

Malherbe Monthly

Number 102
January 2013



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Happy New Year to all our readers and advertisers

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
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Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
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Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
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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		
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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **February** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th January**

Front cover: The new Bottle Banks at the 'Who'd A Thought It' pub in Grafty Green

News from St. Nicholas Church

A very Happy New Year to everyone.

Morning Prayers will be held in St. Nicholas on Tuesday 8th January at 9.30am lasting about half an hour.

Craft Fair: The Church had a stall at the Craft Fair which was held in the Village Hall on 9th December. We had a very successful day selling jams, cards, Christmas bunting and other decorations etc. Christine King joined us and sold her calendars with scenes of Boughton Malherbe which are also for sale in the Village Shop.

Carol Service: We held our Carol Service on 14th December this year and the Church looked lovely with the decorations lit by candlelight. There were not as many people present this year and we are wondering if it was because of the earlier date - we would be grateful for some feed back on this. Thank you to all the people who read a lesson during the service and to the Choir who were struggling with colds and sore throats. We served mulled wine and mince pies after the service. Thanks also to the ladies who helped to decorate and clean the Church - these events would not be so enjoyable if it wasn't for the background workers.

Carol Singing: The Carol Singing evening was on 18th December, organised this year by Carol Hulm we spent a happy evening visiting the Old Rectory, March Farm, The Who'd a Thought It and the Kings Head. We were very strong group this year with about 20 people joining us. Thank you to Beverley Hone for playing her guitar, Carol Hulm on her squeezebox and John Moore on his harmonica. We were collecting for Demelza House Children's Hospice and raised £112. The Church choir will be singing at Chilton Park Hotel on Christmas Eve for which they receive a cheque from the management, so the Hospice will receive a worthwhile cheque again this year.

The Crib Service was held at 4pm on Christmas Eve at St. Nicholas lead by Sally Alexander. The Posada Family returned to Church after its journey around the Parish, staying a night in the home of a child throughout December until Christmas Eve.

Village Coffee Morning will be held on 9th January 10.30-12.00. Do come and join us it was lovely to see two new faces at the last gathering

The new Kitchen and Toilet at St. Nicholas are well under way and we were able to serve the mulled wine and mince pies from the kitchen after the Carol Service. We are all very excited by the fact that our dream is almost a reality - we now have running water both hot and cold and a sink which is wonderful. There is still quite a lot to do with cupboards for storage to be made and then there will be plenty of sorting out of china we have accumulated for the Cream teas, finding a place for everything and deciding how to order the Chapel when it can then be returned to a Chapel.

A Ploughman's Lunch is planned for 23rd January to be held at Ferndown, Woodcock Lane, Grafty Green, 12.00-2.00pm. Entrance will be £7.50, which will include Soup and crusty bread, a Ploughman's and a Sweet. Tickets will be available from Sylvia Close and Rob at the Village shop.



Joan Davidson

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

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



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Grafty Green Christmas Quiz

Once again the Christmas quiz was well supported, and a great success. Due to everyone's generosity we made over £1200 which, in these difficult times, was quite amazing. This will be donated to the Village Hall and St Nicholas Church. Thank you to everyone who helped on the night and also those that organised various fund raising events throughout the year. A big thank you to Naill for being such an expert quizmaster and for keeping everyone in order and our appreciation goes to all those people who donated Raffle prizes.

Janet Legon

Grafty Green Village Hall News

As we embark on a new year, everything that happened before Christmas now seems a long time ago. However this is the first opportunity I've had to offer two important "thank you"s.

Firstly our thanks go to Teegan Jezard and her helpers, who organised a wonderful craft fare in the Hall and then donated the pitch fees plus raffle & refreshment income, to Hall funds. Secondly, many thanks to the organisers of the Christmas quiz, which also was a fantastic evening and resulted in another significant donation to our coffers.

You are entitled to ask what we do with the income we receive. Well, of course, much is inevitably paid over to water, electricity and insurance companies (although we've managed to reduce our outgoings to all three of these over the last year). Any balance we put towards maintaining and improving the Hall. Many of you will have noted the new chairs, bought last summer, and next time you visit you will benefit from the **heaters** we've now installed in both toilets. The cold and damp in the toilets during winter months has been a source of concern for a long time and I'm delighted that the fund-raising efforts of so many local people has, at last, enabled us to do something about it. The quiz organisers have this year decided that they would like their contribution to be put towards a really good, carved oak, "**Village Hall**" **sign** to replace the plastic one we presently have – so look out for that this year.

The other thing that an improving cash-flow enables us to do is to put on bigger and better events – and there's one coming up on **Saturday 9th Feb!** I can promise you good food and great entertainment in the French style! Do come if you can, and – if you feel like donning a beret or stripy top, you will not be alone! French fever will be growing over the next month, so "ne miss out pas!" as we French speakers say. Tickets will be available soon from Robert Turner (Tel. 850325), Sarah Cutbill (850774) or Rob at the village shop, priced at 18 Euros (or £15, if you insist).



***Ooo, la, la! A French Extravaganza – 4 course
meal *plus* la musique! la dance!
Veritable vin Francais a vendre! Samedi 9e
Février à notre salle des fêtes locales !
"ne miss it pas!"***

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Thank You And A Happy New Year To The Residents Of Grafty Green From Mary O'Connell

I am taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the publication of the January edition of the parish magazine to express my gratitude for the considerations that so many of you have shown me in the form of cards, phone calls and messages over the past few weeks. They have all meant so much to me.

I wish I could send each of you a personal message of thanks, but I hope that you understand that my current circumstances mean that I have a very limited amount of energy. But please, each of you take this message as a big THANK YOU that is meant just for you.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Steve without whom I might still be incarcerated in Maidstone Hospital. I spent eight days in the hospital and was no wiser at the end of the eighth day than at the beginning of the first as to the reason for my current condition. My incapacitation became intolerable when I felt that I had lost control of my own life and so I made the decision to leave. The trip back home in Steve's car was one of the most wonderful journeys of my life. Thank you Steve.

Once again a heartfelt thanks to you all and my sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mary O'Connell

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 January 8th at 7.30 we hold our AGM and then Adrian Hutchinson will be speaking on Alpine plants. We have made an alteration to the entry fee for meetings held in the village hall to £1 for members and £2 for non members. Membership is still £5 for the year.

Further details from Sue Burch on 850381 or Rosemary Smith on 850526

- Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated £1 for members and £2 for visitors.
- The club enables members to swap plants/seeds, share ideas and improve their growing skills.
- Meetings are friendly and informal; visitors are always welcome; refreshments included.



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07540292283

Email: nkhairedesign@hotmail.co.uk



Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Tuesday 22nd January 2013**

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 Ulcombe Village School

An Incredible Christmas and a Wonderful New Year

December has been full of incident and activity as we have worked steadily towards our Christmas celebrations. We have reached the end of Term 2, which has seen the children focus on 'Celebrations' in their learning. We have learnt about a wide variety of celebrations and how some of them have changed over time.

Read on to find out more about the activities that have taken place for Christmas, including the FUS Christmas Fayre, the children's Christmas Dinner, Christmas play and the Christmas Service, which takes place this afternoon.

The term has certainly been a long one and it has shown in the number of coughs, colds and tummy upsets that children (and adults) have picked up during the last week or so. We hope everyone will be back, fit and healthy for the new term on Monday 7th January 2013!

Ulcombe Celebrates Christmas

Several events have taken place in Ulcombe as we enjoy the festive season. In school we have enjoyed our FUS Christmas Fayre, the Nativity with The Supersonic Lamb, our Christmas Dinner and the school Christmas Party. The children have thoroughly enjoyed all of the different activities they have been able to take part in. Thank you to all of parents, friends and staff who have worked hard to make these events such a success in the various ways.

The Supersonic Lamb was performed wonderfully well by all of the children, with acting and singing which brought to life an entertaining story. Governors joined children and staff for our school Christmas Lunch again this year, and everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch as well as Christmas crackers and music during our meal.

We ended the term with our Christmas Service and we were pleased that so many people were able to join us at All Saints Parish Church during the afternoon. Well done to all of the children who helped us to celebrate Christmas, with each of the classes doing their bit. Thanks to everyone who walked up Ulcombe Hill with the children before the service.

Friends of Ulcombe School

The FUS Christmas Fayre took place on Friday 14th December from 6.30pm. Father Christmas joined us again this year, and proved to be as popular as ever. There was a wide range of items to buy, including hand-made crafts and treats made by the children, as well as games and activities to enjoy. It was fantastic to see so many people there filling the School Hall!

Congratulations to Barn Owls who won a prize for gaining the most number of baubles on their Class Christmas Tree. The Christmas Raffle, for a luxury Christmas Hamper, was won by one of our friends in the village. The Faces of 2012 Competition

was won by friends of the school whilst it was a former pupil who won the Sweets in the Jar. Pupils at the school found Santa's Lost Christmas Presents. Congratulations to all of our prize winners, and many thanks to everyone who bought tickets, picked squares, named the daces or earned a bauble. Thanks also to everyone without whose generosity we would not have had prizes to give!

Special thanks go to all of the FUS, their partners and friends for all of their hard work before, during and after the event. In particular we must thank Mrs Arundel and Mrs Tew, the Chair and Vice-Chair of FUS, for all of their hard work in organizing the Fayre with the FUS Committee.

Our thanks also go to FUS for donating advent calendars to each class. Tawny Owls have enjoyed finding a new Christmas joke each day, whilst Barn Owls and Owlets have found a new Christmas image every time. FUS have also very kindly worked with Father Christmas to arrange for a presents to be given to each class. Tawny Owls received a snooker and pool table and some board games, Barn Owls received board games and the whole series of Harry Potter books, whilst Owlets received a water and ball slide and buckets and spades to use in their sand pit. Thank you very much from all of the children.

Charity Corner

This term has seen us raise an awful lot of money for charity once again. We are always amazed at people's generosity and we are very grateful for all the donations that have been made.

Early in the term we took part in BBC's Children In Need and we raised almost £130. This week we are raising money for Demelza Children's Hospice in different ways. Collections after the performances of Thee Supersonic Lamb and today's Christmas Service will be added to money raised by staff who are taking part in a 'Share-a-Card' scheme. The final total is expected to be in excess of £100, which is a wonderful total for our small school.

Very many thanks to everyone who has contributed for this tremendously worthwhile cause.

Choosing a School for September 2013

Do you know anyone who is looking for a school for their child in the future? Children who were born between September 2008 and August 2009 should be starting school during the coming academic year. The deadline for applying for a school place for next September is fast approaching. More information is available in school and online at www.kent.gov.uk.

If you or anyone you know would like to see the school in action, contact the School Office (01622 842903 - office@ulcombe.kent.sch.uk) to arrange a visit.

And Finally...

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school during 2012, which has been an incredible year. With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Olympics and Paralympics there have been plenty of national events to participate in. I would also like to pass on thanks for the kind wishes that have been passed on to my wife and I following the birth of our first daughter. It has certainly made a remarkable year even more special in the Hampton household!

Very best wishes for 2013,

Mr V Hampton, *Head Teacher.*

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To book your appointment call today: 0800 923 7000

or e-mail: home@kent.fire-uk.org

or contact: KFRS Community Volunteer

Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Yoga Classes Grafty Green Village Hall

The yoga classes will start again for 2013

Wednesday evenings 7 to 8.30 on January 9th
and Thursday mornings 9.30 to 11 on January 10th

in Grafty Green Village Hall.

Yoga is an ancient system of physical and mental development that is known to develop suppleness, strength and stamina and to concentrate the mind. Practicing yoga enables all the body's muscles to be worked but avoiding over-training specific muscle groups; posture, balance, agility and grace can all be achieved through yoga.

If you would like to enroll and experience the effects of yoga contact me by calling 850381 or email graftyyoga@gmail.com.

I have a web site: www.yogawithsusan.co.uk which gives more details about yoga and the classes.

The White Horse - Sandway

A traditional public house

We would like to wish you all the very best for 2013

New menu for the New Year

A Lunch time special

*Open Tuesday to Friday between 12 and 3 where you
can enjoy two courses for £10.*

Steak Night on Tuesdays

Two steaks for £25

Live music on the first Friday of each month

February's band - Tim Hain & the Jam Side Up

March's band - Group Therapy

April's band - Topaz

Function hall available to hire

The White Horse, Leatham Heath Road, Sandway

01622 859511 - whitehorse@freehouse-sandway.com

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Maidstone Borough Council news release:

27th December 2012

Ref: LS/121212

Who'd A Thought It! Bottle Banks in Grafty Green

New glass recycling containers have been installed at the 'Who'd A Thought It' Public House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

Glass bottles and jars need to be colour sorted into the correct container: green, brown and clear. Blue glass can be recycled with green.

Every household in the UK uses on average 331 bottles and jars each year. Recycling just two glass bottles saves enough energy to boil the water for five cups of tea!

Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Marion Ring said: "It is great news that we have more recycling containers for more material to be recycled. This will save valuable resources, and increase the amount of waste recycled."

For more information on your recycling services and a full list of all recycling sites across the borough, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk, email customerservices@maidstone.gov.uk or call 01622 602600.

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Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

Re-Start Tuesday 8th January 2.00pm
then every Tuesday in the Village Hall

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME - JOIN US

gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available
further information - Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Music Notes, January 2013

Well, you may have had your fill of Christmas concerts in December, but Christmas doesn't end until twelfth night, and so there is still the opportunity for more in January. Beyond that it is a bit more difficult to find concerts in January, as many choirs and orchestras are now in "purdah" working on their next event following a Christmas performance. However, if you are prepared to make a bit of a journey, you can still find music in Kent (though not by searching the internet!). Here is the result of my investigations:

- Sunday 6th Jan., 7.30pm at the United reformed church, Week Street, Maidstone – Maidstone choral union have a twelfth night concert. Free entry, with a retiring collection.
- Friday 18th Jan., 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School - Sutton Valence Music Society sponsor a concert by Rosalind Ventris on the viola. Tickets at the door only.
- Saturday 19th Jan, 7.30 in Canterbury Cathedral - Canterbury choral Society perform Moteverdi's *Vespers*. Tickets 01227 787787
- Saturday 26th Jan, at Gravesend Methodist Church, there is the opportunity not just to listen, but to join Gravesham Choral Society in an "instant" performance of Britten's *Rejoice in the lamb* and Poulenc's *Gloria*. Rehearsal at 3.00pm if you wish to participate; performance at 7.30pm. Tickets 01474 816684

My suggestions for the stop-at-homes this month are the New Year's Day Concert from Vienna on 1st Jan on BBC 1 (time tbc) and the six part series on the history of Western music from Gregorian chant to Gershwin presented by Howard Goodall on BBC 2, starting on 25th January.

Brian Hardy

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Grafty Gourmet

A dish so simple, yet so mouth wateringly spectacular to eat. The flavour and colour of the chorizo are infused with the chicken and potatoes whilst roasting. This dish really does not need to be served with anything else. Simply serve and enjoy.

Spanish Chicken with Chorizo

Serves: 4 - 6

2 tablespoons of olive oil
12 chicken thighs (bone in with skin)
750 gms chorizo sausage - cut into 2cm chunks
1 kg of new potatoes - halved
2 red onions - roughly chopped
2 teaspoon(s) dried oregano
zest of 1 orange
30 cherry tomatoes - sliced half way through (not cut in half)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C. Put the oil in the bottom of 2 roasting tins, (1 tablespoon in each).
2. Rub the skin of the chicken in the oil, then turn skin-side up, 6 pieces in each tin. Divide the chorizo sausages and the new potatoes between the 2 tins. Sprinkle the onion and the oregano over, then grate the orange zest over the contents of the 2 tins.
3. Cook for 45 minutes, but half way through, swap the top tray with the bottom tray in the oven and add the tomatoes. Baste the contents with the orange coloured juices.



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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:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Tuesday 8 th	Monday 4 th	Tuesday 5 th
Thursday 17 th	Wednesday 13 th	Friday 15 th
Wednesday 23 rd	Tuesday 19 th	Wednesday 20 th
Tuesday 29 th	Thursday 28 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!

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Johnny _____, who played Mike Baldwin in Corrie
2	_____ Ford, who succeeded Richard Nixon as USA President
3	Hercule _____, Fictional detective who first appeared in 1920
4	_____ Goodman, Jazz legend who played the Clarinet
5	Lord _____, British Poet once described by Lady Caroline Lamb as mad, bad and dangerous to know
6	_____ Clunes, who plays a doctor in Cornwall
7	Count _____, Vampire of Transylvania
8	_____ Pinter, Playwright who penned The Birthday Party
9	Lady _____, who had a butler called Parker in Thunderbirds
10	_____ Oliver, The Naked Chef

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.

25th January. Ice Age 4

There is not a Film night during February.

22nd March. Breakfast at Tiffany's

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

24th May. Warhorse

The Prisoner of Zenda

A theatrical presentation of this swashbuckling adventure

Will be made by the

Chalkfoot Theatre Arts Group

At Leeds Church

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th February

Tickets £9 (students £8) with £1 discount for booking before 19th Feb..

Tel: 01622 842915

ABOUT GOOGLE CHROME - (3rd Article on the Cloud)

If you are a Google person, and use Google mail and Google Chrome, then sharing your information has been made easy.

There are many features available to you from Google, which can be seen in the menu items visible at the top of the screen when you have Google Chrome installed.



Google Chrome is a browser that combines a minimal design with sophisticated technology to make the web faster, safer, and easier

You can easily find Google Chrome to install by using search in your browser, select Google Chrome and follow the instructions to install

Once installed you will need to Sign-in to get access to all the features, you will need to select a username and password.



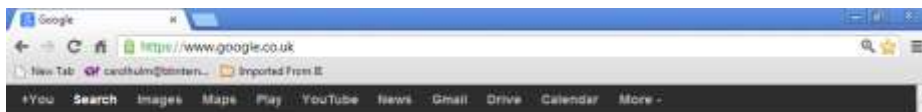
You can look at all the features and select them to be easily accessible every time you log in and you can customise your Google page.

When you select a new tab at the top of the screen, you will see the most recent web sites that you have accessed on the main screen, making it easy to locate sites that you use regularly

You are still able to save your "favourites", but they are called "bookmarks" in Google. There is also a bookmark manager to help you organise things. To find the Bookmark manager, you will need to right-click on the toolbar at the top of the window, just under the address line, the menu should allow you to select Bookmark Manager, which will then display your bookmarks in a folder management view. You can also import your favourites from other browsers that you have used in the past.



On the home page of Google Chrome, you will see a menu bar, just under the address bar. This is where you can share information, or view what other people have shared with you. You will also see a few other quick links to commonly used websites. See below for a quick guide on each of these items.



Menu Item	Description
+You	This is where you can set up a public profile and sign up for Google+ and where you can add people to share information with. For more details about this, select +You and then scroll to the bottom and select About Google+. There you will see what it is all about.
Search	This will take you to the standard Google Search page
Images	This is where you can search for images or upload your own images
Maps	This will take you to Google maps, where you can select any map that you need around the world
Play	This is where you can Shop for Music, Books, Magazines, Movies and Apps for mobile devices
YouTube	This will take you to YouTube where you can search and view the vast library of YouTube videos
News	This is a link to the latest News items, you can change the country and you can search other areas of interest
Gmail	This will take you to your Google mail account, but you don't have to use Google mail, if you have a different account. When you sign-up for Google Chrome you can select to use a different email address and can sign-in with this if you want to keep your existing email address.
Drive	This is where you can share your documents, by uploading them and where you can see documents that have been shared with you by others.
Calendar	This is where you can add events or meetings and invite other people to your events and share the calendar with them.
More	There are many more features that you can select, for example: Translate, Blogger, Photos and Video. Also there are further features in Even More, which will take you to a page of all available features for you to select.

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Best	Safe	You	Bet
2	Hard	House	Soft	
3	Avocado	Conference	Shaped	
4	Spoon	Trolley	Wine	
5	Battering	Raid	Rod	
6	Gun	Head	Mint	
7	Finance	Profile	Sky	
8	Back	Table	Yule	
9	Break	Keel	Number	
10	Building	Camp	Web	
11	Court	Gum	String	
12	Cake	Fish	Guardian	
13	Alarm	Dawn	Teeth	
14	Scheme	Supplement	Water	
15	Caustic	Siphon	Water	
16	Matinee	Pop	Worship	

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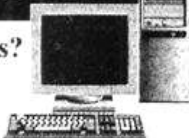
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The January Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Sagittarius at beginning of January, and moves into Capricornus .

New Moon occurs on Friday 11th January, and **Full Moon** is on Sunday 27th January when in Cancer.

Mercury can be seen low in the southwest in early evening in the constellation of Capricornus. We will have to wait until later in the month before we can see this elusive planet in the evening sky.

Venus rises in the southeast just before sunrise and is still a bright object in the early morning sky.

Mars is briefly visible low in the east at sunrise in the constellation of Capricornus..

Jupiter is again well placed for viewing in the evenings this month. It is high in the southeast at dusk and shines all night, setting in the west at dawn. Though a telescope you should be able to see the dark and light bands together with the **Great Red Spot**.

It may also be possible to see, even through binoculars, Jupiter's four major moons.

Saturn is rising in the southeast in the early hours of the morning, and is well up in the southern sky at dawn. Relative to the stars it is moving very slowly westwards near the constellation of Libra. Through a telescope you should be able to see the famous rings together with many of its moons.

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

Last month I gave you the latest information on NASA's Curiosity Rover, and promised to keep you informed. NASA scientists have just announced that there are plans to launch another mission to Mars following the success of the Rover. The vehicle, which will be built from spare parts left over from the one-ton Curiosity, with a planned launch in 2020.

John Maunder



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Not too religious!

"I expected it to be more religious and I was relieved that it wasn't." This comment was made by one of last year's brides about the Len Valley Churches' Marriage Day which she and her partner had attended. Her summing up was, "Very useful!"

Planning a wedding can be fraught. Couples have many questions about church weddings. Who will arrange the flowers? Shall we have the choir? Who will conduct the service? The marriage day is an opportunity to meet those who can answer such questions.

This year's Marriage Day will be held in Lenham Community Centre on Saturday February 9th from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Couples planning a wedding in this year or even in 2014 are invited to attend. Informality is the keynote and experience shows that couples appreciate meeting others preparing for their big day.

It would be helpful if couples planning to attend would notify the church office on 01622 850604.

Joan Drury

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Christian message January 2013

"Can I play?"

When I was a boy, there was a group of boys along the street that hung out together and did exciting things that I wanted to be part of. Like build go-karts (no motors in those days!) which were death traps of splintering wood and old pram wheels that went down our local hills at an impressive speed. So I plucked up courage one day and said "can I join in?" The short answer (if I had realised it) was "no." The long answer was "you can join our club if you" And I was set a series of tasks that were impossible to complete. You can probably remember such situations yourself.

I worry that our faith or churches sometimes seem to be a bit like that unofficial lad's club. Difficult to join, and a bit exclusive unless you know the right people, or the right things to do.

Of course it shouldn't be like that. To be a church member is to be a member of God's family: loved by God and precious to him. That's something that's open to everyone. Something that God really wants for us all and that he'd do anything to achieve. That's why Jesus – God's Son – came and lived and died here.

I was talking with some people the other day. They asked if they could come to a service at church. The fact that they asked the question means we haven't got it right and we can be seen as a private club. If so, on behalf of all our churches, I'm sorry. God's promise is that everyone is important and everyone has their own special part to play in the world and that we all may receive his help to live in the best possible way – and that no-one is excluded. Everyone is welcome.

It's sometimes said that church is the only "club" that should exist for its non-members. I believe that's true and I hope that it's true for our churches in the Len Valley area.

We hope that the new glass doors in two of our churches (as well as work ongoing or planned in them all) show our desire to be open, welcoming and inviting. So yes, you can come in, you are welcome to join us on any and all occasions, and we hope you will.

Happy New Year!
Dick Venn

Messy Church

When?

Saturday 19th January

Where? Harrietsham Primary School

What time? 4 to 6pm

Who for? Dads, Mums and children.

Don't miss this time of fun and togetherness.

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Further than Africa.....

An article in November's Malherbe Monthly mentioned that the proceeds of the sale of St Nicholas church Harvest Festival had been given to TEAR Fund which was described as an African charity.

In 1969 Sir Cliff Richard organised 2 concerts in the Albert Hall to raise money for TEAR fund. A Church of England clergyman, Rev George Hoffman was the founder of the charity. Now, nearly 45 years on, it is one of the leading relief and development organisations in the world and its head office is still in Teddington. TEAR Fund works with other Christian agencies and churches across the world to tackle the cause and effects of poverty.

Whether it's flooding in Pakistan or an earthquake in Haiti one of TEAR Fund's fully trained and equipped disaster relief teams is soon on the spot. Other areas of work include helping the victims of human trafficking; AIDS education and practical schemes to help farmers reduce the impact of climate change. This is a charity well worth supporting.

Joan Drury

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

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

Grafty Green

Saturday 12th January 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 12th January 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 19th January 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens

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

6th January - Epiphany

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

13th January – Baptism of Christ

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

20th January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

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

27th January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Family Worship
11am Lenham Family Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Messy Mums

A new group for mums or dads, carers and grannies with babies and toddlers at St Mary's Lenham. Drop in from 10.30 – 12.00 on Wednesday mornings in term time for coffee, chat and friendship with a brief pause in a quiet space for reflection plus songs and a story for the little ones.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Best	Safe	You	Bet
2	Hard	House	Soft	Ware
3	Avocado	Conference	Shaped	Fear
4	Spoon	Trolley	Wine	Dessert
5	Battering	Raid	Rod	Ram
6	Gum	Head	Mint	Spear
7	Finance	Profile	Sky	High
8	Back	Table	Yule	Log
9	Break	Keel	Number	Even
10	Building	Camp	Web	Site
11	Court	Gum	String	Shoe
12	Cake	Fish	Guardian	Angel
13	Alarm	Dawn	Teeth	False
14	Scheme	Supplement	Water	Colour
15	Cautic	Siphon	Water	Soda
16	Mallnee	Pop	Worship	Idol

		Find the missing word?
1	Johnny Briggs, who played Mike Baldwin in Corrie	
2	Gerald Ford, who succeeded Richard Nixon as USA President	
3	Hercule Poirot, Fictional detective who first appeared in 1920	
4	Benny Goodman, Jazz legend who played the Clarinet	
5	Lord Byron, British Poet once described by Lady Caroline Lamb as mad, bad and dangerous to know	
6	Martin Clunes, who plays a doctor in Cornwall	
7	Count Dracula, Vampire of Transylvania	
8	Harold Pinter, Playwright who penned The Birthday Party	
9	Lady Penelope, who had a butler called Parker in Thunderbirds	
10	Jamie Oliver, The Naked Chef	



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