

# Malherbe Monthly

**Number 82 May 2011** 



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath** 

## Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os.</sup> BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

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Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson	890200
	Richard Thick	891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348
Church wardens	Joan Davidson	850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
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Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
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	dickvenn@gmail.com	
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966
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Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email:	850604
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Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Eigh deliggery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post	01580
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Council Rubbish	See article in magazine	
Freighter	See article iii iiiagazine	
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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 **June** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20**<sup>th</sup> May

**Front cover:** Apple in full blossom in Grafty Green Picture courtesy of John Collins

#### **News from St. Nicholas Church**

#### **Lent Lunches**

The Lent Lunches have been very successful this year raising £396.50 for the Christian Aid Week in May. When we heard the news of the earthquake in Japan, it was decided to give the proceeds from one Lent Lunch to Japan. The amount raised was £81 at Bowley Oast and that money has been given to the Red Cross. So our total amount raised was £477.50. Thank you so much to all those who came along and supported these lunches. A big thank you to the hostesses for giving their time making the most delicious soups and for allowing us into their homes for six very enjoyable lunch time intervals. Well done everyone.

#### **Coffee Morning**

Our Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall Grafty Green on Wednesday  $11^{th}$  May at 10.30am -12.00pm. Coffee or tea and cake and biscuits will be served. You can expect a warm welcome - do come and join us.

#### **Archdeacon's Visitation**

The Archdeacons' Visitation will be held at Canterbury Cathedral on 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. A new Archdeaconry has been formed in the Ashford area, so we now have three Archdeacons in the Diocese (Maidstone, Ashford and Canterbury). This will help with the workload created by the decision not to appoint a new Bishop of Maidstone. So, we now have the Bishop of Dover the Rt. Rev: Trevor Willmott who is our Bishop responsible for the Canterbury Diocese under the Archbishop Rowan Williams.

All PCC members should attend this Service and also the Sidesmen. If anyone would like a lift to the Cathedral please contact Joan on 01622 850210 or Kenneth on 01622 859549.

#### **PCC Meeting**

Our next St. Nicholas' PCC meeting will be in the Church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. This is a new date as the previous one clashed with the Archdeacon's Visitation at the Cathedral.

#### **Cream Teas**

We are planning to start our next season of cream teas on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and we are hoping to serve teas into September. More about this next month.

#### Gentleman's Breakfast

The next Breakfast will be on 28<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00am at The Red Lion, Lenham Square. A full English breakfast will be served followed by a talk which is to be given by Mr. Tony Wingett. Come along and bring a friend - telephone Frank Allen on 01622 850559 or Dick Venn on 01622 858195 to reserve a place. Breakfast costs £5.00.

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 and Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am

Term dates - Contact Sue

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 the dates and would like to join in please give me a call -: Sue Burch - 01622 850381, email:burch1997@aol.com - Mobile: 0780 3962339

#### **Grafty Green Village Hall Committee**

There have been comments made by several villagers that the Village Hall Committee has held very few events in the Village Hall over the past few years. This is true. Additionally few meetings have been held during this period, though it is questionable as to the benefit or need of regular meetings as the hall has continued to be available to all who require use of it.

It is also felt in some quarters that a new committee should be elected or formed to revitalise the community and organise events in the hall. The finances for the hall could do with a boost and with the impending cut in the Parish Council funding from Maidstone Borough Council, a source of past funds will certainly dry up.

It has to be said that the hall has lacked leadership in the recent past and accordingly the Chairman - Mike Hitchins has tendered his resignation to the Secretary. As a result a meeting will need to be held in the near future (date to be published) to form a new committee, elect a new chairman and decide on the future approach and strategy for management of the hall.

#### **PHYLLIS WEEKS 1922 - 2011**

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, family and friends gathered at St.Nicholas Church to say goodbye to another village character and stalwart. The Service of Thanksgiving for Phyllis's life was superbly conducted by the Rev. Marion Bond, at the end of which Phyllis was laid to rest next to her brother Steve who died in 2004.

Phyllis was one of my father's first cousins and was a fourth generation 'Elmstone' Weeks, her great grandfather moving into Elmstone in 1830. She was born on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1922 and lived all her life at the bungalow on Liverton Hill which her parents had had built when they got married. Phyllis never married and after her parents died devoted herself to looking after her younger twin brothers, Philip and Steve.

My first recollection of Phyllis and her immediate family was on a wet day, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953, when, as a small boy, I sat for most of the day in the bungalow, along with what seemed the rest of Liverton Street, watching the Queen's coronation on their 12 inch black and white TV set. Also in my schooldays, our two families would go down to the seaside at Dymchurch on most summer weekends and it was at this time that Phyllis was learning to drive. Suffice to say that is something I have never forgotten and her driving skills subsequently became legendary!

Almost always to be found with a smile on her face, Phyllis enjoyed socialising and being with people. She was a founder member of the Grafty Green Women's Institute, served on the Parochial Church Council until about five years ago, and always supported village events. She was also a member of Egerton Over 60s and the Ulcombe Friendship Club.

Timekeeping, however, was never one of Phyllis's finest attributes. At church services, for example, the choir would often be in the bell tower at Boughton ready to process, but waiting to hear the door latch. Phyllis would then enter, and the service could get underway!

Much loved and greatly missed, Phyllis died on March 30<sup>th</sup>, aged 89, at the Abbotsleigh Care Centre at Staplehurst, where she had spent her final years so that she could remain close to her brother, Philip, who is still resident there.

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Lady, Legendary noble women who rode naked on a horseback in Coventry
	Horseback in Covenury
2	Webber, A musical writer
3	Roald, Much loved children's author
4	Thomas, Welsh literary great who penned Under Milk Wood
5	Fidel, Former President of Cuba
6	Street, US Kids TV series featuring Big Bird & Elmo
7	Orlando, Actor in Pirates of the Caribbean and The Lord of the Rings
8	I Feel, 1964 Beatles No 1
9	It, 1983 Michael Jackson floor thriller
10	Pink, Released Dark Side of the Moon

# 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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Children's Room

Beer Garden



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#### Pet's Corner!

#### Part 2 - Treating Canine Separation Anxiety Disorder

In the last article we discussed why Canine Separation Anxiety Disorder occurs, the symptoms and other possible causes.

Once you have established that you are dealing with a genuine case of separation anxiety, it is necessary to treat the problem.

#### Step One:

Ask your vet to examine your dog to eliminate any clinical cause for the behaviour, particularly if it has suddenly occurred in a previously settled dog. This is especially important in cases of geriatric dogs, since sensory deterioration, painful joints or systemic disease may cause the dog to exhibit these symptoms.

#### Step Two:

Ask your vet to refer you to a reputable behaviourist to help design a treatment programme specifically designed with your dog's individual life style and problems in mind. Some insurers will reimburse your fees if you use recognised organisations.

#### What can you do?

In mild cases, a milk protein called Zyikene can be used to produce a sense of well-being in your dog, alongside Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) diffusers and sprays. In more severe cases, the drug Clomicalm (clomipramine hydrochloride) can be used which inhibits the uptake of serotonin (one of the body's natural feel-good chemicals).

#### Train when you are present!

Prevent your dog from following you everywhere at home - if practical, fit child gates around the home to enable you to separate yourself from your dog but so that they can still see you. Leave them with plenty of interactive toys and ignore any whining (no eye, touch or voice contact).

If they are quiet, return and give them a gentle stroke or use your voice to gently praise them. Gradually increase the time that they are left, and begin to move into other adjoining rooms so that the dog cannot see you but can still hear you.

"Cool" departures & arrivals About twenty minutes before you leave, start to ignore your dog (no eye, voice, touch contact). Leave quickly and with no reassurances. Return and repeat the procedure in reverse, putting down your bags and removing your coat before quietly acknowledging your dog. You must be consistent in this regardless of your dog's behaviour! Using a 'visual cue' that indicates that

this is 'ignoring time' can help

reduce your dog's anxiety.

#### Natural help

Remember that eating, sleeping and exercise all result in the body's natural release of "feel-good" chemicals! Exercise your dog well, provide a comfy bed with an old t-shirt of yours to curl up with and lots of foraging Kong toys. Employ a dog-walker if you do not have sufficient time to exercise your dog.

Providing a calm, stress-free environment will help. Do not punish your dog and realise that this problem will take some time to overcome.

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

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#### **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

# Annual Parish Council Meeting Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Grafty Green Village Hall

Come along and listen to village reports and ask questions. Refreshments being served after Chairman's welcome.

#### **Log-piles, Lizards and Newts April 2011**

Under the warmth of spring sunshine, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership volunteers created insect and reptile kingdoms across the Chilston Ponds site. Many trees, boughs and odd branches laid scattered across the Chilston Ponds site creating a maze of obstacles for the tractor-mounted mower to avoid. The mowing regime is battling with the nutrient rich beds of common nettle in a bid to restore the unique and delicate acid grassland that lies dormant beneath.

Whilst assisting the tractor on its plight across the site, creation of dedicated log-piles forms an extensive cool and damp habitat. Inside which, many invertebrate and fungi thrive on the rotting and decaying underworld. In addition to the mini world of beast, the piles ensure the rare Great Crested Newt and other newt species have refuge for their long winter hibernation.

On the surface, the exposed boughs create basking sites for cold-blooded reptiles such as lizards that warm their bodies in the beaming sun.

In addition to habitat creation, the volunteers cleared the site of litter. Chilton's position adjacent to the motorway causes a fair amount of windblown litter to enter the site. This in conjunction with certain visitors to the site causes an alarming number of plastic bottles and food wrappers to litter the area posing health risks to grazing livestock and wildlife on the site.

Volunteering is a great way to get closer to nature and experience some of Kent's most beautiful and natural places. The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership

volunteers meet every Wednesday to undertake countryside management work in the Ashford area. For more information please call 01233 813307 or email kentishstour@kent.gov.uk.



**Common Lizard** 

#### Log Pile Kingdoms



#### **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 Comer	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	110000	1639	1754
Ulcombe Post Office	1306		1646	1801
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1313	54	1653	1808

#### **The Grafty Gourmet**

This is another one of my concoctions that I threw together last night, so thought it best to type this recipe straight away. It was a bit of a guessing game, so the units of the ingredients are approximate. Taste the sauce as you cook it, and add more of each ingredient if required. It worked really well, and it was extremely tasty with an Indonesian / Malaysian flavour. I used prawns, but you could use pork, chicken, beef or vegetables. The result will be just as good. I'm usually a crunchy kind of person, but I've had to be a bit of a smoothie with this recipe.

#### **Prawns in Spicy Peanut Sauce with Fried Rice - Serves 2**

2 Hands full of cooked prawns (or cooked meat or vegetables)

1 Large Onion, chopped into ¾ inch pieces

1 Red Pepper, chopped into 3/4 inch pieces

1/2 Cup of Chicken Stock

1 Small Red Chilli, very finely chopped (use 1 chilli for slightly spicy or 2 to

put hairs on your chest)

2 Large Cloves of Garlic (crushed)

1 Teaspoon of Chinese Five Spice

Powder

2 Tablespoons of Tomato Ketchup

1 Cup of Milk

2 ½ Tablespoons of <u>Smooth</u> Peanut Butter

2 Tablespoons of Lemon or Lime Juice

2 1/2 Tablespoons of Soy Sauce

For the Fried Rice:

2 to 3 Tablespoons Oil

1 Cup of Long Grain or Basmati Rice

(Rinsed)

À Hand full of frozen Peas

3 Spring Onions, chopped

Soy Sauce

- 1. Cook the rice in boiling water as per instructions, but 5 minutes before the end, and the peas and stir in. When cooked, drain in a colander and rinse well with cold water.
- 2. In a saucepan, add the chicken stock, ketchup, soy sauce, lemon juice, milk, peanut butter, chilli garlic and Chinese five spice and simmer, stirring until the peanut butter melts. Keep stirring or the Sauce will stick to the base of the pan and will burn. If the sauce is too runny, make a paste with a little cornflour and water and stir into the sauce to thicken.
- 3 . Place a little oil in a frying pan, and simmer the onions and pepper until just soft, but still slightly crunchy. When done, add the onions, pepper and prawns (or alternative) to the sauce. Simmer on a low heat, stirring frequently, whilst doing the next step.
- 4. Add 2 more tablespoons of oil back into the frying pan, and heat. When the oil is hot, add the cold rice and pea mixture, stirring so that the rice is evenly coated in the oil. Fry, stirring for 2 minutes and then add the chopped Spring Onion and a good

dash of soy sauce. Stir so that the rice is evenly coated in the soy sauce for another couple of minutes.

5. Serve the rice on a warm plate, and top with the spicy peanut prawn mixture.

#### **NEWS FROM ULCOMBE'S VILLAGE SCHOOL**

April has, again, been a quiet month. This is largely because much of the month is taken up by the Easter holidays. We hope you have all enjoyed your chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies and the sunshine which tried to melt them! 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 Extension Update**

We were hoping to have news for you all by now, but unfortunately there is still no new information. We are waiting for a new planning application to be made by the architects, Bailey Partnership, on behalf of KCC for a small residential development on the disused land at the north of the site. As promised previously, we will let you know any news as soon as we can.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Our Easter Egg Hunt took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Each class had to hunt around the school field, looking for eggs with a letter on it. The letters could then be rearranged to make a phrase to do with Easter. Well done to all of the classes for solving their puzzle. Thanks to FUS for organizing this for the children, and, of course, providing the children with their prizes. Who would have guessed that chocolate would be so popular?!

#### **Easter Celebration Service**

It was great to be joined by family and friends for our Easter Celebration Service at All Saints Parish Church on Friday  $8^{th}$  April. All of the children played their part in helping us to celebrate the wonder of the Easter story, through drama, poetry, art and song.

#### **Footballing Success**

At the time of writing for last month's issue, our football team still had Harrietsham to play. This match took place just before the Easter holiday and the team finished the season with a fantastic 8-0 victory. The team have had their best league season for many years, and we look forward to seeing the final league table. We still have the area cup and the Lenham Tournament to come, and the team are looking forward to them both.

#### **Royal Wedding**

For three days after returning to school we were preparing in different ways for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. By the time you read this we hope you have all enjoyed the wedding and the party during the afternoon.

#### The Magic of May

As we go into May we have several events to prepare for. The month starts with the traditional May Day Bank Holiday. The Lenham Football Tournament has already been mentioned, and this takes place at Lenham Primary School on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The following week is the week when Year 6 take the National Tests, formerly called SATs. The children will sit tests in English, Math's and, because we have been selected to participate in the sample completed by 10% of schools nationally, Science. The month will end with Tawny Owls, our oldest class, making their way down to Osmington Bay in Dorset for their Residential Adventure Week. For the third year running we have invited two other local schools to join us for this trip, which makes it a great opportunity to make new friends as well as a wonderful chance to face new challenges.

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

#### **The St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath**

The Management Committee of the St Edmunds Centre is seeking a new Secretary, for appointment at the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 at 8.00pm

Once again we invite all villagers along to see how we are doing and have their say in what to do in the forthcoming year

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

#### Grafty Geeks - What does the Right Mouse Button Do?

A mouse typically has two buttons: a primary button (usually the left button) and a secondary button (usually the right button). You will use the primary button most often. Most mice also include a scroll wheel between the buttons to help you scroll through documents and web pages more easily. On some mice, the scroll wheel can be pressed to act as a third button. Advanced mice might have additional buttons that can perform other functions.



By default, the primary mouse button sits located on the left-hand side of the mouse, for the benefit of right-handed users; left-handed users can usually reverse this configuration via software.

A mouse button is a Micro Switch on a computer mouse which can be pressed ("clicked") in order to select or interact with an element of a Graphical User Interface, ("the computer").

The three-button scroll-mouse has become the most commonly available design, users most commonly employ the secondary button to invoke a Context Menu in the computer's software user interface, which contains options specifically tailored to the interface element over which the mouse cursor currently sits and offers a limited set of choices that are available in the current state, or context, of the operating system or application. Usually the available choices are actions related to the selected object. A context menu also called contextual, shortcut, and popup or pop-up menu.



For example: On the first screen on the computer (the Desktop), use a right mouse click to show items that relate to the Windows setup, from here you can change the view, add gadgets on Vista or Windows 7, and Personalize. Personalize is where you can add a picture to your desktop, change the screen resolution and add a screen saver. These options are normally found in the Control Panel.

When using the context menu (right mouse button), once the menu appears, you need to ensure the mouse remains within the menu to find additional options.

For example: when the menu is invoked, scroll down to the Sort option to see what you can select; this will re-organise the icons on the Desktop. If you move the mouse away from the context menu it will disappear.



This is the same for all programmes on the computer, in Word you can use the context menu to go into any menu to get quick access to the options you need.

If the context menu appears when you weren't expecting it, just move away from the menu and click on the screen and it will disappear, but if you click in the menu then an action will be performed and you may invoke another set of options.

One of the most common things I do with the Right Mouse Button is use it in the Internet to Print or Save a Picture.

Finally, one more tip, you would **NEVER** double-click the secondary mouse button (right mouse button).



#### **Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)**

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Weekend Freighter Service up to  $15^{\text{th}}$  October 2011.

#### **Grafty Green**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

#### **Platts Heath**

Saturday  $21^{st}$  May 14:30 - 15-10 -: Green Lane Saturday  $30^{th}$  July 14:30 - 15-10 -: Green Lane Saturday  $8^{th}$  October 14:30 - 15-10 -: Green Lane

#### <u>Ulcombe</u>

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens



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#### The St Edmunds Centre - Platts Heath

The painter has been in during the holidays to paint both the inside and outside of all our windows, they were getting badly weathered. Mike has done an excellent job on them, it was the one thing we did not feel amateurs could do well enough.

Sandra Allen has once again come up trumps and helped out with the garden it really does get very over grown and she helps me to tidy it up now and then., and Bob scarified the grass area which is more like bare mud and buttercups really. We could do with help if there are any keen gardeners who would like to keep it looking nice.

The committee are planning to have the AGM on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 8pm at which I will be standing down however I will remain a Trustee.

There will be a rounder's match on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in the school field starting at 2pm do come along and bring a picnic with you everyone has a great time.

The Film Club committee are testing out the equipment and will shortly be ready to start showing a variety of films at reasonable prices. I sincerely hope you will support their efforts as a lot of work has gone into acquiring the equipment and setting up the club.

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 welcomed Sue a new resident this month, but are still 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.



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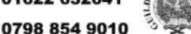
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#### **Grafty Green Gardening Club**

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 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Rumwood Nursery discount day	
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Outing - Pashley Manor	Tulip festival
April		
June 7	Outing private garden –Westways,	St.Faiths Lane
	Bearsted	
July 5	Coach outing to Salutation Garden in	£12 Plus entry fee pp
	Sandwich	
August 2	Outing Knowle Hill Farm, Elizabeth Cair	ns   6.30 pm
Sept 6	Autumn Show - Sue Scrivens	Saltwood Foxglove
Sept 24/25	Weekend to Malvern, Worcestershire,	Three Counties
	Bank House hotel and Country Club.	Autumn show
Oct 4	Brogdale National Fruit Collection	Tasting Apples and
		Pears
Nov 1	Alison Sollis	Composting
Dec 6	Social	





## Grafty Green Gardening Club Spring 2011

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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  $2^{nd}$  July **NOT** the  $5^{th}$ . 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  $25^{th}$  June.

The weekend to Three Counties Show September  $23^{rd}$  to  $25^{th}$ : 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

#### **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

#### **Update on Lenham Valley Business Association**

If you've been promising yourself you'll come to a LVBA networking meeting then here's the dates for the rest of the year.

For 2011 will be at 5.45 for 6pm until 8 pm on the first Tuesday of every month. The dates will therefore be:

- 3 May The White Horse
- 7 June Sutton Valence tbc with South Maidstone Business Association
- 5 July The White Horse
- 2 August The Harrow Hotel
- 6 September The Dog and Bear
- 4 October Victoria's Cabaret Club
- 1 November Awaiting venue confirmation
- 6 December Chilston Park with South Maidstone Business Association

Previous attendees can simply respond 'yes' or 'no' to the newsletter or information sent out by email or contact lenhambusiness@btinternet.com

To register for the meetings if you have not been to one before click register on the website and you can do it online or by downloading a pdf and sending it in the mail. Membership application is also available as a pdf download from the website or online if you prefer - see 'Join now' button. You can now pay directly into our bank account for membership. You can also register for your first meeting by phone - 01622 820 841. To help us promote the event please download the poster from the site.

If you want to be included in the next Business Directory then you are running out of time - make contact urgently and we might still be able to squeeze you in if we have not already gone to print! Up to 5 entries per member and the opportunity to buy an advertisement too. The print run will be 5,000 distributed around the Len Valley area. See website for details.

The association is now over 2 years old and going strong, members have joined us from Charing too now and some outside areas where their craft, service or talent isn't

catered for within the LVBA area. Several members have seen a good return on their investment of membership, nearly all have had many enquiries too. If you run a local business you might be missing out on a chance to boost your revenue.

Check out the website to keep up to date or tell us you'd like to receive information by email.

#### **Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent**

#### NORTH DOWNS WALK

Sunday morning 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 5 or 10 miles starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall

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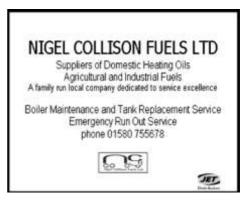
#### **Ulcombe History Society**

You may be interested to know that the Ulcombe History Society is organising a trip to Bletchley Park on Saturday  $8^{\text{th}}$  June.

The cost of the outing is £37 and this includes travel by coach, entry to Bletchley Park, a guide throughout the day AND coffee, lunch and tea - a real bargain.

If anyone is interested in joining the party, please contact John Moore on 01622 850384

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#### The May Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Aries at beginning of May, and moves into Taurus on the  $14^{th}$ .

**New Moon** occurs on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and **Full Moon** is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, in the constellation of Libra.

**Mercury** is at its greatest distance west of the Sun at the beginning of May, and rises only an hour before sunrise, so again it is unlikely we will be able to see this elusive planet this month.

**Venus** is also rising less than an hour before sunrise, so the "Morning Star" will be almost impossible to see this month.

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

**Jupiter** will become less difficult to see as we go through May, and by the end of the month you may be able to see it low on the eastern horizon in the early hours. Jupiter will become much easier to see later in the year.

**Saturn** is the only planet we are likely to see this month, high in the southern sky at dusk. It is moving very slowly north-westwards in the constellation of Virgo.

I have mentioned in previous articles **Noctilucent Clouds.** These are "Night Shining" high altitude clouds that form only occasionally for a few weeks around midsummer. Late May is the best time to start looking for these clouds. These are very high clouds that are still in sunlight long after sunset. They form a rippled pattern and shine with a blue-white light. The best time to look is around midnight in the northern sky.

Last May I gave you an update on the Large Hadron Collider at Cern, following a long period of repairs. The latest news, according to a leaked internal memo, is that one of the detectors at the LHC had picked up signals that could be the long sought- after Higgs boson, the so-called "God particle" that theoretically gives mass to other subatomic particles. Physicists have urged caution over the claims, as many candidates that appeared in collision experiments are subsequently dismissed. Officials, however, at Cern have confirmed that the memo is genuine, but the result has not been fully verified.

**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	Clock	Pirate	Active	Radio
2	Gun	Fruit	Washing	
3	Shy	Digital	Television	
4	Rock	Fairy	Stand	
5	Farthing	Whistle	Wise	
6	Printing	Stop	Wine	
7	Berry	Bird	Lagoon	
8	Steering	Spinal	Gossip	
9	Service	Weapon	Top	
10	Line	Break	Ballroom	
11	Garden	Bottle	Mat	
12	Stock	Stone	Pin	
13	Market	Cred	Wise	
14	Polish	Horse	Shine	
15	Piano	Foot	Bar	
16	Money	Oven	Made	

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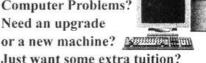
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#### **Christian Message May 2011**

#### Stand up and be counted

A young colleague of mine once told me that she belonged to a social group known as the 'Do something Nice on a Friday Club'. Not surprisingly, every Friday she would look out for a good deed that she could do for someone else. The rest of the time seemed to consist of meeting her friends in pubs, holding barbeques and getting to know other young people — no harm in that, and the idea behind the group was all very commendable, but didn't the Brownies capture that sentiment a long time ago for every day of the week? Old guide handbooks (yes, I keep everything!) reveal that it is the Brownie Guide Law:

#### 'A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself, and does a good turn every day.'

Ah yes, stirring stuff and I don't think I'd have argued with my Brown Owl! Of course, as Christians we learn that we should love others as ourselves – but love doesn't stop at being nice and isn't about gaining 'Brownie' points. We all know we can't buy our way into Heaven.

Far harder, and maybe more important, 'doing a good turn' can involve standing up and representing weaker members of society and, at times, being willing to make ourselves unpopular, open to criticism, alienated and even ridiculed for the love of others.

Jesus, after all, knew all about that. He was respectful towards those around him but he was also radical and thought for himself. In putting others before himself he had to stand up against Church leaders and political rulers. He was prepared and show his displeasure. It couldn't have been easy calling a well-respected group of Pharisees 'a brood of vipers' (Matthew 12, 33) just as his brave cousin John had done before him (Matthew 3, 7).

These were strong words, but the Beatitudes tell us that 'Blessed are the meek' (Matthew 5,5), not blessed are the cowardly. After all, 'those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, will see the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 5, 10).

It is so much easier to accept things as we find them rather than act upon situations that seem, at times, impossible to change. How helpless we can feel when we hear about politicians abusing their expense accounts, bankers awarding themselves huge bonuses, businesses exploiting child labour or fellow Christians being persecuted for their beliefs.

It can be very difficult to stand up and be counted when one knows that one may be exposed to a bad press and accused of disobedience, anger or malice, but if we are to

really follow our Lord we need to be brave and true to the love that God requires us to show one another.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' (Matthew 25, 40).

This isn't an excuse to criticise or humiliate others on a personal level or in public, without regard to feelings or consequences. The key must surely be, to pray first, study God's word, listen to what we believe the Lord is telling us and act in love. By all means, let's all do something nice on a Friday or better still, try to do a good turn every day, but also let's take responsibility when we can see that something needs changing in society and try to make a real difference to each other: the people whom Jesus loves so much that he was prepared to sacrifice his own life. If we act in love and it is pleasing to God we <u>can</u> move mountains.

Pamela Cuerden

#### Open Gardens with a difference Three Ulcombe gardens on the Greensand Way Visit and Walk Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

For those who enjoy walking, Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> presents an opportunity both to walk along the greensand Way, and enjoy visiting three beautiful gardens

Those participating can leave their cars at Knowle Hill House from 11.30 am onwards. Coffee and biscuits (£1.50) will be available as will a map to direct you to the next garden at Ulcombe Place.

At Ulcombe Place, you can enjoy a Ploughman's Lunch (£6.50), visit the garden, and pop into Ulcombe's beautiful mediaeval church, All Saints, which is just next door.

Walkers can then walk back to Knowle Hill Farm where tea and cakes will be available (£2.50) as well as plant and cake stalls.

The less intrepid can drive and pop into any of the gardens at any time during the day. All proceeds from the day will go towards restoring Ulcombe's mediaeval church

The cost of entry to the gardens is £6.00 (children free).

For more details, please contact

Mrs Molly Poulter (Tel. 01622 842988 Email: molly.poulter@vfast.co.uk) or

Mrs Jan Dunckley (Tel. 01622 850324 Email: jan@knowlehill.co.uk)



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#### **Music Notes - May**

I am overwhelmed for choice this month, but before giving you my selection of local events I would draw your attention to "The Lufthansa festival of baroque music". This is a series of concerts running from  $13^{th}$ - $21^{st}$  May in London, mostly at St. John's Smith Square. but including venues as varied as Westminster Abbey and St. James's Park Tube Station. The quality of performers is outstanding, over a range of composers from Central Europe. Details from <a href="https://www.lufthansafestival.org.uk">www.lufthansafestival.org.uk</a>. Tickets from the box office at St. John's – 020 7222 1061. If you can't get to London, many of the concerts will be broadcast on radio3 – check the newspapers.

Now to the local events (just a few from many):

- 5<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday, 8.00pm at St. Nicholas' Church Otham, the Lyra Vocal Ensemble will perform a programme of Russian Sacred & folk music. This is a quartet of singers from St. Petersburg on a UK tour. I have heard them when they were here once before and they were first class not to be missed. Tickets 01622 813032
- 14<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra Spring concert includes Schumann's *Concertstük for 4 horns* and Mahler's *Symphony No.4*. Tickets 0845 1552277
- 21<sup>st</sup> May, Saturday 7.30pm at St. John the Baptist church Wateringbury, Kent Chamber Choir performs "Music for a Spring Evening". Tickets 01622 813032
- 29<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday, 6.00pm at Astley House, Hastings Rd., Maidstone, Maidstone Wind Symphony presents "World of the Trombone" an exacting concert featuring renowned trombonist Brett Baker of the Black Dyke Band. Tickets 01580 291056. (*Phone also to check the date & time of this event there is conflicting information in different information sources!!*)

**Brian Hardy** 

#### **Musical Appreciation?**

Extract from a parish magazine article giving advance publicity to the retiring rector's last service:

"The rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break forth into Joy"."

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

#### 1<sup>st</sup> May - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

#### 8th May - 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

#### 15<sup>th</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> May - 5th Sunday of Easter

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

#### 29th May - 6th Sunday of Easter

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion 10.00am Lenham Benefice Service 6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service **Christian Aid:** Plans are being made to open the shop next to the flower shop in Lenham High Street for a few days as a means of raising money for the work of Christian Aid. Donations of good quality bric-a-brac, books and other useful items will be accepted at the shop between 11am and noon on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. The shop will be in business daily from May 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm. On Friday and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May bread and cheese lunches will be available in return for donations in St Mary's church Lenham from noon until 2pm. Millie Hart on 01622 859753 is the contact for queries.

**The King's Speech:** If anyone has not had an opportunity to see this film it will be shown in Harrietsham village hall on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.45 for 8pm. Contact Janetta Sams 01622 859412

**Council Tax:** Residents are reminded that, despite the absence of a form from the Borough Council they may still pay Council tax in Grafty Green Post Office.

**Joan Drury** 

#### Wine Tasting Quiz Night

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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

#### **Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle**

Answer	E broW	Vord 2	I broW	
oibsM	Active	Pirate	Clock	-1
Machine	gnińasW	1imil	Gun	7
Сатега	Television	Intigital	Spy	٤
Cake	pomS	Fairy	Rock	þ
Penny	SeiW	Whistle	Sprint 3	9
ress	əniW	dois	gaitair¶	9
Blue	noogeJ	biid	Вепу	1
Column	Gossip	Spinal	Steering	8
Secret	qoT	Weapon	Service	6
Dance	moonlisti	Break	Jine	0
Веет	In M	Bottle	Ganden	-1
Rolling	nîq	Stone	Stock	7
Street	wise	Cred	Market	ε
Spoe	Shine	Horse	Polish	t
looi2	Bur	1003	onsiq	ç
Ready	Made	BOVO	Мопеу	91

Pink Floyd, Released Dark Side of the Moon	01
Beat It, 1983 Michael Jackson floor thriller	6
I Feel Fine, 1964 Beatles No I	8
Orlando Bloom, Actor in Pirates of the Caribbean and The Lord of the Rings	L
Scenme Street, US Kide TV series featuring Big Bird & Elmo	9
Fidel Castra, Former President of Cuba	ς
Dylan Thomas, Welsh literary great who penned Under Milk Wood	t
Roald Dhal, Much loved children's author	ε
Andrew Lloyd Webber, A musical writer	7
Lady Godiva, Legendary noble women who rode naked on a horseback in Coventry	1
Find the missing word?	

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