

Malherbe Monthly

Number 68
March 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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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 April edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th March**

Front cover: Wildlife in Grafty Green - Photograph courtesy of John Collins

Line Dancing Evening - March 27th

Hopefully, you already know about the line dancing evening and plan to join us. It will be held in Grafty Village Hall on Saturday 27th March, starting at 7.30. Tickets are £7 and available from Mandy Hitchins (858937) and the Village Shop. There will be a licensed bar with snacks and a raffle.

Joanne, who teaches line dancing at Platts Heath, is coming to teach us a few simple steps and dances. Hopefully, we will always have someone who knows what they are doing standing in front of us so we don't get too tired and emotional!

If you want to get dressed up in something you feel is appropriate for line dancing (or any kind of dancing), please feel free to do so. People who have made a good effort will get one free drink from our barmen.

Come and join us for a fun evening - you don't even need a partner so you can come on your own and meet old and new friends.

Mandy Hitchins

News from St. Nicholas Church

PCC Meeting

There will be a meeting of St. Nicholas PCC on Tuesday 23rd March at Bowley Farm, Sandway at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting

The APCM will be held in St. Nicholas Church, Boughton Malherbe on Thursday 22nd April at 7.30pm for the Vestry Meeting, followed by the General Meeting. The meeting is open to everyone, Do come along and give us support. Hear what has been happening at St. Nicholas during the past year and our plans for the future.

Village Coffee Morning

Our Coffee Morning will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of March 10th in the Village Hall 10.00-12.00. Also on the same day, a few steps along the Headcorn Road, a Lent Lunch will be held at Weirton Villa, Grafty Green (Joan Drury's home) where you will be able to sample some of Joan's delicious soup with crusty bread followed by a coffee.

Please support these two events. The donations from the Lent Lunch will be sent to Christian Aid. The coffee morning is free - just a get together for a good chat and fellowship.

Lent Lunches

Once again we will be holding our Lent Lunches to raise money for Christian Aid. Lunches are held at different venues, the time is 12.00-2.00pm., this is the list:-

February 24 th	The Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe, Sandway
March 3 rd	Ivy House Farm, Liverton Hill, Grafty Green
March 10 th	Weirton Villa, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green
March 17 th	Liverton House, Liverton Hill
March 24 th	Bowley Farm, Sandway
March 31 st	The Village Hall, Grafty Green

Please support this worthy cause. We will be delighted to see you for as long or as short a time that you can manage.

Gordon Drake's Retirement

We finally managed to recognise all the devoted service that Gordon Drake has given to St. Nicholas Church playing the organ for us without fail throughout many, many, years. The congregation presented Gordon with a substantial cheque in grateful thanks. Gordon will not be leaving us completely as he will be playing for Evensong once a month for as long as he feels able to do so. After the presentation wine and iced cake was served.

Mothering Sunday

A Mothering Sunday Service will be held on Sunday March 14th at 9.30am. During the service the children will be given flowers to take home to their mothers. There will also be a Baptism at this service, when we will be receiving a little baby girl into God's family.

Lent Group

A Lent Group will meet on Thursday mornings at Weirton Villas, Grafty Green 10.00 for 10.30am-12.00 noon. This will be for 5 weeks during Lent please come and join us. Contact Joan Drury on 01622 853766.

Joan Davidson

A 'Thank you' from Richard & Sandra Pilborough

We would like to thank the Grafty Green community for their concern and support for Richard's mother, Nora, who passed away recently.

Nora and her husband, Charles, were made to feel so welcome when they moved to Grafty Green 14 years ago and, when Charles died, he did so knowing that Nora was in a safe and friendly place where others would be looking out for her.

At the Post Office Store, a friendly chat would always accompany help with her shopping and, when the shop was closed, Ken & Eve and their customers at the Kings Head would meet her need for cigarettes (and, on at least one occasion, dog food!) before seeing her safely on her way home.

As her dementia worsened, she began to wander and was more than once rescued by neighbours, either from the road or just from her own front garden.

In her final months Nora was cared for in a home and she died peacefully on 7 February after a 3 week stay in hospital. During this time we much appreciated the concern expressed by villagers, several of whom attended her funeral service at Charing Crematorium.

The true spirit of village life still thrives in Grafty, and we're so grateful that it does.

Richard & Sandra

The March Night Sky

... will hopefully re-appear next month. We all wish John Maunder a speedy recovery.

You may have noticed that the article entitled '**Grafty Garden Cuttings**' has not appeared for a couple of months. Rosemary Smith who has kindly penned this article for many a year has decided to take a break. I would like to thank her for all the hard work in producing what has been a very informative and entertaining column on the trials and tribulations of gardening in our varied and temperamental climate.

If there is anybody out there who would like to write any articles on the theme of gardening you will be more than welcome to submit them for inclusion in the magazine. If you cannot rise to the occasion on gardening, articles on any interesting subject would be appreciated, especially those of a local nature and thereby of interest to readers of this local magazine.

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mtc.services@btinternet.com



Headcorn Bowls Club

With the new season fast approaching, are offering free tuition to anybody wishing to take up the game. So often people say 'if only I had found this before', and it is very much a game for all age groups, indeed in the recent world championships 19 and 24 year olds were playing!. The club not only has a full and varied program of fixtures, matches and internal club friendly games, but a full and varied social calendar. Now's the time to find out more, contact Chris Wheal 01622 858100 or David Waterman 01580 291996

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

	Find the missing word?
1	____ __ ____, Kaiser Chiefs chart topper, a gem of a girl
2	Noel ____, Host from Crinkley Bottom
3	____ __ With Me, Channel 4 show
4	Tears of a ____, Hit for Smokey Robinson
5	____ Release Me, 1967 hit for Englebert Humperdink
6	Where ____ ____, 1968 war film with Clint Eastwood
7	____ Alda, Actor who appeared in M.A.S.H for 11 years
8	Long Tall ____, A rock & roll song by Little Richard
9	____ Powers, Outrageous movie character played by Mike Myers
10	Beyonce ____, US pop diva with hits Halo & If I were a boy

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NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have now sent out our last paper-based School Newsletter, with future newsletters coming out by email. This will help to reduce costs and waste, which is highly appropriate for us as a Green Flag school. As well as using emails, we will also be trying to use text messaging more. When there are urgent messages to pass on we will use this as a convenient means of communication.

IN THE NEWS

Thursday 11th February was the last day of term for the children. This was a **non-uniform day**, raising money to support victims of the earthquake in Haiti. This was a particularly appropriate way to end our term looking at 'The Cool Planet.' Children who wanted to come in their own clothes for the day had to make a donation of £1 or more. We were delighted to have raised almost £80 at the time of writing. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Also on that day, we had a **St Valentine's Day Lunch**, and we must again thank our School Cook, Miss Fuller, for preparing this special meal for us. FUS held a **St. Valentine's Disco** for all of the children in the School Hall at the end of the day, which was very popular as usual. Special thanks go to all of the parents who helped before hand and on the day, including Mr Arundel for stepping in to play the music.

On Friday 12th February the teachers were hard at work but the children were not, as it was an **INSET day**, before we all had a week off school. Once we came back after the February Break there was another **PCSO surgery** at the school on Wednesday 24th February.

STILL TO COME

On Thursday 4th March we will be taking part in **World Book Day**, by having a pyjama day, ending the afternoon with bedtime stories. FUS have even agreed to provide hot chocolate!

March will prove to be a busy month, with our next **Friends of Ulcombe School Dinner** on Wednesday 10th March. As usual, after a wonderful dinner prepared by our own School Cook, with children waiting at tables, each class will provide short pieces of entertainment based on work they are completing in school. We are especially keen to welcome the ladies of the village and school community, including mothers and grandmothers of children at school, as this is in the week before Mothering Sunday. There will be a Mothering Sunday Raffle, with more information available from the School Office.

As well as all of this, we are also receiving '**Do Science**' the next day before taking part in **National Science and Engineering Week** from 12th-19th March. On Saturday 20th March we are organising our very own **Sport Relief Mile**. We are grateful to all of our friends in the community who have helped with their time and ideas so far. Further details are printed elsewhere. We hope all of you will want to be a part of this event! Term 4 will end on Maundy Thursday, 1st April. We will hold our **Easter Service** at All Saints Parish Church in the morning, at 9.15am, then come back to School for our **Easter Egg Hunt**, and the rest of our work for the day.

Looking much further ahead, there are two dates to put in your diary in the summer. Our **Sports Day and Summer Fayre** will take place on Saturday 26th June. As usual this will be a fantastic event, and it will be great to see everyone there, including all of our friends and neighbours from the village and surrounding areas. Two weeks later, on Saturday 10th July, the Friends of Ulcombe School will be hosting the second **F.U.S. Summer Ball**. This was an enormous success last year, and everyone who went had a great time. If you want to know more contact the School Office or any of the FUS committee.

Please remember that if you have any queries or concerns you can go on to the school web-site (www.ulcombeschool.uk.org) or contact the School Office and we will do our best to help.

Best wishes, as ever,

Mr V Hampton,
Head Teacher

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year and are fed up with oil tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads, not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non- profit making.

Keith Anderson

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a popular Jamaican chicken recipe, and a great alternative to Indian curries. Serve on a bed of rice with mango chutney or yogurt as a condiment.

Jamaican Chicken Curry

Serves 2

2 tbsps vegetable oil
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
3 spring onions (chopped)
2 chicken breasts (cubed)
1 tsp curry powder
1 tsp all spice
2 medium potatoes (diced)
¼ cup of frozen peas (thawed)
½ cup Chicken Stock
1 inch grated fresh ginger
¼ cup coconut milk

1. In a frying pan, heat the oil (on low temperature) and fry the garlic until golden brown. if oil is too hot, the garlic will burn.
2. Add the curry powder and all spice, stir to mix thoroughly, and cook for 1 minute.
3. Add the chicken and stir well to coat the meat in the curry mixture and fry for about 5 minutes.
4. Add the onion, potato, ginger and chicken stock, and stir-fry over medium heat until the potato is just cooked (about 30 minutes).
5. Stir in the coconut milk, and simmer gently until the sauce thickens.
6. Turn into a bed of rice and serve.

The following photos are a reminder of the winter we're leaving behind as March begins - Photographs courtesy of Christine King.

Photo 1: St Nicolas' Churchyard (Nicolas with no h is original of spelling for the church)

Photo 2: Abandoned car, Chain Gate crossroads



St Edmunds Centre - Platts Heath

The quiz night held in January was once again a great success making another £188.00 for hall funds. Thanks to our quiz masters Helen and John Nye and Janetta Sams who helped with the scoring. Our next event will be another Karaoke night which proved so popular last year.

I am delighted to say Peter Reeves has his place to run in the London marathon and will be fund raising for our village charities PTFA, Toddler Group and St Edmunds so we will doubtless be round with the forms to get you all signed up and cheer him to the finish line too. Peter and Fiona are very active in Platts Heath and support everything we do.

It will soon be time for our AGM and I hope you will come along and let us know what you would like to see happening at St Edmunds and of course if anyone wishes to start a club the hall is there for villagers to use.

Once again can I remind you the children's Karate/kickboxing club has changed its day and time to Monday at 4.45 anyone interested should contact Mrs Thursting of the Black Dragon Academy on 01634 320238 or 07949 844893.

Line dancing is on Thursday at 8-9pm and we do need more members, now that spring is around the corner why not give it a try? We do not take it seriously and enjoy a fun way to exercise.

Anyone interested in starting up a club in the hall or booking it for private parties call me on 858891 or Duff Robinson on 850463.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm

Term starts Wednesday 24th February - 31st March
and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am

Term starts Thursday 25th February - 1st April

The term will run for six weeks and the fee is £30. 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

Grafty Green Gardening Club



Tuesday March 2nd Grafty Green Village Hall –
This month Andrew Fletcher will be giving a talk on
‘Growing Vegetables’; no need to be a member to
come along - £1 entry and refreshments included.

Date	Topic	Speaker
5 th January	AGM – Best of Kent slide show	Robert Canis
2 nd February	Bee Keeping	Mrs. Barbara Harris
2nd 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
3 rd 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.

The April meeting on Tuesday 6th is the spring show and mini plant sale together with a talk by Dennis Worcester on History and making of walking sticks.

The show schedule is as follows:

CLASS 1	3 stems /specimens trumpet daffodils (same or diff varieties)
CLASS 2	3 large cup, same variety
CLASS 3	3 Small cupped any variety (cup less than 1/3 length of petals)
CLASS 4	3 Double daffodils (one or more to a stem)
CLASS 5	5 Pansies
CLASS 6	5 Violets
CLASS 7	5 Polyanthus
CLASS 8	Vase of spring flowers - 10 stems, same or different varieties
CLASS 9	3 stems of hellebores
CLASS 10	One spray of flowering Prunus any variety 1ft maximum length
CLASS 11	5 soldiers & sailors + leaves if you wish (Pulmonaria).
CLASS 12	3 stems of rhubarb
CLASS 13	2 seedling tomato plants. Pots not more than 4” diameter
CLASS 14	Painted /decorated (hard boiled) Easter egg
CLASS 15	Photo“ First day of Spring”
CLASS 16	Novelty: Smallest growing flowering pot plant (weeds included)

Bring your entries to the hall from 7pm to give time for display/staging.

Weekend in Dorset

A Weekend trip is organised to Dorset - 25th to 27th June at £210 per person staying at the Royal Norfolk Hotel in Bournemouth (dinner bed and breakfast) and visiting four gardens: Stourhead (a National Trust Property), Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens; Kingston Maurward and West Dean Gardens.

The Gardening Club organises this event and anyone can join us - Phone Carole Frost on 757536 for further information and to make your booking, deposit of £25 per person required.

Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall



Council Tax

The lowest increase in county council tax since its inception 17 years ago was agreed at the full meeting of KCC on 18 February. This year's council tax will increase the KCC precept by 2.1%, which means that a Band D property will increase from £1,026.27 to £1,047.78, an extra payment of 41p a week. It is expected that this will give Kent the 9th lowest Band D rate of any comparable authority.

Potholes

In the coming months KCC will employ Kent based small and medium sized resurfacing companies to undertake urgent pothole repairs. The usual contractor, Ringway, will not be used for this work. This will provide a boost to local firms in difficult economic times and we will only use those firms that have a track record of delivering good value for money. A couple of local companies have already been recommended to me and I have passed their details on to Kent Highways Services.

HOSC

I am a member of the Kent County Council Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee, which met on 19 February to debate the proposal of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Primary Care Trust to remove consultants from Maidstone's Hospital maternity unit and instead centralise consultants at the new PFI hospital in Pembury. This would mean that women experiencing high risk pregnancies and likely to require clinical intervention would not be able to give birth in the midwifery-led birthing unit proposed for Maidstone (no doubt diverting patients to Medway and Ashford rather than Pembury given the poor transport links). I highlighted the danger posed to women whom, having experienced low-risk pregnancies, would enter the

birthing unit only to suffer serious complications in birth and then have to be transferred to Pembury – a transfer time of an hour at least! My concern for the safety of women and babies in this situation was shared by colleagues in the Committee but health officials steadfastly refused to acknowledge the inherent dangers of their plans. Instead they argued that KCC and other agencies should lobby for a Colts Hill bypass – KCC has been doing this for well over a decade but this has not been high on the list of the Government's funding priorities. In light of the current economic difficulties, funding for large transport infrastructure schemes will be difficult to access. Members of the Committee unanimously agreed to reject the proposals and referred the matter to the Health Secretary to investigate. Hopefully common sense will prevail and these nonsensical plans will be thrown out.

Jenny Whittle

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk or 01622 734897



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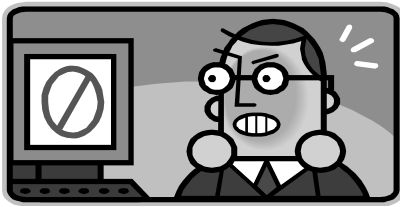
Please note: To ensure prompt service to all our guests
during this busy period, only the set menu will be
available from 12pm to 9.30pm on Sunday 14th
March. Menu's available on our website or please
telephone.

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NEED A LITTLE HELP?

Are you still having problems with your computer? Need to know a bit more to make your letters easier to complete? And how about all those photographs you have from Christmas which need to be organised? **Egerton Telecottage is still here to help you!** Our current classes are fully booked but we can offer the following classes for the Summer period:

Digital Photography

14th/21st/28th April/5th May

Basic Word

noon

4th/10th/17th/24th May

Digital Photography

18th/25th May/1nd/8th June

Basic IT

7th/14th/21st/28th June

Wednesday mornings 10am/12 noon

Tuesday/Monday mornings 10am/12

Tuesday evenings 7.30/9.30pm

Monday mornings 10am/12 noon

We may also be able to organise classes in Desk Top Publishing and Excel if there are sufficient requests. A telephone call to Sylvia Tillman, our Booking Clerk, on 01233 756050 will be enough to tell us you are interested. We can then look at available dates.

And of course we are always open on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12noon for you to drop in for some advice or just a coffee and a chat! Come along and see how much more you can do with your computer – there's always another tip to make life easier.

Adult Classes in Improving your IT skills

Carol Hulm (an IT Trainer) is offering to teach computer skills to members of the village. She is prepared to do this on a voluntary basis and can book the Telecottage at Egerton where there are 12 good computers (participants share the cost of hiring the facilities).

Her passion is to ensure people get the best out of their computers for their needs, safely and securely. Anyone interested please call Carol on 853583.



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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	Reserve	Human	Trail	Nature
2	Patent	Jacket	Strap	
3	Butter	Kidney	Runner	
4	Cut	Crystal	Conscience	
5	Listening	Going	Speak	
6	Landing	Coach	Back	
7	Character	Book	Grid	
8	Public	Expert	Second	
9	Board	Room	Pin	
10	Eleven	Fours	Sign	
11	Touch	Cause	Soul	
12	Cooling	Control	Block	
13	Lining	Quick	Birch	
14	Good	Stile	Over	
15	Cottage	Cloth	Cake	
16	Ferry	Cable	Park	

Local Police Surgeries

Siobhán de Búrca, our local Police Community Support Officer will be holding surgeries at the below locations to enable the community to discuss with the Police any issues or concerns that they may have or wish to raise.

24th Feb 2010 14:30 - 16:00 at Ulcombe Primary School

16th Mar 2010 18:30 - 19:30 at Grafty Green Village Hall

THE ULCOMBE SPORT RELIEF MILE

SATURDAY 20th MARCH, 10am

Help raise money for Sport Relief and all of the wonderful projects it supports. Join us in running (or walking!) one mile and pay to take part or raise sponsorship. Minimum contributions are £2 per adult and £1 per child.



Park at Ulcombe Village Hall by 9.45am and take the shuttle minibus to the start at All Saints Church. There will be no parking at the Church, but there will be a set-down point.

The run will start at 10am (prompt) and come down Ulcombe Hill, along The Street and then onto Headcorn Road and a lap of the recreation field. Everyone who completes the course will receive a certificate. Refreshments will be on sale at the Village Hall, including tea, coffee and cakes.

There is something for everyone!

To make this a success we need lots of help. If you can offer your time, we can make use of you. We need marshals, qualified first aiders, cake makers and refreshment sellers.

Please also note that there will be delays to all travelling by car through the village on the morning, as runners will be using the road near the church and have to cross roads throughout the village.

If you can help, or if you would like a sponsorship form, please contact the Ulcombe School Office. Telephone (01622) 842903 or email office@ulcombe.kent.sch.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Mr V Hampton
Head Teacher

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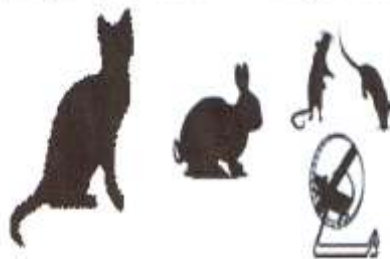
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Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now has issued the new timetable up to 18th April 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 18th Apr 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 18th Apr 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 18th Apr 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Lenham

Sunday 14th Mar 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Road - Boughton Lane

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Music Notes, March 2010

After the widely acclaimed powerful performance of Handel's Messiah last Autumn, Maidstone Choral Union's Christmas Concert, at which they were ably assisted by Brunswick House School choir and expertly accompanied by BAE Systems Brass Band, was predictably more informal in style. Although Music Director Martin Hindmarsh was missing, MCU were privileged to have his identical twin Paul conducting (how many of those present could really see the difference?!) With Paul's reputation from the world of Brass Bands the band was thrilled to be conducted by him.

MCU will be returning to religious works for the next concert on March 20th, at which they will present three very different interpretations of the Gloria, starting with the vibrant and dynamic *Gloria* by Francis Poulenc the French 20th Century composer, premiered in 1961.

They then move to the late 19th Century with Giacomo Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, which strictly speaking is a short Mass. Puccini wrote this as his graduation exercise at the age of 22 and it is an unmistakeably youthful, exuberant work, full of delightful melodies and all the signs of the magnificent operatic music that was to come. Indeed he did use some of the themes in subsequent operas.

In this journey back through musical time they finally reach the early 18th century with the ever popular *Gloria* of Antonio Vivaldi. This is a cheerful and lively work typical of that composer. It is regularly performed as a concert piece and on special occasions in church and it has been used to great effect in a number of films.

Tickets for the concert on **Saturday 20th March** at 7.30pm in Mote Hall, Mote Park, Maidstone range from £6 to £15 and are available from the **Ticket secretary: 01622 726193**, or, from 27th February, from Maidstone Leisure Centre: 08451 552277, Sharon Music: 65 High Street or The Visitor Information Centre, Maidstone Town Hall. You can also email the Ticket Secretary to reserve seats for collection on the night on freda@me169lb.fsnet.co.uk

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Speed limits

(from “Newnes motorists touring guide”)

“[Although] the car [may be] fully equipped and ready to take the road, the motorist has still to acquaint himself with the law as it affects the driver. The twenty-mile speed limit is still in force, and though it is broken by every driver every day, yet anyone is liable to be summoned for exceeding it. The driver cannot, however, be convicted unless warned at the time or unless notice of prosecution is sent within a reasonable time, not exceeding twenty-one days. There must also be two witnesses to the offence, or one who was in a position to time the car over a measured distance with a stopwatch. The speed limits enforced in various towns and villages must be strictly observed. They are usually ten miles an hour but sometimes five.

Readers today may envy the restrictions on prosecution outlined here, but not , perhaps, the legal limits. Our edition of the guide published in the late 1920's was sold at The Great Leeds Book Sale but, in response to popular request, the facility to publish extracts has been allowed to continue for the time being, subject to the editor's approval.

Ulcombe History Society

The Ulcombe History Society will be meeting on Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30 pm in Ulcombe Village Hall to hear a talk by Jeremy Hodgkinson MA on *The Wealden Industry from the Iron Age to the early 19th Century*.

Refreshments are served at the end of the talk. Visitors will be very welcome.

Molly Poulter



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Christian Message March 2010

Have you clicked on 'Love life, live Lent'? This is a website (www.livelent.net) which invites you to join the online community if you are a member of Facebook or use My Space. Have a look and see. There are also 'Love life, live Lent' booklets for all ages. It's all about being good neighbours. That's what Jesus tells us to do. Lent is not just about giving things up. It's certainly not about using Lent to go on a diet, though I guess many people hope that if they stick to giving up chocolates or alcohol they will lose a bit of weight! No, Lent is about actively trying to come closer to being the people God wants us to be. It is about taking time to read and pray. It is about giving time to others, to those less fortunate than ourselves. You may have joined a Lent group for this important time. You may be still thinking about joining. It is not too late to sign up for one.

During these weeks of Lent, which began on February 17th, we can take the opportunity to put our faith into action. Once we reach Mothering Sunday, which this year falls on March 14th, we have an opportunity to celebrate by coming to a Mothering Sunday Service. Did you know that Mothering Sunday is often called Refreshment Sunday, when those people who have given up certain foods or drinks for Lent can taste them again?

Just a couple of weeks later, we come to Palm Sunday, another opportunity to join in with celebrations at church and to receive a palm cross, made with palms from Africa. Palm Sunday heralds the start of Holy Week when Christians gather together to share their thoughts on what the death and resurrection of Jesus means. We all have the opportunity to go to Canterbury to hear Archbishop Rowan speak on St. Mark's gospel on 29th, 30th and 31st March at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral.

So what is so special about this time leading up to Good Friday and Easter? It is a time when we can prepare ourselves to experience something of the Passion of Christ before celebrating His Resurrection on Easter Day. One of the best ways of preparing ourselves is to give ourselves a few minutes quiet each day to spend time with God, praying or reading the Bible. If that does not seem to be right for you, you could simply follow the ideas in the 'Love life, live Lent' booklets. Give it a go!

Marian Bond
Associate Priest, Len Valley Benefice

Church Notices

Taize Services

7pm Sunday 14th March Holy Cross Bearsted

7pm Sunday 9th May Holy Cross Bearsted

7pm Sunday 6th June All Saints Ulcombe

Holy Week Lectures

The beginning of the GOSPEL reading Mark's life of Jesus. Archbishop Rowan offers these lectures in Canterbury Cathedral each evening at 7.30pm.

Monday 29th March - History & Memory

Tuesday 30th March - Unveiling Secrets

Wednesday 31st March - A Lifelong Passion

ALL ARE WELCOME - No Tickets required

For those who would like to stay, each lecture will be followed by '**Music and Prayers to end the day**', led by members of the Cathedral Choir

Anyone wanting a lift or is willing to offer a lift to the Lectures please contact Michelle in the Office on 01622 850604

Maundy Thursday 1st April 7.30pm Holy Communion in St. John the Baptist Harrietsham

Good Friday 2nd April 2pm an hour at the foot of the cross in each church of the Benefice

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

This web site also hosts all the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and gives details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – March 2010

7th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

14th March Mothering Sunday

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Worship with Holy Baptism
11am Lenham Family Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Family Worship
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe Choral Evensong
7pm Holy Cross Bearsted Taize Service

21st March 5th Sunday of Lent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion (Sung)
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

28th March Palm Sunday

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Morning Worship
11am Lenham Family Morning Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

St Peter's Catholic Church, Bearsted

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Mgr Timothy Galligan 736100

Web: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

- 27 March Palm Sunday Vigil**
6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass with Blessing of Palms
- 28 March Palm Sunday**
10.30am Mass with procession and Blessing of Palms
- 1 April Maundy Thursday**
8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- 2 April Good Friday**
11.00am Way of the Cross
Children especially welcome
3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's
Passion and Veneration of the Cross
- 3 April Easter Vigil**
8.30pm The Easter Vigil Service
- 4 April Easter Sunday Morning**
10.30am Easter Sunday Mass

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Web: www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

- 28 March Palm Sunday**
8.45am Mass with Blessing of Palms
- 2 April Good Friday**
12 Noon Way of the Cross
- 4 April Easter Sunday Morning**
8.45am Easter Sunday Mass

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Reserve	Human	Trail	Nature
2	Patent	Jacket	Strap	Leather
3	Butter	Kidney	Runner	Bean
4	Cut	Crystal	Conscience	Clear
5	Listening	Going	Speak	Easy
6	Landing	Coach	Back	Stage
7	Character	Book	Grid	Reference
8	Public	Expert	Second	Opinion
9	Board	Room	Pin	Drawing
10	Eleven	Fours	Sign	Plus
11	Touch	Cause	Soul	Lost
12	Cooling	Control	Block	Tower
13	Lining	Quick	Birch	Silver
14	Good	Stile	Over	Turn
15	Cottage	Cloth	Cake	Cheese
16	Ferry	Cable	Park	Car

	Find the missing word?
1	Ruby Ruby Ruby, Kaiser Chiefs chart topper, a gem of a girl
2	Noel Edmonds, Host from Crinkley Bottom
3	Come Dine With Me, Channel 4 show
4	Tears of a Clown, Hit for Smokey Robinson
5	Please Release Me, 1967 hit for Engelbert Humperdinck
6	Where Eagles Dare, 1968 war film with Clint Eastwood
7	Alan Alda, Actor who appeared in M.A.S.H for 11 years
8	Long Tall Sally, A rock & roll song by Little Richard
9	Austin Powers, Outrageous movie character played by Mike Myers
10	Beyonce Knowles, US pop diva with hits Halo & If I were a boy

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