

Malherbe Monthly

Number 79
February 2011



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		
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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 **March** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th February**

Front cover: A packed Village Hall on Saturday 15th January attending the postponed Christmas Quiz

News from St. Nicholas Church

Christmas Quiz

As you know the Christmas Quiz was cancelled in December so it was re-arranged to take place on Saturday 15th January. The Hall was packed with enthusiastic quiz teams all ready and eager to get started and enjoy a great evening. Our thanks are due to Pat and Keith Anderson, Jan and Steve Lagon, Sharon and Paul, Jacqui and Gary and all their helpers. Also many thanks to Tom Le Dell for acting as quiz master.

The proceeds from this evening are to go part way towards meeting the cost of laying a water supply to St. Nicholas and the evening raised £1550 - an enormous sum. We are grateful to you all for working so hard to raise such a sum and to all those who gave us such wonderful support. We are now definitely well on our way to financing this project. With the water supply installed we can do so much more - a toilet and kitchen should soon be a reality rather than a dream and the cream teas and other events will be made so much easier to organise.

Thank you all so very, very, much we are so grateful to each and every one of you who supported and organised this quiz. From: Everyone on the PCC.

PCC Meeting

St Nicholas PCC will be meeting on 2nd February at Ivy House Farm at 7.30pm. This will be the last meeting before the Annual Parish Church Meeting. Everyone is welcome to the Annual Meeting, which will be held in the Village hall at 7.30pm on 23rd March 7.30pm. We start with the Vestry Meeting and then go on to the Annual Meeting. Do come along and hear how our year has gone.

Coffee Morning

We will be in the Village Hall for our Coffee Morning on the 9th February between 10.30am and 12.00noon. Come and join us for a chat and a piece of cake and a coffee or tea. See you there.

Bible Study

Bible Study is held each Thursday at 10.30am at Weirton Villa, Grafty Green. It lasts about one and a half hours and we are studying the Book of Kings at the moment. Do come and join us, you will be very welcome.

Joan Davidson

Vacancy for Almshouse at Douglas Court.

The Trustees hereby give notice that the following accommodation is available at the almshouses at Douglas Court:-

A one bedroom bungalow with sitting room, kitchen and bathroom suitable for a single person or married couple.

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.

Applications should be made in writing to the Secretary, as below, to reach her no later than 28th February, 2011:-

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



<p>LENHAM NURSERY SCHOOL at Lenham Primary School, Ham Lane, Lenham.</p>
<p>The Nursery School is K.C. Registered and a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance; holds an excellent Ofsted Report and has validation to accept Early Years Funding.</p> <p><i>We're here to serve <u>your</u> needs. Why not call in to discuss your requirements?</i></p> <p>It's never too early to add your child's name to our Waiting List.</p> <p>Contact Jo Glazebrook 07967 128056</p> <p><small>Registered Charity No. 1041661</small></p>

Congratulations are in order to local farmer Hughie Hammerton who surprised his friends when he announced that he had married Pat on Monday 24th January 2011 in Maidstone. We all wish them a happy life together. From all your family and friends

Report on the Grafty Green Quiz Night

A Quiz Night was held in the village hall on Saturday 15th January, it was a great success and tickets were sold out long before the actual evening. It was originally Jacqui Thompson's idea that we should hold a quiz night and, as a result of that a Committee was formed consisting of Steve and Janet Legon, Jacqui and Gary Thompson, Pat and Keith Anderson, Paul and Sharon Jennings and Janet's friend Jane, to arrange it. At first it just seemed a good excuse to meet at the Kings Head on a Friday evening, eat superb fish and chips and all get a bit rowdy. Janet was voted Chairperson, purely on the basis that she had the loudest voice, Pat was Treasurer. Sharon's suggestion that we ask Tom La Dell to be Quizmaster was unanimously agreed, what a good decision that was. His performance, asking questions on a wide range of subjects, was second to none.

Jacqui and Gary Thompson kindly donated a bicycle which we auctioned during the interval and Steve Legon managed to make the winning bid of £130. Janet can be seen wobbling along Headcorn Road in the vein hope that she will eventually learn to ride it. The ticket price included a sausage and chip supper, which was eaten out of the paper, saving the committee much washing up.

Many people donated prizes for the raffle, for which we thank you. It has been suggested that we make this an annual event and most people who attended the evening thought that this was a good idea.

The winners were awarded a trophy which will be engraved and put on display at the Kings Head until the next Quiz night. All the proceeds, which were in excess of £1550, will be going towards providing a water supply to St Nicholas Church.

What a great night!!.....

Janet Legon

Village Osteopaths

at:
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Grafty Green

Mrs Vanessa Darlington, BSc (Hons) Ost, DO
Registered Osteopath

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

	Find the missing word?
1	____ Bunton, Pop Artist once known as Baby Spice
2	Out of _____, Oscar winning film with Meryl Streep
3	_____ Holmes, A movie starring Robert Downey Jr
4	Rear _____, A Hitchcock film starring James Stewart as a housebound photographer
5	____ _ The Summer Wine, Sitcom set in the Yorkshire Dales
6	Susan _____, Runner up in Britain's got Talent who broke all records with the sale of her first album
7	_____ _ Glass, Blondie chart topper
8	Lady _____, Outrageously attired pop princess
9	_____ Franklin, Famed all the time soul diva
10	Clement _____, A labour political party member from the past

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

The New Year, make it a flexible, balanced and energised start to 2011 and join my yoga class; all abilities catered for and beginners welcome.

Classes led by Sue Burch, British Wheel of Yoga trained

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm

Term starts Wednesday 5th January - 16th February

and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am

Term starts Thursday 6th January - 17th February

The term will run for seven weeks and the fee is £35. 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

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!



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Pet's Corner!

Is A Parrot For Me?

Many people feel attracted to a parrot as a pet, but are not sure which species would be the best buy. Parrots can make wonderfully entertaining and loving companions, playful, intelligent, mischievous and demanding, but we would advise that you do a lot of research before considering taking one on, since there are many more important things to consider.

Which parrot?

There are so many to choose from! Smaller birds such as budgerigars, lovebirds and cockatiels are easy to keep and fascinating to watch and learn from. The smaller parrots such as Senegals, Meyers, Caiques and Hahn's Macaws have big personalities and are very playful, and can be taught a few simple words and phrases. African Greys are popular and excellent mimics, but can be shy around strangers and show a strong preference to either one sex or one member of the family.



The underestimated and beautiful Amazon on the other hand, are born exhibitionists and are just as good at mimicry. The large macaws and cockatoos are really not pets for a novice bird keeper - they are very large and powerful birds, can be extremely noisy and very demanding of your attention.

Are they the pet for me?

Consider this very carefully before investing in a parrot. They can have a long life-span (macaws can live for up to 70 years) and can be as demanding as a small child in some cases. They are highly intelligent, requiring a specialist and varied diet to avoid obesity and calcium deficiency, as well as adequate socialisation and environmental enrichment to keep them happy.

They need a lot of space to fly and explore safely, and as much of your time and interaction as you can give! They can be very noisy so you will have to consider neighbours, and some such as African Greys and Cockatoos produce a lot of feather dust which covers your home and may make them unsuitable for asthma sufferers. They also require a specialist vet!

Next month: Frequently Asked Parrot Questions & Parrot Nutrition!



Useful websites

www.parrotsociety.org
www.parrotenrichment.com

Article written by
Lesley Still VN, Petaholics Ltd.
www.petaholicsltd.co.uk

Contact Details for Local Police Officers

Your Local Police Officers can be contacted at Maidstone Police Station on 01622 604392, or stop us when you see us patrolling the village !!

PC Paul Kemslet and PCSO Siobhan de Burca

E-Mail: maidstonerural.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

The year is now well and truly in full swing, with plenty to keep us all busy. We have even had the excitement of little visitors for two weeks. With Ulcombe's Village Hall temporarily out of action during the middle of January, it has been our pleasure to give a home to Ulcombe Pre-School. We hope they enjoyed sharing our school with us for a short time. Those of you who are parents of children who will be four years old in September this year, should have already applied for a place at primary school. If you have not done this yet, please contact the school immediately and we will do our best to help you.

LIBRARY UPDATE

As you may know, Kent County Council has granted planning permission for an extension at our school. This will house our library, which will be a flexible space suitable for offering a wide range of activities. In the current financial climate such opportunities will be hard to come by. Cuts to funding at national and local level will undoubtedly limit chances like this for many years to come. We are extremely fortunate that the offer of funding from KCC has remained in place.

This funding will come from the sale of the land at the northern end of the school site. This is our disused adventure play area, which KCC has declared surplus. By declaring the land surplus KCC have made it apparent that at some point in time the land will be sold. With this in mind, we have been working hard with the appointed architects and KCC in the hope that the revenue will be maximized. We have also been working with the architects and KCC to ensure that the land is sold sooner rather than later, whilst KCC's offer remains on the table, so to speak.

We are aware of a small number of reservations with the original outline plans. Therefore a revised scheme is being prepared, which we hope will satisfy the Borough Council, as well as being received more favourably by our neighbours and friends within the community. A set of plans will be available for viewing at the school, as well as being available from MBC as before. A message will be posted in the 'News' section of our school web-site when they are available. As with all aspects of school life, I will be happy to answer questions regarding our proposals, but it would be best if this could be done by appointment due to my own timetable and commitments. A further set of drawings are made available to the Parish Council and I know that the Chair of the Parish Council, Geoff Beale, will make these available for viewing should anyone so wish. (Glenville House, The Street, Ulcombe.)

We hope that when plans are resubmitted they will receive even greater support than the first set, as this development is essential to long-term progress and improvement of our school.

CLUBS and extra activities

As has been the case for some time now, we are offering a great variety of clubs again this term. The list includes art, basketball / netball, chess, choir, drama, Film Club, football, karate, Kingsquad and the Wise Owl and Web-site (WOW) Club. As well as these wonderful clubs, we also have some children going to Buckmore Park Learning Zone after school once each week and some children benefitting from the national One-to-One Tuition programme. Our School Council continues to meet to find ways of improving our school for themselves and for all of the other pupils.

Friends of Ulcombe School

The Friends of Ulcombe School, our PTFA, has already met to plan events for 2011. We have a Valentine's Disco towards the end of this term and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children before the end of next term. In between times look out for details of 'Phil the Bag', which FUS are organizing to raise money and support the school as an Eco-School. We are also attempting to gauge interest into other social events, so watch this space.

the next Ulcombe school friends' dinner

Here is a special date for your diary – Wednesday 30th March. This will be the date of our next Friends' Dinner. Parents and friends are invited to come along for a roast lunch prepared by our own School Cook, followed by entertainment provided by the children. This will be our celebration ahead of Mothering Sunday, so the entertainment will have that as its theme. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Challenging Times

All of the public sector is facing challenging times in the coming months and years. Now, more than ever, our village school needs support from the community. If you can do anything to help, whether it is helping us to raise money, volunteering to support the children or something completely different, we look forward to counting on you as you help to make Ulcombe CE Primary School the best that it can be.

Please remember that if you have any questions about what happens here at school you can visit our web-site, send us an e-mail, telephone us, or even pop in.

Kindest regards,

Mr V Hampton *Head Teacher*

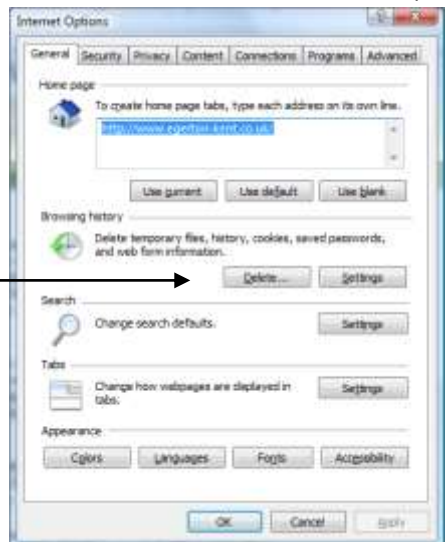
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However, some cookies remain on your computer after you close the Internet and can remain on your computer for days, months, or even years. It is possible to block cookies in your security settings, however blocking all cookies can help protect your privacy, but it might limit your experience on some websites. Be selective about which websites you allow cookies for. You can start by blocking all cookies, then allow cookies as needed for websites that you trust (more about trusted sites next month).

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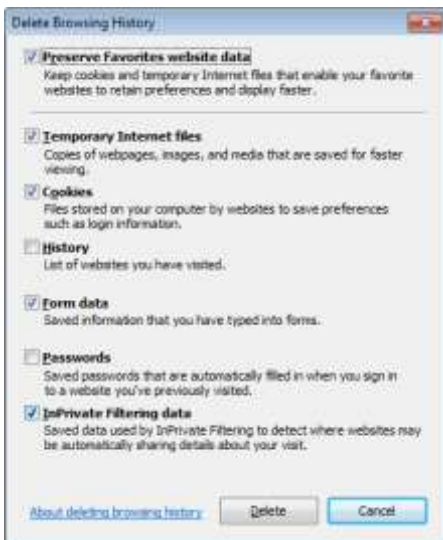
- In Internet Browser
- Go to the Tools menu
- Then select Options
- In the Browsing History section of this dialogue box
- Click on the Delete Button (don't panic, there is another step before anything is deleted)



Every Computer is different, so

- Make sure you tick the boxes of what you want to delete.
- The boxes that are checked are the files that will be deleted, I recommend the following:
- 1. It is best to preserve your Favourites, note that this needs to be checked to **PRESERVE** your Favourites, not delete them. (Keep it checked)
 2. It's OK to delete temporary internet files because these can also slow your internet browser down
 3. Delete the Cookies, that why we are doing this
 4. I prefer not to delete History, that's where websites are stored if you use the drop-down address list in the Browser, if you don't use this then these can be deleted also
 5. It's also OK to delete the Form Data
 6. I would **NOT** delete passwords, unless you want to keep typing your passwords again on regular sites
 7. It's OK to delete InPrivate Filtering data, if you want to know what that is the information is in the box and self-explanatory.
- So it should like this:

To check the boxes just click on the box, to uncheck boxes it's the same, just click on the box and they will be uncheck.



It's as simple as that and could make quite a different to the performance of your internet. If you want more help you could come to Egerton Telecottage, see article later in this magazine, and next month there will be another tip on Trusted Websites.

Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall



No KCC Council Tax increase but a very difficult budget to deliver next year

Next year KCC will have to deliver £95m in savings or 10% of our net revenue budget excluding schools. This sum includes a £58m loss in government grants, £26m of unavoidable pressures and £15m for new priorities.

The unavoidable pressures cover increases in prices charged by contractors, delivering adult social care to the growing number of vulnerable and elderly people in the county, £5m of additional investment in Children's Social Services to help reduce social worker vacancies and meeting the cost of the employer's 1% National Insurance increase for KCC staff. The new priorities include £6m to fund an ambitious capital programme that will enable the authority to honour its previous commitments despite cuts in government funding. This will enable KCC to rebuild and refurbish a number of schools and special schools in serious disrepair and deliver promises covering libraries, roads, youth facilities and regeneration projects. Other priorities include a £5m Big Society Fund to provide "seed funding" to support the establishment of more social enterprises and voluntary groups to provide tailor-made services for the residents of Kent. We will seek to deliver the savings we have to make through significant efficiencies, income generation (for example selling services to other authorities and schools and raising charges to social services clients in line with benefit increases), service changes and modernisation (ensuring services are available online wherever possible thus saving administrative costs) and taking £15m from our reserves. A further £65m of savings will have to be found in 2012-13 to deliver a balanced budget for the following year.

There is no pay increase for KCC staff this year on top of last year's pay freeze and some 1500 posts will be removed over the next three years. In addition staff benefits will also be reviewed to deliver substantial savings. The recent restructure of senior officer positions at KCC will deliver a leaner management structure and a saving of £750,000. These measures cumulatively will deliver some £20m in staff savings over three years.

There is some good news - KCC's Council Tax charge will be frozen next year which will provide some relief for households feeling the pressure of rising fuel charges, low interest rates impacting on savings and the VAT rise as well as impact of the overall economic climate on domestic incomes. Spending on roads will be concentrated on maintenance, safety-critical schemes and congestion reduction - traffic calming schemes unfortunately cannot not be prioritised in an era of financial austerity. Eligibility criteria for care of the elderly will be maintained enabling more people in Kent to access adult social care than in many other counties across England. Although the costs of the Freedom Pass for 11-16 year old year olds attending Kent

schools will double in price from £50 to £100, the new charge still represents a significant saving for parents as the actual cost is in the region of £400.

Tackling Potholes

In mid-January an army of specialist tarmac firms launched a month-long £1m campaign to fix safety-critical potholes across the county. Planning started as soon as the snow had settled and it became clear that we would yet again be required to respond to this challenge. The firms will aim to make a permanent fix first time where they can. Everyone is aware that the public purse is under pressure and KCC is investing this money wisely now to reduce what would be a bigger bill further down the road and to minimise the problems potholes can cause for drivers in Kent.

Meanwhile, we are planning ahead by launching a major drive to recruit tarmac firms for a repair campaign in the summer – when weather conditions are more favourable. This will aim to mirror the success of Kent's six-month 'find and fix' campaign, which ended in October 2010 after 31,000 potholes were filled and more than 122,100 square metres of road were resurfaced. Gangs repaired every fault in the roads they worked on, not just safety-related potholes, carrying out around six times the amount of work than would normally have been done. We want to use small and medium-sized engineering firms from across Kent. They will be encouraged to bid for tenders to repair our roads and we hope this will give a welcome boost to local business in these financially trying times.

Anyone interested in the summer recruitment drive can find out more at:
www.businessportal.southeastiep.gov.uk/

Please do contact me if you need my help or advice. My home address is The Cottage, Sutton Street, Bearsted, email jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk or telephone 734897.

Jenny Whittle
County Councillor, Maidstone Rural East



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Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Weekend Freighter Service up to 28th May 2011.

Grafty Green

Saturday 12th March 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 21st May 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 12th March 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane
Saturday 21st May 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 28th May 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens
Saturday 19th March 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens



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Our services include:

Plumbing & Heating: Most aspects of plumbing can be completed, from changing a tap or washer to fitting or altering and cleaning central heating systems. Drain down and decommissioning works can also be completed.

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Tiling: We offer a professional finish for your bathroom, en-suite, wet room, kitchen, utility room or cloakroom. You name it - we'll tile it!

Decorating: Kitchen & bathroom fitting, room stripping, ripping out for renovation/redecoration, plastering, coving, floor laying. General painting, decorating and paper hanging.

Construction: Loft conversions and roof space storage, dry/partition walls, sound proofing, electrical installations and fittings. Extensions and conservatories.

Exterior works: Drainage unblocking, drainage digging and laying (not within the Highways or Local Authority land). Guttering and water drainage, re-pointing walls and patio, exterior painting and decorating, garden walls, pathways and steps, fencing, decking, patio laying, block paving and turf laying/lawn seeding.

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Oil Tank Security

Heating & Diesel Oil Theft - A Drain on Resources Security tips for domestic oil tanks:

Introduction

Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and the police have always noticed an increase in this type of crime whenever the price of crude oil rises. A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pump inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil. This makes oil a more attractive proposition for the thief and they are now actively targeting fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties. The thief may be using the oil for their own central heating or selling it on at a handsome profit.

These tanks can contain many thousands of pounds worth of oil and it is therefore it makes good sense to take a few precautions to protect them. The purpose of this leaflet is to give the reader a few ideas about what can be done to make life more difficult for the thief.

About the Tank

OFTEC or the "Oil Firing Technical Association for the petroleum industry" for short offers advice and guidance for those who use and store oil at their premises! There are certain rules and regulations that may apply to you and OFTEC will help clarify these for you. They can be reached at www.oftec.org.uk or by calling 0845 6585 080. They also produce an "Easy guide to domestic oil storage" which is a very straightforward and useful document.

Where can we put it?

The position of the tank can have a significant effect on how hard a target it is in the eyes of the thief. If the tank is close to the house, with one or more windows capable of giving a view of it, then the thief may consider the chances of being seen too high. If the tank is close to a road, path, drive or alleyway then it will be a far easier target. Hiding the tank behind the garage, shed or some other type of outbuilding is fairly commonplace, but it does give the thief the advantage. Not many oil tanks are works of art so who wants a tank in full view? While it may not be desirable, or legal, to have the tank close to the house some sort of compromise location would be sensible. Of course this will not only be a major consideration when a new tank is to be installed but may be necessary if the tank has been targeted before! They do need to be within a reasonable distance of the road otherwise the oil supply company may not be able to refill it for you!

A Switch In Time

Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use.

Locks Stock and Barrel

A good thief will come equipped with a limited range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglary tools - the bolt cropper! Due to their design, close shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip. Remember that buying a padlock is like buying a car the more you pay the better the quality you get and the longer it will last.

Oil Watch

Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges can be located in the kitchen or perhaps a utility room to warn of any potential problem. There are two or three different versions on the market at the moment and cost between £70 and £100.

Lights On

Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for the thief. It's not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams, as a more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy "dusk till' dawn lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. This type of light can be both effective and inexpensive. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.

Defensive Planting

This is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge. The smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could help the police identify the offender. Gloucestershire Crime stoppers produced a leaflet several years ago which shows the advantages of Defensive Planting and provides a list of shrubs suitable for this purpose. These shrubs can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief proof barrier. If you would like a copy of this contact your local police station or Crime Reduction Officer.

Fence Me in

Following on from the defensive planting tactic, fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to fill the tank! A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security. Following on from the defensive planting tactic, fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to fill the tank! A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security. A product called Tank Guard has just become available which surrounds the existing storage tank with a metal enclosure. This sheet metal enclosure has lockable access doors to allow filling and maintenance and has internal anchorage points to fix it to the concrete base. A tank guard costs less than one tank full of oil and will last for many years.

Big Brother

The use of CCTV as a crime prevention and a crime detection tool has grown massively in recent years. It could play a part in the protection of oil tanks but before you spend lots of money on equipment make an assessment of your needs. Ask yourself:

- What do I hope to achieve by using CCTV
- How much am I prepared to spend
- Is there a reasonable level of light where the cameras will be operating or do I need to think about using cameras with low light capability? (most thefts take place at night).
- What am I going to record the captured images on - digital recording is best?
- How am I going to provide the police with any evidence I may capture?

Fuel Theft

Due to the increasing cost of road diesel more and more fuel is being stolen from lorries either parked in their yards or whilst drivers are taking their breaks in lorry parks and lay-bys.

Below are a few tips to help reduce this problem:

- Always park in a well lit well used area
- Try to park with your fuel tank either facing the road so passing traffic make it less of a target
- Locking fuel caps are useful not advised as the thieves tend to puncture the tank when these are used causing even more damage
- There are devices that can be fitted to the filler cap that can activate the vehicles alarm when tampered with

- When parking in a lorry park try to park very close to the next lorry so the fuel tanks are close together making it difficult to get access to them
- Consider CCTV to monitor vulnerable areas where lorries are parked

Remember it is easier to take these simple precautions than to suffer a fuel theft.

Conclusion

The information above is to highlight ways in which we can make it more difficult for a thief to steal heating oil and fuel. Nothing mentioned here will make it impossible for them achieve their goal but if some of the suggestions made are followed it just may make a difference.

Ms Siobhán de Búrca

Police Community Support Officer

Rural Neighbourhood Policing Unit

Maidstone Police Station

Palace Avenue,

Maidstone

ME15 6NF

Tel: 01622 604392

From a local resident - same theme ..

'With the price of heating oil rocketing and rising thefts a reader has just sourced a locking fuel cap which fits standard 2" filler pipes. High quality, much more secure than a padlock type device and very easy to fit called 'SPINSECURE' ~ including delivery and vat £69.60.

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web: www.centretank.com I found them to be very helpful and efficient.

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Update on the Lenham Valley Business Association

Joining a business association can be a bit like a New Year's resolution if you are not careful, or a gym. You make the promise to yourself because, sometimes deep down, you know exactly what you should be doing, it's just that you need encouragement or company to do it. A NYs resolution can be lonely that's why they don't quite have the success rate we might like. In a gym the rest of the establishment is pumping away, running, rowing, generally looking (from the agony on their faces) like it's all doing them some good. Joining a business association doesn't give you the look of agony, judging by the looks on our networkers faces there seems a high degree of happiness. And who can blame them? In the main, those who put in the effort have found their investment in the annual membership returned both quickly and many fold. The 'effort' could simply be attending the networking meetings as often as possible or taking an ad in the directory (join before 20 March to be in our next Business Directory). To benefit you do have to make an effort - but unlike the gym - it's not no pain no gain!

Often simply being given the opportunity to 'rub shoulders' with the right people is an enormous benefit. Free advice being the obvious one, finding a customer or supplier another. All LVBA members have had the opportunity, many have increased their revenues, been given some good advice and/or made a new colleague, even a friend in a few cases. One thing is for sure - do nothing and you'll get exactly that back - nothing. If you know you could do with some new contacts then help yourself and make your New Year's resolution to join the LVBA.

The enthusiasm of other members will help you want to make the effort to go networking, you won't be alone (there's a lot of other people in a similar position to you) and it won't hurt or make your muscles ache (if it does we have members who can help you with all of it).

And remember this isn't just Boughton Malherbe we have people from all over the Lenham area, especially Harrietsham, Grafty Green, Ulcombe and even from Charing. Twice during 2011 we hope to meet with a similar association covering South Maidstone to spread our networking for sales and suppliers.

Success really does come from working together

2011 LVBA networking meetings: 11 January at 5.45 pm for 6pm start until 8 pm the first Tuesday every month: **1 February** Chilston Park; **1 March; 5 April; 3 May; 7 June** combined meeting with South Maidstone Business Association probably in Headcorn tbc; **5 July; 2 August; 6 September; 4 October; 1 November; 6 December** Chilston Park combined meeting with South Maidstone Business Association. More information on the website <http://www.lenhambusiness.co.uk>

Alan Reading, LVBA Chairman



“The Life and Films of Jack Cardiff” - Film Historian Ian Christie talks to the Egerton Film Society

On Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm at the Millennium Hall, Egerton, renowned cinema scholar and lecturer Ian Christie, Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, University of London, will be the guest speaker at a special meeting of the Egerton Film Society. The Society, founded in 2000, screens a mixture of classic and popular films on the last Thursday of each month, as well as presenting occasional evenings featuring guest speakers who talk about films and film-making.

Professor Christie will be giving a personal insight into the life and work of Jack Cardiff, one of Britain's most revered cinematographers. Jack Cardiff's career spanned an incredible nine of the first ten decades of moving pictures, and his work behind the camera altered the look of films for ever through his pioneering use of Technicolor photography. He was the first of his profession to be presented with an Honorary Oscar and a unique figure in British and international cinema.

A film historian, broadcaster, writer, film-maker and lecturer, Professor Christie is an internationally recognised authority on film history who contributes regularly to radio and television programmes on cinema. Before joining Birkbeck's [School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media](#) in 1999, where he has recently been Director of the Centre for British Film and Television Studies, [Ian Christie](#) taught in Oxford and at the University of Kent, and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1994. He held various posts at the British Film Institute and co-produced a five-part series on early cinema for BBC Television entitled *The Last Machine*, presented by Terry Gilliam. He has written and edited books on various film subjects including film-makers Powell and Pressburger, Sergei Eisenstein, Terry Gilliam and Martin Scorsese, and also on Russian cinema. Recent television appearances include *The Hundred Scariest Movies*, *The Thirties in Colour* (BBC4), *Scotland on Screen* (BBC2), *Rude Britannia* and *Dive! Dive! Dive!* (BBC4).

Professor Christie's talk will be followed by a screening of Craig McCall's richly rewarding and highly acclaimed cinema documentary, "Cameraman: The Life And Work Of Jack Cardiff" (2010) - a treasure trove of cinematic riches and a must for all cinema fans. On Thursday 31st March there will be a special showing of the restored version of "A Matter of Life and Death" (1946), Powell and Pressburger's much praised film, beautifully photographed by Jack Cardiff.

Doors open at 7pm on both evenings, when a licensed bar and light refreshments will be available. Non-members will be made most welcome. Admission is £3 for members and £4 for non-members. For further information contact Richard King on 01233 756592.

The Grafty Gourmet

This is yet another easy recipe. I made this up the other evening as an experiment, and the result was very tasty. Serve it with either noodles or rice. The marinade can also be used as a sauce to serve over the chicken. Just mix up some corn flour in a couple of tablespoons of water, and add it to thicken up, after the chicken is cooked !

Easy Chinese Chicken - Serves 2

2 Chicken Breasts, cut into thin strips
½ Onion, chopped into 2cm pieces
and separated
2 cloves Garlic, crushed
½ pint Chicken Stock

¾ teaspoon Chinese Five Spice
A good dash of Soy Sauce
A good squirt of Jif Lemon Juice (or similar)
2 large tablespoons of Clear Honey

1. In a large saucepan, mix the garlic, stock, five spice, soy sauce, lemon juice and honey together. Add the chicken. Marinate for a few hours.
2. When hungry, add the chopped onion and place on the stove bringing slowly to the boil stirring frequently. Then turn the heat down and simmer gently until the chicken pieces are cooked through.
3. Serve with your choice of noodles or rice. It's as simple as that.

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Grafty Green Gardening Club

Grafty Green Gardening Club programme for 2011. Membership is £5 for the year. Visitors are welcome at any of the meetings. Further information from Sue Burch 850381

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jan 4	AGM and Dr Charlesworth	Down Derry Lavender
Feb 1	Neil Arnold	Weird Animals in Kent
Mar1	Greg Hitchcock	Insects in the garden
April 5	Spring Show / Laurie Manser	A garden boys life of 60 years ago
Sat. 9 th April	Rumwood Nursery discount day	
Saturday April 30	Outing - Pashley Manor	Tulip festival
June 7	Outing private garden –Westways, St.Faiths Lane Bearsted	
July 5	Coach outing to Salutation Garden in Sandwich	£12 Plus entry fee pp
August 2	Outing Knowle Hill Farm, Elizabeth Cairns	6.30 pm
Sept 6	Autumn Show - Sue Scrivens	Saltwood Foxglove
Sept 24/25	Weekend to Malvern, Worcestershire, Bank House hotel and Country Club.	Three Counties Autumn show
Oct 4	Brogdale National Fruit Collection	Tasting Apples and Pears
Nov 1	Alison Sollis	Composting
Dec 6	Social	

Application for membership:

Cheques: make payable to Grafty Green Gardening Club

Send to Doreen Hulm (Treasurer), Lavender Cottage, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AN

Name(s)	
Address	
Telephone	E mail address:

The lists have already started for the weekend away and the visit to Sandwich; if you are interested in joining these events please let Sue Burch know – 850381

The February Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Capricornus at beginning of February, and moves into Aquarius on the 16th.

New Moon occurs on Thursday 3rd February, and Full Moon is on Friday 18th February, in the constellation of Leo.

Mercury is rising only minutes before the Sun at the beginning of February, and by the end of the month it is in superior conjunction (almost directly behind the Sun). It will therefore not be possible to see it this month.

Venus is again a brilliant “Morning Star” this month, low in the south-eastern sky just before sunrise, but it is getting increasingly difficult to see. It is moving rapidly in the southern constellation of Sagittarius.

Mars is in conjunction (almost directly behind the Sun) on 4th February, so again we will not be able to see the “Red Planet” this month.

Jupiter can be seen in the western sky at dusk, and sets around 9 pm. It appears as a very bright star with a steady light, and is moving slowly north-eastwards in the constellation of Pisces. 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 late evening, and is well up in the southern sky at dawn. You should be able to see the famous rings through a telescope.

You may have read last month that NASA has confirmed that their Voyager 1 spacecraft, which was launched in 1977, is almost at the edge of the solar system, and will soon be travelling through interstellar space. Their craft has reached a region of space where solar wind – a stream of charged particles spewing from the Sun at one million miles per hour – slows abruptly and crashes into the thin gas between stars. Scientists estimate that it will take another four years before Voyager 1 completely exits the solar system and enters interstellar space. A witty writer in the Telegraph said that he was relieved that NASA confirmed that the craft was unmanned!

John Maunder



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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Naked	Old	Thrower	Flame
2	Love	Short	Teller	
3	Form	Keep	Standing	
4	Gas	Mallow	Salt	
5	Cart	Chestnut	Dark	
6	Deaf	Cold	Flag	
7	Fair	Mark	Union	
8	Buff	Comic	Singer	
9	Bear	Gordon	Hash	
10	Land	Lay	Pipe	
11	Going	Wear	World	
12	Hover	Space	Witch	
13	Closed	Cupboard	Revolving	
14	Gas	Parking	Reading	
15	Cork	Driver	Thumb	
16	Lantern	Thunder	Tossed	

Men's Breakfast's at The Red Lion, Lenham

Barry Longford will be at the second in a series of men's breakfasts at 8am at the Red Lion, Lenham. Come and listen to Barry Longford on Saturday 26th February at 8am in a talk titled "Flying for Life." Barry works with the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and will be describing how the MAF fly regular missions to the most inaccessible and dangerous places with life-saving medicines, food and equipment, going to isolated communities across Africa. Enjoy a good breakfast, hear his story, ask questions, chat and socialise.

Call Michelle Saunders (01622 850604), Frank Allen (01622 850559) or Dick Venn (01622 858195) for more details and to book a place (£5 for a full English breakfast). This is the second in a series of men's breakfasts organised by the Churches of the Len Valley being held on the last Saturday of each month – 8am, The Red Lion, Lenham.

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Christian Message February 2011

The older I get the more I find it pays to keep a check on our health. I don't mean that we should become hypochondriacs, but we should keep an eye out for any problems so that we have the opportunity to get the help we might need to put any problems right before they take hold, and our physical health deteriorates.

If that is true medically speaking, it must also be true of our spiritual health which can suffer equally as the years go by. Complacency, disillusionment or even sheer weariness are all conditions that can creep up on us, sapping our faith of vitality and enthusiasm. It is just the same as with our physical well-being. And so we need to be alert to the signs, regularly making those self examinations. For the sake of our well-being we should not be burying our head in the sand, or sweeping unpleasant truths under the carpet, pretending they are not there.

It's the time of year that we are looking for those signs of hope that Spring brings. And it's traditional for us at this time to reflect and ask ourselves if everything is as it should be. None of us are perfect, of course. And I believe the last thing God wants is to encourage a spirit of negative self-criticism. Instead he wants us to give ourselves an honest self-appraisal. He wants us to ask for his help in bringing inner healing and renewal.

The cure isn't ultimately in ourselves, no more than self-help remedies are the answer to all our physical ailments. The cure lies in recognising that something is wrong and then asking for help from the one who can heal. For asking for help from God, who alone is able to give us perfect peace and wholeness, when we are willing to admit our need, he will do the rest.

The Len Valley Churches welcome all to their special service for Healing and Wholeness to be held at St Mary's Lenham on Sunday 20th February at 6.30pm. We are all able to come to this service with our spiritual, mental and physical weaknesses, acknowledging the state of our health in all these areas, and also the health of others for whom we wish to pray, and asking God for his grace in giving us peace and granting us wholeness in whatever we face as we look forward in hope. There will also be an opportunity for someone to pray individually with you during the service if you would like that. God alone can give us that right spirit from within. We look forward to welcoming you there. Wishing you all 'Good Health' throughout this New Year!

Revd Millie Hart.

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'Who was.....?' now joins 'How to.....'!!

Egerton's Telecottage Computer Centre is now offering Family History researchers the opportunity to do online research every Saturday morning, 10am to noon, during their regular drop-in clinics. For just £2 per 1-hour session you can access a census, parish registers, wills, etc. Pre-booking is advised, so please contact us for more details.

If you feel you need some help in doing family history research then why not book in to one of the Telecottage's Family History Afternoons. The next scheduled date is Saturdays 28th February, 2 to 4pm.

Dates for the next series of 'How to.....' courses are now available:

- How to get started (from the very beginning): Mon 10 & 17 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- How to get on line (for the very first time): Mon 7 & 14 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to get photos from camera to PC: Wed 19 & 26 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- How to edit photos: Wed 2 & 9 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to use the Internet: Thurs 20 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- How to email photos: Mon 21 & 28 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to get started in Word: Mon 7 & 14 Mar, 10am to 12 noon
- How to do more in Word: Mon 28 Mar & 4 Apr, 10am to 12 noon
- How to create a newsletter: Mon 11 & 18 Apr, 10am to 12 noon
- How to turn your photos into greetings cards and postcards: Wed 9 & 16 Mar, 10am to 12 noon
- How to use Social Networks (Facebook): Thurs 17 Feb, 10am to 12 noon
- How to manage files and folders: Fri 28 Jan & 4 Feb, 10am to 12 noon

But if you can't see what you want – why not ask? You never know, it could be in our next group of courses!

Please ring Carol on 07523 182994 for full details of the Telecottage's very reasonable costs and any other information you may need.

And don't forget our drop-in clinic – every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon – come and have a chat and a coffee. You can find us at the Egerton Millennium Hall in the centre of the village.

A new form of recycling?

From another parish magazine:

"The scouts are saving aluminium can, glass bottles and other recyclable items. Proceeds will be used to cripple children".

Brian Hardy

Music Notes - February

A fairly quiet month from a musical point of view, but here are a few concerts I am able to recommend:

- Saturday 5th February. 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra perform Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* and Dvorak's *Symphony No.9 (the New World)*. Tickets 01622 736392
- Saturday 12th February, 7.00pm at St. Peter & St, Paul Church Luddesdon (Nr. Meopham), Kent Chamber Choir perform a selection of choral music from the 16th Century to the present.. Tickets and info 01622 737916
- Also on 12th February, 7.00pm at All Saints' Church, Military Rd., Canterbury, Canterbury Cathedral Choir present a concert of choral works plus organ solos. Tickets 012227 455978
- Saturday 5th March, 7.30pm at Central Hall, Chatham, The City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra have a concert with a programme that includes Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 5* and Brahms's *Symphony No. 2*. Tickets 0705643354

Brian Hardy

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 4th MARCH

St. MARY'S CHURCH, LENHAM 10.30am

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, ULCOMBE 7pm

On Friday March 4th women from around the world will celebrate the Women's World Day of Prayer. This year the service has been written by the women of Chile. The theme is 'HOW MANY LOAVES HAVE YOU?'. It is an appropriate theme for bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of everyday life. The women of Chile offer what it means to them as they share this service with us. Stretching from Peru to Antarctica, the Republic of Chile occupies a long, narrow strip of land 2,640 miles long and 110 miles wide. It is a land of incredible beauty and contrasts.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries, and ALL are welcome to attend. Please make a note of this date in your diary and come along to participate in this exciting day, learn a little about Chile and to enjoy some refreshment afterwards.

Rosemary Davis

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – February 2011

6th February- 5th Sunday before Lent

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

13th February – 4th 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 Choral Evensong

20th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

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

27th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Worship
11am Lenham Family Worship
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	Naked	Old	Thrower	Flame
2	Love	Short	Teller	Story
3	Form	Keep	Standing	Order
4	Gas	Mallow	Salt	Marsh
5	Cart	Chestnut	Dark	Horse
6	Deaf	Cold	Flag	Stone
7	Fair	Mark	Union	Trade
8	Buff	Comic	Singer	Opera
9	Bear	Gordon	Hash	Brown
10	Land	Lay	Pipe	Waste
11	Going	Wear	World	Under
12	Hover	Space	Witch	Craft
13	Closed	Cupboard	Revolving	Doors
14	Gas	Parking	Reading	Meter
15	Cork	Driver	Thumb	Screw
16	Lantern	Thunder	Tossed	Storm

	Find the missing word?
1	Emma Bunton , Pop Artist once known as Baby Spice
2	Out of Africa , Oscar winning film with Meryl Streep
3	Sherlock Holmes , A movie starring Robert Downey Jr
4	Rear Window , A Hitchcock film starring James Stewart as a housebound photographer
5	Last of The Summer Wine , Sitcom set in the Yorkshire Dales
6	Susan Boyle , Runner up in Britain's got Talent who broke all records with the sale of her first album
7	Heart of Glass , Blondie chart topper
8	Lady Gaga , Outrageously attired pop princess
9	Aretha Franklin , Famed all time soul diva
10	Clement Attlee , A labour political party member from the past

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