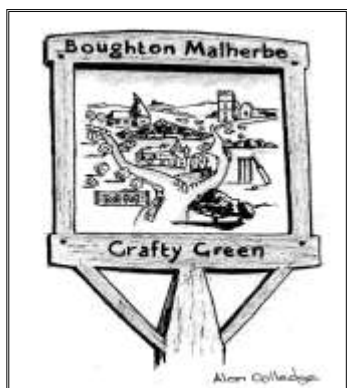


Malherbe Monthly

Number 104

March 2013



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	850711
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 Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: dickvenn@gmail.co.uk	858195
Curate	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: mille.hart@uwclub.net	859753
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Office opening times as 9am – 12noon Monday - Thursday	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.40pm	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Weekend Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **April** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th March**

Front cover: Eleanor Goddard - See article on Platts Heath School

News from St. Nicholas Church

Women's World Day of Prayer: Services to mark this day will be held on 1st March at St. Mary's Lenham at 10.30am and All Saints, Ulcombe at 7.00pm. This year's Service has been compiled by the Women of France. Do come along and join us, Gentlemen are also most welcome.

Lent Lunch: The Lent Lunch at the Old Rectory Boughton Malherbe (near the Church) will be held on Thursday 7th March at 12.00-2.00pm. Please come and support this event. Donations for the lunch will be sent to Christian Aid.

Mothering Sunday: Our Service for Mothering Sunday will be at 9.30am on 10th March in St. Nicholas. Children please bring your Mothers along to this family friendly Service. There will be no Choral Evensong.

Weekday Morning Prayers: Prayers will be said in St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe on 12th and 26th March at 9.30am and on alternate weeks at All Saints, Ulcombe.

Coffee Morning: Our monthly Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall Grafty Green at 10.30-12.00 on 13th March. We are planning to make it part of our Lent initiative to raise funds for Christian Aid, so this month there will be an entrance fee. There will be the usual coffee, tea and homemade cakes and scones, together with cake stall, books and a bring and buy.

APCM Meeting: Our Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held at St. Nicholas Church at 7.30pm on 20th March. Do come along and see what alterations have been achieved to the Church with the installation of a kitchen and toilet and the removal of four pews, which gives us more room for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms.

Gentleman's Breakfast: This will be held at the Dog and Bear Lenham on 22nd March, at 8.00am, when a full English Breakfast will be served followed by a talk given by Mr. Charles de Roemer entitled 'Church planting in Belgium'. Why not come along? I'm told the Dog and Bear serves a very good breakfast for £8.50.

Palm Sunday Family Service will be held on 23rd March at 9.30am, when Palm Crosses will be distributed.

Good Friday: On Good Friday 29th March at 2.00pm there will be a service of 'One Hour's Devotion'.

New Archbishop: Our new Archbishop the Right Rev: Justin Welby will be enthroned in Canterbury Cathedral on 21st March, at 3.00pm

Easter Day: On Easter Day, 31st March at 9.30am there will be a service of Holy Communion, (sung) to mark the day when Christ rose from the dead so that we too may have everlasting Life.

Bible Study is held each week during term time at Weirton Villa - do come and join us as you will be most welcome.

The Electoral Roll: The Church Electoral Roll has to be up dated this year, if you would like your name to appear on the Roll, please contact John Millen on 01622 850319 for an Application Form. Even if your name has been on the Roll in the past you must re-apply to remain on the list.

Joan Davidson

**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
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Children's Room Beer Garden



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Grafty Green Village Hall News

Quel plaisir! What fun we had at the French evening! The Hall was bedecked in blue, white and red, the food was great and plentiful (no 'nouvelle cuisine' in Grafty), there was lively live music from two French (well, French-looking) accordionists and – most memorable of all – we had a wonderful burlesque show from "Burlicious" The photo below says it all! Our thanks go to all who gave their time, and worked so hard, to make the evening such a success.



We're taking a breather in March, but we're back in April with our perennial favourite, the **Beetle Drive**. That's on **Saturday 20th April**. The ticket price of just £6 will include a selection of quiches and salad but bring your own drink as there will be no bar. Tickets go on sale 4 weeks before the event (on 23rd March) and will be available from Barbara Pearce (850232) and from the Village Shop. I'll remind you again in next month's Malherbe Monthly but tickets for the French Evening sold out very quickly so, if you want to be sure of your place, book your tickets early.

Finally, we now have a proposed date for our **Comedy Night**. As mentioned last month we are negotiating for a top class professional comedienne to grace the stage of our Village Hall. Inevitably, she is booked at major venues every weekend but it looks as though she is willing and available on **Thursday 30th May** so get this date in your diary now. This could be the best event of the year. More details next month!

Richard Pilborough

It's back, by popular request!



***The Great Grafty Green
Beetle Drive!***

Sat.20 April

***Tickets £6 (including food)
available from the
Village Shop soon!***



**Kent
Police**



**PCSO Alan Beech
will be holding a
Police Surgery
outside**

Grafty Green Village Hall

on

Tuesday 12th March 2013

11am to Midday

Do call in and see him if you have any questions or concerns

From your Parish Council

You may remember that, last year, I kept you updated about the impending changes to/reduction of the finances of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council, and many of you signed a petition showing your support for the Parish Council against the imposition by MBC of these changes. Unfortunately, despite much protest, the Parish Services Scheme has been imposed. The Chairman of Maidstone KALC has made the following statement:

The Chairman of the Maidstone Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), Cllr Geraldine Brown, wishes to thank residents for supporting their Parish Council by signing the recent petition and for turning up en-masse at the Town Hall to show that support to Maidstone Borough Council. She further comments:

"Parishes will be aware that Maidstone KALC and its Parish Council members have had serious concerns about the Parish Services Scheme (PSS) that has now been imposed by Maidstone Borough Council as a replacement for its previous funding scheme for Parishes. That funding has been reduced from £500,000 in 2010/11 to just over £140,000 for 2013/14.

In many Parishes, this will have a severe impact on Parish funding and could lead to a substantial increase in Parish precepts to the extent that such funding-reduction cannot be met by further Parish cost savings. Parishes are at the sharp-end of delivering local services and do not have inefficient costs to shed, noting that Parish Councillors themselves are not paid.

Maidstone KALC continues in dialogue with the Borough Council to try and improve matters in subsequent years, but, in the meantime, recognises that Parish Councils must ensure that they can meet the service needs of their local community and may need to significantly increase the Parish Precept for 2013-14."

At the last Parish Council Meeting, Finance Committee Chairman, Mike Hitchins, gave the following presentation:

In previous years the Parish Council has had two sources of funding:

- 1. Concurrent Functions Grant - This was provided by Maidstone Council - **£3,150** in 2012/2013*
- 2. Parish Precept - This is raised through the Council Tax system - **£2,100** in 2012/2013*

*Therefore the total funding the Parish Council received in the current financial year was **£5,250***

In the next financial year the Concurrent Functions Grant is being replaced with a bid based system called the Parishes Services Scheme. There have been many meetings with Maidstone Borough Council officers to discuss the implication of this new scheme and it has become apparent that Boughton Malherbe will almost certainly receive very little from this new scheme.10

As the Parish had to submit its application for precept funding by the end of January, the possible additional funding under this new scheme was discounted for purposes of Budget planning.

This left only the Parish Precept as a source of funding for the Parish Council.

At a recent meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the budget for 2013/2014 the following was proposed:

*A balance of approx **£1600** is expected to be carried over from the current financial year: this will be held in reserve. We have not, in the past, held any reserves but in the last audit of the council's books by the Audit Commission the lack of any reserves was highlighted and deemed to be an issue.*

The following is our proposed expenditure:

£300	Village Green maintenance	This is mainly Grass Cutting but the Parish Council is responsible for tree maintenance.
£500	Hire of Village Hall for Meetings	10 Meetings a year @ £50. This includes Parish Council Meetings and expected Planning and Financial Committee Meetings that will all be held in public
£100	Christmas Tree	This is for the purchase of a Christmas Tree and associated lighting for display on the Green
£350	Speedwatch	For Hire of equipment required to run Speedwatch campaign in the Village
£100	Litter Collection	Provision of equipment to facilitate the collection of litter throughout the Parish area
£500	Churchyard Grass Cutting	As mentioned before this is included as we are unsure if this will funded under the new Parish Services Scheme. If funding is forthcoming then this amount will be deducted from the Parish Precept next year and the amount not spent retained as reserves.
£150	Emergency Plan	This Plan is due to be developed this year. Expenditure is unclear so this amount is budgeting for any expenses this plan will incur
£150	Village/Neighbourhood Plan	This Plan is due to be developed this year. Expenditure is unclear so this amount is budgeting for any expenses this plan will incur
£1200	Clerks Wages	This is to provide Clerking Services to the Parish Council.
£600	Training Courses	Under the recently introduced Localism Act there is pressure for Parish Councillors to be better informed and trained in order to undertake the additional responsibilities the Act passes to Parish Councils
£130	Audit Commission	This is the fee that the Audit Commission charges to Audit the Parish Council books

£60	Auditor	This is the fee to pay for the Parish Council books to be prepared for the Audit Commission
£450	Insurance	Public Liability Insurance for Parish Council Members
£210	KALC Membership	The Parish is a member of the Kent Association of Local Councils
£200	Contingency	An amount set aside for unknown costs or overruns.

*The total proposed budget is **£5,000***

*For the year 2012/13, the Precept was **£2100**. That equates to £9.25 per dwelling at Band D. That, divided into income at Band D, gives 229 dwellings.*

*At the proposed 2013/14 amount of **£5,000**, divided by 229 dwellings, the proposed figure for a Band D dwelling will be £21.83, an increase of £12.58 per year or 24 pence per week per dwelling at Band D.*

A great deal of time and thought has been put into formulating this budget. We are fortunate, in Boughton Malherbe, that the rise is so little - only 24p per week. However, it is still an increase that has been imposed on us at a time when extra money can be hard to find, and the Parish Council continues to do all it can to keep costs as low as possible.

Christine King Parish Clerk

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to end of June 2013.

Grafty Green

Saturday 23rd March 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 1st June 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 23rd March 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane
Saturday 1st June 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 30th March 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens
Saturday 8th June 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens

Grafty Green Gardening Club - 2013 Programme

Date	Event/Speaker	Subject
January 8th	AGM – Adrian Hutchinson	Alpine plants
February 5th	Steve Harmer	History of gardening
March 5th	Rob Masters	Adventures on the allotment!
April 2nd	Spring show and George Pearson	Madagascar
May 7th	Old Farm Otterden, Near Faversham	Outing
May 10th – 13th	Weekend away Malvern Spring Show	
June 2nd (Sunday)	Old Bladbean Stud, Near Elham, Canterbury	Outing
July 2nd	Michael and Gill Bushell, Garden House, Surrenden	Outing
August		Outing
Sept 2nd	Autumn Show Peter Kirby	My lost Kent
Oct 1st	Produce, jams chutney evening	Bring and Buy/swapping
Nov 5th	Sue Marshall	Love affair with Irises
Dec 3rd	Social and quiz	

Tuesday March 5th at 7.30 we will be celebrating the coming of Spring with Rob Masters who is coming to talk to us about 'Adventures of the Allotment'. Members and non-members alike are welcome to come along to the talk at a small charge of £1.00 for members £2.00 for non-members which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. For information about any of our events please call Sue Burch on 850381 or Rosemary Smith on 850526.

Members who are coming on the weekend away to the 3 Counties Show and other gardens in May are advised that the balance of payment for this event will be due at the March meeting.



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Mondays to Fridays

Service No	59	School Days Only		School Days Only	
		66	59	59	59
Maidstone, King Street	1220	See	1610	1725	
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn, Stop J4	1222	Note	1612	1727	
Wheatsheaf, Loose Road	1229	1	1619	1734	
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1233	....	1623	1738	
Linton Corner	1237	....	1627	1742	
Cornwallis Academy	....	1505	....	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1242	....	1632	1747	
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1245	1509	1635	1750	
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1248	1512	1638	1753	
Wamlake Corner	1251	1515	1641	1756	
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1259	1523	1649	1804	
Kingswood, Village Hall	....	1525	....	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	....	1544	....	....
Sutton Valence, The Harbour	....	1549	....	....

Saturdays

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

* - 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 Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QG.

* - 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.

2

Grafty Green - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Maidstone

Mondays to Fridays

Service No	59	59	School Days Only		Net School Days	Note 1
			66	59		
Sutton Valence, The Harbour	....	....	0731	....	
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	....	....	0736	....	
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	....	....	0745	....	
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0710	0721	....	0930		
Ulcombe, Post Office	0717	0729	0750	0937		
Kingswood, Village Hall	0722	0733	0754	0942		
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0725	0736	0757	0944		
Wamlake Corner	0731	0742	0801	0950		
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0735	0745	0804	0953		
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0738	0749	0807	0956		
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0741	0751	....	0958		
Cornwallis Academy	....	....	0820	....	
Linton Corner	0746	0756	....	1003		
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	0750	0800	....	1006		
Wheatsheaf, Loose Road	0756	0806	....	1012		
Maidstone, King Street	....	0814	....	1020		
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	....	....	....
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	....	....	....
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826	....	....	....

Saturdays

* 59			
59	59	59	59
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	Largely
0802	0952	1405	and
....	....	....	Sutton
0807	0957	1410	Road
0811	1001	1414
0815	1005	1418	1624
0820	1013	1426	1632
....
....
....
....

CODES

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3

Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Planning may sound dull, but keep reading! - it is actually an exciting new way for communities just like ours to decide the future of the places where we live and work. Across the country communities are being encouraged and empowered to prepare neighbourhood plans which, the Government says, will enable communities to:

- Choose if and where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built
- Have their say on what those new buildings should look like
- Grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead
- Preserve areas they don't want changed
- Define areas that can be used for leisure or other services that benefit the whole community

Once a neighbourhood plan is in force, it carries real legal weight. Borough decision-makers will be obliged, *by law*, to take what it says into account when they consider proposals for development in the neighbourhood.

At the Parish Council meeting on 20th November last year, it was agreed that a group be formed to work on a plan for Boughton Malherbe. So far that group consists of myself, Sylvia Close; John Collins; Mike Davidson; Ian Shaw and Robert Turner, and we hope that more will join. Although Parish Council led, this is a real community venture in which we all have a say - it is you, and not the Parish Council, who decides the content of the plan! Before finalized, a referendum will take place calling on the opinion of all parishioners.

On Monday 25th March, at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall, Brian Lloyd from CPRE (Council for Protection of Rural England (Kent Branch)) is coming to explain what the Neighbourhood Plan is and how it might work for Boughton Malherbe/Grafty Green. Do try to come along to listen, and ask any questions you may have - this affects you!

Cllr Tony King

Talk by Brian Lloyd, CPRE Protect Kent

Neighbourhood Planning Explained

Monday 25th March, 7.30pm, Grafty Green Village Hall.

All Welcome

Boughton Malherbe Calendars

The final amount raised by the sale of Boughton Malherbe Calendars is £196 (profit) which, given that selling didn't begin until mid November, is nothing short of miraculous! Thank you to John Collins for his support and stunning contributions; to Rob, Hazel and Nick in Grafty Green Shop; Simon and Pauline at Grafty Garden Centre and Keith at Len Valley News, who all had calendars on sale and without whose help the venture would not have been possible. THANK YOU!

For 2014, a different approach: a calendar made up of photographs submitted by YOU, preferably something local and that you think would look good being on display for a month. We live in a beautiful place with loads of photo opportunities so, - get snapping! - and please send photos to me at: christine-king@hotmail.co.uk or put them in my post box: Gowell Cottage, Boughton Malherbe, and the best will appear, with the photographer's name, in next year's calendar.

Chris King

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Glass	Rush	Zero	Hour
2	Black	Box	Dry	
3	Egg	Old	Two	
4	Electric	Fire	Seed	
5	Bishop	Marble	Way	
6	Musk	Poison	Race	
7	Jack	Soviet	Trade	
8	Meal	Number	Sale	
9	Big	Hold	Tip	
10	Global	Heart	Pan	
11	Fall	Mill	Mineral	
12	Body	Dry	Torch	
13	Ball	Board	Plough	
14	Lane	Life	Track	
15	Party	Warrant	Word	
16	Centre	Chamber	Stand	

Curry & Quiz Night - Kings Head Grafty Green

9th March at 7.30pm

£9 - Book with Ken or Bev - 01622 850259

News from Ulcombe Village School

We're Raising The Roof

Term 3 is coming to an end, but there is still much to tell you about what has happened and what is to come. The final week was busy enough on its own. Among other events, Owlets' held an exhibition which you can read about on page 2. The class decided that the proceeds from the exhibition should be donated to Comic Relief, and, amazingly, raised a massive £63! Well done to Owlets. Thank you to everyone who contributed as our total for Comic Relief, with our Cake Sale and a Bad Hair Day to go!

As you may know our topic this term has been Food, Glorious Food, and we continued with that theme for the holiday homework this February. School Council decided we should hold a cake sale, so we finished our work on food by preparing for the Great Ulcombe Bake Off (?) on our first day back, on Monday 25th February.

Shrove Tuesday was on Tuesday 12th February. Congratulations to the children from all three houses, who competed for the honour of being the Pancake Race winners for 2013. Thank you to Tawny Owls for providing the pancakes and to all the family and friends who came along to support the children. Also, in the same week, the FUS St Valentine's Day Disco took place. Find out just how successful it was below.

Earlier in the month Owlets learnt more about food with the help of Morrisons. They were able to find out about the store and the produce that goes on sale, even filling doughnuts with jam, which tasted great! Owlets showed off their learning at their wonderful exhibition. They even made food for visitors to enjoy, including mini-pizzas, smoked mackerel dip and flapjack.

Although Term 3 came to an end in the middle of the month, the work did not stop there—Byford Roofing started on-site from Saturday 16th February, replacing the roof above the junior classes. Whilst this will inevitably cause some disruption, we will endeavour to ensure that learning carries on as normal. During this time please take extra care if you are visiting the school site, paying attention to all signs and fencing. It will also be essential that access to the school car park is never blocked at any time. Thank you for your cooperation.

What Do You Value?

Part of our on-going work in school to support the children develop and grow is around Christian Values. Whilst we know not every child will grow in a Christian faith, the values are applicable regardless of belief. During Term 3 the children have been encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of reverence. As we go through Lent in Term 4, moving towards Easter, our focus will be on forgiveness.

Fundraising While You Shop On-Line

Do you shop on-line? You can help raise money for the school at the same time. All you have to do is go via our School Megastore on the left hand side of our school's

web-page. Simply go to <http://www.ulcombeschool.uk.org/sh/megastore/home.ikml> to get started, or go to the school web-site and click on the Megastore button. Thank you to everyone who has already done just that—the Megastore has raised £57.44 since it opened its doors, so to speak, in the autumn.

Friends Of Ulcombe School

The first FUS event of the year was the St. Valentine's Disco on yesterday, after school. The children thoroughly enjoyed dancing along to the Cha Cha Slide and Gangnam Style to name just two. Our thanks go to the FUS Committee who were on hand to keep the children topped up with sweets, crisps and drinks. Special thanks got to DJ Richie, for his hard work making sure the children all had a great time.

In Term 4 we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday and Easter. There will be a prize draw made at the Friend's Dinner, aimed particularly at mums, grandmas and aunties. Contact the School Office or one of the committee for tickets. The children are looking forward to searching for Easter Eggs already, with almost a whole term to go!

Looking ahead to the summer, we have already set the date for the Summer Fayre. Please put Saturday 22nd June in your diary. As in previous years the children will be taking part in the School Sports Day followed by the Fayre, with a variety of stalls and activities. It would be wonderful to see so many of our friends and neighbours on the day, as well as families of the pupils here.

The Next Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner

You are also all cordially invited to the next Friends' Dinner, when we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday on Wednesday 6th March. For those of you who have not yet experienced a Friends' Dinner, this is a chance to have a roast dinner in school, prepared by our very own School Cook and served by the children. The after-dinner entertainment is from the children, showing off what they have been learning in class. On this occasion the children will be showing and telling us all about their mums. Invitations have been issued, but if you do not get one, please contact the school and we will be only too pleased to add you to the list.

Welcome Back To A World Champion

Some of you may remember Mr Mike Fenton, who was Deputy Head Teacher here thirty years ago. He is coming back on Monday 11th March. This time it is for the morning to teach all of the children how to play the 'Autoharp'. He is the leading expert on this instrument and has played around the world. In fact he is a member of the Autoharp Hall of Fame!

Everyone, including you, our friends and neighbours, are welcome to come along for a short concert at 9.05am (for about half an hour). He will then lead workshops with the infants and the juniors, before finishing with a concert for parents, in which children from Tawny Owls and Barn Owls Classes will perform. We look forward to seeing you there, learning about this wonderful instrument and others. There will even be a sale of small instruments at the end of the morning.

Library Update

We continue to push forward with our planned extension. This will house a library, and will also include a toilet suitable for disabled visitors and members of the school community. The current delay is caused by the need for additional and unexpected legal documentation to enable KCC, the Diocese of Canterbury and UK Power Networks to work together to move the electricity sub-station into a corner of the main school site. With a purchaser lined-up to buy the disused adventure trail, it is hoped that the completion of this sale by KCC can happen as quickly as possible. This will, as you know, fund the long-awaited extension.

Playground Markings

We are really pleased that our playground markings have now been completed. They include a range of markings: number lines, an alphabet, a chess board, a roadway for the younger pupils and hopscotch boards for the older ones. We hope the children enjoy making use of the different games that they can now play using them.

As ever, if you would like to know more about our work in school, or if you would like to help in some way, please feel free to contact us through the School Office.

Best wishes

Mr V Hampton, *Head Teacher.*

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If you would like to try a practice I am happy for you to dip in, maybe occasionally when the need arises (recharge the batteries); I am flexible in more ways than just physically!

Classes are on Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30 during school term times and on Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11. The investment is £8 to dip in or block booking works out at £6 a session.

Sue Burch, (British Wheel of Yoga Teacher – 26 years' experience) contact 850381, grafftyyoga@gmail.com.



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Music Notes, March 2013

There is an organisation called The Maidstone Area Arts Partnership whose object is to represent and promote Arts and Culture in the greater Maidstone area. One of its very useful functions is the operation of a so-called "anti-clash diary" whose purpose is to enable member organisations to avoid holding "competing" events on the same day. This month it has failed. There are two good local concerts on 23rd March, and another on 24th. To avoid the risk of a knife in the back some dark night I list them all in my monthly selection! Here it is:

- Fri 15th March, 7.30 at Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Music Society presents pianist Laura Melda, the 2010 BBC Young Musician of the Year in a wonderful programme of works by Bach, Chopin, Debussy, and Liszt. Surely not to be missed. Info 01233 756672; tickets at the door.
- Saturday 16th March, 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, West Malling, The Maidstone Singers join with West Malling community Choir for a concert of seasonal choral works. Tickets at the door or from www.themaidsingers.org.uk.
- Saturday 23rd March, 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted. The Bearsted Choral Society perform Elgar's oratorio *The Kingdom*, which some consider Elgar's greatest choral work. Tickets 01634 666730.
- Saturday 23rd March, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone. Maidstone Symphony Orchestra perform Walton's *Viola Concerto* (soloist Robin Ashwell) and Berlioz's symphony *Harold in Italy*. Tickets 01622 735830
- Sunday 24th March, 7.30pm at All Saints Church Maidstone, Sutton Valence Choral Society sing Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Tickets 01233 840540

On the radio this month I would draw your attention to the series of lunchtime baroque concerts on BBC radio 3, 5-7th March at 1.00pm

Brian Hardy

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Tuesday 26th March 2013 - Please Note: This is a change of date from the 19th to 26th March**

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

News from Platts Heath Primary School



Where small works

We're only at the beginning of March and already so much has happened this year.....



Turner class visited the O2 arena in January to participate in the Young Voices concert. Even though it was a very long and exciting day the children behaved brilliantly and were a true credit to the school. Children, teachers and parents alike, all had a fantastic time and nearly all of Turner class said it was a day they will never forget. Turner class have written a little about the event and a few comments are shown below.

"On Tuesday 29th January 2013 we went to the HUGE O2 arena. It was MASSIVE. We had great fun singing all of the songs. But my favourite bit was the rock medley, Rock 'N' Roll! We danced and sang till it was time to go home. What a great day." Izzy

"On the 29th January Turner class went to Young Voices at the O2. My favourite part was when we sang with a professional beat-boxer Randolph Matthews. Our conductor was David Lawrence, there was also a 12 year old girl called Connie Talbot, there were also some really good dancers called Urban Strides." Piers

"On the 29th January 2013 Turner Class went to the O2. My favourite part was when Connie Talbot sang 'I Just Haven't Met You Yet' and 'Building Bridges'. Connie was amazing! My other favourite part was when I saw the dancing!" Jessie



As phonics and spelling is such an important part of the curriculum, we recently held an information session after school. The teaching staff demonstrated the new methods used in school to assist the children with phonics and spelling. The aim of the session was to inform parents and thereby help them to assist the children at home.



The Year 6 children joined other local schools at the Theatre ADAD Drugs Awareness session hosted by Harrietsham school. Theatre ADAD's ethos is to make learning an active experience. By using key social reference points, language and life-stage scenarios they informed children in a dramatic setting of the dangers of drugs.

Our very own Eleanor Goddard recently cycled 10 miles along the coast between Hythe and Dungeness to raise funds for Alzheimer's Research. She has been training in all weathers since Christmas and her target was to raise £200. She has had great support and has been pledged £340 in sponsorship. Eleanor would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has given so generously. We think she has done an amazing job and is a true inspiration to us! Well done Ella!



Book week starts on the 4th March. The children will be enjoying some literary-based activities and competitions and on Thursday 6th March all the children (and staff) are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book characters. I look forward to seeing the costumes!



In conjunction with John Mayne C.E. primary school and Ulcombe C.E. primary school, the children from Year 5 and Year 6 Turner class are off to the PGL camp at Osmington Bay in Dorset. The residential adventure trip provides the children with the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of physical activities. As you can imagine, the children are very excited to be going away!

Thinking of moving, or recently moved into the area? Please give us a call on 01622 850316 to see if there are spaces available or come and visit our friendly school.

Our website address is: www.platts-heath.kent.sch.uk
Or email us: office@platts-heath.kent.sch.uk

Emma Wilkins – Parent Governor

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Myers, Hairy Biker who accompanies Simon King
2	Rita _____, Actress who portrays Albert Squares Roxy Mitchell
3	_____ Women, Lunchtime talk show
4	Jane _____, Cake making actress
5	_____ Burke, who played Perry alongside of Harry Enfield
6	Days of _____, 1990 movie starring Tom Cruise
7	_____ Holder, Front man with the group Slade
8	Vin _____, New York born actor known for his hard man roles
9	The _____ Roundabout, Classic children's TV programme
10	_____ Days, US TV classic with Henry Winkler



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Our new 1-hour individual sessions during the week (known as 1-2-1) have proved to be very popular. We are therefore going to continue during the winter months on the following dates:

MARCH
Tuesday 5 th
Friday 15 th
Wednesday 20 th
Thursday 28 th

There are 3 x 1-hour slots available between 9am – 12.30pm
(9am-10am) – (10.15am-11.15am) – (11.30am/12.30pm)
on each of the above dates.

Call us to book a slot and provide your phone number and email address together with an idea of how we can help you.. We will also ask for you to pay the price of £10 prior to your session, by cheque, or by popping into the Telecottage where bookings can be taken and confirmed.

The list below is not exhaustive but provided to give everyone an idea of some the topics which can be covered.

Getting Started	Digital Photography	Family History
Word Processing	Managing Documents	Getting Photos to PC
Edit Photographs	Email Photographs	Produce a Calendar
Produce a Newsletter	Using the Internet	Facebook/Twitter/Skype
Excel	PowerPoint	Paint Shop Pro

We will still be running our Saturday morning clinics between
10am and 12noon – call in for a coffee and a chat –
we would love to see you!

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Pop ups and Adverts

Are you getting annoyed with pop ups and adverts when browsing the internet and asking why the anti-virus software installed on your computer doesn't block them.

Anti-virus software will block malware. Malware (derived from the words "malicious" and "software") is the general term used for any software that is written with the sole intention of disrupting, stealing information or controlling your Computer. Malware therefore covers everything, including viruses, spyware, ad-ware, root-kits, key-loggers and many more nasty programs.

There are some adverts and pop ups that are not considered malware by the virus checker, for instance Norton would not block its own adverts.

So the best way to deal with these unwanted adverts and pop ups is to install an Independent blocker like Spybot. Because it is independent it picks up those things that the other anti-virus checkers leave behind, because it blocks whatever it considers intrusive or even just annoying. Unfortunately it can't pick up everything because adverts in general are not malware and notoriously difficult to get rid of, but it does make a big difference, especially when you are doing your on-line weekly shopping.

There are many other products available to help with this, some may be more difficult to set up than others.

Before installing anything like this do some research and ask people what they have found best. Personally I installed Spybot just after Christmas this year and it made a big difference to the number of annoying adverts and pop-ups I get when using the internet.

Warning: Toolbars

When installing software from the internet, be careful not to install unwanted toolbars. Toolbars will install all sorts of spyware, so unless you know that you want it, always say no to them. Sometimes you install something and forget to un-tick the box that says "do you want our toolbar", the trouble is if you say yes to toolbar software you are effectively saying yes to the spyware/ad-ware portion. If you like the toolbar then you have to live with the pop-ups. The well-known ones are not malicious, just annoying. Some of the others you just can't get rid of even if you uninstall the App/toolbar. You will have to search for special software that gets rid of it for you.

The March Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Aquarius at beginning of March, and moves into Pisces towards the end of the month.

The **Spring Equinox** falls on Wednesday 20th March, so after this date the days will grow longer than the nights. **British Summer Time** begins on Sunday 31st March, when clocks go forward one hour.

New Moon occurs on Monday 11th March, and **Full Moon** is on Wednesday 27th March when in Aquarius.

Mercury rises in the southeast just before sunrise in the constellation of Aquarius, so again will not be easy to see in the twilight.

Venus rises in the southeast at sunrise in Aquarius, so will not be visible this month.

Mars again rises in the southeast at sunrise, so will also not be visible this month.

Jupiter is well placed for viewing in the evenings this month. It is high in the western sky at dusk and is brighter than any of the stars. Relative to the stars it is moving westwards in Taurus. Through 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 southeast in the late evening, and is well up in the southern western sky just before dawn. Relative to the stars it is moving very slowly in the constellation of Libra. Through a telescope you should be able to see the famous rings together with many of its moons.

Most of you will be aware that last month the asteroid 2012 DA14 narrowly missed the Earth. It was the size of a school gymnasium, travelling at 18,000 mph, within 17,200 miles of Earth, closer than many of our satellites. Now, however, there is an interest by a number of companies to harvest asteroids for mineral wealth in what they hope will be a 21st century equivalent to the oil and gold rushes. They intend to deploy small satellites to prospect asteroids, and effectively lasso them, and transporting them into Earth's orbit.

John Maunder

Your local Solicitors - Information

Thorneloe & Co Solicitors are pleased to be able to report that they have been accredited as a member of the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme for the second year in a row.

The Conveyancing Quality Scheme is, according to the Law Society, the "mark of excellence" for the home buying process. In order to become accredited the firm underwent rigorous assessment by the Law Society and had to demonstrate the integrity of its solicitors and staff, its adherence to good practice management standards and to prudent and efficient conveyancing procedures.

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status. It is open only to members of the Law Society who meet the demanding standards set by the scheme and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association of British Insurers.

Although Michael and Harriet Thorneloe, the partners in Thorneloe & Co are pleased to have been accredited, membership of the scheme will not noticeably change the way that they conduct their business or treat their clients. The firm has always fulfilled the standards and followed the procedures now required for accreditation whilst at the same time developing trusted relationships with clients, some of which have lasted decades.

In addition to this, Harriet Thorneloe has also recently been made a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), the leading worldwide professional body for practitioners in the field of trusts, estates and related issues. Her membership is the culmination of four years of specialist study and assessment which will enable her to advise clients skilfully and with confidence in all areas of trust and estate administration, as well as continuing to deal with wills of all complexities!

St. Edmunds Centre - Film Club

The following films are the suggested screenings for the remainder of our current season. Doors open at 7.45 p.m. for an 8 p.m. start. Titles may vary if members agree to make changes. If you wish to receive emails detailing each film about a week prior to the screening date please contact Clive Bartlett, 14 Green Lane to leave your address details. The information can be hand delivered if you do not have access to a computer. You are invited to make a donation of £3 to St Edmunds.

22nd March. Breakfast at Tiffany's

9th April. Choice of Ealing Comedy (Title to be agreed).

24th May. Warhorse



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Christian message March 2013

Easter people living in a Good Friday world

Swedish people call Good Friday "Long Friday". When I lived in Sweden my students asked me, puzzled, 'Why is it called **Good** Friday in English?'

Living in the vicarage can sometimes feel heavy. There are funerals to be planned, people in hospital to visit, stories of tragic family circumstances, ill-health and unemployment, loneliness and depression. These are the heavy burdens that come to us all at different times in our lives, that we all have to live with. We are called to share in these circumstances and offer Easter hope.

But how can we be Easter people when we live in a Good Friday world?

And why is Good Friday 'good'? Good because, by dying, Jesus somehow breaks through the barrier between man and God. Good because at the moment of Jesus' death, the curtain separating the holiest part of the Jerusalem temple from the area where the ordinary people could go spontaneously rips in half, symbolizing that we can now all approach God without the need of sacrifices and ritual. Good because, with hindsight, Jesus broke through the final defeat of death and came out alive on Sunday morning,

So the truth is that, as Christians, we are Easter people living in a Good Friday world. Every year the world seems more of a Good Friday world with tragic events in Syria, Mali, London. Beloved parents dying, friends with sick children, neglected babies in orphanages in Guatemala; things that make no sense when you think about a loving God. But during those long hours of Long Friday Jesus was sharing and somehow carrying all the pain and suffering of the world, showing that new life can come through suffering and seeming defeat.

God, you see, loves us unconditionally. Being an Easter person isn't something you need to dress up for, like going to a party and putting on your 'party face'. It's a 'come as you are' party where you are accepted as you are and gradually changed into who you are meant to be.

Helen Venn



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...*a real life case*

A lady was referred for help with food. She had escaped from her abusive partner and had been placed in a safe house with her three young children. The family had to escape quickly from the abusive household which meant that they had what they stood up in. The flat was empty, no cooking facilities, no furniture, no curtains, no beds, no comfort after trauma, no food.

Staff at the Maidstone Centre found a kettle, toaster, cups, plates and cutlery. A bundle of clean towels, some warm blankets and toiletries were also provided. Fortunately a large amount of toys had been donated through an external appeal and some were given to the children. Mum was pleased to receive sufficient food to keep the family going for a few days. Nappies and other essentials filled another box. Their trauma will continue for a long time but the immediate assistance given in the first few days made their situation more bearable until the specialist agencies could put more permanent help in place.

Recently Sally Alexander and I attended a reception at Maidstone Day Centre. The object of the gathering was to thank all those who are involved in anyway in the work of the Centre. Mike Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Maidstone Christian Care, spoke about the work of tackling homelessness with the object of ending poverty.

The Mayor of Maidstone and the Chairman of KCC praised the Centre's work and the commitment of the many volunteers who ensure that the work goes on.

The thanks of the hungry and homeless extend to YOU, the readers of this magazine. Beginning with a box in Grafty Green village shop over a year ago much non-perishable food has been collected and taken to the Centre by Sally. At the reception we were able to see the impressive food store and learned about what has been achieved. For example, showers make it possible for those sleeping rough to prepare themselves for a day at work.

As the recession deepens more food is needed. In addition to the box in Grafty Green shop. And we thank Rob and Hazel Eastwood for their continued support there are now collecting boxes in Boughton Malherbe, Lenham and Ulcombe churches. Gifts of food can also be taken to the Len Valley Benefice office in Harrietsham Village Hall.

In Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats the King says, 'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat' (Matthew 25:31-46). Let's do just that!

If you can help in any way or would like to know more please ring Sally on 01622 859549 or me on 01622 853766.

Joan Drury

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – March 2013

3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

10th March – Mothering Sunday

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
09.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship (gifts for all mums)
09.30am Boughton Morning Worship (gifts for all mums)
11.00am Lenham Morning Worship (gifts for all mums)
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship (gifts for all mums)

17th March – 5th Sunday of Lent

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

24th March – Palm Sunday

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

31st March - Easter Day

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Easter Celebration with Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Easter Celebration with Holy Communion
11am Lenham Easter Celebration with Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Glass	Rush	Zero	Hour
2	Black	Box	Dry	Ice
3	Egg	Old	Two	Timer
4	Electric	Fire	Seed	Drill
5	Bishop	Marble	Way	Arch
6	Musk	Poison	Race	Rat
7	Jack	Soviet	Trade	Union
8	Meal	Number	Sale	Whole
9	Big	Hold	Tip	Toe
10	Global	Heart	Fan	Warming
11	Fall	Mill	Mineral	Water
12	Body	Dry	Torch	Blow
13	Ball	Board	Plough	Snow
14	Lane	Life	Track	Cycle
15	Party	Warrant	Word	Search
16	Centre	Chamber	Stand	Music

	Find the missing word?
1	Dave Myers , Hairy Biker who accompanies Simon King
2	Rita Simons , Actress who portrays Albert Squares Roxy Mitchell
3	Loose Women , Lunchtime talk show
4	Jane Asher , Cake making actress
5	Kathy Burke , who played Perry alongside of Harry Enfield
6	Days of Thunder , 1990 movie starring Tom Cruise
7	Noddy Holder , Front man with the group Slade
8	Vin Diesel , New York born actor known for his hard man roles
9	The Magpie Roundabout, Classic children's TV programme
10	Happy Days , US TV classic with Henry Winkler



MOTHERING SUNDAY

10th March

Traditional Sunday lunch £8.95 plus a further Mothering Sunday menu for those who fancy something a little different!

Please book in advance, serving from 12 till 5.

Come and join us to sample our new season menus which include our speciality fish menu and our new grill selections alongside our traditional lunch and evening meals. Plus our weekly specials....

MONDAY & TUESDAY NIGHTS

THREE COURSE MEAL £9.95*

* From selected menu

WEDNESDAY ~ STEAK NIGHT

10 OZ RUMP AND CHIPS £8.95

FISH & CHIPS TAKE AWAY £6.95

(Monday to Saturday - day & evening)

LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC

Every other Sunday from 4/4:30 (please call for details)

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