



# Malherbe Monthly

Number 70  
May 2010

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Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> - Election Day

This is your chance to exercise your right to vote in both the Parliamentary and Borough Council elections.

Polling stations are open from 07.00 - 22.00



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath**

# Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>. 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: <a href="mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com">jdrury23@btinternet.com</a>	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: <a href="mailto:dickvenn@gmail.com">dickvenn@gmail.com</a>	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Joan Drury email: <a href="mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com">jdrury23@btinternet.com</a>	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@lvb.org.uk">churchoffice@lvb.org.uk</a>	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		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!  
Anything for the **June** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)) by **20<sup>th</sup> May**

**Front cover:** Information regarding the General and Borough Elections

## **News from St. Nicholas Church**

### **The APCM**

The Annual Parish Church Meeting was held in St. Nicholas on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30 pm. The Rector Dick Venn was in the Chair. Present were Rev: Marian Bond, Kenneth Alexander, Joan Davidson, Christine King, John Collins, Sally Alexander, Joan Drury, Doreen Hulm, John Millen, Sylvia Close, Di Parker and Dominic Goodwin. There is no change to the people in office for the coming year, but the Rector suggested we should try to find others to take more responsibility next year as both Wardens have served for a very long time now.

Reports were given about events during the past year at St. Nicholas. We are due to receive a Quinquennial Report this year in which we may find that there are a few urgent repairs which will need to be done.

We are pressing ahead with the water supply but the wheels of bureaucracy are slow to turn. During the snow this winter one of the valley gutters became blocked and water dripped into the rear of the south side aisle but after the thaw this has not given any further trouble. Also one of the ornamental crosses on the ridge of the roof fell breaking some tiles and a small piece of masonry. Generally the Church building is in very good order and financially we are breaking even, which is better than some other Churches in the area. We will be holding a few fundraisers this year to help pay for the water supply and then we will be looking to finance some new facilities

### **Lord Cornwallis**

One of our Patrons has recently died, Lord Fiennes Cornwallis. He was 88 years of age and lived in Goudhurst. He will be succeeded by his son, Lord Jeremy Cornwallis. At the moment the position of Patron is 'in suspension'. Rev: Venn is Priest-in-Charge and should he be granted the Freehold of the Living, Lord Cornwallis would be re-instated as one of our Patrons. The other Patron is Lord Alistair Chilston, who lives in Hampshire and Italy.

### **Village Coffee**

Our monthly Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge at this event but if you wish there is a dish for donations. Do come and join us - don't be shy. We are usually about a dozen people most of whom you will know. Coffee or tea and biscuits/cake are there to tempt you to forget your diet just for one morning.

## **Baptism**

Little Clayton-Ryan Cooper was baptised at St. Nicholas on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April by the Rev: Marian Bond. We welcome him into God's Family.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> was a very busy day as there was also a marriage between Elice Clement and Graham Willoughby. We wish them every happiness.

**Joan Davidson**

## **Protected Wildlife Found at Chilston Ponds.**

On a warm and dry evening on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 24 people of all ages arrived at Chilston Ponds to take a closer look at the ponds on the site. These night time surveys were conducted by torchlight as this is a good way to see what is going on under the surface of a pond and it is also a good time to see amphibians which are predominantly nocturnal. After the first few minutes dragonfly larvae, water boatmen and a number of different beetles had been seen. The next animal to be seen and what we were really looking for was the great crested newt. This animal is protected under both British and European law and is Britain's biggest and rarest newt. As people's eyes adjusted to what they were looking for more and more newts were found. Eventually, a total of 89 great crested newts were found in the two ponds as well as smooth newts.

This event, run by the Heaths Countryside Corridor and led by the Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group, was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the three year Wandering and Wondering project

To find out more about the Wandering and Wondering project please contact Mike Phillips for more information on 01303 815170 or [mike.phillips@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:mike.phillips@kentdowns.org.uk)

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The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history. HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since 1994 it has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4 billion across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

Heaths Countryside Corridor is a charitable trust that owns and manages three sites on the greensand ridge of Kent between Ashford and Maidstone and promotes an interest in countryside conservation in this area.

**Lenham Social Club's Beer Festival** starts Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 5.00 pm and ends on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>.



We have a singer on Friday night, to kick off and on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Hog Roast & BBQ in the afternoon and live music in the evening. Sunday will be a bit quieter though this may change near the time.

There will be at least fifteen different real ales for you to sample and, hopefully, a few different ciders too.

Anyone is welcome and entry is free.

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Come on _____, A No 1 for Dexy's Midnight Runners
2	St _____, Patron Saint of England
3	_____ Ted, TV sitcom set on Craggy Island
4	Like a _____, A bit hit for Madonna
5	The _____, Area of waterways in East Anglia
6	_____ With Me, Hymn traditionally sung at FA Cup Final
7	Gary _____, TV chef with spiky hair
8	_____ Cole, Glamorous The X Factor Judge
9	Buddy _____, 1950/60's rock and roll legend
10	Stephen ____, Presenter of TV Q1.

## **ALL-FIX PLUMBING**

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**David Jenkins**



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Coaching Inn  
haunted by  
"Dover Bill" -  
the Highwayman!**



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**Children's Room      Beer Garden**

## **Charing Crematorium**

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Our help, advice and experience on all matters  
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Kent.

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### MTC Support Services

More information or to discuss or book our service please call Maria on 07969 694559.  
mtc.services@btinternet.com



## 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 and 2010 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](http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## Maidstone Health

### Medical, Aesthetics & Homeopathic Centre

- ✓ Cervical Smear centre (HPV Profiling)
- ✓ HPV Cancer vaccination service for women 18-54
- ✓ Gardasil (HPV 4 strains) Cervarix (HPV 2 strains)
- ✓ STI & STD testing &
- ✓ Travel Vaccination and advice
- ✓ Single MMR Vaccinations
- ✓ Maidstone Homeopathic Centre – Hypnotherapy, Reiki, Yoga, Pilates
- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ Smoking cessation
- ✓ Hypnoslim weight management and nutrition
- ✓ Blood spot allergy testing
- ✓ Ear syringing



### Beauty & Aesthetics @ Maidstone Health

- ✓ Facials
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- ✓ Waxing
- ✓ IPL Skin rejuvenation
- ✓ IPL Hair removal
- ✓ Hands & Feet
- ✓ Chemical Peels

Late evening and weekend opening  
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01622 672000

[www.maidstonehealth.co.uk](http://www.maidstonehealth.co.uk)  
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# **NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL**

## **A Quiet Month?**

April was expected to be a quieter month and so it has proved, though there was still plenty of time for plans to be thrown up in the air by a volcano in Iceland. Both myself and Mrs Owens have had our return to the UK severely affected. Although I was delayed for six days, we are still waiting to see Mrs Owens back. We hope she has made it back by the time you are reading this. Thank you to governors and friends in the village who contacted the school to offer help as the news of my delay spread.

## **The Ulcombe Sport Relief Mile – An Update**

Thank you once again to everyone who helped back in March. The total raised was an amazing £947! Congratulations to all who took part. If you are still waiting for your certificate, please contact the school, as I am not sure we have managed to catch up with these.

## **IN THE NEWS**

Term 4 ended on Maundy Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April. We held our Easter Service at All Saints Parish Church in the morning, at 9.15am. The children did a fantastic job of retelling the Easter story in a variety of ways. We then came back to School for our Easter Egg Hunt, and the rest of our work for the day. Thank you to the FUS for organising the egg hunt. During the week after the Easter break there was a special treat for Film Club. We had a web-cam interview with Tom Felton, an actor who plays Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter series of films. A small group of children also enjoyed taking part in the Maidstone Schools Cross-Country events at Mote Park just before and after the Easter break. Well done to all runners for doing so well. Towards the end of the month our football team took part in the annual tournament at Lenham. We will let you know how we did next month.

## **STILL TO COME**

In May we are all ready looking forward to our Residential Adventure. We will be heading overseas (the Isle of Wight) this year, again with Platts Heath Primary School and John Mayne CE Primary School joining us, as we did last year. There are also end of Key Stage SATs during May.

As regular readers will already know, there are two dates to put in your diary in the summer. Our Sports Day and Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. As usual this will be a fantastic event, and it will be great to see everyone there, including all of our friends and neighbours from the village and surrounding areas. Two weeks later, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, the Friends of Ulcombe School will be hosting the second F.U.S. Summer Ball. This was an enormous success last year, and everyone who went had a great time. If you want to know more contact the School Office or any of the FUS committee.



Please remember that if you have any queries or concerns you can go on to the school web-site ([www.ulcombeschool.ik.org](http://www.ulcombeschool.ik.org)) or contact the School Office and we will do our best to help.

Best wishes, as ever,

**Mr V Hampton, Head Teacher**

### **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](mailto:maidstonerural.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk)

### **Police Surgeries in your area**

Please find the dates for our police surgeries. We are bringing our Mobile Police Station out to the Farmers Market in Headcorn.

#### **Headcorn Farmers Market 9am - 12pm**

Saturday 8 May 2010

Saturday 12 June 2010

Saturday 10 July 2010

#### **Grafty Green Post Office 9am-10am**

Wednesday 19 May 2010

#### **Ulcombe Primary School 2.30pm – 4pm**

Thursday 24 June 2010

#### **Headcorn Primary School 2.30pm – 4pm**

Thursday 06 July 2010

## **Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall**



**Kent County Council (KCC)** recently appointed Detling based firm Steadline to undertake the urgently needed pothole repairs in Maidstone. They started work on 12 April and hopefully will be in the local area as soon as possible, although we all know that there are many potholes in the borough that require urgent action. Priority action will be taken in minor roads, most of which are centred in rural areas, and a "find and fix" approach will be used. Thank you for your patience and we hope that the local roads will soon be in a much better condition.

**Platts Heath Primary School** is currently seeking a new Headteacher to replace Ian Priddle who is due to retire at the end of the Summer term. I want to assure every parent with a child at the school that KCC is now

working actively and positively to help the school in the recruitment process. Platts Heath has an enviable reputation of making every child count (in more ways than one!) and is the heartbeat of the village. Supporting small rural schools to remain successful when a Headteacher departs is crucial and I believe that Platts Heath now has the level of support it needs from the local authority to make the best possible appointment to continue its success for children.

**KCC** recently announced the appointment of Katherine Kerswell as the authority's new Group Managing Director, replacing KCC's outgoing Chief Executive, Peter Gilroy. Katherine is currently Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Council and is the President of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). She has had a successful and varied career at the cutting edge of local government spanning more than 20 years and we look forward to welcoming her to County Hall.

Please contact me if you need my help or advice - I am on 01622 734897 or [jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk)

**Jenny Whittle**  
County Councillor for Maidstone  
Rural East

## **The Grafty Gourmet**

Now the weather is finally warming up, these tasty pork steaks are great on the barbecue. Serve with jacket potatoes and a mixed salad or coleslaw. Try pineapple rings (canned or fresh) or fresh apricot halves as a delicious alternative to apples. For succulence and flavour, choose pork steaks that have a fine marbling of fat running through the meat. (Too lean and they can become dry and tough if overcooked.) Shoulder steaks or spare rib steaks are ideal and offer good value.

### **Barbecued Honey & Mustard Pork Steaks with Glazed Apple Rings**

**Serves:** 4

125g (4oz) unsalted butter  
4 x 175g (6 oz) pork steaks, i.e.  
shoulder steaks  
2 tablespoons runny honey  
2 teaspoons wholegrain mustard  
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 teaspoon ground allspice or  
cinnamon  
2 firm dessert apples  
50g (1¾ oz) caster sugar

1. Make the sauce ahead of time: gently heat the butter, sugars and golden syrup together until the butter has melted. Bring the mixture to the boil, stirring well and leave it to bubble steadily for 3 – 4 minutes.
2. Place the steaks in a shallow dish. In a small bowl, mix together the honey, mustards, olive oil and spice. Brush this over both sides of the steaks. Cover the pork and leave in a cool place and marinade for several hours. Reserve any remaining honey mixture for basting the pork when it is on the barbecue. When you are ready to cook the pork, prepare the apples. Top and tail each apple, discarding the end slices, then cut each apple into 4 equal slices. Use a melon baller or a sharp knife to scoop out the core. Toss the rings in the caster sugar to give a light coating.
3. Place the pork over a medium hot barbecue and cook for approximately 7-8 minutes on each side or until the steaks have turned a sticky nutty brown on the outside and are thoroughly cooked in the centre. (Occasionally baste the steaks during cooking with any remaining marinade.)
4. A few minutes before the pork is ready to serve, cook the apple slices on the barbecue for 2 minutes on each side until just tender and nicely caramelised and golden brown.
5. Serve each steak topped with 2 apple rings. Accompany with baked potatoes and salad or a coleslaw.

## **From Tiny Acorns ... follow up article**

The interesting article on the magnificent Oak half way up Boughton Hill (MM April) says that it was coppiced but it is more likely to be an old pollard. Oaks are rarely coppice as, in Kent, they were grown as standard trees amongst the coppice and used for construction of buildings or ships. The coppice was and is mainly hornbeam and ash with hazel as the favoured shrub. Every tree and shrub had a use in construction or burning as logs or charcoal. Chestnut coppice is much later and mainly planted from the mid-nineteenth century when it was favoured for hop poles and fencing.

I have looked closely at the tree again and I can see no evidence that it was coppiced. It is completely hollow. Occasionally old coppice stems will grow together if they are not cut for centuries. This is rare as most woodlands and trees were coppiced to well into the twentieth century. There is one exception. Most of the wonderful yews in churchyards were originally coppiced and the stems grew together over the centuries.



The coppicing stopped with the decline of the English longbow. The bows were made of the stems of coppiced yew. They are usually in churchyards where cattle could not get to them. Yew is poisonous in all its parts except for the red, fleshy coat to the seed, and the birds that eat it and distribute the seeds do not die!

These yews may have been in the churchyards long before the parish churches as most are on the sites of pre-Christian temples. Yew was a

mystical tree, venerated by our ancestors. Some are thousands of years old. The one in Ulcombe churchyard is one of the biggest – if it is still there. I have not looked for many years.

Coppicing involves cutting the tree or coppice ‘stool’ down to near the ground so that it will sprout and grow up again. This made harvesting of firewood much easier if you had a stone axe or later on an iron one. Pollarding is another matter. The trunk is cut at two metres (six feet) or so and the new shoots cannot be grazed by cattle or sheep. Pollarded willows along rivers and streams are typical and the shoots were used for basket making. Pollarded ash are found near old farmsteads where the shoots were used for tool handles.

In old woods you can see pollarded trees, usually hornbeam, at ownership or parish boundaries. Was our oak one of these? No doubt our Parish historians are perusing the old maps to see when it was last woodland. There is none in this area on Andrew's map of Kent of 1769. Pollarded trees tend to put on girth rather slower than standard trees so I would put the age before 1500. Is it on one of the old boundaries of the land of Boughton Place?

**Tom La Dell**

## **BUS SERVICE 59**

### **Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood**

A new timetable leaflet has been issued by Arriva and dates from 11<sup>th</sup> April. It is reproduced here, but there is only one change to bus times.

The first bus from Grafty Green to Maidstone now **departs three minutes earlier at 07.20** on Mondays to Fridays during the school term. During school holidays, the departure time is unchanged at 07.23.

The contract for Saturday services has recently been retendered by Kent County Council and the current operator, Nu-Venture, will continue to run the service.

The contract for the schooldays only Service 66 between Headcorn and Cornwallis Academy has also been retendered, and this service is now operated by Nu-Venture rather than Arriva.

Both of the contracted services are due to run for 4 years from April 11<sup>th</sup>, whilst the Monday to Friday Arriva Service 59 continues to be operated on a commercial basis. However, as with many rural services, bus routes, even those which are subsidised, are always under review, so the message as ever is **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

**John Collins**

(Representing Boughton Malherbe Parish Council on the Service 59 Working Group)

## Mondays to Fridays

## Saturdays

Service No	59	59	59	66	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Stop L2	0948	1227	1402	.....	1555	1555	1615	1700	1750	0838	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	Langleigh	1725	1815	Langleigh	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:01622-882288) 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.

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## Grafty Green - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Maidstone

## Mondays to Fridays

## Saturdays

Service No	59	59	59	66	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	1338
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
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735	.....	0738	0757	0929	1029	1339	1442	1442	1717	0747	0937	1350
Warmlake Corner	0743	.....	0744	0801	0935	1035	1345	1448	1448	1723	0753	0943	1356
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	via	0739	0747	0804	0938	1038	1348	1451	1451	1726	0756	0946	1359
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	Langleigh	0742	0750	0807	0941	1041	1351	1454	1454	1729	0759	0949	1402
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	and	0745	0753	.....	0944	1044	1354	1457	1457	1732	0802	0952	1405
Cornwallis Academy	Sutton	.....	.....	0820	.....	.....	.....	1507	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sutton
Linton Corner	Road	0750	0758	.....	0949	1049	1359	1502	1509	1737	0807	0957	1410
Loose, Loose Rd/Old Loose Hill	.....	0756	0802	.....	0953	1053	1403	1506	1513	1741	0811	1001	1414
Wheatshaf	.....	0756	0800	0806	.....	0957	1057	1407	1510	1745	0815	1005	1418
Maidstone, King Street	.....	0810	0814	.....	1005	1105	1415	1518	1525	1753	0820	1013	1426
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn	0808	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
London Rd, Somerfield Hospital	0817	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

## Sundays &amp; Public Holidays\*

## CODES

\* - These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council by Nu-Venture (Tel:01622-882288) 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.

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

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## **Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm

Term starts Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - 26<sup>th</sup> May

and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am

Term starts Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - 27<sup>th</sup> May

(no class on 6<sup>th</sup> May, substitute Wednesday afternoon 5<sup>th</sup> May, time to be confirmed)

The term will run for six weeks and the fee is £30. Drop in students £6 per session. If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339

**Following on from the HUGE success**

**of previous events...**

**All are welcome at the forthcoming**

**♪ Karaoke Night ♪**

**At St Edmund's Hall, School Lane, Platts Heath**

**On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm**

**Bring your Own Drinks and Nibbles**

**Suggested Entrance Donation of £5 per person**

**All proceeds go to the St Edmund's Centre Fund  
(thank you for supporting this great local facility)**

## Grafty Green Gardening Club



Date	Topic	Speaker
5 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM – Best of Kent slide show	Robert Canis
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Bee Keeping	Mrs. Barbara Harris
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Growing Vegetables	Mr. Andrew Fletcher
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show History/making walking sticks	Mr. Dennis Worcester
10 <sup>th</sup> April	15% off at Rumwood Nursery 9.30 – 4.30	
4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Visit to Turkey Mill</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Weekend visit to Dorset, staying Norfolk Royale Hotel Bournemouth. Gardens: Stourhead (NT), Abbotsbury, Kingston Maurwood, West Dean	
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Mere House, Mereworth	Andrew Wells
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Belmont House, Throwley	Head Gardener
7 <sup>st</sup> September	Autumn show - Iceland/wild flowers	Sue Buckingham Wild flower expert
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Nuts and Seeds	Tom Hart Dyke
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Kent Gardens Trust	Elizabeth Cairns
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Social with entertainment	Geoff Doel and Mick Lynn

We are a very sociable bunch and love to welcome new members. The fee to join is £5 for the year and a small entry fee of £1 on the door for events attended.



## **The May Night Sky**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind wishes during my recent illness. I am very pleased to be back in the village and starting a rather lazy convalescence. But let us now concentrate on the heavenly bodies as opposed to the rather old earthbound ones!

At the start of May the Sun is in the constellation of Aries and is moving into Taurus on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

New Moon occurs on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May and will be visible in the north-western sky at sunset. Full Moon occurs on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May, in Scorpius, just to the right of the bright star Antares.

It will not be possible to see Mercury this month, as it rises just minutes before the Sun.

Venus is visible in the western sky as soon as it starts to get dark, and sets in the northwest in late evening. The “Evening Star” is so brilliant, it can even be seen in the twilight sky.

Mars is high in the south-western sky at dusk and sets in the northwest towards dawn. It should be clearly visible and shines with a steady orange light.

It may just be possible to see Jupiter as it rises in the southeast just before dawn. It is not quite as bright as Venus, but should be visible even against a brightening sky.

Saturn is high in the southern sky at dusk and sets just before sunrise. The famous rings can only be seen through a telescope.

It was some time ago I reported on the Large Hadron Collider, and since then it has suffered nearly a year of setbacks. However, recently a landmark experiment took place, and scientists have confirmed that two beams of particles have successfully been fired at each other at almost the speed of light, smashing sub-atomic particles into even smaller pieces. Apparently it will now take some 80,000 computers to analyse the data generated by the collision. One of the possible discoveries could be the existence of the theoretical Higgs boson, also known as the “God particle”, which is thought to give matter its mass. In subsequent articles I will report on any new discoveries.

**John Maunder**

## **St Edmunds Centre - Platts Heath**

Our AGM is on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 8.00pm in the hall and I hope you will come along and let us know what you would like to see happening at St Edmunds.

Plans for another karaoke night on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> June of June at 7pm are well on the way admission is £5 per person. Once again you will have to bring your own drinks and nibbles along.

The children's Karate/kickboxing club is now Monday at 4.45 anyone interested should contact Mrs Thursting of the Black Dragon Academy on 01634 320238 or 07949 844893.

Our Line dancers have had some new members join us on Thursday at 8-9pm but we still need more members, now that spring is around the corner why not give it a try? We do not take it seriously and enjoy a fun way to exercise. Our instructor Joanne will not be with us on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May as she will be taking part in a charity cycle ride across France in aid of "Help the Heroes" anyone wishing to support Jo will find her sponsor form on the notice board in the St Edmunds Centre.

Anyone interested in starting up a club in the hall or booking it for private parties call me on 858891 or Duff Robinson on 850463.

**Patricia Dibley Secretary**

St Edmunds Centre AGM

Will Be Held On

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 20010

at 8PM

We are making it a social evening too with a glass of wine and a few refreshments

So come along and join us deciding where we can improve things.

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**CAN 2009 CHAMPION ADE HOWARD KEEP HIS TITLE?!**

## **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place in Grafty Green Village Hall on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 starting at 7.30pm. There will be refreshment provided - all are welcome.

The Parish Council is still looking for volunteers to assist in the Speedwatch scheme which monitors, with the help of the police, the speed of traffic passing through Grafty Green. Training in this scheme has been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> May 7-9pm in Lenham Community Hall. Anybody who is interested in participating, or who require further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 01622 858350.



## **NEED A LITTLE HELP?**

Are you still having problems with your computer? Need to know a bit more to make your letters easier to complete? And how about all those photographs you have from Christmas which need to be organised? **Egerton Telecottage is still here to help you!** Our current classes are fully booked but we can offer the following classes for the Summer period:

### **Digital Photography**

14<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April/5<sup>th</sup> May

### **Basic Word**

noon

4<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May

### **Digital Photography**

18<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> May/1<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June

### **Basic IT**

7<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday mornings 10am/12 noon

Tuesday/Monday mornings 10am/12

Tuesday evenings 7.30/9.30pm

Monday mornings 10am/12 noon

We may also be able to organise classes in Desk Top Publishing and Excel if there are sufficient requests. A telephone call to Sylvia Tillman, our Booking Clerk, on 01233 756050 will be enough to tell us you are interested. We can then look at available dates.



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

I hope you enjoyed last month's link word. Here is another  
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves  
The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Brown	House	Real	<b>Ale</b>
2	Garlic	Knife	Short	
3	Coronation	Run	Spring	
4	Bone	Tea	Town	
5	Dining	Football	Wine	
6	Hedge	Road	Wash	
7	Agent	Country	Real	
8	Far	End	Middle	
9	Bed	Weight	White	
10	Central	Latin	South	
11	Break	Felt	Kind	
12	Belt	Bowling	Sage	
13	Dance	Owl	Storm	
14	Easy	Joy	Out	
15	Grease	Room	Tennis	
16	Beauty	Blind	Check	

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## **Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)**

Maidstone Borough Council has now has issued the new timetable up to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc.

### **Grafty Green**

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun	14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

### **Platts Heath**

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun	11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

### **Ulcombe**

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun	12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

### **Lenham**

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Road - Boughton Lane
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### **Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent SILVER JUBILEE NORTH DOWNS WALK**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. 5 or 10 miles

Starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall

Your own Group or Charity can benefit, as this event has raised over £360,000 in the past 24 years including over £170,000 for Cancer Research U.K. which is our Club's main beneficiary.

Join us for a lovely walk in the North Downs. Further details on our WALKLINE 01622 890650 or our WEBSITE [www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk)

## **Music Notes, May 2010**

I have had to look a bit wider than usual to give a reasonable choice for this month; I hope you think it has been worthwhile!

- Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> May – charity lunchtime concerts at All Saints' Maidstone resume with an organ recital. Entry free; retiring collection.
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at Central Hall Chatham – City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra concert – Rossini *William Tell Overture*, Grieg *Piano Concerto in A minor*, Tchaikovsky *4th Symphony*. Tickets at door or from Orchestra members.
- Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 at Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells – as part of the Tunbridge Wells International Music Festival the City of London Sinfonia will provide a concert including Mozart's *Symphony No 29 in A major*. Details of any items in the festival from 01342 851168
- Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30 at Mote Hall Maidstone, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's concert includes Lalo's *Cello concerto* (soloist Sylvia Chiesa) and Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*. Tickets 01622 736392 or at the door.
- Alternatively, also on 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm, at St. Lawrence's Church Hawkhurst, Cranbrook Symphony Orchestra perform Mozart's *London Symphony*. Details 01580 766809.

**Brian Hardy**

### **Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage**

8 young people from the Len Valley church youth group joined with hundreds of other young pilgrims when they walked to Canterbury over the Easter weekend. We set off from Boughton Lees on Sunday lunch time, sleeping overnight in Chartham village hall. Monday morning saw us set off for Canterbury with bus loads of other youngsters and Bishop Trevor, splendid in purple 'frock' and anorak! At the cathedral we sat on the floor and joined in with rousing worship led by a band.

### **Good Friday Family Craft workshop**

Youngsters from Lenham and the surrounding villages enjoyed a morning of Easter themed crafts at St Mary's Lenham on Good Friday morning. They made Easter

gardens, Easter cards, painted pebbles and planted seeds. Each activity was linked in to the Easter story and the event ended with singing and a short talk.

**Rev Dick Venn**  
**Priest-in-charge, Len Valley Benefice**

### **Christian Message May 2010**

I wonder what would be top of your wish list if you could have a dream come true ... Have you ever stayed at the Hilton Hotel, or dined with the Queen? Have you ever owned a Rolls Royce? I've had a varied and exciting life and experienced all sorts of wonderful times, but I have to admit I haven't done any of those things and I doubt if I ever will. It does seem that some things in life are reserved for the very select few. Most of us have to make do with the more run-of-the-mill facilities and occasions.

Later this month, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be celebrating Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit. The people of the Old Testament would have seen this as a rare and special gift which only a few would experience. They thought that this gift was for the privileged elite. Such an honour would go to people like Isaiah, but to the ordinary people God would be distant. Any access to God was through the priest, the holy people, or the temple. But that relationship changed with the day we know as the day of Pentecost. That gift in the presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced by the Apostles, but it is also a gift offered to every one of us today.

God is not distant, he is not remote, he is not detached. We can all experience him within us. He will encourage, empower and guide us. He is always at work within our lives. He doesn't select the elite few. There is no favouritism with God. This is a gift from God that we can all enjoy, it is the gift of the inner presence of the Holy Spirit.

Have you thought that God is distant?

The challenge for us all is to open our lives to the presence of His Spirit within us, so that we may know him better.

We don't know how the Spirit will work in any one of us. The Holy Spirit is as unpredictable as the wind, unquenchable as fire, yet gentle as a dove. He will

come and breathe new energy into our lives, all we have to do is ask for his presence to be known to us.

Are we ready to accept that challenge?

When we are, our lives will be enriched with the joy, the peace, the hope and the power that the Spirit gifts to us.

I invite you to read this account of what happened on that day ...

*When the day of Pentecost dawned, they were gathered in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the rush of a mighty wind came from heaven, filling the house where they were sitting. After that, tongues of fire appeared that divided, so that a tongue rested on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in various tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. This is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel: 'in the last days, God declares, I will pour out my spirit on all people; your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. I will pour out my spirit even on male and female slaves in those days.' Acts 2: 1-4,*  
16 - 18a

**Millie Hart**

### **Len Valley Benefice Rose Service**

A service of thanksgiving to remember the lives of your loved ones will be held at St Marys Church Lenham on Sunday May 9th at 3pm.

Please come along and maybe light a candle for a loved one during the service.

You are invited to bring a rose in memory of your loved ones, or collect one at the church when you arrive.

Further details from:

Revd Dick Venn 01622 858195

or

Millie Hart 01622 859753

## **An Angel in the Swamp**

(The Story of Deaconess Harriet Bedell, who has been Canonized by the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.)

Recently the Episcopal Church of America (that is the Anglican Church in the U.S.A.) decided to canonize one of its outstanding Members. The Church does not have the requirement of a miracle to have been worked in order for the name of Deaconess Harriet Bedell to be added to its calendar of Saints but rather to recognise distinguished Service having been given to the Church. Accordingly the 8<sup>th</sup> January was declared, by the Diocese of Alaska and South East Florida, as her Commemoration Day. Deaconess Harriet Bedell became a legend in her own lifetime whilst working at the Glades Cross Mission, she helped both the early settlers in the Everglades area and also the Seminoles,( the local American Indians) in the capacity of Teacher, Nurse and Welfare worker.

After ordination as a Deaconess and training as a Missionary, Deaconess Bedell initially wished to work as a missionary in China. She received no family encouragement for this and so worked, at first, with the Alaskan Eskimos near the Arctic Circle, often as the only white woman in such a remote area. In 1933 the position at the Glades Cross Mission in the Everglades became available. She retired officially in 1943 but continued to work until 1960, when hurricane Donna destroyed the Mission. Such is life in Florida, but by this time the nature of life in the neighbourhood of the Mission had changed beyond recognition.

In the early days a supporter provided the Deaconess with money to purchase her own car, and there are numerous anecdotes about her tenacity whilst driving. It is said that employees in the Civic building came to recognise the sound of her engine when she came, as she frequently did, requesting funds for what she considered to be a worthy cause. They would disappear down the back steps of the building to avoid a meeting with her, when she was in a confrontational mood. The Deaconess soon became wise to this and so would stand at the foot of the back steps to await her escaping prey.

She realized she had gained the respect and affection of the initially doubtful Seminoles, when she was invited to give an address at the Memorial Service following the death of one of their Chieftains. (Readers will recognize the source of her words – I suspect the spirits of Tyndale and Cranmer nodded their approval. The only word I think I need to “translate” is “Chickee”, which is a traditional Seminole building and may be of very different sizes. It is a single floor structure of timber, open framed and with a palmetto roof, deliciously and surprisingly cool even on the hottest day.)



The Great Spirit watches over us.  
He is our guide in life.  
If we speak truly to Him, can we be empty in our lives?  
He feeds us in our lands, and leads us by waters of comfort.  
He shall make our spirits good and put our feet on paths  
of goodness because he is our Father.  
When the bad times come, when we walk in the shadow  
Of death, we need fear no bad things.  
Surely the love and mercy of the Great spirit who  
Watches over us will be with us all our lives, and we will  
Always be welcome in the Great Chickee.

**Tony Trayling**

*Tony Trayling is a member of St. Nicholas Church and his wife is American and they  
spend about three months of the year in the Everglades*

### **A Hand Up, Not A Handout**

I usually buy the **Big Issue** in Headcorn or Lenham and have often wondered how the system works. I've discovered that all the vendors buy the magazine for 85p and sell it for £1.70. They all receive training, sign a code of conduct and can be identified by photo IDs.

The **Big Issue** was set up in 1991 to provide homeless and vulnerably housed people with the opportunity to earn a legitimate income.

Becoming housed is only the first step on the journey away from the streets so vendors are allowed to continue selling the magazine once they have found accommodation. Support is provided for vendors who want to address the issues which led them to become homeless. This support is provided by The Big Issue Foundation which is a registered charity relying primarily on donations from the general public.

The Foundation stresses that vendors are working, not begging, so those who pay for a magazine are asked to take it.

**Joan Drury**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 5th Sunday of Easter**

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

**9<sup>th</sup> May 6th Sunday of Easter**

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 Malherbe Choral Evensong  
7pm Holy Cross Bearsted Taize Service

**16<sup>th</sup> May 7th Sunday of Easter**

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> May Pentecost**

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

**30<sup>th</sup> May Trinity Sunday**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
10am Benefice Service Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion  
6.30pm St. John the Baptist Harrietsham Informal Service

## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	<b>Word 1</b>	<b>Word 2</b>	<b>Word 3</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	Brown	House	Real	Ale
2	Quilt	Knife	Short	Bread
3	Coronation	Run	Spring	Chicken
4	Bone	Tea	Town	China
5	Dining	Football	Wine	Table
6	Hedge	Road	Wash	Hog
7	Agent	Country	Real	Estate
8	Far	End	Middle	East
9	Bed	Weight	White	Feather
10	Central	Latin	South	America
11	Break	Felt	Kind	Heart
12	Belt	Bowling	Sage	Green
13	Dance	Owl	Storm	Barn
14	Easy	Joy	Out	Rider
15	Grease	Room	Tennis	Elbow
16	Beauty	Blind	Check	Spot

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	Come on <b>Elleen</b> , A No 1 for Dexy's Midnight Runners
2	St <b>George</b> , Patron Saint of England
3	<b>Father</b> Ted, TV sitcom set on Craggy Island
4	Like a <b>Prayer</b> , A hit hit for Madonna
5	The <b>Norfolk Broads</b> , Area of waterways in East Anglia
6	<b>Abide</b> With Me, Hymn traditionally sung at FA Cup Final
7	Gary <b>Rhodes</b> , TV chef with spiky hair
8	<b>Cheryl</b> Cole, Glamorous The X Factor Judge
9	Buddy <b>Holly</b> , 1950/60's rock and roll legend
10	Stephen <b>Fry</b> , Presenter of TV QI

ALPINES  
AQUATICS  
BARBECUES  
BEDDING PLANTS  
BIRDS  
BIRD TABLES  
BOOKS  
BULBS  
CHEMICALS  
CHIMINEAS  
CLOTHING  
CAFE  
COMPOST  
FENCING  
FERTILISERS  
FISH  
FRUIT TREES  
FURNITURE  
GARDEN ARCHES  
GARDEN LIGHTING  
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