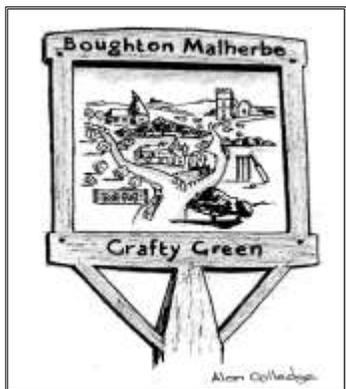


Malherbe Monthly

Number 113
December 2013



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	850711
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
Other Village Hall issues	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@btinternet.com	853583
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: dickvenn@gmail.co.uk	858195
Curate	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: mille.hart@uwclub.net	859753
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Office opening times as 9am – 12noon Monday - Thursday	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.30pm	
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 **January** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th December**

Front cover: Four likely lads in The Kings Head pub, growing Moustaches in 'Movember' for charity

News from St. Nicholas Church

We Wish You All A Very Happy Christmas

Craft Fair: We will be manning a stall at the craft fair between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Sunday 1st December. Do come along and support this event. We will be pleased to see you. We will be selling Christmas decorations and homemade gifts for family and friends.

There will be many different stalls and teas and coffees will be available.

Morning Prayers will be said at All Saints Ulcombe on 3rd December and 17th December at 9.30am and on Tuesday 10th at St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe. You will be very welcome, should you wish to come. They are about half an hour. Alternatively, you can put a request in the box in the Church Porch asking for a prayer to be said for you.

Coffee Morning: The coffee morning will be held in the Village Hall on 11th December between 10.30am and 12.00 noon. Homemade cakes and scones will be on offer and freshly made coffee and tea will be available. Do come and join us. We are now sending the donation money to a project for clean water in Zambia

Carol Singing: We are meeting by the Christmas Tree on the Green on Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm. We will be singing at the Old Rectory, March Farm, the Who'd a Thought It and finishing at the Kings Head, arriving there at about 9.00pm. The money collected will be sent to Demelza House Children's Hospice as usual.

Carol Service: Our Carol Service by candlelight at St. Nicholas will be at 3.00pm on 22nd December and afterwards we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies. Do come along and swell our numbers. We have Carols and Readings read by members of the Congregation.

Crib Service: On 24th December there will be a Crib Service at 4.00pm. This is a very short Service suitable for children of all ages. Do come and start your Christmas with us.

Christmas Day: There will be a service of Holy Communion (sung) at 10.00am on Christmas Morning. Do come and celebrate Christ's birth with us at St. Nicholas.

Joan Davidson

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

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



Traditional Sunday Lunches

Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers

Booking Advisable
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)
01622 850369
galton@gotadsl.co.uk

Mike Hitchins
(Finance)
01622 858937
mfhitchins@btinternet.com

Tony King
(Neighbourhood Plan)
01622 850711
tony.king@uk.bp.com

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
boughtonmalherbecpc@gmail.com

 **LENHAM**
NURSERY SCHOOL 
at Lenham Primary School,
Ham Lane, Lenham.

The Nursery School is
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and a member of the
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and has validation to accept
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Contact Ami Rathmill

07967 128056

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Village Hall News

Sad to say, our dance last month had to be cancelled due to low ticket sales – perhaps it wasn't what you wanted, or was just a date when you weren't free. Perhaps you'd let me know. I'd be interested to hear what sort of thing you *would* support at the Hall, be it something we've done before or something new. Do email me (pilborough@grifty.plus.com) with your thoughts.

Our next event is the **Christmas Quiz on Saturday 7 December** (see advert below). This has always been successful in the past and, at the time of writing, there are still some tickets available so why not get a team together and come along? Or just come along and join a team on the night? It's always fun!

The quiz will be our last event before Christmas but in the New Year we plan to have another themed 'food' evening. Those who came to the French Evening will not have forgotten it I'm sure, and we hope to repeat the success with, perhaps, an Italian extravaganza to cheer up the dull months after Christmas. Look out for details in subsequent editions of this magazine.

Meanwhile, if I don't see you at the quiz, enjoy the festive season whatever you may do.

Richard Pilborough
Hall Committee Chairman

Ulcombe Parish Council

Has a vacancy for a part time Parish Clerk/ RFO from 1st February 2014 onwards. For further details see:

www.ulcombepc.kentparishes.gov.uk or contact the Parish Clerk on:
bridget.sam@thurstonhelis.co.uk

or Stonehall Farm, Crumps Lane, Ulcombe, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1EU or telephone 01622 890912.

The famous
Christmas Quiz Night
returns to
Grafty Green Village Hall
Saturday 7 December at
7.30pm
Tickets £8
(includes ploughman's-style supper)
available from the Grafty Green Post Office
Stores

Make up a team in advance - max 8 people
or join a team on the night

(Tickets must be bought in advance)

~~~~~ Pay Bar ~~~~~

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME - JOIN US

Gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available
Further information - Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Grafty Green Gardening Club - 2013 Programme

Date	Event/Speaker	Subject
January 8 th	AGM – Adrian Hutchinson	Alpine plants
February 5 th	Steve Harmer	History of gardening
March 5 th	Rob Masters	Adventures on the allotment!
April 2 nd	Spring show and George Pearson	Madagascar
May 7 th	Old Farm Otterden, Near Faversham	Outing
May 10 th – 13 th	Weekend away Malvern Spring Show	
June 2 nd (Sunday)	Old Bladbean Stud, Near Elham, Canterbury	Outing
July 2 nd	Michael and Gill Bushell, Garden House, Surrenden	Outing
August 4 th	Bexon Manor	Outing
Sept 3 rd	Autumn Show Peter Kirby	My lost Kent
Oct 1 st	Produce, jams chutney evening	Bring and Buy/swapping
Nov 5 th	Sue Marshall	Love affair with Irises
Dec 3rd	Social and quiz	

A Social and Quiz evening with food is planned for our December Gardening Club meeting. If you wish to bring something along for the table Sue Birch has the list of food already donated and can suggest what to bring if you would like to make a contribution. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as can come on the 3rd December in the Village Hall for a jolly round up of the Gardening Club year.

The Gardening Club Committee are currently planning a programme of events for next year and would like to hear from members if they have any suggestions or requests for visits.

Members are friendly and informal: visitors are always welcome to our meetings. For further details about the club please contact Rosemary Smith (01622) 850526 or Sue Burch (01622) 850381.

Candlelit Christmas Concert

Sutton Valence Choral Society's annual Christmas concert takes place on Saturday 14th December in Sutton Valence School Chapel starting at 7.30pm. We will be singing Christmas music by Gustav Holst and Bob Chilcott, and there will be festive readings. Tickets are £10, (£5 for students), including mulled wine and mince pies, and are available by ringing 01233 840540 or 01622 630624.

Grafty Gourmet

The perfect Boxing Day ham. This sweet and savoury combination is a modern classic.

Christmas Coca Cola Ham

3kg unsmoked gammon from the thick end of the leg, deboned and rolled.	4 tbsp clear honey
4 litres cola	1 tsp cinnamon
1 onion, halved	1 tsp ground ginger
2 star anise	1 tbsp soy sauce
6 black peppercorns	1 tbsp English mustard powder
15 cloves	2 tbsp Demerara sugar

1. Place the gammon in a large deep pan and cover with cold water. Bring to the boil, then drain. Return the gammon to the clean pan and pour over the cola, topping up with cold water to cover if necessary. Add the onion, star anise and peppercorns.
2. Bring to the boil, then turn down the heat, cover with a tight-fitting lid and simmer for 3 hours or until the ham is cooked through. Remove the ham from the liquid and leave to cool. (Discard the liquid.)
3. Preheat the oven to 200°C/fan180°C/gas 6. Once the ham is cool enough to handle, carefully remove the skin using a small, sharp knife, leaving a good even layer of fat. Score the fat in a diamond pattern and stud each diamond with a clove.
4. Mix the remaining ingredients (honey, cinnamon, ginger, soy sauce, mustard powder and sugar) and brush generously over the ham. Put it in a tray and bake for 20-30 minutes, basting 2-3 times with the leftover glaze, until fabulously sticky.

Lenham Valley Business Association

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 3 December at Chilston Park Hotel, a combined meeting with South Maidstone Business Association. Peter Homewood is our speaker, Peter is Vice Chairman of Kent County Council.

Our meeting in January is on Tuesday 7th at 5.45 as usual.

Lenham Valley Business Association would like to wish all your readers a very Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year. If any non members are wondering how they might improve profit in 2014 then come to a networking meeting free to see if you like it!

Alan Reading, Chairman

News From The Boughton Malherbe History Society

As previously announced we have been working for some time on our second book covering the history of Boughton Malherbe. The book will be a follow on from "A journey Through Time" and we believe it will be even more interesting.

We can now confirm our intention to publish the book in December 2014 in time for Christmas and to distribute a free copy to every household in the Parish with a surplus for general sale to those who want extra copies and to anyone outside the Parish. Publication will depend upon securing adequate finance and any donations will be gratefully received.

The cost will depend upon quantity and we already have some advance orders without commitment, even though we cannot yet work out a sale price. However, advance orders will help us to decide on how many books to print, hence if anyone would like to add their name to the list of prospective purchasers with the number of copies they might want please contact Ron Galton, preferably by Email to galtonweeks@gmail.com or by phone to 01622850369. Final details will be announced in due course.

Ulcombe C of E Primary School News

First of all I would like to introduce myself, my name is Emma Hickling and I am the new executive Headteacher of Ulcombe C of E Primary School. I took on this position after half term, when the school entered into a collaboration with Kingswood Primary School. I was already the Headteacher of Kingswood Primary school.

I am delighted to be working with the staff and pupils at Ulcombe , and we have already made several changes which are having significant impact. Our main areas of focus for the next few months, will be improving teaching and learning to ensure that all pupils make at least good progress. This will be alongside ensuring that the attendance of the pupils at the school is meeting the national targets.

Working together in a collaboration with Kingswood Primary School will ensure that both schools continue to move forward, under the leadership of one executive Headteacher and two assistant heads. A collaboration also helps to ensure the sustainability of small village schools.

If you are interested in learning more, or have a child of school age living in the area, please do not hesitate to contact me at either school.

I look forward to meeting some of you in the future.

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher

Ulcombe Church of England and Kingswood Primary Schools Collaboration

Ulcombe Pre-School



Car Wash: A huge thank you to everyone who helped us raise a massive £420 in our fundraising car wash in November! The support we received from members of the community as well as personal friends and family was amazing. We cannot say thank you enough!

Date for the diary: We will be holding our annual Christmas coffee morning on Wednesday 11th December, 11am- 12.30pm at Ulcombe Village Hall, so please pop down for a hot drink, mince pie and piece of cake. As usual we will be holding a raffle; prizes include a ticket to Leeds Castle for the day for 2 adults and 2 children, a £10 Tesco voucher and a 'kids go free' voucher for the Kent and East Sussex steam railway (conditions apply). We look forward to seeing you there.

Spaces at the Pre-School: We currently have spaces available for children over the age of 2. If your child is already 3 then pre-school is free and there is some funding available for 2 year olds. (Conditions apply, please contact Helen Leat on committeeups@hotmail.com or call 07511658728 for more details)

Toddler Morning: There is a toddler morning every Tuesday 9.30am- 11.30am held at the pre-school in Ulcombe Village Hall. Please bring along your little one for a play and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat yourself. We hope to see you soon! (Please note this is term time only)

Maidstone Household Waste Recycling Centre at Tovil

Further to my previous email I can inform you that the Maidstone Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) will be reopening at **08:00 on Monday 9th December 2013.**

Although most of the works have gone to plan, there have been some technical difficulties associated with the building of the retaining wall, hence the later than planned re-opening date of 9th December 2013.

We apologise for the delay in the re-opening of this HWRC and any inconvenience this may cause.

**Hannah Passey
Programme Coordinator
Waste Management
Kent County Council**



Boughton Malherbe/Grafty Green

2014

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- Grafty Garden Centre -
- Lime Tree Antiques -
Lenham Square

All photographs taken by you
and voted for by you!

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ideal for home,
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News from Platts Heath Primary School

Life here at Platts Heath Primary School continues to be a mixture of events, celebrations and opportunities for our wonderful children.

As always our children are polite, well behaved and eager to learn in and out of school. Here are some of the activities and events they recently took part in,

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's)

After the success of our Road Safety training for Year 2&3 last year we now have three Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) in school.

James, Millie and James went to County Hall in Maidstone for a conference with other JRSO's. They listened to different proposals and voted on road safety issues for children and schools. The chosen themes this year will be:

'**Be vis**' - why you should **be visible** when out walking to and from school in the dark winter months.

'**Seatbelt Safety**' - why wearing a seatbelt at all times protects YOU and others.

'**Helmet safety**' - why you should always wear a helmet when on a bike, skateboard or scooter.

The JRSO's will be running competitions and taking assemblies to talk about these themes throughout the year.

Battery competition!

Our school came **SECOND** out of all the schools in Kent who took part in collecting used batteries for a recycling challenge. We were awarded £100 to spend and the new School Council were given the task of deciding what to spend it on. They have bought some new playground equipment for our active break times and are now deciding on what to spend the remaining money on.

Healthy Eating

The school continues to provide the KS2 children with a healthy break-time snack, funded by the PTFA, on Munchy Mondays and Fruity Fridays. KS1 children have the opportunity to eat fruit every day.

Silence in Court!

Our Year 5 and 6 children recently had a visit from a local magistrate who explained the judicial system and what happens when someone breaks the law, from arrest to sentencing. Once again our children were praised for their engagement, behaviour and probing questions.

Christmas

As we enter the month of December so our thoughts turn to the more traditional events and celebrations. Christmas at our school is always a magical time. The children have started bringing in decorations for our Christmas tree, cards for their classmates and producing some fantastic displays for the corridors.

Christmas Fayre

Our School Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 30th November. All the usual favourites were there – the bottle tombola, the secret room, Father Christmas, carol singing, X-Box challenge and the new favourite – the chocolate tombola! A big thank you to the residents of Platts Heath who, as always, have donated very generously with bottles and gifts for our various stalls.

A Victorian Christmas

Our Year 2 and 3 children recently visited the Museum of Kent Life to experience Christmas in Victorian times. They took part in parlour games, experienced Christmas in the Workhouse, made Lace cards and learnt all about Victorian Christmas traditions. The children had a full and fun packed day and have begun to write about their adventures back at school.

Open afternoon – Thursday 12th December

On Thursday 12th December we welcome prospective parents and pupils for the September 2014 intake to come and sample an afternoon in our school. This is an ideal opportunity to view our lovely school and see all that Platts Heath Primary School offers its pupils. If you would be interested in coming along please contact the office to add your name to our list.

Please feel free to visit us at any time, simply ring the office on **01622 850316** to make an appointment to visit our spectacular school. I look forward to meeting you and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Piers Anscomb
Head teacher

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Boughton Malherbe Hoard

Collections Manager
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery,
St. Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LH

21st November 2013.

To the people of Boughton Malherbe,

After a long wait for funding to come in to place I was at last able to pick up the Boughton Malherbe Bronze Age Hoard from the British Museum this afternoon.

This very important hoard is now at Maidstone Museum where it will be catalogued, photographed and eventually displayed in the Archaeology Gallery.

The acquisition of the hoard would not have been possible without the help and sterling efforts of the people of Boughton Malherbe who raised the crucial last £200 required to buy the hoard. It may not sound like a huge amount of money but without it we would not have been able to draw down any grant money, as all of the grant making bodies insist that private contributions must be raised.

Therefore without you all buying calendars and thereby supporting the cause - it wouldn't have happened. So thank you.

I plan to bring the Hoard to Grafty Green Village Hall for you all to see, sometime in the New Year.

Thank you once again,

Giles Guthrie,
Collections Manager,
Maidstone Museum.



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Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to 14th January 2014. No collections are scheduled up to that date for the below locations.

Grafty Green

Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Green Lane

Ulcombe

Lodge Gardens

Weekly Yoga Practice in Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30 6th November – 11th December

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11, 7th November – 12th December

Investment £36 for the term or £8 to drop in when you can.

Mixed ability class, beginners welcome.

The Yoga class can be tailored or adapted to suit any age, male or female.

The benefits experienced from attending regular yoga classes:

- A general glow and feeling energised.
- Confidence grows.
- Open body language.
- Developing fitness and tone.
- Strength and stamina.
- Developing self-awareness.
- Increased concentration and focus.
- Physical and mental balance.
- Improved flexibility.
- Reduced levels of stress and relief from tension.

Yoga gives you the opportunity to:
Move freely, Think clearly, Breath fully

Further details from Sue Burch – British Wheel of Yoga Teacher – 850381 or email grafyyoga@gmail.com

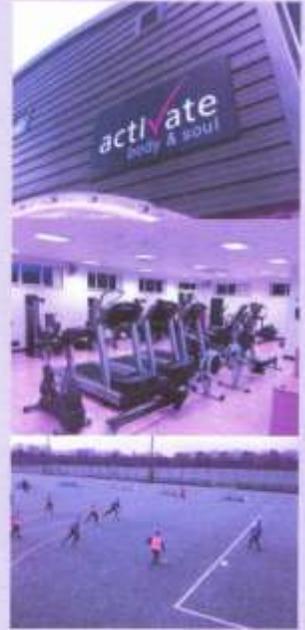


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www.swadelands.kent.sch.uk/activate
activate@swadelands.kent.sch.uk
 01622 853750



Len Valley Surgery



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Monday 23 rd December	Normal opening hours
Tuesday 24 th December	Normal opening hours
Wednesday 25th December	Closed
Thursday 26th December	Closed
Friday 27 th December	Normal opening hours
Monday 30 th December	Normal opening hours
Tuesday 31 st December	Normal opening hours
Wednesday 1st January	Closed
Thursday 2 nd January	Normal opening hours
Friday 3 rd January	Normal opening hours

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01622 859511 - whitehorse@freehouse.sandway.com <http://www.freehouse-sandway.com>

Merry Christmas

A gift from me to you

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Ring Naomi on 07540292283

NK Hair Design (local mobile hairdresser, Platts Heath) as advertised in the Boughton Malherbe Parish Magazine

Egerton Telecottage



Windows 8 – Awareness Sessions

Windows 8 introduces a radical new full-screen-sized Start menu that's designed for touch screens like many mobile phones and tablets.

As this is such a radical change we are offering to run an Awareness course for 4 weeks in the New Year.

Day & Time: Saturday 12noon – 1pm

Location: Telecottage, Millennium Hall, Egerton

Date: 11th January for 4 weeks, Cost: £25 inclusive



Topics covered: What's it all about, Personalise your Tiles, Customise the Start Screen, Connecting to Wi-Fi, 10 Top Tips and other items upon request.

Contact Carol on 07523 182994 to book your place

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Clown	Flea	Piccadilly	Circus
2	Deck	Musical	Sedan	
3	Lamp	Night	Sun	
4	Frame	Motion	Postcard	
5	Bluefin	Fish	Steak	
6	Minister	Number	Suspect	
7	Eye	False	Wisdom	
8	Man	Second	Seller	
9	Corn	Idol	Ginger	
10	Block	Clock	Ivory	
11	Cash	Officer	Thief	
12	Boy	Crew	Pressure	
13	Break	Light	May	
14	Digger	Engineer	Toy	
15	Fire	Route	Tunnel	
16	Bush	League	Poison	

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Lee _____, Actor who played The Six Million Dollar Man
2	_____ Blue, Big selling Scottish band of the 80's and 90's
3	_____ of the Jedi, Episode six in Star Wars
4	_____ Duck, Warner Bros wacky cartoon duck
5	Jealous ____, John Lennon Ballard covered by Roxy Music
6	_____ Greer, Author of the Female Eunuch
7	_____ Gagarin, Russian Cosmonaut
8	King of _____, Motorhead song
9	_____ Lighthouse, 1970's No 1 with Love grows where my rosemary goes
10	Errol _____, Swashbuckling actor

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THE 10 BEST.....

Sunday after Sunday I open the Travel section of the newspaper and find headlines such as:

- **the 10 best ski slopes
- **the 10 best pubs in Ireland
- **the 10 best hotels in Corsica

Really? How do they know? Have they visited them all? So I thought about Grafty Green, a much smaller canvas. Small enough for us to have an opinion based on knowledge. So here's a start on

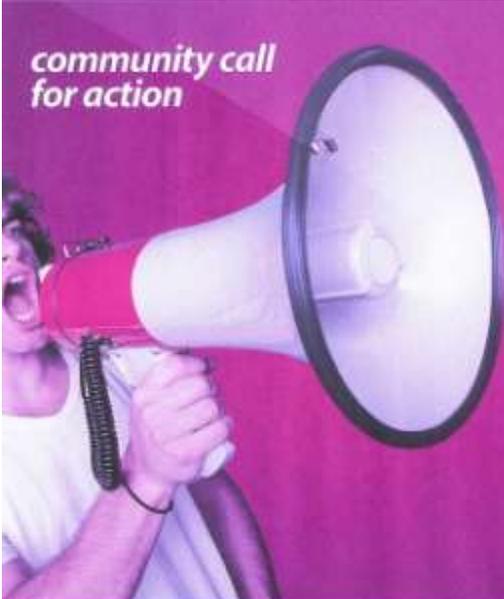
The 10 Best Things in Grafty Green

- **fish and chips in the King's Head,
- **the village shop and post office
- **the village hall committee
- **the gardening club

- **the Garden Centre
- **Yoga classes
- **Short mat bowls
- **the Parish Council

That's a start. There's room for more! Email the editor or me (jdrury23@btinternet.com) with your suggestions.

Joan Drury



**community call
for action**

**Have your say on
proposed 42-acre
Industrial Estate on
greenfield land at
Junction 8 Maidstone**

Public meeting
Doors open 6pm for 6.30pm start. Ends 9pm
Wednesday 11 December 2013
Mercury Maidstone Great Daines Hotel,
Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, Maidstone,
Kent ME17 1RE. Parking available.

Speakers invited

- Paul Carter - Leader, Kent County Council
- Alan Hance - Chairman, Joint Parishes Group
- Richard Knox-Johnston - Chairman, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- Chris Gardner - Leader, Maidstone Borough Council
- CMA Planning (BBC)
- The Rt Hon Hugh Baker MP (TVS)

Speakers to be followed by a question & answer session with panel chaired by Iain McBride, ITV Meridian. If you have a question that you would like to be raised please email abl.jessop@kent.gov.uk

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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Tuesday 28th January 2014 at 7.30pm**

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

Music Notes, December 2013

I am very late getting to the printers this month, so without further preliminaries here is my concert list (inevitably because so much happens just before Christmas there is overlap – you will have to choose your favourite from many – and don't forget your own village carol service:

- Friday 6th December, 7.30pm at Invicta Grammar school , Maidstone – Maidstone Youth Music Society (MYMS) Christmas concert
- Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone – Maidstone Choral Union with Kent Festival Brass , Music for Christmas. Tickets 01622 726193
- Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School, Chapel, Sutton Valence Choral Society, Christmas Concert, tickets 01622 630624.
- Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted, Bearsted Choral Society, Carols at Christmas. Tickets 01634 666730.
- Sunday 15th December, 3.00pm at All Saints' Church , Maidstone, Maidstone wind Symphony, Christmas Spectacular. Tickets 01732 366500
- Saturday 21st December, 7.30pm at St. James the Great Church, East Malling, East Malling Singers, Christmas Concert. Tickets 01732 321030

As regards TV, what better than Carols from Kings, Tuesday 24th Dec, BBC2

Brian Hardy



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Christian Message - December

This summer we became grandparents. That event is of course significant for us and for the parents. But there is a deeper meaning that we don't really understand, that we can only grasp at, sensing that there is more. Just one of the things it does is remind us of the miracle of new life, of birth. It also reminds us of the fragility of life. It's an astonishing thing.

Sometimes the most astonishing things can only be understood when we allow all of our being to acknowledge them. So with our grand-daughter. She *smells* new-born; she *feels* so soft and tender; she *looks* so small; she *weighs* next to nothing in our arms; she *sounds* well, she sounds like a baby! She is astonishing.

Christmas, too, is astonishing. Not just because of a new birth, but because of so much more. Christmas has inspired music, dance, poetry, prose; we see the lights that promise something, smell the aromas of fruit, pine and spices; all point us to sense that there is more: something *other* – *someone* – to whom we are drawn. Christmas *is* astonishing.

It's astonishing because prophets 600 years before the birth were convinced that something like this would happen: they foresaw a birth, a life and the suffering. Many of the Jewish prophets had expected a messiah, one who would come to set things right, one who would suffer, one who would be a bridge between God and man.

It's astonishing because this Jesus, whose birth as light of the world we anticipate through advent and celebrate at Christmas, fulfils so many of those old Jewish prophecies. It is he who came from God to enter our world, join us in our suffering and show us a way to live; but more than that, to make us the offer of a life with God that he himself called "life in all its fullness." Not life without suffering or pain, but life with God, life that is fulfilling and purposeful, not lost, uncertain or directionless.

Not least, it's astonishing because it's still with us, 2000 years later.

At the threshold of this flickeringly gorgeous time – quiet in heart and mind, clear-eyed, we sense Immanuel, God with us, here.

Take time this Christmas to treasure the astonishing truths of this story of new birth, to seek and to find this treasure who was a baby but who now offers peace, reconciliation, love, forgiveness, the love of God surrounding and enclosing us.

Happy Christmas!

Rev. Dick Venn

Walk through the Old Testament

It's not every day that you see a large group of mature men and women spending two weekend afternoons studying the Bible. Nor do you often see mature people making large gestures with their hands and arms to help them remember what they have learnt.

But this is what people from churches in the Len Valley Benefice (Boughton Malherbe, Harrietsham, Lenham and Ulcombe) and Boughton Monchelsea, spent a weekend in November doing – thoroughly enjoying the experience, and learning as the afternoons went on.

The Bible, of course, is the most widely published book in the world. It is estimated that it sells 100 million copies a year, and has been translated into no less than 2018 languages. The first translation into English was made by John Wycliffe in 1382.

The Bible contains 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. It is the basis book for our Christian faith, while the Old Testament is the basis of the Jewish faith. The Bible is the most widely quoted book in the world, and has had a major influence on history and literature, yet many people seldom read it, and many more are only familiar with parts of it – particularly the New testament.

The course being studied that weekend was called 'Walk through the Old Testament.' Under the expert tuition of Carl Palmer we learnt about the structure of the Old Testament. First, we were introduced to the first five books of the Old Testament – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, then to the next 12 books – the Books of History. We learnt that this history stopped with the book of Esther – and then there were 400 years of silence before the birth of Christ.

Running throughout this period of history, the books of poetry – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs – were written.

We then turned to the prophets – the major ones: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel, and finished with the twelve minor prophets, ending with Malachi.

Throughout the two sessions, we were taught gestures to help us remember the sequence of events. We had to imagine Harrietsham church floor as a big map of the area. By the end of the sessions, we knew where all the places mentioned in the Old Testament were - Ur, the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, Haran, the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, the Mediterranean, and Egypt.

All who attended the course thoroughly enjoyed it. Many came away saying they had learnt so much and understood much more about the Old Testament and its relation to the New Testament, and how God was working throughout.

The presentation was very professional, and we were all given an excellent booklet to accompany the course. We would highly recommend it.

Molly Poulter

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

**1st December – 1st Sunday of
Advent**

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

**8th December – 2nd Sunday of
Advent**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
09.30am Harrietsham Holy
Communion
11.00am Lenham Morning Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Boughton Choral Evensong

**15th December – 3rd Sunday of
Advent**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Holy Communion
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship
5pm Lenham Carol service
6.30pm Harrietsham Carol Service
(with School Choir)

**Monday 16th December at 6.30pm
Christmas fun**

For those with learning disabilities and carers at St John the Baptist Church in Harrietsham. There will be Christmas carols, crackers, mince pies and other festive refreshments. Please do join us.

Wednesday 18th December
7pm Ulcombe Carol Service

**22nd December – 4th Sunday of
Advent**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Family Worship
11am Lenham Family Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
3pm Boughton Carol Service

24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service in each Church
11.15pm Harrietsham Midnight Service
with Holy Communion
11.15pm Ulcombe Midnight Service
with Holy Communion
11.15pm Lenham Midnight Service
with Holy Communion

25th December – Christmas Day

10am Boughton Family Holy
Communion
10am Harrietsham Family Holy
Communion
10am Lenham Family Holy Communion
10am Ulcombe Family Holy
Communion

**29th December – 1st Sunday of
Christmas**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10am Harrietsham Benefice Praise
Service with Holy Communion

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Clown	Flea	Piccadilly	Circus
2	Deck	Musical	Sedan	Chairs
3	Lamp	Night	Sun	Shade
4	Frame	Motion	Postcard	Picture
5	Bluefin	Fish	Steak	Tuna
6	Minister	Number	Suspect	Prime
7	Eye	False	Wisdom	Teeth
8	Man	Second	Seller	Best
9	Corn	Idol	Ginger	Pop
10	Block	Clock	Ivory	Tower
11	Cash	Officer	Thief	Petty
12	Boy	Crew	Pressure	Cabin
13	Break	Light	May	Day
14	Digger	Engineer	Toy	Mechanical
15	Fire	Route	Tunnel	Escape
16	Bush	League	Poison	Ivy

	Find the missing word?
1	Lee Majors, Actor who played The Six Million Dollar Man
2	Deacon Blue, Big selling Scottish band of the 80's and 90's
3	Return of the Jedi, Episode six in Star Wars
4	Daffy Duck, Warner Bros wacky cartoon duck
5	Jealous Guy, John Lennon Ballad covered by Roxy Music
6	Germaine Greer, Author of the Female Eunuch
7	Yuri Gagarin, Russian Cosmonaut
8	King of Kings, Motorhead song
9	Edison Lighthouse, 1970's No 1 with Love grows where my rosemary goes
10	Errol Flynn, Washbuckling actor

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24th December - normal lunch / evening food service PLUS LIVE MUSIC 4:30ish

25th December bar open 10-2pm / Christmas day lunch 2:30 (bookings only)

26th bar open 11 till 10 - Food served 12 - 6

Friday 27th normal day plus "STEAK NIGHT" for those fed up with turkey!

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