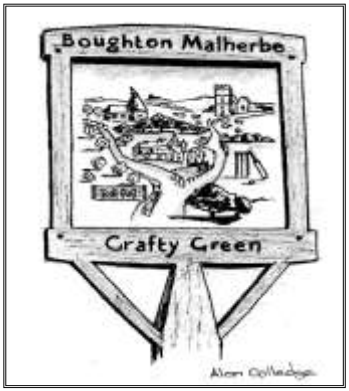
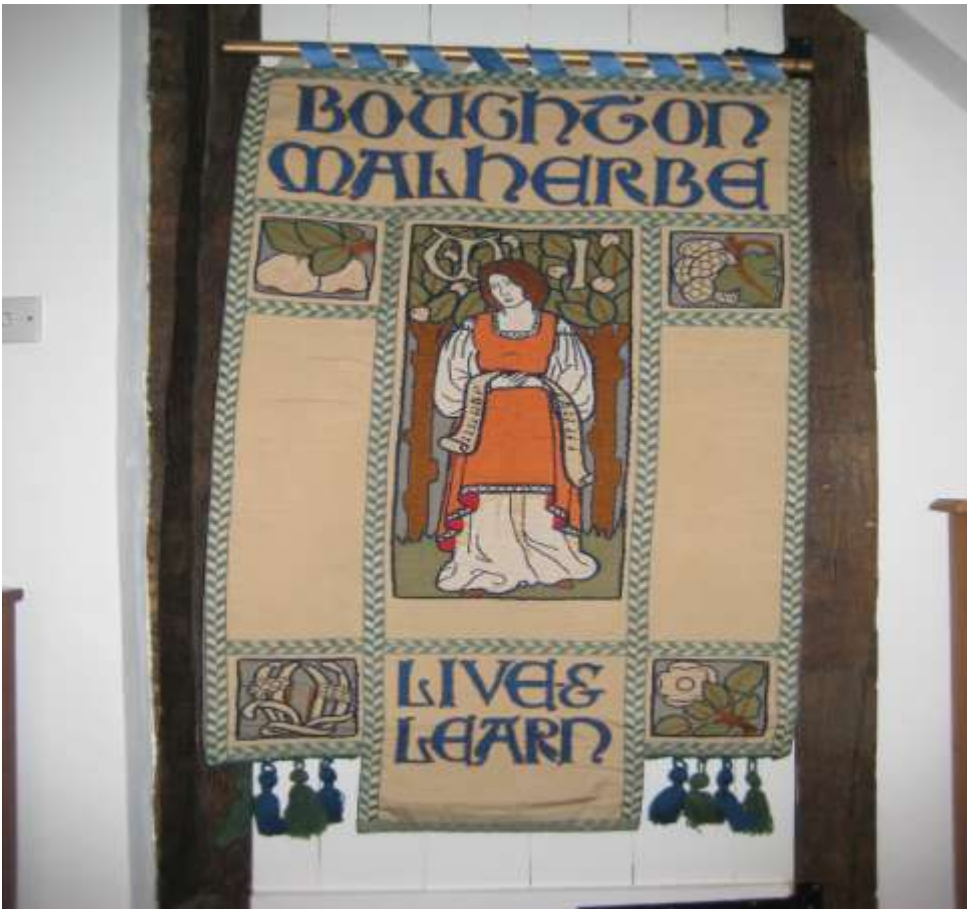


Malherbe Monthly

Number 76
November 2010



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins Mike Hitchins John Collins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net Treasurer	858937 858937 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 **December** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th November**

Front cover: The Boughton Malherbe WI Tapestry as displayed in Grafty Green Village Hall

News from St. Nicholas Church

Les Hulm

During the last few weeks we have lost a very dear man in our community, Les Hulm, who has been a great participant in village life over the years that he and his wife Doreen have lived in Grafty Green. Les was the man who put up the Christmas tree and put lights on it, helped to run the Village Fete, was treasurer of the Gardening Club from its very beginning and countless other jobs that needed doing around the village.

Les managed to persuade the Weeks twins to sell him their very dilapidated Bull-nosed Morris, which he restored to its full glory. He and Doreen would go off on trips and struggle up Liverton Hill and we would wonder if they would ever make it home again.

Carol Singing was another activity Les organised and also joined in. His speciality was playing his harmonica to accompany the Carols with Jack Grace on the guitar. Latterly, Beverley, his daughter playing her guitar joined in too with Christine King on her recorder. Occasionally John Nye would play his guitar and we would all finish the evening at the Kings Head after we had sung our Carols around the Village. What fun evenings they were with about twenty of us singing our hearts out to all the old favourite Carols and Christmas songs, lead by Janie Grace who typed out the carols and songs with Mandy's help. We thank you Les for all that you did for us helping to enrich our lives.

Harvest Festival

We gave thanks to God for the Harvest on 10th October. We had two services that day and after the Choral Evensong, we auctioned the produce that had been given and raised £200.00 for Demelza House Children's Hospice.

On Saturday 9th we celebrated the marriage of Neil Michael Potter and Amy Rose Leonard, they live in Chislehurst and have a connection with St. Nicholas, which enables them to be married at our lovely little Church. We wish Neil and Amy a long and happy life together.

Harvest Supper

Our Harvest Supper on 16th October was a great success. Everyone who came enjoyed the evening enormously. We raised £697.00 for the Fabric fund, ready to help with the cost of water supply and the Chancel Roof etc., Our thanks are due to all those who helped with the preparation of the meal by making flans and apple pies, cooking potatoes, preparing salads, providing cobnuts and apples, doing some of the shopping, running the bar, laying-up the tables on the morning of the Supper,

washing up during the evening and tidying the Hall afterwards. There was a great feeling of community spirit, so thank you everybody who helped with the Supper.

The Village Coffee Morning

The Village Coffee Morning will be held in the Village hall on 10th November, 10.00-12.00. Do come along – it's all free. We look forward to seeing you there for a cup of coffee or tea with a piece of homemade cake or biscuit - there might even be a cheese scone or two to eat with a friendly chat.

Date for your Diary

Our Christingle Service this year will be for the entire Benefice (Ulcombe, Boughton Malherbe, Lenham and Harrietsham) on Saturday 11th December at St. John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham at 5.00pm. It is hoped that this different time and day might encourage more children along to this Service - making it more fun for them to be part of a bigger congregation.

Morning Prayers

Prayers will be said at St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe on Monday mornings during November, 9.30am-10.00am and at All Saints Ulcombe on Tuesdays, St. Mary's Lenham on Wednesdays and St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham on Thursdays.

Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride

We had no riders for this event this year but Sylvia Close was sponsored for keeping the Church open between 10.00am and 6.00pm on Saturday 11th September and raised over £40 for the Friends of Kent Churches. Thank you Sylvia and thank you to the ladies who kept her company during the day.

Joan Davidson

Hottest Ticket in Town

A Christmas quiz is being held in Grafty Green Village Hall on 4th December to raise much needed funds to help with the cost of supplying water to St Nicholas Church. Tickets can be purchased from the Post Office or from Pat and Keith Anderson. Tom La Dell has agreed to be the Quiz Master and during the evening a brand new bicycle, kindly donated by Gary and Jacqui Thompson, will be auctioned.

A supper of sausage and chips is included in the ticket price of £6.50 and a vegetarian option is available so please let us know if you require this. There will be a licensed bar. Our aim is to give everyone a fun evening so please come along and support this worthy cause.

Janet Legon

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN COUNCIL TAX

You may or may not already be aware that your Parish Council receives money to spend in the Parish in two ways :-

1. **THE PRECEPT** This amount appears on your Council Tax statement as a separate item and is currently about £6.50 per annum per dwelling at Band D level. It is used for such Administration items i.e. Insurance, Clerk's Salary, Audits etc.

2. **CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS MONIES** A sum of money that is calculated on a pre-determined formula by the Borough Council . This money is used to support village functions and activities. Currently the Parish receives about £4000 per annum in concurrent function monies from Maidstone.

The Borough Council are proposing that the Concurrent Function monies be scrapped over a 3 year period. If you want to see the same level of support in the village as you now receive the Parish Council will have to raise the current Precept to four times the current amount which will mean a Council Tax increase bringing the amount to around £24.OO per annum at Band D.

What is unfair about this is that if you live within the town of Maidstone you do not pay the extra amount of Precept. This is why your Parish Council has probably the lowest Precept in the Borough .We are thrifty for your benefit . If the Parish Council has to increase the Precept because of a loss of Concurrent Functions monies this is a further Council Tax increase but it does not apply to the dwellers of Maidstone. This is not fair on the rural community.

As a result we need your support to help your Parish Council appeal to Maidstone to re-think its actions

How can you help? PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION by 20th NOVEMBER – IT IS IN THE VILLAGE SHOP/POST OFFICE

Help us to help you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

26th October 2010

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Price, Peter Andre's ex wife
2	The _____, American band who had a hit with Hotel California
3	Lady _____, Woman who rode a horse through Coventry naked
4	_____ Orwell, Author who wrote 1984 and Animal Farm
5	_____ Encounter, Classic romance film
6	Judy _____, Star of the Wizard of Oz
7	_____ Tuesday, Day when pancakes are traditionally made
8	___ King Cole, Legendary crooner
9	King ____, Shakespearean tragedy
10	_____ Smith, TV cook who taught us to cheat at cooking

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NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

TOP OF THE CLASS—ULCOMBE IN TOP 20% OF THE COUNTRY!

It is official—Ulcombe is in the top 20% of schools in the country! Unfortunately it takes a little explaining so please bear with me.

As you may know, there are various ways in which schools are measured, including league tables for SATs results among other things. In schools we have a measure called Contextual Value Added (CVA) scores. This uses the children's assessments at the end of Year 2 and the end of Year 6, and then takes into account levels of deprivation where the children live and more. Taking all of this into account a score is generated, with 100 being the 'average'.

For our school, based on last year's Year 6 children, progress made by children at this school was 101.2 overall. This may not seem far above 100, but the margins are fine. It does actually show that the progress made by children here was in the top 20% of the whole country.

We are incredibly proud to be able to show that our school is helping children move forwards, and that children make greater than expected progress through the school. This, of course, does not mean that we will rest on our laurels. We will take this information, along with everything else we know about our school and strive for each and every child to make excellent progress during their time with us.

Fantastic Footballers Hit Leeds for Six

Report by Bradley

Before the match we were waiting for Leeds and Broomfield to arrive. We were all nervous, not knowing whether we were going to win or not. It was the first time we had all properly played together for Ulcombe School.

We started well and played good football. By half-time we had managed to score four goals thanks to Milly and Ethan who had both scored twice.

Then we came to the second half, and straight away scored another goal, but Mr Hampton disallowed it. Soon after, Bob hit the ball, which was going wide, but their defender scored an own goal. With about five minutes left we were winning 5-0, then Bradley took a long shot and scored in the top right corner.

In the end we won 6-0, with a great effort from the whole team. What a brilliant way to start the new season!

Friends of Ulcombe School

Our PTA, the Friends of Ulcombe School, have met and put together a wonderful year of events for us all. Coming up after the October break, we will have our annual Fireworks Night. This will be on Friday 5th November, with the gates opening at

6.30pm. It promises to be another great evening, with stalls and refreshments, as well as a wonderful display of pyrotechnics.

On Wednesday 10th November we will be holding our Open Afternoon. This is your first chance of the year to come and see us at work. With the FUS kindly volunteering to provide refreshments during the afternoon, you can come along and see us at work and enjoy a cup of tea.

Looking well ahead, the Christmas Fayre will be on Friday 10th December. This is a definite date for your diary. We expect Rudolph to bring Father Christmas to the New Village Hall soon after 6pm. We will be able to walk down through the village to the school, in time for the start of the Fayre at 6.30pm

If you have any questions about FUS events, or if you would like to become more involved yourself, see one of the committee who will be only too happy to speak to you.

Library Project Update

Our Library project is still moving forward, if still slowly. The latest news is that Maidstone Borough Council have refused planning permission for the development proposed by Bailey Partnerships. This was outline planning permission for a small development of houses on the plot of land to the north of the school site, which is no longer used. Baileys are hopeful that they and KCC can enter discussions with MBC to make sure taxpayers money is not wasted submitting applications which planners already know would be refused.

We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the planning application submitted to Kent County Council by Baileys for our library and improved office areas. The library is the most important part of our project, and we will do our very best to bring this to fruition. We would be disappointed if the decision of MBC's planners had so great an impact on the sale value of the land that we could not also complete improvements to the office areas. This, though, is somewhat out of our hands and only time will tell.

And Still To Come

You all, whether you are family members of pupils here at Ulcombe CE Primary School, or if you are one of our many friends from the wider community, are invited to the following events.

Fri 5th Nov	*from 6.30pm*	FUS Fireworks Night	*School Playground*
Wed 10th Nov	*from 1.30pm*	Open Afternoon	*School*
This is an ideal occasion for prospective parents to come and view the school!			
Thurs 11th Nov	*10.45am*	Remembrance Assembly	School Hall

And for our friends in the wider community we will be holding our next Friends' of Ulcombe School Dinner on Tuesday 9th November. We hope you have already placed your order! Our annual Remembrance Assembly will again be taking place on 11th November. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special assembly, which some of the children will help to lead. We hope that the School Bell will be repaired in time, so that those of you in the village who are unable to join us, will know when we are holding our two-minute silence. This will mean that you can, at least, join us in spirit.

We hope to see you all at coming events, supporting our village school.

Mr V Hampton *Head Teacher*

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Classes led by Sue Burch, British Wheel of Yoga trained

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm
Term starts Wednesday 3rd November - 8th December
and
Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 4th November - 9th December

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

Incorporating Yoga into your lifestyle relieves the stress from the fast-paced world we live in and lead you to a stronger, flexible body and clearer mind.

Grafty Green Christmas Quiz

Saturday 4th December 2010

at

The Village Hall

Grafty Green

7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

Tickets £6.50

(this price includes a sausage and chip supper and mince pies)

Licensed Bar, Free nibbles

All proceeds to be donated to St Nicholas Church
Boughton Malherbe

News from Platts Heath Primary School

It's been all go here at Platts Heath since I started in September. With a new lick of paint and some much needed tidying the school welcomed new pupils to our reception class and they soon settled in and made friends with the rest of our fantastic pupils.

As our first term draws to a close we can look back on some fabulous events and look forward to some more to come.

Harvest: Our first big event was our Harvest Festival celebration at the St. Edmunds Hall. The children sang songs, recited their own poems and played instruments in celebration of the Harvest. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the children should be proud of their performances. The children were encouraged to bring in donations of fresh, dried and canned food. The dried and canned food was passed to Age UK to distribute and the fresh food was taken to a local residential home by members of the Reception Class who treated the residents to a rendition of their harvest song.

Hats Off…: This term the school has been involved in the Innocent Smoothie knitted hat campaign which helps to raise money for Age UK. This is the third year the school has taken part and this year we exceeded all our targets, and previous year achievements, by knitting over 600 hats. We received contributions from pupils, family members, teachers and local residents so look out for the Innocent Smoothies in Sainsbury's wearing little woolly hats!

Halloween: The children all enjoyed dressing up for our spooktacular Halloween Disco on the last Friday of the term which was organized by the PTFA. The costumes were fantastic and we had some very creative carved pumpkins. During the half term holiday the final aspects of the refurbishment plans will be completed and the classrooms will be ready to welcome our keen learners back.

The children can look forward to a wide range of activities during November. We have been invited to take part in a 7-a-side football tournament at Swadelands School to help celebrate their new football pitch. The Key Stage 2 (7-11 year olds) will be competing in a K'Nex challenge, organised by a local business partnership and we will be involved in money raising activities for Children in Need.

So we have a busy November for all our children and then we start thinking about Christmas events and activities which is always such a magical time for all.

Book Fair: On Saturday 27th November we will be holding a Book Fair in the St Edmunds Hall from 10.30 -12. This is open to everyone and is a good chance to do a bit of Christmas shopping without having to battle for parking and queuing in shops or surfing the internet. We will have new books on sale for ages from pre-school up to 13-14 year olds. For every book we sell, the school receives a book towards our library so please come along and have a browse. We will also be in the St Edmunds Hall from 2-5 on Tuesday 30th November and Wednesday 1st December if you are not able to come along on the Saturday.

Christmas Fayre: Hot on the heels of the book fair will be our annual Christmas Fayre at the school on Saturday 4th December from 2-5. We will have the usual bottle tombola, raffle, secret room, craft stalls, games for the children and not forgetting our very own Mother Christmas! This is one of the PTFA main fundraisers and we always appreciate the support we receive from everyone. Please come along and join in the festive spirit with us.

Please feel free to visit our school at any time, simply ring the office on 01622 850316 to make an appointment to visit our great school. I look forward to meeting you.

Piers Anscomb
Head Teacher

St Edmunds Centre

I was disappointed to have to cancel the Harvest Supper through lack of support, in other years we have had to limit numbers but not so this year. However the quiz night is on Saturday the 20th November with John and Helen Nye our quizmasters. Teams of 4 or 6 people and we will be able to try our new sound system for the first time. We have now purchased the AV equipment with the money granted by the Grassroots Grant people. So watch out for our first film show once those organising it get themselves sorted out, it will be one more thing to entertain the children during the winter and the darker afternoons.

The Line dancers keep going but do need some new members Thursday evenings 8-9pm.

Mrs Thursting is now running the Little Dragons Karate for children age 3 to 7 Monday at 4.45 and Blue Warrior Kickboxing for age 7 - 12+ Monday at 5.40. Anyone interested should ring her on 01634 320238 or 07949 844 893.

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

Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall

Better rail services for the borough of Maidstone
Kent County Council recently held a second Rail Summit which brought together more than 80 people representing rail user groups, parishes and councillors to put forward their concerns about rail links between the county and the capital. In particular, there was an impassioned plea to South Eastern for restoration of services on the Maidstone East line to the City, which affects thousands of Kent commuters. Following the summit, KCC will produce a rail action plan by mid December. It will then be shared with passengers until the end of March, with a view to agreeing it by the third rail summit planned for next April.

I strongly believe that investment in transport infrastructure is fundamental to lifting the country out of recession and I want to see Kent lead the way. I have floated the idea of undertaking a quick feasibility study into dualling the railway track between Maidstone East and Bromley South, to enable fast rail services between these points which would lead to a significant reduction in journey times. I am advised that this could cost some £1m per kilometre - less than £50m to radically transform journey times for Maidstone's hard pressed commuters. £50m is of course a significant sum of cash - but in relation to large scale transport schemes, is relatively small (the Leeds Langley bypass would cost a similar sum). We are living in difficult financial times, but we mustn't lose sight of the need to bring our transport system up to 21st century standards. I wince every time somebody tells me that services from Maidstone were faster in the age of steam!

I will be pressing my view at the next rail summit. In the meantime, possible changes being considered for the action plan include investigating with Network Rail the feasibility of extending high-speed services from Ebbsfleet to **Maidstone West,** investigating the feasibility of introducing a through service between **Gatwick** and Kent after 2015 and including **Maidstone East** as the principal Kent terminus for Thameslink services from 2016. Copies of the presentations given at the summit by South Eastern can be found online, www.kent.gov.uk. Passenger groups may forward their comments to Paul Crick, KCC's Director of Integrated Strategy and Planning, (Paul.crick@kent.gov.uk).

Liverton Hill speed reduction update
I am pushing for the statutory Traffic Regulation Order and consultation with the public on the proposed reduction on the speed limit on part of Liverton Hill from 60mph to 30mph to be undertaken as soon as possible. As this is being funded from my Member Highway Fund, it is in a backlog with a number of other applications that have been submitted by my 83 colleagues. Please be patient as this will be done, although not as quickly as I would like!

If you need my help or advice please do not hesitate to contact me, either at home (Tel: 734897), email jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk or by letter - The Cottage, Sutton Street, Bearsted, Maidstone ME14 4HP.

Bold Steps for Kent

Bold Steps for Kent is KCC's medium-term plan for the next four years and was published for consultation on 18th October by KCC Leader Paul Carter. The three clear aims in Bold Steps for Kent are: to help the Kent economy grow, to put the citizen in control and to tackle disadvantage. We want to help foster the "Big Society" spirit by for example providing seed funding for social enterprises that can help regenerate communities and become self-sustaining. If you have a background in the voluntary sector or community work, you should find this document of great interest and KCC would welcome your thinking on it. The document can be downloaded on www.kent.gov.uk.

Jenny Whittle
County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East
Deputy Cabinet Member for Learning and Development
✉ **jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk**
☎ **01622 734897 (h) or 07855 767968 (m)**

Les Hulm

Doreen, Carol and Beverley would like to thank everyone for their huge support and sympathy after Les' death. We have been overwhelmed by the reaction to his death and the many, many people who sent their regards and said such lovely things about him. Les would have been so surprised at the amount of affection which was directed towards him, as he was so unassuming in himself. However, he was always interested in people and really enjoyed helping out whenever he could.

Thank you all so much - and you're all welcome to visit my new puppies arriving on Thursday 28th October!!

Doreen Hulm

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY

Our quality colour production book on the history of our parish entitled ***'Boughton Malherbe - A Journey Through Time'*** will be launched in Grafty Green Village Hall on Tuesday 14th December 2010 at 7.30 pm

We hope you will join us but please be aware that the Village Hall has a capacity limit and if necessary entry will be on a 'first come first served' basis so please arrive early to ensure your place and enjoy a free coffee, tea, soft drink or glass of wine available from 7.00 pm until the start of the event at 7.30 pm .

We aim for an enjoyable evening which will include a film show and short talk on how the book became a reality .

Copies of the book will be available at the end of the evening for collection by parishioners entitled to a free copy [**one per household**] .

Additional copies will also be available to everyone at £15 each.

We now have sufficient orders to justify a print run of 400 copies but we do not plan a reprint. So to guarantee your purchase please call Ron Galton on 01622 850369 [or Email your order to him at, galtonweeks@googlemail.com] if you have not already done so.

For those who cannot attend we will deliver within the parish as soon as possible after the launch or you can collect by prior appointment but if we post to outside the parish the price will be £18.00 per copy to cover postage and packing .

We look forward to welcoming you on the 14th December.

Ron Galton Peter Bird John Collins Mike Davidson

Update on Lenham Valley Business Association

The first meeting of The Lenham Valley Business Association was held on Tuesday 21 April 2009, support was strong, but despite this it took three months to start to build a membership. People have been slow to forget the past attempts to develop a business group in the area. Even today we still hear, too often, that the 'new' association 'won't last' and there is 'no point in joining'. Thankfully there are plenty of businesses that have realised that the LVBA is bringing benefits to members and that it isn't going to go away.

The **website** was constructed and uploaded at the end of July last year and immediately reached over 1,000 hits in its' first month. The site has been set up to assist the area, not just from a business point of view but also with other content and news. Members have up to 5 mentions on the site, one alphabetically and up to 4 under classifications, their own if necessary. Benefits of membership are important when it comes to recruiting new members. Online forms for joining and applying to attend a meeting for the first time both help the organisers to maintain accurate records. Members can offer one another special deals and discounts as well as sell unwanted items for free. There are pages providing details of local vacancies to promote to the general public too and regular poster/handouts can be downloaded and printed out to make sure members are given every opportunity to boost membership of their association.

Public relations has always featured high on the agenda to inform people in Kent about LVBA. Lenham Focus have been great supporters of the association even three months before it started. Kent Messenger, Wealden Ad, The Harrietsham Fish, Malherbe Monthly and Kent Business have all run regular information for LVBA. More recently we have been able to secure mentions within features on Lenham run by Downs Mail and Verve Magazine.

The first annual **Business Directory** scheduled for April/May was finally delivered in June. Delayed by a sudden influx of members the 40 page directory increased to 64 with content aimed at making the full colour A5 something worth keeping close by for home and business owners. Again, as on the website, members have the chance of up to 5 mentions within the pages of the directory as well as the chance to take an ad, without which the directory would not be financially viable.

Stickers now promote existing members so everyone can see just how many LVBA members there are. One for white van man, one for the windows of shops and premises and another for the car windscreen.

The association is driven by a low cost membership providing a high number of benefits, now more than ever before it is essential that each of our 60 members understand the part they have to play not just to maintain membership but to **increase** it. Read and understand what is on offer to you, use it and tell others

about it. Print out poster/handouts and put them in places where people will see them. Hand posters out to other businesses, put them through business premises letterboxes. Local networking is the key to increasing local revenue, get to know other members, bring potential members with you to the networking meetings. Help us to help you in any way you can, please.

LVBA is more than just another business association, many members have even made new friends. LVBA is just beginning to help organise local events - please support those events. LVBA has brought benefits to many of the businesses in the area, help us to develop and maintain those new standards. The future is up to the membership - **success comes from working together.**

Alan Reading, LVBA Chairman

THE TRUSTEES OF ST EDMUNDS CENTRE ARE HOLDING A

QUIZ NIGHT

QUIZ MASTER JOHN NYE

ST EDMUNDS CENTRE

SATURDAY **20th NOVEMBER 2010** at 7.00PM

TEAMS OF 4-6, TICKETS £5.00 PER PERSON

TO BOOK A TABLE RING DUFF 850463 or TRICIA 858891

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS AND GLASSES

The Grafty Gourmet

Now that the early dark nights are setting in, one thing that most of us look forward to is good ole cosy winter comfort food. This recipe is no exception. It is quick to put together and is delicious on a cold night

Winter Fruit and Almond Crumble - Serves 4

4 small (or 2 giant) Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced
8 tbsp cranberries (fresh or frozen)
2 tsp almond extract
2 tbsp sugar
2 tsp cinnamon, divided
6 tbsp quick cooking oats
6 tbsp flour
6 tbsp dark brown sugar
6 tbsp cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
4 tbsp sliced almonds
1/2 cup whipping cream
1 tbsp Amaretto (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees centigrade. Whilst the oven is warming up, butter a large round oven proof dish. Then in a bowl, combine the apples, cranberries, almond extract, sugar, and 1 tsp of cinnamon. Then place the mixture in the buttered oven proof dish.

2. Combine the remaining cinnamon, oats, flour, and dark brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Then pat over the apple mixture in the oven proof dish. Bake for 50 minutes.

3. Sprinkle sliced almonds over the top and return to the oven for another 5 minutes to toast the almonds (don't let them burn).

4. Let cool for 15 minutes. Whip cream with Amaretto (or if you prefer to omit the alcohol, a dash of almond extract). Serve over crumble.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have made a number of changes to the Weekend Freighter Service. From the 21st August this year, the freighter service will operate on a Saturday only to improve efficiency and reduce cost, however the number of sites visited remains unchanged. Streamlining the service and re-planning the route also reduces the amount of miles we have to drive, so also reduces the CO2 emissions.

Grafty Green
Saturday 18th Dec 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath
Saturday 18th Dec 14:30 – 15-10 -: Green Lane

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Date	Topic	Speaker
5th January	AGM – Best of Kent slide show	Robert Canis
2nd February	Bee Keeping	Mrs. Barbara Harris
2nd 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	
4th May	Visit to Turkey Mill	
25th –27th June	Weekend visit to Dorset, staying Norfolk Royale Hotel Bournemouth. Gardens: Stourhead (NT), Abbotsbury, Kingston Maurwood, West Dean	
6th July	Mere House, Mereworth	Andrew Wells
3rd August	Belmont House, Throwley	Head Gardener
7st September	Autumn show - Iceland/wild flowers	Sue Buckingham Wild flower expert
5th October	Nuts and Seeds - ????	Tom Hart Dyke is away !!
2nd November	**Kent Gardens Trust**	**Elizabeth Cairns**
7th December	Christmas Social with entertainment	Geoff Doel and Mick Lynn

Tuesday 2nd November is the next Gardening Club meeting in Grafty Green Village Hall at 7.30 pm and is hosting a talk by Elizabeth Cairns on the **Kent Gardens Trust**. The primary purpose of the Kent Gardens Trust is **the protection of gardens in Kent by** promoting interest in and knowledge and understanding of the history and development of gardens and gardening in Kent (including contemporary gardens);

Tuesday 7th December meeting is our social event for the end of the year and this year we will be entertained by **Geoff Doel and Mick Lynn**. Supper will be provided. You are welcome to join us for the evening and get a preview of the 2011 programme.

Further details from Sue Burch 850381 or Rosemary Smith 850526

Rosemary Smith & Sue Birch

The November Night Sky

The Sun is in the constellation of Libra for most of November, and moves into Ophiuchus at the end of the month.

New Moon occurs on Saturday 6th November, and Full Moon is on Sunday 21st when in the constellation of Taurus. I have a little more about the Moon at the end of this article.

Mercury is to the east of the Sun this month, and sets only minutes after the Sun. So again we are unlikely to see this elusive planet this month.

Venus is still in inferior conjunction (almost directly in front of the Sun), but by the middle of the month it will start to appear as the "Morning Star" low in the southeast just before sunrise.

Mars sets less than an hour after the Sun, so again we will not be able to see the "Red Planet" this month.

Jupiter is the one planet to be seen during the night this month. At dusk the giant planet is well up in the southeast, and is due south by the middle of the evening, almost stationary in the constellation of Aquarius. Through a telescope the disc of Jupiter can clearly be seen, together with the dark and light cloud bands and some of the four major moons.

Saturn is rising in the east in the early hours of the morning, and is well up in the south-eastern sky at dawn. Relative to the stars it is moving very slowly south-eastwards in the constellation of Virgo. You can just see the famous rings through a telescope.

During the second half of November we can see the Leonid meteor shower. They will be generally active between 15th and 20th November, and appear to radiate from a single point in the "Sickle" of the constellation of Leo, and will probably peak around 18th November. The best time to view them is in the early hours of the morning. This is also the best time of the year to see sporadic meteors. These can be seen at any time and in any part of the sky.

Now back to the Moon. Apparently there is some truth in the famous song "in the Light of the Silvery Moon", as scientists have actually found deposits of silver on the lunar surface. The soil samples were taken from the Cabeus crater, which they found were much more complex than expected. Unfortunately the deposits were very small, and would not justify opening a lunar silver mine.

John Maunder

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

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Berry	Mother	Step	**Goose**
2	Elephant	State	Trader	
3	Breakdown	System	Wreck	
4	Spring	Water	Wool	
5	Brake	Drive	Jockey	
6	Cast	Curtain	Steam	
7	Account	Household	Tight	
8	Boy	Order	Story	
9	Black	Lock	Silver	
10	Company	Exchange	Time	
11	Police	Top	Trade	
12	Bus	Freshener	Port	
13	John	Police	Special	
14	Bald	Cottage	Mince	
15	Point	Powder	Shot	
16	Counter	Heart	Panic	

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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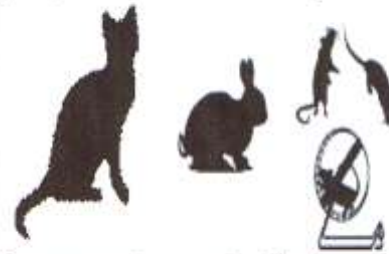

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The Great Leeds Book Sale

Yes, it is coming round to that time of year again! The Great Leeds Book Sale will be held on **Saturday 20th November, from 10.00am to 2.30pm** – put a note in your diary because we want you all to come. There is a huge stock of literally thousands of books, at knock down prices. Nevertheless, there is still an opportunity for you to deliver to Leeds Church that stack of books that you have read and would like to pass on to others. The church is usually unlocked after about 9.30 in the morning, and you can leave books in the South Porch.

There will be a good supply of refreshments to keep you going while you browse and we also hope to repeat the 'cake and preserves' stall that has been such a successful adjunct to the book sale in recent years.

Any queries or for more information, please ring Brian Hardy, 01622 842915

Quiet Day

One of those participating in the Quiet Day, held in the comfortable Methodist Hall in Headcorn wrote as follows: . About a dozen people took advantage of the invitation and by 10.00 a.m. we had all arrived with our packed lunches, and used a quarter of an hour or so to meet each other over coffee.

The atmosphere of peace and calm was set from the start. The Rev. Marian Bond led a corporate time of worship, accompanied by Revd Dick Venn on the guitar. The day began with a Bible reading and a short talk, thus enabling us to start travelling as individuals on a journey throughout the day. Joan Drury started our afternoon session with a further relevant Bible reading and talk.

After these we each pondered separately on a biblical theme of "Living Water", taking ourselves off quietly into the garden, or adjoining chapel, or staying put, just as we wished. We thought about how we experienced water in our lives, shallow or deep, calm or rushing, where we may be happily paddling or out of our depth; and found a new relevance in our Christian understanding.

After nearly five hours away from pressures of all sorts we joined in Holy Communion, privileged to have had such quality time in which to think about our spiritual lives.

We are hoping to set up a series of short quiet times on a monthly basis along the lines suggested by Julian of Norwich. These meetings provide the opportunity listen to a bible passage and then to sit quietly for just 20 minutes thinking about the passage. The meeting concludes with a cup of tea or coffee, generally meaning that we are together for about an hour. If you are interested in finding out more about the Julian meeting, please contact me on 07966 442181

Revd. Marian Bond

Len Valley Villages

CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION

St John the Baptist Church Harrietsham

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For more details see the December magazine

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Christian Message November 2010

Memories are precious. When we lose one we search for it like someone with a pack of hounds following an elusive scent. My father has now been suffering from dementia for the last 12 years. I have observed the gradual loss of memories, and the erratic nature of his loss. His mind is now more like a sieve, where most memories seem to elude capture and slip away whilst the odd one lingers or remains. When he does recall something about the family, or a time long past, it causes him to become animated – as if that memory is present with him, and he lives out the joys or sorrows appropriate for such a memory.

As a Christian I have always been aware of the "remembrance" which Jesus spoke of, when he gathered together his friends for what has come to be known as the Last Supper. On that occasion Luke, the historian & gospel writer, records how Jesus took some bread and gave it to his friends saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) The link between past and present conveyed by the word "remembrance" is about more than just remembering an event or situation. It is about the way in which that moment in the past, in our memory, becomes a living event in the present. The action of breaking bread, as Jesus did, in the course of a service of worship is to experience that moment in the present where Jesus Christ is alive and with us here and now. In the same way that my father's act of "remembrance" brings forth the response of laughter or tears, so Christians respond to that experience of Jesus present with us by the way in which we allow our lives to be shaped by his life and teaching in us.

During November we will again be marking Remembrance Day. It is an occasion which marks a particular moment in time where at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, a military agreement marking the defeat of the German army and an end to the hostilities of World War One. Each year we mark that moment with 2 minutes of silence. In that silence we are invited to remember all those who sacrificed their lives, and at many local memorials particular names will be read out. Part of our remembrance is through helping those suffering as a result of current conflicts by supporting the British Legion and wearing a poppy. It is also a "remembrance" where we respond now and allow the pattern of our lives to bring about peace and reconciliation among families, friends, and even nations. Whether in the Church or in the world, the act of remembrance can be a moment when we make a difference in the world today.

Music Notes - November

Have you heard how good singing is for your health? How much fun it is to sing in a group? Do you think your bath-time music is wrongly unappreciated? In short, have you ever wished to learn to sing? If so, now is your chance. **A free 6 week course** for all – newcomers to singing and those who are 'rusty'- is starting on 2nd November, 7.30pm at Valley Park Community School, Huntsman Lane, Maidstone. The course is supported by two national musical educational charities and it is not too late to join. Call 01622 631586 or email linda.ander2@talktalk.

For those who do sing but would like to improve, there is a singing workshop with John Rutter - yes **The** John Rutter – on Saturday 13th November at Sutton Valence Prep school. Cost is £12 each. Details from 01233 850050
And now some events where you don't have to work :

- Thursday 4th November, 8.00pm at Bradbourne House (MEA19 6DZ), East Malling Research Station Music Club present a concert performance by Romanian violinist Tudor Andrei. Tickets at the door. Info tel 01732 843129

- Sunday 21st November, 7.30pm at All Saints Church Maidstone, Sutton Valence Choral Society with Sutton Valence School Senior Girls' Choir put on a candlelit performance of Handel's *Messiah.* Details 01622 842269

- Saturday 4th December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra continue their centenary season with a programme including **Emma Johnson** performing Weber's *Clarinet Concerto No.1*. Tickets 01622 736392

Getting to the meat of the subject?

From a poster advertising a Lent programme (not in this diocese!):
"the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals"".

Brian Hardy

SUTTON VALENCE CHORAL SOCIETY
AUTUMN CONCERT 2010

Celebrating the Choral Society's 20th anniversary with Handel's Messiah – by candlelight.

Sutton Valence Choral Society concludes its hugely successful 20th anniversary celebrations with a candlelit performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday 21st November at 7.30pm, in All Saints' Church, Maidstone.

Highlights of the anniversary year's programme of music events have included performances of Beethoven's *9th Symphony* in Rochester Cathedral and Mendelssohn's *St Paul* Oratorio at All Saints' Church, Maidstone. Thanks to the generosity of audiences, the choir has also raised over £3,000 for Demelza House Children's Hospice, based in Sittingbourne.

For this special concert, Bryan Gipps will conduct the 90-strong chorus and the Senior Girls' Choir from Sutton Valence School, accompanied by the Beresford Sinfonia. This performance of one of the best-loved choral works in the classical repertoire will include the aria *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* and, of course, the famous *Hallelujah Chorus,* in the magical candlelit setting of Maidstone's magnificent town centre church.

Tickets, priced £10, are available in advance from Sharon Music, 65 High Street, Maidstone, ME14 1SR (Tel: 01622 761649), or by ringing 01622 842269.

Sutton Valence Choral Society (reg. charity no. 1119160) supports Kent Air Ambulance Trust (reg. charity no. 1021367)

The Len Valley Benefice

Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe

Sunday/Main Services – November 2010

7th November 3rd Sunday before Advent

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

14th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.15am Harrietsham Remembrance Sunday
10.15am Ulcombe Remembrance Sunday
10.30am Boughton Malherbe Remembrance Sunday
10.45am Lenham Remembrance Sunday
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe Choral Evensong
7pm Holy Cross Bearsted - Taize

21st November - Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)

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

28th November - Advent Sunday

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

	Find the missing word?
1	**Katie** Price, Peter Andre's ex wife
2	The **Eagles**, American band who had a hit with Hotel California
3	Lady **Godiva**, Woman who rode a horse through Coventry naked
4	**George** Orwell, Author who wrote 1984 and Animal Farm
5	**Brief** Encounter, Classic romance film
6	Judy **Garland**, Star of the Wizard of Oz
7	**Shrove** Tuesday, Day when pancakes are traditionally made
8	**Nat** King Cole, Legendary crooner
9	King **Lear**, Shakespearean tragedy
10	**Delia** Smith, TV cook who taught us to cheat at cooking

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Berry	Mother	Step	**Goose**
2	Elephant	State	Trader	**Rogue**
3	Breakdown	System	Wreck	**Nervous**
4	Spring	Water	Wool	**Mineral**
5	Brake	Drive	Jockey	**Disc**
6	Cast	Curtain	Steam	**Iron**
7	Account	Household	Tight	**Budget**
8	Boy	Order	Story	**Tail**
9	Black	Lock	Silver	**Smith**
10	Company	Exchange	Time	**Part**
11	Police	Top	Trade	**Secret**
12	Bus	Freshener	Port	**Air**
13	John	Police	Special	**Constable**
14	Bald	Cottage	Mince	**Pie**
15	Point	Powder	Shot	**Gun**
16	Counter	Heart	Panic	**Attack**

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