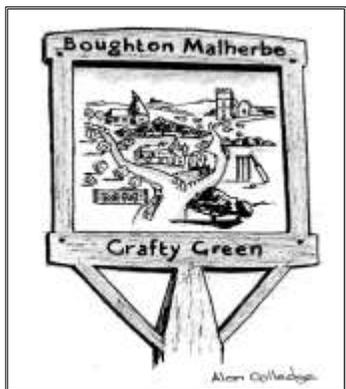


Malherbe Monthly

Number 141
April 2016



Grafty Green Village Hall full of people wanting to hear the Boughton Malherbe Hoard Talk given by Dr Sophia Adams (by courtesy of Maidstone Museum) on Saturday 5th March, when some of the original artefacts were on display, plus replicas made and explained by Matt Knight, a PhD student who came all the way from Exeter, and others brought over by Andrew Mayfield, KCC Historic Environment Record Officer and Community Archaeology Liaison.

Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Martin Round Richard Thick	890276 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	850711
Village Hall bookings and other matters	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@gmail.com Mobile 07990 574214	853583
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
Neighbourhood Watch	Sue Burch	850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	858195
Associate Priest	Mille Hart (Weds - Sun) email: revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk	297296
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.30pm	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Weekend Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
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 **May** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th April**

Front cover: Colour picture can be seen on the Boughton Malherbe website

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

News from St. Nicholas Church

Morning Prayers will be at St. Nicholas Church at 9.30am on Tuesday 5th and 19th this month and at All Saints, Ulcombe, at 9.30am on Tuesday 12th and 26th. Prayer requests can be left at any time in the box in the church porch. The porch is always open.

Coffee and cakes (and cheese scones!) will be ready and waiting for all from 10.30 to 12 noon on Wednesday 13th April in the Village Hall in Grafty Green.

Bible Study will begin again at Wierton Villa on Thursdays 10.30am- 12noon during the month. For further details phone Joan Drury on 01622 853766. Details will also be on the Pew sheets.

Lent lunches were popular again this year and more than £200 will be sent to Christian Aid to help in providing support to so many needy people of all faiths and denominations worldwide.

We so enjoyed having **Margaret Neaves** as part of the Cream Tea team last summer and we send our love and prayers to her family as they mourn her loss, as we all do. A large congregation, spilling out of the church, celebrated her life among us.

Joan Davidson has been in hospital again and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

Sally Alexander

From The Neaves Family

Many thanks to all for the sympathy you have given to me and my family on our loss of **Margaret**, a very popular lady

Paul Neaves

Ken and Eve Sweet
extend a warm welcome to
The Kings Head
Grafty Green

A
16th Century
Coaching Inn
haunted by
"Dover Bill" -
the Highwayman!



Traditional Sunday Lunches

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Children's Room Beer Garden

Boughton Malherbe
Parish Council
Contact Details

Robert Turner, Chairman
Tel: 01622 850325
turnerrmb@gmail.com

Ron Galton
(Emergency Plan)
01622 850369
galton@gotadsl.co.uk

Mike Hitchins
(Finance)
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Tony King
(Neighbourhood Plan)
01622 850711
tony.king@uk.bp.com

Barbara Pearce
(Joint Parishes Group)
01622 850232
pearce.steel@tiscli.co.uk

In brackets are areas of specific interest, although all councillors are available for any matters relating to Boughton Malherbe.

Christine King, Parish Clerk
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MAY 2016

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...for more information

Or Contact Maidstone Borough Council

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/council/voting-and-elections/elections/2>

Village Hall News

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

Do come along to the Hall on **Saturday 30th April** when John Collins (unofficial recorder and archivist of village events for decades) will be presenting **an evening of photographs old and new**. These will include images not only of 'happenings' within the village over the years but also of the local area, showing how it has changed – or not.

If you're a long-term Grafty Greener you may well see yourself on the screen and if you're a relative newcomer it's a great chance to learn a bit about the village and its recent past.

Hot & cold drinks, cakes, biscuits and nibbles will be available in the interval and there will be plenty of opportunity to chat. **If you're in contact with former villagers who have moved away, do get in touch with them and invite them back** for what should be a great evening of reminiscing.

No charge is being made for this evening and no pre-booking is required -although it would be helpful to gauge numbers if you could let me know you're coming in a quick email to my address below. Seats will be reserved for those who notify me in advance. For others, seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis, and numbers will be limited.

I'll see you there.

Richard Pilborough

Hall Committee Chairman – email: pilborough@grafty.plus.com

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be the AGM and the Annual Parish Council meeting, will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Monday 9th May 2016 at 19.30**.

The Agenda for these meetings and the minutes for the last meeting (and all previous minutes) can be viewed on the Boughton Malherbe Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Clerk

What have we done?!!

~~~~~  
*Our recent village history in photographs!*

~~~~~  
*An informal presentation by John Collins of photographs
he has taken over recent years of events in the village
and changes to our landscape*

*at the Village Hall
7.30pm on Saturday 30th April*

*~ Free admission ~
No booking required
Just turn up, settle down and enjoy!*

~ Refreshments available ~

The Ulcombe Friendship Club is going on an outing to Ramsgate on Wednesday the 25th of May to Ramsgate to visit Pugin's house, The Grange, and his church St, Augustine's. Pugin was an architect who designed the Houses of Parliament. The cost will be £24 to include the coach and entrance fees. If you are interested, please contact Molly Poulter on 842988 or Pat Davis on 844855.

The Ulcombe Friendship Club next meets on 28th April March in Ulcombe Village Hall at 2. 30pm. The speaker will be Martin Heard who will be speaking on Nelson's Mistress, Lady Hamilton.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
April 5th	Mr G Francis	'Container Gardening for Vegetables'

On April 5th we will be holding our 'Spring Show'. Entries can be bought to the hall any time after 6.45pm and a list of categories for entry can still be obtained from Rosemary (01622) 850526. Also, we have invited Mr G Francis to give a talk on 'Container Gardening for Vegetables'. We hope as many of you as possible will come along and support the event.

It is now time to pay the remaining balance for the weekend away if you have not already done so and Doreen will be available to collect money at the beginning of the evening.

Lenham Road Garden Safari - 17th April 2 - 5pm. There will be a unique opportunity for you to come and take a stroll through some local bluebell woods and visit gardens which weather permitting will be full of Spring flowers. Also a chance to see some exciting and beautiful fish. Tea and Cakes are available, full details about parking etc from Rita Strutt (01622) 844325 or rjstrutt@talktalk.net

Tip of the Month - Time to plant summer-flowering bulbs and sow sweet peas. Perennials can be divided and a stake put in for those that will grow tall. Time also to plant container grown fruit trees and to do sowing and planting of outdoor vegetables.

Our meetings are friendly and informal and start at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Entry is £1.00 for members, please feel free to bring a friend £2.00 for non-members. We look forward to seeing you there!

Village Hall Garden Volunteers needed!

The border alongside the village hall needs improving - if you would like to join the working party on **16th April** at 10 am we would love to see you; if you can bring a spade that would be most helpful.

Sue Burch, Grafty Green Gardening Club

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Thursday morning 9.30 – 11- April 7th for 7 weeks £42

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Email: graffyyoga@gmail.com

Saturday Yoga practices

10 – 11.30 investment £7

2nd April and 30th April

I have a web site: www.yogawithsusan.co.uk which gives more details about yoga and the classes. Please note that I am not running classes in Platts Heath for the moment

Susan Burch - British Wheel of Yoga Teacher

Grafty Gourmet

This lamb shank recipe is rich and comforting with its warming spices and thick tomato sauce. It can also be frozen.

Curried Lamb Shanks

200g full-fat natural yogurt
50g ground almonds
1 tsp smoked paprika
4 lamb shanks
3-4 tbsp olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
2 large garlic cloves, chopped

Thumb-size piece of fresh ginger, chopped
3 tbsp curry paste
2 x tins of chopped tomatoes
750ml fresh lamb or chicken stock
Fresh coriander, leaves roughly chopped

1. Mix the yogurt, ground almonds and paprika in a large bowl. Add the lamb shanks and stir to coat. Cover with cling film, then marinate in the fridge for 2 hours or overnight.
2. Preheat the oven to 160°C/ fan140°C. On the hob, Heat 2 tbsp oil in a large flameproof casserole dish, season the marinated lamb shanks, then brown all over, in batches, over a medium-high heat, adding more oil if necessary. Remove and set aside. Wipe out the pan.
3. Place the onion, garlic and ginger in a food processor and turn to a paste. Add 1 tbsp oil to the casserole dish, stir through the onion paste and cook over a low heat for 5 minutes. Stir through the curry paste, increase the heat and cook, stirring, for a couple of minutes.
4. Pour over the tinned tomatoes, return the lamb shanks to the casserole dish and pour over the stock. Bring to the boil, cover with a lid. Then cook in the oven for 2 hours, turning the shanks occasionally if they are not completely covered by the sauce. The meat should be really tender and falling off the bone.
5. Carefully remove the lamb shanks to a bowl and cover with foil to keep warm. Place the casserole dish back on the hob and simmer the sauce for 15 minutes or until thickened. Serve each shank in a bowl with spoonfuls of creamy mashed potato. Spoon over some sauce and sprinkle over the coriander to garnish.

'Litter pick for the Queen' - April 9th

Meet on the Green 09.30. Bags and some litter pickers available. High viz jackets available, bring your own gloves. For more information contact Robert Turner on 01622 850325



End of Windows 7 – The Facts

Recently people have been asking what they need to do if they still have Windows 7, so here are some facts to help.

In January 2015 Microsoft announced that are exiting "**Mainstream support**" for Windows 7. However you will still receive critical security updates during "**Extended support**".

What is the difference between mainstream support and extended support?

Mainstream support is for a minimum of 5 years from the date of a product's general availability. EG, if you buy a new version of Windows and five years later another version is released, you will still have two years of support left for the previous version.

Extended support is for a minimum of 5 years from the date of a product's general availability, which lasts until January 14, 2020.

What does this mean if you are still using Windows 7?

- If you are happy with your computer and it is running as expected, you don't need to do anything.
- If you buy new hardware, a printer or camera, you may need to install a driver from the internet or a supplied disk.
- If you buy a new application it may not be compatible.

If any of the above affects you, you may need to consider upgrading to the latest version of windows, currently Windows 10, which has good feedback to date.

If you need any help, please visit the Egerton Telecottage on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon <http://www.egerton-kent.co.uk/telecottage>. Advice is free and there is always someone there it help you. If you would like any topics covered in this magazine please email me at carolhulm@gmail.com

April Music notes

I can repeat the introduction to last month's notes! Much very good music locally in the first half of the month, not much at the end, which gives me the excuse to give last minute extra publicity to the Russian singers performing at Leeds church on 3rd April:.

- Sunday 3rd April, 7.30pm at St. Nicholas Church, Leeds, a concert by the Hermitage Ensemble, a group of Russian Orthodox singers from St. Petersburg. Again, something really special. Details & tickets 01622 842915
- Saturday 9th April, 7.30pm at the church of St. James the Great, East Malling, ME19 6AG the East Malling Singers provide a performance of Howard Goddall's requiem Eternal Light. Tickets 01622 750943
- Saturday 23rd April, 7.30pm at Rochester Cathedral, Gravesham Choral Society and Orchestra perform Elgar's Dream of Gerontius. Tickets 01474 816684. (It's also on at the Barbican in London, 7.00pm on 24th, with the London Symphony Chorus, but why travel to town when you have it here?)
- Also on 23rd April, 7.30pm, but at All Saints' church, Maidstone, Maidstone Wind Symphony's concert has a range of works including Harrison's Dream by Peter Graham, featuring Steven Mead on the euphonium. For further enquiries please contact 01732 366500 or boxoffice@maidstonewindsymphony.org

On the TV this month, on 24th April, BBC4 are showing a brand new documentary on the life and legacy of Yehudi Menuhin. Time tbc.

Brian Hardy

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Yellow	Pitch	Hay	Fever
2	Birthday	Tense	Day	
3	Best	Girl	Pen	
4	Cotton	News	Off	
5	Bomb	Tax	Bus	
6	Martial	Suit	By	
7	Black	Mute	Song	
8	Coconut	Camera	Work	
9	Killer	Bone	Pilot	
10	Screen	Match	Drive	
11	Master	Meal	Hair	
12	Short	Clear	Far	
13	Provoking	Second	For	
14	School	Stick	Scrap	
15	Grid	Prod	Dairy	
16	Credit	Sick	Pad	

Answers at the back (don't look first!)

	Find the missing word?
1	Frank _____, Actor who played Captain Peacock in 'Are you being served'
2	_____ O'Briain, Quick-witted comedian who presents 'Mock the Week'
3	Blake _____, Director of the 'Pink Panther' films
4	_____ Antiques, Soap Opera spoof created by Victoria Wood
5	Johnny _____, A James Bond parody with Rowan Atkinson
6	_____ Kaufman, US performance artist who played Latka in 'Taxi'
7	Richard _____, Late actor known for his portrayal of Tom in 'The Good Life'
8	_____ Firth, who starred in 'Bridget Jones's Diary' and 'Love Actually'
9	'Home To _____', Sit Com that starred John Thaw
10	_____ Wilder, who starred in 'Blazing Saddles' and 'Stir Crazy'

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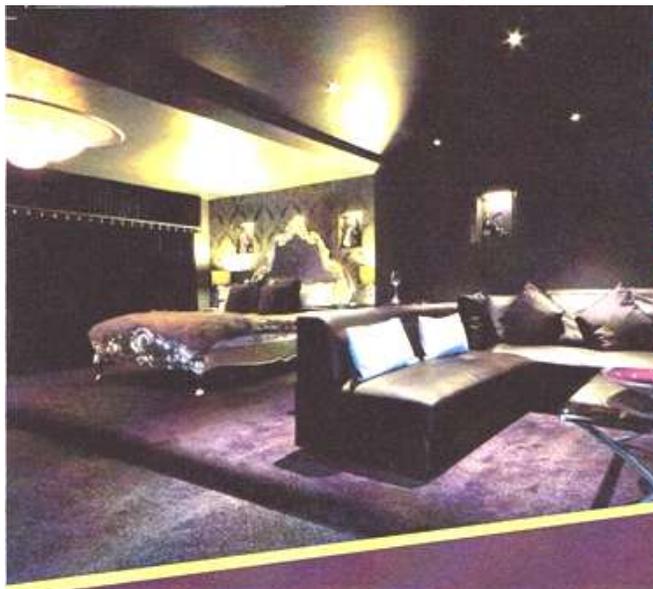
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- or click

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- Call **01622 602202** (Environmental Issues MBC)

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<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/report>

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Minutes of a Meeting of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council
Wednesday 23rd March 2016, 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs R. Turner (Chair); R. Galton; M Hitchins; T King; B Pearce
Mrs Christine King, Clerk
3 members of the Public

1. Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it. – no declarations

2. Apologies – to receive and accept apologies for absence
PCSO John Boyd and Siobhan de Burca-Ousby; John Collins; Mike Davidson;
Stuart Ellesmere Community Warden; Jenny Whittle.

3. Declarations:
Any lobbying - none
Any interest in items on the Agenda - none
Any changes to the register of interests - none
or pecuniary interest – none

4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting on 11th January 2016. - having been previously circulated the Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Turner expressed thanks to Cllrs for input to Local Plan response and Planning Meeting in the recent absence of himself and Cllr Galton.

5. Public Session

Minute book closed.

6. KCC/MBC Reports

MBC – no report

KCC: HGV road signs: as soon as you get the go-ahead from the other parishes, please let me know as I will need to submit an application to KCC.

I have responded to the consultation on the MBC Local Plan and will send to you under separate cover.

I wanted to give you early notice too that I will not be standing for re-election at the KCC elections in May 2017. I have really enjoyed working with my parish councils, particularly Boughton Malherbe, who have shown me such kindness and cooperation. In return, I promise that I will get the HGV signage installed before I stand down - just let me know if all parishes are not on board and I will call a meeting.

I'm currently chairing a select committee on grammar schools and social mobility which will receive a lot of attention over the coming months. It has taken up a lot of my time but hopefully will help more children from poorer backgrounds to attend grammar schools.

Cllr Jenny Whittle KCC

7. Local Policing/Community

7.1 Police Report

Grafty Green Crime Figures 01 March 2016 – 22 March 2016 . There was one crime to report for this period: 13 March - Burglary on Church Rd

Including the above there were 4 calls to the police involving a loose dog and a house alarm going off, this was investigated but nothing suspect found.

PCSO John Boyd

7.2 Community Warden Report

I will be unable to make it over to the meeting on Wednesday as I am again on early shifts to cover my Supervisor's absence whilst she is on training.

As you may or may not have been aware, it has been a very busy couple of months for me as I have had to 'step up' for a majority of this whilst my supervisor was off with illness and had to manage my twelve colleagues who cover Maidstone and Tonbridge. It has not been ideal for Headcorn or Grafty Green during this period and I apologise that I don't have much to report during this time frame. One positive is that I will be meeting with Chris Wheal later in the week to discuss NHS Health Walk's that may benefit Headcorn and Grafty residents in a social and healthy way. Both Chris and I will be down as walk leaders – although Chris may well be doing this on a more regular basis than me due to my scheduled operational needs.

I am hoping that my 'dual role' will soon simplify itself a bit and can get back into a normal Warden role now that my supervisor is back!

If there is anything you need in the interim then please do not hesitate to get in contact with me – I am around and about and have been linking up with PCSO Boyd quite a bit on a few matters.

Stuart Ellesmere.

7.3 KFRS

Chris Wheal – There are 29 new fire engines, although not really affecting Boughton Malherbe. Lenham Fire engine has been upgraded to 'Rescue Appliance' due to its siting in Lenham, conveniently close to M20. Good news: the Maidstone appliance is still at Lenham . 'Smokey Paws' are oxygen masks for pets kept on fire engines. 75 kits are needed to cover the whole of Kent, and there are 29 to date with more in the pipeline. All have/are being acquired by sponsorship.

7.4 Speedwatch – now days are getting longer the crew will be operating again shortly.

8. Councillor Reports on any External Meetings attended

10.3 Bank Reconciliation – seen and signed by Cllr Hitchins

10.4 Authorisation of any payments since 11th January 2016

R. Tew Christmas Tree – authorised

C. King Computer Repair £90 – authorised

10.5 Any cheques to sign

Resolve GGVH payments for 2015/16– rental and contribution 310.00

St Nicolas' Churchyard Maintenance £500.00

CPRE subscription £36.00

Clerk Salary £1,334

10.6 Approval of PSS end of year certificate 2015/16:

Cllr Hitchins proposed Approve the PSS End of Year Certificate; Cllr Pearce seconded; unanimous agreement.

Cllr Hitchins gave an update on the 2015/16 Budget as at year-end.

11. Honeywood and Douglas Charity

Decide and vote on whether David Chantler and Mike Davidson, who have both come to the end of their term of office with the Charity and are willing to continue for a further four years should continue, or would BMPC wish to nominate someone else. Clerk to forward decision to Pat Sutton by May 2016.

Cllr King proposed David Chantler and Mike Davidson continue in office; Cllr Galton seconded, unanimous agreement.

12. Litter Pick

- It was decided that the 'Litter pick for the Queen' would be Saturday 9th April -meeting at 9.30am on the Green, 'equipment and bags supplied, bring your own gloves and a high viz jacket if you have one'.

13. Further Information

Queen's Birthday Celebrations: does the PC wish to organise anything?
Cllr Turner to investigate the possibilities.

Action Cllr Turner

Garden Centre Application: - is likely to be before the Planning Committee in April. Cllr Galton read out some notes he had compiled for a 3 minute presentation and asked Councillors that their comments/thoughts be e-mailed to him when he had circulated his notes.

Action Cllr Galton

Cllr Turner expressed his thanks to the Clerk and to individual Cllrs for the last 4 years' work and commitment, this being the last meeting of the Council in its present format - Cllr Pearce will not be standing for re-election, it is not known who will stand and there have been several enquiries. Cllr Pearce expressed her farewells.

- 14. Date of next Meeting:** Monday 9th May 2016, Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting. It was agreed that a booklet be compiled before the APM of all the reports in order that they need not be read out at the meeting.

Meeting Closed 9pm.

The Lenham Swimming Club

I am sure that the last thing you are likely to be contemplating at this time of year is swimming in an outdoor pool but, at Lenham Swimming Club, we are already turning our thoughts to the pool in order to prepare for opening again this summer.

Some of the volunteers who joined us in us in 2014 & 2015 have committed to helping at the pool again this year. However, we have inevitably lost some of our 'crew' as circumstances and commitments change. The pool cannot open without help and many of our volunteers do far more than they signed up for.

Are you able to help us continue to provide this community facility? We are hoping to encourage some more volunteers. Would you be willing and able to undertake the Royal Life Saving Society Emergency Response qualification and commit to a voluntary session one evening or a Saturday/Sunday per week during June, July and August? Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age but there is no upper age limit. The qualification is a two-day course which will be held at the pool once it is ready for use (likely to be mid to late May). This would be fully funded. There may be the opportunity to undertake the full pool lifeguard qualification (6 day course). This could potentially create an ideal career opportunity. NPLQ courses take place at a local Leisure Centre during May, June and July 2016. We also need helpers for the front desk to take payments for swims and run the tuck shop.

If you would be interested in finding out more about how you can help please contact me on 01622 859174 / 07981125593 or email me on chills99@btinternet.com for more information. Thank you.

**Chris Hills
Chairman**

Friends of St Mary's Lenham

Presents

An evening of song performed by the

military wives
Choirs

Shorncliffe



Saturday 7th May

Community Centre

Doors Open 7:00pm starts @ 7.30pm

Tickets: £10.00

(Includes a glass of wine/soft drink plus finger buffet)

Tickets can be purchased from either:

- *Len Valley Newsagent, High St, Lenham*
- *St Mary's Church's coffee morning 10.00am every Saturday*
- *Or, Contact Lyn Fuller on 01622 851538*

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to **end of April 2016**

Grafty Green

Saturday 23rd Apr

15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 23rd Apr

14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 30th Apr

09:25 – 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens

Unfortunately these will be the last Saturday Freighter collections as Maidstone Borough Council are stopping this service as part of their drive to cut costs. It would appear that this service is not used as much as it used to be. Additionally KCC is in consultation about the Mobile Library Service and the proposal is to terminate the service for Grafty Green and Platts Heath, thought it will continue for Ulcombe: what will be next ??



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Christian Message April 2016



Egerton Music Club

Concert in aid of The Friends of St James

THE CHORISTERS OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Directed by David Flood

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2016

7 pm

**St James' Church
Egerton**

Tickets From Egerton Village Shop
or 01233 756254/756259

£12 (members £10, children free)

As I was wondering what to write for April, I looked at my diary and found no less than three Annual Meetings listed in one week in the middle of the month! Now, AGMs are not the most popular of events and some people do their best to avoid them. But if you think about it, they are a valuable part of our culture. They make us stop and evaluate what has been going on and what to do in the future. They are also a great safeguard for the finances of an organisation. That is why AGMs are often held in April – the beginning of the new financial year. And this makes me think about Lent and the Church year.

We are all very conscious of the seasons, special events and celebrations. As I write I

suspect we are all looking forward to Spring after a rather wet and dreary Winter – though one must admit that the seasons have been a bit awry this year with daffodils in bloom since January!

The Christian church has its special seasons called the Liturgical Year, and I thought it might be of interest to remind ourselves what is celebrated throughout the year. In March we remember the **Annunciation** when Mary was told by an angel that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of God would overshadow her and she would conceive a child who would be called the Son of God,

Advent comes in late November or early December. It is a time of preparation and anticipation of the birth of Christ.

Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December by everyone, believers and non-believers alike, though these days it has become for many a secular rather than a Christian festival. It is the time when Christians rejoice in the birth of Christ in a humble stable, celebrated by the shepherds and the angels and all mankind.

Epiphany follows, marking the visit of the wise men from the east who came to worship the new born Christ.

Then comes a quiet period called **Ordinary time** which lasts until **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent.

Lent is a time of reflection (not unlike our Annual Meetings) and a time of penitence. Many people associate Lent with giving up something like chocolates or

alcohol. But it is much more because for six weeks it provides an opportunity to reflect on our Christian lives and what is more, to think in what ways we can demonstrate our Christian faith through service to our fellow men.

After six weeks, comes the excitement of **Palm Sunday** when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a humble donkey and being hailed by the crowds with palms in their hands, shouting 'Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Blessed is the King of Israel.'

This did not please the Jewish leaders nor the Roman Governor, Pilate, who saw Jesus as a threat. Just one week later he was arrested, tried, flogged, betrayed by the crowds who had hailed him the week before, found guilty, and condemned to death by crucifixion.

I have often wondered what the next three days would have been like for his disciples and all those who had been with him over the months before. They had had great expectations, but with Jesus crucified (a horrific way to die), they must have felt absolutely desolated, with all their hopes shattered.

But then comes **Easter** with the glorious news of Christ's resurrection, and his promise of love and forgiveness to all who believe in him.

How difficult it must have been for his followers to comprehend that Jesus had risen from the dead. But he appeared to many of them in bodily form. He met Mary Magdalene in the Garden when she was on her way to his tomb to minister to his body. He appeared several times to the disciples when they were gathered together. He showed them the wounds in his hands and side, asked for food to eat, and on one occasion invited Thomas to touch his wounds. Then he walked along beside two of his followers on their way to Emmaus, and later was with Peter by the Sea of Galilee. There were many other occasions when Jesus appeared to them.

He spent forty days with his followers and just before he left, he instructed them to 'go to all nations and make them my disciples and baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit', but he told them they must wait in the city until they were armed with power from above.

The waiting time cannot have been easy. His followers were afraid of what the Pharisees might do to them and they had to wait several weeks before they received the power from above that Jesus had promised.

Pentecost (formerly called **Whitsun**) was the day the Holy Spirit descended on them with a sound like a rushing wind, and flames like tongues of fire. Luke describes what happened in the **Acts of the Apostles**. Hearing the noise and seeing the flames, crowds from all nations gathered round the disciples and they all heard in their own language the disciples proclaiming the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ. Everyone was amazed and on that day, three thousand people became believers.

This year we will be celebrating **Pentecost (Whitsun) on Sunday the 15th of May.**

Pentecost marks the beginning of a rapidly growing Christian community, the church, with the promise to everyone 'That God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that everyone who has faith in him may not perish but have eternal life. It was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world but that through him the world might be saved.'

Molly Poulter

Funeral Services

A lot of effort goes into planning wedding services and the date (of course) is known. It's true that not everyone gets married but everyone dies. The date is not known.

The bridal couple choose the hymns and songs which are important to them. Sadly some funeral services do not include the preferences of the loved one who has died. This is not necessarily due to lack of care by families but an inevitable part of modern life where mourners of the deceased live some distance away and may be unaware of preferences. A recent funeral service in one of the Len Valley churches was arranged, prior to her own death, by a church member. As a result the service was particularly appropriate.

The Church of England has made available a booklet, '**Ideas for my funeral service.**' If you would like a copy please ask Millie Hart, Joan Drury, Pamela Cuerden or me and we will give one to you. This booklet can be used by members of all denominations and can be lodged with a Funeral Director or with a family member.

You may also like to know that Church of England clergy and Readers are allowed to conduct services for burials in woodland sites.

Rev Dick Venn



Join us for **Messy Church** in April at Harrietsham Primary School.

Sat 16th April from 4 – 6 pm

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – **April 2016**

Sunday 3rd April

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service
9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10.30 am Ulcombe: Family Worship
11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion
3.30 pm Harrietsham: GIFT family worship

Wednesday 6th April

9.30 am Lenham: Communion

Sunday 10th April

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
10.45am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Evensong

Saturday 16th April

4.00pm Harrietsham School: Messy Church

Wednesday 20th April

10.30am Holy Communion: Chippendayle Lodge

Sunday 17th April

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service
9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
10.45am Ulcombe: Morning Worship
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 24th April

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Family Worship
10.45am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham: Family Worship

Saturday 30th April

8.00am Dog & Bear, Lenham: Men's breakfast
5.00pm Harrietsham: Prayer and Praise

Len Valley Churches Ladies Breakfast

Join us at The Dog and Bear, Lenham on Saturday May 7th at 8.30 am

A chance to enjoy a cooked or continental breakfast, meet new friends and listen to an inspiring speaker. This month it will be Faith Woodcock who works with Family Trust in Maidstone.

Family Trust visit local Primary Schools delivering a wide range of activities including assemblies and Kingsquads To book your place, please ring or email the church office on 850604 or churchoffice@lvb.org.uk

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**.

First Aid Support – when **an ambulance has been called using 999** - Interim emergency support (first aid and AED defibrillator), prior to arrival of paramedics / ambulance, may be available (not 24/7) by calling Chris Wheal on 07979 864929 -this is a voluntary 'good Samaritan' facility for residents. It is hoped a SECAMB (ambulance) community first responder scheme may start in future

NHS Medical Helpline	111
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	0845 155 1000
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Headcorn Surgery	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery	01622 858341

Electricity (UK Power Networks)	
<i>Emergencies and Power Cuts</i>	0800 783 8866
	or 01243 508866

Water	<i>Emergencies</i>	0333 000 0002
Calor Gas	<i>Emergencies</i>	08457 444999
KCC	<i>Emergencies</i>	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

<i>Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere</i>	07969 583923
<i>District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown</i>	07773 397125

Fire	<i>General Enquiries</i>	01622 692121
	<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	0800 923 7000
	<i>KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal</i>	01622 858100

R.S.P.C.A	<i>Emergencies</i>	0300 1234 999
Vet	<i>24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service</i>	01622 734555

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Yellow	Pitch	Hay	Fever
2	Birthday	Tense	Day	Present
3	Best	Girl	Pen	Friend
4	Cotton	News	Off	Reel
5	Bomb	Tax	Bus	Shelter
6	Marital	Suit	By	Law
7	Black	Mute	Song	Swan
8	Coconut	Camera	Work	Shy
9	Killer	Bone	Pilot	Whale
10	Screen	Match	Drive	Test
11	Master	Meal	Hair	Place
12	Short	Clear	Far	Sighted
13	Provoking	Second	For	Thought
14	School	Stick	Scrap	Yard
15	Grid	Prod	Dairy	Cattle
16	Credit	Sick	Pad	Note

Find the missing word?	
1	Frank Thornton , Actor who played Captain Peacock in 'Are you being served'
2	Dara O'Brian , Quick-witted comedian who presents 'Mock the Week'
3	Blake Edwards , Director of the 'Pink Panther' films
4	Acorn Antiques , Soap Opera spoof created by Victoria Wood
5	Joiny English , A James Bond parody with Rowan Atkinson
6	Andy Kaufman , US performance artist who played Larka in 'Taxi'
7	Richard Briers , Late actor known for his portrayal of Tom in 'The Good Life'
8	Colin Firth , who starred in 'Bridget Jones's Diary' and 'Love Actually'
9	Home To Roost , Sit Com that starred John Thaw
10	Gene Wilder , who starred in 'Blazing Saddles' and 'Sir Crazy'



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