

Malherbe Monthly

Number 69
April 2010



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

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Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
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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
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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	
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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 May edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th May**

Front cover: Line dancing in Grafty Village Hall on Saturday 27th March - the event raised £300 for Village Hall funds - Photograph courtesy of Richard Pilborough

News from St. Nicholas Church

Easter- Holy Week

You will be reading this in Holy Week with all the various Services being held for you to attend, if you so wish. The first three days of Holy Week are being marked by a number of us travelling to Canterbury Cathedral to hear Archbishop Rowan's Lectures, which start at 7.30pm. If you would like to come telephone Joan Davidson 850210 and she will be able to tell you who to contact if you need a lift. You may prefer to travel independently, in which case we will see you there.

Thursday:- Maundy Thursday – Communion with Washing of Feet at St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham at 7.30pm.

Friday:-Good Friday - There will be a Walk of Witness from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Harrietsham (10.00am for 10.15am.start) to Lenham. At 2.00pm a service of One Hour's Devotion at St. Nicholas Church Boughton Malherbe. There will also be services at the same time at the other three Churches of the Benefice.

Craft Morning: - also On Good Friday -_Craft Morning will be held for children 10.30am-12.00 at the back of St. Mary's, Lenham. There will be a charge of £1 to cover costs.

Easter Sunday

6.30am A Service will be held by the Cross on the North Downs and afterwards breakfast at the back of St. Mary's, Lenham.

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting

The APCM will be held in St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe on Thursday 22nd April, at 7.30pm for the Vestry Meeting, followed by the General Meeting at 7.40pm. The meeting is open to everyone. Do come along and give us your support and hear what has been happening at St Nicholas during the past year and our plans for the future.

The Village Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 14th April, 10.00-12.00 noon. Do come along for a chat and a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of cake or a biscuit (or both) - there is usually plenty and to spare. We do not charge for this but would appreciate a donation to cover costs and your support.

Flowers and Cleaning

Our little band of helpers who carry out the Cleaning and Flower Arranging in St. Nicholas are in need of some new recruits. You do not have to be a church going person but just enjoy arranging flowers - a building the size of St. Nicholas gives you much more scope to be inventive and try out more ambitious displays of flowers than you would be able to in your own home. If you would like to join us please ring Joan on 850210.

On the cleaning side it would be lovely to have more people so that the Brasses could be cleaned every week instead of once or twice a Month.

Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, we welcomed a new little person into our Church family. Emmy Ely-Cook from Harrietsham was baptised at St. Nicholas, the Church where in 2008 her parents were married. A party of guests supported her - parents, godparents, grandparents, uncles and friends. The service was lead by Millie Hart, soon to be ordained. The Rev Yvonne Salmon baptised Emmy, we wish her well. As it was Mothering Sunday the children present were given flowers to give to their mothers.

Bible Study

A new season of Bible Study will start at the end of April at Weirton Villa, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green. Ring Joan Drury for details nearer the time on 01622 853766 if you would like to join us.

Weddings

During April and early May, there will be three weddings held in St. Nicholas Church. Three young couples who have been attending services at St. Nicholas for the last six months or so to enable them to marry in our church. We would like to extend our very best wishes to Graham & Elise, Laurence & Samantha and to Keith and Adele for a very long and happy life together.

Joan Davidson

April Night Sky

... will hopefully re-appear next month. We all wish John Maunder a speedy recovery.

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



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

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

Anyone is welcome and entry is free.

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Bram _____, Dracula Author
2	_____ Birch, Tree with Catkins
3	Will _____, Ex Rugby Captain
4	Peak _____, Derbyshire TV Medical Series
5	_____ Briers, Roobard Narrator and The Good Life
6	Willie _____, Former Jockey now BBC Racing Presenter
7	_____ Dinsdale, The Chase actor also seen in Home to Roost
8	Fern _____, This Morning stalwart
9	Jon _____, The third Dr Who
10	_____ The Nation, Quiz on which the audience use their brains

ALL-FIX PLUMBING

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David Jenkins



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mtc.services@btinternet.com



Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

This web site also hosts all the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and gives details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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- ✓ Gardasil (HPV 4 strains) Cervarix (HPV 2 strains)
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- ✓ Travel Vaccination and advice
- ✓ Single MMR Vaccinations
- ✓ Maidstone Homeopathic Centre – Hypnotherapy, Reiki, Yoga, Pilates
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- ✓ Hypnoslim weight management and nutrition
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- ✓ Ear syringing



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NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Ulcombe Sport Relief Mile

WOW! What else is there to say? For those of you who joined us for the Ulcombe Sport Relief Mile on Saturday 20th March, you will know exactly what I mean. It was absolutely wonderful to see so many people out and taking part, raising over £500 for this great charity. It was fantastic to see pupils and staff from the village school, members of the village cricket club and many friends from the village and surrounding area all getting active and raising so much. Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, including those of you who were marshals, first aiders, minibuses and escort drivers and, of course, those of you who were selling much needed refreshments. Thank you as well to Maidstone United Raiders who also raised money that morning and have passed it on to Sport Relief as part of our efforts. Most of all, thank you to everyone who took part, running (or walking) the mile, making it such a success.

In the news

The month of March started with Owlets class assembly, showing us all some of the things they have been learning in class in recent weeks. World Book Day was on Thursday 4th March. Taking our theme as 'Bed-time Stories', everyone came to school in their pyjamas. Thank you very much to the FUS who provided hot chocolate for our story time at the end of the day.

March continued, being an even busier month than expected. Our next Friends of Ulcombe School Dinner took place on Wednesday 10th March. As usual, after a wonderful dinner prepared by our own School Cook, with children waiting at tables, each class provided short pieces of entertainment based on work they are completing in school. It was especially good to welcome the ladies of the village and school community, including mothers and grandmothers of children at school, as this was in the week before Mothering Sunday. The Mothering Sunday Raffle raised almost £150. Thank you to everyone who donated a prize and everyone who bought a ticket. On a sad note, Miss Fuller, our cook, is to be promoted and so she will be moving on. She will be sorely missed. However, we are confident that our new cook, starting after Easter, will be a wonderful replacement.

We received 'Do Science' on Thursday 11th March which inspired us all to be scientists. We learnt about a wide variety of things including the planets and the wonder of nature. Each class had a workshop during the day, with lots of us making paper aeroplanes that we would never have thought would fly until we were shown it that day. In fact, they looked more like something from science-fiction! This was all before taking part in National Science and

Engineering Week from 12th-19th March. Each class spent even more time than usual during this week completing scientific investigations.

During the same week our football team played its first game of the year. We played away to Leeds & Broomfield CE Primary School and recorded a very creditable 1-1 draw. At the time of writing we are hoping to go a little better, and beat Leeds & Broomfield as we have been drawn against them in the area cup.

There were two more class assemblies in March with Barn Owls singing to us in French, and showing us some of their music and PE on Thursday 18th March. Just five days later Tawny Owls showed us some of the wonderful animations they have made in ICT.

Still to come

Term 4 will end on Maundy Thursday, 1st April. We will hold our Easter Service at All Saints Parish Church in the morning, at 9.15am. It would be fantastic to see lots of our friends from the village joining us for this special service. We will then come back to School for our Easter Egg Hunt, and the rest of our work for the day. During the week after the Easter break there is a special treat for Film Club. We will have a web-cam interview with a well-known actor. At the time of writing it is still to be announced, though we know it will be a star of recent films. Towards the end of the month our football team will be taking part in the annual tournament at Lenham. We are looking forward to playing against other schools from the area.

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

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

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

Best wishes, as ever,

Mr V Hampton, Head Teacher

The Grafty Gourmet

This recipe comprises of King Prawns lightly dusted in Cajun spice, served on a bed of pasta and cream sauce, complimented with the bright colours of red and green peppers. Spaghetti, or any pasta of your choice can be used in place of Linguine.

Prawns in Cream Sauce

Serves 2

4oz Linguine Pasta	1 Cup of Double Cream
12 King Prawns (peeled and deveined)	¼ Teaspoon of Dried Basil
1 Medium Onion, finely chopped	¼ Teaspoon of Salt
1 Red Pepper, sliced	¼ Teaspoon of Ground Black Pepper
1 Green Pepper, sliced	½ Teaspoon of sugar
1 Tablespoons of Butter	2 Cloves of Garlic, crushed
Olive Oil	A Good Squeeze of Fresh Lime Juice
2 teaspoons of Cajun Seasoning	¼ Cup grated Parmesan Cheese

1. Place the Linguine in a saucepan of water and bring to the boil, then simmer for about 12 minutes, until al dente.
2. Whilst the pasta is cooking, melt the butter with the olive oil in a frying pan and sauté the onion for 2-3 minutes. Then add the sliced red and green peppers and simmer until soft and tender.
3. Add the cream together with 1 clove crushed garlic, basil, salt, black pepper, sugar and lime juice and stir the mixture with the onions and peppers until warmed through.
4. When Linguine is cooked, drain and add to the cream and pepper mix in the frying pan. Stir into the sauce so that the pasta is even coated, and simmer on a very low heat, to keep warm, stirring occasionally.
5. Fry the king prawns in a little melted butter and crushed garlic, for approximately 3 minutes, until cooked through. Dust the prawns lightly with Cajun seasoning whilst cooking.
6. Serve the pasta and cream mixture, and place the prawns on top. Sprinkle with Parmesan Cheese, if desired.

FROM TINY ACORNS ...

In or around the year AD1500 an acorn began to germinate and grow. Some 510 years later, the oak tree that it became is still growing and can be seen today, half way up Boughton Hill in a field on the right hand side (map ref. TQ87724937). Using Woodland Trust guidelines and friend Jos's help, we measured the tree and then calculated its age.

It is a Pedunculate Oak, so called because the acorns grow on long stalks - called peduncles. Also known as the Old English Oak, these trees can live for more than 500 years, with coppiced examples (of which this is one) living up to a thousand years and growing to over 90 feet in height. They support more wildlife than any other tree species in Britain - in excess of 300 varieties, and their acorns are an important source of food in winter for Jays and squirrels.



Tom discovered that, whilst our tree was still a sapling, Henry VII was King of a Catholic England and the future Henry VIII was just 9 years old. Chaucer had died 100 years earlier and Shakespeare hadn't been born; Leonardo da Vinci was alive and well - though hadn't started work on the Mona Lisa yet, and the world was still waiting for Francis Drake to sail around it. The Americas had only just been discovered; the world was a very different place.

How often we have walked and driven past this tree with just a cursory glance, never considering its great age and the times it has lived through. It is a living link with our past and all that remains of a landscape long disappeared and, as such, we are fortunate that it survives. It is registered as a 'Veteran Tree' with the Woodland Trust, from where we were able to identify its species and get some of the above information.

Christine and Tom King

How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm

Term starts Wednesday 21st April - 26th May
and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am

Term starts Thursday 22nd April - 27th May

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

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

join in please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339

Grafty Green Gardening Club



Village Hall Spring show on Tuesday 6th April, bring your entries for staging from 7pm. Mini plant sale. Talk by Dennis Worcester on History and making of Walking Sticks

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

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

Members special visit to Rumwood Nursery on Saturday 10th April for a chance to buy your plants and get 15% discount.

Wandering & Wondering Launch Event

The Heaths Countryside Corridor recently launched a new three year project on a wet and windy day at the Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Memorial Hall. The Heritage Lottery Funded “Wandering and Wondering” project aims to encourage more people from the local community to enjoy, appreciate and to get involved with the wildlife and heritage on their doorstep. The launch event featured displays and activities from Lenham Archaeology Society, Kent Mammal Group, Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and Butterfly Conservation.

The project will have walks, talks and fun events for all centred around the 3 sites that Heaths Countryside Corridor own around Charing Heath and Lenham Heath. For more information about events and how to get involved please contact Mike Phillips on 01303 815170 or at mike.phillips@kentdowns.org.uk.

Photo of Amber Cottee helping attendees to make clay pottery



St Edmunds Centre - Platts Heath

Coffee mornings can start again this year on Thursday morning if there is enough interest give me a ring on my usual number.

We have plans for another karaoke night on Friday the 4th June of June at 7pm admission is £5 per person. Once again you will have to bring your own drinks and nibbles along. Karen and Kate are also planning a fun day for the children during the school holidays in July watch this space for more details.

It is time for our AGM in May and I hope you will come along and let us know what you would like to see happening at St Edmunds and of course if anyone wishes to start a club the hall is there for villagers to use.

May I remind you the children's Karate/kickboxing club has changed its day and time to Monday at 4.45 anyone interested should contact Mrs Thursting of the Black Dragon Academy on 01634 320238 or 07949 844893.

Line dancing is on Thursday at 8-9pm and we do need more members, now that spring is around the corner why not give it a try? We do not take it seriously and enjoy a fun way to exercise.

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

Patricia Dibley Secretary

CAUGHT IN THE NET PRESENTED BY THE WILLINGTON PLAYERS

The hilarious sequel to Ray Cooney's successful hit RUN FOR YOUR WIFE. John Smith, a bigamist taxi driver, manages to find the energy to keep both his families happy and blissfully unaware of each other. However, his teenage children - have met on the internet and are determined to meet in person, from meeting it transpires that they have so much in common! See how John Smith does everything in his power to stop the two youngsters from meeting. The result is a superbly mastered comedy that will keep you laughing in your seats!

Tue 20 - Sat 24 Apr • 7.30pm • Hazlitt Theatre
Tickets £9.50 (c) £8 (except Tuesday and Wednesday) Charity Nights: Tuesday and Wednesday Box Office 01622 758611

Ulcombe History Society Outing to Oxford Saturday 15th May

This will be a guided tour of Oxford. The cost of the tour will be £35.00 to include the costs of: the coach, the guide, entry to the Bodleian Library, the School of Divinity, New College, and Christ Church College. We will also be visiting other places where there is no charge.

In the middle of the day there will be an hour and half break for lunch. You will need to provide your own lunch. There are numerous places to eat, including a café at the Ashmolean Museum, or you might like to bring sandwiches. At the end of the afternoon there will also be a little free time.

On the coach we will give you the programme for the day, a map of Oxford, and details of the places we will be visiting. Peter Titchener, a member of the History Society Committee, who spent his undergraduate years at Oxford, will tell us, during the journey, a little more about the places we will be visiting.

In order to make the most of the day, we will be leaving Ulcombe at 7. 30 am, and leaving Oxford at 5.30 pm. Traffic permitting, it should be a two hour journey.

Please fill in the form below and send it, with your cheque made payable to The Ulcombe History Society, to John Moore, Eastville, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2DQ **Tel. 01622 85038**

Please book ____ places on the Oxford Outing. I enclose a cheque for £ _____

Name _____ Tel. Number _____

Address _____

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18th APR. 8am (open 7am): China

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Weekend in Dorset

A weekend trip is organised to Dorset - 25th to 27th June at £210 per person staying at the Royal Norfolk Hotel in Bournemouth (dinner bed and breakfast) and visiting four gardens: Stourhead (a National Trust Property), Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens; Kingston Maurward and West Dean Gardens.

The Gardening Club organises this event and anyone can join us - Phone Carole Frost on 757536 for further information and to make your booking, deposit of £25 per person required.

Ironman New Zealand 2010

On a recent holiday in New Zealand, Janet and I spent some days staying in the North Island town of Taupo with Gwen and Les Wraight, who emigrated there some 18 months ago after many years living in Green Lane, Platts Heath. They were excellent hosts and made us feel very welcome.

Whilst we were there, the annual 'Ironman New Zealand' event took place. This is a triathlon which demands a very high level of fitness as it starts, at 7am, with a 2.4 mile swim in the beautifully clear but chilly waters of Lake Taupo, followed by a 112 mile bike ride, and finishing with a full marathon, 26 miles 385 yards - makes me feel quite exhausted just thinking about it!

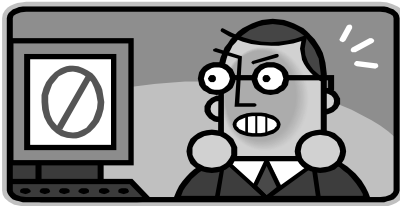
One of the participants was Gwen and Les's son Paul, a former pupil of Platts Heath Primary and Swadlands schools, who lives very close to them and is a Police Officer in Taupo (I was pre-warned to watch my speed as I approached Taupo as Paul is usually on traffic duties!).

Paul finished a very creditable 428th out of 1,252 participants in an overall time of 11 hours 31 minutes 28 seconds, and the accompanying photograph shows him approaching the finishing line. Very well done, Paul!

The oldest participant was aged 73 so I was going to say that there is hope for all of us, but on reflection I don't think there is!! If however you do fancy the challenge next year, www.ironman.co.nz is the place to go, and is where you can also find the full details of Paul's performance.

John Collins





NEED A LITTLE HELP?

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

Digital Photography

14th/21st/28th April/5th May

Basic Word

noon

4th/10th/17th/24th May

Digital Photography

18th/25th May/1nd/8th June

Basic IT

7th/14th/21st/28th June

Wednesday mornings 10am/12 noon

Tuesday/Monday mornings 10am/12

Tuesday evenings 7.30/9.30pm

Monday mornings 10am/12 noon

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

And of course we are always open on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12noon for you to drop in for some advice or just a coffee and a chat! Come along and see how much more you can do with your computer – there's always another tip to make life easier.

Adult Classes in Improving your IT skills

Carol Hulm (an IT Trainer) is offering to teach computer skills to members of the village. She is prepared to do this on a voluntary basis and can book the Telecottage at Egerton where there are 12 good computers (participants share the cost of hiring the facilities).

Her passion is to ensure people get the best out of their computers for their needs, safely and securely. Anyone interested please call Carol on 853583.



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

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Jack	Last	Short	Straw
2	Breakfast	Channel	Queens	
3	America	Heating	Locking	
4	Cling	Horror	Star	
5	Age	Speed	Time	
6	Language	Post	Road	
7	Beauty	Check	Hot	
8	Cruise	Eye	Freight	
9	Pop	Reading	Therapy	
10	Man	Second	Seller	
11	Bishop	Enemy	Marble	
12	Beyond	Home	Line	
13	Cattle	Lock	National	
14	Biting	Hob	Varnish	
15	Brown	House	Real	
16	Pepper	Sauce	Spear	

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Weald Beekeepers visit to Holland 19th to 21st July 2010

The Weald Branch of the Kent Beekeepers Association have organised a trip to Holland in order to visit the famous Bee Market at Veenendaal. We are going by coach via the tunnel & visiting Bruges en route on the first day. The second day, we visit the Bee Market in the morning & then the Airborne Museum at Arnhem in the afternoon.

We depart on 21st July visiting the World Heritage Site, Kinderdijk on the way home, plus shopping if time. Accommodation in Hotel Ibis – good two star accommodation. Breakfast included & dinner on the first night. Cost £211 per person if sharing or £261 in a single room. £50 deposit per person required on booking.

This will be quite a small party & there are a few places left on the coach if you would like to join us. Close contact with bees is optional!!
Please contact Ronnie Eagle for more details & a booking form. Tel 01622 843614



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The Good Old Days!

I heard that Boughton Malherbe church was somewhat chilly for a recent christening. We don't know how the little baby felt but whatever discomfort she experienced was nothing compared with the ordeal of babies in the Middle Ages.

Roy Strong's book, '**A Little History of the English Country Church,**' is most enlightening on the subject. Here are a few extracts.

Baptism took place within days of birth, the baby being borne to the church by the midwife and the godparents. The priest met them in the porch and asked the sex of the child. The baptismal party would bring along salt for exorcism; some of it was placed in the child's mouth and prayers said, after which the infant's forehead was signed twice with a cross. After spitting into his left hand the priest moistened the child's ears and nostrils in emulation of Christ's actions when healing the deaf and dumb man.

Now for stage 2 of the process.

The party . entered the church and gathered round the font. After the godparents had renounced Satan, *the priest, after dipping his thumb in holy oil, signed him with the cross on his breast and on his back between the shoulder blades Stripped bare and with his head turned east and his face north, (is this possible, I wonder?) the child was rotated three times and each time plunged completely in the font.* Next a senior godparent lifted the child out of the font and the priest signed him on the top of his head with chrism oil. *The baby was then put into his chrisom, a piece of cloth or hooded robe covering , which the child had to wear until it was returned to the priest by its mother.* Next , a lighted candle was placed in the infant's right hand with the words. 'Receive a burning and inextinguishable light.' Clearly there were no Child Protection Officers on hand to witness this scene.

Next time you attend a christening in Boughton church spare a thought for the babies who endured so much hundreds of years ago.

Joan Drury

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Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

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

Grafty Green

Sunday 18th Apr 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Sunday 13th Jun 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Sunday 8th Aug 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 18th Apr 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Sunday 13th Jun 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Sunday 8th Aug 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 18th Apr 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Sunday 13th Jun 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Sunday 8th Aug 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Lenham

Sunday 14th Jul 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Road - Boughton Lane



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

Join us for a lovely walk in the North Downs. Further details on our WALKLINE 01622 890650 or our WEBSITE www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

Taking Care (from “Newnes motorists touring guide”)

The driver of a car must remember that everyone has the right to use the roads or streets afoot, having due regard to the passing of vehicles. Drivers must therefore exercise what the law calls *reasonable care*. While the foot passenger must also use reasonable care when crossing the road, he can yet obtain damages if he can prove that, despite his contributory negligence, the accident would have been avoided if the motorist used reasonable care.

To take an extreme example: supposing a drunken man deliberately laid down in the middle of Piccadilly, this would not excuse the driver who ran over him, for it is the driver's duty to exercise care and attention in the matter. The tendency is always to hold the motor driver guilty in [the] case of an accident unless he can prove himself innocent. For this reason the motorist who has been innocently involved in an accident should take every care to procure at the time all possible evidence in his own favour.

Readers today consider this advice,. published in the late 1920's, is still of use today! Our edition of the guide was sold at The Great Leeds Book Sale but, in response to popular request, the facility to publish extracts has been allowed to continue for the time being, subject to the editor's approval

Music Notes, April 2010

With the arrival of Spring (as I write, a matter of hope & trust) music offerings in the area continue. Here is a selection for your delectation:

- Saturday 17th April, 7.30pm in Sutton Valence School Chapel, “The Thursday Choir” gives a spring concert which will include pieces by Vaughan Williams, Britten and Rutter. This all-female choir is a fairly new addition to our local musical resource, but produces high quality chamber singing. Free admission, retiring collection for charity. Details 01622 844946.
- Saturday 24th April, 7.30pm at the church of St James the Great, East Malling, the East Malling Singers offer a “Come & Sing” concert of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Coronation anthems*. If you would like to take part phone 01622 750943. If you wish to just go and listen, tickets can be obtained at the door or ring 01622 750943.
- Friday 30th April, 7.30om at Sutton Valence Music School, there is a concert by the Sitkovetsky piano trio, including works by Beethoven, Haydn and Rachmaninov. Details: 01233 756672

Brian Hardy

Christian Message April 2010

Have you ever experienced that “eureka” moment when you understand something clearly for the first time? Or you suddenly realise what the problem is and how to sort it out?

I know I have. As a scientist, solving a problem or understanding how something worked could be very exciting. After working in a fog of data with a problem that just wouldn't go away, when I finally understood and solved the puzzle I was ecstatic!

I experienced a very similar thing, too, when I discovered that Jesus really was alive and wanted me to be his friend and follower. This wasn't just pie-in-the-sky stuff, nice to have but not really necessary; quite the opposite, it was life-changing, life-giving, problem-solving, relationship-mending.

That's what was going on with the couple Jesus had just walked along the road with, listening to their despair about how their friend Jesus had been killed. They had thought he was the “Messiah” who would sort out all their political and religious problems – but now he was dead, killed by the Roman occupation forces and their own religious leaders. They didn't recognise this person who joined them on the sad road home while he explained their scriptures and how these writings foretold that just such a fate awaited the real Messiah.

Jesus went to their house to have supper with them and then
“he sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.” (Words from the Bible, Luke's Gospel, ch. 24 in “The Message” translation.)

Eureka! They understood! This couple were so excited that they ran the 7 miles back to Jerusalem to tell the other friends and disciples of Jesus that he wasn't dead, that he was alive, that he had been raised from the dead. They recognised him as he broke bread with them.

And the problems he solved for them he continues to be able to solve today, for us. The challenges he gave them, his early followers, he gives to us today. The power to live holy and useful lives that he gave them, he will give to us today.

The angels at his tomb said this to some of Jesus' other friends:
“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”

That's what we celebrate at Easter – his resurrection from the dead; not only that, but his power in our lives to forgive and be forgiven, to help us know God and to live fulfilling lives with and for him.

Do join us to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and to meet him again in the breaking of bread as we share communion on Easter Sunday. All are welcome!

Dick Venn – Priest in charge

LENHAM WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

CAN YOU HELP?

As a growing grassroots football club, we are always in need of valuable help from willing volunteers to keep the club running and right now we are looking for the following roles to be filled:

Fundraising Secretary

As a non-profit organisation we rely heavily on fundraising to bring money into the Club. This will enable us to provide equipment for all the players, help keep subscription costs down and also work towards developing the clubhouse and playing facilities at William Pitt Field to improve the Club's status in the local community. If you think that you are the right person to coordinate our fundraising activities to help make this a reality then please get in touch with us.

Club Welfare Officer

A vital role to deal with any welfare-related issues within the club and also to process FA Enhanced Disclosures (CRB checks) for all the club volunteers.

Membership Secretary

Another important role that needs someone with good admin skills to organise and collate the contact details for all members of the football club.

Referees and Assistants

As a KCFA-affiliated club we are able to offer assistance to anyone interested in becoming a referee and right now we need some willing 'refs-to-be' to step forward.

If you or anyone you know is interested in taking up one of these positions then please contact one of our Club Officers – see **www.lwfc.org.uk** for details – or contact our Chairman, Roy Dayes by email at chair@lwfc.org.uk.

Contact Details for Local 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

Book Review

Recently I have met and heard about people suffering from Motor Neurone Disease. I was, therefore, drawn to a paperback, "My Donkey Body" with the subtitle, "Living with a body that no longer obeys you." The author of this book is Michael Wenham, an Anglican vicar who, in 2002, was diagnosed with MND.

In this beautifully written, honest and humorous book, Michael describes his struggle with this disease. Supported by his wife and their children; many friends and his church he has managed to cope. Thanks to the services of the NHS he has managed to adapt to the limitations of life as the illness has progressed.

"My Donkey Body" was published by Monarch Books (£7.99) in 2008 and I do not know what has happened to Michael since then.

Jean Waters, Trustee of the MND Association, and herself a sufferer describes this book as "a must-read for those fearing such a diagnosis, their families and friends".

Joan Drury

Women's World Day of Prayer

Let everything that has breath praise God. A service prepared by the Women of Cameroon was held at St. Mary's, Lenham and All Saints', Ulcombe on Friday, 5th. March. It was an uplifting day at both churches with a colourful African flavour - bells were rung at Ulcombe, joyful music was played and much singing took place. The speakers were the Rev. Yvonne Salmon and Mrs. Helen Venn. At Lenham Mrs. Jean Cockett talked about her experiences of living in the Cameroon. The collection of £223.52 will be forwarded for the work of Christian literature societies and Christian educational projects.

Rosemary Davis

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

4th April Easter Day

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

Easter Day 4th April at 6.20am there will be a brief service at the cross in Lenham. There will be breakfast provided after the service for those who wish to have this in St. Mary's Lenham. Please let Michelle know at the Church Office 01622 850604 if you wish to have breakfast, so they know how many to cater for.

11th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

18th April 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

25th April 4th Sunday of Easter

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

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Jack	Last	Short	Straw
2	Breakfast	Channel	Queens	English
3	America	Heating	Locking	Central
4	Cling	Horror	Star	Film
5	Age	Speed	Time	Limit
6	Language	Post	Road	Sign
7	Beauty	Check	Hot	Spot
8	Cruise	Eye	Freight	Liner
9	Pop	Reading	Therapy	Group
10	Man	Second	Seller	Best
11	Bishop	Enemy	Marble	Arch
12	Beyond	Home	Line	Help
13	Cattle	Lock	National	Grid
14	Biting	Hob	Varnish	Nail
15	Brown	House	Real	Ale
16	Pepper	Sauce	Spear	Mint

	Find the missing word?
1	Bram Stoker, Dracula Author
2	Silver Birch, Tree with Catkins
3	Willi Carling, Ex Rugby Captain
4	Peak Practice, Derbyshire TV Medical Series
5	Richard Briers, Roobard Narrator and The Good Life
6	Willie Carson, Former Jockey now BBC Racing Presenter
7	Reece Dinsdale, The Chase actor also seen in Home to Roost
8	Fern Britton, This Morning stalwart
9	Jon Pertwee, The third Dr Who
10	Test The Nation, Quiz on which the audience use their brains

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