

Malherbe Monthly

Number 67
February 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
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
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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 March edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th February**

Front cover: Rob Clark snow ploughing in Grafty Green in early January
Picture courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

St. Nicholas PCC

St. Nicholas PCC will meet on 2nd February at Bowley Farm, Sandway at 7.30pm

Gordon Drake's Retirement

The service at which we planned to thank Gordon for his many years of faithful service to us at St. Nicholas was cancelled because of the very snowy conditions we experienced on Sunday 10th January. Both our services were cancelled that day. We are hoping that all will be well on the second Sunday this month and are planning to thank Gordon on 14th after the 6.30pm service.

Coffee Morning

We will resume our Coffee Mornings this month in the Village Hall, Grafty Green from 10.00 until 12.00 on the second Wednesday 10th February. Let's hope that the weather will not interfere with our plans this month. Do come along for a coffee, a biscuit or piece of cake or perhaps a cheese scone and a chat.

Lent Lunches

Ash Wednesday falls on the 17th February and there will be a Service on that day in the Benefice.

On the Wednesdays in Lent starting on 24th we will be holding our Lent Lunches at six venues around the Parish.

The first one will be at Ivy House Farm, Liverton Hill, Grafty Green between 12.00 & 2.00pm. Do come along and join us for a very tasty bowl of soup served with fresh crusty bread and a coffee and lots of friendly chat. There is no charge for this but there will be a plate for donations. The money collected will be sent to Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week in May.

If you would like to come but have no Transport let Joan know on 850210 and we will arrange for someone to collect you.

Joan Davidson

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Once in a _____, Debut hit for Talking Heads in 1981
2	_____ Donat, Star of Hitchcock's The 39 Steps
3	Blodwyn ____, Late 1960's Blues Rock Band
4	_____ the Aardvark, Animal puppet from CBBC's Broom Cupboard
5	_____ out of _____, Big hit in 1993 for Meatloaf
6	Martin ____, Lead singer of Sheffield group ABC
7	_____ Harris, Australian entertainer
8	Amanda _____, Actress and Britain's Got Talent judge
9	_____ Las _____, Elvis film set in a Nevada city
10	Kate _____, Actress daughter of Goldie Hawn

Line Dancing Evening - March 27th

We are holding a line dancing evening at Grafty Village Hall on Saturday 27 March, starting at 7.30. Tickets are £7 and available from Mandy Hitchins (858937) and the Village Shop. There will be a licensed bar with snacks and a raffle.

Joanne, who teaches line dancing at Platts Heath, is coming to teach us a few simple dances and steps. Hopefully, we will always have someone who knows what they are doing standing in the front of us so we don't get too tired and emotional!

Come and join us for a fun evening - you don't even need a partner so you can come on your own and meet old and new friends. Put your tin foil on your toes and get out the gingham and bootlaces for your ties! (and slap your thighs!)

Mandy Hitchins

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

As you may be aware the Parish Council is granted devolved funds from Maidstone Council that are for use by the Parish Council to support and encourage community activities and worthy projects within the Parish. These funds are allocated on an annual basis (April to April) and should be spent within the allocation year, otherwise funds for subsequent years may be reduced or withheld. In previous years these funds have gone to support the Village Hall, cutting the grass on the village green, the Gardening Club, Christmas Trees and Planters on the green, etc. Also in the recent past the path between Church Road and Headcorn Road by the side of the Kings Head has been resurfaced and repairs made to gates by St Nicholas Church.

Currently the Parish Council has approximately £5,100 that has yet to be allocated to specific projects or activities. That said, it is envisaged that some of these funds will be spent on some of the above, but it is clear that there may well be surplus funds that are available for allocation to causes within the Parish.

If anyone has any suggestions of how these funds can be allocated, please could they contact any member of the Parish Council (listed below) by 1st March 2010. It should be pointed out that these funds have to be spent on activities or projects within the parish boundary and they must be of benefit to the general public within the parish.

Robert Turner 850325, Ron Galton 850369, Silva Close 858919, Shaun Wickens 850640, Mike Hitchins 858937

Lenham Valley Business Association

Since the Lenham Valley Business Association started in the middle of last year it has developed quickly. The 20+ page website has been available for 6 months and is a great place if you are looking for a local job or a local service/business including those in Grafty Green. The Business Directory promised to every home and business will be delivered from May 2010. Copy deadline is 31st March 2010. The next networking meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd February at the Dog and Bear from 6pm until 8pm - there will be more information about the directory at the start of the meeting.

Website: <http://www.lenhambusiness.co.uk/>

Alan Reading

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Service prepared by the women of Cameroon.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5th 2010

Services at: St. Mary's, Lenham 10.30am, All Saints', Ulcombe 7.00pm

On this day over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian Women of Cameroon. This service is translated into just over 60 languages and 1,000 dialects for use worldwide. Just think of that! What a fellowship of joy, faith and love. All of this has grown from a simple service of prayer held in 1887. Why not make a note in YOUR diary as we would like YOU to join with us on the FIRST FRIDAY OF MARCH. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are over 5,000 Women's World Day of Prayer Services held involving thousands of women, men and children. Please come along to the service, learn about life in Cameroon, and enjoy some refreshment afterwards.

Rosemary Davis.

Lenham Wanderers Football Club

The results of the last three Centenary Club lottery draws were as follows:

October

1st	No.38	Dicky Dean	£30
2nd	No.87	Richard Holmes	£12
3rd	No.57	Pat Duffy	£8

November

1st	No.17	Roger Collier	£30
2nd	No.75	Russell Young	£12
3rd	No.31	Paul Neaves	£8

December

1st	No.52	Marcus Shephard	£30
2nd	No.35	James Weeks	£12
3rd	No.50	N McLaren	£8

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NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE SCHOOL

One thing seems to have dominated January – snow! The middle of the month saw some of the worst snow in south-east England for several years, bringing with it lots of fun and lots of disruption. For some school staff it created a new addiction to weather web-sites. Trying to keep the school open, whilst keeping everyone safe, proved an impossible balancing act. Weather and, in particular, the poor conditions of roads and pavements in and around Ulcombe, resulted in the school having to close for two days. Even the Friends of Ulcombe School (FUS) coffee afternoon, on Tuesday 12th January, had to be postponed unfortunately. We hope that we will be able to rearrange this sometime soon. Thank you to all of the parents for their tolerance and patience, especially on the first day of closure, when it proved difficult to get the message through to everyone.

That problem leads on to one of the main changes being introduced this term. We are currently trialling a new system which allows us to text parents if we need to contact a group of parents at the same time. The trial proved successful on the second day of closure, with a lot of positive feedback from parents. The system, when fully developed, will also enable us to email letters, instead of sending out paper copies. This will be more environmentally friendly, as well as saving us time and money in school. Many parents have reported that letters do not always make it from school to home, but this will now be done much more reliably.

Clubs

Clubs have now re-started, though a week later than planned in most cases. As always, it is fantastic to offer a wide range of clubs, including drama, football, chess, choir and ICT. As ever, we are extremely grateful to all of the adults who give up their time to offer the children something extra.

Into The Future

On Saturday 6th February FUS are holding a Beetle Drive at the school. Tickets are available from the School Office and include sausage and chips. An advance notice for all of our friends in the community is that our next Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner will be taking place on Wednesday 10th March. As usual, after a wonderful roast pork dinner prepared by our

own School Cook, with children waiting at tables, the children will then provide short pieces of entertainment based on work they are completing in class. We are especially keen to welcome the ladies of the village, including mothers and grandmothers of children at school, as this is in the week before Mothering Sunday. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

Best wishes to you all,

Mr V Hampton,
Head Teacher

An introduction to touring by motor car
(from page 1 of “Newnes motorists touring guide”)

“One need not be of more than middle-age to remember the first automobile or “horseless carriage” being driven to the City of London at five miles an hour, with a man hurrying along in front bearing a red flag as was then proscribed by law. Yet now, only thirty years later, we have more than 1,600,000 licensed motor vehicles (including tramcars), of which some 600,000 are private cars. In addition there are almost as many motor-cycles, whilst some 1,900,000 people hold driving licences. Nothing has ever revolutionised our normal life’s routine so completely as the development of mechanical transport.

Enormous sums of money have become available through motor taxation, and the highways of Great Britain are now unequalled anywhere in the world. In England and Wales there are at least 153,000 miles of roads and in Scotland some 25,000 miles. Of these 24,552 are Class I and 15,624 miles are class II. For the maintenance of our roads in a single year upwards of 44 million sterling are expended.”

Our edition of the guide published in the late 1920’s was sold at The Great Leeds Book Sale but, in response to popular request, the facility to publish extracts has been allowed to continue for the time being, subject to the editor’s approval.

Brain Hardy

St Edmunds Centre

The Christmas Eve Carol singers raised £100.00 which has been donated to the Special Care Baby Unit at Maidstone hospital.

Our New Years Eve party held in the hall was a great success and the hall has already been booked for 2010/11. Thanks to Angie, Hazel and Fiona for all their hard work organising it, the decorations, balloons, party poppers glow bangles and disco made for a fun packed evening.

The profits of £140.00 from the evening were donated to the St Edmunds Centre.

At the time of writing we have arranged a carpenter to install some new storage cupboards at the back of the Nave/stage area; this will make access to the stage and door to the garden far less cluttered. With more groups using the hall each day, storage is at a premium.

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

The Line Dancers still need some new members and if you like dancing it is a fun way to work off some of the excesses of the holiday period. We meet on Thursday evenings at 8pm-9pm and Joanne is willing to start earlier for a beginner's class if there is enough interest.

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

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year and are fed up with oil tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads, not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non- profit making.

Keith Anderson

How about joining a Yoga Class?

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

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

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

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm
Term starts Wednesday 6th January
and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 7th January

The term will run for six weeks and the fee is £30. Drop in students
£6 per session

If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in
please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381


email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339



Grafty Green Gardening Club

The February meeting is on the 2nd at 7.30 in Grafty Green Village Hall and this month our speaker is Mrs. Barbara Harris from the British Bee Keepers' Association and her subject will be 'Bee Keeping'.

Date	Topic	Speaker
5 th January	AGM – Best of Kent slide show	Robert Canis
2 nd February	Bee Keeping 	Mrs. Barbara Harris
2 nd March	Growing Vegetables	Mr. Andrew Fletcher
6 th April	Spring Show History/making walking sticks	Mr. Dennis Worcester
10 th April	15% off at Rumwood Nursery 9.30 – 4.30	
4 th May	Visit to Turkey Mill	
25 th –27 th June	Weekend visit to Dorset, Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum	
6 th July	Biddenden Vineyard	
3 rd August	Mereworth	
7 st September	Autumn show	Sue Buckingham Wild flower expert
5 th October		
2 nd November	Kent Gardens Trust	
7 th December	Edible Seeds	

We are a very sociable bunch and love to welcome new members. The fee to join is £5 for the year and a small entry fee of £1 on the door for events attended. Outings are priced separately. The highlight of the year is usually the weekend away and you will see that we are visiting Dorset this year.

Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall



The heavy snow fall just before Christmas and in the New Year tested the resilience of all of us as well as Kent Highways Services! The main primary and secondary routes were gritted, but many people, especially the elderly, were stranded in their homes until the snow melted. KHS had gritters, JCBs and hand salting crews operating around the clock to kept the main roads open. Local farmers also played a vital part in helping to clear the snow with their ploughs. Salt bins were continually replenished, but in the borough of Maidstone alone, we had up to 50 bins that were either stolen or vandalised. There were also many cases of householders using the grit to clear their driveways, rather use it to clear the pavements.

There were many examples of residents helping each other. My car got stuck in the snow on my lane, but thankfully I have helpful neighbours who came to help push it back onto my driveway. We also took turns to walk to the shops and get essential supplies in for each other.

Later on this year KCC will be undertaking a review of our Winter Service policy. I am working with the Parish Council to look at whether we have adequate provision of salt bins and if the appropriate routes were sufficiently gritted during the snow. If you would like to share your views with me, I would welcome hearing from you.

In the meantime, KCC will undertake a £1m "pothole blitz" to repair some of the damage caused by the snow. I will be going around the area for a day with the potholes crew to see this work being undertaken. If you would like to advise me of particular potholes that need repairing, please let me know (although the Parish Council are excellent at keeping me up to speed!).

Jenny Whittle
County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East
jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk or 01622 734897

Progress Report from The Boughton Malherbe History Society

The work towards publication of our book on the history of the Parish continues as fast as possible and several chapters have reached the first draft stage.

Whilst we set ourselves a deadline of 31st Oct 2009 for completion of research we are still receiving information for which we are very grateful. Parishioners have been forthcoming with stories that might contain sensitive information and we are now seeking approval from them as soon as a piece is written based upon their contribution to ensure accuracy and that no offence is unwittingly caused.

This process may extend the drafting time beyond our original anticipation but we still hope for publication by next Christmas.

Ron Galton

‘Humility comes before honour’ (*Proverbs 15:33*)

Rarely do we actually know anyone in the Queen’s Birthday and New Year honours lists. Looking in vain for a familiar name among the hundreds who will receive a medal, I began conjuring up an honours list for our village.

The first name which springs to my mind is Rob Eastwood in our village shop. What a blessing that place proved to be when the snow was deep and crisp if rather uneven. Urgent supplies were available and the shop became a meeting point for villagers. Not only was Rob on hand to supply much needed provisions but he also made the tortuous journey to Lenham to collect newspapers for regular customers. On one occasion he set off on foot. But Grafty Green is a community and several times Rob was helped with this task by those who live nearby.

We must cherish our village shop or like the Archers (Radio 4 soap) we may be in danger of losing it through neglect. Another nomination of mine is Keith Anderson who runs the Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate. I have found this to be a great blessing. Buying oil could not be easier. Thank you, Keith.

And then there’s Mike Hitchins master minding the excellent Malherbe Monthly. I could go on but no doubt readers have their own ideas. Over to you! Who would YOU nominate?

Joan Drury



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Date: 05/01/09

Wandering and Wondering in the Heaths

The Heaths Countryside Corridor will be holding a free launch event for the Wandering and Wondering project at Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Memorial Hall on Sunday, February 28th between 3pm and 7pm. This drop-in event will have a range of activities for all ages from bat walks and moth trapping through to hunts for archaeological artefacts and displays of the work that the group has already completed. Plans for the three year project will also be on display and refreshments will be provided.

This Heritage Lottery funded project will provide a range of opportunities for local people to get involved in all aspects of the Heaths Countryside Corridor project. It will provide opportunities for people to explore the natural heritage in the Charing Heath and Lenham Heath area as well as unearthing the heritage features on the three sites owned and managed by Heaths Countryside Corridor.

There will also be the chance to get involved in the project. The group will be running a series of events that will be open to all including guided walks, wildlife events, archaeological digs, talks and practical conservation activities. Benches, sculptures and panels explaining what can be seen on the sites will be installed and restoration work to ponds and the Ice House at Chilston Park will also take place. The public will be invited to get involved and influence all of the activities and work that the group does.

The Heaths Countryside Corridor group has purchased three sites on the greensand in and around Charing Heath and Lenham Heath with the aim of conserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the area for the benefit of all local people and visitors.

Commenting on the launch event, Karen Gillett of Heaths Countryside Corridor said: "We are really looking forward to welcoming as many people as possible and inviting them to get involved in the exciting plans we have for the next three years."

For more information about the event contact Mike Phillips at Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership on 01303 815170 or e:mail: mike.phillips@kentdowns.org.uk

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history. HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since 1994 it has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4 billion across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk

Heaths Countryside Corridor are a charitable trust that owns and manages three sites on the greensand ridge of Kent between Ashford and Maidstone and promotes an interest in countryside conservation in this area. These sites are:

- Bull Heath (Lenham Heath)
- Lenham Ponds and Pines (formerly part of Chilston Park, Sandway)
- Hurst Wood (Charing Heath)

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BITS AND BYTES!

The team at Egerton Telecottage is now setting up the computer centre's programme of courses for the winter. They are keen to run more sessions that meet exactly what people need.

Jackie is the tutor for Excel and Digital Photography. With her last group she had a great time finding out about the aspects of spreadsheets that they really needed. Unlike a College course, which has to follow a curriculum to get you a qualification, learning about computers with the Telecottage can be tailored to what you want to cover.

In 2010 there will be more short courses that will allow you do this while also offering the longer introduction to basic computing and other courses that beginners and experienced people alike find so helpful. Here are the dates for the New Year:

IT Refresher - Tuesdays - 12th and 19th January 10am-12 noon

2 sessions of 2 hours covering those bits of basic computing that you may have forgotten such as storing and finding files, dragging and dropping, inserting pictures

Emailing Photographs- Tuesday 12th and 19th January 7.30pm/9.30pm

2 week course showing you how to send your photographs over the Internet and managing them on your computer

Excel- Wednesdays 20th, 27th Jan/3rd, 10th Feb - 10am-12 noon

4 week course covering spreadsheets for use at work or home

Basic Word Processing - Tuesdays 26th Jan /2nd, 9th/16th February - 10am-12 noon

4 week course to get you started with everything you need to know about using Word

Basic IT - Tuesday 23rd Feb/2nd, 9th, 16th March - 10am-12 noon

4 week basic introduction to using a computer for beginners

Digital Photography - Tuesdays 23rd Feb/2, 9, 16th March -

7.30/9.30pm -

4 week course covering the basics of displaying and editing your photographs on the computer

We also hope to run courses covering Intermediate Word Processing, the Internet and a short eBay course - make some money for the new year or find a good home for those unwanted gifts! .

Hire our Centre!

If you have a group of people - or are a local business- and would like to use our centre to provide computer training, we are happy to arrange for the centre to be hired for one or more days - or just half a day. Refreshments can be arranged and full office facilities are available. We may also be able to provide a tutor if you need one or transport, using Wealden Wheels minibuses.

For more information about courses or hire of the Telecottage Centre, please contact Sylvia on 01233 756050.

Don't forget we are also open every Saturday morning from 10 to 12pm for drop in advice about computer problems or use of the Internet and centre facilities.

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

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Surgeon	Money	Bag	Plastic
2	Happy	Rare	Wave	
3	Eclipse	System	Power	
4	Whistle	Foil	Can	
5	Nasty	Home	Game	
6	Deacon	Enemy	Angel	
7	Waste	Sand	Work	
8	Grappling	Flat	Cast	
9	Sound	Cream	Crash	
10	Pitched	Axe	Ship	
11	Industrial	Stations	Reply	
12	Art	Shooting	Portrait	
13	Finder	Point	Over	
14	Book	Girl	Dog	
15	Ticket	Whole	Oat	
16	Metal	Yard	Heap	

Local Police Surgeries

Siobhán de Búrca, our local Police Community Support Officer will be holding surgeries at the below locations to enable the community to discuss with the Police any issues or concerns that they may have or wish to raise.

24th Feb 2010 14:30 - 16:00 at Ulcombe Primary School

16th Mar 2010 18:30 - 19:30 at Grafty Green Village Hall

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a take on Steak Diane, the famous tableside dish served for eons in fancy French and "Continental" restaurants. Instead of the traditional pounded steaks for Steak Diane, I prefer using 1-inch-thick beef fillet.

Filet Steaks with Brandy Cream Sauce

Ingredients (Serves 2)

2 x 1- to 1-1/4-inch-thick pieces fillet beef (about 7-1/2 ounces each)
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon vegetable oil (if not using a cast-iron pan)
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
3 tablespoons finely chopped shallots
1/4 cup brandy
1/2 cup beef stock
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1/2 cup double cream
1/2 to 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

1. Season each steak generously with salt and pepper. Heat a heavy-based (preferably cast-iron) frying pan on a high heat. (Add the 1 tablespoon vegetable oil if not using cast iron.) Test by touching the edge of one steak to the pan surface; it will sizzle briskly when ready. Immediately drop in the steaks and sear one side for 2 minutes. Sneak a peek to see if the first side is nicely browned. If not, continue to sear that side for another minute or so. Flip the steaks and sear the other side for 2 to 3 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium, cook for another 2 minutes, flip, and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes (for medium rare). Cook for longer if you prefer your steaks more "well done". Transfer the steaks to a warmed oven (not on, but pre-warmed) and let them rest, covered loosely with foil, while you make the sauce.
2. To make the pan sauce: Return the unwashed pan to medium heat. Add the butter and let it melt. Add the shallots and cook, stirring, until tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the brandy and stir with a wooden spoon, scraping up any browned bits stuck to the pan. Add the stock and Worcestershire sauce, raise the heat to medium high, and bring to a boil. Whisk in the mustard and then the cream. Continue to cook at a boil, stirring, until reduced to a saucy consistency, 3 to 5 minutes. Taste the sauce and season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice. Serve the steaks with the sauce.

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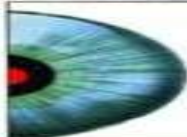
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Ulcombe History Society

The Ulcombe History Society will be meeting on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.30 pm at Ulcombe Village Hall to hear a talk by local resident, Chris Parkinson about his father who introduced *Parkinson's Law*. The talk will be preceded by a very brief AGM. Light refreshments. All welcome

Molly Poulter



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The February Night Sky

At the start of February the Sun is in the constellation of Capricornus and is moving into Aquarius on the 16th.

New Moon occurs on Sunday 14th February, and will be visible in the southwestern sky after sunset. Full Moon occurs on Sunday 28th February, in the non-Zodiacal constellation of Sextans, just below Leo. At this phase the Moon is on the opposite side of the sky to the Sun, and rises in the east and sets in the west at sunrise.

At the start of February, Mercury is rising about an hour before the Sun, but it will be very hard to see this elusive planet in the dawn sky. By the end of the month it disappears behind the Sun.

Venus was behind the Sun last month, and is now starting to emerge into the evening sky. By the end of the month you will see this brilliant planet in the west just after sunset. We will get better views later in the year.

Mars was at its closest to the Earth last month, and is clearly visible in the east at dusk, and high in the southern sky by late evening. Mars shines with a steady orange light and is considerably brighter than the stars around it.

It will not be possible to see Jupiter this month as it is hidden behind the Sun.

Saturn rises mid evening in the east, and crosses the southern sky in the early hours. It is not at its best for viewing, and the famous rings can only be seen through a telescope.

Now on a more topical point after the recent prolonged cold spell. NASA's scientists have said that the past decade has been the warmest on record, and therefore global warming has continued unabated. Apparently the average global temperature has increased by 1.5°F (0.8°C) since 1880, when records began. An analysis of global surface temperatures carried out by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, found that last year was only a fraction cooler than 2005, the warmest on record. But generally in the Southern Hemisphere, 2009 was the warmest on record. They said that there is a substantial year-to-year variation of global temperature caused by the tropical El Nino-La Nina cycle, but taking it over a ten-year period the trend is upwards.

John Maunder

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A 1922 Wedding by Molly Poulter

I have inherited a large collection of family photographs and papers, including many wonderful wedding photographs going back to 1899, and have been preparing a slide talk entitled 'A Century of family weddings.'

Included among the papers are school reports, First World War certificates, and some fascinating letters, among which are the three letters, written in 1922 to an impending bride, which I transcribe below. They are fascinating and revealing, and show how much both the economy has changed over the years, and how much our attitude to marriage has changed. I transcribe them below:

My dear Marie

Have enclosed a cheque for £5.0.0. We thought you might buy something suitable for your home with it.

Sorry we shall not be able to be with you on Saturday next. We both wish you a long life & every happiness.

from yours sincerely

Jn Davies

Dear Miss Mortimer & Percy

A fork each for the loaves & little fishes which I hope you will never be without. I wish you every happiness.

Yours sincerely

H W Tull

Letter from 86 year old J. E.Cowell

My dear Young Friends

I have been informed that this is to be an eventful day in your life and I want to express my heartiest congratulations and earnest prayers for a future of much happiness and prosperity in Your future lives.

You are embarking on board "The Matrimonial Boat, and must sit down side by side – each take an oar, and then pull together down the River of Life to the Ocean of Eternity. Now as you sit in the Boat, you will not be able to see the dangerous places. Therefore you need the Pilot on board to take the helm and Steer your boat in safety to its destination.

You will have given a Special invitation to the dear Lord and Master to be present at your Marriage and He will be present although perhaps an Unseen Guest.

He went to the Wedding Feast at Cana as his first public Act – that he might show His personal interest in this linking up of two who may be one in all those Kindred Virtues which really bind the human - Love, the one to the other – and in His taking the Common Necessity of Life – Water and transforming it into

exhilarating wine – He gave us a beautiful emblem of His power to help the daily life.

May I suggest that the six Water Pots were filled to the brim and I would put a Label on each:

1 Love the greatest. 2 Faith & Trust in each other 3 Hope at all times. 4 Courage to face life's difficulties

These are for the Battle of Life – the Victory will bring 5 Peace passing all understanding and 6 Joy – the Joy of the Lord being your strength.

So may your lives be daily refreshed with these precious gifts.

During my long life of 86 I have proved the truth of what I now write – and trust your matrimonial life may prove its Value in realising that “The Best is yet to be.”

With kind regards

Yours truly

J E Cowell

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Music Notes, February 2010

Here are my selections for February-the most important of course is the Pantomime at Leeds, a true local musical:

- Thursday, 4th February – 8.00pm at Brabourne House, East Malling Research Station Music Club present performances of Beethoven's *The Archduke* and *Ghost* piano trios by Prisacilla & Roger Doe with Nancy Litten (piano). Tickets at the door. Info 01732 843129
- Friday 5th Feb at 7.30pm & Saturday 6th Feb at 2.30pm and 7.30pm in Leeds & Broomfield Memorial Hall, Leeds – ***Sinbad the Sailor***. A pantomime in true traditional style. Tickets from the hall any Sunday afternoon 3.00 to 5.30pm, or at the door if seats available.
- Saturday 6th February at 7.30pm in Mote Hall, Maidstone - Maidstone Symphony Orchestra performs Brahms: *Tragic Overture*, Vaughan Williams: *The Lark Ascending* and Bruckner's *Symphony No. 2*. Tickets 01622 736392
- Sunday 14th February – 3pm at Sutton Valence School. The Royal College of Music Consort Opera present a romantic repertoire for Valentine's Day. Tickets at the door. Details 01233 756672.



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Choir celebrates 20th Anniversary with a musical masterpiece

Sutton Valence Choral Society celebrates 20 years of music-making in 2010, with a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony (*The Choral*) on Saturday 13th February, 7.30pm, at Rochester Cathedral.

Musical Director Bryan Gipps conducts the 100-strong choir and the Old Barn Orchestra in this performance of Beethoven's epic work and three short but highly significant 20th century British works – *I Was Glad* (Parry), *Great Is the Lord* (Elgar) and *Toward the Unknown Region* (Vaughan Williams).

The choir will be joined by four top soloists:

Cheryl Enever (Soprano). Cheryl has worked with English Touring Opera, Surrey Opera, Bampton Classical Opera, the Classical Opera Company, the English National Opera Studio and the English Concert. Solo concert roles have taken her to St John's Smith Square, King's College Cambridge and the Bath International Festival.

Kate Symonds-Joy (Mezzo Soprano). Kate has taken principal roles with the London Handel Festival and Garsington Opera. Other solo work has taken her to the Cadogan Hall, the Barbican, St John's Smith Square, the Purcell Room and as far away as working with the Bydgoszcz Philharmonic in Warsaw.

Clifford Lister (Tenor) Clifford was until recently Senior Lay Clerk at Westminster Cathedral. He now tours with many groups, taking solo roles to such places as USA, Brazil, Hanover, Budapest and Bahrain. Clifford is also developing his career as a conductor.

Gavin Horsley (Bass) Gavin has sung with Glyndebourne Festival, the King's Consort, the BBC Singers and London Voices. He has recorded with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Touring Opera and the Royal Opera House.

Tickets, priced £15, £13, £11 or £7, are available from Dickens Wine Shop, 53 High Street, Rochester (Tel: 01634 880 887), from Sharon Music, 65 High Street, Maidstone, (Tel: 01622 761 649), or by ringing 01622 842 269. Further information may be found at www.suttonvalencechoral.co.uk

Sutton Valence Choral Society (regd. Charity no. 1119160) and The Old Barn Orchestral Society support Demelza House (regd. Charity no. 1039651)



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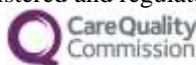
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Christian Message February 2010

My sister and I were each given a Bible as a Sunday School prize. We shared a bedroom and every night one of us would read a chapter aloud. Looking back I am amazed that we persisted to the end. I wonder now what we understood as we ploughed through difficult books like Leviticus and the Revelation to John? And remember, in those far off days it was the King James version we were using.

Whatever the ups of familiar, well-loved stories or the downs of difficult names and the incomprehensible (to little girls) teaching, the seeds of regular Bible reading were sown.

New, as well as more mature Christians are encouraged to read God's Word daily. There is an old chorus which goes:

*The best book to read is the Bible.
If you read it every day
it will help you on your way.
Oh! The best book to read is the Bible.*

I know that it is not easy to get started or to persist so I am always on the look-out for ways of helping Christians to establish this beneficial and rewarding habit.

Recently I discovered a book which may fit the bill for any who are struggling. It is by Nicky Gumbel of Alpha fame and is called, quite simply, '30 days.' The subtitle is, 'A thirty day practical introduction to reading the Bible.' The cost is a mere £2.50. I have been trying it out and would recommend it. Why don't YOU give it a try?

We weren't a religious family. I went to Sunday School to avoid washing up after lunch but that habit of Bible reading stuck. Many, many years later I begin my day by reading a Bible passage and praying. It is a time of learning, encouragement, guidance and challenge. I am an avid reader but experience has shown me that the Bible really is the best book!

Do contact me if you would like to know more about '30 days.'

Joan Drury
01622 853766

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now has issued the new timetable up to 18th April 2010. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc.

Grafty Green

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Sunday 18 th Apr		

Platts Heath

Sunday 21 st Feb	11:15 – 12:15 -:	Green Lane
Sunday 18 th Apr		

Ulcombe

Sunday 21 st Feb	12:30 – 13:15 -:	Lodge Road
Sunday 18 th Apr		

Lenham

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

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

7th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Praise
7pm Taize Service

14th February Sunday before Lent

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

21st February 1st Sunday of Lent

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

28th February 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Surgeon	Money	Bag	Plastic
2	Happy	Rare	Wave	Medium
3	Eclipse	System	Power	Solar
4	Whistle	Foil	Can	Tin
5	Nasty	Home	Game	Video
6	Deacon	Enemy	Angel	Arch
7	Waste	Sand	Work	Paper
8	Crumpling	Flat	Cast	Iron
9	Sound	Cream	Crash	Barrier
10	Pitched	Axe	Ship	Battle
11	Industrial	Stations	Reply	Action
12	Art	Shooting	Portrait	Gallery
13	Finder	Point	Over	View
14	Book	Girl	Dog	Guide
15	Ticket	Whole	Oat	Meal
16	Metal	Yard	Heap	Scrap

	Find the missing word?
1	Once in a Lifetime , Debut hit for Talking Heads in 1981
2	Robert Donat , Star of Hitchcock's The 39 Steps
3	Blodwyn Ffg , Late 1960's Blues Rock Band
4	Otis the Aardvark , Animal puppet from CBB's Broom Cupboard
5	Bat out of Hell , Big hit in 1993 for Meatloaf
6	Martin Fry , Lead singer of Sheffield group ABC
7	Rolf Harris , Australian entertainer
8	Amanda Holden , Actress and Britain's Got Talent judge
9	Viva Las Vegas , Elvis film set in a Nevada city
10	Kate Hudson , Actress daughter of Goldie Hawn

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