

Malherbe Monthly Number 188 March 2020



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

Front Cover: The winning team, **'The Greasepot Parsons Gang'** who took part in the quiz held in Grafty Green Village Hall on Saturday 22nd February 2020. Article on page 8.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Prayer requests are always welcome and can be left in the box in the church porch, which is open at all times. These will be gathered and prayers said as soon as possible in the church.

Morning Prayers take place in St. Nicolas at 9am on Mondays; in All Saints, Ulcombe at 9am on Tuesdays; in St. Mary's, Lenham, at 9.30am on Wednesdays and in St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham at 9.30am on Fridays.

Bible Study continues at Wierton Villa, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green on Thursdays, 10.30am - 12noon. The Lent Course is beginning and is based on the book 'Saying Yes To Life' by Ruth Valerio and is the Archbishop of Canterbury's choice for Lent this year. The author 'relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.' These topics are of concern to all of us in these days of human-led damage to God's creation. Do join the discussions in a Lent Group in the benefice if you can. Contact Joan Drury on 10622 853766 for more information.

The Village Coffee Morning will be in the Village Hall from 10.30am-12noon on Wednesday 11th March. A special celebration is called for this month, so do join in, if you can, for the usual, and not-so-usual treats!

Mothering Sunday Service is at 11am on 22nd March when we join together in our home church and celebrate mothers and all who have cared for us, by presenting them with posies, a small recognition of the gifts that have been selflessly given to us.

Lent Lunches begin on Tuesday 3rd March, 12-2.00pm at Bowley Oast West, ME17 2BG, the home of Kenneth and Sally Alexander, phone 01622 859549 if you need directions.

The following are dates for the rest of Lent;

Tuesday 10th March 12-2.00pm The Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe, the home of Vanessa and Dominic Goodwin.

Tuesday 17th March 12-2.00pm North Barn, Boughton Malherbe, the home of Judy and David Stevens.

Tuesday 24th March 12-2.00pm at the home of Sylvia Close in Headcorn.

Tuesday 31st March 12-2.00pm in the Village Hall, Grafty Green.

Lunch consists of a variety of soups and breads and a cup of tea/coffee if you are lucky! All donations will go to Christian Aid to help their valuable work for those in need worldwide.

Eco-spot. This week Anne, Alice and I went to the Wool Craft Fair in Farnham. We were blown away by the wonderful, mostly, locally produced wools on show. We enjoyed talking to those who, not only knitted and crafted with these pure wool products (not a man-made fibre in sight!), but also were the shearers and farmers, providing us all with amazing, high quality, sustainable yarns and fabrics, many of which were home-dyed using natural plant ingredients. Couldn't resist a few purchases and came away with admiration for the hard work and perseverance of so many talented people, enabling us to support their love and passion for our environment and well-being, by using these home-grown 'treasures'.

Also admiring the kilometres of new hedges being planted locally, keep your eyes open for these! The wildlife is going to love them.



at Grafty Green Village Hall

Sat 28" March





Doors open 7.00 Meal served from 7.30

live music from 9.00

Period dress optional!

Tickets: £15 from Grafty Green P.O. Stores



Platts Heath Film Club

This friendly village group of film goers has now be running for at least nine year. We meet on the third Friday of each month between October and May at St.Edmunds Community Centre, School Lane, Platts Heath. Doors open at 7.45 p.m. for a prompt start at 8 p.m. Over the last few months people have attended our film presentations from the Grafty Green area. Film Club members thought it might be good idea to bring to the attention of magazine readers of this club and to welcome you to our future presentations.

The remaining films of the current season are: **Tolkien (20th March); Rocket Man (17th April) & The Greatest Showman (15th May)** We recommend a donation towards the upkeep of our community centre of £3 per person. If you would like to receive reminders of each film night about a week before each presentation you are welcome to let me have your email contact details. The Club's address is <u>1468ceb@gmail.com</u>

News from Helen Whately MP

Introduction

It's been a busy start to the year in Parliament. After years of wrangling and uncertainty we have finally left the EU. I know there are still strong views on this, but most people I spoke to during the election wanted to move on, and that's what we've managed to do.

The focus is now on building a new relationship with Europe and the rest of the world. There are huge opportunities for our country in the decade ahead, not just in our new role in the world, but also with our growing economy and a commitment to levelling up investment and opportunities across communities.

In the last few weeks in Parliament we've put NHS funding increases into law, introduced Bills on the environment and agriculture to make the most of having control in these areas once again, and set out plans for a \pounds 5 billion fund for better bus and cycle links to help every region outside London.

I'm continuing to work hard to get Kent its share of new investment – whether that's in broadband, roads, policing, or schools.

I know some people have been through the horrible experience this month of seeing flood water enter their homes. It's a reminder of the pressures we face in Kent - and the need to make sure new developments work with our plans for tackling climate change.

Making healthcare better for everyone

I'm delighted to have been appointed Minister of State in the Department for Health and Social Care, as part of last week's reshuffle.

My new responsibilities include social care, the NHS workforce, as well as learning disabilities and autism.

Solving the crisis in social care, and achieving our commitment of 50,000 more nurses, are two of the most important things for making sure people get the care they need.

I'm looking forward to working with fantastic NHS and social care staff across the country - including here in Faversham and Mid Kent, to make healthcare better for everyone.

96% say no to Lenham Heath development

The results are in from my survey and it's clear there is overwhelming opposition to plans for a "garden village" at Lenham Heath.

96 per cent of responders said that Lenham Heath was the wrong place to build 5,000 new homes. Only 2 per cent supported the proposed development, with a similar number being undecided.

People are rightly worried about the damage it would do to the countryside and the thought of even more cars on the roads.

Maidstone Council needs to think again before pushing ahead with these unpopular plans. The views of local people must not be ignored.

A better future for nature in Kent

We all want to see nature thrive, but our wildlife and habitats have been under pressure in recent years.

From turtledoves in the orchards around Selling, lapwings at the Graveney Marshes, to songbirds in the Weald – Kent is home to an astonishing range of wildlife and habitats.

Two exciting new Bills have been introduced to Parliament recently, setting out our future policies for the environment and agriculture outside the EU.

The Environment Bill and Agriculture Bill will put nature at the heart of the Government's agenda, not just in farming but across all areas of policy. I recently met the Kent Nature Partnership to discuss how these new policies can benefit Faversham and Mid Kent.

An update on policing in Headcorn More regular patrols by police officers in Headcorn are already making a difference.

I was back in the village recently for a meeting with the police and local councillors to see if action to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour is having an impact.

I'm encouraged to hear that things seem to have improved since our last meeting in November. Local parish councils say progress is being made and people feel safer, but if your experience is difference please let me know.

We're getting an extra 597 police officers in Kent over the next two years and Maidstone is getting five dedicated police officers. This means officers have more time to patrol villages and rural areas, including places like Headcorn.

Maidstone Apprenticeship Fair inspires next generation

A record number of students and employers took part in the 2020 Maidstone Apprenticeship Fair on Friday 7 February.

It's fantastic to see more and more young people considering an apprenticeship as a way of getting on in life.

Close to a thousand school students from across Kent and nearly 60 apprenticeship employers took part in the event at Maidstone Leisure Centre. This included students from three schools in Faversham and Mid Kent, along with local employers – including Shepherd Neame.

I was pleased to host the event once again, along with other Kent MPs. This was the third year running the event has taken place and coincided with National Apprenticeship Week.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Lorry Park/Pleasant Farm

The Parish Council has learned that much of the land identified for the potential Lorry Park project in our parish has now been purchased by Forestry England for woodland. The wood will be known as Pleasant Farm. In addition, Highways England have abandoned the search for an off-road lorry park/customs solution and will be using a removable barrier where needed instead.

Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

www.helenwhately.org.uk

Tel: 020 7219 6472; Email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Thank you!

Back to school quiz night for the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association.

Wow! Thank you all for creating an amazing evening in support of the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) Association. I have been overwhelmed by everyone who came, donated, and supported, in one way or another to help me reach my \pounds 1,800 fundraising target.

I hope you all enjoyed the evening as much as I did and I realise I forgot to go through the answers to a few rounds:

What's that snack?

1 - 5 Smoky Bacon. Plain. Roast Chicken. Prawn Cocktail. Beef and onion.

Congratulations to 'The Greasepot Parsons Gang' who claimed the victory with an amazing 85 points!

Finally you managed to raise an incredible $\pm 1000 -$ making me a very proud teacher – thank you all so much!

Sarah Hollingsbee

59 BUS SERVICE

The new service duly started on 17th February, and for those households on or near the route a timetable is enclosed with this issue of Malherbe Monthly. There are also a few copies available in Grafty Green Post Office.

Monday to Friday times are slightly different from Saturday, and KCC has confirmed that 'Senior Citizen' passes will be accepted on the 0925 departure from Grafty Green on Mondays to Fridays. For the town centre, you will need to change at Sutton Woods, the stop before Sutton Road, Morrisons, and catch a service 12 or 82. There are at least six buses an hour on Mondays to Fridays and at least five an hour on Saturdays.

For journeys from the town centre, take a service 82 from the Royal Star Arcade stop M2 in the High Street or stop J2 in the Chequers Bus Station (departs 4 minutes later than Royal Star Arcade) and change at Sutton Road Morrisons to join the 59 service. The timetable only shows the arrival time of the connecting 82 at Morrisons so I have set out the town centre departure times below:-

Monday – Friday

				Ν	ot Schoolday	S
82 Royal Star Arcade	Dep	0944	1124	1304	1544/1554	1720
Sutton Rd Morrisons	Arr	1001	1141	1321	1601/1611	1740
59 Sutton Rd Morrisons	Dep	1014	1153	1332	1617	1750

Saturday

82 Royal Star Arcade	Dep 0744	0946/0958	1134/1146	1334	1510/1522	1749
Sutton Rd Morrisons	Arr 0801	1003/1015	1151/1203	1351	1527/1539	1806
59 Sutton Rd Morrisons	Dep 0810	1020	1215	1400	1545	1820

Service 12 provides a half-hourly daytime service on Monday to Friday and hourly on Saturdays between Maidstone and Tenterden via Headcorn, but KCC are currently not prepared to promote an interchange between the 59 and 12 at Warmlake Crossroads for 'safety' reasons. I cannot therefore promote it either but will continue to try and resolve the issue!

The new 59 service is one of five pilot schemes introduced by KCC who hope that the new routes will result in a more sustainable way of providing rural transport. The new service is intended to operate for a year and will be subject to regular reviews in that time. If you have any comments or suggestions about the service, please contact me, contact details on the Parish Council page of Malherbe Monthly. As ever, it remains **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

John Collins Boughton Malherbe PC's representative on the East of Maidstone Bus Transport Group

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One of the new type of buses on the revised 59 route !!



Volunteers Required for Litter Pick-up, 21st March

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to help with a litter pick-up on the 21st March. Anyone willing to help should meet at 10.00am on the village green. Please bring gloves - black sacs will be provided

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk facebook@graftygreenvillage

The Big Event of the Month at the Village Hall is another of our famed **Themed Meals**!

Get your tickets now from Rob at the village shop. The date is **Saturday 28th March** and this year's theme is **`The '60s & '70s**".



For £15 you can enjoy a **3-course meal** (expect something like melon boat with a cherry, coq au vin*, and Black Forest gateau) accompanied by fab **60s & 70s music**, and a pay bar. Please note: doors open at 7.00 and food to be served from 7.30 - a little earlier than usual.

*Veggie option available on request

After the meal **a live band** will play for dancing. Period dress encouraged, but not compulsory.

Now, I mentioned last month that the theme we're considering for our 2021 Village Calendar is "Pets and their Owners". If you have a cute, handsome or unusual pet (anything from a horse to a stick insect) we'd like our professional photographer to snap you and it. You would get a complimentary copy of the photo. So do get in touch, as we're starting early this year to get the very best images. My email address is pilborough@grafty.plus.com

Finally, if you've ever ventured behind the Village Hall you'll know it's been a bit of a mess!

Despite our best efforts we've never found a good use for this rather awkward space, which regularly became overgrown and needed frequent clearing. But things have changed and we've now found the money to have the area levelled, a weed-proof membrane laid and a gravel surface spread over a proper sub-base. (All part of our policy of continuous improvement, and all thanks to your support - do, please, keep it up!)

Richard Pilborough, Hall Committee Chairman.

The Honywood & Douglas Charity Lenham

(Registered Charity No. 211272)

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

A One Bedroom Bungalow Situated In Lenham

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

Application forms are available by writing to Jan Rimmer (Clerk) at the address below. Completed forms should be returned no later than 30th April 2020.

Clerk Address:	Mrs J Rimmer
	16 The Cloisters
	Ham Lane
	Lenham
	Kent
	ME17 2PZ

Grafty Gourmet

Another very simple dish to make, taking only about 20 minutes from preparation to dish. The quantities below are enough to make one pancake, so simply multiply each for the number of pancakes you want.

Oriental Prawn & Spring Onion Pancakes with Dipping Sauce

For the pancakes

75g of plain flour a pinch of chilli powder a pinch of salt 100ml of water, 1 egg 1 garlic clove, crushed 1 tablespoon of oil 4 spring onions trimmed and shredded lengthways 100g of small cooked pawns

For the dipping sauce

2 tablespoon of rice vinegar

- 1 tablespoon of soy sauce
- 1 red chilli, finely chopped
 - a pinch of sugar
- 1. Mix all the dipping sauce ingredients together and set aside.

2. In a bowl, mix the flour, chilli powder and a pinch of salt.

3. In a separate bowl, beat together 100ml water, the egg and garlic. Make a well in the centre of the flour mixture and pour in the water mixture, beating all the time to make a smooth batter.

3. Heat the oil in a medium non-stick frying pan and cook the spring onions for 1 min until beginning to soften. Scatter over the prawns, then pour on the batter to cover. Cook on a medium heat for 3-4 mins or until the bottom is fully set and turning golden, and the top is beginning to set. Flip over and cook the other side for 3-4 mins more until cooked through. Serve with the dipping sauce.

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Contact Details

Ron Galton, Chairman - Tel: 01622 850369 ron@boughtonmalherbepc.org (Finance, Planning, KALC)

Robert Turner - Tel: 01622 850325 <u>robert@boughtonmalherbepc.org</u> (Finance, Planning, KALC)

Vacant Position

Vacant Position

John Collins - Tel: 01622 850213 john@boughtonmalherbepc.org (Finance, Planning)

Chris Hume, Parish Clerk - Tel: 07972 630555` boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

Yoga Classes at Grafty Green Village

Yoga Classes Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evening 18th March at 7.00 pm

Thursday morning 19th March at 9.30 pm

I am taking a break to visit Himalayan India, therefore no classes until March 18th and 19th.

7 week term - early bird booking £42 or £8 a session

More details from Sue Burch – 850381, graftyyoga@gmail.com

Sue Burch – British Wheel of Yoga Teacher

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

New Members Always Welcome -Join Us

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall, Gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available. Further information - Joan Marriott 01622 858100 or Robert Turner 01622 850325

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

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



Traditional Sunday Lunches

Fresh Fish Fridays Lunches and Suppers

> **Booking Advisable** 01622 850259

Children's Room

Beer Garden

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	House	School	Servant	Public
2	Ladder	Lost	Private	
3	Distance	Man	Weight	
4	Bath	Beer	Door	
5	Away	Double	Off	
6	Full	Speech	Stretch	
7	Baby	Bed	Down	
8	Last	Popular	Stop	
9	Beaten	Board	Stormy	
10	Lid	Wash	Witness	
11	Broken	Strings	Warming	
12	Bird	Coffee	Salt	
13	Life	Night	Turn	
14	Potato	Red	Spot	
15	Beck	Dining	Musical	
16	Bay	Frame	Seat	

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

	Find the missing word?
1	The Birds, Comedy with Nerys Hughes
2	Gerry, Stealers Wheel singer who had a solo hit with Night Owl
3	has fallen, 2016 sequel in which Gerard Butler plays a secret service spy
4	Melanie, known as Sporty Spice
5	Burke, Famous for playing Waynetta slob
6	Don, Who took over from Alf Ramsey as England Football Manager
7	Race, Fictional character of Melchester Rovers
8	Oliver, A Dickens novel
9	Tarantino, Pulp Fiction director
10	Dolly, Veteran country singer

Grafty Green Gardening Club

The gardening club generally meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the village hall for talks. Membership is \pm 5.00 for the year which entitles members to a reduced fee when attending meetings; take advantage of subsidies coach outings (excluding weekend away) and club members will be entitled to discounts at Rumwood Nursery and the Potted Garden. Non members are most welcome at any meeting for a small fee of \pm 2.00.

Date	Speaker/Event	Торіс		
7 th January	AGM and Kevin Tooher	Winter Interest		
4 th February	Dr. Tim Ingram	or. Tim Ingram Snowdrops		
3 rd March	Jacqueline Anthony	National Garden Scheme – how it works		
7 th April	Spring Show, Lucy Adams from Doddington	Dry Gardens		
Sat 2 nd May	Plant Sale, on the green if fine and	in Hall if wet		
Sat 9 th May	Coach outing to Leonardslee	Coach outing to Leonardslee		
Sat 13 th June	Garden Safari			
7 th July	Outing (own transport) to Sandgate Castle Community garden			
4 th August	Visit to Doddington House Garden			
1 st September	Autumn Show & Floral Art Competition for Margaret Hoad Prize			
11 th – 13 th Sept.	Weekend away in Herefordshire, Co	otswolds Wildlife Park & Gardens,		
	Moores Meadow Gardens, Stockton Bury Gardens, Oxford Botanical Gardens, staying at The Penyard Hotel, Ross on Wye,			
6 th October	Ian Gray, Mammal Society	Hedgehogs		
3 rd November	Simon Ginnaw	A Year in Mote Park		
1 st December	Social and Quiz			

Programme 2020

If you have ever wandered how gardens are selected for entry into the Yellow Book of the National Garden Scheme then come along on Tuesday 3rd of March to hear Jacqueline Anthony's presentation on the National Garden Scheme - how it works.

There will be sign up lists for our May outing to Leonards Lee and it is not too early to put your name to the list for our planned weekend away in Herefordshire in September.

The Garden in March - We can all be justified in looking forward to Spring this year as we emerge from a wet and stormy winter. The crocuses and early spring bulbs are bravely showing their colour along with other early blooms to celebrate the coming season. Its time to start mowing when dry enough and bare patches on lawns can be reseeded now. Prune bush and shrub roses and other shrubs with colourful stems. Time to sow vegetables out of doors and plant early potatoes too. Continue to mulch beds and borders.

Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club



Lenham Film Club at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Friday March 13th (evening) Performance begins 7.30 pm, doors open 7 pm *and* Wednesday March 25th (matinee) Performance begins 2.30 pm, doors open 2 pm

Welcome to Downton Abbey! Set in 1927, a year and a half after the events of the last TV series, the film stars most of the original cast and all of the original glitz and glamour. Downton is a-flurry with the excitement of a visit from King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (the inimitable Geraldine James). Its staff are battling against the royal entourage, and the Crawley's face unforeseen problems, not least a would-be assassin.

For more information please check out our website (<u>www.lenhamfilmclub.org</u>) or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, then please contact us at <u>lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com</u>. Keep an eye open for our posters, follow us on Facebook (@LenhamFilmClub), perhaps consider becoming a member or just come along on the night!

Running time: 2hr 3 mins. There's no need to book, just come along. Entrance fee (cash at the door) £5 for non-members; members £4. Refreshments available at reasonable cost. Annual membership £6 (over 16's only); pick up a form at our ticket desk.

Update On Traffic Calming

Following a second period of consultation the Parish Council met with KCC Highways on the 30th January to review the proposals submitted and questions raised. In a positive meeting we were able to establish the following key points:

- The two 30mph signs at the southern end of the village where the national speed limit starts can be aligned and incorporated into a new "village gate" feature at this location
- KCC will consider re-instating the central white line through the whole of the 30mph zone
- It would be possible to re-locate the granite "build outs" originally planned for the area by the Post Office to just north of the Kings Head
- It would also be possible to add further granite "build outs" to the straight road section at the southern end of the village between the start national speed limit and Courts
- Speed cushions, and features which raise kerb projections into the carriageway, are not an option as any physical measures requiring upward or lateral movement by cars are not permitted where street lights are not present.

The Parish Council will consider a revised scheme based on these points at their meeting on 9th March and will then arrange for a large-scale plan to be available for the public to view as part of further consultation. **This will include a public meeting to be held at 7.00pm on the 23rd March in the Village Hall.** The Parish Council will then meet formally, at the conclusion of the public meeting, to take a decision on the revised scheme.

Your Parish Council Needs You!

Parish Councillors serve a four year term. A new Parish Council will be elected on May 7th this year. Volunteers are invited to consider serving their community on this important body.

What Does the Parish Council Do?

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of local government and have an extensive range of potential powers. Their aim is to use their powers to benefit their local community. Our Council maintains the village green and supports local amenities such as the Village Hall. The Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications and its comments are generally influential regarding planning decisions. Other main functions include ensuring that KCC Highways addresses issues regarding roads, ditches and gullies.

What do Parish Councillors Do?

Parish Councillors main role is to attend council meetings and take decisions on behalf of the community. They also ensure that the council's budget is spent appropriately. Each

Councillor has a portfolio and represents the parish community at meetings with bodies such as Maidstone Council, the Police and KCC.

How much time will it take?

As little or as much as you want. There is plenty to do, but the minimum requirement is to prepare for, and attend, Parish Council meetings and these are normally 6 a year plus approximately a dozen committee meeting. Meetings take place in the evenings in the Village Hall

What do I do if I am interested?

Parish Nomination papers and candidates' guidance are available on the Electoral Commission website or from the Clerk. You will need to complete a nomination form and submit it to Maidstone Borough Council who manage the election process. The nomination period runs from Monday 30 March through to Wednesday 8 April at 4pm.

Elections may not be contested if there are five or less nominees for the five positions on the council.

If you are interested in standing, have any questions, or would like more information, contact the Clerk, at boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com or on 07972630555 to find out exactly what is involved.

New History of All Saints Church Ulcombe

On Thursday the **26th of March** at 7.00 pm in Ulcombe Church, the new *History of Ulcombe church* will be presented by The Friends of All Saints, Ulcombe, at an Open Evening with wine and nibbles.

There have been several histories of the church over the years but they are now out of print and outdated. The last one was written by Geoffrey Moorcoft with help from Molly Poulter in the 1980s. Only a few archival copies remain.

Now, Molly Poulter has rewritten the History with much new information. The first part describes the History of Ulcombe Church from its first foundation in the eighth century. All Saints, Ulcombe, is one of the very few Collegiate churches in Kent which she describes in some detail. The second half of the book is presented as a guided tour of the church with a numbered plan, starting from the church entrance.

It is beautifully illustrated and designed, with photographs taken by Chris Rigby and design by Molly's daughter, Alex Hawes.

The book has been financed by the Friends of All Saints, Ulcombe, who have decided to give a copy of the history to each household in Ulcombe (following the precedent set when *Ulcombe's Story* was produced for the Millennium in 2004).

Do come and join us and collect your complimentary copy.

SOHL ("Save Our Heath Lands")

Residents challenge the Council on the Lenham Heath Garden Community proposal

It was standing room only as over 300 local residents turned out in force at the Residents' meeting on 24 January to hear about the Lenham Heath Garden Community proposal from representatives of Maidstone Borough Council.

Helen Whately MP also attended the meeting and stood up for local residents, criticising the lack of consultation by the Council with local people and key stakeholders.

The message the Council received from local residents was loud and clear – we do not want this garden community on our doorstep.

Over 200 questions were received by SOHL from local residents following the meeting which have now been passed onto the Council for a response.

The Council confirmed at the meeting that a Borough wide analysis of possible locations for Garden Communities was carried out which considered the various opportunities and constraints of each. SOHL has asked for information about the list of criteria used, which areas were looked at and why Lenham Heath was favoured as the preferred location on a number of occasions and so far there has been no response.

We will continue to challenge the Council and ensure there is transparency by redoubling our efforts to ensure that all documentation relating to this scheme is in the public domain, including the Barton Wilmore report, through the submission of Freedom of Information requests.

The Council has earmarked £3.2m in council tax money to do further detailed work on the proposal. We would question that this is a large sum of taxpayers' money to be spent on preliminary work for such an ambitious and unrealistic scheme.

SOHL is urging residents to get behind and sign a petition requesting Maidstone Borough Council to challenge the Government's housing targets and rethink garden communities. You can sign the petition at

https://www.saveourheathlands.co.uk/sign-this-petition/

Kind regards SOHL Committee

March Music Notes

An amazing selection of excellent local concerts in March. The visit of The Sixteen to Rochester Cathedral is perhaps the star, but even as I write at the beginning of February all the best seats are already booked!. So choose from:

- Saturday 7th March. 3.00 pm at St Martin's Church, 44 Northumberland Rd, Maidstone, ME15 7LP. Kent Chamber Choir have a concert of "songs to enrich the soul" plus guitar solos. Tickets 07376 425780 or at the door.
- Sunday 8th March, 3.00pm at St. Nicholas Church Otham, ME15 8SB, there will be an organ recital by Trevor Brearley. Programme includes works by J S Bach, Elgar, Messaen and Widor. Free admission, retiring collection in aid of church funds.
- Thursday 19th March, 7.30pm at Rochester Cathedral, Harry Christopher's "The Sixteen" have a date as part of their 2020 Choral Pilgrimage. Tickets <u>https://thesixteen.com/events/the-choral-pilgrimage-2020-rochester</u>
- Friday 20th March at 7.30pm at Groves Hall, Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Music Society give an evening concert by a top professional clarinet/cello/piano trio (led by the principle clarinettist of the ROH) in a programme which include works by Beethoven, Beach and Shostakovich. Tickets at the door. Info (only) 01732 843129
- Saturday 21st March at Mote Hall, Maidstone, ME15 7RN, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's concert features Lauren Xhang – BBC Young Musician 20018 – playing Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.3. Programme also includes works by Dukas and Stravinsky. Tickets 0788817 429143 or at the door.
- Saturday28th March. 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Mill St., Maidstone, Bob Chilcott's St. John Passion performed by Maidstone Choral Union makes a suitable Passiontide concert Tickets 07752 923084 or at the door or <u>www.maidstonechoralunion.co.uk</u>. Advance sales get £2 reduction!
- Sadly clashing, also on 28th March at 7.30pm, at The Friars, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BX, Bearsted Choral society offer Karl Jenkins's Stabat Mater. Tickets 0333 6663366.

Another item from the Musicians' dictionary;

Snob, musical – A person who pretends to know more about music than we pretend to.

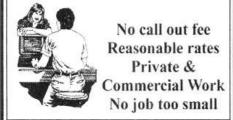


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- or click

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

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

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http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/report

TO REPORT non-domestic Water Leaks: - Call 0333 000 0002

or click: http://www.midkentwater.co.uk

TO REPORT: Overgrown Footpaths click on:

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Christian Message by Pauline Fisher

I packed my bag and in it I put.....

With milestone birthdays for us both and me retiring from brass teaching after 20+ years at Sutton Valence schools, my husband and I knew 2019 was set to be a time of change and a year of travel. In February Neill had a wonderful trip to New Zealand spending time with his daughter and, in April, I went on a much talked of, eagerly anticipated Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Then, fulfilling a life-time ambition, I arranged to do some voluntary teaching in The Gambia at Yalding School in Farato, a project founded and funded by donations raised by Karen Mackenzie, a former colleague at Kent Music School.

So, after Last Post renditions, leaving a dull, grey November behind me, I accompanied Karen, joining her husband Tony, on one of their regular stays on site to put my music experience and crafting experience to good use.

After the pilgrimage I was telling people that I had 'left my heart in the Holy Land and now I add that I left my head in The Gambia. Experiences can be lifethreatening or life-enhancing but I can only say that these two visits were mindchanging: both have significantly affected how I think, evaluate and appraise matters not only of religious practices but ethics, ecology, politics, customs, human rights, domestic and economic standards and moral responsibility...and more!

I'd been shocked by the Wall of Partition in Bethlehem and the contrast between the Israeli and Palestinian areas we visited and, similarly nothing could have prepared me for the extreme poverty, vast amounts of debris and general lack of amenities in and round Farato. Compounds where many live are built mainly of corrugated, rusted panels and, in cramped conditions, have little more than very basic sanitary and culinary facilities. In some communities FGM is still practised and 'period poverty' is experienced by young girls.

Like me, you may be familiar with the memory game which begins, 'I packed my bag and in it I put...' but in this case (no pun intended) I was asked to pack an actual alphabet in the form of boxed word games as aids to teaching reading skills phonetically; also pens, pencils, paintbrushes and...footballs – thankfully deflated ones! Once re-inflated these were allocated one per class and presented to beaming pupils; prior to my visit, there had been only one football for the whole school.

I quickly found myself immersed in the sounds, sights and routines of animated children – 40 per class and a team of staff, closely observed and much stimulated by Karen's hands-on educational expertise – all working in extreme heat (38* mostly) with very limited resources. The phonics boxes were put to immediate use and I spent part of each morning with Nursery 4 children helping them with puzzles and pronunciation.

In addition to this, I was able to devise and complete 3 craft projects with different age-groups: they created colourful fan-winged birds, rocking chickens and butterflies with symmetrical paint patterned wings which were instantly displayed in the otherwise, rather bare classrooms.

I managed to practise my trumpet most days and, after writing out the words and notation for The Gambian National Anthem visited each classroom to have a singing session prior to my final Friday whole school assembly when they all sang with gusto and trumpet accompaniment! **"Let justice guide our nation towards the common good and join our diverse peoples to prove man's brotherhood."**

It's said that life is a journey not a destination and that God meets you where you are. I can say that, despite wrong turns and bumpy roads at times, my travels have brought me to Ulcombe, and ten years ago gave me the opportunity to work as a Church Music Leader in the Len Valley Benefice where I have been privileged to meet many inspirational clergy people and forged valuable friendships. Across the 4 churches, when hearing of my planned trip, you gave generously – not just portable educational items but over \pounds 600 in donations to School Gambia. Karen wishes to invest this in publishing her new Gambian First Readers. I want to say a huge thank you for that and, also, for your prayer support and enthusiastic interest in what was for me a truly extraordinary experience.

The Len Valley churches Bible verse for the year

'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.' (Isaiah 54:2)

Saying Yes to Life

Ruth Valerio is an environmentalist, theologian and social activist. She is Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral. Her book, 'Saying Yes to Life' has been chosen by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Church to study during Lent. The group which meets in Weirton Villa will begin discussing it on Thursday 5th March at 10.30am and will continue until Thursday 9th April. Please ring on 01622 853766 if you would like to find out more.

Joan Drury



Just in case you have not heard about Messy Church, it is a series of free family events that run throughout the year, organised by the local churches of Harrietsham, Lenham, Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe. It's called 'Messy' because it's fun and informal and not like a church service at all...please come and try it out! We do crafty stuff, making things,

stories and drama, games, music, films, and free food! We have also collected a huge stash of LEGO to build with:



This year's programme:

10/04/20 Messy Easter, Lenham, 10.30am-12pm 11/07/20 Messy BBQ & Movie, Ulcombe, 5-7pm 19/09/20 Messy Movie, Lenham, 5-7pm 31/10/20 Messy Church, Harrietsham 5-7pm 28/11/20 Messy Movie, Lenham, 5-7pm 12/12/20 Messy Christingle, Lenham, 3- 5pm

> You can find out more on our website : <u>https://www.lvb.org.uk/whatson.htm</u> or by calling the Church Office on 01622 850604

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

Friday, March 6th 2020.

St. Mary's, Lenham 10.30am

Rise, take your mat and walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country for many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to rise 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation of the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally at St Mary's, Lenham at 10.30am on Friday, March 6th 2020, people will join together to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world ---- through Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa some 36 hours later.

Please make a date in your diaries now and come along and join us on March 6th. Refreshments follow the service. All are welcome.

Focus on Faith

The next Bible Day for Women will be in Ryarsh village hall on Wednesday 18th March from 9.15am to 2.15pm. Jean Kerr's talk is entitled 'I can see clearly.' Food is provided and the cost is £10 payable on the day. Ring 07927 325 977 to book.

The Len Valley Benefice Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe Sunday/Main Services – March 2020

Sunday 1st March

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast service (Alpha course)
9.30 am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30 am Harrietsham: Familyfriendly Morning Worship
11.00 am Ulcombe: Informal Morning Worship
11.00 am Lenham: Holy
Communion
5.30pm Harrietsham: Taizé
Service

Wednesday 4th March

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 8th March

8.00 am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30 am Lenham: Breakfast Service (Alpha course)

9.30 am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

11.00 am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

11.00 am Lenham: Morning Worship

3.30 pm Boughton Malherbe: Evensong

Sunday 15th March

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Service (Alpha course)
9.30am Harrietsham: Morning
Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion
11.00am Ulcombe: Morning
Worship
11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

Wednesday 18th March 11.00am Chippendayle Lodge: Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd March

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion 9.30am Lenham: Big Breakfast Service (Alpha course) 11.00am Boughton Malherbe: An Informal Service 11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

Sunday 29th March

10.00am Ulcombe: Joint Len Valley Celebration Service (Church Missionary Soc Visit

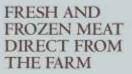


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NHS Medical Help Maidstone & Pem William Harvey H Headcorn Surger Lenham Surgery	ibury Hospitals ospital y <i>(out of hours listen to -</i>	111 0845 155 1000 01233 633331 01622 890294 01622 858341
Electricity (UK Po	wer Networks) Emergencies and Power Cuts	0800 783 8866 or 01243 508866
Water Southern Water I Calor Gas KCC	<i>Emergencies</i> Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding <i>Emergencies</i> <i>Emergencies</i> <i>Highways</i>	0333 000 0002 0330 303 0368 08457 444999 03000 41 41 41 03000 41 81 81
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Local warden – S District Support -	Stuart Ellesmere - Dawn Riach- Brown	07969 583923 07773 397125
	Enquiries afety Visits ommunity Volunteer – Chris Wheal	01622 692121 0800 923 7000 01622 858100
	ergencies Iour Pet Emergency Treatment Service	0300 1234 999 01622 734555

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Noise, neighbours, Smoke, Travellers. Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

Find the missim sht buil	
The Liver Birds, Comedy with Nerys Hughes	I
Gerry Rafferty. Stealers Wheel singer who had a solo hit with Night Owl	7
London has fallen, 2016 sequel in which Gerard Butler plays a secret service spy	ε
Melanie Chisholm, known as Sporty Spice	t
Kathy Burke, Famous for playing Waynetta slob	Ş
Don Revie, Who took over from Alf Ramsey as England Football Manager	9
Roy Race, Fictional character of Melchester Rovers	L
Oliver Twist, A Dickens novel	8
Quentin Tarantino, Pulp Fiction director	6
Dolly Parton, Veteran country singer	0

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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

