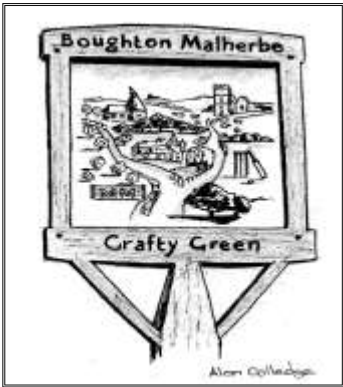


Malherbe Monthly

Number 115
February 2014



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 email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	850711
Village Hall bookings and other matters	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@btinternet.com Mobile 07990 574214	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 - 4.30pm	
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 **March** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th February**

Front cover: The 'offending tree' that was the cause of the 5 day power cut in Grafty Green over the Christmas period

News from St. Nicholas Church

Morning Prayer: St. Nicholas Church - Prayers will be said on Tuesday 4th & 18th February at 9.30am and on alternate Tuesdays 11th & 25th at All Saints Ulcombe. Do come along and join in all are welcome. The sessions last about half an hour.

Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th February at 10.30am where a warm welcome and newly baked scones and cake will be on offer with coffee or tea. There is no charge for these mornings but a donation towards our water project in Zambia, to bring water to four remote villages, would be gratefully received. Do come along and spend an hour chatting and enjoying each others company, you will be very welcome.

Lent Lunches: We will, I hope, be holding our Lent Lunches in March starting on 12th at different venues around the Parish. We serve delicious soups and crusty fresh bread followed by coffee or tea. There will be more about the lunches in next month's issue.

Joan Davidson

Mary Caroline Hope 1921-2014 a former resident of Grafty Green has died.

Mary Caroline Hope (nee Caporn) passed away peaceful in her sleep at her home in Maidstone on 16th January aged 92 years. She leaves a widow Eric, son David and a daughter Paula and five grand children.

Mary was born at St. Catherines, Canada in 1921. She was the second child of Walter and Lilian Caporn. In 1926, the family returned to England and settled at Stream Farm, Grafty Green where Walter farmed until his death in 1941. Mary was one of five children and attended school at Boughton Malherbe (next to the Church) and subsequently Maidstone Girls Grammar School. The family took an active part in village life and Mary was voted May Queen on one occasion. During the War, Mary became a VAD like her mother and was actively nursing injured servicemen at military hospitals in the Kent. After the War she was employed in secretarial work.

Mary remained at Stream Farm with her widowed Mother until marrying Eric at St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe in 1962. Mary and Eric lived in Maidstone. Mary was a kind, caring and much loved wife and mother. She enjoyed the countryside and gardening and was good with injured animals and birds nursing them back to health. She also had a great sense of fun.

Mary had a deep affection for Stream farm until it was sold and Boughton Malherbe Church, where she was a regular worshipper with her sister Ella until recently. It is hoped that Mary's funeral service will take place at Boughton Church, followed by private cremation at Charing. Anyone wishing to attend the funeral will be most welcome. There will be a notice in the Shop in due course.

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

New Members Always Welcome - Join Us

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall,
Gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available
Further information - Chris Wheal
01622 858100

GREAT NEWS - on Tuesday 14th January in only the clubs second competitive match against Lenham a victory by 12 shots, fantastic effort rewarding the 'spirit and enthusiasm' of a fledgling club.

Village Hall News

First, foremost and most importantly please put this date in your diary: Saturday 29th March. It may seem a way off, but I wouldn't want you to miss out on another great gastronomic event at the Hall - this time, with top class professional entertainment.

Following the success of our French evening last year, we've decided to offer a 3-course Italian meal for the same price (£15) but this time we have booked a professional comedy-magic act to entertain us throughout the evening. There will be close-up magic at the tables as you eat and a 45 minute performance from the stage to finish – and I'm assured there will be as many laughs as gasps!

Our entertainer is Terry Herbert, a multi award-winning Gold Star member of the Inner Magic Circle, with many TV credits to his name. He has worked with the very best – and with Paul Daniels! He has performed in Las Vegas and in Monaco (for Prince Rainier) and we're very lucky indeed to have secured his services for our lovely little village hall.

Tickets for the evening are available now from Rob at the village shop - or call me on 01622 850484. Please buy your tickets early, so we know well in advance how many we are catering for.

If you're thinking of hiring the Hall for a private function – or, indeed, to mount a public event of your own – please note that the person to contact has changed. Doreen Walter has given up the role of Booking Secretary, which she has carried out for many years (for which we sincerely thank her) and Carol Hulm has taken on the role. Carol's contact details are on page 1 of this magazine.

Doreen (at 'Brierley', next-door-but-one to the Hall) will continue to hold a key to the Hall to enable access, and will still be happy to take the booking fee if you wish to pay cash on the day. The fee to hire the Hall, incidentally, presently remains at the very low figure of £6/hr, which is a bargain in anyone's book!

Richard Pilborough

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!



Traditional Sunday Lunches

Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers

Booking Advisable
01622 850259

Children's Room Beer Garden

Boughton Malherbe **Parish Council** **Contact Details**

Robert Turner, Chairman
Tel: 01622 850325
turnerrmb@gmail.com

Ron Galton
(Emergency Plan)
01622 850369
galton@gotadsl.co.uk

Mike Hitchins
(Finance)
01622 858937
mfhitchins@btinternet.com

Tony King
(Neighbourhood Plan)
01622 850711
tony.king@uk.bp.com

Barbara Pearce
(Joint Parishes Group)
01622 850232
pearce.steel@tiscli.co.uk

In brackets are areas of specific interest, although all councillors are available for any matters relating to Boughton Malherbe.

Christine King, Parish Clerk
01622 850711
boughtonmalherbecpc@gmail.com

 **LENHAM**
NURSERY SCHOOL 
at Lenham Primary School,
Ham Lane, Lenham.

The Nursery School is
Ofsted Registered
and a member of the
Pre-School Learning Alliance;
holds an excellent Ofsted Report
and has validation to accept
Early Years Funding.

We're here to serve your needs.
Why not call in to discuss
your requirements?

It's never too early
to add your child's name to our Waiting List.

Contact Sara Siddons

07967 128056

Registered Charity No. 1041661

Emergency Plan - Update

It was hoped that we would be in a position to have the plan in place sometime in February but there have been delays and after attending a recent conference at which our proposals were discussed it became clear that more work was needed to ensure compliance with updated guidelines before final presentation to the authorities. Furthermore, the feedback following the subsequent power failure emergency over Christmas which affected many residents has provided much food for thought and prompted a review of the plan.

Several people have asked why the plan was not in place and why those affected were not contacted to offer assistance if needed. These questions should be answered and the following highlights may help to demonstrate the difficulties.

1) Initially we advertised the intention to produce a plan and asked for volunteers to join the Emergency Committee which due to little interest was formed of only three members. We are now down to two and progress has been slow.

2) The additional work involved is considerable which will delay the plan being put in place further, at the moment we cannot give an estimated completion date.

3) When the power failed the village turned to self help between neighbours, where possible, but there was confusion because many people were away or going, some had no telephone service, the number of properties affected was not known, those people unaffected often found out much later, misunderstandings occurred, nobody contacted any member of the Parish Council or where possible telephoned the emergency plan number in the Parish magazine for assistance and whilst some members did offer help to those they understood might need it the task of contacting every household was simply not manageable. If anyone suffered as a result, particularly the vulnerable, we are sorry but we did advertise for nominations to go on our vulnerable persons list to cater for these types of emergencies and no one came forward. These are all factors to be taken into account before the plan is finalised.

4) Several residents helped others by running extension leads from an unaffected house to one without power or by loaning small generators. Just something to bear in mind in future is that mistakes with these set ups can prove lethal and doing so without proper knowledge is not worth the risk.

The committee would still welcome suggestions for inclusion in the emergency plan and once again we would appreciate receipt of nominations for inclusion in our list of vulnerable people such as the elderly, disabled or infirm to ensure that in emergency situations such as heavy snow, extended power failure or other circumstances that might render them house bound or in danger we can give them immediate offers of help. This is the last call.

Thank You - The Emergency Plan Committee (call 01622 850369)

Grafty Green Gardening Club - 2014 Programme

Date	Topic / outing	Speaker
January 7	Winter Flowers	Janet Bryant
February 4	Mountains of the Moon	Lesley Feakes
March 4	Norway - flora	David Godden
April 1	Spring Show / Bushcraft – a short walk	Steve Kirk
May 6	Frith Old Farmhouse Otterden	
May 10	Plant Sale	
June 3	Timbers, East Farleigh	
July 1	Norton Court, Teynham	
11 – 13 July	Weekend away Peterborough Marriott dinner, bed and breakfast. Barnsdale, Stowe, Wrest Park and Burghley House.	
August 5	The Walled Nursery, Hawkhurst	
September 2	Visit to Blackthorn Trust	
October 7	Autumn Show and Produce bring and buy	
November 4	Kent Wild Life Trust	
December 2	Social	

Our next meeting is on February 4th commencing 7.30 in the Village Hall at Grafty Green. Lesley Feakes is the speaker this month and will give a talk entitled 'Mountains of the Moon'. Our updated programme for the coming year is shown above. Subscriptions of £5.00 for the year 2014 are now due and can be paid on the night of the meeting or by contacting our Treasurer Doreen Hulm on (01622 850287).

Our meetings are friendly and informal and visitors are always welcome. For further details about the club please contact Rosemary Smith (01622) 850526 or Sue Burch (01622) 850381.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to the end of February 2014.

Grafty Green

Saturday 1st February 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 1st February 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 8th February 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens

Jenny Whittle - County Councillor's Report



Tackling Potholes

The dreadful weather over the Christmas period has caused considerable damage to Kent's roads. A new "Find and Fix" programme is now underway to repair damage on a priority basis. In a number of cases, work can only begin when the water table levels have subsided. For instance, asphalt pavement and block-paving repairs can only be carried out when water has drained away and the sub-surface is strong enough.

The Cabinet Member for Kent Highways, David Brazier, stated "the extreme wet weather will cause potholes and we have geared up to tackle this, making permanent, first-time fixes as the first choice repair process. On occasion we will make a temporary repair until a permanent one can be programmed in. We are committed to repairing these within our service standard of 28 days. Our approach to maintenance, though, has meant at the close of the year, we reduced the average time to fix a pothole down to just 14 days. Our drainage systems and footpaths have been damaged where trees have been torn out by their roots. This work is also being programmed in for repair."

You can report potholes to Kent Highways via http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport.aspx or call 03000 41 81 81.

Leeds Road

The ongoing Leeds Road closure following collapse of part of Upper Street in early November continues to cause considerable inconvenience for local residents both in Leeds and in the surrounding parishes, but it is a very complex problem to fix. At the time of going to press, a ground radar survey was completed in Milners to determine whether there were any further voids within 2m of the road surface. The ground here is still very soft but the survey confirmed that there were no further voids near to the surface of the road and that it was safe to operate a third rig on this part of the site, and the information collected here informed the remediation works for the larger drilling and grouting rig that arrived on site on 27 January.

The two rigs working to the south of the site (outside 3 Milners and to the rear of 5 Churchill Cottages) have made good progress and are currently slightly ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, they discovered voids up to 27m deep. This is twice as deep as was previously found and will have an impact on the time it takes to complete the remediation work. Kent Highways staff and contractors are continuing to work seven days a week to keep this to a minimum and are meeting with the affected properties' loss adjustors once a week to ensure that the programme progresses as in a timely manner.

Supporting Older People

Statistics suggest between 13,855 and 44,336 people aged over 65 in Kent could be suffering from loneliness and 33,525 over-65s could be socially isolated. During the cold, wet winter months, vulnerable people can feel even more cut off from those around

them. People do not need to suffer in silence and information on KCC's Adult Social Care services can be found on www.kent.gov.uk or call 03000 41 61 61.

Among the services available are:

- **Befriending:** Volunteer befrienders have been recruited across Kent to visit elderly people. It aims to help people live more fulfilled lives, reduce social exclusion, increase access to community resources, information and advice, improve health and wellbeing, and to help people become more independent.
- **Dementia support services:** There are dementia cafes and peer support groups across the county. KCC's Shared Lives adult placement scheme, which offers long- and short-term fostering for vulnerable adults, has also been extended to include people with dementia. There are Read Aloud sessions for people living with dementia as part of the Dementia Friendly Libraries project. Twelve dementia-friendly communities are being developed to increase awareness, reduce stigma of the disease and encourage communities to support people living with dementia.
- **Carer Support:** More than 150,000 people in Kent are carers for a sick, elderly and disabled relative and this can take a huge emotional and physical toll. The carer assessment and support service offers advice, guidance and information as well as practical and emotional support. The Carers Short Breaks service also offers the opportunity to get respite from their caring role.
- **The Good Day Programme:** Offers adults with learning disabilities the opportunity to take part in activities, to learn new skills and get involved in the community.
- **The Care Navigator Service:** this service is run by voluntary agencies across Kent and offers free and impartial advice to over-50s who feel they may need extra support to stay independent in their own home.
- **Support for deaf blind people:** The Kent Dual Sensory team's main aim is to increase independence. This includes provision of specialist equipment, one-to-one communication and guiding support and learning new communication skills. The Kent Association for the Blind has a Guide Communicator service with one-to-one specialist support workers to help reduce isolation by supporting deaf blind people to remain independent, access the community, maintain social contact and minimise reliance on friends and family. KAB also provides a befriending scheme for visually impaired people. Other services are also available.

If you would like my help or support, please contact me on 01622 734897 or jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk.

**Jenny Whittle,
County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East**

Mondays to Fridays

Service No	School Days Only		School Days Only	
	59	66	59	59
Maidstone, King Street	1230	....	1610	1745
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Stn, Stop J4	1232	....	1612	1747
Wheatshaf, Loose Road	1239	....	1619	1754
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1243	....	1623	1758
Linton Corner	1247	....	1627	1802
Cornwallis Academy	....	1505	....	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1252	....	1632	1807
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1255	1509	1635	1810
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1258	1512	1638	1813
Warmlake Corner	1301	1515	1641	1816
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1309	1523	1649	1824
Kingswood, Village Hall	....	1525	....	1826
Ulcombe, opp. The Harrow	1316	1530	1656	1831
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1323	....	1703	1838
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	....	1535	....	....
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	....	1544	....	....
Sutton Valence, The Harbour	....	1549	....	....

Saturdays

Service No	59	59	59	59
0845	1241	1525	1755	....
0847	1243	1527	1757	....
0854	1250	1534	1804	....
via	1254	1538	1808	....
Sutton	1258	1542	1812	....
Road	....	....	....	....
and	1303	1547	1817	....
Lingsley	1306	1550	1820	....
....	1309	1553	1823	....
0906	1312	1556	1826	....
0914	1320	....	1834	....
0916	1322	1604	1836	....
0921	1327	....	1841	....
0928	1334	....	1848	....
....
....

CODES

* - These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Aylesford Highways Depot, St Michael's Close, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7TZ or email transport.integration@kent.gov.uk

* - Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.

Sundays & Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

NOTES

1 - This bus is run by Nu-Venture (Tel: 01622 882288), NOT Arriva.

2

Mondays to Fridays

Service No	School Days Only		Not School Days		School Days Only	
	59	59	66	59	59	59
Sutton Valence, The Harbour	....	....	0731	....	....	....
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	....	....	0736	....	....	....
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	....	....	0745	....	....	....
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0703	0721	....	0930	1325	....
Ulcombe, The Harrow	0710	0729	0750	0937	1332	....
Kingswood, Village Hall	0715	0733	0754	0942	1337	....
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0718	0736	0757	0944	1339	....
Warmlake Corner	0724	0742	0801	0950	1345	....
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0728	0745	0804	0953	1348	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0732	0749	0807	0956	1351	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0734	0751	....	0956	1356	....
Cornwallis Academy	....	....	0820	....	....	....
Linton Corner	0739	0756	....	1003	1358	....
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	0744	0800	....	1006	1401	....
Wheatshaf, Loose Road	0751	0806	....	1012	1407	....
Maidstone, King Street	....	0814	....	1020	1415	....
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0805	....	....	....	....	....
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0815	....	....	....	....	....
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826	....	....	....	....	....

Saturdays

Service No	59	59	59	59
0733	0930	1336	....	....
0740	0937	1343	....	....
0745	0942	1348	1604	....
0747	0944	1350	1606	....
0753	0950	1356	1612	....
0756	0953	1359	via	....
0759	0956	1402	Lingsley	....
0802	0859	1405	and	....
Bilton	....	....	....	....
Road	0807	1004	1410
0811	1008	1414
0815	1012	1418	1624
0820	1020	1426	1632
....
....

CODES

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3

Grafty Gourmet

Yet another very simply recipe for you to try. This is a great alternative to seafood risotto. Long-grain rice can be used instead of risotto rice, but it won't give you the traditional, creamy texture that is typical of Italian risottos. I usually use unsalted cashew nuts, instead of peanuts, but either will do.

Italian Chicken Risotto - Serves 4

2 tbsp sunflower oil	A few strands of saffron
15 g (1/2 oz) 1 tbsp butter or margarine	1.5 litres (2 3/4 pints) chicken stock
1 medium leek, thinly sliced	200 g (7 oz) can sweet corn (drained)
1 large yellow pepper, diced	60 g (2 oz) 1/2 cup toasted unsalted peanuts or cashew nuts
3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, diced	60 g (2 oz) 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
350 g (12 oz) risotto rice	Salt and Pepper

1. Heat the sunflower oil and butter or margarine in a large saucepan. Fry the leek and pepper for 1 minute, then stir in the chicken and cook, stirring until golden brown.
2. Stir in the risotto rice and cook for 2 - 3 minutes.
3. Stir in the saffron strands and salt and pepper to taste. Add the chicken stock, a little at a time, cover and cook over a low heat, stirring occasionally, for about 20 minutes, or until the rice is tender and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Do not let the risotto dry out - add more stock if necessary.
4. Stir in the sweet corn, peanuts or cashew nuts and Parmesan cheese. Then season with salt and pepper to taste and stir for a further 2 minutes.



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Tel: 01233 840373

Community First Responder Scheme

At the time of writing a further meeting is to take place and an updated result will have been given at the Parish Council meeting (28th January) - also Lenham CFR (and CFR Trainer/Mentor) will have given a short presentation to the Council.

I have to report that the recruitment process with South east Coast Ambulance is painfully slow, lacking any structured timescale right through to operational readiness. Two other prospective local volunteers have been in the process I understand for approaching a year and have yet to do the training course. I applied in August and despite attending several meetings as required have yet to receive an official application form! Realistically we have to assume we are many months away from seeing a local scheme off the ground; even after training there is no guide to the level of and availability of kit.

Given the situation and that CFR training is little different from conventional first aid training I have implemented a temporary help scheme for emergencies the main difference is rather than being alerted by the 999 call centre it will be necessary to phone the mobile number given on the emergency contacts sheet elsewhere in the magazine. At this stage a defibrillator nor oxygen is available, however although important, in a cardiac arrest this is secondary to starting immediate CPR (resuscitation) and maintain it until paramedics arrive. CPR and other life saving skills are easy to learn and hopefully this training will be on offer in the village very soon. It is also hoped to provide a 'public access' defibrillator - this will be at a key location in a locked weather proof cabinet, the ambulance 999 control centre holding the key combination which they would give to relevant local 999 callers.

Chris Wheal

KCC Community Warden

Hitherto Boughton Malherbe has not officially had the services of a dedicated warden - that is all changing and the Headcorn Warden, Stuart Ellesmere is expanding his Headcorn patch to include Grafty Green. Essentially community wardens do an invaluable job really covering many jobs traditionally the police covered plus various other diverse things. They are a uniformed service but do not have any enforcement powers but are able to deal and help with numerous low profile issues affecting local communities and / or residents; they can also advise on safety and security issues including the lonely or vulnerable are cared for. Stuart will have given a presentation to the Parish Council on 28th January - Stuart is keen to get to know the village as quickly as possible and he can always be contacted on 07969 583923

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire And Ambulance Emergencies **999**

First Aid Support – when an ambulance has been called using 999 interim support prior to paramedic arrival can be requested by calling 07979 864929 (Chris Wheal) - please note this is a voluntary help facility that will not always be available and is temporary prior to the setting up of a SECamb Community First Responder scheme.

NHS Medical Helpline **111**

Electricity (UK Power Networks)
Emergencies and Power Cuts **0800 783 8866**
or **01243 508866**

Water *Emergencies* **0333 000 0002**

Calor Gas *Emergencies* **08457 444999**

KCC *Emergencies* **03000 41 41 41**

KCC Community Wardens:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere **07969 444999**

District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown **07773 397125**

Police *NON EMERGENCY - (including PCSO Alan Beech)* **101**

Fire *General Enquiries* **01622 692121**

Home Safety Visits **0800 923 7000**

KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal **01622 858100**

Ambulance *General Enquiries* **01622 747010**

Lenham Road / Crumps Lane Flooding

After protracted battles going back very many months it is now hoped the work carried out in the week prior to Christmas and the first week of the new year will have put an end to the flooding and safety concerns on the dangerous bend. Certainly there has been no shortage of water to test the works to the limit! No doubt pot holes will again dominate concerns as they spread like a rash! Until they are fixed please beware of what any puddle may be hiding.

Ulcombe C of E Primary School News

Another busy term is upon us, with the children working very hard with the teachers to make sure they continue to make good progress. OFSTED visited the school just before Christmas and the report was sent home to parents two weeks ago. The inspection judged the school to be requiring improvement however it acknowledged the rapid improvement the school has made since September. In my position as executive headteacher, I will ensure this continues!

At the end of last term, the parents, children and staff enjoyed the Christmas fair, ably organised by Friends of Ulcombe School. This event was well attended and children and parents alike enjoyed the many stalls and a visit from Santa! Father Christmas also treated the children in Owlets and Barn Owls to toys, books and games for their classrooms. The oldest children in Tawny Owls have gained two guinea pigs for class pets! This term we have a valentines disco to look forward to !

We have established a link with Swadelands school and our eldest pupils are going to benefit from some subject specialist teaching in RE and PSHCE. We hope this will expand to more subjects.

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher

Ulcombe Church of England and Kingswood Primary Schools Collaboration

THE 10 BEST.....

In the December issue of the Malherbe Monthly I suggested that a list of the 10 Best Things in Grafty Green could be compiled. 8 suggestions were made and I had hoped that ideas would flood in to fill the two vacancies. Dream on! Despite having been told endless times about the wonders of the village only **ONE** reader responded.

It was, of course, Richard Pilborough who loved the idea. He suggested that No 1 on the list should be 'The people' and his other suggestion is 'The setting.' On reflection I would also include the Malherbe Monthly.

Over to you Readers now. Any more ideas? A few more replies would confirm that the MM is being read !

Joan Drury

News from Platts Heath Primary School

Life here at Platts Heath Primary School continues to be a mixture of events, celebrations and opportunities for our wonderful children. As always our children are polite, well behaved and eager to learn in and out of school. Here are some of the activities and events they recently took part in,

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's)

James, Millie and James continue to be our Junior Road Safety Officers. The JRSO's are currently planning a competition for the whole school to take part in, alongside their theme of 'Be-Vis'. They meet with their mentor on a regular basis to update her with their progress.

Healthy Eating

The school continues to provide the KS2 children with a healthy break-time snack, funded by the PTFA, on Munchy Mondays and Fruity Fridays. KS1 children have the opportunity to eat fruit every day.

Visits to Swadelands School

Our Year 5 children have recently visited Swadelands School to take part in various themed workshops, including a Crime Scene Investigation and Media Studies. Our children have found these both interesting and great fun, and they are looking forward to the next workshop – Pizza making!

Maths Challenge

Our Year 6 children visited Invicta Grammar School to take part in a Maths Challenge. Over 60 students participated in tasks such as a mini relay, a speed test and a group challenge. We were very proud to finish in joint 4th place.

Demelza House

In order to raise money for Demelza House, our children who attend Craft club took some of their creations along to the Carol concert in December to sell. Items included Christmas tree decorations and tea lights. The children and teachers were very proud to raise a total of £121 for the hospice.

Friends of Platts Heath School

FOPHS have some great events planned over the next few weeks including a fundraising Race Night (a first for us) and a Quiz Night. The children also have an End of Term disco to look forward to. To find out more about joining the Friends of Platts Heath School, please contact Michelle on 07795471472.

Due to family moves we may be able to offer places in some year groups. Please feel free to visit our spectacular school at any time. Simply call the office on 01622 850316 to make an appointment.

Piers Anscomb
Head teacher

Ulcombe Pre-School



New Term

We are very pleased to welcome 3 new children into Ulcombe Pre-School this term and are glad that they are settling in so well! The new term has brought new topics, so the children are looking into 'Animals' and 'Winter' and have already enjoyed some nature walks when the weather has allowed. Linked in with this, they have been making bird feeders to hang in their gardens and have also been looking at how we grow, using the pre-school height chart.

Spaces at the Pre-School

We currently have spaces available for children over the age of 2. If your child is already 3 then pre-school is free and there is some funding available for 2 year olds. (Conditions apply, please contact Helen Leat on committeeups@hotmail.com or call 07511658728 for more details)

Toddler Morning

There is a toddler morning every Tuesday 9.30am- 11.30am held at the pre-school in Ulcombe Village Hall. Please bring along your little one for a play and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat yourself. We hope to see you soon! (Please note this is term time only)



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Lenham Valley Business Association

So much more than just networking.

If you have not read the Lenham Valley Business page before then you can be forgiven for thinking it is just another networking group. This month we take the words of members, so you can see for yourself what they have got out of the LVBA experience:-

"I joined LVBA to advertise my local self-storage business and horse liveries, but as I am a farmer and own other properties it soon became clear that other LVBA members would be very useful to my business as well. Look at this list of tradesmen/businesses I have used, all from LVBA, since I joined:- plumbers (2), electricians (2), solicitor, hostelrys (4), estate agent, boiler man, shops (3), archaeologist, chartered surveyor, ecology expert, taxi, ironmongers, restaurants (2), accountant, tree surgeon, chiropodist. Oh, and not forgetting 'A Short Locksmith'! Over the years I have met all these local people at our meetings and make a point of using them. It is very useful to know these people and have them 'under your belt'. It is also very interesting to hear what everybody is doing, and you pick some useful tips from the speakers we have. Lastly, I love 'going local 'and helping local business."

Andrew Barr, A&A Barr Farms, Lenham

"As an independent retailer in Lenham. It gives us the opportunity to meet and network with other business that we might not have had the opportunity to meet."

Jemma Cockell, Little Country Garden, Lenham

"Although I am a member of other networking groups in Kent, I was delighted to experience the fresh ideas and uniqueness of Lenham Valley Business Association. I have gained new clients and valuable business contacts through LVBA, and I would have no hesitation in recommending any business person to come along to one of our meetings."

Martin G. Pullen FMAAT, ATT Accounting and Taxation Technician, Charing

"I have only limited and specific local business interests but joined LVBA about two years ago because I wanted to encourage local networking initiatives and found that I was making some very useful professional contacts at the Lenham meetings - let's call it the 'small world' or 'you never know' factor. Alan Reading does an exceptionally good job of animating the meetings and deserves to be encouraged."

James Myers, Lenham-based publisher, author and project consultant.

LVBA meetings are the first Tuesday of every month except June.

Extra option:

Opportunity to rent retail and office space in a village high street position as part of a new indoor market/co-operative, short/long term and reasonable all inclusive rent. Please contact Jane 07867 556351

Alan Reading, Chairman

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For more information call Susan Burch (British Wheel of Yoga Teacher) on 850381 or visit the web site www.yogawithsusan.co.uk

November in Grafty Green

In the December issue the picture on the front page was of four likely lads who were growing a moustache for charity during November (Movember). They with others were sponsored by customers of the Kings Head pub. The management of the Kings Head would like to thank all those who took part and those who kindly sponsored them. The total sum raised was a creditable £371 which will be used by charities that support men's health.

Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th January it was agreed that the Parish Precept for the coming financial year will kept at £5000, the same as last year. The Parish precept is a part of the Council Tax that is given to the Parish Council by Maidstone Borough Council to facilitate the Parish Council to conduct its business and responsibilities to the local community.

Who'd A Thought It



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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Man	Second	Seller	Best
2	Gun	Slot	Tool	
3	Fly	Main	Onion	
4	Courage	Double	Go	
5	Fair	Mark	Union	
6	Call	Cream	Turkey	
7	Lamb	Potato	Spit	
8	Berth	Boy	Nation	
9	Crust	Hand	Limit	
10	Candle	Nose	Road	
11	Food	Reaction	Saw	
12	Branch	Delivery	Offer	
13	Ball	Bread	Weave	
14	Hog	Privet	Sparrow	
15	Bowl	Little	Prints	
16	Degree	Party	World	

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Bob _____, Boomtown Rats and Live Aid man
2	_____ Gascoigne, Retired Spurs and England footballer
3	Bill _____, Billionaire entrepreneur of Microsoft
4	_____ Garbo, Swedish star of films
5	Roy _____, England football manager
6	_____ Doble, Spanish ballroom dance
7	Lewis _____, who drives for Mercedes
8	_____ Balding, Former female jockey, now presenter for the BBC
9	The _____ File, 1974 thriller starring Jon Voight
10	T'ai _____, Eastern martial art

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Two Maidstone Borough Council news releases

Pyramidion of Wedjahor Display at Maidstone Museum

Prior to the redevelopment of the Museum's Egyptian Gallery, a taste of ancient Egypt comes to Maidstone in the form of a Spotlight loan from the British Museum. The Pyramidion of Wedjahor will be on display at Maidstone Museum from 14th February to 14th June 2014.



This Pyramidion is the capstone of a small Egyptian pyramid, which stood over the tomb of a wealthy official named Wedjahor. It dates from the 7th century BC and is carved with scenes of mummification and the afterlife. In one of them, the deceased kneels in worship before the god Osiris, king of the underworld, his consort Isis and four gods who protected the deceased's vital organs. On two other sides he worships aspects of the sun god, seated on solar barques. On the fourth side the deceased's corpse is shown being embalmed by the

jackal-headed god Anubis, with his organs placed in jars beneath the bier, and with the goddesses Isis and Nephthys mourning his death. Each side also shows Anubis as a jackal recumbent on top of a chest.

Maidstone Museum's own Egyptian collection includes a number of fascinating artefacts, including the mummy of a lady named Ta-kesh, daughter of the Doorkeeper of Osiris, Pa-muta (25th – early 26th Dynasty). The mummy was brought to England in the 1820s and purchased at a customs house sale by Sir William Geary of Hadlow, who presented it to a local philosophical society in about 1835. It was opened in 1843 by Samuel Birch, of the British Museum, and a local physician, H. W. Diamond, who made the cuts in the skull and abdomen. Subsequently it was presented to the Thomas Charles Museum, housed in this building, and was bequeathed to the town of Maidstone with the rest of his collection in 1855.

Egyptian Fun Day – Saturday 15 February, 11am–3pm

A fun day for all the family to celebrate the arrival of the Pyramidion. Find out about Ta-kesh our mummy, make your own Egyptian sculpture and view our Egyptian galleries. FREE event, booking not necessary.

'Egyptology Behind the Scenes' – Wednesday 26 February, 11am–12pm

Come and see what happens behind the scenes at Maidstone Museum, and find out about some of the collection that isn't currently on display. £4 per person, booking essential: 01622 602838

Egyptian trails – 14 February to 14 June 2014

While you visit the Museum this spring, pick up one of our free Egyptian trails to accompany your visit.

Join the Big Maidstone Switch

With fuel costs increasing year on year, many residents are finding it harder to pay electricity and gas bills. Maidstone council is working with iChoosr to run the Big Maidstone Switch – a free collective switching service to help residents find out if they can save money by switching their electricity and gas supplier or by getting onto the right tariff.

The Big Maidstone Switch is a simple process, with iChoosr seeking out low prices for gas and electricity and informing residents who have signed up whether they would save - and how much they would save - if they switched to a new offer. Residents can then choose whether to switch, and iChoosr arranges the switch for the resident. There is no obligation for residents to accept the new offer.

Maidstone council's Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, Councillor John A. Wilson, said: "This is a really easy way for residents to find out whether they could save money on their gas and electricity bills. With energy bills rising every year, getting on to the right tariff or switching suppliers can make a huge difference to fuel bills."

The scheme is open to everyone, whether they own or rent their home, and pay bills by direct debit, cash or pre-payment meter.

To join the scheme, residents can register online at www.maidstone.gov.uk/bigmaidstoneswitch or call Maidstone council on 01622 602750. Residents can also visit the Gateway on King Street, Maidstone. Information on recent electricity and gas bills is required to register. Registration is open until 17 February 2014 and offers will be received around the beginning of March.

All Saints Church Ulcombe

Our beautiful old church with its wonderful acoustic qualities is the perfect place to enjoy listening to music. Make a note in your diary of two concerts to be held at All Saints' in aid of church funds. Light refreshments will be available.

Saturday 15th February at 7.30pm

An evening of Baroque music: **The Pepusch Consort** will be playing a selection of Baroque music by a variety of composers including Bach, Handel and Pepusch. One of the programme items is Purcell's moving "Dido's lament". The soloists are Deborah Bean, soprano; Paul Wallace, recorder; Ursula Fuller, bass viol and Barbara Blunkell, spinet.

Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm

Innominata is a small group of accomplished singers and instrumentalists, based at East Malling, where they rehearse in the Church of St James the Great. Always pleased to perform in fund-raising events for charity, they will be performing a wide variety of songs from madrigals to modern popular music, as well as a selection of sacred pieces. Guitar solos will be performed by Rodri Protheroe.

Tickets

For both concerts, tickets are priced at £8 for adults, £4 for children and £20 for a family (2 adults and 2 children), available from Rita Strutt on 844325 or John Goode on 844709.

Please put in your diaries Saturday 26th April when The Friends of All Saints, Ulcombe, will have a special Open Day. It will be a sort of Pageant of church life with Mystery Plays, Bell Ringing, Brass Rubbing, a History of Church Music, a treasure Hunt, visits up the tower, music including plain song - and all sorts of children's activities. The day will start at 10.30 am and there will be activities throughout the day.

Concert by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity

(formerly the Army Benevolent Fund)
at Sutton Valence School at 7pm on Thursday, 27th March 14.
supported by pupils from the school. Tickets £18.

Call for an application form from Chris Parkinson,
Belmont, Eastwood Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2DQ

cfgparkinson@tiscali.co.uk Tel 01622 858132

Our soldiers need your support!

"Jools Holland **HOPES** to be able to attend, and when he does, he joins in."

Lions on track to help keep Air Ambulance flying at night

Night-flying Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance is appealing for runners, swimmers and cyclists to sign up for this year's Tonbridge Lions Triathlon and help save lives 24 hours a day.

Lions Clubs across the South East have pledged to raise £250,000 for the Marden-based charity over the next 10 years.

The funds will be a significant contribution towards the additional £1million-a-year needed to provide a 24-hour service which was launched last month (December 18th).

The triathlon is to be held on May 5th at Tonbridge School's sports complex which was used by the Australian Olympic team as a training base for the London 2012 games.

Competitors can choose a sprint consisting of a 400-metre swim, 25km ride and 5km run or the standard route which is double the distance.

Triathlon chairman Tom Simmons said: "This is the second year the Tonbridge Lions Club has arranged for the Tonbridge Triathlon to be linked up with Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance.

"We once again welcome the opportunity to be able to offer the means for the general public to take part in the triathlon and also raise funds for this much-loved and vital charity.

"The Air Ambulance needs approximately £6m each year to maintain their service in the counties and provide 24- hour cover. The pilots, doctors and paramedics are extremely dedicated to their task and deserve all our support."

Tonbridge was the first Lions club launched in the UK in 1949 and has raised more than £275,000 for charity in the last 10 years. The triathlon alone has raised more than £125,000 over 24 years and organisers are aiming to raise a total of £13,000 from this year's event.

There are 500 places available with an entry fee of £46 for the standard distance, £42 for teams of three and £39 for the sprint. To book a place go to www.tonbridgelions.co.uk or call 07549 949615.

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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 25th March 2014 at 7.30pm**

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

Music Notes, February 2014

As usual in February I have included local village pantomimes in my list of selected musical events . They may be poles apart in terms of sophistication or even, perish the thought, in quality from some of the other concerts I include, but musical events by local people they definitely are, and much to be supported. Here then is the list:

- Saturday 1st February, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra feature prize winner Emma Johnson playing Finzi's *Clarinet Concerto* in a concert programme that also include Beethoven's *Symphony no3 (Eroica)*. Tickets 01622 735830 or www.mso.org.uk
- Friday 7th Feb at 7.30pm & Sat 8th Feb at 2.30pm and 7.30pm – King Arthur, the LADS Panto at Leeds & Broomfield memorial hall, Leeds. Tickets from The George public house, Leeds.
- Wed.12th Feb – Sat 15th Feb at 7.45pm & Sat.15th at 2.30pm – Alice in Pantoland, the Hollingbourne pantomime at Hollingbourne village hall. Tickets from Christopher's Village Shop or www.boxofficediva.com.
- Saturday 15th February, 7.30pm at all Saints' Church, Ulcombe – The Pepusch Consort will be playing a selection of baroque music in a concert to raise funds for church repairs. Tickets and information 01622 844 32
- Also on Saturday 15th February, 7.30pm, the Maidstone Wind Symphony concert is at all Saints' church, Maidstone. More information & Tickets 01580 291056 or www.MaidstoneWindSymphony.org

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Women's World Day Of Prayer.
(International and Interdenominational)

Friday, March 7th 2014

St. Mary's, Lenham 10.30am
All Saints Church, Ulcombe 7pm

Streams In The Desert

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is extensive. An international committee works from New York and each participating country has its own national committee. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at St. Mary's Church, Lenham and at All Saints' Church, Ulcombe a service will be held on Friday, March 7th. Women and men will gather to celebrate using a programme of worship offered this year by women in Egypt.

The theme of our service is 'Streams in the Desert' and we are asked to reflect on our Christian role of being a 'stream in the desert'.

One of the oldest civilisations in the world, Egypt has long been home to Coptic Christians. Since the uprising in 2011 there has been conflict between religious groupings. Political changes affects individual lives and we pray with the women of Egypt for peace.

We envisage a great annual wave of prayer, rising with the sun over the island of Samoa and then sweeping across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, coming to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then services will have taken place in over 170 countries.

All are welcome to attend, men, women and children. Please make a note in you diary for Friday, March 7th.

Christian Message - February 2014

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As I write this, at the beginning of the New Year, the country is being battered by storms, and thousands of people are coping with floods, loss of electricity, the devastation of their homes, and loss of their livelihoods. Christmas was spoilt for many – though some say that coping by candlelight, wrapped in blankets, and cooking sausages on barbecues instead of eating the Christmas turkey, led to a lot of laughter and camaraderie.

But it's not just here that there are problems. At the moment, parts of the USA are suffering from unprecedented weather conditions, and we cannot forget that the many peoples across the world who suffered from earthquakes, tsunami's,

tornados and storms last year, are still living in tents and waiting to be housed properly. We tend to forget the ongoing consequences of such events once the immediate crisis is over.

We cannot do a great deal about the weather, but if there were greater love and tolerance in the world, we would not see countries torn apart by internal strife such as in Syria, Sudan, and the Central African Republic, nor the many countries where there is civil unrest and strife such as in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Iraq and South Sudan – to name just a few. Sadly, there are thousands of displaced persons, refugees, living in horrific conditions with little chance of returning to their homeland.

In the birthplace of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Bethlehem is partitioned off by a huge concrete wall, 8 metres high, which is planned to cover 442 miles round the city, separating the Palestinians from the Israelis. A replica of this has now been built at St James Church in Piccadilly, as a witness to the injustice that is happening to the Palestinians. People who visit St. James are being invited to write prayers and messages of hope on the wall.

Just looking at the state of the world makes one realise how very fortunate we are here in this country. We have a stable state, we can disagree with government through the ballot box rather than through bloodshed, we can walk the streets in safety, we receive medical care as and when we need it, and most of us have a roof over our heads. We have much to thank God for - though we don't always acknowledge it.

But, and there is a big but, though we are a comparatively affluent society, there are many in our society who are still sleeping rough, and many more who are having to resort to food banks to survive. Over Christmas, 350,000 people were fed by food banks – largely the initiative of Christian churches.

So what can we do about all this sadness and injustice in the world? The answer, surely, is that we can do nothing in our own strength. But we can pray both individually and corporately, and we can try and live as Jesus taught.

Many of the parables of Jesus are about generosity, love and forgiveness.

He said that if someone asked you to give him your cloak, you should give your coat also. He talked about the generosity of the Good Samaritan, and he warned people not to store their riches in barns because one knows not when one's time on earth is over.

When a young man asked Jesus what was the most important commandment, He replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... and the second is to love your neighbour as yourself.' When the disciples asked Jesus if they should forgive seven times, He replied, not seven but seven times seventy. He said people should be reconciled with their enemies before going up to the altar. And in his parable about the prodigal son, the father forgave his son unreservedly even though he didn't deserve it. On the Cross, Jesus asked God to forgive those who were crucifying Him 'because they know not what they do.'

As Christians, we, too, will receive forgiveness if we believe that Jesus Christ died for us – even though we don't deserve it.

So, what can we do about the world's problems? Individually, we can do very little. But we can start by putting into practice Our Lord's commandments to love our neighbours, and be generous and forgiving – and maybe that ripple of love, accompanied by prayer, may gradually permeate the world.

Molly Poulter

Messy Church - 15th February 2014

Please note that the venue for February's Messy Church has been changed from Lenham to Ulcombe Village Hall. March Messy Church will now be at Lenham Church.

Prayer Requests

There is a box in the porch of St Nicholas church Boughton Malherbe for prayers requests. If you need a prayer please put a note in the box.

Lord, please help me to bear that which I cannot bear.

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – February 2014

2nd February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

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
6.30pm Healing Service Harrietsham

9th February – 4th Sunday before lent

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

16th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

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

23rd February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

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

Shooting the Moon

Following the popularity of the performance last year of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Leeds church has been fortunate to be selected again as a venue for a performance by a professional group sponsored by Chalkfoot Theatre Arts. The company this year is called **STRANGEFACE**, and they, like last year's group, are supported by the Arts Council and KCC. We have high hopes therefore of another excellent performance.

The date for the play is Wednesday 19th February, 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm). Tickets are already going fast and seating is limited, so book now by calling Brian Hardy on 01622 842915 or bjhardy@theiet.org. Ticket price is £8.50, reduced to £7.50 for purchase before 12th Feb. Concession rates available for under 16s.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Man	Second	Seller	Best
2	Gun	Slot	Tool	Machine
3	Fly	Main	Onion	Spanish
4	Courage	Double	Go	Dutch
5	Fair	Mark	Union	Trade
6	Call	Cream	Turkey	Cold
7	Lamb	Potato	Split	Roast
8	Beth	Boy	Nation	Wide
9	Crust	Hand	Limit	Upper
10	Candle	Nose	Road	Roman
11	Food	Reaction	Saw	Chain
12	Branch	Delivery	Offer	Special
13	Ball	Bread	Weave	Basket
14	Hog	Priest	Sparrow	Hedge
15	Bowl	Little	Prints	Finger
16	Degree	Party	World	Third

	Find the missing word?
1	Bob Geldof, Boontown Rats and Live Aid man
2	Paul Gascoigne, Retired Spurs and England footballer
3	Bill Gates, Billionaire entrepreneur of Microsoft
4	Greta Garbo, Swedish star of films
5	Roy Hodgson, England football manager
6	Pase Doble, Spanish ballroom dance
7	Lewis Hamilton, who drives for Mercedes
8	Clare Balding, Former female jockey, now presenter for the BBC
9	The Odessa File, 1974 thriller starring Jon Voight
10	Tai Chi, Eastern martial art



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