

WROTHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



May 2020

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, WROTHAM

www.wrothamchurch.org

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More addresses and telephone numbers on back inside cover.

This is a community magazine for the village of Wrotham produced by St George's Church

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY 2020

Due to the virus situation, there will be no events or meetings during May. For updated information you can ask to be included on our e-mail list by contacting info@wrothamchurch.org or by looking on our website: <http://www.wrothamchurch.org>

In accordance with national policy, the Church has to remain closed for all purposes at the moment.

We are holding Service by Zoom every Sunday at 10.30am .

If you would like a link to join this, please contact info@wrothamchurch.org directly or via the website.

Prayer requests can also be sent in via the e-mail.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE CAREFUL from Wrotham Parish Council. Warn and Inform - Coronavirus Scams

You should all be aware that there have been reports of persons claiming to be from the Health Authority knocking on doors and offering to take temperatures of elderly people.

Please tell elderly relatives /neighbours not to let unknown people into their homes.

Further to this there are also coronavirus-themed phishing emails, with infected attachments containing fictitious 'safety measures', hereby making money out of exploiting people's fears over COVID-19.

FROM THE RECTORY

Like many others I have been using some of the time of lockdown to search for resources to help process the very unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves.

One of the things I've rediscovered is the work of T.S. Eliot. Some of Eliot's poems were among those which I was required to study at O-level. I seem to remember that most of my answers came out of study notes, because I found his work dense and hard to understand. Going back to him recently, I still wouldn't pretend to grasp anything like all the allusions and references he packs into his poems, but even so they leave a powerful impression.



I have been reading again the Four Quartets, and in particular the last of the four, Little Gidding. It is an appropriate time of year to reflect on this poem: May blossom is mentioned, and more significantly, because it references Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit with fire. Pentecost, or Whit Sunday, falls at the end of the month.

As you may know, the title Little Gidding refers to the location of an historic religious community in Huntingdonshire, which Eliot had visited. This community was set up in 1626 by Nicholas Ferrar. He and his wealthy family had suffered disastrously with the crash of the Virginia Company and they had left behind a more worldly life to devote themselves to godly living and a daily rhythm of prayer and Bible study.

The community became a renowned example of its time, visited by many, and on more than one occasion by King Charles the first. The King's last visit there was in 1645 after his fateful defeat at the Battle of Naseby.

But as Eliot writes, whether you come at night like a broken king, or by day as an ordinary person not knowing what you come for, the point is you come to a place that symbolises an ending of worldly aspiration. "You are not here to verify, instruct yourself or inform curiosity... you are here to kneel where prayer has been valid".

The background against which Eliot was writing this poem was his experience of the London Blitz. He was himself a fire officer for the building of his publisher Faber and Faber. Night by night he would have seen the bombs falling from the sky, the spreading fires raging, and wondered at the destruction of so much human endeavour and aspiration.



As air, earth and water are significant themes in the first three of the Quartets, so fire is a main theme in this last one. Eliot sets the fire raining down from the skies in the bombing beside the spiritual fire that fell at Pentecost. He is outlining the choice he sees facing humanity: keep to ourselves and in the end see our best efforts destroyed – by fires of war or worse, and whether the efforts are public or private; or allow the reality and experiences of ‘fire’ to purify and restore by God’s mercy and the Holy Spirit.

*The dove descending from the air
With flame of incandescent terror...
..The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre—
To be redeemed from fire by fire.....*

*..We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either fire or fire.*

The poem does offer words of assurance, borrowed from the fourteenth-century mystic, Dame Julian of Norwich: “All shall be well, and / All manner of thing shall be well.” But it warns this will entail ‘A condition of complete simplicity (Costing not less than everything).

Putting our current crisis beside the London Blitz is maybe overdoing it. But the point remains. In the bible book of Lamentations we read “For (God) does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.” Times such as this can refine and strengthen our trust in God, and the values by which we live. We may not be able to instruct ourselves, or inform our curiosity as to what the crisis may mean or imply, but we can still kneel, literally or metaphorically, and seek to allow ourselves to be touched by the fire that is holy and redeeming.

Edward

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From The Registers

Funeral

26th March

Karen (Kate) Middleton

May 2020 Charity of the Month

The Hospice in the Weald provides care for patients with a terminal illness and their families in west Kent and northern east Sussex. This means we are there 24 hours a day to help, support and care for patients with illness where a cure is no longer possible, and for patients who will at some stage die from their illness, whenever that may be. You may hear this referred to as 'palliative care.'

OUR MISSION: To provide compassionate, personalised and holistic care for everyone in our community living with a terminal illness, and for those important to them.

OUR VALUES: To put patients first, to support patients, families and carers.

We have a robust plan in place to help and support patients or family members exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and providing the workforce with protective equipment as required.

Wrotham Walking Trail

During the coronavirus lockdown our beautiful, historic village has become our haven and, for many of us, our daily walk has become our only outing.

But how well do you know the smaller landmarks of Wrotham?

Below are some of the details found in the older part of the village. Why not see how many of them you can spot on your daily stroll?

The answers are found on a later page in the mag.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



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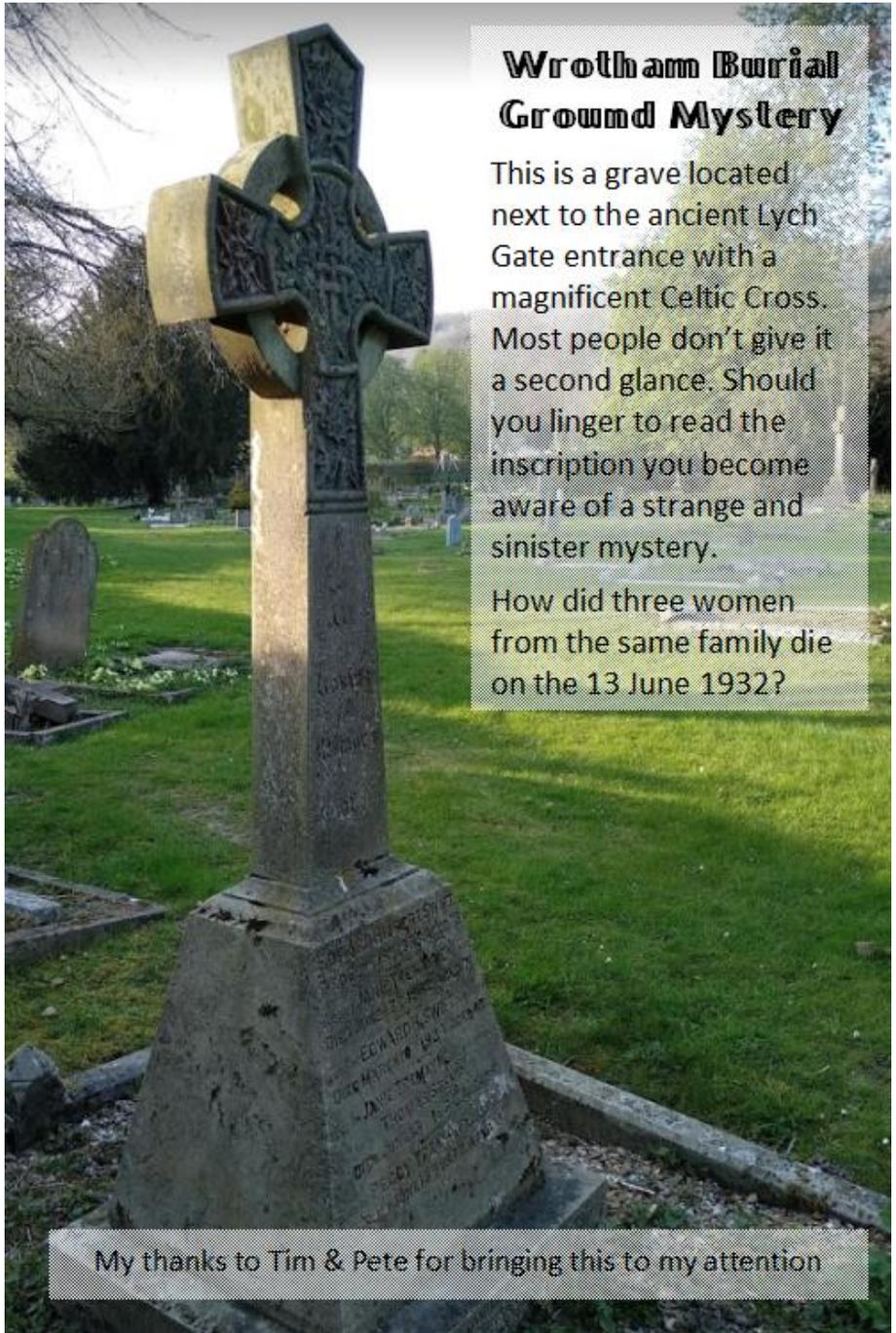
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Wrotham Burial Ground Mystery

This is a grave located next to the ancient Lych Gate entrance with a magnificent Celtic Cross. Most people don't give it a second glance. Should you linger to read the inscription you become aware of a strange and sinister mystery.

How did three women from the same family die on the 13 June 1932?

My thanks to Tim & Pete for bringing this to my attention

Midland Daily Telegraph

COVENTRY

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1932

ONE PENNY

KENT WOOD TRAGEDIES

Triple Murder Charge Against Soldier

ALLEGED SHOOTING OF THREE
WOMEN

James Thomas Collins, the 26-year-old private of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment), charged with the murder of two women and a girl whose bodies were found in King's Wood, Challock, near Ashford, on June 13, was again before the magistrates, at Ashford to-day. The victims who, it is alleged, were shot by Collins with a rifle, were Mrs. Janie Tremayne Swift (69), of 'Ye Olde Sportsman's Inn,'

Seasalter, near Whitstable; Mrs. Janie Tremayne Stemp (35), of 'The White Hart Inn,' Wadhurst, Sussex, her daughter; and Peggy Stemp (13), Mrs. Stemp daughter.

A queue composed mainly of women had formed an hour before the court opened.

Divisional Detective Inspector Ockey described how on June 14 Collins at Barnet Police Station asked him, "Are you in charge of this case?" and added, "I want to tell you all about this". Collins was alleged to have said in his subsequent statement: "I cannot remember what happened, but they were killed, and no doubt I did it."

Inspector Ockey said that on Collins was a medal marked "Argyll Squad, 10/3/32. Highest score rifle. Private Collins." Ref: Midland Daily Telegraph, 28th June

James Collins was found guilty but insane for the triple murder. He was a serviceman who met the group whilst they were having a picnic and shot them all with his rifle. He then picked up the body of Peggy Stemp and carried her to their car and drove several miles down the road and dumped her body in a ditch. He then phoned police to let them know where they could find the bodies. He was convicted but determined insane and sent to Broadmoor.

Cars were an uncommon luxury in 1932 so the Swift Family were affluent. It appears the Celtic Cross in the churchyard marks the family grave, purchased by Edward for his son who died in 1924. The following three internments all but wiped out the family and this was closely followed 8 months later by the head of the family, perhaps overtaken by grief. PG



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From Your County Councillor



It was my intention to devote most of this column to KCC's co-operation with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and the preparations for the further continuation of the T&M Local Plan process. In the time since last writing, the Local Plan process has been postponed indefinitely, pending suitable conditions to allow further progress. I shall keep you further advised once information is to hand.

Kent County Council (KCC) has along with almost all other councils encouraged and facilitated all officers, employees and members who are in a position to do so, to work from home. As a result, some public contact arrangements have changed both at KCC and at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (T&MBC). My attention has been drawn by Cllr Harry Bott the Chairman of Stansted Parish Council to a handy compendium of contacts available for both local authorities, which has been compiled by Offham Parish Council, and which I reproduce with thanks to and acknowledgement of Mrs Lynn Mackie the Clerk to Offham Parish Council.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all those at KCC from Adult Social Services, Children's Services through to Highways & Transportation and Public Health as well as all those too numerous to mention who continue to keep our public services going in the very difficult circumstances that currently pertain.

Harry Rayner, Kent County Councillor

Tel 03000 421606

Email: Harry.Rayner@kent.gov.uk

Kent Together – Helpline Launched by KCC

A 24 hour helpline has been set up to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline – called **Kent Together** – provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and Parish Councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people.

It is also the place to report your concerns about the welfare of someone else.

If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, you can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24 hours service. The answers to frequently asked questions and the latest Coronavirus information can be found on the KCC website at www.kent.gov.uk.

Following guidance on Coronavirus issued by the Government, KCC have closed all their Household Waste Recycling Centres:
www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/find-your-nearest-tip

In light of the coronavirus and the need to enable their staff to work from home, KCC has temporarily suspended notifying neighbours of planning applications submitted to them as the County Planning Authority for decision. Whilst KCC are able to do so, they will continue to advertise applications via a site notice in the vicinity of the application site and where necessary a press notice. Details of live planning applications are available to view on the KCC website at www.kent.gov.uk

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

All TMBC Council and Committee meetings are cancelled until further notice. The receptions at Kings Hill offices and Tonbridge Gateway are now closed. If you need to contact the Borough Council, please do so via email or telephone – see www.tmbc.gov.uk for details.

TMBC have set up a dedicated web page to promote the latest health advice from the NHS and Public Health England and also to provide details of any changes to the delivery of council services.

www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/health-and-social-care/health-and-medical-advice/coronavirus-covid-19

In order to best protect the core refuse, food waste and clinical waste collection services, the following services have been suspended until further notice.

Garden Waste Collections – TMBC will extend subscriptions to cover the period that they are unable to offer the service. Please do not put your brown bin out for collection until service is resumed.



Bulky Refuse Collections for May 2020

Due to the current coronavirus restrictions bulky waste collections have been suspended until further notice

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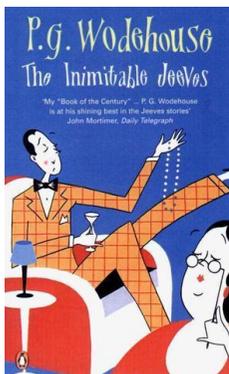


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For Goodness' Sake!

I've been reading PG Wodehouse's, *The Inimitable Jeeves* recently, in an attempt to lighten the viral load you might say. But Wodehouse is beginning to get under my skin. It's bringing out the Bertie Wooster that lies dormant in most of us men.



Just to take one instance. There I was at 10 o'clock in the morning solving a chess puzzle online as per, and Spouse comes in and says, 'You are spending too much time in front of the computer. Time to get up and get moving and take some exercise. There are also a lot of chores need doing, Hoovering, changing bed clothes, washing up and so on, so you'd better buck your ideas up!'

Dash it all, what can a fellow do when Spouse comes over all sergeant major like? I tried the old one two, 'Yes dear', in the hope that the crisis might pass, but I could tell it was not going to cut the mustard this time round.

Then I got to thinking. Six months of this. Good grief, I mean to say, I'm as keen to do my bit as the next chap, within reason of course, but this sounds like a new regime developing altogether. I blame the new-fangled social media myself. All this self-improvement, taking virtual exercise and altering fundamentals nonsense. I don't want my fundamentals altered, thank you very much. I want them to stay just as they are. Pottering round the home and garden, a gentle walk and natter as I perambulate round the village, and a nap after lunch do very well for me. And of course some decent grub. For goodness' sake, Ocado deleted a loin of pork joint yesterday, so goodbye Sunday roast. What is the world coming to? I ask you.

All that is in the bally old bin for the present, and I don't mind telling you, it's all a bit rum. More than a bit, if truth be told.

I mean, I'm usually happy to totter off to get some shopping at one emporium or another once or twice a week. Or nip down to Melia's Place, or the café at Spadework, when Spouse's back is turned, so I can while away a decent half hour with a half decent newspaper and a cappuccino. All that's on the back burner, and it's more than a fellow can bear. But bear it we must. Stiff upper lip and all that rot.

And then there's cricket. When you consider all the effort that has gone into the monthly reports of our team in this august publication, whetting the appetite for the good old sound of leather on willow come April, only to realise it's all off, you know what sort dystopia is rising up in front of us. True, last April was so cold and wet there was hardly a game for weeks on end, but it's the principle I'm on about here. Cricket as a way of life, and all that. Peering wistfully into the cricket field, as I now do, it looks very forlorn. It's enough to make a chap well up, if I'm going to be honest with you. No more dropped catches, no more endless (and fruitless) searches for the ball in the undergrowth. It doesn't bear thinking about.

Back on the home front please don't mention the problem of choosing what to watch on the telly box, now we've got so much time on our hands. And I come back here to the six months imprisonment (I mean cosy marital life) that stretches out before us. Good grief.

Spouse has a penchant for Rick Stein and that chappie Jamie Oliver, for reasons that completely escape me. All that bish, bash, bosh malarkey is enough to turn a fellow's stomach, even if the grub looks good in the end. Far too much enthusiasm if you ask me. As the great writers have pointed out over the years (at least I think they have) we have had more than enough enthusiasm in our history. Religious enthusiasm, political enthusiasm, football enthusiasm - you get the point. They've all ended in disaster. Best to keep away from it. In cooking as in life.

As for TV drama, well there's more than enough going on in the world for that. Watching murderous Scandi-noir seems tasteless under the circumstances. On the other hand, I think I will sidle off the sofa if any more episodes of Belgravia hove into view. I mean to say, Downton Abbey light it may be, and good for the old export market no doubt, but watching the servant class being put upon is more than this sensitive soul can take at the moment. Best to avert your eyes. At least Spouse and I can agree on one thing.

As a wag put it recently, avoid Mrs Brown's Boys at all costs. Much better to watch a comedy. MB

KCC Community Wardens

Kent County Council Community Wardens are able to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. Wardens can offer support, advice and can refer to many partner agencies to help you. Wardens work closely with Kent Police and can also assist in tackling low-level crime and anti-social behaviour (such as graffiti, littering, fly-tipping and vandalism). Wardens encourage communities to work together to build stronger and safer communities.



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Gardening Tips for May

Save all your eggshells and crush them finely as a good source of calcium for plants. Mix them with your usual potting compost.

Use egg shells as seed pots. Just put a little compost and a seed in each shell, then when the plant is ready to be moved on gently crush the shell and plant the whole thing. This is a good way to give brassicas the lime they love.



Dry off your egg shells in the oven, crush them coarsely and sprinkle a ring round your tender plants to keep slugs and snails at bay.

Lastly use the empty shells from boiled eggs to grow mustard and cress. Just stand them in an egg cup, add a little compost and the seeds. You can if you wish draw a face on them with a marker pen and wait for the hair to grow!



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Recipe for The Month

RHUBARB CAKE PUDDING

Ingredients

1lb/450g rhubarb
4 oz/100g castor or soft brown sugar
Grated rind of one orange
3 tablespoons water, icing sugar

For the cake topping:-

3ozs/75g sr. flour
Pinch of salt,
2ozs/50g butter,
2 oz/50g castor sugar,
1 egg.



Wash and trim the rhubarb. Cut the stalks into 1 inch lengths and put into a buttered 2 pint (1 litre) pie or baking dish.

Add the sugar, grated orange rind and water. Set aside while preparing the topping.

Sift the flour and salt. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy then gradually beat in the lightly mixed egg.

Lastly fold in the flour to make a medium soft consistency.

Spoon the mixture over the rhubarb and spread evenly.

Bake for 35-40 minutes in an oven 375F or Gas Mark 5 until the cake topping is well risen and golden brown. Sprinkle with a little icing sugar and serve hot with cream or custard.



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Message from Tom Tugendhat MP

Living through a national emergency has changed all of our lives. It has reminded all of us of the things that matter - health, family, and community.

It has been heartening to see the way we have pulled together to help each other and to see our parishes at the heart of the response.

The emergency is forecast to last for many weeks and the overriding priority must be to keep ourselves, and our family, friends and neighbours safe. As we have seen from the Prime Minister's condition, Covid-19 does not discriminate and no matter how healthy we may feel, we all run the risk of contracting the virus ourselves.



This has been hugely testing, but it has brought out the very best in our community. I would like to thank everyone in Wrotham who has done something extra to help someone in need, helping by getting shopping in, or even just picking up the phone to see if they're okay. Without a community spirit we would not be able to get through this challenging time.

The impact of this virus will be huge. From shrinking supply chains to a greater emphasis on community, our world will change and the speed of government action has shown that the ministers will act fast to help. Supporting employees, including the self-employed, has already made a huge difference to everyone. I believe it will allow the economy to restart rapidly when the conditions allow. That's good for everyone.

I know not everyone will be able to easily access all they are entitled to so if you have any questions please e-mail me with details of your personal situation on tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk so that I can help.

Life is changing so quickly for many of us that what I write here may be out of date by the time you read this, but whatever happens, I am here to do what I can for our community. My office may be closed to protect everyone's health but the phone will still be answered if you call 01732 441563. The Government guidance is based on the very best scientific advice and we must stick to the social distancing measures if we are able to recover as quickly as possible.

I hope that you and all of your loved ones stay as safe as possible over the coming weeks.

Please do get in touch if you have any concerns.

Tom Tugendhat,

MP for Tonbridge & Malling

Sunshine, Rainbows and Smiles

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, there is no update from St. George's primary school this month.

But children (and a few adults) around the village have been keeping spirits up by drawing rainbows, painting stones and putting teddy bears in windows for others to enjoy on their daily walks.

Here are a few of the cheery sights we have spotted around the village.



PUZZLE PAGE

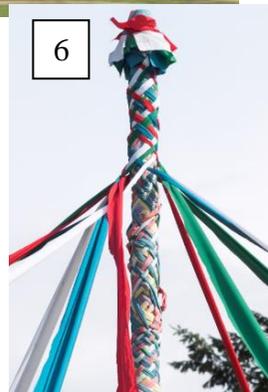
by RP "The Parish Puzzler"



May I Think

The answers all contain the word MAY

1. Succeeded by the man in picture 1. (7, 3)
2. Position held by both men in the pictures (5, 2, 6)
3. Picture 3 (10)
4. Left Plymouth in 1620 (3, 9)
5. Once inhabited the Yucatan Peninsular and built Chichen Itza [see pic 4] (3, 4)
6. Concern and distress caused by something unexpected (6)
7. Signals a life-threatening emergency (6)
8. Grape variety used for red wine (5)
9. Chaos (6)
10. Picture 5 (6)
11. The Hawthorn (3-4)
12. Picture 6 (7)



Solution

1: Theresa May
 2: Mayor of London
 3: Mayonnaise
 4: The Mayflower
 5: The Maya
 6: Dismay
 7: Mayday
 8: Gamay
 9: mayhem
 10: Mayfly
 11: May-Tree
 12: Maypole

Answers to the Wrotham Walking Trail

1. The metal plaque with the inscription of 'Auld Lang Syne' is on front of Village Hair in the High Street
2. The station direction sign is attached to post near Wrotham Place in the High Street
3. The lamp is in the entrance to the Village Hall
4. The peacock is one of a pair at the entrance to Goring Place in Old London Road
5. The shield adorns a climbing frame in the children's play area in the park
6. A stone plaque set in the wall just before The Bull Hotel
7. The green metal plant pot holder is attached to wall of Malt Cottage in Borough Green Road
8. The sign above the entrance to the Masonic Hall in St Mary's Road
9. The inscription attached to the wall of Betenson's Cottages in St. Mary's Road
10. The cherub's face is above the front door of Angel Cottage in St Mary's Road

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Monty Dog's Blog

Hello everybody, really hope you and your humans are well. These are difficult times for everyone!

I was gutted when I heard that the Parish magazine was not going to be printed this month. How can I tell my mates what is going on in the village? But then I heard the mag was going hi tech, with an online version so they still wanted my blog. What an honour. Then I had to think about what to write about! There is absolutely nothing happening!



Lots of you will have seen me looking out of the window to see what's going on! Nothing!! I have hardly seen any of my mates. Of course, I bark at the dogs I do not like as usual. I really miss my mates. I am allowed to go for a long walk once a day, for exercise (I do not work or go shopping) and I have seen a few of you on your walks. Obviously, I am keeping my distance...2 metres, whatever that means.

Do you remember when Victoria drew a picture of me? I used it as the picture in my blogs for a while. Anyway, Victoria asked if I would help her with a learning website while the children are off school. Of course I said yes. Another honour. You can see me on the learning page at www.originalsinpencil.co.uk. What a handsome looking dog. I cannot work out any of the answers, but then it isn't meant for dogs.

Did you go outside with your humans when they clapped for the workers in the NHS and other key workers? I did. To be honest I was not happy, especially when one of my humans started banging a saucepan with a wooden spoon. I ran back indoors! That's all for now. Make sure your humans do what Boris says, stay indoors to help the NHS and save lives. Hopefully I will see you all soon when this is over.

Love Monty xx

Pavilion & Hall Bookings	Mrs. Lesley Cox wrothampc@btinternet.com	886139
Home/School Association	Primary School	882402
	Wrotham School	884207
Bowls Club Secretary	Mr. Simon Luff	822935
Cricket Club Fixtures Sec.	Mr. Geoff Wits	01959 522092
Friends of Wrotham	Mr. Chris Mills	07813 036395
Chairman Parish Council	Cllr. Pete Gillin	886139
Clerk to Parish Council	Mrs. Lesley Cox	886139
Borough Councillor	Cllr. Martin Coffin	823918
	Hill Park Farm, Wrotham Hill Rd	
County Councillor	Cllr. Harry Rayner	03000 421606
	Above Bridges, Borough Green Rd	
Betenson Almshouses Trust	Mr Malcolm Wiffen	882041
	Mr. Chris Lightfoot	884353
Wrotham Historical Society	Mr. Malcolm Wiffen	882041
Wrotham Community Choir	Mrs. Melanie Divall	886104
Allotment & Garden Society	Mr. Brian Saunders	883202
Burial Clerk	Mr. Mick Howard	885953
Wrotham Fireworks	Mr. Tim Meynan	0790 3735529
KCC Community Warden	Ms. Jessica Jarrett	0781 1271307
Wrotham Dog Club		
Dog Warden		876184
Child Abuse/Protection	General	01474 536661
	Emergencies	01474 362381
	Local Contacts	885262/886145
Doctors Surgery	General	883161
	For appointments only	885555
Police Contacts	For non-emergency calls only	101

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The views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. The Editors Reserve the right to edit articles or reject those which, in their view, are considered inappropriate.

The Editor for the June issue is Julian Symes.

The deadline is 10th May.

Please email parish.mag@wrothamchurch.org

(NOTE – please do not use personal email addresses of editors as your article may not be seen.)



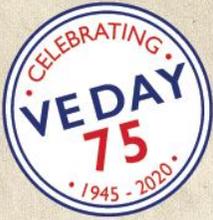
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