



Malherbe Monthly

Number 80

March 2011



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	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	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 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th March**

Front cover: Aiden James Webb born at home on Wednesday 23rd February.

Editor's note: My first grandchild hence the picture !!

News from St. Nicholas Church

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year there will be two services in the Benefice on Friday 4 March to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer - one at St. Mary's, Lenham at 10.30am and the other at All Saints, Ulcombe at 7.00pm. The service for this year has been written by the women of Chile.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is not just for ladies, the gentlemen are most welcome to come along too. The Service will be lead by ladies from the Benefice. Do come and join us - don't be afraid to ask for a lift if you have no transport. We will pick you up and bring you home afterwards; just ask a member of St. Nicholas' congregation.

Coffee Morning

Our Coffee Morning will be held on the second Wednesday of the month - 9th March 10.30-12.00 in the Village Hall. Why not come along and join us. It helps to chase away the winter blues. We have a chat with a coffee or tea and homemade cake, scone or biscuit. We would love to see you.

Lent Lunches

Our Lent Lunches will be held on Wednesday of each week during Lent. The proceeds from the Lunches will be given to Christian Aid when they have their fund raising week in May. There is no charge for a Lunch but donations are gratefully received' Last year we raised in the region of £400. The Lunches consist of homemade soup with bread (sometimes homemade) with coffee or tea to finish. The venues are:

Wed: March 16 th	Ivy House Farm, Liverton Hill	Hostess: Joan Davidson
Wed: March 23 rd	The Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe	Hostesses: Gerda Holt & Vanessa Goodwin
Wed: March 30 th	The Village Hall, Grafty Green	Hostess: Joan Drury
Wed: April 6 th	Ferndown, Grafty Green	Hostess: Sylvia Close
Wed: April 13 th	Bowley Oast, Sandway	Hostess: Sally Alexander
Wed: April 20 th	Foxes Earth, Grafty Green	Hostess: Pat Anderson

Do come and join us there's lots of chat and laughter. We would love to see more of you and help us to raise more this year to help Christian Aid keep up their good works.

Men's Breakfasts

The Len Valley Benefice has started to hold Men's Breakfasts at the Red Lion, Lenham Square on the last Saturday of the month. They start at 8.00am and there is a Speaker each month. A full English breakfast is served and tickets costs £5. Ring Frank Allen on 850559 or Dick Venn 859195 to reserve a place. The next date will be March 26th.

Joan Davidson

Les Neaves

The chapel at Charing was crowded for the funeral of Les Neaves who died last month. Les was a familiar figure in Grafty Green. Passersby were used to see him working in his garden or the fields across the road. He and Judy moved to Three Chimneys in 1984 and soon became well known in Grafty Green. Life for Les had not been easy and included four years as a Japanese prisoner of war. Despite the hardship of those years Les was a survivor and returned home to enjoy life to the full, especially haymaking, in the Kentish countryside.

The King's Head was familiar territory to Les and many friends gathered there after the service for the kind of get-together which he enjoyed.

Judy would like to thank all those who sent cards, messages and letters over the past few weeks. They have been a great comfort to her.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

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

Classes led by Sue Burch, British Wheel of Yoga trained

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm
Term starts Wednesday 2nd March - 13th April
and
Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 3rd March - 14th April

The term will run for seven weeks and the fee is £35. Drop in students £6 per session. If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381, email:burch1997@aol.com
Mobile: 0780 3962339

2011 Census: 27th March 2011



The Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out a census every 10 years to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods.

Census population statistics are really important in understanding people's needs and making sure all communities get the services they need where they live.

If the census can't see you, the organisations responsible for delivering the services you need won't be able to see you either. So, the census needs to include everyone, everywhere – and that's why it is a

legal requirement that everyone takes part.

Whatever you tell the census will be in strictest confidence and will only be used to produce statistics. ONS will not share your personal information with any other government department or organisation.

The next census will take place on 27th March 2011. ONS will be sending out questionnaires for around 25 million households to complete. It will ask about work, health, national identity, citizenship, ethnic background, education, second homes, language, and marital status and so on. The answers will be turned into statistics and used to build a picture of today's society.

You'll be able to do it online, or by post. **But you must do it.** If you need help and advice, you will be able to find everything you need online and also on the census helpline (0300 0201 101) from 4 March 2011.

The 2011 census may be the last time the census is taken and needs everyone to take part in helping tomorrow take shape, so this will be your chance to make a difference. **For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk**

Contact Details for Local Police Officers

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

PC Paul Kemslet and PCSO Siobhan de Burca

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

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

	Find the missing word?
1	The ____, Nickname for Elvis Presley
2	____ Tapper, 1963 No 1 hit for The Shadows
3	Sir Gary ____, Cricketer who famously captained the West Indies
4	____ Giggs, 2009 BBC Sports Personality of the Year
5	The _____ Stone, An Irish attraction
6	____ Milk Wood, A Dylan Thomas book & play
7	Otis ____, Soul singer who posthumously received the 1999 Grammy award for Life time Achievement
8	____ Palace, London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury
9	____ the Engine, Animated locomotive driven by Jones the Steam
10	Louis ____, Trumpeter nicknamed Satchmo

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

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



Traditional Sunday Lunches
Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers
Booking Advisable
01622 850259

Children's Room Beer Garden

ALL-FIX
PLUMBING
 Home maintenance & repairs

David Jenkins





Leaking Pipes
 General Domestic Plumbing
 Replacement Taps

Repairs & Installation
 Toilets & drains repaired or unblocked
 Painting and Decorating

*Odd Jobs, Fully Insured
 No job too small*

FREE QUOTES
NO CALL-OUT CHARGE
FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

**01622 851186 &
 0791 438 0521**

Pet's Corner!

Parrots - Part 2

Last month we looked at the suitability of parrots as pets, and now we can look at some frequently asked questions for the new parrot keeper.

Will my parrot talk?

Certainly the larger parrots such as African Greys and Amazons are usually good talkers, but some of the smaller species can also be taught to mimic a few words and phrases. However, they will only learn what you teach them, so talk to them!

Should I cover them at night?

Absolutely - most birds need twelve hours of sleep a night in order to stay healthy! You can use a sheet or blanket to cover them and this will become part of their bedtime ritual.

Should I get a cock or hen?

There really is no difference as far as their suitability as a pet is concerned.



Should I clip my bird's wings?

We do NOT recommend that you clip your bird's wings - one of the most enjoyable activities for you and your bird is flying!

Clipping can lead to behavioural problems, reduce the bird's ability to fly away from predators (pet cats and dogs) and incorrect clipping can result in fall injuries. Never clip a young bird's wings, since learning to fly can prevent injuries at a later date, builds confidence (reducing the risk of behavioural problems) and develops the cardio-vascular system and muscles which will ensure a fit, healthy and happy bird.

How can I keep my bird happy?

A good quality, fresh and varied diet with different textures, lots of companionship, play and bonding time, allowing time out of their cage for flying, exploring

and interacting, and rotate a range of safe toys. See our links for more information.

What can I feed my parrot?

Parrots can eat a wide range of fresh, clean fruit and vegetables (see our website for a full list) as well as pasta, rice, sprouted pulses and occasional herbs and boiled eggs as a treat. Never feed too many sunflower seeds, and chocolate and avocado are poisonous. A good quality, dust-free parrot mix or pellet should complement the fresh food.



Useful websites

www.parrotsociety.org
www.parrotenrichment.com
www.birdcare.co.uk

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

Charing Crematorium

Situated in 12 acres
of peaceful lawns and woodland garden.
Kent's first crematorium has served the public
for over 50 years.

Our help, advice and experience on all matters
relating to cremation is freely available to you.

Kent County Crematorium PLC
Newcourt Wood,
Charing, Ashford,
Kent.

☎ 01233 712443

BUS SERVICE 59

Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

At a recent meeting of the Service 59 Working Group, Arriva advised of **changes to the service on Mondays to Fridays** which will take effect on and **from Monday 11th April**. (There are **no changes** being made **to the Saturday timetable** operated by Nu-Venture).

The Monday to Friday changes are being introduced because of increasing financial pressures, in particular from rising fuel prices a 20% reduction announced by the government in the fuel duty rebate given to bus operators, and a reduction in the reimbursement rate to operators for concessionary fares. Arriva is going to continue to operate the Monday to Friday service on a commercial basis and the changes are being introduced to try and ensure its viability.

The changes primarily affect the Kingswood – Maidstone section of the route, but there are some changes to the Grafty Green timetable which can be summarised as follows:-

The 0720 departure from Grafty Green on Schooldays will be retimed to depart at 0710 and will run via Chart Sutton and Boughton Monchelsea rather than via Langley. It is due to arrive in Maidstone at the same times as now.

The 0723 departure from Grafty Green on non-Schooldays will be retimed to depart at 0721, arriving in Maidstone at the same times as now.

The 0915 departure from Grafty Green will be retimed to depart at 0930. This is because the start time for using Senior Citizens' Concessionary passes is being changed from 0900 to 0930. Arrival time in Maidstone will also be 15 minutes later at 1020.

The 1227 departure from Maidstone to Grafty Green will be retimed to depart at 1220, arriving at Grafty Green at 1313.

The 1615 departure from Maidstone to Grafty Green will retimed to depart at 1550 and will run via Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton rather than via Langley. It will be due to arrive at Grafty Green at 1643.

The 1750 departure from Maidstone to Grafty Green will be retimed to depart at 1715 arriving at Grafty Green at 1808.

The three departures from Maidstone to Grafty Green will all be scheduled to run back to the depot 'out of service', which effectively means that the present 1325 and 1703 departures from Grafty Green to Maidstone are withdrawn.

I have asked Arriva to look again at whether it is possible for the new 1313 arrival at Grafty Green to return to Maidstone in service, thus maintaining the opportunity for afternoon return trips to Maidstone. I have also expressed concern to Arriva about the earlier start time of the first bus to Maidstone on Schooldays, and asked them to monitor carefully potential overcrowding on this and the 1550 return trip now that these buses are also going to serve Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton. Arriva is also going to look at whether the 1550 service might be retimed to depart 5 to 10 minutes later.

The full timetable from 11th April will be included in April's Malherbe Monthly.

Please contact me (john.collins15@btinternet.com or 01622 850213) if you have any comments on what is being introduced so that these can be taken up with Arriva in a co-ordinated way.

John Collins

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council's representative on the Service 59 Working Group

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a very simple, healthy and tasty dish, which can be prepared in minutes.

Italian Chicken with Rice - Serves: 3 to 4

4 tablespoons of Olive Oil	2 Garlic Gloves (crushed)
2 Skinless boneless chicken breasts (cut into strips)	100g Long Grain Rice
1 Red Onion (cut into 8 wedges)	400g Can Chopped Tomatoes
2 Orange Peppers , halved, deseeded and sliced thickly	300ml Chicken Stock
	4 tablespoons Ready-made Pesto

1. Heat oven to 180C. Heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil in a frying pan, add the chicken and cook for 3-4 minutes until golden all over and set aside.
2. In a large oven proof sauce pan, add the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil, onion and peppers, and cook for 3 minutes or until lightly golden.
3. Add the crushed garlic and fry for a one minute. Stir in the uncooked rice, then the tomatoes, stock and reserved chicken.
4. Turn up the heat and bring to the boil before transferring to the oven to cook, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste and drizzle over the pesto before serving.

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

January and February have brought us the joy of visitors. As many of you will know, Ulcombe Pre-School was with us for two weeks in January. Then early in February we had a short repeat. This time it was only for one day as there were problems with the flooring at the Village Hall. We are also pleased to have recently helped by hosting Zumba, Boxercise, the Parish Council and U.D.A.S., the last group preparing for their very own murder back stage!

The Pre-School's short spells with us have prompted several to ask if this might become a permanent arrangement. It is true to say that we greatly value our links with Ulcombe Pre-School, and we are delighted to help out when the need arises. However, at the present time we do not have the capacity for this to be a long-term arrangement. I can say, with confidence, that the Governing Body will be happy to explore this possibility further when the Library extension is complete, though this is currently being delayed as the architects seek outline planning permission for a small development on the land to be sold by KCC.

Our other significant visitor was Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools on behalf of Ofsted. This was to conduct what is known as a Monitoring Visit, and this can happen in between and as well as full inspections. Schools which receive monitoring inspections are those whose last full report was satisfactory overall. Read on for further details.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Regrettably there is little to add to last month's update. As many of you know, Kent County Council has granted planning permission for the extension, which will house our library, but a Maidstone Borough Council Planning Officer turned down the planning application from KCC and Bailey Partnerships for outline planning permission on the disused plot to the north of the school site. We are extremely fortunate that the offer of funding from KCC has remained in place, though in the current financial climate we are increasingly concerned that this may be withdrawn if we do not take advantage soon.

A revised scheme is being prepared, which I believe has been submitted to Borough Council for their comments. My understanding is that a second planning application has not yet been made, as the comments from MBC planners may affect what the architects propose. In view of our concerns about funding, I hope this will be in the very near future. Plans will be available at the school and with the Chair of the Parish Council when the planning application is made, as well as with MBC, as before. We hope that when plans are resubmitted they will receive even greater support, as this development is essential to long-term progress and improvement of our school.

OFSTED COME AND GO IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

With January drawing to a close and February almost upon us, we received a surprise phone call. It was from Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools (HMI) to say an inspector was coming. This was a monitoring visit and so within an hour of speaking to the

HMI, she and I were meeting here in school in preparation for a visit the following day. And so, on Tuesday 25th January, a few minutes before 8am, the inspection of our school started.

This was not like the previous inspections though. Monitoring visits focus just on the key issues that were raised by the last full inspection. For us, the key issues were using assessment information, raising expectations and improving attendance.

We know that the inspector was pleased to see everything that we have done to try and make the curriculum stimulating and exciting, including our creative curriculum and our multi-sensory room. (This is a hot air balloon at the moment!) She was happy to see that all of the lessons were well differentiated, with children completing tasks which were appropriate for their ability.

The area which continues to challenge us all in school is attendance and punctuality. However, from the inspector's point of view, she could see that the school has worked hard to make a difference, and she was happy that we were doing all that we could.

Her conclusions were that the school was continuing to make progress towards being a good school and that the rate of this progress is as she would expect. The letter from the inspector to me is both on the school web-site and on the Ofsted web-site, should you wish to read it in full.

FANTASTIC FOOTBALLERS TOP THE TABLE

OUR SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IS PLAYING GOOD FOOTBALL AND IT IS GETTING GREAT RESULTS. CURRENTLY WE HAVE PLAYED FOUR MATCHES IN THE LEAGUE AND WON ALL FOUR, SCORING A TOTAL OF SIXTEEN GOALS AND CONCEDED JUST ONE. HAVING ALREADY BEATEN LEEDS & BROOMFIELD EARLIER IN THE SEASON, WE HAVE BEATEN HOLLINGBOURNE (1-0), HEADCORN (4-0) AND PLATTS HEATH (5-1) DURING THE LAST MONTH. WELL DONE TO THE WHOLE TEAM, WHO HAVE ALL PLAYED THEIR PART. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING ON LENHAM EARLY IN MARCH.

Friends of Ulcombe School

The Friends of Ulcombe School, our PTFA, has already started its events for 2011. As always, the St Valentine's Disco in the middle of February was hugely popular. Our thanks go to all of the FUS who helped before hand and on the day. In particular we would like to extend our thanks to Mr Tew, who was our DJ for the afternoon. An Easter Egg Hunt is the next event for the children just before the end of term.

'Phil the Bag' is a new venture for us, which FUS is organizing to raise money and support the school as an Eco-School. If you have any old clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, hats, curtains, towels and bedding please bring to school on Tuesday 8th March. The more of these items that we have, the more money we will raise. If you have had a clear out and do not have space to store your unwanted items, please contact the school and we will pass your details on to Mrs Roe, who has kindly volunteered space at her house to store as much as is necessary. Items are accepted in any condition, as those that cannot be reused are recycled. Please pass the message on to friends and family, so that we can take full advantage of this wonderful new scheme.

The next Ulcombe school friends' dinner

Here is a special date for your diary – Wednesday 30th March. This will be the date of our next Friends' Dinner. Parents and friends are invited to come along for a roast lunch prepared by our own School Cook, followed by entertainment provided by the children. This will be our celebration ahead of Mothering Sunday, so the entertainment will have that as its theme. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

Many of you will have seen or heard the news about a series of arson attacks in the area. I would like to take this opportunity to ask all of our friends and neighbours to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious in or around the school site.

Finally, can you use a hedge trimmer or shears? It does not matter whether your fingers are green or not, Ms Maria Revell is hoping to put together a merry band of volunteers to help tidy up the school grounds in the coming days and weeks. If you can help, please contact Maria so that she can work out which dates would be best.

Please remember that if you have any questions about what happens here at school you can visit our web-site, send us an e-mail, telephone us, or even pop in.

Kindest regards,

Mr V Hampton *Head Teacher*

The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent

SPRING ART EXHIBITION

At Sutton Valence School

Pictures and Crafts on exhibition and for sale

Saturday 2nd April 12noon to 8pm, Sunday 3rd April 10am to 4.30pm

**Entrance £1 at the door - Refreshments available
All proceeds go to Rotary Charities**

**For further information call: Derek Peneycad (01580 892338)
or Robert Taylor (01233) 756379**

Or visit: www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

Grafty Geeks – Computer Tip of the Month

Internet Explorer – De-mystified



1	Windows Title Bar – tells you what window you are in
2	Minimise button – makes the window drop down to the windows bar at the bottom
3	Restore button – makes the window go across the whole screen on your computer
4	Close the Window – if you have more than one tab it will ask you if you want to close all tabs or just the tab you are in
5	Back button – takes you back to the previous page (if you haven't gone anywhere the button will not be available (see 6))
6	Forward button – takes you forward to the page you have just come back from (it is not available until you have gone back)
7	Address bar – this shows the internet page you are on – if you have a website address this is where you type it to go and see what's there
8	Refresh button – when you type an address this becomes an arrow, so you would click on here to go to the address you typed – it also refreshes web pages
9	Stop button – stops a search – this is hardly ever used
10	Search – use this to type in anything you want to find on the internet – especially useful if you do not know the web address
11	Perform a search, once you type in a search you click on this
12	Menu bar – this is a feature of all windows on a computer, the more you use a computer the more you will become familiar with the Menu Bar – File is the most common one you will use – it is where you will find the Print option
13	Favorites Tool Bar – This is where you can save your favorite website so you don't need to search for them every time – (note the American spelling)
14	Active Tab – this is a tab which has the Yahoo UK website open on it if you could see the whole screen
15	Additional Tab – if you want to go to a different website and still keep the Active Tab open
16	Home button – this will take you to the home page set up on your computer – this can be set by you in the Tools/Options menu

Note: There are many other buttons, toolbars and icons that may appear on your computer, but these are the ones that everyone will have somewhere and are the ones that get you around the Internet most efficiently.



News from Platts Heath Primary School

Well here we are, half way through the school year and we've not yet moved the clocks forward!

The children have enjoyed a variety of different activities in the last term including the final of the K'Nex challenge amongst Maidstone primary schools which two of our Year 6 pupils participated in and came 4th. Another Year 6 pupil took part in 'Our Kid's Got Talent', an inter-school talent show held at Valley Park School, and

performed a self-composed piano recital.

Years 5 and 6 received a visit from Dr Richard Lindley from Sutton Valence School for a Physics is Fun Roadshow. Here is what one pupil said about the experience *"...to properly make us understand what he meant, he got a steel can and put a tube on it and used a mechanical thing-a-mo-bob to suck all the air out and then BANG! Libby screams and when we looked, it had imploded! Next he got a big tank of carbon dioxide....the temperature was a whopping -70.1°C".* Judging from the laughter coming from the classroom, I think we can say that they found physics fun!

Years 3 and 4 made their own volcanoes and spent a lovely afternoon making them explode with realistic lava!

The school council suggested that each class adopts an animal from Drusillas Park and, helped by a very generous donation from the PTFA, Murphy class has successfully adopted 'Slasher' the Rockhopper Penguin, King-Smith class has adopted 'Monty' the Meerkat and Morpurgo class have adopted 'Junior' the Capuchin monkey. It is hoped that we will be able to say hello to our new friends on a whole school trip to Drusillas in June.

On the last Friday of term the school council hosted an after-school cake sale with some delicious contributions from generous parents and children. It certainly gave an insight into the term 'bun fight' as the crowds gathered, eager to spend their money! The cake sale raised close to £50 and all the money raised will be donated to Demelza House, as chosen by the school council.

The Maypole is being dusted down as maypole dancing starts again after school in March for our years 2-6. No doubt we will be able to enjoy a beautiful display during our Summer Fayre in June and also at our Royal Wedding party in April.

Our fantastic PTFA have been as busy as ever. They hosted a Valentine's Disco on the Friday before Valentine's Day and were joined by the G4 Dancers from the Mandy Ellen School of Dance (as seen on 'Got to Dance'). Following G4s display there was

no stopping the children stepping up to show off their dancing skills and talent and a good time was had by all.

The PTFA are holding a Quiz Night in the St Edmunds Centre on Saturday 19 March. Tickets are £5 per head for teams of 6. This is open to the school and the wider community and promises to be a fun evening full of knowledge and trivia! The quiz will start at 7.30 and tickets can be purchased from either Jenny (01622 850208) or Grace (01622 859127). Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

With the Royal Wedding just around the corner, the PTFA were keen to capture some of the spirit of the old-style street party. However to avoid the transport and logistical problems of holding the party in the street we are hosting the Wedding Street Party in the school. You will be able to watch the wedding on the screens in the classrooms and then join everyone outside in the playground for a 'street party' to celebrate. There will be a BBQ and refreshments on sale on the day and an entry of £1 per person. Again, this is open to the school and the village – all are welcome to join and make this a real community event.

And so we head into the Spring Term with hopefully some fine Spring days to look forward to.

If you are interested in joining our school please contact the school office on 01622 850316 to make an appointment.

Platts Heath School PTFA Quiz Night

The school PTFA are holding a Quiz Night on

Saturday 19th March at 7.30 pm
at the St Edmunds Centre

Teams of 6

Tickets £5

Jenny 01622 850208 or Grace 01622 859127

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

St Edmunds Centre Secretary steps down

You may remember in my annual report for the AGM in May 2010 I said this would be my last year on the management committee. Well the next AGM looms ever nearer and it is time to look for a new secretary to take over.

When Tom Sams held a meeting in 2002 those of us who attended were asked whether we wanted to save the hall for village use or see the Diocese sell it off as just another building project. Yes use it or lose it, we voted to try and save it for villagers use.

We formed a group calling ourselves "the friends of St Edmunds" The chapel was sadly neglected and only the table tennis club still used this dilapidated hall, with paint and plaster peeling off the walls, a hole in the floor from wood rot and a kitchen so full of wood worm that the shelves inside the cupboards were held together by the Fablon covering them. When it rained water came through the walls trapped by the Ivy and Hawthorn covering a third of the building and the windows were so rotten two pains of the glass fell out. The damp musty smell was very off putting to anyone thinking of using it too.

George Denny the church architect was kind enough to draft up plans to refurbish the hall and we looked for builders. The quotes came in and the middle figure was £48k this was a big task for so small a village of just 120 properties to raise.

We were advised if we were to get council backing it would be necessary to become a charity trust and to acquire a long lease on the building. As reluctant as some of us were we applied to the Charity Commission and became a charity. A long drawn out legal negotiation for the lease began.

During this time "I don't do heights" Tom Sams and Brian Fuller sat on the roof on the hottest day of the year and cleared the Ivy and Hawthorn that had been allowed to cover one third of the outside of the building. The foot soldiers to this event were Duffrey Robinson, Steve and Karen Taylor, Janet Sams and children Eve Felton and I. These same people worked out in all weathers clearing the overgrowth on several weekends. The inside was cleaned and painted by yet another group Catherine Motley and her daughters, Karen and her Mum and daughters, Simon Wardle and my husband Bob. Brian and our fellow members ran fund raising events like quiz nights, race evenings etc. All of which were held with the help of Harrietsham and Lenham village community halls. Eve baked cakes and made jam to sell at coffee mornings and the school fair.

In 2007 Lord Sandy Bruce Lockhart without who's help we would never have secured council grants, re-opened the refurbished hall. I am happy to say it has been in use ever since.

What I have tried to illustrate is our very small village of about 120 properties all played a part in securing a community centre for this village, every household donated money when Karen and I knocked on their doors. In all we raised a quarter of the costs ourselves £12k in total.

Patricia Dibley

The St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The Management Committee of the St Edmunds Centre is seeking a new Secretary, for appointment at the AGM in May 2011

If you have time to spare and are around the village most days of the week could you help?

We are looking for someone who can carry out some or all of the following: manage hall bookings, organise Committee meetings and take the minutes, advertise events and liaise with Platts Heath School and other hall users.

For more information please ring either Kate Stansfield 851160 or Duffrey Robinson 850463



STONEBRIDGE ACCOUNTING
ACCOUNTS AND TAX SUPPORT
FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESS
Tel: 01233 840373 or 01622 851542

Grafty Green Garden Centre announces that the cafe is now under new management and is known as The Bay Tree Cafe. It is open 7 days a week.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

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

Grafty Green

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

Platts Heath

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

Ulcombe

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



We are proud members of:



Our services include:

Plumbing & Heating: Most aspects of plumbing can be completed, from changing a tap or washer to fitting or altering and cleaning central heating systems. Drain down and decommissioning works can also be completed.

Power Flushing: Power flushing is the fastest and most effective way to flush heating systems, and involves minimal disruption and dismantling. Radiators may be individually flushed without removal or disconnection from the system.

Tiling: We offer a professional finish for your bathroom, en-suite, wet room, kitchen, utility room or cloakroom. You name it - we'll tile it!

Decorating: Kitchen & bathroom fitting, room stripping, ripping out for renovation/redecoration, plastering, coving, floor laying. General painting, decorating and paper hanging.

Construction: Loft conversions and roof space storage, dry/partition walls, sound proofing, electrical installations and fittings. Extensions and conservatories.

Exterior works: Drainage unblocking, drainage digging and laying (not within the Highways or Local Authority land). Guttering and water drainage, re-pointing walls and patio, exterior painting and decorating, garden walls, pathways and steps, fencing, decking, patio laying, block paving and turf laying/lawn seeding.

Call us for a FREE and no obligation estimate or simply advice on what can be achieved

Tel: 01622 850783. Mob: 07988 944392

Or visit the Website for further information and contact:

Web: www.jspmltd.com e-mail: enquiries@jspmltd.com

Lenham Swimming Club

It is with great regret that the swimming pool at Swadelands School will be unable to open to the public this summer.

Health and Safety in Swimming Pools requirements now specify that open swimming sessions must be supervised by a fully qualified pool lifeguard.

In order to continue operating, we would need a number of individuals to come forward and be willing and able to undertake a week long course and commit to a voluntary session at the Lenham pool one evening a week during June, July and August.

Despite offering to fund lifeguard training (minimum age 16) there has sadly been a lack of interest.

This could potentially create an ideal career opportunity for a young person and would be fully funded. Enrolling independently on such a course would usually cost in excess of £200.

Lenham Swimming Club has opened every summer since 1977 and will be a huge loss to the community if we are unable to continue operating. We have a very loyal but small team of volunteers who have given many hours of their time over the past 33 years. However, changes in health and safety legislation mean that formal qualifications are now also required.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) and how you may be able to help save the club, please contact me on 01622 859174 / 07981125593 for more information. Thank you.

**Chris Hills
Chairman**

FOUR JAYS GROUP

HIRE SPECIALISTS

Marquees, Linings, Furniture, Flooring,
Heaters & Chiller Trailers
Luxury & Event Trailer & Individual Toilet Units
Site Toilets & Showers, Effluent Emptying,
Midi Concrete Crusher
Temporary Storage Containers
JANET'S CHINA HIRE LTD: 01622 844646

Tel.: 01622 843135

www.fourjays.co.uk

NIGEL COLLISON FUELS LTD

Suppliers of Domestic Heating Oils
Agricultural and Industrial Fuels
A family run local company dedicated to service excellence

Boiler Maintenance and Tank Replacement Service
Emergency Run Out Service
phone 01580 755678





“The Life and Films of Jack Cardiff” - Film Historian Ian Christie talks to the Egerton Film Society

On Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm at the Millennium Hall, Egerton, renowned cinema scholar and lecturer Ian Christie, Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, University of London, will be the guest speaker at a special meeting of the Egerton Film Society. The Society, founded in 2000, screens a mixture of classic and popular films on the last Thursday of each month, as well as presenting occasional evenings featuring guest speakers who talk about films and film-making.

Professor Christie will be giving a personal insight into the life and work of Jack Cardiff, one of Britain's most revered cinematographers. Jack Cardiff's career spanned an incredible nine of the first ten decades of moving pictures, and his work behind the camera altered the look of films for ever through his pioneering use of Technicolor photography. He was the first of his profession to be presented with an Honorary Oscar and a unique figure in British and international cinema.

A film historian, broadcaster, writer, film-maker and lecturer, Professor Christie is an internationally recognised authority on film history who contributes regularly to radio and television programmes on cinema. Before joining Birkbeck's School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media in 1999, where he has recently been Director of the Centre for British Film and Television Studies, Ian Christie taught in Oxford and at the University of Kent, and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1994. He held various posts at the British Film Institute and co-produced a five-part series on early cinema for BBC Television entitled *The Last Machine*, presented by Terry Gilliam. He has written and edited books on various film subjects including film-makers Powell and Pressburger, Sergei Eisenstein, Terry Gilliam and Martin Scorsese, and also on Russian cinema. Recent television appearances include *The Hundred Scariest Movies*, *The Thirties in Colour* (BBC4), *Scotland on Screen* (BBC2), *Rude Britannia* and *Dive! Dive! Dive!* (BBC4).

Professor Christie's talk will be followed by a screening of Craig McCall's richly rewarding and highly acclaimed cinema documentary, "Cameraman: The Life And Work Of Jack Cardiff" (2010) - a treasure trove of cinematic riches and a must for all cinema fans. On Thursday 31st March there will be a special showing of the restored version of "A Matter of Life and Death" (1946), Powell and Pressburger's much praised film, beautifully photographed by Jack Cardiff.

Doors open at 7pm on both evenings, when a licensed bar and light refreshments will be available. Non-members will be made most welcome. Admission is £3 for members and £4 for non-members. For further information contact Richard King on 01233 756592.



Did We Find the Ice House?

Have you ever wondered how food was kept cold before we had fridges in our homes? The largest estates actually had ice houses that were filled with ice in the winter and were used to keep food fresh right through the year. Chilston Park was just one of these houses and you can find out all about it on Thursday, March 10th at 7pm at Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Memorial Hall. Ges Moody of the Trust for Thanet Archaeology will give an illustrated talk about the history of the ice house as well as the work that was done last year uncovering the structure. There will also be the chance to find out about other local projects. Entrance is free and refreshments will be provided.

This event forms part of the Heaths Countryside Corridor's Wandering and Wondering project that aims to allow local people to explore the wildlife and history of the area around Lenham Heath and Charing Heath, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Landscapes and Nature for All (LNA) project. The LNA project has been awarded within the framework of the cross-border European cooperation Programme INTERREG IVA France (Channel) – England, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Please contact Mike Phillips for more information on 01303 815170 or mike.phillips@kentdowns.org.uk

Invicta Chimney Sweep



No Mess
No Dust
No Fuss

- All types of Chimneys swept and smoke tested
- Certificates Issued
- Pots, Cows, Bird Guards etc.
- Birdnest Removal
- Chimney Repairs

**Fully
Insured**

01622 632641

0798 854 9010

www.invictachimneysweeps.co.uk



So much to choose from:

Curtains, Blinds of all types, Loose Covers, Shutters, Designer fabrics and amazing Designer wallpapers. Poles, tracks, accessories and a fitting service. Initial consultation in shop or in your home FREE



1st Floor, The Corner House, The Square,
Lenham, Kent ME17 2PQ

T: 01622 851549 M: 0777 999 0443

E: studio@damaskinteriordesign.co.uk

www.damaskinteriordesign.co.uk



DAMASK DESIGN

SOFT FURNISHINGS & INTERIORS

Grafty Green Gardening Club

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

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

SUTTON VALENCE CHORAL SOCIETY - SPRING CONCERT 3rd APRIL 2011

As part of its 21st season, Sutton Valence Choral Society presents a richly contrasting concert of devotional music for Lent, with performances of Stainer's *Crucifixion* and Palestrina's *Stabat Mater*. The concert takes place at All Saints Church, Mill Street, Maidstone, ME15 6YE on Mothering Sunday, 3rd April, at 7.30pm.

Musical Director Bryan Gipps conducts the choir of 90, accompanied by organist Martyn Williams. The choral society is delighted to welcome two distinguished soloists for this special evening – Tenor, Jeffrey Gray and Baritone, David Hill.

Tickets, priced £10 (£5 for under-18s and those in full-time education) are available from choir members or Sharon Music, 65 High Street, Maidstone, (Tel: 01622 761649), or by ringing 01622 842269. Further information may be found at www.suttonvalencechoral.co.uk

Sutton Valence Choral Society (regd. Charity no. 1119160) supports Kent Air Ambulance Trust (regd. Charity no. 1021367)

The March Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Aquarius at beginning of March, and moves into Pisces on the 12th.

The **Spring Equinox** falls on Sunday 20th March, so after this date the days will grow longer than the nights. **British Summer Time** begins on Sunday 27th March, when clocks go forward one hour.

New Moon occurs on Friday 4th March, and Full Moon is on Saturday 19th March, in the constellation of Virgo.

Mercury is at its greatest distance east of the Sun on 23rd March, so towards the end of the month you should be able to see this elusive planet very low in the western sky in the early evening.

Venus is again a brilliant "Morning Star" this month, low in the eastern sky just before sunrise, but it is getting increasingly difficult to see. It is moving rapidly north - eastwards, crossing Capricornus and into the constellation of Aquarius at the end of the month.

Mars was in conjunction (almost directly behind the Sun) on 4th February, so again we will not be able to see the "Red Planet" this month.

Jupiter is also approaching conjunction on 6th April, so it might just be possible to see the giant planet at the beginning of the month, low in the west at sunset. We will lose sight of it before the end of the month.

Saturn is rising in the east in the evening, and is well up in the southern sky in the early hours of the morning. It is moving very slowly north-westwards in the constellation of Virgo.

Most of you will be aware that there is a lot of junk floating around in space. A US report concluded that space was so littered with rubbish that a collision could set off an uncontrolled chain reaction capable of destroying the communications network on Earth. Apparently there are about 10 million pieces of man-made debris, 12,000 of them large objects consisting of old satellites and rocket stages etc., and any collision could create debris capable of destroying other satellites. It sounds unlikely but The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Nitto Seimo Co, a fishing net company, are planning to tackle this problem. They are developing a super-strong metal net, spanning several kilometres, which will be deployed by a satellite, to sweep up the waste in its path as it circles the Earth. After a journey of several weeks, the net and contents will become electrically charged, and will be drawn back towards earth burning up as it enters the atmosphere.

John Maunder



RussOIL Heating

Boiler Servicing & Repairs

Tank Installation & Removals

Why are you paying too much for your boiler breakdowns?

At RussOIL Heating we do not charge a call out fee

We can fix your boiler within an hour

*We only charge a fixed rate of £40 per hour for labour and
the majority of breakdowns are fixed within the hour!*

(Parts not included)

Oil Heating and Aga Specialist OFTEC Reg

Servicing & Maintenance

All Boilers Including Combi & Condensing

Efficiency Testing

Fault Findings

Breakdowns

Oil Tanks Installations

RussOIL will beat any genuine quote by up to 50%

All General Plumbing

Water Pumps & Valve Fitted

Reliable & Professional Service

Call RussOIL Heating on 07810 166529

www.russoilheating.co.uk

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Blood	Fox	Grey	Hound
2	Berry	Jet	Smith	
3	Beech	Kettle	Plate	
4	Close	Driving	Free	
5	Hall	Pianist	Rock	
6	Festival	Moon	Mouse	
7	Box	Lever	Top	
8	Cream	Grapes	Puss	
9	Book	Metal	Paper	
10	Brighton	Hard	Face	
11	Boxing	Cabinet	Eye	
12	Greek	Live	Natural	
13	Bank	Blue	Wine	
14	Shell	Shelter	Stink	
15	Box	Hand	Smoke	
16	Check	Soft	Tight	



LENHAM NURSERY SCHOOL

at Lenham Primary School,
Ham Lane, Lenham.

The Nursery School is
K.C. Registered
and a member of the
Pre-School Learning Alliance;
holds an excellent Ofsted Report
and has validation to accept
Early Years Funding.

*We're here to serve your needs.
Why not call in to discuss
your requirements?*

It's never too early
to add your child's name to our Waiting List.

**Contact Jo Glazebrook
07967 128056**

Registered Charity No. 1041661

Boughton Malherbe - A Journey Through Time has made its way to Tasmania in Australia. A copy was sent to Ted White who now lives there and has made an old man very happy.

Ted who moved to Grafty in 1927 when he was 8 has written back to Audrey and Roy Wickens to say how interesting and informative the book is. He can relate to much of the content and it brings back many memories.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1965

A.W. COURT
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

(West & Coe Ltd)

Your local, family business offering
caring, personal service to families in the
Boughton Malherbe/Grafty Green
and Lenham areas

*Golden Charter
Pre-Payment Plans*

Should you wish to telephone
there is always an experienced
member of staff available
to offer advice

Tel: 01622 850840
Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

THORNELOE & CO
SOLICITORS

Michael J. Thorneloe

Your local
Solicitors

*Friendly, personal attention
for all your legal problems*



**22, High Street, Lenham,
Kent. ME17 2QD**

☎ 01622 859416
Fax 01622 859406



Cybereye Security
Electrical Services

RING MARCUS SHEPHARD ON

01622 858612 or 07821776334

ALARM SYSTEMS CCTV FIRE ALARMS

AUTOMATED GATES VIDEO/AUDIO ENTRY SYSTEMS

EXISTING SYSTEMS REPAIRED AND MAINTAINED

ALL ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

DOMESTIC AND COMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS

PART P CERTIFIED
FREE QUOTES

FULLY INSURED
24 HOUR CALL OUT

D.FLISHER ROOFING

*Free winter check on roofs
Roofing repairs, ridge &
hips checked*

*Moss cleaned off roofs
Gutters & window frames
cleaned*

Chimneys re-pointed

**Call Dave for a quote on
01622 850659 or 07941 324286**

SR Interiors
Painting & Decorating Services

Residential and Commercial
Quality Decorating at a Fair &
Competitive Price

Fully Insured & References
Available

Internal and External Decoration

Tel/Fax: 01622 737225

Mobile: 07816 149502

www.sr-interiors.com



email: info@sr-interiors.com

Petaholics

**KENT'S BIGGEST SELECTION OF
BOTH USUAL AND EXOTIC PETS!**

**ALL BRANDS OF PET FOODS
AND SUPPLIES NOW
DELIVERED**

FREE TO YOUR DOOR!

(prices from £8.99 for 15kg of dog food!)

"Exotic Pet Parties"

Have a party with a
difference and meet and
greet some of our amazing
animals!



Call us now on 01634 240632

Petaholics Ltd, 42 High Street, Snodland, Kent
Or visit our website: www.petaholicsltd.co.uk

**10% off your first purchase when
you present this advert!**

Perfect Pups

Home Visits



Are you having problems settling in your new puppy or do you have a wayward adolescent who just won't listen?
Help with house-training, play-biting, chewing, lead walking, temperament training etc.
Only kind, motivational training methods used that will enhance your understanding of your puppy and help to build a relationship of mutual trust and respect.

I have over twenty years experience in running classes and behaviour counselling, and am a qualified veterinary nurse.

Fully insured and CRB checked.

To arrange a home visit for one-to-one help in the comfort of your own home, call:

Lesley on 0781 7988371

N & S JOINERY

**PROFESSIONAL
CARPENTRY & JOINERY
KITCHENS
BATHROOMS
BEDROOMS**

Any Job Undertaken

**Tel/Fax: 01622 851611
Mobile: 07973 193310**

Harrietsham Computers

Computer Problems?

Need an upgrade

or a new machine?

Just want some extra tuition?



**For local, friendly, experienced
Help, call Mike Cuerden at**

**01622 859442 or
07963 020092**



**No call out fee
Reasonable rates
Private &
Commercial Work
No job too small**

N. PLUMMER

**GENERAL BUILDING
UNDERPINNING
STRUCTURAL REPAIRS
PROFESSIONAL CARPENTRY**

Marchant Farmhouse, Grafty Green. ME17 2AP

Tel/Fax: 01622 859079

Mobile: 07973 193310

TV and VIDEO

**Repairs and Service
Most Handsets Repaired or Replaced**

Tel: 01622 683784

MICROWAVE OVENS

**Repairs and Services
Safety Checks to
all Major Makes**

BRIAN OSMER

Tel: 01622 683784

BARRY WHEBLE PLUMBING

**Tel: 01622 260568
Mobile: 07768 945705**

**Blocked Drains, Dripping Taps
Burst Pipes, Boilers
Central Heating, Appliances
Power Flushing**

**THE LOCAL PLUMBER YOU'LL
RECOMMEND**

**All areas covered
24 Hours / 7 Days
No Call Out Charge**

**Gas Safe Registered Gas Installer
No: 68640**

Men's Breakfast's at The Red Lion, Lenham

General Tim Cross at the first men's breakfast

We were privileged to have a brilliant speaker, General Tim Cross, who spoke to about 25 of us about "The moral component of fighting power." Tim challenged us all in a spell-binding talk which started with the Army's concept of three components to winning a war. He spoke of the physical component (the kit and equipment), the conceptual component (how to use it) and the third component, the "moral component" of fighting power. The army decided that this third component is essential if you're going to win: it's what gets the men out of bed. This component is about friendship, integrity, justice, leadership, duty, honour, honesty and truth.

General Tim then drew the parallels to society's systems: political power (first component) and financial power (second component); and today those are what we rely on. If we have a problem, we pass a law, or throw money at it. Or both. His challenge to us was to consider the missing component in our society, the spiritual and moral component to life. He urged us to resist and challenge the ideas prevalent today that the moral and spiritual element has no place and to reaffirm our moral compass. The breakfast was excellent, too! Thanks to all who came, to Frank Allen for organising, to the Red Lion for a great breakfast, and to General Tim Cross for a great start to this series of breakfast meetings.

Mr Phillip Orme will speak at our third men's breakfast at 8am on Saturday 26th March 2011 at the Red Lion, Lenham. Phillip will be speaking about the work of the Sandes Soldier's and Airmen's Centres. Enjoy a good breakfast, hear the story, ask questions, chat and socialise.

Call Michelle Saunders (01622 850604), Frank Allen (01622 850559) or Dick Venn (01622 858195) for more details and to book a place (£5 for a full English breakfast). This is the third in a series of men's breakfasts organised by the Churches of the Len Valley being held on the last Saturday of each month at 8am, The Red Lion, Lenham.

Baptisms

Parents interested in arranging christenings are invited to a meeting in Lenham Community Centre on Monday March 7th at 7.30pm. For more details telephone the church office: 01622 850604.

Musical Appreciation?

From the notes on a service sheet at a South London evangelical church::

"The theme at next week's service will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to the choir practice."

philip jarvis

INDEPENDENT
ESTATE
AGENT

Your friendly, local estate agent,
specialising in the sale and letting of
village and country properties.

If you are looking to move
in the near future
call us now.

T: **01622 858241**

W: www.philipjarvis.co.uk

A: 1 The Square, Lenham, Kent ME17 2PH

E: homes@philipjarvis.co.uk

Seasoned Logs from Local Coppice for Sale

Cut to size and delivered.

*Variety of logs suitable for
open fires or log burners*



Contact Norman on
077333 28715



MAIDSTONE LANDSCAPES & PAVING LTD

Friendly & Professional

Specialists in:

Block Paving, Tarmacadam, Drives, Patios,
Landscaping, Brickwork, Turfing, Conservatories,
Rockeries, Fencing, Garden Clearance/Maintenance
and all related building work.

Also Supply/Deliver:

Building / Fencing Materials, Sand, Ballast,
Top Soil, Compost, Lawn Top Dressing,
Play/Forest Bark etc, Specimen Trees/Shrubs etc.

We Also Supply/Erect:

Sheds/Summer/Play Houses/Play Equipment/
Slides/Swings/Climbing Frames etc.



FOR A FREE ESTIMATE Est1990

Fully Insured/ Work Guaranteed

PHONE/FAX: 01622 851222 /

08456 444 898 (Local Rate) Mobile: 07786 07 01 07

www.maidstonelandscapes.com



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR WEALDEN SOCIETIES

“A Journey Through The Weald”

A new documentary from the Weald of Kent Protection Society

In 2010, a new 30-minute DVD documentary film about the Weald of Kent, commissioned by WKPS, written and directed by students at Cranbrook School and narrated by Adam Nicolson, was completed. It is now available through WKPS for screenings to village/society meetings throughout the Weald.

The new documentary shows life in the Weald of Kent in the early years of the 21st century and looks at the changes that have taken place there during the last 50 years, as seen through the eyes of young people who live here. It highlights those things that WKPS fights to protect and preserve.

As well as the new film, the DVD contains the original 1960 documentary, “A Journey into the Weald of Kent”, narrated by John Betjeman, so providing a chance to compare the young filmmakers’ view of the Weald today with that of the film makers of 50 years ago. The two documentaries could be seen as two snapshots taken at different times in the life of the Weald.

If you would like to arrange for a showing of the new DVD to your society/group, please get in touch to arrange a date. There is NO charge for the showing; however, WKPS would ask for the opportunity to introduce the DVD - very briefly – and to make copies of the DVD available for sale. 3 Wealden societies have already planned their showings – join them!

To make arrangements, please contact:

Society Secretary, WKPS – tel: 01580 819318; , email: wealdofkent@netscape.net

Messy Church

The church in the centre of Lenham was a scene of fun, games, projected snowflakes and messy beards on a Saturday afternoon in January. Families had come together for a Three Kings Party put on by the churches of the Len Valley. After the noisy games we got on our camels and journeyed up to the little chapel where we celebrated God's love together and then journeyed back down to a splendid tea. Said one dad there with two of his children "We found the 3 Kings Party very enjoyable. The different activities combined with the carols and prayers made it good for the whole family."

On a Saturday afternoon just before Christmas a similar party took place in the church in Harrietsham. Here different activities were on offer for children to make decorated night lights, Christingle oranges, handmade and computer designed Christmas cards, print wrapping paper etc – all around the theme of Jesus' birth in the messy stable in Bethlehem. Again everyone came together for carols and prayers at the end.

It may be that Sunday mornings are not a good time for families to come to church; it may be that our traditional services are not suitable for families to come to. So instead we plan to continue with a Saturday afternoon once a month for families to come and have fun being creative together, celebrate and know God's love in a very simple way and then enjoy sitting down to eat together. All important things that perhaps there's not enough time for in our busy daily lives. It's going to be called Messy Church to show that it's informal and fun so make a note of the following dates and venues in your diary. We'll start at 4.30 and finish with tea around 5.45. We hope to see you there!

- 19th February, Ulcombe church, 4.30 – 6.00
- 19th March, Grafty Green Village Hall, 4.30 – 6.00
- 21st April (Good Friday) Lenham church, 10.30 – 12.00
- 21st May, tbc, 4.30 – 6.00
- 18th June, tbc, 4.30 – 6.00

Come and join us for praise and worship at the informal service at 6.30pm on 27th March, at St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham, when Elaine Cook will be leading us through a meditation on the stations of the cross.

Everyone is welcome. If you would like help with transport please ring 859442. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Lent Groups in the Len Valley Churches



From Ash Wednesday, 9th March, until Palm Sunday, 17th April, people will be meeting once a week for about an hour and a half in each of the four villages of Lenham, Harrietsham, Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe to follow a course in Confident Discipleship. This course is designed to help us think and talk about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. How can Jesus equip us to live our faith 24/7?

Join us to find out as we come to him, follow him, learn from him, are changed by him and so are ready to go out and live as he wants us to do. For details of venues and times for these meetings, please phone Michelle at the Benefice Office on 01622 850604. There will be a variety of times and places – mornings, afternoons and evenings, so one is bound to suit you!

Rev. Marian Bond

Music Notes - March

Most musical events seem to be happening at the end of the month, and then all at once! Bad planning by the local musicians!. Anyway, here are some items to chose from::

- Saturday 5th March, 7.30pm at Central Hall, Chatham, The City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra have a concert with a programme that includes Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 5* and Brahms's *Symphony No. 2*. Tickets 0705643354
- Saturday 26th March, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra presents world famous pianist John Lill playing Brahms's *Piano Concerto No.1*. The programme also includes Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, and a specially commissioned piece by McCabe. Tickets 0845 1552277.
- Also on Saturday 26th at 7.30pm, but at All Saints' Church, Maidstone, Bearsted Choral Society performs Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, jointly with Upchurch Choral Society. The programme additionally includes choral works of Parry, Bruckner, Tavener and Mendelssohn. Tickets 01634 245 704
- On Saturday 2nd April at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone, Maidstone Choral Union performs Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. Tickets 01622 726 193
- On Sunday 3rd April at 7.30pm, Sutton Valence Choral Society performs Palestrina's *Stabat Mater* and Stainer's *Crucifixion* at All Saints' Church, Maidstone. Tickets 01622 761649 .

Brian Hardy

The Len Valley Benefice

Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe

Sunday/Main Services – March 2011

6th March - The Sunday before Lent

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

Wednesday 9th March – Ash Wednesday

9.30am Lenham – Imposition of Ashes
7pm Ulcombe – Imposition of Ashes

13th March – 1st Sunday of Lent

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

19th March

4.30pm – 6pm Messy Church in Grafty Green Village Hall. There will be activities, celebration and tea.

20th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

27th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

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
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Blood	Fox	Grey	Hound
2	Berry	Jet	Smith	Black
3	Beech	Kettle	Plate	Copper
4	Close	Driving	Free	Range
5	Hall	Pianist	Rock	Concert
6	Festival	Moon	Mouse	Harvest
7	Box	Lever	Top	Gear
8	Cream	Grapes	Puss	Sour
9	Book	Metal	Paper	Scrap
10	Brighton	Hard	Face	Rock
11	Boxing	Cabinet	Eye	Shadow
12	Greek	Live	Natural	Yogurt
13	Bank	Blue	Wine	Bottle
14	Shell	Shelter	Stink	Bomb
15	Box	Hand	Smoke	Signal
16	Check	Soft	Tight	Spot

	Find the missing word?
1	The King , Nickname for Elvis Presley
2	Foot Tapper , 1963 No 1 hit for The Shadows
3	Sir Gary Sobers , Cricketer who famously captained the West Indies
4	Ryan Giggs , 2009 BBC Sports Personality of the Year
5	The Blarney Stone , An Irish attraction
6	Under Milk Wood , A Dylan Thomas book & play
7	Otis Redding , Soul singer who posthumously received the 1999 Grammy award for Life time Achievement
8	Lambeth Palace , London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury
9	Ivor the Engine , Animated locomotive driven by Jones the Steam
10	Louis Armstrong , Trumpeter nicknamed Satchmo

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
GAZEBOS
GIFTS
GLOVES
GREENHOUSES
GROWBAGS
HANGING BASKETS

THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT GARDEN CENTRE IN THE AREA

GRAFTY

**Superb
aquatics
& pets
depts**

**Large free
car park**

**10 ACRES OF
GREAT GARDENING
WITH OVER 37,000
SQ FT OF INDOOR
SHOPPING**

**Call
01622
858800**

**Huge
on-site
nursery**

Grafty staff
know their stuff
for really useful
help and advice

GET CRAFTY, FIND GRAFTY

Crumps Corner, Grafty Green, ME17 2AT.

OPEN 7 DAYS. CLOSED EASTER SUN. FULL INFORMATION PLUS
LATEST NEWS AND SEASONAL DEALS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE AT

www.graftygardencentre.co.uk

HERBACEOUS
HERBS
HOUSE PLANTS
KOI
MOWERS
ORNAMENTS
PARROTS
PATIO HEATERS
PAVING
PETS
PONDS &
PUMPS
POTS
REPTILES
ROSES
SEEDS
SHEDS
SHRUBS
STONEWARE
TERRACOTTA
TOOLS
TREES
TROPICAL FISH
VEGETABLE PLANTS
WATER BUTTS
WATER FEATURES

carpets *direct*

FREE Bissell OXYKIC Cleaner

CARPETS DIRECT are your local, family run business who specialise in the highest quality carpets, vinyl, laminate, wood and blinds.

Having been established for nearly 20 years, our unparalleled success is a testament to our:

Personal & friendly service

Exceptional customer care

Our own qualified fitters



Come and experience our unique service today. Bring this advert with you and when you request a quotation you receive a **FREE Bissell OXYKIC!**

Selecta House, Charing Hill, Charing Tel: 01233 714999

Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm • Saturday 9am - 5pm

www.carpetsdirectcharing.co.uk