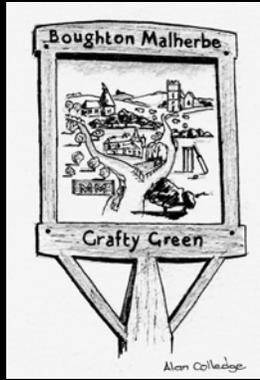


Malherbe Monthly

Free

Number 18 January 2006



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Sandy Bruce Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Liz Watts	737321
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Revd Don Irvine (email: revdonirvine@uwclub.net)	859466
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 3.30 by Post Office	
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Chris King	Advertising: Christine.kings@btinternet.com	850711
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John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team, publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the February edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th January

Front cover: Towards Catamount from Boughton Hill – late December 2005

News from St. Nicholas Church

A very Happy New year to all our readers from everyone at St. Nicholas

Old Christmas Cards

We will again be collecting your old Christmas cards at the Village Shop for Demelza House Children's Hospice. Many thanks to Rob Eastwood for allowing the shop to be used as a collection point.

Bicycles for Bombay

Kenneth Alexander has received a thank you E-mail from Sr.Christobel thanking us for raising £191.00 at our Coffee Morning in November which was organised by the Ladies of St. Nicholas; she will be able to buy 4 or 5 Bicycles with this amount of money.

St. Nicholas Procession

The St. Nicholas procession at Canterbury on the 3rd December was great but only 6 of us went this year, such a shame. St. Nicholas arrived on foot, no motorised Float this year, but the procession started from 2 points, meeting in the middle of St. Peter's Street and proceeding to the Cathedral for a short service attended by the Dean Robert Willis and the Archbishop and Mrs. Jane Williams. Sweets and hot chocolate were served afterwards.

New Kneelers

I have ordered some more Kneelers and they have arrived, so if anyone would like to work a Kneeler or donate one in memory of a family member, please get in touch with Joan on 850210. The cost per Kneeler is around £28.00.

Flowers and Cleaning

We are in need of more people to help keep our little Church clean and cared for. We are often complimented on how clean and well looked after our Church is, but the little band of helpers is getting smaller. We like to get people to work in twos and pair new people with someone who has been cleaning for a while. So if there is anyone out there who could give a helping hand once or twice a year please get in touch with Joan on 850210.

Carol and Crib Services

The Carol and Blessing the Crib Services were very well attended this year, both had a good number of Children present and our new lady Curate, Fiona Naylor had a novel way of telling the Christmas story and keeping the children's attention, by punctuating the narrative with the names of sweets. The child, who put up his/her hand first, was given a sweet and some must have won several during the course of the Story. It was a great success. Well done Fiona.

Joan Davidson

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

On December 20th our usual band of intrepid carol singers met on the village green. In addition to the carol singers, we had three guitars, a violin, harmonica, and two recorders! Quite an orchestra!

Janie Grace had previously organised to carry out a raffle at 6.30 in the "Kings Head", for those early drinkers, and together with collections later in the evening, managed to collect £81.00 from the raffle.

The jolly band of carol singers started round the Christmas tree on the village green, and then visited Audrey and Roy Wickens, where a lovely spread awaited us. After several carols, mince pies, etc., we then went on to the "Who'd a Thought it" to entertain the revellers there.

The evening ended at the "King's Head", where we concluded our singing. In all we collected £60.00, which, together with the raffle, amounted to £150.00 to be sent to the Demelza House Children's Hospice in Sittingbourne. Well done everyone.

Doreen Hulm

ARRIVA BUS SERVICE 59

Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

Further to the article in last month's magazine, Arriva is continuing until at least 21st January the reduced fare offer on Saturdays of £2-50 return (£1-25 for those in possession of the half fare permit issued by Maidstone Borough Council). Should this offer be continued beyond 21st January, details will be posted on the bus stop.

John Collins

(Representing Boughton Malherbe Parish Council on the '59 Working Group')

Maldstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Gratly Green

59

Mondays to Fridays

School	School		School		School		School	
	Days	Only	Days	Only	Days	Only	Days	Only
Maldstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	1552	1552	1612	1657	1747	1747
Maldstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1555	1615	1700	1750	1750
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1557	1617	1702	1752	1752
Wheatshere†	1236	1411	1604	1604	1624	1709	1759	1759
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608	1628	1713	1803	1803
Lincoln Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612	1632	1717	1807	1807
Cornwallis School	1505	1505	1617	1617	1722	1812	1812	1812
Boughton Moncheisea, Albion	1249	1424	1525	1427	1509	1620	1620	1620
Boughton Moncheisea, Cook Inn	1255	1430	1512	1623	1623	1725	1815	1815
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1258	1433	1515	1626	1638	1731	1821	1821
Warmlake Corner	1438	1438	1530	1530	1641	1653	1829	1829
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	1523	1634	1646	1648	1700	1836	1836
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	1530	1648	1700	1843	1843	1843	1843
Gratly Green, Kings Head	1320	1535	1648	1700	1843	1843	1843	1843
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	1344	1544	1654	1706	1853	1853	1853	1853

Mondays to Fridays

School	School		School		School		School	
	Days	Only	Days	Only	Days	Only	Days	Only
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	0723	0723	0736	0736	0915	1325	1703	1703
Gratly Green, Pig & Whistle	0730	0730	0750	0922	1332	1440	1710	1710
Ulcombe, Post Office	0735	0735	0755	0927	1337	1442	1715	1715
Kingswood, Village Hall	0738	0738	0757	0929	1339	1442	1717	1717
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0746	0744	0808	0935	1345	1448	1723	1723
Warmlake Corner	0747	0743	0809	0938	1348	1451	1726	1726
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0750	0746	0811	0944	1351	1454	1729	1729
Boughton Moncheisea, Cook Inn	0753	0749	0814	0944	1354	1457	1732	1732
Boughton Moncheisea, Albion	0820	0820	0949	1359	1502	1509	1737	1737
Cornwallis School	0820	0820	0953	1403	1506	1513	1741	1741
Lincoln Corner	0758	0754	0802	0758	0957	1407	1745	1745
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0758	0806	0802	0802	1005	1415	1518	1525
Wheatshere†	0814	0810	0809	0810	1005	1415	1518	1525
Maldstone, King Street	0809	0809	0817	0817	0826	0826	1417	1742
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station	0817	0817	0826	0826	1417	1417	1742	1742
London Road, Somerset Hospital	0817	0817	0826	0826	1417	1417	1742	1742
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	0826	1417	1417	1742	1742	1742	1742
Maldstone, Pudding Lane	0826	0826	1417	1417	1742	1742	1742	1742

Saturdays

0836	1228	1423	1602	1747
0838	1230	1425	1605	1750
0840	1232	1427	1607	1752
0847	1239	1434	1614	1759
Pa	1243	1438	1618	1803
Pa	1247	1442	1622	1807
Pa	1501	1501	1627	1812
Pa	1255	1450	1630	1815
Pa	1258	1453	1633	1818
Pa	1301	1456	1636	1821
Pa	1501	1501	1644	1829
Pa	0914	1316	1651	1836
Pa	0921	1323	1658	1843

Saturdays

0733	0823	1326	1701
0740	0930	1333	1708
0745	0935	1338	1505
0747	0937	1340	1507
0753	0943	1346	1513
0756	0946	1349	1516
0759	0949	1352	1519
0802	0952	1355	1522
0807	0957	1400	1527
0811	1001	1404	1531
0815	1005	1408	1535
0823	1013	1417	1543
1417	1417	1742	1742

Sundays and Public Holidays*

Service 59: Maldstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Ring Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (from Swells Crescent), Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Lincolnton, Lincolnton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street, Four Wents, Bashing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Chantry Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chestersford Avenue, Caysers Drive, Gravely, Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Gratly Green. Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maldstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravely, Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysers Drive, returning via the normal route. Service 66: Cornwallis School, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Sundays and Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

CODES
 * — Service 66 buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG.
 * — Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.

The Saturday service is financially supported by local councillors.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Grafty Green Gardening Club held it's AGM on 3rd January followed by a talk by Dusty Miller on 'Growing vegetables from scratch'.

The club has a thriving membership and visitors are always welcome to drop in when the opportunity arises.

The programme for the year includes a variety of topics, outings and social events.

On **February 7th** we will be given a talk by Charles Drake on the 'Birds of North Kent Marshes'; not a subject that has much to do with gardening but as many members are keen bird watchers and encourage birds to the garden by growing different plants to attract a wide variety we are confident that it will be an interesting evening.

I would like to draw your attention to The Sweet Pea and Roses show that will take place on Saturday 1st July. This gives you a chance to tend your roses (give them a good feed) and plant some sweet peas as entries will be open to all.

Happy gardening for 2006

More information: Sue Burch 850381 or Rosemary Smith 850526.

Sue Burch

Grafty Garden Cuttings – January

Looking out at the garden as I write, I am again amazed at the amount of foliage and growth on the plants, which is presumably why the frosts seem to have done so little damage. Only the dahlias and nasturtiums have been blacked off and there are other flowers a plenty. When I was a child, I remember my father going around the garden, on Christmas morning, counting the different flowers in bloom and being surprised at seeing a rose or winter iris, while now we can count in the dozens, either those plants showing late buds or blooms or those out extra early.

I try to garden all winter, just to keep up with the weeds, edges, digging and general maintenance, but not to the extent of turning the place into a mud bath, or if it means trailing across frosty lawns. Earth can be dug when there is a hard frost on it, provided the spade or fork will penetrate the hard ground without too much of a battle.

I have left the dahlias and gladioli in the ground this year and given them a good covering of mixed crocosmia leaves and fern fronds, just to see if they survive and in the hopes that the winter will not be as severe as forecast. I have also tied fern fronds around other tender plants, instead of fleece, as being more aesthetically pleasing to look at and, hopefully, as effective.

This is still the time to plant bare rooted trees and shrubs although if any arrive to be dealt with while the ground is frozen, they must be either heeled in, in a protected corner, kept in a frost-free garage with moist sacking over the roots or temporarily potted up until they can be planted out. If roots are at all dry, plunge them into a bucket of water for an hour or so before planting.

Any remaining leaves need to be raked up, as there can be up to 80% less sunlight in winter as in summer, so grass and plants will turn yellow very quickly if covered by leaves and other debris. Winter pruning of fruit trees can continue and ornamental trees and shrubs can still be tidied up, as it is far easier to see where branches cross or are diseased while bare of leaves. Burn all diseased wood to prevent the spread of any infection. Finish ordering seeds and buy-in seed potatoes and onion sets and generally begin preparations for the new gardening year.

Rosemary Smith

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

There is no weekend freighter service in Ulcombe, Grafty Green or Platts Heath during January. Maidstone Borough Council hopes to produce the schedule for the next few months shortly – next month we will print details of these.

Short Monthly Quiz – Answers at the back (don't look first!)

1. The pectorals are the main muscles in which part of the human body ?
2. Trappist, Benedictine and Cistercians are all orders of what ?
3. What is grown in a paddy field ?
4. What would you find growing in an arboretum ?
5. In the bible, whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt ?
6. Which countries flag is nicknamed Old Glory ?
7. What is known as the Red Planet ?
8. Which English county name literally means people of the north ?
9. On children's T.V. what was the name of the duck that replaced Gordon the Gopher ?
10. In Indian cooking what is a tandoor ?

Many thanks to **Paul Neaves** who set this quiz – hopefully another one will be set next month.

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

We have an oil club in Grafty Green which has become quite successful. There are nearly 50 members who benefit from cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. In Oct we ordered over 40,000 litres and in Jan over 30,000 litres and were able to buy it a few pence less than the going rate on that day. Some of you may have seen the 3 tankers in the village delivering the oil over 2 days. If you would like to be placed on the list and are willing to have a top up (at least 500 litres) or a fill up when we order next time please call Keith Anderson on 858350 or email europa.13@btinternet.com - this only works if we all have oil at the same time. We now reach both Ulcombe and Platts Heath. I should point out that this is a non profit making venture. Our aim is to have cheaper oil for everyone.

Keith Anderson

Family History Group

May I wish all our readers a very Happy New Year

The Group meet again on Monday 27th January 2006, at 7-30pm in Harrietsham School.

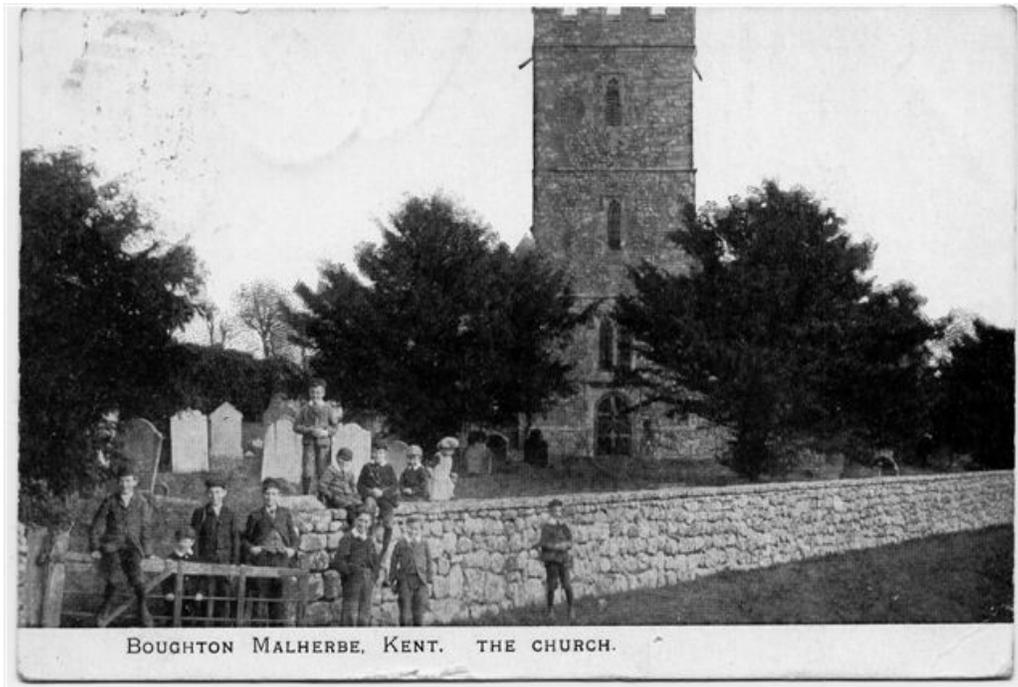
Cost £1 , there is no joining fee. Car parking available

Numbers have been a little down over the past months, so why not come along and swell the band of researchers. There is always plenty to discuss, and many books that may be borrowed. Hope to see you in the New Year.

Further info from Frank Long 850863

Frank Long

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS



BOUGHTON MALHERBE, KENT. THE CHURCH.

This picture postcard is of St. Nicolas' Church approximately 100 years ago – before the clock was installed! There is only one girl amongst eleven boys and everyone was wearing a hat. The Yew Trees were then around 25 years old. The wall is made of Kentish Ragstone which was probably dug locally and is still in good condition today. George Chambers

The card was posted in Headcorn on 9th March, 1906 by somebody called Ada, to a Mrs Cornes of "New House" – but the town/village is illegible. She writes that "Grandpa's grave is just behind the tallest boy." I've been and had a look – on the boy's right is the grave of Harriet and John OFFEN (died 1849 & 1871) and on his left Joseph & Susan Champion, (died 1887 and 1899). Does anybody know anything about any of these people or their descendants? Amazingly, the 2 graves we can see leaning are at exactly the same angle today!

You may remember the “All our Yesterdays” the April 2005 edition of Malherbe Monthly. Well, David Chantler of Broadstone Farm kindly responded, as follows:

I think I can explain the question of who sent to whom.

The Ada who sent the card was my great Aunt who lived at Southernden and the Mrs. Cornes who would have been at New House Farm, Smarden.

Further family history which may be of interest is that the parents of Ada were Edward and Amy Chantler of Southernden. (Amy’s father and mother, Joseph and Sarah Champion, were farming at Little Southernden Farm). Susan Champion’s mother and father were Harriet and John Offen who, I believe, were farming Park House Farm and/or Colbridge Farm.

In front of the gravestones in the photo are the gravestones of Ada Chantler who died in 1948 and also the gravestone of her parents, Edward and Amy. Amy died in 1948 after the death of her daughter Ada.

Edward and Amy had a large family – 3 sons and 6 daughters. When Amy died there were 3 daughters who had not married and were living at Southernden with their mother. I can remember, during the Second World War, my brother Mike and I used to have breakfast at home and if we were quick enough we could get from Wallett Court down to Southernden in time to get a second breakfast! The Great Aunts always had a plenteous supply of bacon, eggs and fried bread and we though this second breakfast was better than the first – we were not too stressed by food rationing.

I hope this may be of interest to you and your readers.

David Chantler

**CHRISTMAS CHEER AS HISTORIC ESTATE JOINS THE HEATH –
OFFICIAL!**

The Heaths Countryside Corridor has successfully completed the purchase of land formerly belonging to the Chilston Park estate near Lenham, Kent.

The trust had been planning for this, its biggest purchase yet, for the past two years; but after some last minute financial juggling the sale went through on Thursday 22nd December.

The 25 acre site is situated on the northern side of the M20 but, unlike other HCC sites in the area, this land is almost an island surrounded by transport links of national importance. Public access and wildlife are the main reasons for HCC's interest here: two ponds, an area of pine trees planted to remind former Chilston Manor owners of Scotland, and great views north and south will make this 'Site of Nature Conservation' (SNCI) a fine place for local people to visit.

In addition to the recreational value of the site, it also promises to yield some archaeological and ecological treasures—at least that is what special surveys are hoping to discover now the land is bought.

Funding secured, totalling nearly £62,000, from Rail Link Countryside Initiative, Heritage Lottery Fund, Maidstone Borough Council, and Kent County Council, was largely founded on the potential natural and archaeological value of this land with its historic links to the Chilston Park estate.

Ruth Lovering, the trust's Secretary and Finance Director, and who has worked tirelessly to acquire this land for the HCC, commented 'It is a great relief that after more than two years we can finally get our hands on this site and see what treasures it holds and provide access for local people to enjoy the beauty of the place.

'We are extremely grateful to the funding bodies that have made this possible and to the site's most recent owner that gave first-refusal to HCC. The purchase of this site represents the beginning of an ambitious project for us: we have a management team lined up to help with the surveys, but we also hope to re-introduce some grazing onto the site that should also help raise some much-

needed funds to help maintain and manage the site. One of our first priorities will be to safeguard the site from use as a speed-way track by some motocross enthusiasts in the area. We do not want to appear to be kill-joys but the site is too important to allow this type of activity to continue on it. I hope those concerned will understand and find an alternative venue for their fun.'

Find out more about the work of the Heaths Countryside Corridor from our web site at www.heathsc.co.uk

The Chilston Park Fact File:

History:

- Lord Fitzhamon gave Chilston Manor to the Hussey family in the 13th Century
- 1659, the house was sold to the Hamilton family
- 1736 it was sold to Thomas Best
- 1821 bought by George Douglas and stayed in the Akers Douglas family until 1983
- Bought by the 4th Viscount Chilston of Boughton Malherbe
- The 72ha site was split by the construction of the M20 in 1990

Archaeology:

- Palaeolithic implement discovered just 300m from the northern boundary of the site
- Mesolithic flint scatter also found near the site
- Royton – a Medieval manor house (grade II listed) sits adjacent to the site
- Royton Chapel and Spittle Crouch hospital were also located close by – but nothing appears to remain of these.
- A buried 'ice-house' (before the age of refrigerators!) lies within the site
- A post-medieval ditch lies to the east of the site.

Survey project details:

- Project team established to advise HCC trustees include
 - KCC Heritage
 - Mid Kent Downs
 - Kentish Stour Countryside Project

- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Rail Link Countryside initiative
- Archaeological and landscape surveys (winter/spring 2006)
- Ecological survey (spring/summer 2006)
- Survey of amphibians in the site's two ponds
- Restoration and Management plans will result and be used to support future bids for funding
- Funding being sought for the re-introduction of grazing on the site. Grazing will
 - Provide limited income towards the site management costs
 - Enhance the botanical interest of the site
- Fencing to keep in livestock
- Control of bracken and thistle (possibly in the autumn)
- Events for all:
 - Archaeological event late summer/early autumn
 - 'Practical tasks' event (date to be announced)

The Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) Fact File:

HCC was set up in 2002 as a community project which aims to improve the environment of those living in and around the Charing Heath and Lenham Heath areas. This area has been affected in recent years by 2 transport corridors: the high speed rail line (CTRL) and the M20. The project aims to provide public access to sites which are no longer wanted by local land owners and to manage the site to ensure the survival of local wildlife. This project is completely dependent on volunteers and has no paid staff.

Owns 3 sites:

- Bull Heath (a disused sand quarry)
- Part of Hurst Wood (an ancient woodland split in half by the transport corridors)
- Part of Chilston Park (See notes above)

Organises regular 'Practical tasks' events:

- Coppicing
- Ragwort clearing
- Tree planting

Organises occasional fun events

- Opening of Bull Heath Summer Party
- Halloween Party
- School activity week

Publicity

- 6 monthly Newsletter
- regular features in local publications
- annual general meeting with special guest speakers

Answers to the Quiz

1. The pectorals are the main muscles in which part of the human body ?
THE CHEST
2. Trappist, Benedictine and cistercians are all orders of what ?
MONKS
3. What is grown in a paddy field ?
RICE
4. What would you find growing in an arboretum ?
TREES
5. In the bible, whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt ?
THE WIFE OF LOT
6. Which countrys flag is nicknamed Old Glory ?
THE UNITED STATES
7. What is known as the Red Planet ?
MARS
8. Which English county name literally means people of the north ?
NORFOLK
9. On childrens T.V. what was the name of the duck that replaced Gordon the Gopher ?
ED THE DUCK
10. In Indian cooking what is a tandoor ?
A CLAY OVEN

From the Registers

Sunday 6th November, at Bearsted, Holy Cross, Confirmation of Claire Mounteney of Lenham, by the Bishop of Dover.

Wednesday 9th November, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, funeral of the late Victor (*Bones*) Stythe.

Friday 11th November, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Kath Burbridge of Harrietsham.

Wednesday 23rd November, at Lenham, St Mary, funeral of the late Ken Hughes.

New Year Bits ‘n Pieces

Sunday 1st January 2006 - Benefice Service. To celebrate the New Year, we shall be holding two services in Lenham, St Mary: at 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP), and 10.30am a sung communion service; there will be no services in the other three churches in the benefice that day.

Thursday 5th January 2006 - Mothers Union “Wave of Prayer”. Come along to Lenham, St Mary’s at 1.00pm to be united in a world-wide opportunity to pray for people across the globe.

Tuesday 17th January 2006 - Ploughman’s Lunch & Talk. Starting at noon at the Shalom Centre Marsham Street Maidstone. Canon Philip Hesketh will talk on “*Bespoke Spirituality*”; he is from Rochester Cathedral and is a former curate of Holy Cross, Bearsted. Suggested contribution £3.00 to include refreshments.

Sunday 29th January 2006 - Benefice Services. On this day our main morning worship for all four churches will be in Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, starting at 10.30am. We gather to celebrate the ancient feast day of Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ the Temple. In the evening, starting at 6.30pm, the regular monthly Informal Service is held, also in Harrietsham.

Look Forward to February

Saturday 4th February 2006 - Ways in Prayer. This is the fifth year in succession when a day of experiential workshops on prayer is being arranged by the Canterbury Diocesan Spirituality Group. The venue is the Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury and you can select three workshops from a total of six available; they include: Journal Writing; Music and Heaven's Open Door; Made up Stories, Our Story, The Great Story; Moving into Silence; Meditation on an Icon of Christ. The cost is £6.50, bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Enquiries to Michelle at the Benefice Office (850604).

Sunday 5th February 2006 - Family Services. This month, and for the foreseeable future, the Sunday on which Family Services are held in Harrietsham and Ulcombe will revert to the first Sunday of each month.

Tailpiece

*"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting.
It has been found difficult and left untried."*
[GK Chesterton 1874-1936]

If you would like to find out more about Church services or activities please contact either the Revd Don Irvine (859466) or the Revd Fiona Naylor (853919) or the Benefice Administrator, Michelle Saunders (850604).

January 2006 - *Happy New Year!*

Did you make a New Year's Resolution for this year?

~ Maybe you resolved to give up something which you know isn't good for you,

~ or maybe you resolved to take up something which you know is good for you,

or maybe it was just all too difficult, and I can sympathise with the latter feeling about it being difficult.

If you look up the word '*resolution*' in the dictionary, you'll find things like: '*resolute temper or character or conduct*'. The dictionary also says the word '*resolute*' means things like '*determined, constant, of firm purpose*'. So that all seems to make sense about resolving to do - or not to do - certain things when we start each New Year.

But the word '*resolution*' can also mean '*separation into components*'. Similarly, the word '*resolve*' can mean: '*disintegrate, break up into parts, analyse*'. That seems to be almost the opposite of being *determined, constant and of firm purpose*! Suddenly our '*resolutions*' seem to be in danger of disintegration and confusion.

If, however, we look to the world of photography or printing we get a different perspective on this word '*resolution*'. In that field, the word refers to '*the sharpness and clarity of an image*'. This has to do with the number of dots or pixels (whatever they are!) printed or displayed on a page, or film, or computer screen.

As Christians trying to cope with chaos and confusion of this 21st century world we live in, we usually seek '*sharpness and clarity*' in what we see around us. At

the same time, however, we need to look into issues, to break them down into their constituent parts and analyse them in order to try to understand them better. So, for me, the whole range of meaning of these words like *'resolution'* is important. As well as seeing the 'big' picture, I need to be able to understand the dots and pixels that go to make it up. It isn't either /or; it's both/and.

It is all too easy to make snap judgements or to jump to conclusions; we all do it, and often we have to do it. We assess a situation at a glance and take a decision. But we know from experience that such snap judgements can also go wrong. Thus, when we have time, we are well advised to make a more careful considered judgement.

Whatever your resolutions (or lack of them) for 2006, my suggestion to you this New Year is to resolve to take your time in the year ahead. Wherever possible to assess situations carefully, even prayerfully. To seek to know God's will for you in your life. For we have a God of love and forgiveness, whose coming among us as one of us, some two thousand-odd years ago, we have just celebrated at Christmas. I humbly suggest a slogan for the year ahead ...

"Pause to Pray"

Revd Don Irvine

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday Services - January 2006

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 01 Jan 06	08.00 L	BCP HC
	10.30 L	CW 1
2 nd of Christmas		(no other morning services in the other three churches and no Taize service at Bearsted or Ulcombe)
Sun 08 Jan 06	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.15 BM	Family Service
Baptism of Christ	09.30 H	CW 1
	10.45 L	Family Service
1 st of Epiphany	11.15 U	CW 1
Sun 15 Jan 06	08.00 L	BCP HC
	08.00 H	BCP HC
	09.15 BM	BCP HC
	09.30 H	Family Service
	10.45 L	CW 1
	11.15 U	Family Service
	15.30 Hospice	Heart of Kent Hospice
	15.00 L	Baptism
2 nd of Epiphany	18.30 BM	BCP EP
Sun 22 Jan 06	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.15 BM	MS
Christian Unity	09.30 H	CW 1
	10.45 L	CW 1
3 rd of Epiphany	11.15 U	CW 1
Sun 29 Jan 06	08.00 L	BCP HC
	10.30 H	CW 1
Candlemas		(no other morning services in the other three churches)
4 th of Epiphany	18.30 H	Informal

Key

Parishes / Churches

L = Lenham
BM = Boughton Malherbe
H = Harrietsham
U = Ulcombe

Services

BCP HC = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion
BCP EP = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Evening Prayer
Fam Svc = Family Service (not Communion)
CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One) Holy Communion
Informal = Evening worship in an informal style

Many thanks to Eddie Brooke for printing this magazine - It is very much appreciated

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