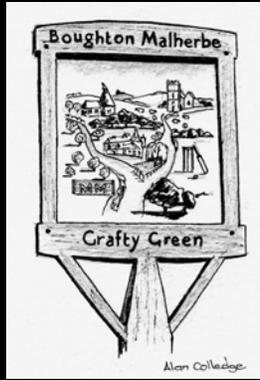


Malherbe Monthly

Free

Number 34

May 2007



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Lord 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
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts do not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the June edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 13th May

Front cover: Rhododendron in flower – Spring is here !!

News from St. Nicholas Church

The Annual Parish Church Meeting

This was held on the 28th March 2007 in the Village Hall Grafty Green at 7.30p.m. It was not well attended. Kenneth Alexander and Joan Davidson were re-elected as Churchwardens, John Collins Treasurer and the PCC was re-elected on block with one addition Dominic Goodwin, who moved into the Old Rectory with his family about 2 ½ years ago, we welcome you on board Dominic.

We are still without a Secretary, this position does not have to be held by a member of the PCC, but can be anyone who is willing to give up an evening about 6 times a year. People have shown an interest in what has been accomplished in the past year with the re-decoration and re-wiring and the installation of more efficient Heating and Lighting system, we had no Grants to help us with this work it was paid for by careful housekeeping over the last 10 or so years, but no one seems to be able to support us by coming along to the Annual meeting, which is a pity.

Lent Lunches 2007

These were a great success raising £460.00 for Christian Aid. May I say a big thank you to all those who supported these occasions by attending and a very big thank you to all the Ladies who hosted these Lunches. The Ladies made some unusual and tasty Soups which made six weeks of very enjoyable Wednesday Lunchtimes. Many thanks.

Cream Teas

Cream Teas will start at the beginning of July on Sunday afternoons at the Church, between 2.00p.m and 5.00p.m. We hold them in the Churchyard or in the Nave, if it is wet. The proceeds from the Teas, was our biggest earner last year. Its great fun renewing old acquaintances and welcoming new customers to our Teas, which are very reasonably priced at £2.50 per head. We can provide Coffee and Cheese Scones if you have a more savoury palate, and Squash for the Children. Dogs are welcome, if kept under control, there is always a bowl of

water for them, one customer even bought her Dog a Cream Tea all to himself, a year or two back.

Invicta Singers Concert at Ivy House Farm

Once again the Invicta Singers have agreed to sing at a Concert at Ivy House Farm. This year it will be on 14th July. Those of you who have been before will know that this event is a most enjoyable evening. The Invicta Singers, sing a range of music, songs from shows and other popular music such as by groups like Abba and the Beatles, through to Spirituals, Folk Songs and some Classical pieces. We hope the weather holds good so that everyone can enjoy a picnic or just a drink with friends. Come early and have a Picnic on the Farm or sit in the Garden and look at the view. You will be welcome to come at 5.00p.m. and the Concert usually starts at 7.00p.m. Tickets will be available from Joan at a later date. This year they will be £7.00 each and we hope to have a Raffle.

Joan Davidson

Kings Head Party in the Garden **Saturday 21st July**

Children's Party and Games from 4pm

BBQ Raffle Tombola
Morris Dancers

Live Music from 7.45pm to 11.45pm



The plant sale is on Saturday 5th May at 10 a.m. on the village green or in the hall if it is wet. As well as selling plants we will also be serving refreshments and manning a cake stall so we would like to request contributions to these please. Cakes and plants can be brought along on the morning or dropped off at Rosemary's.

With the lighter evenings the first of our visits is to **Hole Park** from 6.30 p.m. on May 1st; entrance £4 per person and refreshments (a glass of beer, wine or cup of coffee etc.) at £2.50. This is a 15 acre garden surrounded by parkland with beautiful views. We should be able to see massed bluebells, rhododendrons and azaleas. Hole Park is on the B2086 Benenden Road Rolvenden. If you need a lift or are willing to share your car please let any of the committee members know.

The weekend trip, leaving Grafty Green at 8 am on the 1st June we will be visiting the National Trust property, Coughton Court near Alcester, the home of the Throckmorton family, The Manor House at Bledlow, the home of Lord and Lady Carrington, the Ashwood Nurseries at Kingswinford and Upton House near Banbury, also a National Trust Property. There will be time to explore Stratford upon Avon and our hotel, The Honiley Court Hotel near Warwick, dating back to the 16th century set in a peaceful rural location for the two nights with dinner and breakfast. The cost of this weekend is £175 per person including entrance fees or £153 per person if you are National Trust members (please remember to bring your membership card). Carole is coordinating this trip and taking deposits; we are already ordering extra beds so it will be first come first served if you haven't already booked. The balance is due by 1st May please.

June 5th is the visit to **Torry Hill**, Frinsted, the garden of Lord and Lady Kingsdown; we are expected at 6.30 p.m. entrance is £3.50 per person. This is an eight acre garden with large lawns, specimen trees, walled gardens, herbaceous borders, roses, shrubs, wild flower areas and vegetables. There are extensive views to Medway and Thames estuaries.

PROGRAMME FOR 2007

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jan 9th	AGM - Light up your garden with bulbs	Janet Bryant
Feb 6th	Japanese garden	Jean Cockett
March 6th	Organic Vegetable Gardening	Nick Robinson
April 3rd	Saxon shore way	Chris Wade
May 1st	Evening visit to Hole Park	
May 5th	Plant sale	
First weekend in June	Weekend trip to Worcestershire	
June 5th	Evening visit to Torry Hill	
July 3rd	Evening visit to Hall Place	
Aug 5th	Afternoon visit to Stoneacre	
Sept 4th	Autumn Show Talk on Chrysanthemums	John Lawrie
Oct 2nd	Mushrooms and Toadstools	Martin Newcombe
Nov 6th	History of Weather forecasting	Ian Currie
Dec 4th	Port & Stilton	David March

Grafty Garden Cuttings - May

The Birds: the birds are back. Or at least, some are back. A neighbour told me that she had seen two red-legged partridges in her garden, and a couple of days later they or two like them, flew from the roof to our gazebo, followed a few seconds later, by the buzzard that presumably had them lined up for breakfast. Later that day, a sparrow hawk became entangled in the netting covering the greens patch, as it killed a blackbird. A pair of thick gloves was needed for that release and a wonderful close-up of a beautiful bird. And now we have a tapping torn tit. A pair of Great Tits are nesting in a box near the house and the male has

taken to fighting himself in our windows. It is quite unnerving at times; this frantic tapping at all hours and nothing will dissuade him. The male blackbird that lost its mate to the sparrow hawk is now fighting for the attention of the only female at present in the garden, but she is feeding a brood of youngsters and not interested. Nothing but high drama, really!

It's a busy time in the garden for us as well as the birds. Our trusty rotovator refuses to start, for the first time in 30 years, so it is a fork, spade and rake job, to break down the clods and ready the ground for planting. Early potatoes should be up and will need to be re-earthed, if frosts are likely and marrow, courgette and squash plants can be planted out, but are best under cloches until June. Early sowings of sweet corn should be raised in individual pots, under glass. They hate root disturbance, so need careful handling when planting out as do lettuce carrots and parsnips should be up and will need thinning by the end of the month. Horticultural fleece should be used to cover them to keep root fly at bay. I now grow some carrots in large pots, to ensure a clean and easy crop.

Runner beans can also go into the ground and again, I protect these with fleece pegged to the poles at intervals, to keep off wind and frosts. I lost most of my first planting, two years ago, when the wind whipped them to shreds, so I also tie them in, to start them off. Other crops to sow: dwarf beans, beetroot, salad leaves and radish.

The tatty leaves on the daffodils should be left for six weeks after the blooms have faded, never tied into knots, so the goodness can pass back into the bulbs, then cut off. Early flowering shrubs can be pruned into shape, taking out some of the old wood, once their blooms are over. Perennials will need staking and tubs and containers should be planted up and kept protected for the first week or two.

Rosemary Smith

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successfully run Oil Consortium, we now have over 130 members all benefiting from discounted heating Oil when ordered in Bulk. To keep the Consortium working all members need to order the minimum 500 Litres of Oil at least 3 times a year. I'm sure you'll all agree, Oil Tankers trundling through our villages 3 or 4 times a year is better than seeing them every week. The word is spreading, as well as Grafty Green and Boughton Malherbe, we now reach out to Ashford, Biddenden, , East Sutton, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Kingswood, Lenham, Lenham Heath, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway Stalisfield Green, and Ulcombe.

So if you would like to join, and benefit form cheaper Oil, please email europa.13@btinternet.com or phone 858350 for details.

Keith Anderson

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 1st July 2007. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 16th Jun: 13:45 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Sunday 3rd Jun: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Platts Heath

Sunday 27th May: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra. Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 19th May 2007 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Park Maidstone. The programme consists of two works:

- Mozart - Sinfonia Concertante - Soloist's Ben Hancox Violin, Robin Ashwell Viola
- Mahler - Symphony No.6

Mozart and Mahler complement each other to perfection in the chamber music textures of Mozart, we're joined by two young Kentish-born players who are fast-gaining a reputation with their Sacconi String Quartet. The largest possible array of MSO players then tackles the romantic pinnacle of Mahler's fatalistic 6th Symphony.

Concert tickets £10, £15 and £20, seats for Children and students with a student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Mote Hall Box Office 01622 761111 when payment can be made by credit card.

David Bramley - Maidstone Orchestral Society

A baby is nothing more than a loud noise at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.

A celebrity is a person who works hard all their life to become known then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognised

A classic is a book which people praise but do not read

A man has to be like 'Adolf Hitler' to be called ruthless,
All a woman has to do is put you on hold.

Ever notice that when women delay getting married they call it independence,
but when men do it it's called fear of commitment.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Maldstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	59	59	59	59
Maldstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1225	1400	1552	1612
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1227	1402	1555	1615
Wheatshiel	1229	1404	1557	1617
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1236	1411	1604	1624
Linton Corner	1240	1415	1608	1608
New Line Learning — Cornwalls	1244	1419	1612	1612
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1249	1424	1617	1617
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1620	1620
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1623	1623
Warmslake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626
Kingswood, Village Hall	1438	—	1638	1731
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	—	1523	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	—	1530	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	—	1535	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	1535	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	1544	—

Service 59: Maldstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Stone Street), Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Headcorn, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Farningham Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmslake Road, Warmslake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Bromfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravely Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill Drive, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

Buses running via Langley run as normal from Maldstone to Loose Road, then Sutton Road, Langley, Sutton Road, Warmslake Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.

Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maldstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravely Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysar Drive, returning via the normal route.

Service 66: New Line Learning — Cornwalls, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	—	0736	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	0745	—
Ulcombe, King's Head	0723	—	0723	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	—	0730	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	—	0735	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	—	0738	—
Warmslake Corner	0748	—	0744	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0749	—	0747	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	—	0742	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	—	0745	—
New Line Learning — Cornwalls	—	—	0820	—
Linton Corner	0750	—	0750	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	—	0756	—
Wheatshiel	0758	—	0758	—
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station	0800	—	0800	—
Maldstone, Somerfield Hospital	0810	—	0810	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0808	—	0808	—
—	0817	—	0817	—
—	0826	—	0826	—

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

NOTE
1. The Saturday buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council by Nu-Venture (Tel: 01622 882288), NOT Arriva.

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, Gibson Drive, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG.
* — Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.
R — Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
0836	—	—	—	—
0838	—	—	—	—
0840	—	—	—	—
0847	—	—	—	—
0859	—	—	—	—
0907	—	—	—	—
0914	—	—	—	—
0921	—	—	—	—

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Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
0733	—	—	0923	—
0740	—	—	0930	—
0745	—	—	0935	—
0747	—	—	0937	—
0753	—	—	0943	—
0756	—	—	0946	—
0759	—	—	0949	—
0802	—	—	0952	—
0807	—	—	0957	—
0811	—	—	1001	—
0815	—	—	1005	—
0823	—	—	1013	—

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A new website for walkers in Kent

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol and improve blood lipid profile
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being
- Increase bone density, hence helping to prevent osteoporosis
- Reduce the risk of cancer of the colon
- Reduce the risk of non insulin dependant diabetes
- Help to control body weight
- Help osteoarthritis
- Help flexibility and co-ordination hence reducing the risk of falls

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So www.walkinginkent.co.uk came into being.

www.walkinginkent.co.uk gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County:

Guided walks: Local groups who offer guided walks are listed together with links to their web-sites.

Books of walks: There are over 50 books of walks for the County. All the details are here.

Leaflets of walks: Over sixty leaflets are produced around the County, many of them difficult to find. Not any more! www.walkinginkent.co.uk list them all.

Walking groups: Every walking group in the County is listed.

There are also links so that you can check: the weather for your walk, links to other useful sites, how to get to your walk by public transport – and more is being added all the time.

So check out the website and get walking!

Reduction of Speed Limit from 40 to 30mph in Grafty Green **The Saga continues !!**

Below is a copy email received by Pat Anderson on 11th April, from Peter Rosevear of The Highways Department, following an update request on when the 40mph signs would be replaced with the 30mph signs:-

Pat,

The Order has completed its consultation period with no objections. The "has made" Order is now being prepared for publishing. Once this procedure has been completed, the limit can be introduced on site. I'm not quite sure of the timing yet, as there are several sites included in the Order, and I await to hear when the signs will go up. Hopefully, it won't be very long before it happens.

Regards,
Peter R

Editors Note: As you can see this latest e-mail contains the sort of language we come to expect – “not quite sure of the timing” and “hopefully” – Surely they know how long this will take as they do it all the time – in fact we council tax payers pay them to do this job but it appears that they are “not sure or hopeful” that something will happen sometime in the future!!

Grafty Village Green

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council, that rubbish such as crisp packets, sweet wrappers, cans and bottles are being discarded and left lying around on our Village Green. It would really be appreciated if the rubbish could be placed in the bin provided on the Green.

**Many thanks
The Parish Council**

Neighbourhood Watch

Kent Trading Standards would like to advise consumers to be wary of unsolicited visits to their homes and of unsolicited telephone calls. If you are not happy with such a call, say no to any goods or services offered and have the confidence to hang up.

Unsolicited marketing calls can be restricted by registering with the telephone preference service by calling 020 7291 3320 or registering online at www.tpsonline.org.uk. All similar incidents should be reported to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506. For information on your consumer rights, please call Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

Police in Mid Kent are warning people not to be taken in by another letter scam, which appears to come from a Spanish company called "Loteria Primitiva", based in Madrid.

The letter informs the recipient they have won hundreds of thousands of pounds in a new international lottery and that they must claim it within a couple of weeks. The letter asks for an attached form to be filled in with personal information such as names, addresses and bank account details.

Police advise anyone who receives this sort of letter not to reply or telephone the numbers which are included in the letter but to throw it away immediately.



Heaths Countryside Corridor

A community initiative of Charing Heath and Lenham Heath

A Family Archaeological day

From 2pm to 5pm

Sunday 13th May Chilston Ponds

Lenham Heath Road, Sandway

Featuring:

Pot making

Archaeological illustrator

Lenham Archaeology Society

Young Archaeologist Club

Living History group, in iron age costume

Parking is available at The White Horse Taverna on Lenham Heath Road, Sandway. The White Horse Taverna serves Mexican bar snacks and restaurant meals and is also offering a 10% discount on restaurant meals during May on production of this flyer. For this discount the table needs to be booked on 01622 859511 before 31st April.

HCC home page: www.heathsgcc.co.uk
Charity No: 1097080; Company No: 4504311

YOGA

Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings

9.30 - 11.00

£5 a session

Yoga for stamina, suppleness,
strength and stress relief

Mixed Ability Class

Try a 'taster session' if you're not sure

For further details contact Liz Watts on

01622 737321

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

- BALANCING * ENERGISING * DE-STRESSING *
MAINTAINING FITNESS*

Don't Let Your 'Best Friend' Spoil your Village

A message from Maidstone Borough Council's Civic Wardens

The council is very concerned about our lanes and open spaces. We want to make sure your village is clean and free of dog mess, so as to give you a better quality of life.

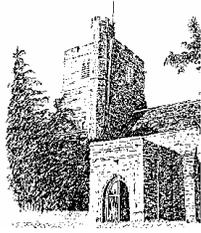
We have received a number of requests from local residents asking the 'Hit Squad' to come and clean your village of dog mess, particularly Woodcock Lane. Dog mess is unsightly and a health risk, especially to children. If caught not cleaning up, the dog owner can face a fixed penalty fine on the spot for £50 or, if prosecuted, a hefty fine of up to £1000. It also wastes a great deal of our resources (and your Council Tax) clearing up all this mess.

We would like to work together with you in solving this problem. We ask that dog owners clean up after their dogs, by using old plastic bags and take it home for disposal.

If any dog mess needs cleaning up, please contact the Hit Squad on 01622 602162

If you see a dog owner who doesn't clean up after their dog, please report it – by phoning the Civic Wardens on 01622 602117. They will step up their patrols, put up signs and visit any owner who is breaching the law.

It is generally only a few dog owners who flout the law and don't clean up. If you're one of these think again, we intend to use every power open to us to clean up our environment for you, your children and your neighbours.



MUSIC

at

All Saints, Ulcombe

2007

Concerts at All Saints, Ulcombe

Members of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church have endeavoured to produce a varied programme of music in the hopes that at least one or two of the concerts will appeal.

All the concerts will start at 7.30 pm and during the interval refreshments will be served.

The price of each concert is £7 50

For more details and tickets, please contact either: Mrs Molly Poulter, The Oast, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, ME17 1DP. Tel. (01622 842988) **or** The Church Office, Harrietsham Village Hall, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP. Tel (01622 850604).

Wednesday the 23rd of May
Lyra from Russia

The Russian group, Lyra, who gave a stunning performance last year of Russian Orthodox and folk music, will be returning to give us another concert. LYRA is a community of professional musicians. There are some 25 in the group but they usually perform in groups of four or six. Most of their members are students or postgraduates of Saint Petersburg Conservatoire. Some work in Saint-Petersburg choirs, others are soloists in the musical theatres of the city.

In 2001 Lyra was awarded the Montreux International Choral Festival Diploma in Switzerland, and in 2005 was the winner of the Coleraine International Choral Festival in Northern Ireland.

Lyra has a diverse repertoire which includes the enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church as well as traditional Russian folk music. They perform works of Russian composers such as Stravinsky, Rakhmaninov, Bortnjansky, Tchaikovsky, Tchesnokov and Gretchaninov. They also perform songs, romances and arias from operas by Russian, as well as foreign composers.

Saturday 9th June
Concert by Joanna Louise Parker

Joanna Parker, an Ulcombe resident, last performed at All Saints in 2002, a 'Joni Mitchell Evening' that was a sell-out. Since then she has spent the last few years hidden away arranging her own collection of songs which draw musical inspiration from a wide variety of sources ranging from classical through to folk, jazz and blues. She has performed in a variety of locations over the past year including 2 musical festivals and a spot at Lestat's in San Diego. With the voice said to make 'the hairs stand up on the back of your neck', and songs described as 'mystical and enchanting'. This concert is not to be missed.

Saturday 20th October
The Sutton Valence Choral Society

This will be a concert with a difference - a Come Sing event. The rehearsal will be in the afternoon when anyone who enjoys singing can come along. The performance will be at 7.30 pm in the evening.

Anyone interested in taking part in singing Faure's Requiem and Vivaldi's Gloria should get in touch with Alexandra Brown on 01622 85379.

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

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

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

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Ulcombe History Society's
Outing to Downe House and Lullingstone
Saturday 12th May 2007

The Ulcombe History Society has planned an outing to Downe House (home of Charles Darwin) We will have lunch there (pre-ordered) as Downe House does not allow people to picnic in the grounds.

After lunch, we go to Lullingstone Castle, home of Tom Hart Dyke who has created a World Garden (which has been featured on television).

Tom Hart Dyke is a traveller and plant collector. He and a friend spent nearly a year in captivity. They were held hostage by guerrillas in Columbia, and Tom has written a book about it.

After looking at the World Garden, Tom will take us round Lullingstone Castle. If there is time, we will also visit Lullingstone Church.

The coach will leave from Lodge Gardens (just beyond the school) at 9 am and we should be back at around 6 pm.

Downe House belongs to English Heritage and for those who are members, the cost will be reduced.

The cost of the outing is either £19.00 or £13.60 if you are a member of English Heritage. The cost is made up as follows: Coach £8.60, Downe House £5.40, Lullingstone Castle £5 making a total of £19. The lunch will be extra.

To book, please send a cheque made out to *The Ulcombe History Society* and return to Mrs Molly Poulter, The Old Dairy, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, Kent ME17 1DP. Tel. (01622 842988)

WELCOME TO THE PILGRIMS WAY ARTISTS

**10th ANNUAL SUMMER ART SHOW IN THE
MAGNIFICENT LENHAM 14c TITHE BARN**

SATURDAY 19th MAY to MONDAY 28th MAY

DAILY OPENING 10am to 6pm FREE - CATALOGUE £1

30 local artists, sculptors & potters exhibiting over 300 works

ART SHOW

The Tithe Barn Lenham Kent

10th Annual Summer Art Show

This will be the 10th annual Summer Art Show by the Pilgrims Way Artists in the magnificent 14th Century Tithe Barn in the village of Lenham in Kent.

The Tithe Barn

The barn is reputed to be the largest of its type still standing in England. The wagon pond has recently been restored and is a wildlife haven.

Up to 30 Artists and Sculptors

Up to 30 artists and sculptors show their work in what is becoming the biggest and best art event in Kent.

The artists exhibiting, are of all ages, and their talents span from the naive to the extraordinary.

In the group there is a smattering of Fine Art Degrees; a dab of Fauves; a splash of exhibitionists including some who have dipped their brushes into the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition; a smudge of pastellists; a whiff of oil painters; a splash of water-colourists and also a group of sculptors working in various mediums.

Free Demonstrations

There is an outdoor area for large sculptures and in the barn, free demonstrations in watercolour, pastels, portraiture and jewellery, etc.

Talk to the artists

The artists will be on hand to discuss their work and you can watch them in action.

Portraits

Have your portrait sketched for £25

For further information Tel: 01233 770425

ART SHOW

**Opening Times are from
10 am to 6 pm daily**

ADMISSION IS FREE

Catalogues

Catalogues £1. Includes a free draw for an original Painting by Pauline Appleton

Free parking behind the Barn
Easy wheelchair access

Tea, Coffee & Homemade cakes
Relax with a cup of tea or coffee and
homemade cakes



**Demonstration
& Artists at work
Evening** ☆ ☆

**Friday 25th May
From 4-9pm**

Come and join us for this special event where artists will demonstrate their individual skills, and discuss their work and sources of inspiration.

**Tickets are £5 and
include a glass of wine**

Featured artist of the year
Pauline Appleton

Every year at this annual show, one of the artists is chosen to be the featured artist. Their work is displayed on the brick feature wall of the Tithe Barn. This year, the featured artist is Pauline Appleton.

Pauline has been living and painting in Lenham for over 20 years, and exhibiting with the Pilgrims Way Artists for the last nine.

She was born and educated in the Lake District, studied at Manchester College of Art and is married with four children.

Her work is in many homes and collections.

Lenham Players Present

“Love Letters”

by A.R Gurney

In Lenham Community Centre
on
Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May 2007
at
8.00pm

Tickets £6.00 available from
Goldsmiths Fine Art gallery Lenham
and Lenham Community Centre

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Platts Heath on a Platter!

Having had a very positive meeting about a Revue 'event' in the village to celebrate the re-opening of the St. Edmund's Centre, I can now confirm that the date will be: **Saturday 12th May.**

As mentioned in last month's magazine, anyone who would like to be involved will be made very welcome as we hope to have a variety of entertainment throughout the show. We have a Stage Manager who would, I'm sure, be thrilled to have some stagehands to help the production run smoothly...

Look out for posters towards the end of April advertising times and ticket prices. All the proceeds will go towards the upkeep of our Village Hall, so make sure you come and support us and enjoy the "feast" that awaits you.

Murray Motley

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” – an ambitious new production from Egerton Players

Situated on the greensand ridge, south-west of Charing and overlooking the Weald of Kent, the small village of Egerton has a remarkable theatrical group, “The Egerton Players”, and on the evenings of 21st, 22nd and 23rd June they will be performing their very first Shakespearian production, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”.

Egerton Players have a formidable reputation, and apart from traditional village pantomimes, have successfully produced the musicals “Oliver!” and “My Fair Lady”, Willy Russell’s “Blood Brothers” and AA Milne’s fantasy “Toad of Toad Hall”. “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is the first time they have undertaken a full-scale production out of doors, for the play is being performed in the delightful woodland garden of Egerton House (the first play ever to be performed there), by kind permission of Mr Bryan Gipps, who is also producing the music for the play.

Set in a Classical Athens that never was, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is a timeless fantasy of Lords and Ladies, mixed-up lovers, a quarrelling fairy King and Queen and their fairy attendants, and the famously comic rustic workmen doing their best to put on their terrible play as an entertainment for their Royal masters. The play also features some of Shakespeare’s best loved characters, including Bottom, Puck, Titania and Oberon.

The cast not only includes many Egerton Players stalwarts but also features many fresh new faces, including the quartet of young lovers, and other new village recruits.

This promises to be a spectacular entertainment, so put the date, Midsummer’s Night, in your diary! Tickets are now on sale, so for further information, and to obtain tickets, ‘phone 01233 756592.

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

I hope you enjoyed last months link word here is another
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Furniture	Master	Spare	Bedroom
2	Bath	Gum	Car	
3	Toffee	Tree	Cart	
4	Throat	Clean	Short	
5	Engineer	Law	War	
6	Driving	Pilot	Tube	
7	Playing	Study	Trip	
8	Fish	Granny	Cap	
9	Couple	Man	Just	
10	Figure	Packed	Replay	
11	Break	Bow	Pin	
12	Secret	Self	Lip	
13	Shuttle	Air	Suit	
14	Prison	Plan	Fire	
15	Lucky	Sheep	Stick	
16	Blue	Feed	Bank	

Many thanks to **Paul Neaves** who set both the Quiz and the Missing Word
Puzzle.

Maidstone Borough Council – News

Release

Release Date: 4th April 2007

Ref No: ARL/080402

Maidstone recognised nationally for work in tackling climate change

Maidstone was one of just four councils in the UK to be short listed in the recent Local Government Chronicle's Sustainable Communities Award for Tackling Climate Change.

Maidstone Borough Council adopted a climate change plan in 2005 and has since become recognised as one of the leading councils in the South East for tackling climate change.

The detailed plan identifies what the council needs to do over the next five years to reduce waste, conserve and recycle, reduce emissions, be energy efficient and create a sustainable environment.

Maidstone's eye catching Primrose Promise - that by the time every seven year old in the borough went to secondary school the council would be carbon neutral, has caught the imagination of staff and local residents.

Recent measures taken to tackle climate change include:

- Providing two low emission pool cars for staff use
- Trialling bio-diesel in its vehicles
- Getting its electricity from a renewable supplier
- Installing a renewable energy boiler fuelled by woodchips from local coppice woodlands for its new offices
- Making sure that all new social housing funded by the council is built to the highest eco standards by 2008

For more information, or to view the climate change plan, visit the climate change pages on www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk or call Jim Boot on 01622 602246 or e-mail jimboot@maidstone.gov.uk

Maidstone Borough Council – News

Release

Release Date: 18th April 2007

Ref No: RJA/070412

Maidstone doesn't want Kent International gateway.

Maidstone Borough Council has acted quickly to set out its position on a proposal for a huge, 382,000 sq metre park with road to rail transfer facilities and associated business development at a site east of junction 8 of the M20 at Bearsted.

Kent International Gateway Ltd has written to residents in the area about its proposals and asked for their comments. They are unlikely to welcome the comments they get back, with reports of growing protests including objections from local MP Hugh Robertson, parish and borough councillors and residents.

Council leader Eric Hotson has been quick to set out Maidstone council's position on the proposal "The proposal is inappropriate and not at all what we would want for this area", he said.

The land is currently countryside with no proposals for change and Mr Hotson says the KIG plan would have a significant adverse impact on the local area because of the scale and nature of the development. "It would create huge volumes of industrial traffic on our already busy roads and wouldn't create the good quality well paid jobs that we need to improve the prosperity of our borough".

In order to progress its proposals KIG would either have to submit them for consideration through the current local development framework process or submit a planning application in advance of going through that process. Any such planning application would be dealt with on its merits and in accordance with current development plan policies

Maidstone Borough Council made clear its objections to the proposal at last December's examination in public for the South East Plan. Assistant Director of

Development, Brian Morgan, gave evidence to the enquiry that the proposal was in the wrong place and that there was no need for it. The Strategic Rail Authority's advice is that inter-modal freight depots of this type should be located on the M25 to provide easy access to and around London. Mr Morgan also argued that there wasn't a need for a depot of this type because only 30% of the existing capacity for freight had been taken up on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and there is lots of other spare capacity on the rail network

Missing Word Puzzle

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

Find the missing word?	
1	Like a Bat out of _____ , a Meatloaf song
2	_____ Mr Chips, Classic film about a school teacher.
3	Moon _____, Sonata, Beethoven's most popular piece of music
4	Chas and _____, Cockney duo who sung Rabbit.
5	_____ and Ivory, Hit song for Stevie Wonder & Paul McCartney
6	The _____, T.V Series set during the US depression
7	Bridget Jones _____, Film with Renee Zellwegger.
8	_____ Force, T.V Gardening make over show.
9	Lesley _____, Actress who played Dorian in Birds of a Feather.
10	Reservoir _____, Violent film with Quinten Tarantino.

Maidstone Borough Council – News

Release

Release Date: 5th March 2007

Ref No: RJA/070307

Maidstone council has kept its council tax increase down to 3%, one of the lowest increases in Kent.

When Kent County Council's increase of 4.95%, the Kent Police increase of 4.99% and the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue service increase of 3.8% are taken into account the overall increase for 2007/2008 will be 4.6%.

That means that Band D bills will increase by £59.45 to £1349.78 and Kent County Council will receive £964.17, Maidstone Borough Council £201.78, Kent Police £122.18 and Kent and Medway Towns Fire and Rescue £61.65.

Maidstone council had to find savings of £900,000 to keep its increase to 3%. Council Leader, Eric Hotson explains: "These savings included the costs of senior management, insurance and administration. And we will make further savings, starting with £140,000 from the formation of a Leisure Trust to be responsible for the operation of Maidstone Leisure Centre."

Despite all the savings, there will be no major loss of services but there will be many improvements, including eagerly awaited doorstep recycling services. "From April all green garden waste will be recycled and starting later this year we will start the phased introduction of a mixed collection of paper, cardboard, cans and plastics.

"We will also establish a fund to restore and maintain the council's historic buildings and we will work to improve opportunities for lifelong learning and to support healthy living initiatives;" said Cllr Hotson.

Egerton Telecottage



Your local Computer Centre

Is your computer driving you mad?

Are you suffering from PABKAC?*

We can help!

Tired of those problems with the internet? Want to buy something on Ebay? Need to set up accounts for your club or home expenses? Leaflets to prepare?

We can help! We are running courses from **January** right through to **Easter** covering Desk Top Publishing, Internet & Email, Excel, Digital Photography and Ebay, together with Basic IT, Word Processing, and Clean up your Computer plus a brand-new course which will cover simple accounts using Excel. There's sure to be something which would be of interest and we would be very glad to see you.

Most of the courses are run in the evening with one or two daytime subjects. Our rates are extremely reasonable and our facilities are excellent.

Please ring Alison, our Booking Clerk, on 01233 756366—she will be happy to give you full details.

Or call in to our drop-in centre on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon and have a chat with one of our tutors. We are situated in the new Millennium Hall in Egerton in the centre of the village.

****Problem arisen between keyboard and chair***

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Furniture	Master	Spare	Bedroom
2	Bath	Gum	Car	Bubble
3	Toffee	Tree	Cart	Apple
4	Throat	Clean	Short	Cut
5	Engineer	Law	War	Civil
6	Driving	Pilot	Tube	Test
7	Playing	Study	Trip	Field
8	Fish	Granny	Cap	Flat
9	Couple	Man	Just	Married
10	Figure	Packed	Replay	Action
11	Break	Bow	Pin	The
12	Secret	Self	Lip	Service
13	Shuttle	Air	Suit	Space
14	Prison	Plan	Fire	Open
15	Lucky	Sheep	Stick	Dip
16	Blue	Feed	Bank	Bottle

	Find the missing word?
1	Like a Bat out of Hell, a Meatloaf song
2	Goodbye Mr Chips, Classic film about a school teacher.
3	Moon Light, Sonata, Beethoven's most popular piece of music
4	Chas and Dave, Cockney duo who sung Rabbit.
5	Ebony and Ivory, Hit song for Stevie Wonder & Paul McCartney
6	The Waltons, T.V Series set during the US depression
7	Bridget Jones Diary, Film with Renee Zellweger.
8	Ground Force, T.V Gardening make over show.
9	Lesley Joesph, Actress who played Dorian in Birds of a Feather.
10	Reservoir Dogs, Violent film with Quentin Tarantino.



LIGHT AND HOPE IN DARK TIMES

THE House of Light and Hope (Beit-el-Nour) provided shelter to refugees at two of its centres during the Lebanon-Israeli conflict in August last year. As the long recovery process begins, the Centre will continue its work with young adults, as well as providing additional care for those caught up in the trauma of war.

Ninety eight families, both Muslim and Christian, were sheltered at an orphanage in the mountains on the outskirts of Beirut and a girl's preventative centre in the city suburbs. The Centre provided for the basic needs of many of these families who fled from their homes with few or no possessions. They received clothes, food, mattresses, nappies, cleaning equipment and medicines; many were paid through a gift of £5000 from **BibleLands**.

The President of the House of Light and Hope, the Greek-Melkite Catholic Archbishop of Tyre, Georges Bacouni, also sheltered around 400 refugees in his bishopric in Tyre. When Tyre became a particularly dangerous area, he accompanied the displaced families to Beirut. Staff at the House helped him find shelter for these refugees and also to provide food and medicine for some of the children.

In the aftermath of the conflict the Beit el Nour Centre's work is focussed once again on the broken youth of Lebanon. Director Robert Carnache is concerned for what he describes as a "*new category or generation of broken youth to show up after what happened to the country, but it is still early to assess*"

BibleLands is an independent UK based Christian charity serving the needs of the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged in the lands of the Bible, regardless of their faith or nationality. We work in partnership with local Christians.

Len Valley Christian Union

Christian breakfasts

On 5th May, we will be holding a breakfast in the Osbourne Room at Lenham Community Centre, where we will be joined by guest speaker Peter Daone, who will be talking about both his life in business and his Christian experiences to date.

On 26th May, Lotte Webb will be the guest speaker, sharing her experiences of working as a teacher in India and on Iona helping with Christian conferences and holidays. Both events start at 8.30am for breakfast, with the talk at 9am.

Bible Study evenings

For those of you who are interested in digging deeper into your Bible, here are some evenings for you. Len Valley Christian Union have invited local man Pastor Derek Savage to lead a series of four Bible studies over 8 weeks beginning in May. Derek is very easy to listen to whilst at the same able to deliver studies that strengthen and cause one to think more deeply about what the Bible has to say. He has entitled his series 'Jesus- the facts'.

To be accessible to as many of you as possible the venue is Harrietsham Village Hall. The dates are the evenings of 22nd May, 5th June, 19th June and 3rd July, 2007 and are planned to last about an hour. So book them in your diary, grab your Bible and come along. More details contact Liz Holland 858081.

Wintershall plays

The Life of Christ will be shown at Wintershall in Surrey from 26th June until 1st July inclusive (adults £14, Children, £6.50) and The Acts of the Apostles will be performed from 11th until 13th October (adults £16, children £8). You can either book independently by visiting www.wintershall-estate.com or phoning 01483 832167 or ask the Len Valley Christian Union to book on your behalf. If

enough people are interested in the Saturday performance for either event, we will arrange transport.

Prayer visiting

The committee is considering a new venture. Nearly everyone says a prayer at sometime: A thank you to God for something really good; a plea for help when desperate or in trouble. We would like to encourage more people to think about doing this in future.

How? By calling on a few people on Wednesday 20th June in a chosen residential area and asking them if they would like to have an anonymous prayer included in the next week's Church services. A letter would be delivered to the chosen homes the week before the visit to let them know in advance. A briefing meeting will be held in the Church Room of Harrietsham Village and Community Hall on Thursday 7th June for anyone interested and willing to take part. Please contact Syd Alexander on 859218.

Note: For information about any of the events above, please phone Pamela Cuerden on 859442.

From the Registers

Sunday 11th March, at Ulcombe, All Saints, baptism of Daisy Hope Dallamore.

Tuesday 13th March, at Lenham, St Mary, funeral of the late Avice Hardy.

Thursday 15th March, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, funeral of the late Joe Bunce.

Monday 19th March, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, funeral of the late Kenneth Clinch

Thursday 22nd March, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Florence Mallinson of Harrietsham.

Sunday 25th March, at Lenham, St Mary, baptism of Sophie Collett.

Thursday 29th March, at Lenham, St Mary, funeral of the late Ken Hook.

Sunday 1st April, at Lenham, St Mary, baptism of Isobel Duncan-Webster.

Tailpiece - Volunteers

Volunteers don't get paid: not because they're worthless, because they're priceless!

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart!

Those who can, do; those who can do more, volunteer!

Volunteers are love in motion!

Managing Change - Carefully & Prayerfully

This parish, and the whole Len Valley Benefice, is facing another period of change. With my retirement at the end of April there will be an Inter-regnum or Clergy Vacancy; it may be some months before a successor is appointed. The question is: *'how best to manage this period?'* Responsibility for managing parish affairs during a Vacancy rests on the Church Wardens and this is an onerous task. Over the years, there have been other such Vacancy periods and each has been well-managed. Starting with the last Vacancy, however, a new system has been in place allowing everyone to cope with it even better. I refer to the existence of a group of people called the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT).

In 1999, when I was first appointed to Harrietsham & Ulcombe, and again, in 2000, when I was appointed to Boughton Malherbe & Lenham, I found to my delight that there was a group of people, the MLT, who - in concert with the Wardens - had been managing things with and since my predecessor. In essence a MLT consists of volunteers, affirmed by the Church Wardens & Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) and commissioned by the Archdeacon. All this had taken place before I arrived and I have worked with this team ever since.

There have, of course, been some changes, notably with the creation of the larger, 4-parish benefice in autumn 2000. Shortly after that took place, the separate MLTs of the neighbouring pairs of parishes were combined to form a single team. Since that change was implemented, the team has consisted of representatives of all four parishes: two each from Boughton Malherbe and Ulcombe, and three each from Harrietsham and Lenham.

Throughout my tenure, the MLT has met with me on a monthly basis and acted as a prayerful support for our shared ministry across the benefice and as a 'visioning' group for new developments. The team is answerable to the Wardens and PCCs. During the forthcoming Vacancy, this team - probably with some more co-opted members - should be able to provide continuity and take on a great deal of the co-ordination of ministry for all four parishes.

How ever effective the MLT may or not be, they are dependent upon team-working across the whole benefice. The Wardens, PCCs and MLT are just some of the wider team of people doing the Lord's work in this place. We all need each other, so I ask for your careful and prayerful support for the continuity of ministry in all its aspects.

Here are a couple of 'spelling' 'slogans which I really like about teamwork:

TEAM = **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore
&
There's no "I" in **TEAM!**

Leaving my present post is one of the hardest things I have ever done, but I know I leave you in good heart and in good hands.

*Thank you for the love and support you have given me,
and may God continue to pour out His blessings upon you,
Don Irvine*

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services - May 2007

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 06 May 07 5 th of Easter	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 U	BCP HC CW 1 Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc Taize
Sun 13 May 07 6 th of Easter	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc CW 1
Sun 20 May 07 7 th of Easter	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 BCP EP
Sun 27 May 07 Pentecost Whit Sunday	08.00 L 10.30 BM 18.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 - all benefice service at Boughton Malherbe 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)
MS = Morning Service (not Communion)
CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One)
H = Holy Communion
Informal = Informal! (not communion)

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

If you would like to advertise in Malherbe Monthly and reach the whole of Boughton Malherbe, Grafty Green, Liverton Street, Platts Heath.

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1/8 page	£3.00
1/4	£5.00
1/2	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

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