16th June the congregation welcomed Lucy and Jake's son Freddie into the church family at his baptism. Such a privilege to join friends and family in celebrating the occasion, always a joy to have the company of all ages together.

Cream Teas are back at St. Nicolas!

The dates for your diary are : **21st and 28th July, 4th and 11th August 2.30-5pm.**

We now have a very smart new banner to be put in place at the church to remind everyone. Thank you, Jon, for sourcing this.

You won't miss it when you pass the church in the week before.

We very much look forward to seeing our friends, old and new.

Finale

Soon the election will be over. Hopefully, everyone, who can, will use their right to vote, enjoying the freedom to express our views, our faith, our doubts and fears.

Much to talk about this month, as we look forward to meeting together again over the tea tables.

Sally Alexander

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Parish Council Vacancy

The Parish Council is looking to fill a vacancy to bring the number of councillors up from four to the full contingent of five. We are likely to be able to co-opt another councillor in September.

If you are interested in joining us, please let the clerk know of your interest or ask the clerk or any councillor for further information about the role.



Another picture of the Boughton Malherbe beacon lit on June 6th to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Village Hall – July Newsletter

In collaboration with the Church and the Parish Council the D Day celebration was held on the 6th June at St Nicholas Church Boughton Malherbe. Thank you to all those who helped organise the event and to the many of you who attended. You very generously donated £155 which has been sent to the Royal British Legion.

At the time of writing we are preparing for our Bingo Night at the hall we have been donated some great prizes and I am sure the event will be enjoyed by all. Looking ahead we have the following coming up:-

Cream Teas at the Church – Sunday 21st July to Sunday 11th August

Sally will update you in more detail on these in her own post but the good news you have all been waiting for is that Summer is here and the cream teas at the church are back. They will initially commence for 4 concurrent Sundays starting on the 21st July. Start time is 2.30pm finishing at 5pm. The cost will be £4 per person for two of Sally's excellent scones of your choice, (plain, fruit or cheese – I am getting hungry just writing about it!) and as much tea as you can drink.

Grafty Indoor Boot Fair at the Hall Sunday 8th September 10 am to 2pm

At our last committee meeting we agreed to trial an internal boot fair at the hall on Sunday 8th September between 10 am and 2pm. The objective of the event is to provide a further opportunity for a village get together, for local people to offer useful items they no longer need and for our clubs and societies to raise funds for their activities. As well as the clubs there is capacity for local people to hire a table as well, the cost will be £5. The format of the event will be as follows:-

You can hire a table to sell your much-loved items you no longer need.

It will be your responsibility to take away afterwards any items not sold.

If you would like to book a table please let me know either on 07932 112730 or

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk and tables will be offered on a first come first served basis.

As usual we will be offering tea and cakes for sale so you will have a good opportunity to stay and have a natter and any donations of cake will be gratefully appreciated.

Please make a note in your diaries of the other events coming up at the hall this

Autmn/Winter:-

Harvest Supper Saturday 12th October

Scarecrow Festival Saturday 26th October

Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 16th & 17th November

Christmas Quiz Saturday 7th December

Christmas Panto Saturday 14th December

Tai Chi at the hall

Tai Chi is a wonderful practice with slow moving, continuous and flowing exercises that are very calming and relaxing. The movements, along with a focus on breathing, improving posture, balance, flexibility and build internal strength and energy. Tai Chi can also help to reduce stress and anxiety, lower blood pressure, strengthen the lungs... and so much more.

Rhonda from Abundant Energy offers small, friendly Tai Chi classes that are suitable for all levels of fitness. She has been practicing Tai Chi for over 30 years and teaching it for 16 years. Participants are encouraged to work within their own ability without any strain on the body as the movements are slow and within a 'comfortable' range of motion. All movements can be adapted to suit the abilities of each individual person and Tai Chi is often recommended by physiotherapists, Doctors and other health professionals as a safe way to rehabilitate

Grafty Green Tai Chi Class runs on a Thursday afternoon term time in the Village Hall ME17 2BA, 2:00-3:00pm. Why not come along and have a go. To book your place contact Rhonda on 07985 001782 or Email: bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk

Pop-Up Post-Office Service Update

The issues with the Post Office are continuing. A journalist from Kent online came to see us at a coffee morning a few weeks ago here is a link

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/maidstone/news/we-feel-like-we-are-being-forgotten-308683/> It was a useful exercise in raising the issue although the response from the Post Office was disappointing and there were some minor errors in the reporting, (apparently I am the leader of the village hall which makes me sound a bit like Kim Jong Un which some might agree with! – I bet he doesn't have a problem with his Post Office Service). As a committee we will keep an open mind to any new developments that enable us to obtain a more reliable service but sadly this is one of those lipstick on a pig situations.

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk

www.griftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

Facebook – [griftygreenvillage](#)

New Pilates Class

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Email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com

Summer is here and they are back !



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St Nicholas Church

Boughton Malherbe

Sunday 21st or 28th of July or

Sunday 4th or 11th August 2024

2.30pm to 5pm

£4 per person

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability

Susan Burch 01622 850381

Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am

Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm

Pilates

Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639

Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30am

Saturdays 9.30 – 10.30am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 11.30 – 2.00pm

Short Mat Bowls

Joan Marriott 01622 858100

Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm

Dance Fit

Sharon Harris 01622 890170

Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm

Tai Chi

Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782

Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm

Craft Group

Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10am -12.00pm

Art Class

Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm

Alternate Thursdays 7 – 9pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club

Doreen 01622 850287

Sue 01622 850381

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

Digital Kent

Fourth Tuesday 11.30 – 1.30pm



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No job too small

Grafty Gourmet

Frozen Chocolate & Cherry Trifle

- 1 tin of black cherries in syrup (about 400g)
- 150ml [of](#) whipping cream
- 80g of chocolate brownies
- 200g of dark chocolate chopped
- 150g of mascarpone cheese
- 2 tablespoons of icing sugar

1. Line a 900g loaf tin or terrine with baking parchment. Tip the cherries into a sieve over a saucepan and drain off the syrup. Bring the syrup to a boil and simmer until it thickens and is reduced by half, about 5 mins, and stir back in the cherries. Spoon the cherries and syrup into the base of the tin and leave to cool.
2. Whip half of the cream until it thickens but is not stiff, spoon this in a layer over the cherries. Cut the brownies into pieces and make a layer on top of the cream. Melt 100g chocolate carefully in a small pan and leave to cool a little.
3. Tip the mascarpone cheese into a bowl and add the remaining cream and the icing sugar, whisk together with electric whisk until they are just combined and the mixture is thick, stir in the melted chocolate. Spoon the chocolate mixture on top and smooth the surface. Put the trifle into the fridge for 30 mins.
4. Melt the remaining chocolate in the same way, leaving to cool a little and pour it onto the trifle, tip the loaf tin back and forth to make a thin, even layer. Wait for the chocolate to set and then cover the tin or terrine and put it into the freezer. Freeze for up to 1 week.
5. To serve, take the tin or terrine out of the freezer and leave it to sit for 10 mins, then tip it out onto a serving plate. The syrup from the cherries will run down the sides a little, leave the trifle to sit for another 20 mins before cutting into slices to serve.

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Can You Ever Forgive Me?

Friday July 12th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1 hr 46 mins

Can You Ever Forgive Me? (15, 2018) is a dark comedy, based on a true story. Lee lives with her cat and drinks for solace as trouble comes her way. She is an author and had been faring quite nicely until times change, affecting her career. She faces a cost-of-living crisis, as her agent can no longer sell her work, but then she comes across a treasured letter written to her by none other than film star Katharine Hepburn. This sets Lee off on a brand-new way of making a living: selling such memorabilia from celebrities. Hard to get hold of them in the first place? No problem. She fakes them, and hey presto! Personal documents such as those of Dorothy Parker or Noel Coward are a big hit – though Lee’s path isn’t always golden. The brilliant performances of stars Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant were both Oscar-nominated, so do come along and share Lee’s memorable new career.

Director: Marielle Heller

Our film on Friday August 9th is also based on a true story with a darker side. Wicked Little Letters (15, 2023) has 1920s Littlehampton in uproar. With Olivia Colman and Timothy Spall, it’s a winner. Please note: contains strong language.

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

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



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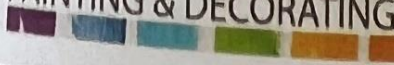
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Ruth on 01233 756332

Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2024

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 9	Joe Archer	From Kew to Kent
February 6	Sally Channon	Thanet Earth
March 5	Steve Kirk	Wild life reintroductions in Kent
April 2	Spring show plus Maureen, Christine and Sue	Encouraging wildlife visitors to your garden
Saturday April 27	Plant fair	
May 7	Vicky Golding – Outing to Marden Meadow	
June 4	Social in Bridget Samuelson's Garden, Crumps Lane	
July 2	Outing to Hawkhurst – Hands of Hope garden	
July 30	Outing – Old Rectory Otterden	
September 3	Autumn Show and Steven Harmer	Arts and Crafts movement and their gardens
September 13 - 15	Weekend away to north Devon	
October 1	Kevin Tooher	Choice trees for small spaces
November 5	Davina	The story of the Dower House garden at Chilston Park
December 3	Practical session – table decoration with guidance from Sandra Pilborough	

On **July 2nd** we are invited to visit the Hands of Hope Farm and Community Garden at Moor Hill, Hawkhurst TN18 4QB. Start time is 6. 30. Mandy Doran is willing to show us around if we wish.

Our club visit in June was to the very interesting and pretty garden of Bridget Samuelson. It rained a bit but this did not stop many of us viewing the garden and hearing of the plans and challenges being undertaken in part of the farm. The hedges looked beautiful with the wild roses left to grow to full size through them. Our landscape is in good hands if this is the future for our precious countryside!

In our gardens : - A few tasks to be getting on with !

- Prune shrubs that flower in early summer.
- Protect house plants from direct sunlight.
- Sew any left-over courgette or beetroot seeds to keep harvesting till Autumn.
- Trim conifer hedges and take cuttings.
- Plant out winter brassicas.
- Plant Autumn flowering bulbs and order Spring ones.

Sue's nature notes

The Green-veined white butterfly.

A fairly small butterfly that can be mistaken for Small Whites but it's under surfaces are a yellowish green and the hind wings are veined in a darker green. Generally they like a sheltered, partial shade, damp grass situations.

Pupating in early spring, having overwintered in vegetation and leaf litter, this butterfly will feed on the nectar of Bluebells, Buttercups, Lady's Smock and Greater Stitchwort and caterpillars can be found on Lady's Smock and Garlic Mustard.

They have two broods a year so later specimens can be found on Knapweed, Red and Pink Campion as well as vetches with the caterpillars feeding on Nasturtiums, Honesty and Sweet Rocket.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall



Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

To book call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339
Experience working through the body, in a mindful way, that improves the range of movement through the joints; more flexibility, gaining stamina and strength and releasing tension and stress through deep relaxation.

No practice on **4th July** unless it's fine and then outside in my garden.

Last practice this term will be on the 25th July.





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Christian Message July 2024

For reasons that are complex but too boring to mention, I am writing this Christian Message way early, and it made me reflect, 'What is July famous for'.

Apparently, Lord Byron once said of July it is the month when English winter ends, only to recommence in August. Hmm. July is also of course the month when school summer holidays start, so it's a month of waiting for that point to come. It's also a month when exam-takers wonder how well they have done before the results come out.

There are also some odd special days in July. 3rd July is, "International Plastic Bag Free Day", which sounds a good idea. And 7th July is, "Tell the Truth Day", which makes me wonder whether somebody somewhere thinks it's just fine to lie all the rest of the time! But it gets even more obscure! 15th is, "Gummi Worm Day" and 24th is, "Tell an old joke day". But my favourite is the 28th, which is "Milk Chocolate Day"- not Easter Day, after all!

But after all these, comes the day in the church when we remember one of my personal heroes. On 30th July, we remember William Wilberforce. Now there's an interesting person. He was very much a committed Christian, and considered being ordained but was persuaded that a career in politics could do better. Along with a group of people in London called the, "Clapham Sect", they campaigned for years and years against all the political elite and economic powers of the time to abolish slavery.

Wilberforce was not only required to fight against vested interested, but also against his own personal heath, which was never very strong. There was setback after setback, but in the end, they got there, and the vile practice of human slavery- which recked families, killed millions, displaced millions and stigmatised people because they were born without a white skin- was finally over. Except, the fight goes on, because human trafficking is such a major problem today.

But in the summery month of July, remember Wilberforce: an example of resilient, persistent, determined, Christian action.

How we need Wilberforce equivalentents to fight the evils of our current age!

God bless you all.

John P. Huggins (01622 850280)

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Len Valley Benefice

July 2024

Everybody is welcome

‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

Matthew 13:31-32

Wednesday 3rd July

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 7th July

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 14th July

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion with baptism

6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 21st July

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 28th July

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's, Lenham

‘I am the resurrection and the life’

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Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies **999**
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO) **101**

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** `public access **defibrillator**' is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the **defibrillator**.

NHS Medical Helpline **111**
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals **0845 155 1000**
William Harvey Hospital **01233 633331**
Headcorn Surgery (*out of hours listen to -*) **01622 890294**
Lenham Surgery (*recorded messages*) **01622 858341**

Electricity (UK Power Networks)
Emergencies and Power Cuts **0800 783 8866**
or **01243 508866**

Water *Emergencies* **0333 000 0002**
Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding **0330 303 0368**
Calor Gas *Emergencies* **08457 444999**
KCC *Emergencies* **03000 41 41 41**
Highways **03000 41 81 81**

KCC Community Wardens:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere **07969 583923**
District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown **07773 397125**

Fire *General Enquiries* **01622 692121**
Home Safety Visits **0800 923 7000**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **01622 734555**

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Bonfires, crime, dogs, domestic abuse, loan sharks, noise, pests and protection orders

Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

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