

Malherbe Monthly

Number 73
August 2010



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

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

Front cover: One (or three) of Eve's Legendary Fish and Chips at the Kings Head Pub - available on Friday lunch and evening. Photograph courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

Cream Teas

The Cream Teas have started with a bang with many people coming along on Sunday 11th and 18th July. It was good to see old friends and new ones coming for the first time. Several people visiting us this year have moved away from the Parish and it's really good to see them returning to this really lovely place with its fine views. The weather has been kind to us so far this year but the 18th was a bit windy - it makes keeping the tablecloths in place difficult but the sun shone brightly.

For those of you who don't know, we serve cream teas during July and August and into September on Sunday afternoons between 2.00pm and 5.00pm priced £2.50 each. Perhaps we will see you one Sunday, I hope so.

Morning Prayers

Morning Prayers are held in St. Nicholas on Monday mornings between 9.30am and 10.00am. If you have someone for whom you would like the Group to pray, someone who is ill or someone for whom life is difficult at the moment or for any other reason just put a request in the box in the porch. It is opened each week to see if there are requests inside. This takes a break in August but resumes on 6th September.

Bike Ride

The Friends of Kent Churches Bike ride will take place on Saturday 11th September and we are looking for riders/walkers and also Church minders (all of whom can be sponsored for giving up their time to help raise money for the Churches in Kent). Any Church PCC can apply to the Friends for financial help when doing projects to keep their Church building in good order.

Ring Joan Davidson on 01622 850210 for a Sponsorship Form and get walking /riding for St. Nicholas. We need your support and if you are interested in history and churches or just like to walk or ride, it's a very good way to visit the Churches in your area as so many of them are locked these days. It is not just in Kent; churches in the neighbouring counties are open too. Joan has a list of the churches that will be open in Kent, so you can plan your route in good time.

Quinquennial Report

Further to the above request we have just received our Quinquennial Report on the Fabric of St. Nicholas and we will be carrying out repairs to the Church building over the next 5 years to keep the elements at bay. We haven't as yet got a plan as to what is the most important work that must be done, but the Chancel Roof is in need of attention to name but one item.

Weddings and Blessings

In July we had a Blessing and a Wedding at St. Nicholas. Paul and Sharon Jennings of Masons Farm celebrated their Silver Wedding by having a Service of Blessing on Saturday 3rd July and Elizabeth Clark of Boughton Place married Sean Ilbery of Zurich, Switzerland on 10th July and they will be living in Switzerland. We offer both couples congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness together.

Joan Davidson

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

	Find the missing word?
1	The _____, Josey Wales, 1976 Clint Eastwood Western
2	Susan _____, Britain's got Talent runner up
3	_____ The Summer Wine, BBC sitcom set in the Yorkshire Dales
4	_____ Whisper, George Michael Ballard
5	It's _____ Men, Disco floor filler by the Weather Girls
6	_____ to the Country, TV property show
7	_____ King, Animal centred Disney animation
8	Shirley _____, Famed child star of the 1930 and 40's
9	_____ Holmes, 2000 movie with Robert Downey JNR
10	Rear _____, A Hitchcock thriller starring James Stewart

Dazzle

Dazzle is a new after school activity for Primary School children held in the Village Hall, Grafty Green on Friday afternoons at 3.45pm for an hour. At the moment Dazzle has 9 children attending between the ages of 4-10 years.

It is hoped that by coming along to Dazzle and taking part will increase the children's self confidence while having fun. They do light hearted drama and have just presented a production of Peter Pan to an audience of parents and grandparents. The children helped with many of the roles that putting on a production involves such as selling tickets and programmes to the audience as they arrived and the drinks and popcorn during the interval. Several of the children had 2 or 3 parts to play in the production, which was enjoyed by all of those present.

If you would like to know more about this Class - ring Gail Kelly on 01622 850671.
Gail and her helper are CRB checked.

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'Liverton Hill 30mph Campaign Group'

Just a quick update to let you know progress to date.

A few residents attended the all important Joint Transport Board Meeting at The Town Hall on Wednesday, Anna Farley (Hillside Cottages) kindly spoke very eloquently on behalf of the residents of Liverton Hill.

A copy of our report including residents comments and the press releases to date were sent to the Board members (18) prior to this meeting. Several Board members were clutching these reports at the meeting and it was clear that the Liverton Hill 30mph issue was definitely on the agenda.

Jenny Whittle our County Councillor had kindly arranged for a Kent Highways Transport Officer to visit Liverton Hill today to assess our request. The Officer was present at The Joint Transport Board Meeting on Wednesday and was aware of our requests. I accompanied Jenny Whittle, Pat Anderson & the Highways Officer who seemed very positive, he outlined his views and invited Jenny Whittle to make an application for a 30mph speed limit for part of Liverton Hill with additional yellow backed safety signs for the lower half of Liverton Hill outlining the narrow road and dangers present.

I would at this point like to thank all the residents who have contributed to the campaign so far and also thank Tom & Janetta Sams for their invaluable contribution, advice & help to date.

I will keep you all informed if there is further progress.

If you have any comments or feel you could help with the campaign please email the group secretary Robert Stuttle at 30onthehill@gmail.com.

The 'Liverton Hill 30mph Campaign' has a website for more information: <https://sites.google.com/site/30onthehill/>

Robert Stuttle

'Back to Church Sunday' is on 26th September. There will be a special service in St Nicholas church at 9.30am.

A Quiet Day will be held in the Methodist Hall, Headcorn on Saturday 2nd October. More details in the next issue.

Joan Drury

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

Firstly we must send our best wishes to all of our Leavers this year. Eleven children moved on to 'big school' this summer, with children going to Invicta Girls' Grammar School, Oakwood Park Grammar School, Angley Sports College, New Line Learning Oldborough, Cornwallis and Swadelands. We wish all of them the very best of luck, hoping that they will work hard and get what they deserve for their efforts. We also say farewell to one of our staff. Mr Sheehan joined our staff team in January 2008. He has been one of our Senior Teachers. I know that many parents have really appreciated his work with the children in his class, as have I. We must also thank Mr Sheehan for all the work he has done 'behind the scenes' leading subjects and areas of school life. We wish Mr Sheehan every success as he moves to a school in north-west Kent.

There is more to come about both events, but I must also start with a word about fundraising this summer. The Friends of Ulcombe School, our PTA, have done an absolutely amazing job again this term. The Summer Fayre and Summer Ball raised a combined total of approximately £2,400. This is fantastic. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with these events, which were both a wonderful success again this year!

IN THE NEWS

Sports Day and the Summer Fayre – Saturday 26th June

Our Sports Day and Summer Fayre took place on Saturday 26th June. This was a fantastic event, and it was great to see so many there. Children started their races at 11am, and enjoyed taking part in a variety of events including a new event for us, the long-distance run. Following the races and the announcement of the Sports Day winners – well done Topaz – there was a barbecue, cream teas, drinks and other refreshments on sale, as well as various activities to enjoy. The stocks seemed to be a particular favourite for some reason. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying taking part in different activities raising over £1,000. Thank you!

The World Cup – Friday 9th July

On Friday 9th July we had a Film Club Special watching England win the World Cup! We all had a hat to wear or a flag to wave, and we had a really enjoyable couple of hours. Unfortunately we had to see how it was done in 1966. Maybe in four years time ...

Summer Ball – Saturday 10th July

On the following day the Friends of Ulcombe School hosted the second F.U.S. Summer Ball. This was a massive success again this year, and everyone who went had a hugely enjoyable evening. Congratulations to everyone who was successful with their auction bids, stand-up bingo or the raffle to win a free meal in the hotel restaurant. Our thanks go to everyone who donated items for the auction. The total

raised was over £1,300, which was brilliant and so an enormous thank you goes to Mrs Berry, Mrs Williams and all of the FUS who have worked hard to make this such a great event.

The Summer Production – Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July

This year's Summer Production was called The Pinafore Pirates, and it is a spoof of Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. Children worked very hard learning lines and songs, which were certainly not easy. This was extremely entertaining with children really getting into their part, including boys pretending to be ladies and girls playing the parts of men. Well done to all of the children who were brilliant.

Leavers' and End of Year Celebrations

After school on the last Wednesday of term, FUS organised an end of year disco for all of the children. The children had time to get changed after school, so they could bring their disco clothes in to school to make sure they could look the part. After the disco, Tawny Owls, our oldest children, were all invited to stay for the Leavers' Barbecue.

Thursday 22nd July, the last of the school year for pupils, started at All Saints Parish Church for our Leavers' Celebration. It was great to see family and friends at the church for the service. It is always very enjoyable hearing what events and moments stand out as significant to the children, and this year was no exception.

COMING UP

More Improvements

At the time of writing we are still getting quotes, but there may be some building work going on during the summer break. We are certainly hoping to get some much needed internal work done in the cook's office and store area. There is the possibility that we may also have improved access to the playground and more secure fencing to the front of the school. Our long term project of providing a library for the children, which can be a room which the community can use as well, continues to move forward. We hope to have more news by the end of the summer.

You may see contractors working on the playground again this holiday. Unfortunately the resurfacing has not been as successful as we would like. We will continue to work with Sturgeon's to try and make this a suitable play area for the children.

The Next Academic Year

For those of you thinking ahead to the next school year, Wednesday 1st September, Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September will all be Inset Days here at Ulcombe. On the first Thursday into the new term (9th September) the children will be having their photograph taken, so it is a day to make ourselves look extra special!

Thank you so much to everyone who has continued to support the school during this year! Have a wonderful summertime.

Mr V Hampton, Head Teacher

Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall



I recently met with Robert Stuttle and neighbouring residents on **Liverton Hill** who are campaigning to halve the current speed limit to 30mph. The camber and sharp bends of this road demands a revision of the speed limit for the safety of residents, motorists, cyclists and walkers. I am in discussions with officers from Kent Highways Services and will do my utmost to ensure we achieve a much safer and realistic speed limit for this stretch of road. Well done to Robert for establishing an effective and vocal campaign.

Congratulations to the governing body at **Platts Heath Primary School** who have recently appointed a new Headteacher following the retirement of Ian Priddle. I wish the best of luck to Mr Priddle and the new Headteacher, Piers Anscomb, who was Deputy Headteacher at Cage Green Primary School in Tonbridge and starts at Platts Heath in September.

Unsurprisingly **roads maintenance** has been the hottest topic in my postbag and inbox since I was elected. Six companies have been shortlisted by Kent County Council for the contract to maintain its huge highway network of more than 5,000 miles of roads from next year. They are Atkins, Balfour Beatty, Carillion, Colas, Enterprise and May Gurney. The council is aiming to refine its service requirements by 21st September. Talks will be held with each of the bidding companies about how best to achieve this. The new contract will be awarded in May 2011 and will run for up to 10 years. The current contract will continue to be delivered by Ringway until 31st August 2011. Since April KCC has also employed the services of Detling-based firm Steadline that have undertaken pothole repairs in unclassified lanes and rural areas across the borough. I envisage the Council continuing to use small contractors following positive reports about the quality of repairs undertaken by Steadline and

other firms employed across Kent to fix potholes. This approach has also helped to support small and medium sized companies during a very difficult economic climate.

If you need my help or advice please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jenny Whittle

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

Deputy Cabinet Member for Learning and Development

✉ jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk

☎ 01622 734897 (h) or 07855 767968 (m)

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY

Update on our book of the history of the Parish.

We are now approaching the time when we need to decide upon the number of copies for publication.

The number needed to provide a free copy for every household in the Parish is easy to calculate but our dilemma is to decide on the quantity required for those wishing to purchase extra copies.

Based upon the interest shown we expect a high demand and whilst we are unable yet to quote a price we are already compiling a list of potential purchasers from the requests of parishioners and others.

If anyone is likely to want to purchase a copy or know someone who does please help us by contacting Ron Galton on 01622850369 or preferably Email him at galtonweeks@googlemail.com giving your contact details and number of copies you may require.

You will be contacted as soon as the cost is available to confirm if you do wish to purchase. Our thanks go to everyone who has supported us in this venture.

Ron Galton

Grafty Green Speedwatch

Overview

Speedwatch has now started in Grafty Green so you might find a few words about it useful. The scheme is aimed at encouraging drivers to observe speed limits in rural areas, and for our community the 30 mph through Grafty Green. It is a scheme operated by trained volunteers organised under the auspice of Kent Police, Kent County Council and Boughton Malherbe Parish Council. Strict guidelines are in place and the volunteers have no authority whatsoever, they merely monitor results and when necessary pass details to the Police.

Update

We, at the time of writing have been able to carry out three monitoring sessions at different times and all of 2 hours duration.

The results have been significant with 41 vehicles travelling in excess of 36mph and a high percentage well into the 40's. Bearing in mind we can only monitor one way at each session, and most vehicles on seeing the check have slowed before the 'screen' illuminates the figures can only be described as worrying.

All of our data goes back to Maidstone Police traffic management unit and will no doubt result in some official police checks and both they and us re-iterate it is not about catching motorists but educating them to slow down where there are pedestrians, children and animals. At speeds up to 30mph injuries can be bad but increase many times over and sharply as speeds increase.

More volunteers would help achieve more monitoring please contact any member of the Parish Council or Chris Wheal 01622 858100 or e-mail cwcancare@aol.com

**Chris Wheal
(Speedwatch Co-ordinator)**

*Ulcombe History Society **have organised a Visit to Stokesay Castle and Ironbridge Gorge for Saturday and Sunday 18/19 September. A few double room spaces are still available.***

Leaving Ulcombe at 7.15 am on Saturday 18th and returning to Ulcombe at 9.30 pm on Sunday 19th, the schedule will include: the lovely (and very well preserved) 13th Century fortified manor of Stokesay Castle at Craven Arms; the Museum of the Gorge and a walk along the river to the Iron Bridge; and a full day visit on Sunday to Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, the Old Furnace and Blists Hill Victorian Town. If time allows, we will also visit either the Coalport China Museum or the Jackfield Tile Museum.

Accommodation is in the lovely Georgian House and Grounds of the Valley Hotel, where we will have both Dinner and Breakfast.

The *Total* cost is extremely reasonable at £122 per person sharing a room and £132 for a single. *This includes all admission fees to Stokesay and Ironbridge, transport, three-course dinner, bed and breakfast and a comfortable room.*

At present only double rooms are available but if you would like to go as a single please telephone John Moore to discuss possibilities.

Please contact John Moore on 01622 850384 or return the booking form below with a £20 deposit

Please return to John Moore, Treasurer, Ulcombe History Society, Eastville, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green, Kent ME17 2DQ.

I/we would like to book a double room for the trip to Ironbridge Gorge in September 2010.

Name(s).....

The number of people in the group who are English Heritage members is

I enclose a deposit of £20 per person (please make cheques payable to Ulcombe History Society)

The Grafty Gourmet

This has got to be the simplest recipe yet. It's more difficult to boil an egg ! If ever you do not feel like cooking try this is very simple, yet very tasty dish. It's very versatile and can be served with rice, pasta, noodle, or vegetables.

Easy Spicy Chicken - Serves 4

Ingredients

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
½ pint of French salad dressing
1/4 cup salsa
1 teaspoon dried thyme

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 175 degrees C. Lightly grease a medium baking dish.
2. Arrange chicken in the baking dish. In a bowl, mix French salad dressing, salsa, and thyme. Pour evenly over chicken.
3. Cover with aluminium foil, and bake 20 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove foil, and continue baking 10 minutes, until chicken juices run clear.
4. Serve with your choice of rice, pasta, noodles or vegetable.

The Grafty Gourmet



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Platts Heath Primary School

The governors of Platts Heath School are delighted to announce the appointment of their new headmaster Piers Anscomb.

Mr Anscomb will take up his post in September when the new academic year starts. He is married with 2 children and comes from Eccles. The Anscomb family have already started to make friends with Platts Heath having attended the school summer fair in June.

This, of course, means that sadly we have said good bye to Ian Priddle who has retired after a decade as head teacher at Platts Heath. Ian played a large part in the campaign to save the school from closure in 2006/7 and the governors and school wish him and his family well for his retirement.

Platts Heath Governors

Fayre Play and Thank You.

The Platts Heath PTFA would like to thank everyone who braved the wind and rain and joined us for the Summer Fayre on 19 June. Given the current long run of sunshine we are enjoying (at the time of writing) we were slightly unfortunate with the weather we were given for the Fayre. All the hard work that was done on Friday afternoon by parents in putting up marquees and gazebos (to hopefully get ahead of the game on Saturday morning) was literally blown away when we got to the field on Saturday morning to find the same marquees and gazebos upside down and far from where they were originally tethered. However, as always, we gritted our teeth and got on with the matter in hand with lots of donated tent pegs, gaffer tape, hope and good humour getting us back on track.

We were beautifully entertained by the dancers from the Mandy Ellen School of Dance and the Platts Heath School Maypole dancers did the parent instructors, Grace and Kelly, proud with their polished routine. The hobby horse gymkhana was as amusing as ever and even brought the fire brigade back for a second year (bunch of big kids!!)

Our thanks to the ladies of the Lenham WI who kindly judged our annual Dad's cake competition and children's fairy cake competition.

We raised a whopping £2,300 which, considering the weather is an amazing achievement. Thank you to everyone who helped run stalls, hold stalls down (literally) and came and spent their money. We hope you had an enjoyable afternoon and we hope we get better weather next year – if Glastonbury can do it then so can we!!

Platts Heath PTFA

Mondays to Fridays

Saturdays

Service No	School Days Only					Not School Days					Saturdays			
	59	59	59	66	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Stop L2	0948	1227	1402	.....	1555	1555	1615	1700	1750	0838	1241	1525	1755	
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn, J4	0950	1229	1404	.....	1557	1557	1617	1702	1752	0840	1243	1527	1757	
Wheatshaf	0957	1236	1411	.....	1604	1604	1624	1709	1759	0847	1250	1534	1804 R	
Loose, Loose Rd/Old Loose Hill	1001	1240	1415	.....	1608	1608	via	1713	1803	via	1254	1538	.....
Linton Corner	1005	1244	1419	.....	1612	1612	Sutton	1717	1807	Sutton	1258	1542	.....
Cornwallis Academy	.....	.....	.....	1505	.....	.....	Road	.....	.....	Road	.....	.....	.....
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1010	1249	1424	.....	1617	1617	and	1722	1812	and	1303	1547	1817 R	
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1013	1252	1427	1509	1620	1620	Largely	1725	1815	Largely	1308	1550	1820 R	
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1016	1255	1430	1512	1623	1623	.....	1728	1818	.....	1309	1553	1823 R	
Warmlake Corner	1019	1258	1433	1515	.....	1628	1638	1731	1821	0859	1312	1556	1826 R	
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	.....	1308	.....	1523	.....	1634	1648	.....	1829	0907	1320	1604	1834 R	
Kingswood, Village Hall	1024	1308	1438	1525	.....	1636	1648	1739	1831	0909	1322	.....	1836 R	
Ulcombe, Post Office	.....	1313	.....	1530	.....	1641	1653	.....	1836	0914	1327	.....	1841 R	
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1320	1648	1700	1843	0921	1334	1848 R	
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	1535	
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	1544	

CODES

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R: Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

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Grafty Green - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Maidstone

Mondays to Fridays

Saturdays

Service No	School Days Only					Not School Days					Saturdays			
	59	59	59	66	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	.....	.....	.....	0736	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	.....	.....	.....	0745	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0720	.....	0723	.....	0915	.....	1325	.....	.....	1703	0733	0923	1336	.....
Ulcombe, Post Office	0727	.....	0730	0750	0922	.....	1332	.....	.....	1710	0740	0930	1343	.....
Kingswood, Village Hall	0732	.....	0735	0755	0927	1027	1337	1440	1440	1715	0745	0935	1348	1604
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735	.....	0738	0757	0929	1029	1339	1442	1442	1717	0747	0937	1350	1608
Warmlake Corner	0743	.....	0744	0801	0935	1035	1345	1448	1448	1723	0753	0943	1356	1612
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	via	0739	0747	0804	0938	1038	1348	1451	1451	1726	0756	0946	1359	via
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	Largely	0742	0750	0807	0941	1041	1351	1454	1454	1729	0759	0949	1402	Largely
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	and	0745	0753	.....	0944	1044	1354	1457	1457	1732	0802	0952	1405	and
Cornwallis Academy	Sutton	.....	.....	0820	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1507	.....	.....	.....	Sutton
Linton Corner	Road	0750	0758	.....	0949	1049	1359	1502	1509	1737	0807	0957	1410	Road
Loose, Loose Rd/Old Loose Hill	.....	0756	0802	.....	0953	1053	1403	1506	1513	1741	0811	1001	1414	.....
Wheatshaf	0756	0800	0806	.....	0957	1057	1407	1510	1517	1745	0815	1005	1418	1624
Maidstone, King Street	.....	0810	0814	.....	1005	1105	1415	1518	1525	1753	0820	1013	1426	1632
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn	0808	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
London Rd, Somerfield Hospital	0817
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826

Sundays & Public Holidays*

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Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

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Grafty Green Gardening Club

Date	Topic	Speaker
5 th January	AGM – Best of Kent slide show	Robert Canis
2 nd February	Bee Keeping	Mrs. Barbara Harris
2 nd March	Growing Vegetables	Mr. Andrew Fletcher
6 th April	Spring Show History/making walking sticks	Mr. Dennis Worcester
10 th April	15% off at Rumwood Nursery 9.30 – 4.30	
4 th May	Visit to Turkey Mill	
25 th –27 th June	Weekend visit to Dorset, staying Norfolk Royale Hotel Bournemouth. Gardens: Stourhead (NT), Abbotsbury, Kingston Maurwood, West Dean	
6 th July	Mere House, Mereworth	Andrew Wells
3rd August	Belmont House, Throwley	Head Gardener
7 st September	Autumn show - Iceland/wild flowers	Sue Buckingham Wild flower expert
5 th October	Nuts and Seeds	Tom Hart Dyke
2 nd November	Kent Gardens Trust	Elizabeth Cairns
7 th December	Christmas Social with entertainment	Geoff Doel and Mick Lynn

We are a very sociable bunch and love to welcome new members. The fee to join is £5 for the year and a small entry fee of £1 on the door for events attended.

Tuesday August 3rd at 6.30 pm the club is visiting Belmont Park Throwley, nr. Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HH. This garden has a large walled kitchen garden restored in 2001 to a design by the renowned Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd. The last time the club visited the new design had just been completed and so it will be interesting to see the changes since then. The head gardener will be there to take us round and answer our questions.

Do feel free to join us – further information from Sue Burch 850381 or Rosemary Smith 850526. If you need a lift or wish to share a car please also let us know so that we can co-ordinate drivers with passengers.

The August Night Sky

At the start of August the Sun is in the constellation of Cancer, and moves into Leo on Tuesday 10th.

New Moon occurs on Tuesday 10th August. We will not be able to see the waxing crescent until Sunday 15th, low in the southwest after sunset. Full Moon occurs on Tuesday 24th August, in the constellation of Aquarius.

As Mercury is at its greatest elongation east of the Sun on 24th August, you will be lucky to get a glimpse of this planet in the west, as it sets only minutes after the Sun. Whilst on the subject of Mercury, I have read that the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency is to launch an ambitious mission to the planet in the next few years. I will have more about this subject in a later article.

Venus is still visible low in the western sky as soon as it starts to get dark, but it will get increasingly difficult to see as the weeks go by. But the "Evening Star" is so brilliant, it can even be seen in the twilight sky.

Mars is low in the western sky at dusk and can be clearly seen shining with an orange light. Venus is catching up on Mars, and on the night of 19th August it will appear directly below. Mars sets earlier every evening and by the end of the month it will not be visible.

Jupiter is the only planet visible during the night. It rises in the east in late evening, and is well up in the south at dawn. The giant planet is less brilliant than Venus, but can still be seen even against a brightening sky. With binoculars Jupiter's four major moons can easily be seen.

Saturn is low in the western sky at dusk and sets before midnight. Again the famous rings can only be seen through a telescope. Saturn sets earlier every night, and by the end of the month it will not be visible.

August is the month for the famous Perseid meteor shower. They will appear to radiate from a point in the constellation of Perseus, which is high in the northeast in the evening. It is expected that the showers will peak on the evening of 12th August.

Some of you may have read that astronomers have discovered a star that is 10million times brighter than the Sun. It was found within two young star clusters in the Tarantula nebula, using the Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope. Experts have said that, as these monster stars are rarely discovered, the record is likely to last for some time.

John Maunder

Neighbourhood Watch Message

Kent Trading Standards have received reports of bogus callers claiming to be from Citizens Advice, telephoning consumers advising that they can clear consumers' unsecured debts. They can't!

The callers have heavy Asian accents that are difficult to understand and they know consumers names.

Kent Trading Standards are warning consumers to be very wary of anyone cold calling. Never disclose any personal or bank details to them. If you are in any doubt at all end the call - in your home you are in control - hang up.

Free confidential and independent advice on how to deal with debt problems can be found by contacting The National Debt Line on 0808 808 4000 or visiting www.nationaldebtline.co.uk.

Please contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or go to www.consumerdirect.gov.uk if you need further advice on your consumer rights, or you want to report any businesses or incidents you have concerns about.

In memoriam

At either St Nicholas' (Leeds) or St Margaret's (Broomfield) you can have a dedication plate put in the front of one of the hymn books in memory of a loved one. There is a small fee, which helps us buy the hymn book. If you would like to take advantage of this, please ask any lay official at either church, or a member of the clergy.

Some churches (not in this benefice) also invite church visitors to buy a candle in memory of the departed. The following is part of a notice we saw in such a church:.

"Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered".

Well, it saves a burial fee!

Brian Hardy

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

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Strip	Music	Aircraft	Light
2	Baking	Siphon	Cream	
3	Pocket	Maker	Stop	
4	Flying	Warrant	Petty	
5	Lone	Park	Power	
6	Jewellery	Designer	Drama	
7	Unknown	Book	Public	
8	Hopper	Rye	Widow	
9	Lying	Stay	Wide	
10	Comic	House	Soap	
11	Butter	Royal	Sugar	
12	Banquet	Sorry	Welfare	
13	Dog	Peg	Warmer	
14	Boat	Limit	Trap	
15	Cider	Gutter	Stud	
16	Burner	Ever	Taste	

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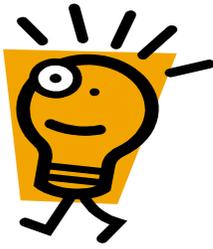
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Our next group of lessons (using Word 2007/2010, Picasa and a desk top publishing package) has now been arranged for the period September to December, as follows:

HOW TO GET STARTED (from the very beginning!)	13 th and 20 th September	10am/12 noon.
HOW TO GET ON LINE (for the very first time!)	4 th and 11 th October	10am /12 noon
HOW TO GET PHOTOGRAPHS FROM CAMERA TO PC	22 nd and 29 th September	7.30pm/9.3 0pm
HOW TO EDIT PHOTOGRAPHS	13 th and 20 th October	7.30pm/9.3 0pm
HOW TO EMAIL PHOTOGRAPHS	3 rd and 10 th November	7.30pm/9.3 0pm
HOW TO GET STARTED IN WORD	30 th September and 7 th October	7.30pm/9.3 0pm
HOW TO DO MORE IN WORD	21 st and 28 th October	7.30pm/9.3 0pm
HOW TO PRODUCE A NEWSLETTER	5 th and 12 th October	10am/12noon
HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN GREETINGS CARDS	26 th October and 2 nd November	10am/12 noon
HOW TO USE THE INTERNET	15 th November	10am/12 noon
HOW TO USE SOCIAL NETWORKS	22 nd November	10am/12 noon
HOW TO PRODUCE A CALENDAR	6 TH and 12 th December	10am-12 noon

We can also look at additional classes to cover such subjects as How to use eBay, How to use files and folders, How to shop on line, etc. if there is sufficient interest. And for everyone who wants to find out about their ancestors:

FAMILY HISTORY AFTERNOON on Saturday 18th September -
2/4pm

Come along a find out how to get started on your family tree.

Please ring our booking clerk Sylvia Tillman on 07523 182994 who can give you full details of our very reasonable costs, which start from as little as £7.50 for a 2 hour session, and any other information you may need. And don't forget about our drop-in clinic – every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon – technical help and advice, or just come and have a chat and a coffee.



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Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the new timetable up to 15th August 2010. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc.

Grafty Green

Sunday 8th Aug 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 8th Aug 11:15 – 12-15 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 8th Aug 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

What YOU think

Some months ago the Church Council invited residents to answer a variety of questions about St Nicholas church. 24 completed survey forms were received.

The general view seems to be that St Nicholas is a welcoming church and could be made more so by improved access. 20 of those who replied regard the provision of toilet facilities as essential.

One section of the questionnaire was about the possibility of the local community using the church building for events other than worship. No objections were raised to this. Indeed the idea was welcomed most positively.

On the subject of services more than half the replies indicated an interest in a less formal service for all ages. Several suggested Sunday afternoons as a suitable time.

Various other suggestions were made including improved a heating, kitchen facilities, the involvement of the church in charitable work and last, but by no means least, the removal of some pews.

Thanking for taking the trouble to complete the questionnaires. The Church Council will be discussing them.

Dick Venn

philip jarvis

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Christian Message August 2010

I've always been fascinated by the weird and wonderful place names we pass through when we're travelling through different parts of the country. Then I wonder what strangers to Kent make of the place names that are so familiar to us! Do they ever ask themselves why there are so many ending in 'hurst', 'den' or 'ham' and are they then interested enough to try to find the answer to that question?

Many of the names are centuries old, and have changed little over the years, and may refer to the person who first owned the land in the area or to its geographical situation. But whenever we've been away, we're always glad to be back in Kent, seeing the names we know so well on the signposts, and know for sure we're nearly home. Back in the comfort and security of familiar surroundings again.

Christian names are interesting too. I wonder if you know the origins of *your* name or names, and what they mean? I'm not sure that most parents think about meanings when choosing a name for their new baby, probably they're more concerned with making sure the initials don't form an undesirable word!

Christian names also seem to follow 'fashion' cycles, those which would have been considered 'old fashioned' thirty or forty years ago, are now popular again, but whatever we choose for our offspring, it's an awesome responsibility. Their name is something they will carry with them for the rest of their life, and defines them as a unique individual. God the Father chose a special name for *his* Son, Jesus, meaning 'The Lord saves'. His name showed that he was the one who would be our Saviour, but he also has other names or titles given to him in the Bible. I have a book which lists twenty six for him and explains their meanings and how relevant they are for us, but the one I find the most helpful of all, (after Jesus), is Immanuel, (Matthew 1:23) meaning 'God with us'. To remember *that* when life gets hard, is like coming home at the end of a journey, back to the security and comfort of a familiar presence, who gives us the strength and help to get through the difficult times.

In Christ's love,

Yvonne Salmon

Music Notes, August 2010

Well, not really notes this time – August seems to be a holiday month for local musical performances, as well as for the rest of us. However, the BBC Promenade concerts are in full swing – if you can't get up to town, they are all on the radio, and quite a few on 'the tele'.

The Len Valley Benefice

Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe

Sunday/Main Services – August 2010

1st August 9th Sunday after Trinity

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

8th August 10th Sunday after Trinity

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

15th August 11th Sunday after Trinity

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

22nd August 12th Sunday after Trinity

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

29th August 13th Sunday after Trinity

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Strip	Music	Aircraft	Light
2	Baking	Siphon	Cream	Soda
3	Pocket	Maker	Stop	Watch
4	Flying	Warrant	Petty	Officer
5	Lone	Park	Power	Ranger
6	Jewellery	Designer	Drama	Costume
7	Unknown	Book	Public	Address
8	Hopper	Rye	Widow	Grass
9	Lying	Slay	Wide	Awake
10	Comic	House	Soap	Opera
11	Butter	Royal	Sugar	Teleg
12	Banquet	Sorry	Welfare	State
13	Dog	Peg	Warmer	Leg
14	Boat	Limit	Trap	Speed
15	Cider	Gutter	Stud	Press
16	Burner	Ever	Taste	After

Find the missing word?	
1	The Outlaw , Jossey Wales, 1976 Clint Eastwood Western
2	Susan Boyle , Britain's got Talent runner up
3	Last of The Summer Wine , BBC sitcom set in the Yorkshire Dales
4	Whisper Whispers, George Michael Ballard
5	It's Raining Men, Disco floor filler by the Weather Girls
6	Escape to the Country, TV property show
7	The Lion King , Animal centred Disney animation
8	Shirley Temple , Famed child star of the 1930 and 40's
9	Sherlock Holmes , 2000 movie with Robert Downey JNR
10	Rear Window , A Hitchcock thriller starring James Stewart

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