

Malherbe Monthly

Number 94
May 2012

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Parish of Boughton Malherbe
Thursday 3rd May 2012, 7am - 10pm
Grafty Green Village Hall**

The candidates are:

**Ron Galton
Mike Hitchins
Tony King
Des McLeish
Barbara Pearce
Ian Shaw
Robert Turner**

There are 5 vacancies to fill and 7 candidates to choose from. There won't be another election for 4 years so let's all get out and cast our votes!

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	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King	850711
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
Other Village Hall issues	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@btinternet.com	853583
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: dickvenn@gmail.co.uk	858195
Curate	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: mille.hart@uwclub.net	859753
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Office opening times as 9am – 12noon Monday - Thursday	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.40pm	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Weekend Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
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 **June** edition should be left in
Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on
01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th May**

News from St. Nicholas Church

Morning Prayers will be said at St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe on Tuesday 8th May and Tuesday 22nd May at 9.30am. On alternate weeks, prayers will be said at All Saints, Ulcombe. You will be very welcome at these Prayer sessions. If you have someone who you wish to be included in the prayers please put their name and any other details on a piece of paper and leave it in the black box in the porch at St. Nicholas and they will be prayed for at these times.

The Village Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 8th May 10.30am to 12.00 in the Village Hall, Grafty Green. Coffee, cake and scones will be served. Cups of tea are also available. Do come along for a friendly chat. There is no charge for this but your donations will be gratefully received and sent to a charity at the end of the year.

The Gentlemen's Breakfast at the Red Lion Lenham will take place on Saturday 26th May at 8 a.m. There will be a speaker. Breakfast, a full English, at a cost of £5.00 per head is served. Ring Dick Venn on 01622 858195 or Frank Allen 01622 850630 to book a place.

Jam Jars - We are beginning to run out of jam jars for our homemade jams, which we sell at the Cream Teas, so if you have any in your shed, garage or pantry we will be glad to have them. Please ring Joan on 01622 850210. We only need jam or honey jars as they hold a known quantity of jam, no coffee or pickle jars please. Because we sell to the public we need to know the right amount is in the jar and having uniform sized jars helps with that.

Jubilee Celebrations 'A FOOTPATH WALK' - St. Nicholas' contribution to the Queen's Jubilee celebrations will be a FOOTPATH WALK in the Parish (there are plenty of footpaths to be walked) followed by tea at St. Nicholas on Saturday 2nd June, 2012. Starting at St. Nicholas at 2.00pm, walkers will be given maps and you can do a long or a short walk - whatever you like.

Tea will be served from 3.00pm for those who do not wish to walk and the returning walkers. A selection of cakes and teatime goodies will be available and squashes for the children. There will be no charge for this but a Donation Pot will be there for you to show your appreciation. The monies made from this will be given to the Village hall to help with the refurbishment - new chairs etc., so please be generous. If anyone feels that they would like to help by baking a cake or something suitable please do, we would be most grateful for your help. Please let us know if you can help.

The Lent Lunches were a success again this year and we raised just over £460 over six weeks. We could not do this if it wasn't for the generosity of the Ladies who host these Lunches. Thank you all so much for holding a Lunch in your home, we are very grateful to you. Also, thank you to all the people who came along and attended the lunches and helped to raise this very good sum of money.

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Anne _____, Second wife of King Henry V111
2	_____ Elgar, who wrote the Pomp and Circumstance Marches
3	John _____, Hollywood actor who was born Marion Morrison
4	_____ Bizet, who wrote the opera Carmen
5	Sherlock _____, was said to live at 221b Baker Street
6	_____ Heights, No 1 hit for Kate Bush
7	_____ The Clown, Bart & Lisa's favourite TV show
8	Mark _____, Author of Huckleberry Finn & Tom Sawyer
9	_____ Carroll, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's pen name
10	Margot _____, Famous Ballet Dancer

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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Elections Thursday 3rd May 2012

As you are probably aware, Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Elections are due to take place on Thursday 3rd May. There are 7 declared candidates running for 5 Parish Council positions. 3 of the current councillors are running for re-election and 4 additional parishioners are running. All of these candidates have been asked by the Malherbe Monthly Magazine to write a short piece about themselves so that voters are informed as to who these candidates are and what they offer the Parish Council. The below articles are in candidate alphabetic order and are exactly as sent to the editor. If a candidate has declined to write an article then that candidates name will appear only.

Ron Galton



As you may know I was elected to the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council four years ago during which time I have served as Vice Chairman and made many new friends.

I can honestly say it has been an interesting, rewarding and sometimes frustrating experience, but I hope my contribution has helped to make us a more effective Parish and that those of you who requested my assistance found my efforts on your behalf to be worthwhile

The elections are almost upon us again and I would very much appreciate your vote on the third of May so that I can continue to serve as a Parish Councillor on your behalf.

I would like to thank everyone who has given me their support over the last four years and wish you all well in the future.

Mike Hitchins

I have had the honour of being a Parish Councillor for Boughton Malherbe for the past 8 years and I hope I can rely on your support in the election on 3rd May.

I have lived in Grafty Green since 1987 and been actively involved in many aspects of village life. For 8 years I was a Governor at Platts Heath School and was on the Grafty Green Village Hall committee for over 19 years until last year, several of them as Chairman. I organised the Village Fete for several years and run the bar at many Village Hall



and Church events. Since 2005 I have been the editor of the Malherbe Monthly magazine, and for the past 5 years have not only prepared the magazine but also printed and been responsible for the advertising.

My background is in Information Technology in a banking environment and this has assisted me in maintaining the Boughton Malherbe Parish website, which is one of the ways the Parish Council keeps the parishioners informed.

The road ahead for the Parish Council will be an interesting one - financial constraints, and the upcoming Localism Act will bring new challenges and responsibilities. These will test the council's resolve and require greater involvement of the local population to ensure that the Parish prospers and retains its unique character and rural environment. I believe I have the qualities to meet these challenges.

Please, even if you don't vote for me, vote for someone as it is your Parish that the elected councillors will be representing and they will need your support.

Tony King



I've been living in the hamlet of Boughton Malherbe for nearly 20 years though I was born in Cardiff, spent my childhood in Penzance and student life in London where I got my degree - BA (Hons) in Social Science - and promptly had to retrain in order to get a job! I've been working in computing ever since, I currently at BP, commuting to London from Headcorn daily.

I suppose I'm a typical family man; I've been married to Chris for 23 years and have a 13 year old son, Tom, who is at grammar school in Maidstone after having attended Platts Heath Primary School. I have a firm belief in the importance of community, believing that you make time for what you consider to be important in life. To that end, I have always been involved, from supporting local events to being Chairman of the Fete Committee for 3 years, clock-winder at St. Nicolas' Church for 14 years, and even played cricket for Boughton Malherbe for 3 seasons. Whilst Tom was at Platts Heath School I was Vice-Chairman of the School Governors, playing an active role in the successful fight to keep the school open. I've also been known to enjoy a pint or two of Ken's finest at the King's Head, and can often be seen being taken for walkies by our two dogs: Pippin, a Golden Retriever and Ruby, our collie who is a rescue dog. I feel I would be a good Parish Councillor, working hard on your behalf for the benefit of our community. I have proven dedication and commitment and my experience as a School Governor means I am familiar with KCC/MBC bureaucracy and regulations. I look forward to your support.

Des McLeish

I first moved to Grafty Green in 1999. Living & working both elsewhere in the UK and overseas in the intervening time I've only felt more recently, being in the process of returning to the village, that I might be able to take a more active role in local affairs.



I've no particular political affiliations, but I do have a strong sense of fairness and equality and that we all have a stake in how our community functions.

Having worked in industry for over thirty years I've dealt with many regional and national government departments, so I understand how important it is for local communities to have good working relationships with regional authorities and also how a parish council can act as a voice for the community, to represent its interests effectively at a regional level. At the same time the parish council can help protect our environment and our way of life, while also encouraging local businesses and commerce to invest and develop. I'm keen to be part of that and with your vote I'll commit to do the best I can to support our community.

In my personal life I'm married to Kathy, have two adult children, like cricket, football & adventure travel and work in the fencing industry with a Kent based fencing manufacturer.

Turnout in local elections are historically low, I'd like you to vote for me but if you don't vote for me then please at least vote for one of the candidates on May 3rd.

Barbara Pearce

Why have I decided to stand for election to your Parish Council?

My husband Roy and I have lived within Grafty Green village since 1987 and previously spent 20yrs in Ulcombe where our two daughters were born. I therefore feel I have a good knowledge of the area and of village life.

Although now retired, my past career was in accountancy and latterly doing voluntary work within local Schools. Last year I joined the Village Hall Committee and together with my colleagues we hope, with your support, to ensure full use of our hall and to maintain a good community spirit essential to village life. I have made many friends locally and am proud of our somewhat unique village.

I endeavour to support local services and should I be elected will ensure that Boughton Malherbe is not neglected by Maidstone Borough. Those who know me say I'm "approachable", and I can assure you that any local issues and concerns that are brought to my attention will be dealt with promptly to the best of my ability.

During the past 18 months I have been involved more closely with the present Parish Council and indeed MBC planning department. I have great respect for our Parish Council and can appreciate the amount of time and effort given by them. I sincerely hope that the three current members (Robert Turner, Ron Galton and Mike Hitchins) who are standing for re-election will receive your support (you do of course have FIVE votes). Whoever is elected in May can only benefit from their vast experience. There are sure to be changes within our community and this we have to accept, but the underlying factor is to maintain our great, friendly parish by working together and communicating.

I hope I can count on your support, I assure you that should I be privileged to be elected, then you will certainly have mine.

Ian Shaw



Ian Shaw, his wife Juanita and their family moved to Grafty Green from Maidstone over fifteen years ago, and Ian has been a regular attendee and contributor from the public gallery at Parish Council meetings for over three and a half years.

Having watched the Parish Council in action, and learned a lot over that time, Ian would now like to get more involved in helping the Parish Council to represent the interests of all of us in the village, young and old, and whatever your background or circumstances. He passionately believes that all matters affecting anyone in our village, however big or small, are brought into the open, discussed, and resolved in a fair, just, and amicable way. Here's what Ian says:

In my work for the British Standards Institution (BSI) in London, I help to devise quality best practises and guidelines for everything from effective sewer systems to protecting our children on-line, from wheelchair mobility to road safety and many other issues. In my work I also have to bring many different parties with different views together to form a consensus on the best way forward, and so I believe that working at BSI has also prepared me to be a good Parish Councillor. I also have 25 years of experience in business and industry with companies like BT and Motorola, and so understand how large organisations operate, which means that I feel that I can represent the interests of our small village to them, and not be ignored!

Outside of work, my wife and I have worked as specialist Foster Carers for twenty years, helping many children less fortunate than our own, of all ages - many of whom

have been a part of local village life – and we are now also helping young Mothers and their babies. Ever since we came to the village, Brook Cottage has always been somewhere for those who are in need, or with a problem, to receive help and support, and a listening ear! It also means that I have worked extensively with the same Public Sector organisations – especially KCC – that Parish Councillors work with to ensure that the needs of our small but beautiful Parish and village are taken seriously.

The key reason, though, why I would like to have the privilege of representing the views and issues of everyone in Boughton Malherbe on your Parish Council, is because I would not want anyone in our village to feel that our Parish Council is distant or aloof, or just for people with vested interests, but a group that anyone and everyone with a problem or an issue relating to their lives in the village can speak to, get a fair hearing, and get those issues resolved.

As a regular attendee at Parish Council meetings I have seen the good work of our very effective current Councillors to make the Parish Council a group that exists for everyone, and I would very much like to join them in carrying on that work, and adding to it as a fresh, and new, voice.

Please feel free to contact me anytime on ishaw63@btinternet.com, or by either dropping a note in at Brook Cottage, or by dropping by in person, to let me know of anything you want me to raise on your behalf at future Parish Council meetings.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please put a note in your diaries to vote for who you want to be your Parish Councillors on Thursday May 3rd at Grafty Green Village Hall, and if you also decide to vote for me, your vote will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Robert Turner

My name is Robert Turner and I am asking for your support in the forthcoming elections for Boughton Malherbe Parish Council on May 3rd.

I have lived in the Parish for more than thirty five years during which I have served on the Parish Council for many years and have held the role as Chairman for the past four years, in fact it was only when I retired that I have been able to give more time and energy that I personally consider is necessary to undertake this role.

With the increased demands of the Borough Council, the Localism Act, reduction in Budget support and the requirement for increased input, the demands upon ones time will grow rather than reduce. I believe in Boughton Malherbe and as such want to keep it as a village where parishioners can enjoy a quality of life. As such I am part of the Speedwatch team which attempts to reduce the speed of traffic through our village - which in many cases is unacceptable and dangerous. In addition to this I represent the community as part of the Joint Parishes Group which has been

contesting parts of the Maidstone Core Strategy. This proposed Strategy Document in its current form does very little for our Parish.

I have also served on the Village Hall committee for numerous years and currently hold the role of Treasurer.

My view of the future for the Parish Council, acting on behalf of the Parish, is that we will have to "fight our corner " to protect our village from the expansion of the new Rural Service Centres of Headcorn, Lenham and Harrietsham. The extra road traffic alone that this could generate from both cars and trucks is worrying. We must create a Parish plan to assess what the people of both Grafty Green and the rest of the Parish want for the future, which will of course involve both the Parish Council and parishioners. The protection of the rural nature of the parish - especially the Greensand Way - features highly on my agenda.

Finally, if our Parish is to survive we must become more involved in Borough-wide Committees, we cannot afford to " bury our heads in the sand" if we want to be in control of our own future.

I do hope that I can count on your support on the 3rd May - Thank-you

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VILLAGE JUBILEE CELEBRATION

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The news from the Village Hall committee this month is all about our Jubilee celebration on Bank Holiday **Monday 4 June**. This will be held in the field in Church Road where our fetes used to be held, and our thanks go to Jamie Clark for allowing us to use it. We will have a large marquee and some gazebos (to protect us from the sun!) and plenty of entertainment, food and drink on offer.

Gates open at 4:00pm and at about 4:30 or so we will be treated to a short entertainment by Gail Kelly's '**Dazzle**' group of youngsters in the main marquee. This will be followed by an hour's performance by a pair of **stilt-walking, fire jugglers** (NOT in the marquee!)

All the while there will be a (free) **bouncy castle** available for children to play on, a couple of **craft stalls*** to visit, a display of **classic cars*** to admire and **silly games** to try your hand at. There will also be **hot & cold drinks** and **ice creams** on sale - and the lovely smell of a roasting pig!

At around 6:00pm we will open a **pay bar** offering beer, wine and soft drinks and our **hog roast** will begin serving. Tables and chairs will be laid out in the main marquee, so you can eat in some comfort! Along with your slices of pork we will offer you buttered **baked potato, coleslaw and a basic salad** of lettuce, tomato and cucumber, with a salad dressing. If you would like to bring other accompaniments (or, perhaps, a veggie or kiddie alternative) then please do. **Strawberries and cream** will follow.

The fun continues with **social dancing** until around 8:30 and then an hour of musical mayhem from **Hobo Jones & The Junkyard Dogs**, a top act who are regulars at the Glastonbury Festival – don't miss them! At about 9:30 we walk the short distance up Church Road to where, at around 10:00, we will light our **Jubilee Beacon** and see how many others we can spot across the Weald.

And what will all this cost you? **A FIVER!** (under-16s only £2.50). Now that would be value even in 1952!

BUT WE MUST KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE TO CATER FOR, SO YOU **MUST** BUY YOUR TICKETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND NO LATER THAN SATURDAY 26 MAY. WITHOUT A TICKET YOU WILL NOT GET FOOD, AND **NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED**.

Tickets are available now from The **Grafty Green Village shop**. Or you can contact any Village Hall committee member (my own contact details are opposite). Remember: **NO TICKET, NO FOOD!** (Although you can still join in the other fun). And a ticket also gives you a chance to win our **grand prize draw!**

**It's not too late to book a place for your own classic vehicle or craft stall.
Contact any Committee Member.*

Can you help us with our great Jubilee event?

Your Hall Committee has been working tirelessly for months to organise this celebration, but as they big day approaches, we really do need your help.

On the day before the event (Sunday 3 June) and on the morning of the day itself (Monday 4 June) we will need help in preparing salads and hulling strawberries, erecting gazebos, transporting and setting up tables and chairs, etc.

We will also need help during the course of the afternoon to serve teas & coffees, move tables and chairs back for dancing, and so on. We don't expect you to give up your whole afternoon, but could you spare an hour or so to relieve our hard-pressed committee members? And then, of course, on Tuesday 5 June (also a Bank Holiday) there will undoubtedly be some clearing up to be done!

If you are willing to help, please contact me. If you can't help, might you donate something towards the grand prize draw? Again, please contact me.

And we'd very much like to add to our array of silly games that people can try their hand at. If anyone has a garden game (like Giant Jenga, perhaps?) that they could lend for the afternoon, we'd be really grateful. All such games will be supervised.

Thanks, ***Richard Pilborough*** (tel: 850484, email: pilborough@grafy.plus.com)

SHORT MAT BOWLS IS HERE!

Following the success of the recent 'taster' sessions I am delighted to inform you that short mat bowls will be starting in the village hall in May, very much due to the help and enthusiasm of the Village Hall Committee led by Richard Pilborough. Equipment has been purchased to get things up and running. Coaching has been arranged. As with any new venture there are and will be i's to dot and t's to cross but initially the 'club' will be run as an offshoot to the village hall and I will act as co-ordinator until a club can be properly formulated. Sessions will be as follows:

Wednesdays 2.15 – 5.00 pm starting 23rd May
Thursdays 7.45 – 10.15 pm starting 24th May

The cost will be £2 per session for those with their own bowls or £3 for those using club bowls. Please remember flat shoes (no heels or treads) and not shoes which are worn outdoors. Look forward to seeing you – doesn't matter if you did not come to the taster sessions – just turn up by 2.15pm on Wednesday afternoon or 7.45pm on Thursday evenings. Any queries ring Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Honywood & Douglas Charity: Almshouse Vacancy

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

A one bedroom ground floor flat with sitting room/kitchen and bathroom.

Applicants must be 60 years of age or more, able to look after themselves and have lived in the Parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for at least two years.

Applications should be made in writing to the Secretary, as below, to reach her no later than 30th May, 2012:-

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

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30pm, 18th April – 30th May - 7 weeks (£42)

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11am, 19th April – 31st May (Not 3rd May) - 6 weeks (£36)

Drop in £8 a session. Concessions for under 18's accompanied by an adult.

Mixed ability class, beginners welcome.

The Yoga class can be tailored or adapted to suit any age, male or female.

The benefits experienced from attending regular yoga classes:

- A general glow and feeling energised.
- Confidence grows.
- Open body language.
- Developing fitness and tone.
- Strength and stamina.
- Developing self-awareness.
- Increased concentration and focus.
- Physical and mental balance.
- Improved flexibility.
- Reduced levels of stress and relief from tension.

•
Yoga gives you the opportunity to:

- ✓ Move freely
- ✓ Think clearly
- ✓ Breath fully

Further details from Sue Burch – British Wheel of Yoga Teacher – 850381 or email grafftyyoga@gmail.com

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to 18th August 2012.

Grafty Green

Saturday 26th May 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
 Saturday 4th August 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 26th May 14:30 – 15-10 -: Green Lane
 Saturday 4th August 14:30 – 15-10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 2nd June 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens
 Saturday 11th August 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens

Grafty Green Gardening Club - 2012 Programme

Date	Event/Speaker	Subject
May 1	Sandra Pilborough and Sylvia Galton	Making the best of flower arranging
May 15	Ros Bennett	Ferns and Mosses in Elmstone Lane
June 9 Saturday 2pm	Outing Molesworth, Benenden	Private garden
July 3 6.30 pm	Eaglewood, Warren Street,	Mr and Mrs Darvill's garden
27 – 29 July	Weekend in Sussex	
August 7 6.30pm	Bean Place Nursery, Headcorn	Nursery visit
Sept 4	Autumn Show - Neil Coombs	Vintage Trees
Oct 2	Veronica Moore	Horticultural Therapy
Nov 6	Sue Buckingham	Wild flowers of the Mediterranean
Dec 4	Social – Tom La Dell	Weird and Wacky things to eat from the Garden

Our May meeting is on May 1st in the Village Hall. Sandra Pilborough and Sylvia Galton will be guiding us all in the practical skill of how to make the best of flower arranging. The Gardening Club is pleased to be able to donate £1,000 to the Village Hall committee for the purchase of new chairs for the village hall to commemorate Jubilee Year. Individual donations to go toward further chairs are invited by the committee. Members and non members alike can come along and enjoy any of the events in our programme. For more details: Phone Rosemary Smith (850526) or Sue Birch (850381)

Grafty Gourmet

This is another fantastic yet very simple dish. An absolute must for chicken lovers. Chicken breasts can be use in place of thighs, if cut into 2 or 3 pieces. However, the flavour of the dark meat of the thigh, favourably compliment the chorizo sausage. A mouth watering dish by any standards.

Spanish Chicken with Chorizo - Serves 2

1 red onions, cut into slices	4 Chicken Thighs
2 cloves garlic, chopped	1 tbs olive oil
1 Traditional Chorizo Sausage, skin removed and cut into chunks	½ pack of vine tomatoes, cut into halves
2 tsp Paprika	

1. Heat the oven to 200°C, Whilst oven is warming, fry the onion, garlic and chunks of chorizo in a large frying pan. Stir in the smoked paprika and fry until the onion is soft..
2. Place the chicken in the frying pan and cook with the onion, garlic and chorizo until the chicken has turned white all over.
3. Remove the chicken and chorizo mixture from the frying pan and place in an oven proof dish and cook for 20 minutes.
4. After 20 minutes, add the tomatoes to the dish and cook for a further 20 minutes. Serve with either rice or a selection of season vegetables.

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News From Ulcombe Village School

It has been a fairly quiet few weeks here at school, as the start of April was also the start of two weeks Easter Holiday. However we have plenty to look forward to as you will see. We have continued to make our school even better, with a collection of small jobs being tackled during the holiday. Some of these will be more obvious than others, but all help our school to be at its best.

Some of you may have noticed that our adventure trail has been waiting for repair. When you read this the children should again be able to climb over, under and along the whole trail as this is scheduled for the end of April. I am hoping that by the time you read this our playground shelter will also have been built, or close to completion. We are extremely grateful to FUS and the School Council who have collaborated to fund this project. This will provide an outdoor classroom, a shelter alongside the playground for the children to use and somewhere that adults can wait if the weather is poor when dropping off or collecting their children.

The end of April also sees the Lenham 5-a-side Football Tournament. We are hoping to enter a team again this year and we will let you know in the next issue how they got on. The end of the month was also an opportunity for parents and carers to come in and find out how we are working with the children to learn sounds in our Phonics workshop.

Supermarket Tokens Needed

Have you got any Tesco Tokens or Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers waiting to be handed in to a school or club? If you, or any of your friends and family, have any tokens that you can bring in we would be delighted to receive them as soon as possible. They do need to be sent off very soon. We have benefited from an enormous range of items over the years, and these schemes continue to be of great benefit to us. Thank you very much to all of you who have sent in tokens from the various supermarket schemes already.

Model Trains And More Needed

Children in Years 5 and 6 are creating a model railway as part of a KCC and Hornby competition. Have you got anything lurking in the loft, garage or lurking anywhere else unused? Would you be willing to lend (or even donate) tracks, model trains or accessories to our young engineers? (For those in the know we will be creating a 'OO' gauge model railway.) The hope is that they will be able to create a portable model railway that can be displayed at local events, with the focus on creating a realistic scene. If you think you can help please contact the school at the earliest opportunity.

Looking Ahead

There are several events in May, including Safety in Action and the National Tests for children in Year 6 and Class and group photographs for us to look our best for. We will be thinking about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as we go through the term, culminating in our **next Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner and Diamond Jubilee Celebration, on Friday 1st June, at 1pm.** All of you, our friends from the local community, are warmly invited. The older children will wait at the tables during the meal, and it will be followed by the children showing off various pieces of work and helping us all to find out something more about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. This will cost £4.30, which includes a £1

donation to the school. If you would like to book your seat please contact the School Office as soon as possible.

Friends of Ulcombe School

Moving on through the summer, Saturday 23rd June is our Sports Day and Summer Fayre. This year we again plan to run our Sports Day from 11am, with the Summer Fayre following immediately afterwards. and Saturday 14th July, which and Summer Ball, respectively. Saturday 14th July is the date of our FUS Summer Ball. As in the past there will be an auction with wonderful lots to bid for, as well as a great meal and the chance to dance the night away. If you have not booked your places already you will need to do so as soon as you can, either to the School Office or to Mrs Berry.

Library Update

We have been waiting for Kent County Council to make arrangements for the electricity sub-station to be moved from the plot of land which they wish to sell. You will know, I am sure, that the old adventure trail area has been declared surplus and the land has been cleared. However, we are in the extremely unusual position of being promised the proceeds from this sale to fund our planned improvements, including a library. We hope that KCC will be able to place the land on the market soon.

If you would like to know more about the improvements we wish to make to our school please feel free to come and see them on display in the entrance area. As ever, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us in school. We hope to see you at one of the forthcoming events.

Mr V Hampton *Head Teacher*



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Platts Heath Baby and Toddler Group

We meet in the St Edmunds Centre, School Lane on Monday mornings between 10am and noon (even in school holidays!). We are a small, friendly group of Mum's and little one's and would welcome newcomers.

Please do call in and see us or if you would like more information, call Sarah on 01622 859174. There is a small charge of £2 per family. We hope too see you soon.

Platts Heath St Edmunds Centre

Looking for a venue for a Family gathering or a children's party? Need a regular hall to run a club from? The St Edmunds Centre in Platts Heath would be perfect for either. We offer a very reasonable hourly rate. For more information, or to arrange a look inside call Karen Yardley on 01622 858208

You are invited to come along to St Edmund's Hall in Platts Heath
on Friday 25th May 2012 to

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Tickets £5 (inc. samples and nibbles) – contact Kate Stansfield on 01622 851160
Arrival time from 7pm, start at 7.30pm

We would like to invite you to our next AGM,
at St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath, 14th May at 8 0 clock.
It would be wonderful to see some new faces
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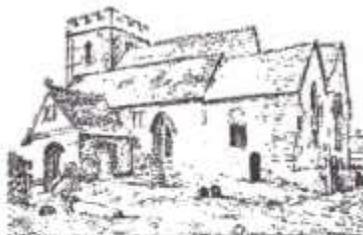
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St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe

Services in May

Easter 4
6th 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Easter 5
13th 6.30pm Choral Evensong BCP

Sunday after Ascension Day
20th 9.30am Holy Communion CW1

Pentecost Whit Sunday
27th 9.30am Family Worship

Trinity Sunday
3rd June 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

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Grafty Geeks - Computer Tip of the Month

What is SKYPE? 3 Steps to free calls on your PC to anywhere in the world

Using Skype you can talk to anyone in the world and see them on your computer at no additional cost to your broadband package.



If you have family and friends who do not live close and you both have access to the internet this is the cheapest and best way to keep in touch. It's also very handy if you are unable to get out of the house (you are sick or snowed in for example) and you would like to see your family or friends who are not so far away.

What do you need?

1. **Webcam and Microphone** - if you have not got these already with the computer you can buy them for less than £10 each.
2. **Skype** - type Skype into the address line on the Internet. This will take you to the Skype Website where you will see an option to GET SKYPE (make sure you get the correct version for your computer eg: windows)

You will then see an option to DOWNLOAD Skype for free, don't worry about references to pricing, as you only have to pay for special features, which you can explore and decided about later. The simple straight forward version is FREE.

3. **Skype Account** - Sign-in (which is located almost top right of the screen) and get a Skype Account - follow the on-screen instructions



Once set up you are ready to go.

Remember to do an Echo / Sound Test and check the Webcam.

You will now be able to add contacts (from the Content Menu). When you find a contact you will be able to send them a message to ask if you can be connected with them.



Remember to add a profile and a picture if you want to.

More on this next month !!



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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Dawn	Girl	Line	Chorus
2	Cloth	Fishing	Grained	
3	Chair	Fore	Pit	
4	Craft	Fly	Mower	
5	Bar	Call	Swiss	
6	Food	Station	Zone	
7	Swiss	French	Austrian	
8	Finish	Fit	Passport	
9	Paper	Shy	Station	
10	Automatic	Scheme	Test	
11	Lip	Proof	Room	
12	Collie	Flower	Terrier	
13	Call	Dolls	Light	
14	Apple	Trolley	Wine	
15	Knife	Lumber	Steeple	
16	Queen	Sleep	Spot	

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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 13th.

Full Moon occurs on Sunday 6th May, when it is in the constellation of Libra, and **New Moon** is on Sunday 20th May.

Mercury is at superior conjunction (behind the Sun) at the end of May, so we are unlikely to see this elusive little planet this month.

Venus is beginning to fade as the brilliant "Evening Star" At the start of May it is high in the western sky just after sunset, and doesn't set until after midnight. **Venus** is still very bright, and relative to the stars is moving eastwards across Taurus.

Mars is high in the south-western sky at dusk, and doesn't set in the west until just before sunrise. Relative to the stars it is moving steadily south-eastwards in the constellation of Leo. Through a telescope it may be possible to see the dark and light patches on the surface, together with the white North Polar Cap.

Jupiter is in conjunction (with the Sun) on 13th May, which means that it rises and sets with the Sun. So it will not be possible to see the planet this month.

Saturn is on the opposite side of the sky to Jupiter. It is high in the southern sky at dusk, and sets in the west just before sunrise, and is moving slowly north-westwards in the constellation of Virgo. Throughout May it is still well placed for viewing. Through a telescope you should be able to see the famous rings together with many of its moons.

You may have read recently that there may be billions of potentially habitable planets in our own galaxy, the Milky Way. Researchers from Grenoble University have discovered that our galaxy may be the home of at least 100 super-earths. These are rocky planets, about the same size as our Earth, which are orbiting the "habitable zone" of red dwarfs. (A red dwarf is a small and relatively cool star, which is common in the galaxy). These rocky planets, which would have distances of less than 30 light years away, may have liquid surface water, which is an essential ingredient of life. Communication, however, would still be a problem, as it would take 30 years to get a message to them, and another 30 years waiting for a reply!

John Maunder

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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Tuesday 8th May 2012.**

The minutes for the last meeting (and all previous minutes) can be viewed on the Boughton Malherbe Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Clerk

www.boughtonmalherbecp.kentparishes.gov.uk/

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The Olympic Torch passes near to our Parish on the following dates/times:

Day 62 – Thursday July 19th 2012

Harrietsham

A20, Ashford Road, Harrietsham. 18:19hrs from Ashford Road/Church Lane to Ashford Road/Lenmead at 18:30hrs.

Leeds Castle, Maidstone – Evening Celebration site.

18:33hrs from Leeds Castle entrance lane at Broomfield Road along Causeway, Main Drive, Grassed area and Event Space to Celebration Stage at 18:50hrs.

Day 63 – Friday 20th July 2012

Maidstone

06:42hrs from Mote Park along Mote Avenue, Mote Road, Wat Tyler Way, King Street, High Street, A229 Bishop's Way, A229 Mill Street, Archbishop's Palace entrance, river approach path, to Archbishop's Palace at 07:05hrs.

07:10hrs Transfer of Flame by boat from Archbishop's Palace to Maidstone Rowing Club river jetty at 07:25hrs to upload flame onto river jetty.

07:30hrs from River Jetty Forecourt along James Whatman Way to A229 Royal Engineers' Road at 07:32hrs.

Youth Group organise a litter pick

Eight teenagers from Len Valley church youth group organised a community litter pick around Harrietsham in the Easter holidays. Recently they have been finding out ways to make a difference to the world; local, national and global, and decided on clearing litter from the two village fields and the area behind the church. A big pile of black sacks was piled up for the council to come and pick up.

The youth group meets fortnightly on a Sunday evening in Harrietsham Village Hall and is open to anyone in secondary school in the villages of the Len Valley. Anyone in Year 6 and waiting to move on to secondary school is now welcome to join. Games, chat, snacks and activities to explore the Christian faith are all part of the programme .

Fun activities like Laser Tag and an opportunity to take part in the annual Easter Youth Pilgrimage to Canterbury are on offer during the year.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about being a Christian or wants to be confirmed at some stage, this is the right place to come. For more information contact Helen Venn on 858195.

Christian Message May 2012

By the time this is published Fabrice Muamba will almost certainly not be news. He is the Bolton Wanderers footballer who hit the news when he suffered a cardiac arrest in an FA quarter-final match in March. Despite his heart stopping for 78 minutes (yes, seventy-eight minutes) he lived. As I write this, the latest reports are that his recovery is progressing beyond all expectations and he is walking around his room. Maybe by the time you're reading, he's back on the field.

What also made the news was that Fabrice is a Christian whose family are also believers and are not afraid to say so. Nor were they afraid to suggest that prayer would make a difference, so they publicly asked for prayer for Fabrice. And what is interesting is that people responded. People prayed; the newspapers were full of it for a day or two – the SUN had this headline: "Praying for Muamba: GOD IS IN CONTROL"

Several questions come out of this. Why single out Fabrice Muamba to pray for, when there are so many others in similar situations? Why are we surprised when people ask for prayer? Why surprised that people respond? And why surprised that God hears and answers?

While many people in the UK call themselves Christians, very few know what it really means to be a follower of Jesus (which is what a Christian is and does). Yet in a crisis, most people do pray, as the "Muamba Moment", and all the opinion polls, tell us. Jesus tells us to pray to Father God and gave us the Lord's Prayer; St. Paul says "don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." (Philippians 4:6)

Let's be a bit less shy about prayer! A small group already meet in each church in the area to pray for our community for 30 minutes once a week at 9.30. Anyone can join us and we'd love to see you! Harrietsham on Mondays, Boughton Malherbe and Ulcombe (alternating) on Tuesdays, and Lenham on Wednesdays.

If you can't come and join us, put your prayer request on a slip of paper and leave it at church – and we will pray for you. Or phone the vicar (858195) or the church office (850604) to ask for prayer. Did you know that in Harrietsham and Lenham churches, you can light a candle and quietly say a prayer? Come in and try!

We know, like Muamba, that God hears our prayers – Psalm 107 verse 6 says "You were in serious trouble, but you prayed to the Lord and he rescued you." Do it!

Dick Venn

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Sunday/Main Services – May 2012

6th May – 5th Sunday after 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

13th May – 6th Sunday after Easter

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

19th May 5pm Deanery Novena Service in St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe

20th May – 7th Sunday after 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
3pm Rose Service in Harrietsham

27th May - Pentecost

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Worship
11am Lenham Family Worship with Baptism
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Pentecostal Praise Service in St. Peter Boughton Monchelsea

New Venue for Messy Church

On Good Friday 120 fathers, mothers and children crowded into Harrietsham church. In a variety of ways they re-enacted and remembered the Last Supper, Crucifixion of Jesus and the Events of Easter Day. Lenham Primary school will host Messy Church for the first time on Saturday May 12th from 4 to 6pm. There will be the usual mix of activities, craft work singing, prayers and a tea of sandwiches, cakes and drinks enjoyed together.

For more information ring **Helen Venn** on 01622 858195.

Music Notes - May

During May, BBC television brings to a climax two splendid music competitions. Over 3 weeks from 27th April BBC 2 viewers can watch four well known personalities learn to compete as conductors in the series "Maestro at the Opera". The semi-finals and finals of BBC Young Musician series will be on BBC 2 on 12th and 13th May (times to be announced – watch out for it). Instrumental finals are on all the preceding Friday evenings at 7.30pm on BBC 4, starting 13th April.

My selection of live local concerts this month concentrates on piano performances:

- Thursday 10th May, 8pm at Bradbourne House (ME19 6DZ) – A piano recital by Phillip Dyson – programme includes works by Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Joplin & Gershwin. Sponsored by East Malling Research Station Music Club; Tickets at the door. Information (only) 01732 843129
- Saturday 12th May, 7.30pm at St. Dunstan's Church, Stone Street, Cranbrook. Cranbrook Symphony Orchestra's concert features Tim Ellis performing Grieg's *Piano Concerto*. The programme also includes Mozart's *Symphony no.4*. Tickets at the door or online <http://tinyurl.com/3da3pyb>
- Saturday 19th May, 7.30pm at Mote hall Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's Spring concert features Maurizio Baglini playing Beethoven's *Piano Concerto no.3*, together with the orchestra's presentation of Elgar's *Symphony no.1*. Tickets 01622 735830

Brian Hardy

Appeal for help

Leeds Church is looking for someone who would be willing to occasionally provide the music to accompany hymns at a service, when our normal volunteers are not available. Piano, organ, violin, clarinet – any reasonable alternative. Or even someone willing to learn to operate an existing computer-based recorded music system.

If you think you might be able to help, telephone Brian Hardy, 01622 842915



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Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Dawn	Gilt	Line	Chorus
2	Cloth	Fishing	Grained	Course
3	Chair	Fore	Pit	Arm
4	Craft	Fly	Mower	Hover
5	Bar	Call	Swiss	Roll
6	Food	Station	Zone	Comfort
7	Swiss	French	Austrian	Alps
8	Finish	Fit	Passport	Photo
9	Paper	Shy	Station	Work
10	Automatic	Scheme	Test	Pilot
11	Lip	Proof	Room	Reading
12	Collie	Flower	Terrier	Boarder
13	Call	Dolls	Light	House
14	Apple	Trolley	Wine	Desert
15	Knife	Lumber	Sleepie	Jack
16	Queen	Sleep	Spot	Beauty

	Find the missing word?
1	Anne Boleyn , Second wife of King Henry VIII
2	Edward Elgar , Who wrote the Pomp and Circumstance Marches
3	John Wayne , Hollywood actor who was born Marlon Morrison
4	Georges Bizet , who wrote the opera Carmen
5	Sherlock Holmes , was said to live at 221b Baker Street
6	Wuthering Heights , No 1 hit for Kate Bush
7	Krusty The Clown , Bart & Lisa's favourite TV show
8	Mark Twain , Author of Huckleberry Finn & Tom Sawyer
9	Lewis Carroll , Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's pen name
10	Margot Fonteyn , Famous Ballet Dancer

The George

Free House

Country Pub · Restaurant



MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY 7TH MAY

Family BBQ from 3:30

BOUNCY CASTLE for the LITTLE ONES.

Weather permitting!!

Come and try our new spring menus:

Light bites: Smoked haddock & cheddar fish

Cakes with chilli dipping sauce or

Pork, pear & black pudding terrine.

Classics: Pie of the week, Crab linguine,

Moules mariniere or simply sausage & mash.

Mains: Sage crusted pork escalope & dauphinoise

Potatoes, Moroccan spiced lamb rump or a classic

Chicken coq au vin with parsley mash & fresh veg.

Plus many more.....

Plus WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHT

10oz RUMP & CHIPS £8:95

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