

Malherbe Monthly

Number 89 December 2011



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

	JN MALHERDE/URAFII UREE		
County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897	
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson	890200	
	Richard Thick	891224	
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348	
Church wardens	Joan Davidson	891224 858348 850210 858350 850387 rnet.com 853583 et.com 850381 850287 850381 850381 850381 850381 858350 850381 858350 850381 858350 850381 858350 850381 858350 850381 858350 850381 858350 859753 net.com 859766 pn 850604 pn 858208 by Post 01580 754300	
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350	
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387	
Other Village Hall issues	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@btinternet.com	853583	
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766	
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381	
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287	
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671	
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381	
Neighbourhood	Keith Anderson	858350	
Watch	Sue Burch	850381	
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email:	858195	
U	dickvenn@gmail.co.uk		
0	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon)	afternoon)	
Curate	e Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: mille.hart@uwclub.net 859		
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766	
	Michelle Saunders email:		
	churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	050604	
Benefice Office	Office opening times as 9am – 12noon	850604	
	Monday - Thursday		
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.40pm		
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208	
Erech Eich deliver	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post	01580	
Fresh Fish delivery	Office	754300	
Weekend Freighter	See article in magazine		
	alherbe Monthly Production Team	•	
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937	
Mike Hitchins Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com			
WIRC Intennis	Editor. Infiniterinis@bunternet.com	050757	

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 **January** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th December**

Front cover: Dancing in the Village Hall at the Chicory Tip dance

St Nicholas Day falls on 6th December and we will be celebrating with a Sung Communion Service on 4th December at 9.30am. Our Church as you may remember is dedicated to St. Nicholas the Patron Saint of Children. Do come along and join us.

The Posada Family figures will be passed around the homes of children in the Parish during Advent. They are the figures of the Nativity which are passed from house to house to symbolise the story of 'no room at the Inn' in Bethlehem. Any child or adult wishing to take part in this should contact Joan on 01622 850210.

Morning Prayers - On Tuesday 6th December and 20th December, prayers will be said at 9.30am in St. Nicholas Church, lasting about 30 minutes. Do come along and join us.

Messy Church - Messy Church will take place on 10th December when the children will be making Christingles and be learning the Christingle Story. This month it will be held at St. John's the Baptist Church, Harrietsham at 4.00pm and lasts about two hours. It consists of craft activities with a theme which leads into a short service of worship, followed by tea.

Carol Service - Our Carol Service at St. Nicholas will take place on 18th December at 3.00pm Carols by candlelight. The Church will be decorated on Friday 16th during the afternoon from 2.00pm. Anyone wishing to help with the decorating will be very welcome. Please bring some greenery if you can and let Joan know that you would like to help. Thank you.

Carol Singing - We will be Carol Singing for Demelza House Children's Hospice on Tuesday 20th December. Meet outside the Village Shop at 7.00pm. We will be visiting the Old Rectory and The Kings Head. If anyone would like us to visit their home please let us know on 850210. Come along to the Kings Head and get into the festive spirit and join in with the singing of Christmas Songs and Carols.

Crib Service - Our Crib Service will be on 24th December, Christmas Eve at 4.00pm. The Crib will be blessed and we sing a few Carols and hear the Christmas story - it is a very simple Service suitable for small children

Christmas Day - On 25th December we will have a service of Family Communion (sung) at 10.00am in St. Nicholas Church. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in 2012.

Joan Davidson

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Dead Society, 1989 film starring Robin Williams
2	My Little, Mae West film
3	Springs, An Austrailian town
4	Clive, The downtrodden husband of Hyacinth
5	The Men, Featuring Bill, Ben and Littleweed
6	Zeta Jones, Actress who married Michael Douglas
7	Stanley, Director of 'A Clockwork Orange'
8	The X, TV Talent Show
9	Pike, Cumbrian Peak
10	Gary and Martin, Spandau Ballet brothers who played The Krays

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

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



Traditional Sunday Lunches

Fresh Fish Fridays Lunches and Suppers

> Booking Advisable 01622 850259

Children's Room Be

Beer Garden



Well, Grafty certainly knows how to party!

What a fun night it was when Chicory Tip played for us last month - as you can see from the front cover photograph. Once the bar had been drunk dry (responsibly!) even Mike H. joined us on the dance floor! You can't beat that '60s music, can you?

Our thanks go to Margaret Neaves, in particular, for organising this event, supported by Anne Henderson and raffle-organiser Barbara Pearce. Thanks, too, to all who helped in clearing up afterwards.

Financially, the Hall benefited from the Chicory Tip evening (\pounds 632) but we need to raise quite a bit more if we're going to continue to put on entertainments of this standard – and this is how you can help: just bring us your old clothes (including hats, belts and shoes), old bed linen, old furnishing fabrics, towels, etc and we will sell them for recycling via Sittingbourne-based "Phil The Bag".

'Phil' will pay £50 per tonne for material of all sorts, and we reckon we can muster quite a weight of material from the 500 or so readers of this magazine. Having recently replaced the old stage curtains in the hall, we already have a good weight of old curtaining in hand.

We aim to have one day when everyone can bring their cast-out material to the hall, and we'll lay on teas and coffees so you can stay and have a natter with whoever else turns up. (A bit like meeting over the rubbish freighter, but with the benefit of a chair and a cupper!)

The date is yet to be set, but please don't throw out anything of the type we're after for the next few weeks. We'll give full details, including the date, in next month's magazine. (If you really can't store your cast-offs for that length of time, give me a ring and I'll see if we can store them for you, but, if possible, put them aside and bring them on the day).

The next event in the Hall is the independently organised Christmas Quiz, the proceeds from which are to be shared between the Hall and the Church. This is on Saturday, 10 December. Do support the Village Hall by supporting the quiz. Tickets are available from the village shop and elsewhere.

Have a great Christmas and see you in the New Year for our Horse Race evening, more on which will appear in next month's magazine.

Richard Pilborough (Hall Committee Chairman, tel. 850484)

PS: A pair of reading glasses were found in the hall after the Chicory Tip dance. Contact Mike Hitchins on 01622 858937 if they are yours.

Watching Brief at St. Nicholas Church

Whilst the trench for the water supply to St. Nicholas Church was being dug through the churchyard, a watching brief was carried out to see what might be unearthed. However, although expectations were high, very little was revealed:



1 fragment of clay pipe stem, with no dateable characteristics

3 pieces of glazed floor tile

Having sought expert opinion, which was unanimous in that the tiles are thought to be medieval, the suggested dates were circa 13th century at the earliest and 15th century at the latest. Whole, they would have been 9 inches

square with a thickness of 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, plain, glazed terracotta in appearance, and not uncommon. Being buried for many years (possibly since the 19th century restoration of the church) is thought to be the cause of colour differentiation, and being undecorated could have been the reason that they were dumped (if these are just 3 of many more still buried) instead of being re-used elsewhere.

In search of clarification I took them to Maidstone Museum to compare them with intact tiles stored in the cellar there and, despite looking at hundreds, there was nothing similar. (The phrase `needs to get out more' springs to mind!)

Although it is assumed that they came from the church it is impossible to know for sure.

Christine King



Grafty Green Post Office

All at Grafty Green shop would like to thank those who helped out and showed concern at the time of the recent Post Office robbery

Rob & Hazel

News From Platts Heath Primary School

This term is always an exciting one at school. The children are getting ready for all the festive activities and I know the parents and carers cannot wait to see their performances – I know I can't! Our younger children will be performing a Christmas play on the afternoon of Tuesday 13^{th} December and the children from Goodison and Adlington classes will be taking part in a Christmas celebration at St Mary's Lenham on the afternoon of Thursday 15^{th} December.

Christmas

Christmas came early with the arrival of Mother Christmas last Saturday at the annual school Fayre. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated PTFA and the generosity of all those parents, friends, relatives and neighbours who attended, we raised a staggering \pounds 2,000.

Open Afternoon

On Thursday 8th December, Miss Keywood will be holding her open afternoon for all those children due to start school next September. Children will have the opportunity to take part in some craft activities, sing a Christmas song and listen to a Christmas story with our current Reception children. If you would like to come along and meet the friendly team at Platts Heath please telephone Mrs Kennett on 01622 850316.

Forties Fun

Children paid a fitting tribute to Armistice Day with a wartime party for family and friends.

Adlington Class (Years 4, 5 & 6) have been studying World War II and teacher Wendy Thomas thought it would be a great way to bring the topic to life.

Food for the party was bought with the children's ration books and they had a baking afternoon to make cakes and jam sandwiches.

Pupils, staff, parents and friends dressed up for the event to add to the authenticity and get everyone into the wartime spirit. Guests at the party were treated to dancing the children had learnt in their PE lessons and Governors also stunned the crowd with their 40's Jive.

This has been a great cross-curricular topic which has incorporated all areas of the curriculum from History to P.E. They thoroughly enjoyed the day and the fact that it was Friday 11 November really focused everyone's attention on the great men and women who lost their lives defending our country. The whole topic has been brought to life and we know the children will remember what they have learnt for a very long time.

Harvest

As part of our harvest celebration the children from Hoy class visited a care home in Harrietsham to distribute their donations of fresh produce. The residents were entertained by the children singing their special harvest songs. All the donations of tinned and packet goods were given to Age UK in Maidstone.

Woodland Walk

In late November the children from Adlington class enjoyed an afternoon learning all about trees with the Woodland Trust at the Hucking Estate, near Hollingbourne. They discovered how to estimate the height of a tree using only their thumb, guess the approximate age of a tree without having to cut it down and found out the many threats to a tree's development in our forests and open spaces. We hope to go back to the Hucking Estate in February to help the Woodland Trust plant some new trees.

K'Nex Challenge

The children from Goodison and Adlington classes are looking forward to taking part in the K'Nex Challenge next month. The children will work in pairs to design and build a model from K'Nex kits and those children who produce the winning construction will represent the school at the final later in the month.

The staff and children at Platts Heath Primary School would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

P Anscomb Headteacher



Maidstone - Chart Sutton - Kingswood - Grafty Green

Mondays to Fridays			School Days Only		
Service No	50	59	66	59	59
Maidstone, King Street, Stop L2	1220	1350	See	1610	1725
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, J4	1222	1352	Note	1612	1727
Wheatsheaf, Loose Road	1229	1359	1	1619	1734
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	1233	1403		1623	1738
Linton Corner Cornwallis Academy	1237	1407	1505	1627	1742
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1242	1412		1632	1747
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1245	1415	1509	1635	1750
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1248	1418	1512	1638	1753
Warmlake Comer	1251	1421	1515	1641	1756
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1259	Lanne	1523	1649	1804
Kingswood, Village Hall	-	1426	1525	1651	1806
Ulcombe, Post Office	1306		1530	1656	1811
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1313			1703	1818
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle		-	1535		
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by		1.1.1	1544		
Sutton Valence, The Harbour			1549		

59	59	59	59
0838	1241	1525	1755
0840	1243	1527	1757
0847	1250	1534	1804
Vill	1254	1538	1808
lutter	1258	1542	1812
Road		-	
and	1303	1547	1817
angley	1306	1550	1820
	1309	1553	1823
0859	1312	1556	1826
0907	1320		1834
0909	1322	1604	1836
0914	1327	-	1841
0921	1334		1848
		-	
-			

Saturdays

CODES 4 - These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hit, West Malling, Kent, ME19 40G.

*- Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.

Sundays & Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

NOTES

1 - This bus is run by Nu-Venture (Tel: 01622 882288), NOT Arriva.

Saturdays

0733 0923 1336

0740 0930 1343

0745 0935 1348 1604

0747 0937 1350 1606

0753 0943 1356 1612

0756 0946 1359 via

0759 0949 1402 Larging

0802 0952 1405 and

0807 0957 1410 Road

0815 1005 1418 1624

0820 1013 1426 1632

0811 1001 1414

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59 59 59 59

Grafty Green - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Maidstone

Mondays to Fridays	School Days Only	Nut School Days	School Days Only See Note 1 &		Not School Deys	School Days Only
Service No	59	59	66	59	59	59
Sutton Valence, The Harbour			0731	pints.	1.0411	
Headcom, Milbank Lay-by	-		0736	144	-+++-	
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	and a	inter.	0745	. 144	inter .	-
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0710	0721	10.04	0930		-
Ulcombe, Post Office	0717	0729	0750	0937	0.44	
Kingswood, Village Hall	0722	0733	0754	0942	1430	1430
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0725	0736	0757	0944	1432	1432
Warmlake Corner	0731	0742	0801	0950	1438	1438
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0735	0745	0804	0953	1441	1441
Boughton Moncheisea, Cock Inn	0738	0749	0807	0956	1444	1444
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0741	0751	1000	0958	1446	1447
Cornwallis Academy			0820			1505
Linton Corner		0758		1003	1451	1506
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	0750	0800	1.0	1006	1454	1509
Wheatsheaf, Loose Road		0505		1012	1500	1515
Maidstone, King Street		0814		1020	Contraction (1997)	1523
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808		1	111	100	
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817					
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826		-	22		

Sundays & Public Holidays*

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FIRE AFTERMATH (please read this report in full as it affects your safety)

The fire at the 'barn' residence in Grafty Green on the morning of Saturday 1st October was extremely traumatic for the owners with their home very extensively damaged; villagers have been dismayed and shocked. Many questions arose following the fire centering on aspects of the response of Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the water supply for fire fighting purposes delivered to hydrants by South East Water. Initially exchanges of correspondence took place with KFRS without satisfactory conclusion with the outcome a meeting was arranged for Monday 21st November with Ann Millington, Chief Executive of KFRS, and senior officers with Robert Turner and Chris Wheal representing the village. Correspondence with South East Water is on-going. The whole situation is incredibly complex and this article can only give an important snapshot.

At the KFRS meeting many questions were asked regarding the attending fire fighters and appliances, time and distance factors, particularly the inordinate delay in calling for the water tanker and further delay getting it to the scene when water supply was a critical problem. Within the questioning was why neither Lenham or Headcorn were initially on scene. Detailed explanations followed how KFRS has functioned since the new manning arrangements for retained stations were implemented in June. The explanations are complex but in simplistic terms it is now likely in rural areas particularly that the first attending appliance will not be from your local 'retained' station(s) especially so at certain times of the day, however KFRS seek to stress this does not affect their desire or ability to provide an acceptable level of fire cover. The debate will no doubt be on-going.

Discussion also took place regarding the woeful supply of water from the hydrants which is wholly a matter for South East Water. Whilst it may be true the water supply to our homes meets statutory requirements it is highly questionable the National Guidelines regarding Water Supply For Fire Fighting Purposes are being met. Our water supply infrastructure is very old with just a 3" mains pipe governed by a 'pressure reducing valve'. However concern about the visibility and 'ready' operational status of village fire hydrants, following a survey we have undertaken, has been conceded by KFRS. Provisional agreement was reached how we as a village could work with KFRS to address the problems highlighted – full details will become available in the next few weeks.

The last but incredibly valid point is one of FIRE PREVENTION. A sobering thought is 'fumes' from fire can <u>*kill in as little as three minutes*</u> and no fire brigade will reach you in this time so best not to have a fire in the first place. Fitting smoke alarms (if possible electric mains operated) on each floor and importantly in the loft area, the latter being a place where a fire can start and get established before you become aware of it. Storing inflammable substances and materials carefully, keeping 'rubbish' to a minimum, having your electric wiring periodically checked and having up to date 'trip' devices which detect electric circuit problems and cut the supply, overall being fire conscious. One could go further by having a fire extinguisher and fire blanket if you can safely use them in the event of a small fire but never compromising safety and calling the fire brigade. KFRS will be coming to the village early in January (date to be announced shortly) for a public meeting to give a presentation on FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION. They particularly seek to help older and / or vulnerable residents and will install smoke alarms free to those qualifying and have asked us to gather names of those requiring specific help.

We were planning to have a public meeting regarding KFRS response to the fire and discuss the IRMP (Integrated Risk Management Plan - 2012) survey which closes on 12 January 2012 and potentially affects all of us and the future of our fire brigade. Various factors and the current pattern of events now make this meeting impractical notwithstanding the intervening Christmas and New Year period. However it is vital you comment on the survey details of which can be found at www.irmp@kent.fire-uk.org, or on the KFRS website, or write KFRS FREEPOST NAT9369 MAIDSTONE, ME15 6BR. KFRS in their proposals seek to assure us they will be able to provide an effective efficient service within budgetary constraints and use many statistics and averages to support their view. What we in rural areas have to be careful of is of rural areas being 'lost' within vastly larger urban figures which generally have better 'performance level percentages'. Do remember the likelihood of our local Lenham or Headcorn fire engine now attending a local fire is now much diminished with the new retained crewing arrangements, a fact borne out with the 'barn' fire and appliances from Maidstone, Ashford, Medway, Larkfield, Thameside (Northfleet), with Lenham attending in the latter stages. Minutes count in an emergency.

To conclude we hope this article, which at best is a brief summary, keeps you informed and we will keep 'pressing' in the areas of concern to secure the best outcomes, and advise you of the 'fire prevention' meeting date as soon as we have it. Meantime if you have any questions we will endeavour to answer them.

Chris Wheal (Resident) 01622 858100 Robert Turner (Chairman Parish Council) 01622 850325

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Come 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 2nd November - 7th December - 6 sessions £30 and Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am 3rd November - 8th December - 6 sessions £30

Drop in students £6 per session. If you are able to make any of the dates and would like to join in please give me a call -: Sue Burch - 01622 850381, email:graftyyoga@gmail.com

Grafty Green Gardening Club



Christmas Social

Tuesday 6th December – An evening of Local People and Local Places with John Collins. Those of you who were at the book launch of 'Boughton Malherbe - A Journey through Time' will know that John has a large

library of material to choose from and many faces will be recognised! 7.30 start - bring a plate of food to share; phone Sue Burch for details – all are welcome.

The new and exciting programme for 2012 is ready for publication. The first meeting of the year is our AGM on the 10^{th} January when we welcome back Hilary Newman to talk on Plant Hunting.

The Millennium Group, namely Yvonne Fletcher, Chris Hollingsbee, Mary O'Connell and Sue Burch have a residue of funds left over from the 'Party on The Green' and events that took place at the turn of the century. We have agreed that the funds to be known as 'The Fletcher Fund' be transferred to The Village Hall Committee to be used specifically for Jubilee Celebrations which will take place on 4th June 2012. This will be a fitting event to use the money in memory of Yvonne.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to 24th March 2012.

Grafty Green

Saturday 17th December15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn RdSaturday 17th March15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 17^{th} December 14:30 – 15-10 -: Green Lane Saturday 17^{th} March 14:30 – 15-10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 14th January09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge GardensSaturday 24th March09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens

The Grafty Gourmet

Its getting close to that time of year again, and this is a great way of using up some of that left over turkey. If you do not have any Tarragon, it's not a problem, just add your favourite herbs instead. Enjoy and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Left Over Turkey Crepes

6 Ready brought Crepes	1/4 Cup dry white wine
4 Tablespoons butter	1/4 Teaspoon chopped dried tarragon
2 Tablespoons finely chopped onion	2 Egg yolks
4 Tablespoons plain flour	2 Cups diced cooked turkey
1 Cup milk	Salt to taste
3/4 Cup chicken stock	1/4 Cup milk

1. Preheat oven to 170 degrees C. Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in onion, and cook 2 minutes until onions soften. Mix the flour in a little of the milk to form a paste and add to the onions, stirring until blended.

2. Slowly whisk in the remainder of the 1 cup of milk, whisking constantly until smooth. Stir in the chicken stock, wine, and tarragon and stir over medium-low heat until thickened (about 4 minutes).

3. In a small bowl, gradually stir 3 tablespoons of the hot milk and stock sauce into the egg yolks, then pour egg mixture back into the sauce, whisking briskly. Cook for 1 minute more, then remove from the heat.

4. In a medium bowl, mix together half of the sauce with the turkey. Season with salt to taste.

5. Fill each crepe with 3 tablespoons of chicken mixture. Roll crepes, and place seamside down in a 9x12 inch baking dish. Thin the remaining sauce with 1/4 cup milk, and pour over crepes. Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes, or until sauce begins to bubble.





<u>Grafty Green</u> Christmas Quiz

Saturday 10th December 2011 at The Village Hall Grafty Green 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm Tickets £7.50 (this price includes a sausage and chip supper)

Teams to be eight or less

Licensed Bar, Free nibbles

All proceeds to be donated to St Nicholas Church Boughton Malherbe and Grafty Green Village Hall

Tickets are available from Pat Anderson, Sharon Jennings, Jacqui Thompson and Janet Legon

News from Ulcombe's Village School

Travelling at Top Speed Through Term 2

... and Father Christmas has already arranged a present for us all!

This term our topic is 'From A to B,' we are thinking about all sorts of transport. On Thursday 1st December, thanks to the very great generosity of the Friends' of Ulcombe School, Father Christmas has arranged for all three classes to go back in time. The whole school will be heading off to the Bluebell Railway in West Sussex, where the children will learn about steam trains, take a ride along the Bluebell line and meet Father Christmas himself.

Our Open Afternoon is on Wednesday 30th November, from 1.45pm to 3pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents, prospective parents and friends to come and see what we get up to on a normal afternoon. FUS have kindly agreed to come in and provide refreshments, too! If you are reading this in time, it would be grate to see you. Before that Oliver Twist will have been to school, supporting work in History and Literacy.

Making Our School Even Better!

I absolutely delighted to say that conditional outline planning permission has been granted by MBC for a small housing development on our old adventure trail. Now we are full steam ahead for our new library! The next task is for KCC to sell the plot of land and we will be doing everything we can to assist them. Watch this space!

We have been able to press on with other improvements, too. CEC have been hard at work during the middle of November, re-decorating our four classrooms. We will soon be improving our ICT hardware, with a wireless network and a number of new laptop computers. This will make our use of ICT far more flexible, whilst retaining an excellent ratio of computers per child. We hope to have much of the installation work done during the holiday, so that we can put it all to good use in the new year!

Learning Outside the Classroom

Tawny Owls have been able to compare old and new, after finding out about modern day transport during their trip to London before riding on the Bluebell Railway. They went up to London on the High Speed Rail service, before travelling around the capital on the Underground, by bus, on a river cruise and by Docklands Light Railway. They also got the opportunity to drive a train, in a way, visiting Transport for London's Training Centre. They were able to see how London Underground signalman, train drivers and station staff are trained, and had a go on the simulators. We were thrilled to have this unique opportunity to learn more about transport in the present day.

ALSO In The News ...

So far this term we have three events that have involved many, if not all of us. FIREWORKS' NIGHT was on Friday 4th November, and it was clear from the 'Ooohhhs' and 'Aaahhhhs' that children and adults were having a great time. So much hard work goes into preparing for the night and clearing away afterwards that we owe all of our helpers, including friends from the village, a huge thank you.

On Friday 11th November it was wonderful to be joined by several parents and friends from the community, for our Remembrance Day assembly. Our thanks also go to the children and adults who helped lead us in our thinking at this special time.

For a hat-trick of busy Fridays, we took part in BBC's Children In Need on Friday 18th November raising money for this wonderful charity that des so much to support children in challenging situations across the UK. Children and adults came dressed as their favourite famous person or character, some brought their teddy bears and we played Bingo. All of this helped us to raise over £116 which has been sent off to Pudsey and the team.

ALSO IN Charity Corner

So far this term we have sent off almost £50 to the RNLI, over £100 to BBC's Children in Need, and almost £50 has been sent to the Royal British Legion from the sale of poppies. But these are not the only ways in which we have been able to make a difference. Thank you to everyone who brought in a shoe box wrapped and filled with treats for children in eastern Europe. Thanks go to Mrs Hargrave, for organizing this for the school, but also to Mrs Finley, who was able to come in and tell us all first-hand what a difference our gifts can make.

During the last week of term we will be thinking about the work of Barnardo's. There will be a chance to for everyone to win a Barnardo's bear and proceeds from the collections at our productions and Christmas service will be put with money raised by the competition to support this fantastic charity. Look out for more details during the final week of term.

Park And Stride Logo Competition—FOR ALL AGES

You will all have heard of Park and Ride, but we at Ulcombe want everyone to walk to school. For some this will have to be Park and Stride. We know that for many it is impossible to walk all the way from home to school, so we are encouraging parents to park at the Village Hall and walk down from there.

We will launch this scheme fully in the new year, but to do that we need a logo. This is where we all can play our part regardless of how old we are or young we feel!

We are looking for a logo that we can use on a banner, posters and school notepaper. There will be a prize for the winning entry in each of the following categories: under 7's, under 11's, under 18's and over 18's. The deadline for entries is Thursday 15th December at 3.30pm. Entries can take any form you wish and be submitted electronically or on paper to the School Office. We look forward to receiving them.

Friends of Ulcombe School Christmas Fayre

The next big event for FUS, is almost on us already. It is the CHRISTMAS FAYRE, which will take place on Friday 9th December at 6.30pm. There will be an even wider variety of stalls and activities than before, and there is a rumour that Father Christmas himself will be making an appearance. I have heard that Rudolph and co will be delivering him to the Village Hall soon after 6pm, before he walks the last bit of he journey to school. At the Fayre there will be a whole host of stalls and activities, so do come along and join us in the School Hall.

Christmas is Coming

Also coming up we have our Christmas Production, party, dinner and, of course, our Christmas Celebration Service at All Saints Parish Church. Please do come along and support the events below. Please bear in mind that the production will be ticketed, so please contact the School Office if you would like to book your seat.

From Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th December our youngest children will be leading our Christmas Production, with the help of the rest of the school. Our Christmas Service will be held at All Saints Parish Church, on Friday 16th December at 2.15pm, when all of the children will be helping us to celebrate the Christmas story. This is always a wonderful way to end our term and it would be fantastic to see friends from the village joining staff, pupils and parents. See you there!

There is more information about all of these and other events coming up on our web-site. Remember you can keep up to date at www.ulcombeschool.ik.org, or, if you have any questions, you can pop in and ask.

Best wishes,



Mr. Vincent Hampton Head Teacher

Citizens Advice Bureau

Staff from the Citizens Advice Bureau are available for consultation in Headcorn Library on the third Friday of each month from 10am until noon.



Grafty Geeks - Computer Tip of the Month

Top 10 passwords you should never use

According to a report, most users still haven't answered the call by security experts to implement more robust passwords. In fact, in a list of the most easy to hack passwords, simply typing `123456' took a truly forgettable top prize.

Security firm Imperva recently released its list of the passwords most likely to be hacked based on 32 million instances of successful hacking. Imperva named their report "Consumer Password Worst Practices," and some of the entries near the top are truly simple and could lead to theft or identity fraud.

Top 10 Worst Passwords:

- 1. 123456
- 2. 12345
- 3. 123456789
- 4. Password
- 5. iloveyou
- 6. princess
- 7. rockyou
- 8. 1234567
- 9. 12345678
- 10.abc123

How to Strengthen Your Passwords

Other key findings in the report: it seems that almost 1 in 3 users choose passwords comprised of six or fewer characters; more than half use passwords based on only alpha-numeric characters; and almost 50% used variations on their name, popular slang terms, or simple strings of consecutive characters from the average QWERTY keyboard – such as 'asdfg'.

Imperva has made several obvious recommendations, suggesting most users adopt passwords with at least eight characters and to mix those characters between upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols. Passwords should be simple enough that they won't be too easily forgotten, but the idea is to make cracking the code virtually impossible for either an unknown or known hacker.



Egerton Telecottage

Computer Centre The Millennium Hall Phone: 07523 182994

A New format for the New Year

1-hour Individual sessions during the week (known as 1-2-1)

We would like to introduce a new way for you to get help from the Telecottage for 2012 as an experiment for 3 months. We will still be operating the Saturday morning clinics, but would like to offer weekday morning surgeries for people to come along and have a 1-2-1 for 1-hour with one of the volunteers, specifically designed for you and your particular need.

To help us manage this properly, we will be offering the dates and times shown below; you will need to call us to book a slot and provide your phone number, email address and what you need help with. We will also ask for you to pay the price of £5 prior to your session, by cheque, or by popping into the Telecottage on any Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon, where bookings can be taken and confirmed.

There will be 3 x 1- hour slots available between 9am–12noon on the following dates:

January: Monday 9th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 25th February: Thursday 2nd, Monday 6th, Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 22nd March: Thursday 1st, Monday 5th, Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 29th

The list below is not exhaustive but provided to give an idea of what can be covered:

Getting Started Digital Photography Family History Word Processing Tables in Word Manage Files & Folders Photos: Camera to PC Edit Photos Email Photos Produce a Calendar Produce a newsletter Use the internet Facebook/Twitter/Skype Excel PowerPoint

More neighbourhood officers for Maidstone whilst 101 makes it easier to contact Kent Police

Residents in Maidstone are now benefiting from more neighbourhood officers and the launch of 101, the single non-emergency number, making it even easier to contact police.

In the Maidstone policing district, neighbourhood officers have increased from three sergeants to 12, and 15 police constables to 63.

It is now easier than ever for the public to contact Kent Police. Anyone calling 101 from the Kent policing area will be answered by a call operator from the Kent Police Force Control Room. This will improve access to local policing for callers who do not require an immediate emergency response.

People should call 101 if they want to contact their neighbourhood officer, if they need to report a crime such as a stolen car, damage to property, where they suspect drug dealing or use, to report a minor traffic collision, or to give police information about crime in their area.

101 will make it easier for people to call Kent Police to pass on information about crime and disorder in their neighbourhoods and it is hoped **101** will reduce pressure on the **999** system, allowing officers to prioritise the most urgent calls for help.

101 is being launched in Kent at a time that sees neighbourhood officers increasing across the county. Neighbourhood policing is at the heart of the redesigned policing model for Kent and these officers now have a broader role. They will have some local investigative responsibility and will attend scheduled calls, whilst continuing to deal with local problems.

The Force Control Room is responsible for deploying officers. In line with the Kent Policing model, and borderless response, the nearest available officer will respond to calls requiring a visit, ensuring a faster, more efficient service.

There are more ways than ever for the public to contact and engage with Kent Police. Call 101, visit kent.police.uk, join online virtual beat meetings, follow us on twitter @kent_police or Facebook.

People who are deaf or speech impaired can still text 'police' and their message to **60066**.

People should continue to call **999** in an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life, or when violence is being used or threatened.

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Fry	Print	Fortune	Small
2	Crocodile	Board	Paper	
3	Common	Dress	Sixth	
4	Light	High	Wise	
5	Chestnut	Dark	Racing	
6	Record	Tram	Football	
7	Delivery	Train	Pony	
8	County	Test	Ball	
9	Catch	Net	Pin	
10	Cheese	Table	Dish	
11	Crossed	Green	Fish	
12	Maid	Council	Ante	
13	Hand	Nature	Thoughts	
14	Hawk	Hedge	House	
15	Butter	Coffee	Теа	
16	Blocks	Sea	Stiff	

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Lenham Valley Business Association update

LVBA extends to Charing - a super success!

Lenham Valley Business Association started its life with a simple plan, to help businesses to develop their revenues and to provide as much business assistance as it could, without duplicating anyone else's effort. Whilst Charing was an area that the organising committee were keen to cover, Chairman Alan Reading had made a point of not including them in the geographical area, simply because they had their own Charing Business Association. As time moved on though, LVBA found that nearly 10% of its members were from Charing! Discussions with those members proved that LVBA had to move into the area. Discussions started with more businesses in Charing and it was quickly decided the first venue for networking should be The Oak.

The Mayor of Maidstone, ClIr Brian Mortimer, was approached (as it is an Association with its base in the Borough of Maidstone) and Alan Reading gave way to pressure to provide a presentation about the LVBA website. With attendance usually between 25 and 35 for each monthly meeting, the scene was set. Then even before the meeting, Charing businesses began to apply for LVBA membership. The attendance levels increased to 45 and then 50. The event was full and with a degree of anticipation everyone took their seats for a packed evening. Some attendees were still there at 10pm, long after the 'official' 8pm finish.

Overall the final result was worth all the effort, LVBA now has 92 members, just 8 short of its original target. Eight previous members have closed; 4 resigned (mainly through time constraints); one changed its name and one burnt down.

More and more businesses are realising how useful the association can be. Every first Tuesday of the month in 2012 (apart from June) we will be networking nearby. Make sure you stay in touch. If you are a first timer go to the Lenham Business website and register to attend. It costs nothing and we can provide with you with some good networking. Remember sole traders pay only £65 per year! For information by telephone call LVBA - Alan Reading 01622 820841

Alan Reading, Chairman Lenham Valley Business Association

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

It is with regret that we have had to cancel our cheese and wine evening, but we plan to arrange one in the new year.

We will be meeting once again from 4 til 6, on Christmas Eve, to sing carols around the village. Then, return to the St Edmunds Centre, to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and some mince pies. It would lovely to see you there!





*

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> AMY MCLAUGHLIN 07813 030 527/01622 851562 amy.mclaughlin@hotmail.co.uk

The December Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Ophiuchus at the start of December, and moves into Sagittarius on 18^{th} December.

Full Moon occurs on Saturday 10th December when in Taurus, and **New Moon** is on Saturday 24th December.

Mercury is at its greatest distance west of the Sun on 23rd December, and we may have a chance to see this elusive planet just before dawn in the southwest in the middle of the month.

Venus is visible low in the south-western sky just after sunset. It is difficult to miss the "Evening Star" as it is the brightest object in the sky.

Mars is rising in the east in the late evening, and is high in the southern sky at dawn. Relative to the stars it is moving steadily south eastwards in the constellation of Leo. We will have to wait until much later in the year to see any detail through a telescope.

Jupiter is again well placed for viewing in the evenings this month. It is high in the southeast at dusk and shines all night, setting in the southwest at dawn. Though a telescope you should be able to see the dark and light bands together with the **Great Red Spot**. It may also be possible to see, even through binoculars, Jupiter's 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. Relative to the stars it is moving very slowly south-eastwards in the constellation of Virgo. Through a telescope you should be able to see the famous rings together with many of its moons.

One of the most reliable meteors showers of the year is the **Geminid** shower, which occurs every December. These can be seen at any time between December 7th and 16th. They appear to radiate from the bright star Castor in the constellation of Gemini, and will be visible throughout the hours of darkness. They are expected to peak on Wednesday 14th December. This is also the best time of the year to see sporadic meteors. These can be seen at any time and in any part of the sky.

In my October article I reported that scientists at the Cern laboratory had measured neutrinos (subatomic particles) travelling faster than the speed of light. There was considerable doubt among scientists, as this contradicted Einstein's theory of special relativity. Following further experiments, using a different timing method, they have again found this to be the case. Apparently neutrinos beat a light beam through 454 miles of solid rock by 60 billionths of a second.

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Kent Messenger

Feedback suggests that the village columns in the KM are appreciated by residents and organisations. Many consider them to be vital to community life. The information in them is provided by village correspondents who collect the news and devote a considerable amount of time to preparing it for publication.

Until recently the correspondents were paid a modest 60p for a paragraph of up to 10 lines and \pounds 1.20 for anything above. Expenses were paid and a free newspaper provided.

A few weeks ago all that changed: payment was reduced and expenses and the free newspaper withdrawn. Additionally the management placed a limit, dependent upon the size of the village, on the number of paragraphs allowed. They also decided to cap some items and to transfer news to the web site without payment.

Local correspondents were, naturally, outraged at discovering themselves to be, if effect, subsidising the county paper. Not one writer expects a fortune but all expect fair treatment.

Representations were made to the KM and a meeting was set up at Larkfield. Janetta and I attended with many other correspondents. Correspondents expressed their feelings and the KM management began to realise that they had undervalued a large underpaid workforce. We, in turn, learned about the problems being faced by the paper. In 2007 750 staff were employed and turnover was \pounds 43m. Current figures are 364 and \pounds 20m respectively. There are now fewer reporters and the size of the paper has been reduced leaving less space for village news.

We were given an assurance that a more efficient system of payment is being developed although there is little prospect of increased payment.

Inevitably some correspondents have resigned. Janetta and I will continue because we want to support our villages. Please continue to provide news and go on buying the paper. If you have never bought one start NOW! Our county newspaper is ailing and a free press, available to all and not just on line, is a vital element in democracy.

Joan Drury – Grafty Green and Boughton Malherbe Janetta Sams - Lenham

Christian Message December 2011

Want to win the lottery? - I was standing next to someone the other day who was trying to decide whether to play the lottery. I googled it later, and found that the chances of winning are one in 14 million. So you are more likely to be hit by lightning, give birth to quadruplets, or find a pearl in an oyster you've eaten! So why do we do it? Perhaps because we like to dream of a better life, one in which we don't have money troubles, trouble with the neighbours and so on. We dream of escape, of getting away, of luxury, of travel. We dream of good news.

Interestingly, the good news the angel brought the shepherds doesn't sound particularly good to our modern ears. It wasn't news of escape from poverty, or from a boring job, or from the iron fist of the Roman empire. It wasn't news like that at all. But that "good news" has echoed down the centuries and been treasured by all kinds of people, rich and poor, black and white, weak and powerful.

The "good news of great joy" was news of someone's birth: someone who would show us how to live lives that – while still with the usual difficulties – have purpose, power, direction. Lives lived in the power of God to receive and give forgiveness, to be generous, to love and be loved.

"It could be you" says the Lottery slogan. The great thing about God's good news is that it's not a random, one-in-14-million chance. "It *is* you" is God's slogan to each of us. Jesus, the good news born 2000 years ago, is for every single one of us. All we have to do is take him at his word, follow his ways, his teachings, his example, trust in his death and resurrection for us. Then he will give us power to live lives that are fulfilled, have purpose and direction. Lives that don't need lottery millions to be good news to those around us.

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Rev Dick Venn, Priest-in-charge

Quote of the month

This is the second of a series of extracts from a report by an efficiency expert employed by the BBC to reduce the costs of its orchestra, as part of the current cost-cutting exercise:

"All 12 violins were playing the same notes with identical motion. This is unnecessary duplication; the staff of this section should be drastically cut with consequent savings. If a large volume of sound is required, this could be obtained by electronic amplification."

Brian Hardy

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Music Notes - December

December is a busy month, with carol services and a plethora of "Christmas concerts"; here are a selection of recommended events but <u>please don't forget</u> <u>the carol services</u> advertised elsewhere in the magazine.

- Saturday 3rd December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone. Maidstone Symphony Orchestra continue their 101st season with Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* and Dvorak's *Symphony No.5*. Tickets 01622 735830.
- Saturday 10th December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone. Maidstone Choral Union's "Music for Christmas" includes Rutter's *Magnificat*, dances by the Mary Ellen Dance School and carols for choir and audience. Tickets 01622 726193
- Sunday 11th December, 7.30pm at the Dockyard Chapel, Chatham Dockyard, Maidstone Wind Symphony joins with the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers for a Christmas concert which comprises a wide selection of seasonal music. Tickets 01580 291056
- Saturday 17th December 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted, Bearsted Choral Society's Christmas Concert includes Haydn's *Missa Sante Nicolai*, Holst's *Christmas Day* and carols both for choir and for audience. Tickets 01634 666730.

Christmas Poem

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flocks, The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers, To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

The Len Valley Benefice Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe Sunday/Main Services – December 2011

4th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

11th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion 9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion 9.30am Boughton Morning Worship 11am Lenham Morning Worship 11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion 6.30pm Boughton – Choral Evensong

19th December

6.30pm Harrietsham a service with the Care Homes of Harrietsham

18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

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 3pm Boughton Malherbe Carol Service 4.30pm Lenham Carol Service 6.30pm Harrietsham Carol Service

20th December

7pm Ulcombe Carol Service

24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm There will be a Crib Service in each of the Four Churches of the Benefice 11.15pm Lenham Holy Communion Midnight Service 11.15pm Harrietsham Holy Communion Midnight Service 11.15pm Ulcombe Holy Communion Midnight Service

25th December Christmas Day

There will be no 8am Holy Communion in Lenham 10.00am Boughton Malherbe Family Holy Communion

10.00am Harrietsham Family Holy Communion 10.00am Lenham Family Holy Communion 10.00am Ulcombe Family Holy Communion

Saturday 31st December New Years Eve

11.30pm Harrietsham a short service to usher in the New Year

"Come and see the New Year in at St John the Baptist Church Harrietsham. 11.30pm on New Year's Eve. We will have a short time of reflecting on the old year and then we will look forward to and welcome in the new Year together. This short service will be followed by some light refreshments to celebrate the New Year. If you are able to come and can help with some refreshments please let Rev Millie Hart know on 01622 859753."

Sunday 1st January New Years Day

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion 10.00am Harrietsham Benefice Service

Len Valley Churches invite you to our



A family event at St John's Church Harrietsham Saturday 10th December

Come with the whole family to the Christmas version of MESSY CHURCH! There will be a variety of activities including making Christingles and Christmas cards. Food will, of course, include mince pies! Come at 4 and leave

at 6pm. This is an opportunity for every member of the family to prepare for Christmas TOGETHER.

Call 01622 858195 for more information

Saturday 10 December Christmas Pantomime 'Cinderella'

Due to exceptional demand, there is to be an additional Matinee of the Christmas Pantomime 'Cinderella' - 2.00pm Saturday 10^{th} December in Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall, tickets £5 adults £1.50 children tickets from 07761 341 854. Profits to Maidstone Christian Care.

Find the missing word?	-
Dead Poets Society, 1989 film starring Robin Williams	I
My Little Chickadee, Mae West film	ζ
nwot natilianteu An A. Agringer Springer, Andrean Indexe Springer, Andr	£
Clive Swift, The downtrodden husband of Hyneinth	ŧ
The Flowerpot Men, Featuring Bill, Ben and Littleweed	S
Cathrine Zets Jones, Actress who married Michael Douglas	9
Stanley Kubrick, Director of 'A Clockwork Orange'	L
The X Factor, TV Talent Show	8
Scarfell Pike, Cumbrian Peak	6
Gary and Martin Kemp, Spandau Ballet brothers who played The Krays	0

Answer	Word 3	Z plow	I broW	1
ItemS	Fortune	Print	Ery	1
Clip	Paper	Board	Crocodile	τ
sons	dixi8	Dress	Common	٤
Street	SeiW	dgiH	1dgi.J	ŧ
Horse	Racing	kark	Chestnut	s
Physer	Football	minT	Record	9
Express	Pony	nimT	Delivery	L
Cricket	Ball	Test	County	8
Valak	hin	19N	Catch	6
Cloth	Dish	bldsT	Cheese	0
Fingers	fish	Сгеен	Crossed	1
Chamber	stnA	Council	biaM	Z
Second	Thoughts	Sintin ^N	baaH	٤
Sparrow	Seven	Hedge	awnH	ŧ
Cup	Tea	Coffice	Butter	Ş
Breeze	This	noS	Blocks	9

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

