

Malherbe Monthly

Number 66
January 2010



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
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Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
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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 February edition should be left in
Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on
01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th January**

Front cover: Ulcombe school children playing in the snow on the last day of term !!!.

News from St. Nicholas Church

St. Nicholas Day 6th December

We celebrated St. Nicholas Day with a St. Nicholas Cake decorated in white icing and glace cherries, backed up by two delicious chocolate cakes. Also on Sunday 6th we celebrated the confirmation of Clare and Rose Wand and Dorothy Wilkinson. Bishop Graham Cray officiated at this very special occasion. To receive three adults as full members of Christ Church here in Boughton was wonderful, especially as the trend these days is to bring many candidates together in one place for a joint Service of Confirmation. The weather was not kind, with heavy rain during the morning but with our Church brightly lit and many happy faces present that didn't matter in the slightest.

Christingle Service

We celebrated Christingle on 13th with a Service at 4.00pm - unfortunately not very well attended. Perhaps it was the time of day that threw people; we did advertise the change of time but there has been illness in the schools, so we hope for better results next year.

Carol Singing

On December 16th we were Carol Singing. We visited the Old Rectory and the Kings Head. Next year we hope to visit more homes - please tell us if you would like a visit. We raised £80 for Demelza House Children's Hospice. The Choir have also sung carols at a wedding reception and at Chilston Park Hotel on Christmas Eve and the money from these two events will be added to this total.

Carol Service

Our Service of Eight Lessons and Carols on 20th December was most enjoyable but was hampered by snowy conditions making the climb up to St. Nicholas Church quite perilous, which reduced the number of people attending.

Crib Service

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve was well attended. The children were asked questions based on the Christmas story and the answers were then entered in a crossword puzzle. The children were very well informed and the crossword soon finished.

Gordon Drake's Retirement

There is still time if you wish to contribute to Gordon's Retirement Gift, please hand a sealed envelope to Joan Davidson by the 7th January. We will be holding a small celebration for Gordon after Evensong on 10th.

Coffee Morning

Once again we will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall at Grafty Green between 10-12 on 13th January, 2010. This event is a non fund raising event - just come along for a chat and good company. We are very pleased with the number of people who come - it obviously fills a need in the community.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Joan Davidson

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Clive _____, Played Richard Bucket in Keeping Up Appearances
2	_____ Eyes, 1979 No 1 for Art Garfunkel
3	From _____ With Love, a James Bond Film
4	_____ Carlisle, Singer of Heaven is a Place on Earth
5	Lisa _____, Star of the 1972 film Cabaret
6	Ike _____, Former husband of Tina
7	___ _ _ Preacher Man, A hit for Dusty Springfield
8	The _____, US family drama set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia
9	_____ Baron Cohen, Comedy character Ali G
10	Martin _____, Singer in Spandau Ballet

Sent on behalf of Nick Chard, Cabinet Member - Environment, Highways & Waste KCC

Dear All

The action we take on our main roads is aimed at keeping Kent moving - and keeping people safe across the whole county. This is a well planned and well rehearsed campaign.

We have seven weather stations which, used with our external provider, give us reliable and accurate data and forecasting.

Our Winter Service Policy sets out the priority roads which we treat when we have ice and snow.

http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/road_and_pavement_maintenance/winter_weather_maintenance.aspx

<http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/SaltingRoutes/Map.aspx>

Our primary routes - which do not include the motorways and trunk roads - account for about a third of the country's roads - that's around 1,500 miles.

We also cover secondary routes (700 miles) - and we have a team of around 180 farmers on standby, whom we supply with snow ploughs for their tractors, that will tackle specific rural routes. During the summer KHS reviewed the roads included on the primary and secondary routes and added a number of routes. We welcome input to identify other roads that may be suitable for inclusion on these routes.

Our preparations started in the summer:

- began building up our salt stocks
- assessing how effective we were last winter
- drawing up our winter service plan
- ensuring our salting lorries and equipment are ready - so, we are well prepared.

We were out each night last week and a number of times in the previous week. We have started receiving salt stocks to replenish the salt we have already used.

We have plans in place for when the weather changes like this:

- we do precautionary salting, putting the salt down before the road freezes
- if it rains, we wait until the rain stops, so that the salt isn't washed away

We hold 20,000 tonnes of salt - which is enough for at least 20 days continuous salting.

Last year we trialled pre-wet salting, which involves spraying a saline solution on the salt as it is spread out of the lorry. This new system has two main benefits:

- it makes the salt stick to the road and prevents it being blown away
- because of this we use 25% less salt, and therefore there is an environmental benefit

KCC are responsible for the clearance of pavements with the support of Districts/Boroughs, any further offers of support would be greatly valued.

Over the weekend, Kent Highway Services worked continuously day and night in response to the severe weather by deploying a full contingent of staff at all of its depots. All 53 primary routes were salted six times and 48 secondary routes four times between Thursday night and Sunday. In addition 26 crews hand salted key areas such as hills, road junctions and filled salt bins. Ploughs were fitted to the salting lorries on Friday night and ploughing was carried out as necessary. Farmers across the county also ploughed designated rural areas. 6,500 tonnes of salt was used over the weekend. To this, local runs have been undertaken as required. Resources were moved around the county to ensure that more severely affected areas were treated as needed.

I know that you would wish me to thank, on our community's behalf, the staff for the outstanding service they have carried out.

Best regards
Nick Chard

Diary Note - Grafty Village Hall Fundraising Evening

On Saturday 27 March 2010 we are holding a line dancing evening with snacks and a licensed bar. Joanne from the Platts Heath line dancing class is coming to give us a fun evening of dancing. No experience necessary as she will teach us simple dances with enough volunteers for us to copy.

More information in next month's issue of Malherbe Monthly.

Mandy Hitchins

Ulcombe Friendship Club

The Ulcombe Friendship Club meets in Ulcombe Village Hall at 2.30 pm on the last Thursday of the month. Anyone in the benefice would be very warmly welcomed. It is a very friendly club. We have speakers, outings, parties and lunches. Each month, we have a rota of members who provide a delicious tea after the talks. Membership is just £5 a year which pays for the hire of the hall. We also have a £1 raffle which helps to pay for speakers. If you would like to come along and see what we're all about, just turn up. You will be very welcome.

The Club enjoyed a very interesting talk about The Dogs Trust at their meeting on the 26th of November in Ulcombe Village Hall.

The Dogs Trust was established in 1891. It was formerly known as the National Canine Defence League. It is the UK's largest dog welfare charity. The Trust has a non-destruction policy – meaning that no healthy dog is ever destroyed. It has three main functions: education to promote responsible dog ownership; neutering – to prevent unwanted litters and reduce the number of abandoned dogs; and micro-chipping - to increase the number of dogs being re-united with their owners.

The statistics are mind blowing. In 2008 the trust picked up 107,000 dogs and all but 7,000 were saved. Our speakers said that across the UK one dog is destroyed every 80 minutes!. Last year, the Trust neutered about 69,000 dogs, micro-chipped 1,600 at a cost of £9.50 each, vaccinated, and reunited 15% with their families. The Trust deals with 'handovers' when an owner dies, a marriage breaks up, people are made redundant, or an elderly person has to move into a home where dogs are not allowed. The Trust aims, where possible, to find new homes for the dogs and out of every 100 dogs, 86 are re-housed. Care is taken with pre-adoptive visits, and new owners are given a free collar, a lead, food samples, and the promise of advice for life.

Difficult dogs are given behavioural and emotional therapy. Of the very small percentage of dogs not suitable to be re-housed, there is a dogs' sanctuary – a 'dogs home' - where they are looked after for the rest of their lives.

There is a Dogs Trust centre in Canterbury which has 10 staff, and costs £500,000 per annum to run. The Dogs Trust is a charity and relies entirely on donations, legacies, dog sponsorships, and 'Buddy' foster schemes. It also welcomes knitted jackets for dogs!. More information can be obtained from The Dogs Trust, 17 Wakely Street, London EC1V 7RQ Tel (020 7837 0006)

Molly Poulter

Are you interested in keeping our English Folk Culture alive?
Want to try your feet at dancing,
your hands at playing an instrument, or your voice at singing?
-the complete Morris experience-

Really, what are you waiting for?!



Morris is once again a national sensation. Don't miss out!
We welcome **men** and **women** of all ages and abilities,
nationalities and beliefs

So come and see what we're about. Join us for a bit of fun
at the Grafty Green Village Hall, Church Road, Grafty Green, ME17
2 (back of the Kings Head)

8pm until 10pm, Thursday January 28th 2010

In the last few years we have danced, played and sung our way
across Holland, Estonia, Boston (USA), Hungary, Belgium, the Basque
Country, France, and yes, even England!
Along with our Hooden Horse, Jason, we have appeared on television with
Dennis Waterman and on film with Nicole Kidman, so join the fun!



Have a look at our website or contact the secretary for further details
www.headcornmorris.co.uk - tel: 07968 251018

News from Maidstone Council

Christmas refuse and recycling collections

Normal Collection	Actual Collection
Friday, December 25	Tuesday, December 29
Monday, December 28	Wednesday, December 30
Tuesday, December 29	Thursday, December 31
Wednesday, December 30	Saturday, January 2
Thursday, December 31	Monday, January 4
Friday, January 1	Tuesday, January 5
Monday, January 4	Wednesday, January 6
Tuesday, January 5	Thursday, January 7
Wednesday, January 6	Friday, January 8
Thursday, January 7	Saturday, January 9
Friday, January 8	Monday, January 11
Monday, January 11	Tuesday, January 12
Tuesday, January 12	Wednesday, January 13
Wednesday, January 13	Thursday, January 14
Thursday, January 14	Friday, January 15
Friday, January 15	Saturday, January 16

Don't forget to put your recycling and rubbish out by 6am over the Christmas and New Year period, as collections will start earlier than normal.

There will be no changes to collections during Easter, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday and August Bank Holiday 2010.

ALL-FIX PLUMBING

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David Jenkins



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the Highwayman!**



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NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There seems to have been so much happening this term from Fireworks to Father Christmas. I must thank all of the staff, Friends of Ulcombe School (our PTA), parents, friends and governors who have helped to make a range of events so special. We must all thank the children for entering into the spirit of so many events in such a positive way, too. We have raised lots of money for the FUS and for other great causes, and we have managed to enjoy ourselves at the same time!

IN THE NEWS **The Wriggly Nativity**

Our Christmas Play took place on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December. It was a very enjoyable nativity with two additional pieces by our drama group. Well done to all of the children involved who clearly had a great time.

Tawny Owls Sing for Marie Curie in The Mall

If you were in Maidstone between 10.30am and 11am on Thursday 10th December you might have heard Tawny Owls singing carols and Christmas songs in The Mall in Maidstone. We were helping Marie Curie Cancer Care who were collecting from mid-morning to early afternoon in the centre. Well done to those involved who sang beautifully and represented the school fantastically well.

The Christmas Fayre and Christmas Cake Raffle

Father Christmas landed somewhere near the Village Hall and walked down to school for our Christmas Fayre on Friday 11th December. He then stayed with us during the evening and children were able to chat with him and see if he had a present for them! There were lots of stalls including tombola's, a lucky dip, cakes, holly wreaths, jams and preserves, a craft stall, Feel the Socks game, See the Stars competition and each class had been making things to sell. The now famous Christmas Cake Raffle took place at 7.30pm with the fantastic prize – a Christmas cake in the shape of All Saints Parish Church created by Mrs Arundel – won by Mr and Mrs Noble.

Christmas Cards and the Starlight Tree

The School Christmas post box was by the Office for children who wanted to send their friends a Christmas card. Alternatively (or as well) children were invited to complete a Christmas Star and bring it in to school with a £1 donation for the Starlight Foundation, who grant wishes for seriously or terminally sick children. We were delighted to receive Ken from Starlight, who explained more about the foundation's work in a recent assembly.

Dinner and Parties

Our Christmas Dinner took place on Wednesday 16th December. As always, it was lovely for the children to be joined by staff and governors. Special thanks go to Miss Fuller, our School Cook, for a great lunch. The whole school joined together for a Christmas party on Thursday 17th December. Father Christmas came to see us again which means we must have all been good!

Christmas Celebration

Our term ended on Friday 18th December with our Christmas Service at All Saints Parish Church at 2.15pm. A big thank you and well done goes to all of the children who took part in this service, helping us to remember the wonderful Christian message at this time of year.

Mrs Christie and Mrs Hargrave

As this term ends and the new term starts we say thank you to Mrs Christie who has been working with us whilst Mrs Hargrave has been on maternity leave. We will see Mrs Christie again as she will continue to be one of our regular supply teachers, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work this term.

Next Term

In the second week of term, on Tuesday 12th January, the FUS will be hosting a coffee afternoon from 2pm. Parents will be able to get together in the hall and meet up for a chat and a drink. As part of the afternoon Two Feet Shoe Fitting Service will be in school, staying on after the school day has ended. This will be a chance to get your child's feet measured properly for free, even if you decide that you do not want to buy any of the shoes on offer. On Saturday 6th February we are hoping to hold a Beetle Drive. Put the date in your diary and look out for more information from FUS after the Christmas break.

As usual, there is always a lot happening. Please remember that if you do have any queries or concerns please come in and ask, and we will do our very best to help. I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas-time and we wish you a very happy New Year.

FUN IN THE SNOW AT ULCOMBE SCHOOL

Ulcombe CE Primary School was one of the few schools in the area to stay open for the end of term. Even though many of the children come from outside the village, more than half the school made their way through the wonderful winter scenes. The children and staff had a great time whether they chose to stay in the warm or venture outside to play in the snow. We even managed to hold our Christmas Service, but we decided it was much safer to do this at school, rather than at the All Saints Parish Church.

We must thank all of the staff who made their way into school, especially those who travelled in from outside the village, and the parents and governors who offered to step in if needed in a variety of ways including manning the phones and cooking the dinner. It was fantastic that so many parents were able to join us for our Christmas Celebration Service too! We hope you all had a safe journey home.

To all of our pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends, whether you were able to join us for the end of term or not, have a fantastic Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

See the picture on the front cover !!!

Mr V Hampton
Head Teacher

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year and are fed up with oil tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads, not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non- profit making.

Keith Anderson

St Edmunds Centre

Well all the Christmas parties have been very successful though bookings were rather close together at one stage. It is so nice for our little hall to be this popular. I must say with the rope lighting in place it creates a very nice ambient atmosphere.

Once again we need a new chair person as Margaret has stepped down from the committee; we appreciate the work she has done since Brian's departure. Margaret and Marcello are intending to leave for Australia where their children have settled. I am writing this with snow outside, so envy them the sunshine they will enjoy as a new way of life unfolds.

The next event we are holding is a quiz night on 23rd January 2010 at 7pm. John and Helen Nye are our quiz masters, so you will have to book early to avoid disappointment. See our advert for more details.

Anyone wishing to hire the hall can do so by phoning me on 858891 or Duffrey Robinson on 850463.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

THE TRUSTEES OF ST EDMUNDS CENTRE

ARE HOLDING A

QUIZ NIGHT

QUIZMASTERS JOHN & HELEN NYE

ST EDMUNDS CENTRE

SATURDAY 23rd JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00PM

TEAMS OF 4-6

TICKETS £5.00 PER PERSON

TO BOOK A TABLE RINGDUFF 850463 TRICIA 858891

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS AND GLASSES

How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm
Term starts Wednesday 6th January
and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 7th January

The term will run for six weeks and the fee is £30. Drop in students
£6 per session

If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in
please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339



Grafty Green Gardening Club

Tuesday evening at 7.30 5th January in Grafty Green Village Hall – Our speaker will be Robert Canis with slides on ‘The Best of Kent’. It is also our AGM and time for membership renewal.

Our programme for 2010 hopes to include the following:

Date	Topic	Speaker
5th January	AGM – Best of Kent slide show	Robert Canis
2 nd February	Bee Keeping	Mrs. Barbara Harris
2 nd March	Growing Vegetables	Mr. Andrew Fletcher
6 th April	Spring Show History/making walking sticks	Mr. Dennis Worcester
10 th April	15% off at Rumwood Nursery 9.30 – 4.30	
4 th May	Visit to Turkey Mill	
25 th – 27 th June	Weekend visit to Dorset, Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum	
6 th July	Biddenden Vineyard	
3 rd August	Mereworth	
7 st September	Autumn show	Sue Buckingham Wild flower expert
5 th October		
2 nd November	Kent Gardens Trust	
7 th December	Edible Seeds	

The club has been running officially since 1998 but our first event was a spur of the moment coach trip visit to Beth Chatto’s garden in the summer of 1997; this event was a success and by popular demand the club was formed. We are a very sociable bunch and love to welcome new members. The fee to join is £5 for the year and a small entry fee of 75p on the door for events attended. Outings are priced separately. The highlight of the year is usually the weekend away and you will see that we are visiting Dorset this year.

Heaths Countryside Corridor Receives Boost for Wildlife

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £50,000 to support the Heaths Countryside Corridor's Wondering and Wandering project, it was announced today. This will allow the group to help local people explore the natural heritage in the Charing Heath and Lenham Heath area as well as unearthing the heritage features on the three sites owned and managed by Heaths Countryside Corridor.

The award will fund a series of events that will be open to all including guided walks, wildlife events, archaeological digs, talks and practical conservation activities. The Heaths Countryside Corridor group has purchased three sites on the greensand ridge which runs parallel to the North Downs with the aim of conserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the area for the benefit of all local people and visitors.

Work will start early in 2010 with a launch event to be held at Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Memorial Hall on Sunday 28th February. The three year project will see restoration works taking place on the ice house at Chilston Park as well as the pond at Bull Heath and benches and panels installed to help people enjoy their visit to these sites.

Commenting on the award, Ruth Lovering of Heaths Countryside Corridor said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the group to really involve people in the work we are doing. We now have the chance to help everybody to become as inspired by the natural beauty of the Heaths Countryside Corridor as we already are."





BITS AND BYTES!

The team at Egerton Telecottage is now setting up the computer centre's programme of courses for the winter. They are keen to run more sessions that meet exactly what people need.

Jackie is the tutor for Excel and Digital Photography. With her last group she had a great time finding out about the aspects of spreadsheets that they really needed. Unlike a College course, which has to follow a curriculum to get you a qualification, learning about computers with the Telecottage can be tailored to what you want to cover.

In 2010 there will be more short courses that will allow you do this while also offering the longer introduction to basic computing and other courses that beginners and experienced people alike find so helpful. Here are the dates for the New Year:

IT Refresher - Tuesdays - 12th and 19th January 10am-12 noon

2 sessions of 2 hours covering those bits of basic computing that you may have forgotten such as storing and finding files, dragging and dropping, inserting pictures

Emailing Photographs- Tuesday 12th and 19th January 7.30pm/9.30pm

2 week course showing you how to send your photographs over the Internet and managing them on your computer

Excel- Wednesdays 20th, 27th Jan/3rd, 10th Feb - 10am-12 noon

4 week course covering spreadsheets for use at work or home

Basic Word Processing - Tuesdays 26th Jan /2nd, 9th/16th February - 10am-12 noon

4 week course to get you started with everything you need to know about using Word

Basic IT - Tuesday 23rd Feb/2nd, 9th, 16th March - 10am-12 noon

4 week basic introduction to using a computer for beginners

Digital Photography - Tuesdays 23rd Feb/2, 9, 16th March -

7.30/9.30pm -

4 week course covering the basics of displaying and editing your photographs on the computer

We also hope to run courses covering Intermediate Word Processing, the Internet and a short eBay course - make some money for the new year or find a good home for those unwanted gifts! .

Hire our Centre!

If you have a group of people - or are a local business- and would like to use our centre to provide computer training, we are happy to arrange for the centre to be hired for one or more days - or just half a day. Refreshments can be arranged and full office facilities are available. We may also be able to provide a tutor if you need one or transport, using Wealden Wheels minibuses.

For more information about courses or hire of the Telecottage Centre, please contact Sylvia on 01233 756050.

Don't forget we are also open every Saturday morning from 10 to 12pm for drop in advice about computer problems or use of the Internet and centre facilities.



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

I hope you enjoyed last month's link word. Here is another
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Diving	Bottoms	Ringer	Bell
2	Gold	Puppet	Print	
3	Snap	Chinese	Fly	
4	Night	Horse	Line	
5	Scrap	Polish	Work	
6	Level	White	Free	
7	Board	Sticking	Cast	
8	Drinking	Sleeping	Sparring	
9	Kingdom	Nations	Manchester	
10	Evil	Opener	Private	
11	Front	Spare	Flat	
12	Meal	Collector	Return	
13	Services	Democrat	Worker	
14	Tunnel	Bristol	Islands	
15	Gas	Bag	Wind	
16	Point	Cold	Throat	

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a lovely warming dish, ideal for the cold Winter months. You can serve with vegetables or, as I do on a bed of noodles, with a little soured cream poured over the beef.

Paprika Beef

Serves 2 to 3

3/4 lb stewing beef , cut into 3/4-inch cubes
2 teaspoons vegetable oil
1 small onion, thinly sliced
1 garlic clove, crushed
3/4 cup water, (divided)
1/4 cup ketchup
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon mustard
Dash cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon plain flour

1. In a large saucepan, brown beef in oil on all sides.
2. Add onion and garlic; cook until onion is tender. Add 1/2 cup of water, ketchup, brown sugar, paprika, Worcestershire sauce, salt, mustard and cayenne; mix well. Bring to the boil.
3. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours or until beef is tender.
4. Combine flour and remaining water until smooth; gradually stir into stew. Bring to the boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Serve over noodles, or with vegetables.

The Grafty Gourmet

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1965

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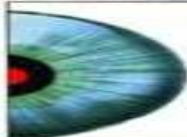
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On this New Year 1630

My favourite memorial in St. Nicholas church is to Dr Leonell Sharpe described as a "constant preacher for 40 years upward of the free saving grace of Jesus Christ." Dr Sharpe was chaplain to the Earl of Essex; then to Queen Elizabeth ('by her own choice'); Prince Henry and King James.

He died, aged 71, on 1st January 1630. According to the memorial, "He lived cheerfully and died joyfully." Do read the full description of this great man when you are next in Boughton Church. I wonder what he would tell us about life in Boughton Malherbe in the 16th and 17th centuries? What some share with him is faith in Jesus Christ and we can all enjoy the wonderful view which he saw.

On this New Year 2010

There was probably work for every one in 1630. No doubt Dr Sharpe had many servants. Many begin this year unemployed and looking for purpose and direction in life. In the week before Christmas I learned from two friends about needs in different parts of the world.

Rev Joseph Ayok-Loewenberg started 'Under Tree Schools' in the Sudan a few years ago. Joseph is Sudanese and longed for children in that war-torn country to receive education. It being impossible to establish permanent schools Joseph's idea was that children and their teachers could meet under a tree and then escape, with the blackboard and easel, into the bush when fighting began nearby.

Last April a more permanent school was opened in Malek. Naturally finance is a problem but what concerns the Trustees more is the quality of education and they are looking at ways of improving the curriculum. Joseph is hoping to find volunteer teachers from England to work in Malek for a few months or maybe even a year.

After working in Sudan for three years Joseph became Team Vicar in Kidderminster in the autumn. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, do contact him: 01562 637645 or ayokloewenberg@fastmail.fm

Next an opportunity nearer to home. Another friend is Personnel Officer at L'Arche, Lambeth. I have already written in this magazine about this world-wide organisation which works with people with learning difficulties. My friend is looking for Assistants to live in one of the Lambeth communities. Assistants are paid a regular wage; have Social Security cover and are, naturally provided with accommodation and board. Kate (020 8655 9622 or assistants.lambeth@larche.org.uk) can provide full details.

Joan Drury



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The January Night Sky

The Sun is in the constellation of Sagittarius at the start of January, and moving into Capricornus on the 20th January. The Earth is at perihelion (its closest to the Sun) on 3rd January. Now that we have passed the Winter Solstice we can expect the days to gradually get longer.

New Moon occurs on Friday 15th January, and Full Moon on Saturday 30th January. Due to an optical illusion the Full Moon always appears larger as it is rising. However, this month it will appear even larger as it is near perigee, (its closest to the Earth).

Mercury passes almost directly in front of the Sun on 4th January. But on the 27th it reaches its greatest distance west of the Sun, so there is a chance to glimpse this small planet in the southeast at dawn. Venus is at superior conjunction (almost directly behind the Sun) on 11th January, so it will not be possible to see the brilliant planet this month. Mars rises in the northeast at sunset, and this month is at its closest to the Earth. Mars is moving steadily northwest from the constellations of Leo into Cancer.

It will be very difficult to see Jupiter this month, as the giant planet is low in the south- west at dusk, and disappears below the horizon during the course of the month. Saturn is rising in the east just before midnight, and is high in the southern sky at about 5 am. It will appear almost stationary in the constellation of Virgo.

There is yet another meteor shower this month known as the Quadrantids. They are expected to peak in the evening of Sunday 3rd January, but it will be better to look in the early hours of Sunday or Monday. The meteors appear to radiate from a point between the handle of the Plough and the bright star Vega to the North.

Some of you may have read that Britain is to set up its own NASA-like agency to take the country into a new space age. The new organisation has not yet been named, but it is expected to be called the British Space Agency, and will represent this country in all dealings with its international partners. We will be following Germany, France and Italy, who all have individual national space agencies backed up by single budgets.

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Music Notes, January 2010

After a luxury of musical events to celebrate Christmas, January is rather thin, apart from pantomimes; however, here are a few January events:

- Tuesday 6th January, 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Week St., Maidstone – Maidstone Choral Union ‘s Twelfth Night Concert. Entrance free, retiring collection.
- Friday 22nd January, 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Music society presents a concert including Beethoven’s *Violin Sonata Op 12 No2* and Brahms *Horn Trio in E Flat Op 40..* Details 07710 425575.
- Saturday 23th January at 7.30pm in Canterbury Cathedral – The Canterbury Choral Society Winter Concert. Details 01227 787787 .

The Month’s Good Cause - Kenward Trust

Started when Ray and Violet Sinden provided accommodation on their farm for an old man who spent his nights on a bench on the London Embankment, today Kenward Trust offers residential accommodation to more than 100 men and women, with 25 therapy places across Kent and East Sussex. The work is carried out at six primary residential rehabilitation centres, four secondary supported housing projects and two day recovery centres. The trust receives some funding through “Provision of Care” on behalf of local authorities, and some residents contribute themselves. However, there is a significant shortfall, and additionally Kenward Trust elects to support some who are classified as “unsuitable” to obtain funding under the Care in the Community Act. For example, the recently refurbished Kenwood House provided opportunity for resettlement of offenders after completion of prison terms.

Consequently fund-raising to maintain and improve the service provided is constantly required. The trust has asked the Churches of our Diocese, and individuals, to help bring new life from addiction to those who consider themselves to be worthless.

Kenward Trust is a registered charity no. 265394. You can add your help by including them in your prayers and by sending donations to Angela Harris at Kenward House, Yalding, Kent ME18 6AH. Further information is available on website www.kenwardtrust.org.uk

How to Stow Luggage – for four passengers

(Seasonal advice for those travelling to relations, from “Newnes motorists touring guide”)

“Where four passengers are carried resort will have to be made to the luggage grid, and care must be taken to prevent this fixture being overloaded. I have always found it best to store all the luggage which is to be carried in this position in a single trunk, which I cover with an old army ground sheet to protect it from rain and dirt. The ground sheet, by the way, should be wrapped round the trunk. Three straps are required to secure the trunk, two being passed from back to front and one from side to side. This precaution is necessary to counteract the lateral motion of the car.

When using the rear luggage grid it is as well to bear in mind that on no account must the rear number plate be at all obstructed, for if the police consider it not visible from every reasonable point of view one stands a fair chance of being fined.

A grid, working on the ‘lazy-tongs’ principle can be fitted to the offside running board, and one or two suit cases conveniently carried there. Failing that...[here the author explains at length how to construct further support ‘from four metal loops such as an iron monger would supply and a pair of rubber door stops’].”

Our edition of the guide published in the late 1920's was sold at The Great Leeds Book Sale but, in response to popular request, the facility to publish extracts has been allowed to continue for the time being, subject to the editor's approval.



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Christian Message

It is at this time of year that many of us are looking at getting our bodies in shape after the excesses of the Christmas and New Year celebrations behind us and thoughts of Summer holidays in front of us. Some of us will be reconsidering our diets and some of us will also be thinking about our fitness. I have just seen a picture of two muscular bodybuilders. There they are with biceps bulging, sinews stretching, and veins popping. They really do have muscles where I didn't know there might be muscles, but on reflection, although I admit I would like to look a little fitter, I really would not want to go to the point of becoming the female version of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

There is though a sense in which we all need to build ourselves up, and I am speaking now in terms of our relationship with Christ. Faith is not something that grows automatically, like some seed we can plant and then forget about it until the fruits start to appear. It needs to be nourished and nurtured, so that it will develop in the way it should, strong and healthy. We might pray the occasional prayer, we might even dip into our favourite Bible verses on the odd occasion, but feeding ourselves with the same lesson repeatedly. Our faith requires a diet that will both sustain and help us grow. We might not be turned on by the statue of someone like Arnold Schwarzenegger, but we should be thinking of the statue of Christ in our lives. That, though, is still only part of it because faith also needs to be exercised if it is to stay in shape, put through its paces in the daily treadmill of life. Our thoughts should be turning not only to our physical shape, but also to our spiritual well being. Are we content to be spiritual weaklings, or do we aspire to grow strong.

And so my question this month is in three parts,

1. Does your faith need building up?
2. Is your faith in need of some exercise? And
3. What are you going to do about it?

Let's not be content with a flabby, couch-potato faith that is so out of condition it is doomed to collapse and die. A Happy, Healthy 2010 to you all!

Millie Hart

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the new timetable up to 18th April 2010. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc.

Grafty Green

Sunday 21st Feb 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Sunday 18th Apr

Platts Heath

Sunday 21st Feb 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane
Sunday 18th Apr

Ulcombe

Sunday 21st Feb 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road
Sunday 18th Apr

Lenham

Sunday 14th Mar 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Road - Boughton Lane

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

This web site also hosts all the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and gives details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – January 2010

3rd January Epiphany

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise Service
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Praise Service

10th January Baptism of Christ

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Morning Worship
11am Lenham Morning Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe Choral Evensong
7pm Taize Service Bearsted

17th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion (Sung)
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship

24th January The Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Praise Service
11am Lenham Family Praise Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

31st January Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10am Benefice Service Harrietsham
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Diving	Bottoms	Ringer	Bell
2	Gold	Puppet	Print	Finger
3	Snap	Chinese	Fly	Dragon
4	Night	Horse	Line	Clothes
5	Scrap	Polish	Work	Metal
6	Level	White	Free	Sprit
7	Board	Sticking	Cast	Plaster
8	Drinking	Sleeping	Sparting	Partner
9	Kingdom	Nations	Manchester	United
10	Evil	Operer	Private	Eye
11	Front	Spare	Flat	Tyre
12	Mel	Collector	Return	Ticket
13	Services	Democrat	Worker	Social
14	Tunnel	British	Islands	Channel
15	Gas	Bag	Wind	Pipe
16	Point	Cold	Throat	Sore

	Find the missing word?
1	Clive Swift , Played Richard Bucket in Keeping Up Appearances
2	Bright Eyes, 1979 No 1 for Art Garfunkel
3	From Russia With Love, a James Bond Film
4	Belinda Carlisle, Singer of Heaven is a Place on Earth
5	Lisa Minnette , Star of the 1972 Film Cabaret
6	Ike Turner , Former husband of Tina
7	Son of a Preacher Man, A hit for Dusty Springfield
8	The Waltons , US family drama set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia
9	Sacha Baron Cohen, Comedy character Ali G
10	Martin Kemp , Singer in Spandau Ballet

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