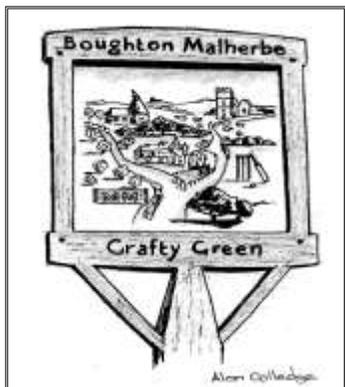


Malherbe Monthly

Number 81
April 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	890200
	Richard Thick	891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348
	Joan Davidson	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	858350
	Sue Burch	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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John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!

Anything for the **May** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th April**

Front cover: Spring is in the air - Daffodils in bloom - 30th March 2011

News from St. Nicholas Church

Lent Lunch

On April 6th the Lent lunch will be at Ferndown, Grafty Green 12.00-2.00pm with some freshly made soups for us to sample. Do come and support Sylvia. The Lunches have proved very enjoyable - we have a good chat and raise money for Christian Aid.

Coffee morning

The village Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall Grafty Green on Wednesday 13th April at 10.30-12.00pm. This will be followed by a Lent Lunch at Bowley Oast East, Bowley Farm, Sandway. (Kenneth and Sally Alexander's new home) The time will be 12.00-2.00p.m. I'm sure Sally will have some delicious soup to serve us with homemade bread. Come along and make a day of it. The monies raised at this Lunch will go to the Red Cross for their work in northern Japan's earthquake zone.

Gentleman's Breakfast

Last month there was a very successful Men's Breakfast held at the Red Lion in Lenham Square. About 25 people went along to enjoy a full English breakfast and hear General Tim Cross. By the time you read this there will have been another Breakfast when Mr. Philip Orme will have spoken about the work of the Sandes Soldier's and Airmen's Centres. The April Breakfast will be on Saturday 30th April at 8 a.m.. I'm told they are very enjoyable occasions - why not ring Michelle Saunders on 01622 850604, Dick Venn on 01622 859195 or Frank Allen on 01622 850559 to reserve a place for yourself (and bring a friend along too). The Breakfast costs £5.00.

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be on Good Friday morning April 22nd at St. Mary's Lenham. These occasions are mainly for families with pre-school and primary school children. There are also some in their early teens and some children with learning difficulties. Why not come and see what happens at Messy Church - you will be most welcome. There is always a theme and the children have several activities relating to that theme, usually about six or seven different things to try. They have a short session singing songs accompanied by Dick Venn on the guitar, a prayer or two, with a short talk followed by refreshments. It lasts about an hour and a half. This is a Benefice wide activity.

The APCM of St. Nicholas Church

On Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm we held our annual Meeting in St. Nicholas Church. Unfortunately we were a small band - it would be good if a few more people would come along. We heard about events that have happened throughout the year and plans for the future. A new PCC was elected.

Rev: Dick Venn - Chairman; Kenneth Alexander and Joan Davidson were elected as Churchwardens, John Collins - Treasurer , Christine King - Secretary, members of the PCC; Sylvia Close, Diana Parker, John Millen and Dominic Goodwin.

Joan Davidson

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 2nd March - 13th April
and
Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 3rd March - 14th April

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

St Edmunds Centre - Platts Heath

This has been an interesting month for the Centre as the film club has held their first meeting. Whilst there is a lot of work to do at the start, the committee are all very enthusiastic and the paper work is well underway.

There is to be a quiz night with a difference in May, we are inviting you along to a blind wine tasting to test your knowledge of wines. There will be a number of wines to taste and you have to guess what grape it is made from and the country of origin with a prize for the most successful taster. Biscuits and Cheese will also be served. So do come along and join us Friday May 6th at 8pm see our advert for further details.

The Karate & Kickboxing Club run by Mrs Thursting from the Black Dragon Academy is held every Monday from 4.45 to 6.45. Please telephone Mrs Thursting on 07949 844 893 for details.

The Line Dancers are in need of new members for Thursday evenings at 8pm we are a small group of friendly ladies, beginners are very welcome to come along and give it a try. Line dancing is a great way to get some exercise.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

Lenham Players 50 years of Entertaining Lenham

In 1961 a group of like minded people got together and decided they would like to start a Drama Group and put on plays in Lenham Village Hall and they called themselves The Lenham Players. In December of that year they presented "Barnet's Folly" and have produced an average of two plays per year since then.

In the Spring of 1990, they presented Alan Ayckbourn's "Confusions" to the delight of the Lenham audience and they have decided to do it again. This production is a series of four interlinked one-act plays with a very strong cast and is sure to delight audiences all over again when it appears in the Lenham Community Centre on 15th and 16th April starting at 7:45pm.

Entrance is £8 and you may bring your own Drinks and Nibbles for a truly fun evening

Tickets are available from Len Valley News in the High Street or from the Community Centre during week-day mornings. Alternatively you can phone David Abson on 01622 858561 or email davidabson01@btinternet.com.

"Applause" Give us a Hot Potato.

Following the superbly entertaining "Barbershopera" production last October we are to be treated to another "Applause" sponsored evening, this one straight from the golden age of jazz and musical hall. The "Hot Potato Syncopators" present a rip roaring musical revue of 1930s jazz and dance band melodies interspersed with visual gags, delightful humour and novelty moments.

These three eccentric English gentlemen combine lightning fast ukulele, heart - melting musical saw, tea chest bass and beautiful harmonies. Expect comedy moments, stage theatricals, acts of ear and eye defying balancing, bangs, bells, hooters and pop guns. Hot swinging musical mayhem.

One night only - Saturday 9th April - Lenham Community Centre - 8pm.

Entrance is £8 and you may bring your own Drinks and Nibbles for a truly fun evening

Tickets are available from Len Valley News in the High Street or from the Community Centre during week-day mornings. Alternatively you can phone David Abson on 01622 858561 or email davidabson01@btinternet.com.

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

	Find the missing word?
1	___ ___ Beethoven, 1973 E.L.O. Hit
2	Once in _ ____, Debut hit for Talking Heads 1981
3	___ Harris, Australian entertainer
4	Nevil ____, Acclaimed author of A Town Like Alice
5	_____ Jones, Movie character played by Harrison Ford
6	You're So ____, 1970's song by Carly Simon
7	___ Allen, Comic actor who voices Toy Story's Buzz Lightyear
8	___ Sullivan, Long standing character in Corrie
9	Penelope ____, Well spoken actress in the Good Life
10	___ ___ Tender, Song by Elvis Presley

**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!

What Is Canine Separation Anxiety Disorder?

This disorder is commonly seen in puppies, adolescents, rescue dogs and elderly dogs as part of the ageing process. It is described as an inability to cope with being left alone, resulting in varying degrees of stress to the dog. This may be mild anxiety right through to vocalisation, destruction of floors, doors, windows and walls in an attempt to reunite itself with its owner, and loss of control of the bladder and bowels and even self-mutilation in severe cases.



Why does it occur?

Dogs are social animals, like us, and rely on their family for security, safety and companionship. If the dog is separated from us before it has learnt effective coping strategies for being alone, it can result in anxiety and even panic.

They attempt, through vocalising and trying to get out of the house, to reunite themselves with their family.



Other possible causes

Young puppies between 4-6 months of age, and again at about 9 months of age, need to relieve their aching gums by chewing suitable chew toys. Anxious dogs will also chew, but with teething puppies the anxiety is not present before the owner leaves the house, and the puppy is happy to have quiet periods alone, separated by a child gate or indoor crate, when the owner is present.

If your dog suddenly exhibits anxiety when alone, consider that it may be linked with an unusual and frightening event that may have happened when your dog was alone in a particular room (e.g. fireworks, boilers suddenly clicking on/off, illness etc.

Elderly dogs may gradually experience a decline in their sight and hearing, leaving them in a bit of a 'sensory void'. This can lead to anxiety and even panic when left alone, seeking out the owner's reassuring presence, particularly at night time.

Owner-absent behaviours!

If your dog is frequently reprimanded for 'misbehaving' when you are present, with little or no re-direction for the dog's natural behaviours (chewing, toileting, foraging, digging), then they can simply learn to save those behaviours for when you are not around!



Next month we will look at how to treat canine separation anxiety disorders.

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

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Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall



As the newly appointed Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, I was recently questioned by the budding young politicians who sit on Kent's **Primary School Children's Council**. **Platts Heath Primary School** was represented among the 70 Year Six (aged 10-11) children who spent the day in the County Council Chamber debating important issues including child abuse, as well as keeping young people safe on the road and in the water. It was more nerve wracking being grilled by these pint sized politicians than those of my own age!

Kent County Council has just launched another 'Find and Fix' programme designed to repair a wide range of road surface defects on minor routes, such as rural and estate roads in the county. This follows a government announcement that Kent will receive a special grant of around £2.5 million to help repair the county's 5,000-mile road network in the wake of one of the coldest and most damaging Decembers on record. Early in the New Year Kent Highway Services brought in extra gangs to tackle the increase in potholes. This concentrated programme is aimed at fixing potholes and defects that might cause a hazard or safety issue for motorists and other road users. Additional specialist tarmac firms will be drafted in as part of this latest million pounds plus blitz to fix potholes. Please continue to report potholes to KCC's hotline (08458 247 800) or on the KCC website (www.kent.gov.uk) so that we can ensure that local roads in this parish are prioritised for treatment.

New signage will be installed on the top of Liverton Hill in the coming weeks to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians. I would like to thank Parish Clerk Pat Anderson for her constant lobbying on behalf of residents to get this done - we have done a double act but most of the credit must go to Pat!

I hope to see many of you at the Parish Council's Annual Meeting on 10th May - in the meantime, if you need my help or advice, please call me on 01622 734897 or email jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk.

Jenny Whittle County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

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

BUS SERVICE 59

Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

Shown below is the revised Monday to Friday timetable which Arriva which is introducing from 11th April 2011. The only change from the outline times shown in March's magazine is that the proposed 1550 departure from Maidstone will now leave at 1600.

A new timetable leaflet is awaited

Please note that there are no changes being made to the Service 59 Saturday timetable operated by NuVenture, nor to the Schooldays only Service 66 timetable, also operated by NuVenture.

Service 59 Timetable - Mondays to Fridays from 11th April 2011

	Sch	NSch		NSch	Sch
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0710	0721	0930	-	-
Ulcombe Post Office	0717	0729	0937	-	-
Kingswood Village Hall	0722	0733	0942	1430	1430
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0725	0736	0944	1432	1432
Warmlake Corner	0731	0742	0950	1438	1438
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0735	0745	0953	1441	1441
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0738	0749	0956	1444	1444
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0741	0751	0958	1446	1447
Linton Corner	0746	0756	1003	1451	1506
Loose Road / Old Loose Hill	0750	0800	1006	1454	1509
Wheatsheaf	0756	0806	1012	1500	1515
Maidstone, King Street, Stop L2	-	0814	1020	1508	1523
Maidstone Chequers	0808				
Somerfield Hospital	0817				
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826				

Sch - Schooldays

NSch - Not Schooldays

On Schooldays the 1430 from Kingswood runs via Cornwallis Academy (arr 1457/dep 1506)

Maidstone, King Street, Stop L2	1220	1350	1600	1715
Maidstone Chequers, Stop J4	1222	1352	1602	1717
Wheatsheaf	1229	1359	1609	1724
Loose Road / Old Loose Hill	1233	1403	1613	1728
Linton Corner	1237	1407	1617	1732
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1242	1412	1622	1737
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1245	1415	1625	1740
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1248	1418	1628	1743
Warmlake Corner	1251	1421	1631	1746
Kingswood Village Hall	-	1426	-	-
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1259	-	1639	1754
Ulcombe Post Office	1306	-	1646	1801
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1313	-	1653	1808

The Grafty Gourmet

I had some left over Feta cheese at home and thought I would try it with chicken. It worked wonderfully. This is yet another very simple recipe, with a slight Greek influence. Its great served with rice, pasta or just a simple cucumber and tomato salad.

Chicken Stuffed with Feta Cheese & Bacon - Serves 2

8 tablespoons olive oil	4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
2 teaspoons lemon juice	4 slices feta cheese
4 cloves crushed garlic	4 slices bacon, fried and drained (or grilled)
1 tablespoon dried oregano	
salt and pepper to taste	

1. Preheat oven 175 degrees C.
2. In a small bowl combine the oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano, salt and pepper. Mix together.
3. Cut a slit in each chicken breast, place chicken in a baking dish and pour oil mixture over chicken.
4. Stuff each chicken breast with 1 slice feta cheese and 1 slice bacon. Secure open sides with toothpicks.
5. Bake uncovered at 175 degrees C for 30 to 35 minutes.

Wine Tasting Quiz Night

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

Friday 6th May 2011 at 8.00pm

Can you tell the difference between

French, Italian, Australian, Californian or Chilean Wine

Then come along to a quiz with a difference

Tickets £6.00 per person

Telephone Duff 850463 or Tricia 858891

Crackers and Cheese provided

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

Time marches on and that seems a particularly appropriate phrase as we move on into April. March has been another busy month for Ulcombe CE Primary School, with much happening, from books to pancakes and recycling clothes to red noses. Support for Comic Relief has been amazing once again. Read on to find out how much we raised for this wonderful charity. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the school in our various aspects of work, including parents, grandparents and friends of the school from the wider community.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Unfortunately there is still little to report. However, with the support of Jenny Whittle, we are hoping that the architects will be able to meet with MBC planning officers in the near future. We will do our best to inform you all of progress as quickly as possible.

Magnificent March World Book Day

The month began with World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. Children brought in their favourite book and shared it with other children in the school. All of the children received a £1 book token for taking part, donated by National Book Tokens. It was very interesting to see the choices children made and wonderful to hear them explaining their choices.

Phil The Bag

'Phil the Bag' is a new venture for us, which FUS organized to raise money and support the school as an Eco-School. Thank you so much to everyone you brought in unwanted items on Tuesday 8th March. We had more than five times the amount 'Phil' had expected with one-hundred and five bags of clothes, shoes and more. Our thanks go to Mrs Roe and family for their work on our behalf.

Pancake Races

Tuesday 8th March was also Shrove Tuesday. Thanks to Mrs Arundel we had pancakes with which we could race up and down the playground. Well done to everyone who took part, particularly those children who were trying hard to flip pancakes as they ran, and the team from Sapphire house who won our race.

Owlets Make Their Way to Maidstone

Anyone travelling into Maidstone on the 59 bus on Wednesday 9th March had the unexpected pleasure of travelling with our youngest class. Owlets have been finding out about the differences between Ulcombe and Maidstone, so they headed into town for the morning. The children also visited Maidstone Library and were shown how different this is to the Mobile Library which children use every week.

National Science and Engineering Week

We were delighted to welcome Mr Armstrong to the school on Monday 14th March, who came in to start off National Science and Engineering Week. Later in the day he

worked with two of our classes helping children to understand structures, electrical circuits and how a cable car works.

As the week went on the different classes all had different projects to work on. The oldest children, Tawny Owls Class were creating and racing cars which relied on renewable energy. Barn Owls Class looked at strong shapes that could be used in buildings and bridges, as well as several smaller challenges trying to save the Easter Bunny. Our youngest children, in Owlets Class, investigated what happens when we mix ingredients for food or drinks.

On Tuesday 22nd March we showed off what we had been learning in a special assembly.

Red Nose Day 2011

Friday 18th March was the date for Red Nose Day 2011. The School Council asked that staff and children come dressed as someone famous for the day, and we were not disappointed. It was great to see so many entering into the spirit of the day, despite comments about whether or not I needed a mask to be Desperate Dan. With Jedward, Harry Potter, Beetlejuice, Minnie Mouse, Simon Cowell and many more all coming into school for the day it was a star studded event!

Well done to everyone who took part in our talent show, too. We were entertained by song and dance, street-dance, excerpts from film, hand-bells, jokes and a musical arm-pit. Proceeds from our weekly Film Club were also included, and our last piece of fundraising was money-model building, which some of Tawny Owls were working on. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed as we raised the astonishing amount of £220!

Playground Improvements

By the time you read this I am optimistic that our playground improvements will be completed. Sturgeon's, the contractor who started work on our playground at the end of May last year, should have been on-site for a final time on Friday 25th March, repairing several small areas and marking the playground ready for use.

Mothering Sunday Celebrations

You may receive this just in time to join us for our Mothering Sunday Celebrations on Wednesday 30th March. We will be holding our regular Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner, and this will be followed by a special assembly at around 2pm, when we will share special thoughts about our Mums. All of our friends are welcome to join us. If you have not booked your place for the Friends' Dinner it is now too late, even if you do receive this before the day. However, everyone is welcome to come and join us for our assembly, which will include our Mothering Sunday Prize Draw organized by FUS.

Football Results

Our school football team has continued to play well, with March bringing two matches and two draws at the time of writing with our final league game also taking place on Wednesday 30th March. On Wednesday 2nd March the team secured a 2-2 draw away to Lenham. This was a wonderful result against one of the bigger schools in our league. Six days later Kingswood were the visitors and an injury-time equalizer from

our captain, Bradley, earned the team a deserved share of the spoils in a 1-1 draw. With just Harrietsham to play, the team are still in a good position to have their best league season for many years, with the area cup and the Lenham Tournament still to come.

AWAITING US IN APRIL **Easter Egg Hunt**

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be taking place on Thursday 7th April. Thanks to FUS for organizing this for the children. We are already looking forward to the search and earning our prize.

Easter Celebration Service

Family and friends are all more than welcome to join us for our Easter Celebration Service at All Saints Parish Church on Friday 8th April at 2.30pm. All of the children will be playing their part in helping us to celebrate the wonder of the Easter story. This will be the end of Term 4 and the start of our Easter holidays, until Tuesday 26th April.

Royal Wedding

For three days after returning to school we will be preparing in different ways for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Remember this will be a four day weekend, as Friday 29th April and Monday 2nd May are holidays.

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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Grafty Geeks – Computer Tip of the Month

Top 10 keyboard shortcuts you should know!

Are you spending too much time moving your cursor, pointing and clicking just to accomplish simple tasks on your PC? Did you know that you can use your keyboard to work more efficiently?

Below is a list of 10 keyboard shortcuts that will help you increase your productivity by eliminating the need to reach for the mouse.



CTRL + C	Copy text after it has been highlighted
CTRL + V	Paste text that has been copied
CTRL + Z	Undo any change that has been done
CTRL + ESC	Brings up the Start Menu
SHIFT + F3	Turns all capitalized text into lowercase
SHIFT + DELETE	Delete an item immediately without placing it in the Recycle Bin
ALT + TAB	Brings up a Window with a list of icons representing programs which are currently running on the computer. While holding the ALT key, press and depress the TAB button to cycle between each icon task
ALT + ESC	Switch to the next task running on the computer. Hold down the ALT before pressing and depressing the ESC key to cycle to the next task
CTRL + ALT + DELETE	Brings up Task Manager and allows you to end a process (terminate a program) if it has crashed or has stopped responding. Select the process which has stopped responding, and then press "END PROCESS".
SHIFT + INSERT	Paste any text that is in your clipboard. The cursor must also be placed in an area that will accept keyboard input for this to work



Don't forget F1 - the Help key F1 which will take you to the Help function of any application you are running



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APRIL NEWS FROM PLATTS HEATH SCHOOL



Wow! What a start to Term 4, no sooner had we returned when we had to close again due to a power failure. I think we could have coped with no electricity for the day but as the boiler needed power the school was far too cold for the children (and staff!). Everything is running smoothly again and I hope the children weren't too disappointed that they had an extended half

term!

Red Nose Day

On Friday 18th we took part in 'Wear something red for Comic Relief!' The children, staff and parent helpers looked fantastic and our parents were very generous in their donations as we raised over £70 for this worthwhile cause.

Wake Up Shake Up

Mrs Kennett continues to hold WUSU sessions every morning, starting at 8.45am.

Micro Pigs!

Some of you may have spotted one of our parents on the television recently with her litter of micro pigs and she very kindly offered to bring the piglets into school. This event was a great success with the children finding out about how the pigs are cared for, what food they eat and the commitment needed keeping this type of animal. The piglet was very at ease with all the children and was happy to be stroked and handled. Thank you once again Mr and Mrs Oliver for giving our children this great opportunity.

Reading Challenge

All our children are taking part in a reading challenge. Every time they read a book to an adult they get a star stamp in their reading record. Certificates are awarded for collecting 25 stamps (Bronze), 50 stamps (Silver) and 100 stamps (Gold). This challenge has proved very popular and we have already given out some Bronze and Silver certificates. We hope that all children will reach the 'Gold' standard by the end of this year.

Jump Off

At the end of this term we will be taking part in a 'Jump Off', a sponsored event in association with the British Heart Foundation. We have been given a collection of skipping ropes and the children are busy improving their skipping skills during break times and PE lessons ready for this day. On the 8th April there are lots of skipping based activities planned and the children should have fun, raise money and improve their fitness!

Your Starter for 10!

The PTFA hosted a Quiz Night at the St Edmunds Centre and raised £240. Thanks to everyone who supported it and we hope that you had a good evening. The Teachers' Table won the evening (I suppose we would have been more worried if they hadn't!!!)

Royal Wedding

On Friday 29th April the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton will be celebrated in style at our school. The PTFA are opening the school and all are welcome to join us to watch the ceremony on the big screens in the classrooms and then celebrate afterwards with a BBQ and games for the children. Gates will be open from 10 am and we aim to finish around 3 pm. All are welcome to join us and it would be great to see Platts Heath residents as well. £1 per person.

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

Piers Anscomb
Head teacher

The St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The Management Committee of the St Edmunds Centre is seeking a new Secretary, for appointment at the AGM in May 2011

If you have time to spare and are around the village most days of the week could you help?

We are looking for someone who can carry out some or all of the following: manage hall bookings, organise Committee meetings and take the minutes, advertise events and liaise with Platts Heath School and other hall users.

For more information please ring either Kate Stansfield 851160 or Duffrey Robinson 850463

Sharpening

Graham Howland will be at Headcorn Famers' Market in the village hall on Saturday April 9th from 9am. He sharpens knives, scissors and woodworking tools and also collects old tools for refurbishment for use in the developing world.

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 21st May 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

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

Ulcombe

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



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Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent

A note for your diary: This year's sponsored North Downs Walk will take place on Sunday morning July 3rd. Details from www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk or see next month's magazine

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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
Saturday 9th April	Rumwood Nursery discount day	
Saturday 30th April	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	

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Grafty Green Gardening Club Spring 2011

There are three forthcoming events in April; first of all on Tuesday 5th April we have our spring show (lots of categories to enter, please let me know if you require a schedule) and a talk by Laurie Manser 'Gardening as a Boy'. The following Saturday, 9th April, the very friendly, Rumwood Nursery at Langley are offering **members 15% discount** on purchases; a chance to get plants for tubs and baskets as well as vegetables and many other gardening sundries (don't forget your club card). The last Saturday, the 30th April, is an outing to Pashley Manor for the tulip festival which will be stunning with over 2000 tulips of various colours; entry £9; share transport if at all possible. Pashley Manor is on the B2099 between the A21 and Ticehurst village; the postcode for those with 'SATNAV' is TN5 7HE. There is an excellent restaurant so you might want to arrange your arrival in time for lunch!

So, there is no meeting in May; our next event is an outing to a private garden Westway, St.Faith's Lane, Bearsted, ME14 4JN (off Tower Lane, approach from Yeoman's Lane) on Tuesday 7th June, arrival time is 6.30. As parking is limited please share transport where possible. Donations to the diabetes charity.

There is a **change of date** for the coach outing to The Secret or Salutation Garden in Sandwich; this is scheduled for Saturday 2nd July **NOT** the 5th. It is intended that we arrive in Sandwich by about 11am and return to Grafty Green at 6.30. The cost of the coach is £12 and entry is £6. Lutyens devised the three-and-a-half acres of ornamental gardens with the help of Gertrude Jekyll. After lying neglected for 25 years, The Secret Gardens has undergone a remarkable transformation in the last four years; now restored to its original beauty. If you wish to book seats please contact Carole on 757536; we would like a deposit of £6 to be paid on booking and the balance (£6) to be paid by 25th June.

The weekend to Three Counties Show September 23rd to 25th: there are a couple of places left on this trip £148 per person sharing a twin and £178 for a single, again contact Carole to book. If you have got your name down we would like a deposit of £20 and final payment by September 6. During the weekend we will be visiting Slimbridge Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust and also Charlecote Manor; plenty to see and do. Bank House Hotel and Country Club is where we stay, dinner bed and breakfast.

Enjoy your garden,

Sue Burch

Update on Lenham Valley Business Association

Sarah Loftus from Hidden Britain has been working with the Parish Council and LVBA to help develop tourism in the Len Valley. If you want to get involved please do go see the LVBA website for details of meetings. We need help.

Networking is something most members like to do. It's a good way to meet your neighbours and find out if you could be (or they could be) a customer. Some husband and wife teams come together. Networking gives you the best possible opportunity to earn extra revenue and, remember, it doesn't cost extra if you come or not. There are plans to bring more speakers to the events - although some would tell you the events are entertaining enough already.

If you haven't joined yet then now is the best time of all to join. At these prices you cannot lose! Many new faces have applied for membership recently, so if you are 'still thinking about it' - now really is the time. see below for news about the business directory. If you want to be included in the next Business Directory then you must be a member before the end of March.

Up to 5 entries per member and the opportunity to buy an advertisement. The print run will be 5,000 distributed around the Len Valley area. See website for details.

The message to members is bring two friends and increase our ranks at each meeting. Other parishes are only more successful at this because they have greater numbers. The more we have the more we can do. Bring a friend to the very next networking meeting. There is growing interest from the surrounding areas so that alone gives another opportunity to earn more for your business too!

Next networking meetings - see Parish notice board.

Venues tbc 5 April and 3 May at 5.45 for 6pm. Check out the website for full details.

Alan Reading, Chairman

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The April Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Pisces at beginning of April, and moves into Aries on the 19th.

New Moon occurs on Sunday 3rd April, and **Full Moon** is on Monday 18th April, in the constellation of Virgo.

Mercury is at inferior conjunction (almost directly in front of the Sun) on 9th April, so it is unlikely we will be able to see this elusive planet this month.

Venus is again a brilliant "Morning Star" this month, low in the eastern sky just before sunrise, but it is getting increasingly difficult to see. By the end of the month we will not be able to observe it.

Mars rises only a few minutes before the Sun, so again we will not be able to see the "Red Planet" this month.

Jupiter is at superior conjunction (almost directly behind the Sun) on 6th April. So the giant planet will also be invisible this month.

Saturn is in opposition to the Sun on 4th April, and therefore, rises as the Sun sets. It is moving very slowly north-westwards in the constellation of Virgo. It should be possible to see the famous rings through a telescope.

This month is the turn of the **Lyrid** meteor-shower, which will probably peak around midnight on 22nd April. The meteors will appear to radiate from a point in the constellation of Lyra, close to the bright star Vega.

You may have read recently that scientist at the Arizona State University are suggesting that meteorites, that bombarded the Earth four billion years ago, could have kick-started life rather than wiping it out. They have taken fragments from a meteorite in the Antarctic, and have found that, under primordial conditions, they emitted ammonia, an essential compound in the production of amino acids, the so-called building blocks of life.

John Maunder

Musical Appreciation?

Extract from a parish magazine review of the recent parish fund-raising concert:

"Mrs Jennifer Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" to the obvious pleasure of the audience."

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

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2	Ball	Loaf	Mince	
3	Cast	Hide	Match	
4	Parent	Send	Willing	
5	Deep	Dried	Frame	
6	Agent	Click	Jeopardy	
7	Knitting	Point	Work	
8	Paper	Pipes	Tea	
9	Bar	Legal	Loin	
10	Fish	Mould	Royal	
11	Legal	Packed	Replay	
12	Band	Bowler	Stand	
13	Effort	Football	Spirit	
14	Bay	Creeper	Stump	
15	Cooker	Mountain	Rifle	
16	Barrel	Garden	Ginger	

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Christian Message April 2011

Christians across the world are celebrating the season of Lent: six weeks that began on Ash Wednesday which help us prepare for Easter. Some of you will have taken up the Lenten challenge to try and live life differently. Others may be wondering what it is all about: doesn't it sound rather gloomy and negative? What's the big deal about 'giving up' things, especially if they're not particularly bad anyway? Has what some people been doing got more to do with improving our physical wellbeing than with growing as a Christian – like drinking or smoking less?

Anyone can make Lent something superficial, of course. But it's really about 'refocusing' our lives on what matters, living our everyday lives in ways that are more open to God. From time to time, most of us feel a need to clear out clutter from our homes or our lives, or to sharpen up by dieting or taking up exercise. We need this in our spiritual lives as well, and Lent is the time for it.

Jesus taught his followers three particular ways to do this: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (if you have a bible, look at what he says in St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 6, 1 -18).

Fasting is the one we instinctively associate with Lent. Why fast? Not to feel miserable if we go without, but to discover deeper gratitude for all the good we so easily receive at God's hands. When we miss something, we often appreciate it all the more.

Prayer is central. When we give more time to prayer, we become attentive to God and gain a fresh perspective –we are not the 'be all and end all', our lives are a gift from God, we are actually made for Christ and for his love.

And 'almsgiving'? It's about seeing others' needs and being ready to share when we have so much, often more than we need. When we have been praying and fasting, this can become clearer – our fasting may provide the wherewithal to respond more generously to the needs of others; we may discover a deeper sense of how God loves us and a desire to share this with others.

How does Lent prepare for those Easter feasts which we celebrate shortly? On Good Friday Christians will be celebrating Jesus' crucifixion and, on Easter Sunday, his resurrection from the dead. On the cross Jesus died showing a love that was totally for others, totally for us. In his risen life, Jesus calls us to a life richer than anything this world alone can give.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you' (John 15: 12-14). That's Jesus' vision of what life is ultimately about; and our Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving may free us up to see this. There's still time to make a start.

The Christian churches in our area will celebrate that love this Easter. Why not come and join us?

Timothy Galligan
Parish Priest of St Peter's Catholic Church Bearsted, and The Good Shepherd Church, Harrietsham.

And when the Saints.....

Some months ago a headline in the Ulcombe parish magazine caught my eye. 'Ulcombe's First Saint,' I read. I was puzzled. 'First', I thought? ' But I know many saints in Ulcombe.'

Even among mature Christians there is still a tendency to reserve the word 'saint' for the big names, the famous and glitzy believers seen in stained glass windows. But, I insist, I do know many saints in Ulcombe. How can I be so sure? My authority is the Bible.

This year the 400th anniversary of the Authorised (King James) version is being celebrated. Those who revere and choose to read this much loved translation discover that 62 times Christ's followers are called 'saints' and the same word is used in more recent translations.

Jesus has many followers in different denominations in the Len Valley villages. All for whom Jesus is the Lord of their lives are saints.

This truth should not cause Christians to sit back and relax. The famous glitzy stained glass window saints were not complacent. They were men and women who, in modern parlance, 'walked the talk' to the end of their lives looking forward to the greeting, 'Well done! Good and faithful servant.' In hostile situations and in great danger they were faithful to their Lord.

The challenge to modern saints living in a society apathetic to Christianity and often hostile to it is to 'walk the talk.' We need to be motivated to live holy lives, to be faithful to Christ through thick and thin just as his first disciples were.

It seems a formidable task but help is available in the form of an exciting challenge from the Bishop of Dover, Trevor Wilmott. He has launched a course entitled 24/7 CONFIDENT DISCIPLESHIP. It is designed to equip modern saints to be more effective for Jesus by witnessing to him in words and work wherever we live.

So...saints in Ulcombe and the other villages are already attending this course and learning from it. They may not end up in a stained glass window (no idle promises here) but they will become more confident disciples of Jesus Christ.

Joan Drury

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Lent Groups in the Len Valley Churches



From Ash Wednesday, 9th March, until Palm Sunday, 17th April, people will be meeting once a week for about an hour and a half in each of the four villages of Lenham, Harrietsham, Ulcombe and Boughton Malherbe to follow a course in Confident Discipleship. This course is designed to help us think and talk about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. How can Jesus equip us to live our faith 24/7?

Join us to find out as we come to him, follow him, learn from him, are changed by him and so are ready to go out and live as he wants us to do. For details of venues and times for these meetings, please phone Michelle at the Benefice Office on 01622 850604. There will be a variety of times and places – mornings, afternoons and evenings, so one is bound to suit you!

Rev. Marian Bond

Music Notes - April

Last month, most musical events seem to be happening at the end of the month; the congestion of concerts continues into the beginning of April! Anyway, here is something to choose from:

- From 28th March to 2nd April at 7.30pm (and also 2.30pm on Saturday 2nd) at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, The Maidstone Operatic Society performs *Crazy for you*, the new Gershwin© Musical. Booking office 01622 758661
- On Saturday 2nd April at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone, Maidstone Choral Union performs Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. Tickets 01622 726 193
- On Sunday 3rd April at 7.30pm, Sutton Valence Choral Society performs Palestrina's *Stabat Mater* and Stainer's *Crucifixion* at All Saints' Church, Maidstone. Tickets 01622 761649
- On Sunday, 10th April, at 7.30pm at Astley House, Hastings Road, Maidstone, Maidstone Winds Symphony have a concert entitled *Horn Concerto* The programme includes works by Peter Graham, Edward Gregson and Richard Wagner. The Horn Soloist is Oliver Hickie. Tickets 01580 291056.
- Monday 25th April, at Rochester Cathedral at 3.15pm, there is a special choral evensong with music by RSCM Voices (South), a specially drawn choir of church music specialists. (check time nearer the event).

Brian Hardy

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

3rd April – Mothering Sunday

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

10th April – 5th Sunday of 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

17th April – Palm Sunday

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

Holy Week Services

There will be a quiet reflective service, one in each church in the benefice
Monday 18th April 7.30pm – Harrietsham
Tuesday 19th April 7.30pm - Ulcombe
Wednesday 20th April 7.30pm – Boughton Malherbe
Thursday 21st April – Maundy Thursday 7.30pm in St. Mary's Lenham

22nd April – Good Friday

10am Walk of Witness meet at Church of the Good Shepherd Harrietsham
10.30am – 12 noon Easter Craft Messy Church in St. Mary's Lenham.
2pm An hour at the cross in each church in the Benefice

24th April – Easter Day

6am Sunrise Easter celebration at Lenham Cross followed by breakfast in St. Mary's Lenham

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham Family Holy Communion

9.30am Boughton Family Holy Communion

11am Lenham Family Holy Communion

11.15am Ulcombe Family Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY 2011

COME AND JOIN CHRISTIANS IN HARRIETSHAM AND LENHAM ON A WALK OF WITNESS ON GOOD FRIDAY.

We shall assemble at 10 am at the Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Rectory Lane, Harrietsham and walk around various points in the village, pausing briefly to pray at each point. The walk will include a visit to the Church of St John the Baptist.

You have a choice of where to finish the walk, either on the Green outside the shop in Harrietsham or in Lenham at St Mary's Church, joining with the young families in the closing worship after the Craft morning.

Rev. Marian Bond 07966 442181

Messy Church

Families are invited to St Mary's Lenham on Good Friday for a morning of Easter themed crafts and activities.

Come and join us for this special morning as we explore the meaning of Easter.
10.30 – 12.00, Friday 22nd April

Rev Dr Richard Venn
Priest-in-charge, Len Valley Benefice
Parishes of Boughton Malherbe, Harrietsham, Lenham & Ulcombe

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Date	Duty	Rubber	Stamp
2	Ball	Leaf	Mince	Meat
3	Cast	Hide	March	Away
4	Parent	Send	Willing	God
5	Deep	Dried	Frame	Freeze
6	Agent	Click	Jeopardy	Double
7	Knitting	Point	Work	Needle
8	Paper	Pipes	Tea	Bag
9	Bar	Legal	Loin	Tender
10	Fish	Mould	Royal	Jelly
11	Legal	Packed	Replay	Action
12	Band	Bowler	Stand	Hat
13	Effort	Football	Spirit	Team
14	Bay	Creeper	Stump	Tree
15	Cooker	Mountain	Rifle	Range
16	Barrel	Garden	Ginger	Beer

Find the missing word?	
1	Roll Over Beethoven, 1973 E.L.O. Hit
2	Once in a Lifetime, Debut hit for Talking Heads 1981
3	Rolf Harris, Australian entertainer
4	Nevil Chute, Acclaimed author of A Town Like Alice
5	Indiana Jones, Movie character played by Harrison Ford
6	You're So Vain, 1970's song by Carly Simon
7	Tim Allen, Comic actor who voices Toy Story's Buzz Lightyear
8	Rha Sullivam, Long standing character in Corrie
9	Penelope Keith, Well spoken actress in the Good Life
10	Love Me Tender, Song by Elvis Presley

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