

Malherbe Monthly

Number 78 - January 2011



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 |
| Dazzle | Gail Kelly | 850671 |
| Yoga | Sue Burch | 850381 |
| 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 | |
| Malherbe Monthly Production Team | | |
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| John Collins | Treasurer | 850213 |

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!

Anything for the **February** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th January**

Front cover: View from inside the gate at Boughton Malherbe Church taken in December 2010 by Christine King

News from St. Nicholas Church

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The Launch of the Book Boughton Malherbe- A Journey through Time

What a successful and happy occasion this was - a hall full of people expectantly awaiting a glimpse of the much talked of history of our parish and we were not disappointed. It's a great read and good just to dip into to clarify a fact. Well done and thank you to the four authors who have put this together for us all to enjoy. Anyone who lives in or has a connection with this village will realise what a great achievement the writing of this book is. I'm sure that little snippets of history will be printed in this magazine from time to time as they have accumulated so much information during their researches. Thank you all so much.

Carol Service

Sadly we had to cancel the Carol Service on 19th December because the road to St. Nicholas was so icy that only 4x4s (and then with great difficulty) could climb the hill to the church. The carol service did take place on Christmas Eve with the Crib Blessing within the service. Thank you to everyone who braved the elements to come. The church looked magical with twinkling candles, tree lights making the decorations shimmer and the soft light in the crib awaiting the baby Jesus. Thank you to everybody who helped to get this service up and running - preparing mulled wine, mince pie makers, the choir, organist and Joan who lead the proceedings. Thanks to all Lessons' readers too.

The Church Hill was still very icy so it was decided with great regret to cancel the Christmas Day service of Holy Communion as a night of heavy frost was forecasted.

Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning in the Village Hall on 8th December was well supported in spite of the snow - thanks to those who made the effort to come. We shall be holding the January coffee morning in the Village Hall, Grafty Green on the 11th, but the time will be a little later **10.30-12.00 noon**. Do come and have a chat with a coffee or tea and a slice of cake or a biscuit - it will help to brighten your day in the long month of January.

Church Decorating

I would like to thank the ladies who came up to St. Nicholas on Friday 17th to help decorate the Church for Christmas through the icy weather with thick snow on the ground and also the family who provided and decorated our Christmas tree.

Carol Singing

A group of us went Carol Singing on 15th visiting the Old Rectory (many thanks for the refreshments). We also sang at March Farm to Roy and Audrey Wickens and then on to the Kings Head. Thank you Eve for your refreshments too. Most of all thank you to all of you who came along to swell our numbers especially to our friends from France - Jim and Beverley of Hat Trick. We had a most enjoyable evening, come and join us next year.

Joan Davidson

Power Cuts

The priority assigned to an electrical power cut or fault is related to the number of affected supplies. Diagnosing the location of a fault is aided by a complete knowledge of which supplies are and are not affected.

UK Power Networks (who have replaced EDF as the regions distributor) will assume that supplies that have not reported a fault are likely not affected. Last but not least - they won't fix what they don't know about.

On Sunday 19th December the fault affecting approximately a third of Grafty Green would probably have been fixed hours earlier had everyone reported it as soon as they knew about it.

Nick Eastwood



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Neighbourhood Forum



HAVE YOUR SAY!

**ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
THEIR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**Rural North & East – 20 January 2011, 7.00 pm
at St John CEP School, Provender Way, Grove Green**

**We would like to hear from residents about issues they may
have that affect their local community.**

**Issues raised can then be discussed at the Neighbourhood
Forum. We will arrange for the right people to attend the
meeting (depending on the issue to be discussed) and find
ways to help resolve the issue.**

Please email your issue to neighbourhoodforums@maidstone.gov.uk
or telephone:-

Janet Barnes (Maidstone Borough Council) on 01622 602242 or
Steve Charman (Kent County Council) on 01622 694008

Future Meetings:-

Rural North & East – 11 April 2011 @ Madginford Hall, Bearsted

**www.kent.gov.uk
www.maidstone.gov.uk**



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

| | Find the missing word? |
|----|---|
| 1 | _____ Pickett, Legendary US Soul Singer |
| 2 | Total _____ of the Heart, A No 1 hit for Bonnie Tyler |
| 3 | A Year in _____, John Thaw and Lindsay Duncan as British expats in France |
| 4 | _____ All Hours, Sitcom with Ronnie Barker |
| 5 | Ginger _____, Fred Astaire's long time dance partner |
| 6 | _____ Ferdinand, Scottish rock band who had a bit hit with Take Me Out |
| 7 | Comfortably _____, Famous Pink Floyd track |
| 8 | _____ Fowlds, Veteran TV actor in Heartbeat |
| 9 | No _____ No Cry, Classic Bob Marley single |
| 10 | _____ Cowell, Judge on the X Factor |



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Maidstone - Chart Sutton - Kingswood - Grafty Green
59
Mondays to Fridays
Saturdays

| Service No | School Days Only | | | | Not School Days Only | | | | School Days Only | | | | Not School Days Only | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|---------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| | 59 | 59 | 59 | 66 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Maidstone, King St, Stop L2 | 0948 | 1227 | 1402 | ..... | 1555 | 1555 | 1615 | 1700 | 1750 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0836 | 1241 | 1525 | 1755 |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn, J4 | 0950 | 1229 | 1404 | ..... | 1557 | 1557 | 1617 | 1702 | 1752 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0840 | 1243 | 1527 | 1757 |
| Wheatshaf | 0957 | 1236 | 1411 | ..... | 1604 | 1604 | 1624 | 1709 | 1759 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0847 | 1250 | 1534 | 1804 R |
| Loose, Loose Rd/Old Loose Hill | 1001 | 1240 | 1415 | ..... | 1608 | 1608 | via | 1713 | 1803 | ..... | ..... | ..... | via | 1254 | 1538 | ..... |
| Linton Corner | 1005 | 1244 | 1419 | ..... | 1612 | 1612 | Sutton | 1717 | 1807 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Sutton | 1258 | 1542 | ..... |
| Cornwallis Academy | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1505 | ..... | ..... | Road | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Road | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion | 1010 | 1249 | 1424 | ..... | 1617 | 1617 | and | 1722 | 1812 | ..... | ..... | ..... | and | 1303 | 1547 | 1817 R |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn | 1013 | 1252 | 1427 | 1509 | 1620 | 1620 | Langley | 1725 | 1815 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Langley | 1306 | 1550 | 1820 R |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head | 1016 | 1255 | 1430 | 1512 | 1623 | 1623 | ..... | 1728 | 1818 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1309 | 1553 | 1823 R |
| Warmlake Corner | 1019 | 1258 | 1433 | 1515 | ..... | 1626 | 1636 | 1731 | 1821 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0859 | 1312 | 1556 | 1826 R |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive | ..... | 1306 | ..... | 1523 | ..... | 1634 | 1646 | ..... | 1829 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0907 | 1320 | 1604 | 1834 R |
| Kingswood, Village Hall | 1024 | 1308 | 1438 | 1525 | ..... | 1636 | 1648 | 1739 | 1831 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0909 | 1322 | ..... | 1836 R |
| Ulcombe, Post Office | ..... | 1313 | ..... | 1530 | ..... | 1641 | 1653 | ..... | 1836 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0914 | 1327 | ..... | 1841 R |
| Grafty Green, Kings Head | ..... | 1320 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1648 | 1700 | ..... | 1843 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0921 | 1334 | ..... | 1848 R |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1535 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1544 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

CODES

* - These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council by Nu-Venture (Tel:01622-852288) NOT Arriva. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QG.

R. Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

2

Grafty Green - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Maidstone
59
Mondays to Fridays
Saturdays

| Service No | School Days Only | | | | Not School Days Only | | | | Not School Days Only | | | | School Days Only | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| | 59 | 59 | 59 | 66 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0736 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0745 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Grafty Green, Kings Head | 0720 | ..... | 0723 | ..... | 0915 | ..... | 1325 | ..... | 1703 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0733 | 0923 | 1336 | ..... |
| Ulcombe, Post Office | 0727 | ..... | 0730 | 0750 | 0922 | ..... | 1332 | ..... | 1710 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0740 | 0930 | 1343 | ..... |
| Kingswood, Village Hall | 0732 | ..... | 0735 | 0755 | 0927 | 1027 | 1337 | 1440 | 1440 | 1715 | ..... | ..... | 0745 | 0935 | 1348 | 1604 |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive | 0735 | ..... | 0738 | 0757 | 0929 | 1029 | 1339 | 1442 | 1442 | 1717 | ..... | ..... | 0747 | 0937 | 1350 | 1608 |
| Warmlake Corner | 0743 | ..... | 0744 | 0801 | 0935 | 1035 | 1345 | 1448 | 1448 | 1723 | ..... | ..... | 0753 | 0943 | 1356 | 1612 |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head | via | 0739 | 0747 | 0804 | 0938 | 1038 | 1348 | 1451 | 1451 | 1726 | ..... | ..... | 0756 | 0946 | 1359 | via |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn | Langley | 0742 | 0750 | 0807 | 0941 | 1041 | 1351 | 1454 | 1454 | 1729 | ..... | ..... | 0759 | 0949 | 1402 | Langley |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion | and | 0745 | 0753 | ..... | 0944 | 1044 | 1354 | 1457 | 1457 | 1732 | ..... | ..... | 0802 | 0952 | 1405 | and |
| Cornwallis Academy | Sutton | ..... | ..... | 0820 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1507 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Sutton |
| Linton Corner | Road | 0750 | 0758 | ..... | 0949 | 1049 | 1359 | 1502 | 1509 | 1737 | ..... | ..... | 0807 | 0957 | 1410 | Road |
| Loose, Loose Rd/Old Loose Hill | ..... | 0756 | 0802 | ..... | 0953 | 1053 | 1403 | 1506 | 1513 | 1741 | ..... | ..... | 0811 | 1001 | 1414 | ..... |
| Wheatshaf | 0756 | 0800 | 0805 | ..... | 0957 | 1057 | 1407 | 1510 | 1517 | 1745 | ..... | ..... | 0815 | 1005 | 1418 | 1624 |
| Maidstone, King Street | ..... | 0810 | 0814 | ..... | 1005 | 1105 | 1415 | 1518 | 1525 | 1753 | ..... | ..... | 0820 | 1013 | 1426 | 1632 |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn | 0808 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| London Rd, Somerfield Hospital | 0817 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park | 0826 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Sundays & Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

3

Pet's Corner!

Pets in Focus - The Rabbit!

There has been some debate in the news recently as to whether we are neglecting our pet rabbits! Tales of lonely rabbits kept in too-small hutches with poor diets, no exercise or social contact make sad news, indeed. However, these fascinating and highly inquisitive pets are relatively easy to look after providing a few simple steps are taken.

Companionship

Rabbits are social animals so if you are unable to provide that companionship yourself, it is best to provide another rabbit as company for your pet. Females (does) that are introduced when young will generally get along together, and males (bucks) can be neutered to be kept in pairs together or with females.

Exercise

Combined with a good diet, a rabbit who has regular access to fresh air and the opportunity to exercise will be far healthier, less prone to obesity (leading to fly strike and feet problems), and be less likely to exhibit certain behaviour problems. You should provide a large hutch (at least 6' long) and tall enough to allow your rabbit to stand upright. Rabbits dislike extreme weathers so provide shade and a draft-proof shelter at all times. Rabbits are excellent jumpers and diggers so bear this in mind when providing exercise pens.



Diet

To prevent selective feeding (eating the tasty bits and not the nutritious pellets) it is best to feed rabbits a good quality, complete, pelleted food.

This should be fed in small amounts as recommended on the packaging. The bulk of the diet should be fresh, leafy greens and natural forage such as grass and dandelions, with a good quality hay (check for dust and mould - it should smell fresh!) Long grass and hay provide excellent abrasive grinding material to maintain healthy teeth (these grow continuously throughout the rabbit's life) as well as helping the gut to function effectively! Carrots and apples can be fed in small amounts.

If your rabbit becomes inappetent or stops eating altogether, always seek veterinary attention urgently as "gut stasis" can occur and can be life-threatening.



Article written by
Lesley Still, Petaholics Ltd.
www.petaholicsltd.co.uk

Vaccination

All rabbits should be regularly vaccinated against myxomatosis. This common and often fatal disease is passed on by blood sucking insects such as midges and fleas, and usually peaks around autumn. Vaccination is also recommended against viral haemorrhagic disease, another widespread disease which usually results in the sudden death of the rabbit.

"Fly Strike"

Rabbits pass soft droppings which are eaten again straight from the anus. These then pass back through the digestive tract and are then passed as hard, round droppings. If your rabbit suffers from dental problems, is arthritic or overweight, they are not able to eat these soft droppings and they stick to their bottom, attracting flies. The flies lay their eggs on your rabbit, which hatch into maggots. This horrific disease is common and products from your vet are available to prevent fly strike. Fly screens, cleanliness of toileting areas, treatment of dental problems and obesity and checking your rabbit's bottom every day during the summer can help prevent this problem.

Useful websites:

www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk
www.houserabbit.co.uk
www.burgesspetcare.co.uk

Contact Details for Local Police Officers

Your Local Police Officers can be contacted at Maidstone Police Station on 01622 604392, or stop us when you see us patrolling the village !!

PC Paul Kemslet and PCSO Siobhan de Burca

E-Mail: maidstonerural.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

With the end of term upon us, the snow returned for a second time. It affected our Christmas Service, which was moved to the school, but otherwise the term ended with the usual level of happiness as we all looked forward to Christmas.

In the last two and a bit weeks of term there were several events for the children, parents and the wider community to enjoy. Snow was just one of them, with school being forced to remain closed for one day. The penultimate week ended with the FUS Christmas Fayre. This was a very enjoyable and successful evening, with Father Christmas coming to see us, as well as a whole variety of stalls and activities.

The last week saw our younger pupils performing Shine, Star, Shine. Alongside this, the Drama Club performed an entertaining version of the Nativity. Also during the final week the children had a very enjoyable Christmas Party. The final morning was the time for our Christmas Service, when we took time to reflect on and celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world as a baby.

For some more really good news, Kent County Council has granted planning permission for an extension to be built here at Ulcombe CE Primary School. The main objective is to have a library which will inspire children to read, but we hope we can all use the space for much more than this. If there are sufficient funds we also hope to improve safety and security at our main entrance, as well as completing some much needed improvements to the office areas. We hope that the architects will be able to work with Maidstone Borough Council to find a way forward that will maximize the revenue from the sale of the surplus land, whilst not unnecessarily impacting upon our neighbours.

Thank You For ...

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who have given up your time and energy to come into school to support the children, whether hearing children read, working with groups, coming on a trip or running a club. The help given is very much appreciated by us all.

After the Fireworks Night the FUS quickly turned their attention to the Christmas Fayre, and this was another great event. Thank you to those who helped to organize the event, and to all of you who came along to support it. The Christmas Cake raffle has been another great success and very many thanks go to Mrs Arundel for this, as well as to everyone who bought a ticket. Well done to Mrs Bolton who won the cake this year.

Our thanks also go to everyone who has helped with any of our Christmas activities, from helping children to learn lines to providing party food to manning stalls. Without your help the last two weeks of term would not have been such a wonderful success.

Of course, my thanks go to all of the staff team for their energy and hard work throughout this term, including keeping our rural school open when some schools in the towns struggled! On behalf of all of the staff team, may I thank you for the best wishes, cards and gifts that staff have received. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity.

What Word Goes Before Play, Party, Dinner and Service?

The **Christmas Play** this year was an extremely enjoyable one called Shine, Star, Shine. It told the story of a star that could not shine, until it was over the stable in Bethlehem. Well done to all of our actors, including Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, the stars and the angels. (I know many of you would agree that our school is full of wise men, stars and angels!) Our Drama Club played out a second drama for us, called The Nativity. This was a very funny re-telling of the story. For those of you who were there, I can assure you that Joseph did get his shoes back!

The school **Christmas Party** on Tuesday 14th December was another hugely enjoyable occasion. The children took part in a very amusing dance competition, before an even more amusing karaoke. We even had time for party games and some food. The School **Christmas Dinner** on Wednesday 15th December, when the children were joined by staff and governors, was also a great occasion. Our thanks go, in particular, to Mrs Mercer, the school cook, for whom this was her first time cooking a Christmas Dinner!

Our **Christmas Service**, which should have been at All Saints Parish Church, was moved to the school for safety reasons. It was lovely to be joined by friends and family for this service. We hope you enjoyed being part of this as much as we did.

Friends of Ulcombe School

The Christmas Fayre took place on Friday 10th December. There was a wide variety of stalls including activities and competitions as well as things to buy and even refreshments. Our Fayre is so good even Father Christmas comes to see us.

Well done to everyone who won a prize on one of the tombola stalls, who entered the 'Look Up At the Stars' competition, or took part in any of the other activities. As well as all of the school community who were there, our thanks go to our friends from the village who came to sell things they had made. Mrs Williams has asked me to pass on the FUS's thanks to everyone who donated an item for the tombola stalls. We are all very aware that there are a small number of us, and both the quantity and quality of donations helped to make the tombola stalls such a success.

The combination of Mrs Arundel's Christmas Cake Raffle and the Christmas Fayre raised more than £900. This is an absolutely fantastic sum. Well done to everyone involved.

Charity Begins at ... Ulcombe!

This autumn has seen a fantastic amount of fundraising, not just for the school and FUS, but for charities, too. Early on in the autumn we raised over **£60 for the Kent Air Ambulance** by taking part in Funky Footwear Friday. The **Poppy Appeal** received **£42.27** from our collection in November. Just a couple of weeks ago we sent **seventeen shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child**, to be distributed to those in need elsewhere in the world. Most recently, donations made at our performances of Shine, Star, Shine and our Christmas Service totaled **£58.30 for RSPCA**.

The most amazing amount was back in mid-November, though. **Children In**

Need took centre stage. I am thrilled to let you know that our small village school raised a **massive £507**. This is a phenomenal amount and a hard act to follow next year!

Shorts

Primary School Choices – Please remember that parents of children starting in Reception in September 2011 need to apply for places by Saturday 15th January. Please pass this on to anyone you know with children approaching school age.

Clubs – These will start during the week beginning Monday 10th January. There will be a new clubs letter at the start of the new term.

In the event of bad weather – We will use the text messaging service, our school web-site and contact local radio stations. If you do not hear from us you can assume the school will be open, however ...

Stay safe – Please make sure that you all travel safely to and from school in this cold, icy weather. Don't forget your seat belts and booster seats!

Finally, may I take this opportunity to send you all the very best wishes for 2011, on behalf of all of the staff here at Ulcombe CE Primary School. Please remember that if you have any questions about what happens here at school you can visit our web-site, send us an e-mail, telephone us, or even pop in.

Mr V Hampton *Head Teacher*

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Proposed development at Ivy Farm

You may be aware that a planning application has been submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for a proposed development at Ivy Farm on Liverton Hill. This application is being submitted under the PPS7 section of Planning Law that allows development to be undertaken in isolated rural locations that would not normally be entertained under normal planning law.

This PPS7 states that "Very occasionally the exceptional quality and innovative nature of the design of a proposed, isolated new house may provide this special justification for granting planning permission. Such a design should be truly outstanding and ground-breaking, for example, in its use of materials, methods of construction or its contribution to protecting and enhancing the environment, so helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas. The value of such a building will be found in its reflection of the highest standards in contemporary architecture, the significant enhancement of its immediate setting and its sensitivity to the defining characteristics of the local area."

Should you have any views on this application you can submit your comments to the below address stating the applicable Planning Application Ref.

Planning Department
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone Gateway
King Street
Maidstone, Kent
ME15 6JQ

Further details and full documentation can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/WCHVARYLOGIN.display>

Click on **Search for a planning application** and then complete the box that asks for the **Planning Reference** and click on **Search**

Planning Application Ref: **10/2029**: Erection of a PPS7 house with ancillary energy centre building housing an aerobic digester, including access, ecological enhancements and landscaping including new pond. Case Officer: Chris Hawkins

Planning Application Ref: **10/2030**: Application for the prior approval of the local planning authority for the formation of a reservoir. Case Officer: Kevin Hope

You only have a short time to submit your views - the deadline was 29th Dec 2010 but this has now been extended until 13th January 2011 - Get your comment in early - every response will be considered.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

The New Year, make it a flexible, balanced and energised start to 2011 and join my yoga class; all abilities catered for and beginners welcome.

Classes led by Sue Burch, British Wheel of Yoga trained

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm

Term starts Wednesday 5th January - 16th February
and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am

Term starts Thursday 6th January - 17th February

The term will run for seven weeks and the fee is £35. 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

Incorporating Yoga into your lifestyle relieves the stress from the fast-paced world we live in and lead you to a stronger, flexible body and clearer mind.

Re-scheduled due to bad weather in
December. Your previously purchased
tickets are valid for this event

Grafty Green Christmas Quiz

Saturday 15th January 2011
at

The Village Hall
Grafty Green

7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

Tickets £6.50

(this price includes a sausage and chip supper and mince pies)

Licensed Bar, Free nibbles

All proceeds to be donated to St Nicholas Church
Boughton Malherbe





News from Platts Heath Primary School

Snow School...Snow Fayre....The Snow Must Go On.....!

What a month!!

Snow seemed to be the order of the day for a large part of the month and did not pass without incident!

Unfortunately we had to close the school on the Thursday and Friday at the beginning of the month due to difficulties with staff and pupils getting into school.

A further cancellation was the annual Christmas Fayre which was due to be held on Saturday 4 December. Although the snow was disappearing by the Saturday, the amount of preparation and planning that typically happens on the Friday and Saturday morning could not be done due to the snow. It was therefore with regret that we had to cancel the Fayre.

We still went ahead with the Grand Raffle and thanks to everyone who bought tickets, including the residents of Platts Heath who were door-knocked on the Friday and, as ever, kindly took part. Well done to all those who were lucky to win one of the fabulous prizes and, for those who were not so fortunate, there is always the Summer Fayre!

We decided to stage a much smaller version of the Fayre on Thursday 16th December after school and were pleased to use the St Edmunds Centre which was transformed into a mini Christmas Bazaar.

Through both the raffle and the mini Fayre we are pleased to announce that we raised a total of £850 which will go a long way towards providing 'extras' for the children and the school.

The children and staff enjoyed a visit to the Pantomime in Maidstone at the end of the term which everyone enjoyed and parents were treated to a Nativity play from the Key Stage 1 children and a Carol Concert at St Mary's in

Lenham by the Key Stage 2 children. Everyone performed fantastically well and had fun doing so.

Again, due to snow, we had to cancel our Fairy Day, when we welcome parents and children for the September intake to come and look around our lovely school. This was re-scheduled to a week later and we were pleased to entertain potential future students and parents and hope that they enjoyed themselves.

This term the children have been learning about Christmas around the world and, at the end of term, one parent baked a traditional Greek sponge cake flavoured with orange zest and orange juice and decorated with icing sugar and the numbers 2011. Each child was given a piece to take home. In Greece it is traditionally eaten on New Year's Eve. Inside the cake is hidden a coin and the person that finds the coin is said to have good luck for the forthcoming year – perhaps they could wish for a Summer Fayre with no gales and a Christmas Fayre with no snow!!!

The school returns on 5th January for a brand new year and lots of new discoveries and challenges to face.

Everyone at Platts Heath School would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Piers Anscomb *Head Teacher*



THE BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY

wishes to thank all those who attended the launch of our book on the history of the Parish on December 14th

We are sure that everyone will agree it was a very successful evening.

Unfortunately we have been hampered in our attempts to distribute free copies that were not collected on the 14th December by the severe weather conditions before the holiday period and whilst we will distribute the remainder as soon as possible it would be helpful, should you want your copy urgently, if you could contact Ron Galton on 01622 850369 to arrange collection. Extra copies are still available at £15 each. We apologise for any inconvenience



NEW sessions @ LYC



**Lenham Youth Centre has changed the way
we work! Come in & find out more!**

Tuesday night is open to 11 - 19 year olds

Try dance, dodgeball, darts and photography!

Wednesday night is for 13+ night

Come and chill out with your friends, try archery, arts & crafts and indoor sports!

Thursday is the new Award Night

A new opportunity to do your Duke of Edinburgh Award sections, Butterfly Awards, Youth Achievement Awards and the new Arts Award! Come & try out the club free of charge!

Friday fun for all - open to 13 - 19 year olds

Hang out with your mates, play football, cooking, hockey, the choices are endless...

Plus our usual day trips out, residentials (UK & abroad) information & advice, karaoke, themed nights and much, much more!



JANUARY



Happy New Year 2011

Date

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY



Tue 4th

Closed for ALL staff team meeting

Wed 5th

New Years Resolutions & Music

Thurs 6th

Awards Night - D of E, YAA, Arts Award

Fri 7th

Disability sports with Paul & thank you cards



Tues 11th

Intro to photography with Luke

Wed 12th

Recipe invention night - cooking on a budget

Thurs 13th

Awards Night - D of E, YAA, Arts Award

Fri 14th

Audible football and games night

Tues 18th

Dance workshop & Holocaust Memorial Day 27th

Wed 19th

D of E - What's it all about??

Thurs 20th

Awards Night - D of E, YAA, Arts Award

Fri 21st

Bacon butties - stereotypes & prejudice



Tues 25th

Burn's Night - Write a poem about it!

Wed 26th

Australia Day celebrations - blind food tasting

Thurs 27th

Awards Night - D of E, YAA, Arts Award

Fri 28th

SOS RNLI night



The Grafty Gourmet

This is another easy recipe. You don't always have to use beef to make a chilli. This recipe uses chicken, or alternatively, you can use any leftover turkey from Christmas. Serve with rice or Tortillas.

Spicy Chicken Chilli

Serves 4

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 tablespoons cooking oil | 4 teaspoons chilli powder |
| 2 jalapeño peppers, seeds and ribs removed, chopped | ½ teaspoon fresh-ground black pepper |
| 1 onion, chopped | 1 tablespoon ground cumin |
| 1 tin of chopped tomatoes | ½ cup chopped fresh coriander (optional) |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 2 teaspoons dried oregano |
| 2 ½ cups chicken stock | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 4 chicken breasts, cut into thin strips | 1 cup grated mature cheddar cheese |
| 1 tin drained and rinsed red kidney beans | |

1. In a large saucepan, heat the oil over a low heat. Add the onion and garlic; cook until they start to soften, about 3 minutes.
2. Increase the heat to moderate and stir in the chicken strips. Cook until they are no longer pink. Stir in the chilli powder, cumin, oregano, and salt. Add the jalapeños, the tin of tomatoes and the broth. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, cover, and simmer for 15 minutes.
3. Uncover the saucepan and stir in the beans and black pepper. Simmer until the chilli is thickened, about 15 minutes longer. If you find the sauce is not thickening, cheat and add a little cornflower and stir in until it thickens.
4. Serve topped with the cilantro and grated cheese.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Grafty Green Gardening Club programme for 2011. Membership is £5 for the year. Visitors are welcome at any of the meetings. Further information from Sue Burch 850381

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Jan 4 | AGM and Dr Charlesworth | Down Derry Lavender |
| Feb 1 | Neil Arnold | Weird Animals in Kent |
| Mar1 | Greg Hitchcock | Insects in the garden |
| April 5 | Spring Show / Laurie Manser | A garden boys life of 60 years ago |
| Sat. 9 th April | Rumwood Nursery discount day | |
| Saturday April 30 | Outing - Pashley Manor | Tulip festival |
| June 7 | Outing private garden –Westways, St.Faiths Lane Bearsted | |
| July 5 | Coach outing to Salutation Garden in Sandwich | £12 Plus entry fee pp |
| August 2 | Outing Knowle Hill Farm, Elizabeth Cairns | 6.30 pm |
| Sept 6 | Autumn Show - Sue Scrivens | Saltwood Foxglove |
| Sept 24/25 | Weekend to Malvern, Worcestershire, Bank House hotel and Country Club. | Three Counties Autumn show |
| Oct 4 | Brogdale National Fruit Collection | Tasting Apples and Pears |
| Nov 1 | Alison Sollis | Composting |
| Dec 6 | Social | |

Application for membership:

Cheques: make payable to Grafty Green Gardening Club

Send to Doreen Hulm (Treasurer), Lavender Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Name(s) | |
| Address | |
| Telephone | E mail address: |

The lists have already started for the weekend away and the visit to Sandwich; if you are interested in joining these events please let Sue Burch know – 850381

The January Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Sagittarius at beginning of January, and moves into Capricornus on the 20th. The Earth is at **perihelion** (closest to the Sun) on 3rd January.

Last month we had a total lunar eclipse, but this month we have a **Partial Eclipse of the Sun** on the morning of Tuesday 4th January, when the Moon passes almost directly in front of the Sun. When the Sun rises in the southeast, about a third of its left hand side will be hidden by the moon, and as the Sun rises the Moon gradually draws away.

Please do not look directly at the Sun, and certainly not through binoculars or a telescope, as this can permanently damage the eyes. The only safe way is to project the image of the Sun on to a white card or wall.

New Moon occurs on Tuesday 4th January, and Full Moon is on Wednesday 19th January, in the constellation of Cancer.

Mercury is at its greatest distance west of the Sun on 9th January, and rises in the southeast in the early morning. You should just be able to see this elusive planet low down in the twilight sky.

Venus is again a brilliant "Morning Star" this month, low in the south-eastern sky just before sunrise, and will appear a little lower down every morning.

Mars sets less than an hour after the Sun, so again we will not be able to see the "Red Planet" this month.

Jupiter can clearly be seen in the southern-western sky early in the evening, and sets around midnight. It appears as a very bright star with a steady light, and is moving slowly north-eastwards in the constellation of Pisces. Through a telescope the disc of Jupiter can clearly be seen, together with the dark and light cloud bands and some of the four major moons.

Saturn is rising in the east in the early hours of the morning, and is well up in the southern sky at dawn. You will be able to see Venus to the left, which is very much brighter.

The **Quadrantid** meteor shower produces a good display during the first week of January. They appear to radiate from a point in the now disused constellation of Quadrans Muralis, between the bright star Vega and the "handle" of the Plough. This point is low in the north at midnight, and climbs high in the east by dawn. The best time to see the meteors is expected to be in the early hours of Tuesday 4th January.



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

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

| | Word 1 | Word 2 | Word 3 | Answer |
|----|----------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Ledge | Shop | Box | Window |
| 2 | Raffle | Meal | Dream | |
| 3 | Service | Cake | Bag | |
| 4 | Local | Station | Telescope | |
| 5 | Horse | Glasses | Room | |
| 6 | Late | Make | Key | |
| 7 | Wheel | Lance | Fancy | |
| 8 | Forecast | Beaten | Map | |
| 9 | Account | Electric | Under | |
| 10 | Medical | Loan | Art | |
| 11 | Finger | Jelly | Star | |
| 12 | Spring | Red | Ring | |
| 13 | Baking | Siphon | Bread | |
| 14 | Quarters | Friend | Shave | |
| 15 | Poison | Water | Race | |
| 16 | Health | Block | Age | |

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, 2009, 2010 and 2011 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

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Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Weekend Freighter Service up to 28th May 2011.

Grafty Green

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 12 th March | 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd |
| Saturday 21 st May | 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd |

Platts Heath

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday 12 th March | 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane |
| Saturday 21 st May | 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane |

Ulcombe

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday 8 th January | 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens |
| Saturday 19 th March | 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens |
| Saturday 28 th May | 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens |

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Christian Message January 2011

One of the activities on offer after Christmas is the Harrietsham 10 k. This year the race takes place on Monday December 27th, at just the right point to give the participants time to have digested their Christmas and Boxing Day dinners! A word of warning! If you have not been training for weeks, running for at least half an hour and frequently for a whole hour at least twice a week, don't try it! You need to be fit for the Harrietsham 10 k.

Perhaps you've missed out on the chance to train for that one, but what about starting a bit of training for one of the other charity walks or runs during 2011? Now that might be a good New Year's Resolution, to get fit.

On the other hand, perhaps all you want to do is to wish everyone a happy New Year and to hope that this coming New Year is better than the last. That's what we generally do, isn't it? We want to be filled with hope for the New Year.

There are different kinds of hope. First, I guess there are the things we hope for. We hope for good health. We hope for happiness. We hope for peace.

Then we might stop to think what we have hope in. St Paul wrote 'If it is only for this life that we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men'. For Christians have hope in Christ that there is more to life than what we see around us. Jesus Christ, born as a baby at Christmas time, went on to become the Man who died and rose again so that we might have hope in eternal life. Paul also wrote to his friend Timothy reminding him to encourage people 'not to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment'. In these lean times, I guess many of us have found that putting our hope in wealth is fairly meaningless. Putting our hope in God opens the way to a fresh outlook which can transform our lives right into the New Year.

What about those activities which we hope to do this year? We may hope to find a job. We may hope to visit our family more often. We may hope to move house. We may hope to find an opportunity to do the thing we've been longing to do for years, whether it's playing the piano, learning to cook or climbing a mountain. We may hope to help someone have some good experiences. We may hope to get fit, to be ready to try that 10 k next December.

The old saying tells us that where there is life there is hope. Let us pray that those who have been without hope in 2010 may discover a glimmer of hope in 2011. Let us pray that our hope may be fulfilled, that 2011 will see this world becoming a better and fairer place.

Marian Bond
Associate Priest, Len Valley Benefice

‘Who was.....?’ now joins ‘How to.....’!!

Egerton’s Telecottage Computer Centre is now offering Family History researchers the opportunity to do online research every Saturday morning, 10am to noon, during their regular drop-in clinics. For just £2 per 1-hour session you can access a census, parish registers, wills, etc. Pre-booking is advised, so please contact us for more details.

If you feel you need some help in doing family history research then why not book in to one of the Telecottage’s Family History Afternoons. The next scheduled date is Saturdays 28th February, 2 to 4pm.

Dates for the next series of ‘How to.....’ courses are now available:

- How to get started (from the very beginning): Mon 10 & 17 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- How to get on line (for the very first time): Mon 7 & 14 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to get photos from camera to PC: Wed 19 & 26 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- How to edit photos: Wed 2 & 9 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to use the Internet: Thurs 20 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- How to email photos: Mon 21 & 28 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to get started in Word: Mon 7 & 14 Mar, 10am to 12 noon
- How to do more in Word: Mon 28 Mar & 4 Apr, 10am to 12 noon
- How to create a newsletter: Mon 11 & 18 Apr, 10am to 12 noon
- How to turn your photos into greetings cards and postcards: Wed 9 & 16 Mar, 10am to 12 noon
- How to use Social Networks (Facebook): Thurs 17 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to manage files and folders: Fri 28 Jan & 4 Feb, 10am to 12 noon

But if you can’t see what you want – why not ask? You never know, it could be in our next group of courses!

Please ring Carol on 07523 182994 for full details of the Telecottage’s very reasonable costs and any other information you may need.

And don’t forget our drop-in clinic – every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon – come and have a chat and a coffee. You can find us at the Egerton Millennium Hall in the centre of the village.

Music Notes - January

Well, I hope you had a good December, with lots of Christmas music. Don't forget Christmas runs through into January (12th night is the 6th) and then there is more opportunity for Christmassy music during epiphany. Here are a couple of events for you:

Thursday, January 6th, 7.30pm at The Maidstone Leisure Centre, Maidstone Choral Union's deferred Christmas concert, with BAE Systems Brass band. This replaces their advertised 13th night concert at URC Maidstone. Tickets 01622 726193.

Saturday, January 22nd, 7.30pm at Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury Choral Society perform Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. Tickets 01227 787787.

Message for the clergy and churchwardens?

From a poster outside a London Church:
"Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help".

Brian Hardy

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Sunday/Main Services – January 2011

2nd January - Epiphany

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

Saturday 8th January

4.30pm St. Mary's Lenham – "Three Kings Family Party"

9th January – The Baptism of Christ

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

16th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

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

23rd January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

30th January – 4th Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Harrietsham Benefice Holy Communion

6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

The Window Through Which We Look

A young couple moved into a new neighbourhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbour hanging out the washing. "That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better detergent."

Her husband looked on but remained silent. Every time her neighbour hung out her washing to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly! I wonder who taught her?"

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

Joan Drury

Saturday 29th January 2011 at 8am, the Red Lion, Lenham

General Tim Cross CBE will be at the first in a series of men's breakfasts at 8am at the Red Lion, Lenham. Come and listen to General Tim Cross telling stories from and reflecting on his life in the Army on Saturday 29th January at 8am in a talk titled "The moral component of fighting power." Enjoy a good breakfast, hear his story, pose the questions you've always wanted to ask, chat and socialise. Tim Cross has served in the Gulf, Northern Ireland, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Iraq. He is also a Christian.

Call Frank Allen (01622 850559) or Dick Venn (01622 858195) for more details and to book a place (£5 for a full English breakfast). This is the first in a series of men's breakfasts organised by St Mary's Church in Lenham that will be held on the last Saturday of each month – 8am, The Red Lion, Lenham.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

| | | | | |
|----|----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| | Word 1 | Word 2 | Word 3 | Answer |
| 1 | Ledge | Shop | Box | Window |
| 2 | Raffle | Meal | Dream | Ticket |
| 3 | Service | Cake | Bag | Tea |
| 4 | Local | Station | Telescope | Radio |
| 5 | Horse | Glasses | Room | Dark |
| 6 | Late | Make | Key | Shift |
| 7 | Wheel | Lance | Fancy | Free |
| 8 | Forecast | Beaten | Map | Weather |
| 9 | Account | Electric | Under | Current |
| 10 | Medical | Loan | Art | Student |
| 11 | Finger | Jelly | Star | Fish |
| 12 | Spring | Red | Ring | Union |
| 13 | Baking | Siphon | Bread | Soda |
| 14 | Quarters | Friend | Shave | Close |
| 15 | Poison | Water | Race | Rat |
| 16 | Health | Block | Age | Mental |

| | |
|----|--|
| | Find the missing word? |
| 1 | Wilson Pickens, Legendary US Soul Singer |
| 2 | Total Eclipse of the Heart, A No 1 hit for Bonnie Tyler |
| 3 | A Year in Provence, John Thaw and Lindsay Duncan as British expats in France |
| 4 | Open All Hours, Sitcom with Ronnie Barker |
| 5 | Cinger Rogers, Fred Astaire's long time dance partner |
| 6 | Franz Ferdinand, Scottish rock band who had a hit hit with Take Me Out |
| 7 | Comfortably Numb, Famous Pink Floyd track |
| 8 | Derek Fowlds, Veteran TV actor in Heartbeat |
| 9 | No Woman No Cry, Classic Bob Marley single |
| 10 | Simon Cowell, Judge on the X Factor |

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BEDDING PLANTS
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BIRD TABLES
BOOKS
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