



Malherbe Monthly

Number 138
January 2016



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Martin Round Richard Thick	890276 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	850711
Village Hall bookings and other matters	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@gmail.com Mobile 07990 574214	853583
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Sue Burch	850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	858195
Associate Priest	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: revmilliehart@lvb.org.uk	297296
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.30pm	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Weekend Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

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

Front cover: The winning team from the Christmas Quiz held in the Village Hall in December. Colour picture on the below Parish Council website.

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

News from St. Nicholas Church

We Wish You All A Very Happy New Year In 2016

St. Nicholas P.C.C. will be holding their next meeting on 7th January, 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in the Church.

Morning Prayers will be held in St. Nicholas on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 9.30 a.m. and at All Saints, Ulcombe on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays also at 9.30a.m. These sessions last about 30 minutes.

Bible Study will be at Weirton Villa on Thursdays at 10.30a.m. until 12.00. For more details, ring Joan Drury on 01622 853766. The first gathering will be on 14th January.

Coffee Morning is held on 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall Grafty Green from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Do join us for a friendly chat with coffee and homemade cakes and scones. Donations to a clean water project in Africa.

Men at Breakfast will be on 30th January at the Dog and Bear, Lenham at 8.00a.m. when Brian Draper who is a journalist, a regular on BBC R4 'Thought for the day', a writer and lecturer. A full English Breakfast will be served at a cost of £8.50. Please ring Dick Venn on 01622 858195 to reserve a place.

Craft Fair: Thank you to everyone who supported the Craft Fair in the village hall in November. The Church stall raised over £200.00.

Joan Davidson

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to **5th March 2016**.

Grafty Green

Saturday 13th Feb

15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 13th Feb

14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 20st Feb

09:25 – 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens

**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

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Contact Details

Robert Turner, Chairman

Tel: 01622 850325

turnerrmb@gmail.com

Ron Galton

(Emergency Plan)

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(Neighbourhood Plan)

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Barbara Pearce

(Joint Parishes Group)

01622 850232

pearce.steel@tiscli.co.uk

In brackets are areas of specific interest, although all councillors are available for any matters relating to Boughton Malherbe.

Christine King, Parish Clerk

01622 850711

boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com

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Heaths Countryside Corridor

Join the dedicated volunteers at HCC and get stuck in making the green spaces of Charing Heath and Lenham Heath better places for everybody. All tools will be provided as well as drinks and a light lunch.

5 th September	scrub clearance & fence repair	Chilston Ponds
3 rd October	Coppicing & footpath clearance	Bull Heath
7 th November	Footpath clearance	Hurst Wood
5 th December	Pond work and scrub clearance	Chilston Ponds
2 nd January	Coppicing & footpath clearance	Bull Heath
6 th February	Coppicing/glade creation	Hurst Wood

All events 10am to 2pm on Saturdays

more information



www.heathsgcc.co.uk



info@heathsgcc.co.uk



www.facebook.com/heathscountrysidecorridor



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

Our pre-Christmas quiz night was well supported and seems to have been enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the Burch-Collins-Hollingsbee-Hitchins co-operative who were this year's winners of the prestigious trophy, and to Carol Hulm who correctly predicted the toss of a coin 5 times in a row to win our 'Heads and Tails' game (so called because after you've consumed the prize you don't know which way up you are).

Your generous support gave us a profit on the night of over £500 and has enabled us to go ahead with our planned purchase of new lighting for the Hall. This will take the form of diffused and dimmable fluorescent tubes which will replace the stark conventional tubes we presently have. This will allow us to create a much more pleasant ambiance in the Hall for events like our themed 'food' nights. Talking of which...

Our first event of 2016 is to be another **gastronomic extravaganza** this time with a **cockney theme!** Here's the date for your village calendar (a few copies of which remain to be sold at the village shop at the time of writing): It's **Saturday 20th February**.

As usual, we have booked some top class professional entertainment for you, to accompany your boiled beef and carrots. This time it's acclaimed cockney entertainer **Gordon Bennett!** Do check out his web site (www.gordonbennett.biz) and see how good he is.

And why not enter into the spirit of the evening with a cockney look yourself? Push the boat out with a Pearly King or Queen outfit or just wear an old scarf and a flat cap – you'll feel much more at home when it comes to singing 'Maybe It's Because I'm a Londoner' or dancing The Lambeth Walk! And there's a prize for the best cockney look of the evening.

We have sold out early for our last two 'Food' events, so don't delay in getting your tickets, which are available now from Rob at the Post Office Stores.

Richard Pillborough

Hall Committee Chairman

Quiz Master at the Christmas Quiz ----->>>>>>>



DIARY DATE

**Saturday afternoon, 5th March 2016
Grafty Green Village Hall,
time tbc**

Cast your mind back to August 2011 when the parish was abuzz with, quite possibly, the worst kept secret ever! - the discovery of the Boughton Malherbe Hoard.



There will be a unique opportunity to hear all about it, see some of the artefacts and ask any questions - in the parish where it was found. So do keep the date free.

THE HONYWOOD & DOUGLAS CHARITY LENHAM

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The Trustees hereby give notice that the following almshouse accommodation is available:-

A ground floor bed sitting room with kitchen and bathroom at Honywood Almshouses, High Street, Lenham.

Applicants must be 60 years of age or more, able to look after themselves and have lived in the Parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for at least two years.

Application forms are available by writing to the Secretary at the address below. Completed forms should reach her by no later than 22nd January, 2016.

**Mrs. Pat Sutton,
18 Headcorn Road,
Platts Heath,
Lenham,
Kent.
ME17 2NH**



Temporary Road Closure, Boughton Road, Lenham

from 11 January 2016 for up to 5 days

**The road will be closed between
Lenham Heath Road and Chilston Park Hotel**

**The alternative route is
via Lenham Heath Road, Headcorn Road and Chain Gate Road.**

**The closure is to enable bridge joint replacement works to be
carried out by Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald.**

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 5 th	AGM and Mrs Elizabeth Hall	Rhododendrons and The Seashore
February 2 nd	Jude Lawton	Work of Plant Heritage, Collections in Kent
March 1 st	Mr Hilary Newman	Pruning
April 5 th	Spring Show and Mr G Francis	Container Gardening for Vegetables
May 3 rd	George Pearson	Flora from around the world
May 7 th	Plant Sale	Village Green if weather fine
June 7 th	Visit – 1 Brickwall Cottage, Crittenden (maximum 20 please book with Irene) 6.30	
June 10, 11, 12	Weekend visit to Cambridge visiting Capel Manor, Cambridge University Botanical Gardens, Anglesey Abbey, Wimpole Estate and staying at Menzies Hotel.	
July 5 th	Visit Placketts Hole at Bicknor – 6.30	
August 2 nd	Visit Goddards Green 6.30	
September 6 th	Visit Headcorn vineyard 6.30	
October 4 th	Autumn Show and Mrs Maureen Rainey	Garden ponds
November 1 st	Daniel Denness	Orchids
December 6 th	Social	

Meetings are held in Grafty Green Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm unless stated otherwise. Entry: £1 for members - Feel free to bring a friend (entry £2) and your plant and seed swaps!

As you can see from the programme above we have a full and varied programme of events including Talks, Shows, Outings and a Weekend away in the coming season for you all to enjoy.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on January 5th in the village hall starting at 7.30 there will be a short AGM and following this Mrs Elizabeth Hall will be talking about Rhododendrons and the Seashore.

A large group of us filled the dining room at the Kings Head in Grafty Green for a sit down Christmas Meal in December, the turkey meal was very good indeed!

TIP OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY - SKIMMIA japonica Tough, dome-shaped, evergreen shrub. In winter, it produces dense clusters of pink buds that open to reveal scented white flowers. It has slightly aromatic, glossy dark green leaves all year. Female plants bear red berries if male and female plants are grown together. This plant will tolerate deep shade and little or no pruning.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall and St. Edmunds Centre, Platt's Heath

Enhance your life with Yoga – feel well, feel energized, feel focused

Charity Yoga practice in aid of British Red Cross

Saturday 2nd January Yoga Practice in Grafty Green Village Hall 10 – 11.30. £7 all funds to go to The British Red Cross; please book as this will be a popular event call me on 850381

Grafty Green Yoga Classes for 2016

Wednesday evenings 7 to 8.30 start on January 13th and Thursday mornings 9.30 to 11 on January 14th in Grafty Green Village Hall.

Yoga is an ancient system of physical and mental development that is known to develop suppleness, strength and stamina and to concentrate the mind. Practicing yoga enables all the body's muscles to be worked but avoiding over-training specific muscle groups; posture, balance, agility and grace can all be achieved through yoga. If you would like to enroll and experience the effects of yoga contact me by calling 850381 or email grafftyyoga@gmail.com.

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

Susan Burch - British Wheel of Yoga Teacher

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

New Members Always Welcome - Join Us

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Further information - Chris Wheal 01622 858100

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Lenham Valley Business Association

Lenham Christmas Lights 2015 - well done everyone

Inevitably the weather holds the key to the number of attendees to all outside events, especially in Lenham! Despite that the Lenham lights switch on this year was well supported and a good time was had by all, as usual. Father Christmas was safely hidden away in his grotto (photo souvenirs thanks to iWill Photo) with a queue of enthusiastic young visitors from 1.30 until after 5.30, keeping his elves busy. The elves also managed to tour the crowds and sell a chance to win Afternoon Tea at Chilston Park Hotel, won by Clive, Red Lion (if you know him please let him know we need the winning ticket). Another prize was won too, an invitation to The Dog & Bear Hotel for Sunday Lunch. Thank you to both hotels for their prizes. Winner of the Christmas Window competition was Barbara Richards Accountants - cup being engraved, so picture soon. Well done Barbara and team.

We nearly lost the beautiful six foot dogs from Hospital Radio Maidstone through mistreatment by youngsters (who's parents couldn't keep them under control) who thought it was funny to kick and mistreat these amazingly cute creatures. Be good guys or we might lose them for good. But thank you for your donations to a great cause. Cllr Toms Sams and his team were there this year to hold a fund raising raffle (with 15 prizes!) giving some funding to The Lenham Family Event later in the year.

Balloons and then fabulous hand held lights brought even more fascinating sights for young eyes as the evening approached.

The Dog & Bear Hotel, Lenham General Store and The Red Lion all added to the event with pergolas outside their premises. Bouncy Castles were a casualty of the morning winds unfortunately, we've ordered better weather next year. To help that, the event will be the last Sunday of November rather than the first Sunday of December. That'll be in response to recent requests from you, the public.

From the stage came three sessions from Rochester Singers who added a lively and a more Christmassy feel to the show. Carys Alyse despite suffering from a sore throat performed with her usual power and energy. Daniel VXC performed the tracks from his new EP. Thank you to both of them for braving the audience of Lenham!

The church had nearly 300 people visit during the day and announcements from Vicar Dick Venn from Len Valley Benefice with a countdown to the lights switch on, meant that the church bells came in on cue - even more Christmassy!!! Thank you to Rev Dr Richard Venn.

Whatever happens everyone always has a good time - it's the English way - we just don't let any problems get us down. See you on Sunday 27 November same place! Watch out for updates during 2016. If you want to be involved with a performance or entertainment you need to let Alan know before 1 August 2016 - yes that is the deadline for the start of promotions!

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January Music notes

January is in all respects an anticlimax from Christmas; the musical scene conforms to this picture. Many music groups are immersed in a new regime of rehearsals following a Christmas concert, and certainly most singers are resting their voices after an excess of carols. Nevertheless I have been able to find some concerts for you to enjoy:

- Wednesday 6th January, 7.30pm at The United Reformed Church, Week St., Maidstone, there is a 12th Night Celebration led by Maidstone Choral Union. Free entrance, retiring collection. Music for choir and audience.
- Saturday 16th January, 7.30pm at St. Mary's church, Chartham. There will be an organ recital by David Flood, organist of Canterbury Cathedral. Tickets at the door.
- Sunday 17th January, 3.00pm at Sutton Valence School, the Sutton Valence Music Society have arranged a concert by the prize-winning Epstein brothers, on 'cello and piano. The programme includes works by Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms. Tickets at the door or contact 01622 863002.
- Saturday 30th January, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's concert features as soloist the pianist Martin James Bartlett, winner of the BBC Young Musician competition in 2014. Programme includes Mozart *Piano Concert No 12* and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 7*. Tickets 01622 735830.

Sadly the date for submission is too early this time for me to make a firm selection for radio or TV in January, but I would guess that the ever-popular New Year's Day concert from Vienna will be broadcast on BBC radio 3 at 10.15am (you should be just about recovering from New Year's Eve by that time). Also probably on TV BBC 4 sometime in the evening.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Monday 11th January 2015 at 19.30.**

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

Grafty Gourmet

This is a great alternative to beef lasagne, with chicken, ham and spinach in layers of pasta with gooey, melted cheese.

Chicken & Ham Lasagne

6 boneless skinless chicken breasts (around 700g)	140g sliced smoked ham, cut into strips
½ medium onion (sliced)	200g young spinach leaves
2 bay leaves	225g non pre-cook dried lasagne sheets (about 20 sheets)
200ml white wine	200g ready-grated mozzarella
100g butter	25g Parmesan (finely grated)
100g plain flour	
500ml semi-skimmed milk	

1. Put the chicken breasts in a medium saucepan with the onion, bay leaves and wine. Pour over just enough water to cover, around 200ml. Put a lid on top and bring to a gentle simmer. Poach gently for 15 mins or until the chicken is just cooked. Transfer the chicken to a board and strain the liquid into a jug.

2. Melt the butter in a large non-stick saucepan over a medium heat. Stir in the flour with a wooden spoon and cook for about a minute. Gradually add the milk, a little at a time, stirring well between each addition to ensure the sauce stays smooth. Once all the milk has been added, stir in the reserved cooking liquid and continue cooking for a further 2-3 mins. Add salt and pepper to taste. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

3. Cut the chicken into small chunks and stir into the saucepan. Add the ham and spinach and cook until the spinach has wilted. Spoon a third of the chicken mixture into the base of a 3 litre lasagne dish (about 26 x 18cm). Top with a third of the lasagne sheets. Repeat the layers twice more, ending with lasagne. Scatter the mozzarella and Parmesan on top and season with black pepper. Bake for about 25 mins or until the lasagne is tender, the topping is well browned and the filling hot



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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Engine	Party	Word	Search
2	Hook	Luggage	Overs	
3	Coal	Fred	Ships	
4	Face	Out	Touch	
5	Certificate	Sudden	Wish	
6	Chimney	Hay	Smoke	
7	End	Name	Road	
8	Block	Clock	Ivory	
9	Card	Fire	Jokers	
10	Broad	Sub	Take	
11	House	Parrot	Statement	
12	Bag	Football	Tool	
13	Chess	Folk	Gentle	
14	Pudding	Up	Vegetables	
15	Bath	Joint	Rose	
16	Lump	Tidy	Up	

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

	Find the missing word?
1	The _____ Kid, 1984 Movie starring Ralph Macchio
2	_____ Street, Location for the 'Neighbours' set
3	All About ____, Oscar winning Bette Davis film
4	_____ Nimoy, Actor best known for playing Mr Spock
5	Otis _____, Singer of 'Sitting on the Dock of Bay'
6	_____ Wallace, MasterChef judge
7	Nick _____, Countdown host
8	_____ King, Linda Thorson's role in 'The Avengers'
9	Angels with Dirty _____, Cagney film
10	_____, Dick Van Dyke's character in 'Mary Poppins'

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Grafty Geeks - What is Twitter?



Twitter is an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets".

A Tweet is an expression of a moment or idea. It can contain text, photos, and videos. Millions of Tweets are shared in real time, every day.

When you follow people, their Tweets instantly show up in your timeline. Similarly, your Tweets show up in your followers' timelines. To see interesting Tweets, follow interesting people: friends, celebrities, news sources, or anyone who's Tweets you enjoy.

Reading Tweets and discovering new information whenever you check in on your Twitter timeline is where you'll find the most value on Twitter. Some people find it useful to contribute their own Tweets, but the real magic of Twitter lies in absorbing real-time information that matters to you.

The Lingo



Comment on a Tweet and join the conversation.



Share a Tweet with your followers. You can even add your own thoughts before you share it.



Hashtags assign a topic to a Tweet. So, for example, Tweets that contain #WorldCup are about just that. Click on a hashtag to see Tweets related to a topic.



Like a Tweet (works the same way as Facebook likes)



More options, eg: Share Tweets, Copy Tweets, Embed Tweets. Click on the dots to show a menu of the available options for the Tweets.

If you need any help, please visit the Egerton Telecottage on Saturday morning between 10am and 12noon <http://www.egerton-kent.co.uk/telecottage>. Advice is free and there is always someone there to help you. If you would like any topics covered in this magazine please email me at carolhulm@gmail.com

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<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

TO REPORT: Litter; fly tipping; abandoned vehicles; dog mess;
noise:

- Call **01622 602202** (Environmental Issues MBC)

or click

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Christmas & New Year Bin Collections

If your collection is due on	It will be collected on
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January
Tuesday 5 January	Wednesday 6 January
Wednesday 6 January	Thursday 7 January
Thursday 7 January	Friday 8 January
Friday 8 January	Saturday 9 January

Garden Waste Collections

The last garden waste collections this year will be on 24 December 2015. Normal service will resume on 9 January 2016.



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The Ulcombe Friendship Club

This is a local club which lives up to its name!

It has been going since 1998 and is open to anyone who has a free afternoon on the last Thursday in the month.

We meet in the village hall at 2.30 pm. We have a variety of activities as you will see from the programme below. We have interesting speakers coming, a fun afternoon, a Saturday afternoon Cream Tea, a Garden party, a New Year lunch, a Christmas party, and a couple of outings.

When we meet in the village hall, we all enjoy a lovely tea which is prepared on a Rota basis by our members.

Membership is just £8 a year which goes towards hiring the hall. To supplement our income we have a raffle each month and two coffee mornings in people's homes.

It is a very friendly society as the name implies. Members range in age from 50 to 90 – and we have a number of men among our membership.

If you happen to be free on the first Thursday in the month, do come along and join us. We would love to see you. If you need a lift, that can be arranged.

Molly Poulter

Programme 2016

Thursday 21 January	New Year Lunch
Thursday 25 February	AGM and Games and Quiz afternoon
Wednesday 9 March	Coffee Morning
Thursday 24 March (note)	Neil Arnold - <i>Spooky Kent</i>
Thursday 28 April	Martin Heard - <i>Nelson's Mistress Lady Hamilton</i>
Wednesday 25 May	Outing
Saturday 11 June	Cream Teas in village hall
Thursday 30 June	John Pearce - <i>Murder comes gift wrapped</i>
Thursday 28 July	Garden Party
Thursday 25 August	Tea party
Wednesday 28 September	Outing
Wednesday 12 October	Coffee morning
Thursday 27 October	Marianne Martin - <i>An afternoon of laughter</i>
Thursday 24 November	Brian D'Arcy - <i>Living with the ghosts of the Tower of London</i>
Thursday 15 December	Christmas Party with Pearly King and Queen
Thursday 27 January	New year Lunch

Christian Message January 2016

Extensive roadwork's on the Ashford Road in Bearsted necessitated a complicated set of temporary traffic lights. In the midst of the area were two road junctions and so, the lights, once turned red, seemed to stay that way for far too long. So long, in fact, that having studied the parade of shops to my right, the garage to my left and the boot of the car in front, I started to look in my rear view mirror.

To my horror, an angry mother in the car behind seemed to be repeatedly striking a child next to her, slapping her hands down onto the child's legs in frustration and rage. My face reddened with shock and alarm, and I winced each time her arm lowered, but the lights turned to red and amber, and then to green, and we all continued on our way.

I felt sickened by what I thought I had seen and more than a little cross with myself for having done nothing to help calm the mother and save the child from further pain. Maybe the child had been very naughty. Maybe the mother's hands stopped short of the child's body and her movements were nothing more than a gesture in order to restore normality. Should I have got out of my car and reasoned with her? **So many questions. So many excuses.**

As I continued towards Mote Park, a discussion programme about ethics was being broadcast on Radio 4. Immanuel Kant believed in right and wrong: everything in life being black and white. Existentialists, Jean-Paul Sartre and his partner [Simone de Beauvoir](#), however, believed that ethics are situational. There are times, for instance, when telling the truth will cause more people problems than lying so, on these occasions, they would argue that lie, one must. If the consequence of punishing one person might cause a mob reaction, then, according to them, it would be better not to punish the person. My mind wandered to Pontius Pilot and the impossible decision he had to make when the crowd begged him to save Barabbas. His decision to forfeit Jesus' life was swayed by mob rule (Matthew 27:21-26). Beauvoir, however, believed that violence is always an ethical failure. My gut reaction to this pearl of wisdom was that she was right.

As I turned down Square Hill, my thoughts returned to the lady in the car behind me. I racked my brain for Bible quotations on the subject. Of course Jesus said "Suffer the little children" (Matthew 19:14) but that was too easy. It didn't take into account whatever the mother was going through. Was she not just as much one of God's children as the naughty child?

"Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1-2). Ah yes, this seemed much more like it. I was right not to over-react, I reasoned. The consequences of getting involved could have been to be pulled up sharply the next time I was off guard and did something wrong. I couldn't be sure anything wrong *had* taken place. I never actually saw a child. Maybe it was just a driver and her dog? I was right to live and let live... ..wasn't I?

As time has passed I have argued with myself about the situation from every angle. By doing nothing to help the helpless one (human or animal), was I guilty by association? **With the explosion of visual stimulus on television and the internet, have we become complacent voyeurs, unable to connect with or react to, extreme situations.** Surely violence is never right, be it on man or beast. By getting out of my car and interfering maybe I would have made things worse but by getting out of my car and giving the woman time to talk and calm down, maybe I could have helped.

The thing that still nags is that it really *might* have been a child: A small, helpless, person with no ability to defend themselves. We all love to remember Jesus overturning the tables in the temple.(Matthew 21:12). Why? Probably because it illustrates his inner strength and ability to get cross, when it was necessary to defend what was right. Maybe that's the answer. I certainly wouldn't have won any popularity prizes with the mother.

I might even have been faced with a violent reaction. But some still, small, voice from deep within, tells me I should have got out of my car and done *something* on behalf of the child.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me" (Matthew 24:45).

Perhaps that should be my New Year's resolution: to be more proactive in my faith.

Who said being a Christian was easy?

Pamela Cuerden



A big thank you to everyone who supported our November Love in a Box party with gifts or contributions towards the transport. We sent off 54 boxes with our prayers for children who wouldn't otherwise receive any Christmas presents.

Saturday January 16th is our party when Josh from Joshing Around comes to lead the mayhem! Join us at Harrietsham school at 4.00pm.

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – **January 2016**

Sunday 3rd January

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service
9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10.30 am Ulcombe: Family Worship
11.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion
3.30 pm Harrietsham: GIFT family worship

Sunday 10th January

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
10.45am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship
3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Evensong

Saturday 16th January

4.00pm Harrietsham School: Messy Church

Sunday 17th January

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Service

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
10.45am Ulcombe: Morning Worship
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 20th January

10.30am Holy Communion: Chippendale Lodge

Sunday 24th January

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Family Worship
10.45am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham: Family Worship

Saturday 30th January

8.00am Dog & Bear, Lenham: Men's breakfast
5.00pm Harrietsham: Prayer and Praise

Sunday 31st January

10.00 am at Harrietsham: Joint Len Valley Churches Service: Holy Communion

Ulcombe History Society

The first meeting of the Ulcombe History Society in 2016 will be on Tuesday 19 January at 7.30 pm in Ulcombe Village Hall. Albert Evans will be talking on *The English Gentleman: made in Italy*

All welcome. Wine and light refreshments available beforehand

Programme 2016

Tues 19 Jan	Talk: Albert Evans	<i>The English Gentleman: made in Italy</i>
Tues 9 Feb	Talk: Ernie Warner	<i>The 600th anniversary of Agincourt</i>
Tues 15 Mar	Talk: Mrs Irene Fridman	<i>Jewish Life in Medway: comprehensive history of the Jewish community from the reign of William the Conqueror</i>
Sat 14 May	Musical Evening at The Old Dairy with Bryan Gipps	<i>Mozart and the piano</i>
Sat 25 Jun	Outing with Simon Elliot	<i>To Richborough, Reculver and Sandwich</i>
Tues 12 July	Evening visit with Anthea Bryant	<i>Tour and Talk plus supper to either Goodnestone or Faversham</i>
Fri-Sun 24-25 Sep	Outing to Cambridge. West Stow & Bury St. Edmunds	
Tues 18 Oct	Talk: Alex Ferris	<i>The plague doctors of Kent</i>
Tues 15 Nov	Talk: Colin Brown	<i>The Ordinance Survey: ancient and Modern</i>
Tues 13 Dec	Talk: Patsy Erskine-Hill	<i>British travellers to the Court of the Tsar</i>

The Society meets in Ulcombe Village Hall at 7. 30 pm. New members and visitors are welcome It is a friendly society and wine and nibbles are served before the talk. For more details contact Molly Poulter on 01622 842988.

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire And Ambulance Emergencies	999
Police, Non Emergency - (Including PCSO)	101

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** 'public access **defibrillator**' is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the **defibrillator**.

First Aid Support – when **an ambulance has been called using 999** - Interim emergency support (first aid and AED defibrillator), prior to arrival of paramedics / ambulance, may be available (not 24/7) by calling Chris Wheal on 07979 864929 -this is a voluntary 'good Samaritan' facility for residents. It is hoped a SECAMB (ambulance) community first responder scheme may start in future

NHS Medical Helpline	111
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	0845 155 1000
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Headcorn Surgery <i>(out of hours listen to -</i>	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery <i>recorded messages)</i>	01622 858341

Electricity (UK Power Networks)	
<i>Emergencies and Power Cuts</i>	0800 783 8866
	or 01243 508866

Water	<i>Emergencies</i>	0333 000 0002
Calor Gas	<i>Emergencies</i>	08457 444999
KCC	<i>Emergencies</i>	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

<i>Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere</i>	07969 583923
<i>District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown</i>	07773 397125

Fire	<i>General Enquiries</i>	01622 692121
	<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	0800 923 7000
	<i>KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal</i>	01622 858100

R.S.P.C.A	<i>Emergencies</i>	0300 1234 999
Vet	<i>24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service</i>	01622 734555

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Engine	Party	Word	Search
2	Hook	Luggage	Overs	Left
3	Coal	Fred	Ships	Scuttle
4	Face	Out	Touch	Lose
5	Certificate	Sudden	Wish	Death
6	Chimney	Hay	Smoke	Stack
7	End	Name	Road	User
8	Block	Clock	Ivory	Tower
9	Card	Fire	Jokers	Wild
10	Broad	Sub	Take	Sides
11	House	Parrot	Statement	Fashion
12	Bag	Football	Tool	Kit
13	Chess	Folk	Gentle	Men
14	Pudding	Lip	Vegetables	Steamed
15	Bath	Joint	Rose	Hip
16	Lump	Tidy	Lip	Sum

	Find the missing word?
1	The Karate Kid, 1984 Movie starring Ralph Macchio
2	K Ramsey Street, Location for the 'Neighbours' set
3	All About Eve, Oscar winning Bette Davis film
4	Leonard Nimoy, Actor best known for playing Mr Spock
5	Otis Reading, Singer of 'Sitting on the Dock of Bay'
6	Gregg Wallace, MasterChef judge
7	Nick Hewer, Countdown host
8	Tara King, Linda Thorson's role in 'The Avengers'
9	Angels with Dirty Faces, Cagney film
10	Bert, Dick Van Dyke's character in 'Mary Poppins'