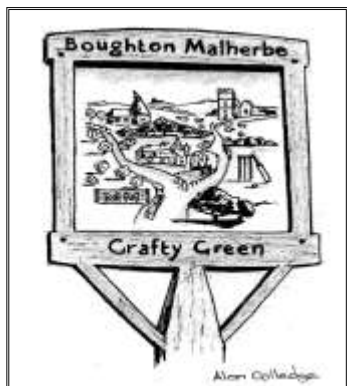


Malherbe Monthly

Number 108

July 2013



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	850711
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
Other Village Hall issues	Carol Hulm email carolhulm@btinternet.com	853583
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: dickvenn@gmail.co.uk	858195
Curate	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: mille.hart@uwclub.net	859753
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Office opening times as 9am – 12noon Monday - Thursday	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.40pm	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Weekend Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **August** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th July**

Front cover: 'Alan' - The missing Aylesbury Duck - See article for full story

News from St. Nicholas Church

Cream Teas: Our season of Cream Teas will begin on Sunday 7th July at St. Nicholas Church between 2.00pm and 5.00pm.

We look forward to welcoming you on what we hope will be a sunny and warm afternoon spent in the peaceful surrounding of the Churchyard, but if wet inside the Church. Do come along and enjoy a Cream Tea with freshly made scones, homemade jam and fresh whipped cream all washed down with a cup of tea or coffee, at a very reasonable price. Views of the Weald from near the Church are amazing and on a clear day the promontory that is Beachy Head at Eastbourne can be seen in the far distance.

Sylvia and her team look forward to greeting new friends and faithful supporters of our teas. This will be your chance to see improvements that have been made with the installation of a new toilet, a kitchen in the Tower area of the Church and the removal of four pews, which has given us more room at the front of the Nave and by the Font. We were lucky enough to receive a bequest recently that has helped with the cost of the improvements, for which we are extremely grateful.

Morning Prayers will be said in All Saints Ulcombe on 7th and 21st July at 9.30am and at St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe on 14th and 28th July. All are welcome to come along to this gathering. The duration is about 30minutes.

Village Coffee Morning: On 15th July a Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall, where scones and cake will be served with tea or coffee. We do not charge for this but you are encouraged to leave a donation. Donations for last year have been sent to Kisumu Charity in Kenya.

Jam Jars: Thank you very much to all those who gave jam jars to Joan for the cream teas jam marathon which must start this week. I have enough for the moment, but please still keep collecting them. Please collect just 1lb and 12oz Jars - many thanks.

PCC Meeting: St. Nicholas PCC will meet in the Church on 9th July at 7.30pm

Joan Davidson

Plea for a lost Duck

I rescued an Aylesbury duck 2 years ago and he has suddenly disappeared. He can't fly so he might have wandered somewhere. If anyone sees a 2ft white duck anywhere in the village his name is 'Alan' (which he will respond to as he recognises that as meaning food!) and he lives at Barnside. Any news gratefully received!

Jacqui Thompson (jacquit76@hotmail.co.uk)

**Ken and Eve Sweet
extend a warm welcome to**

The Kings Head Grafty Green

**A
16th Century
Coaching Inn
haunted by
"Dover Bill" -
the Highwayman!**



Traditional Sunday Lunches

**Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers**

***Booking Advisable
01622 850259***

Children's Room Beer Garden

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Contact Details

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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GRAFTY GREEN SILLY OLYMPICS

DECATHLON

Family Fun Day

Teams of 4 - Entry £10 per Team

Spectators - Free



**Contact Carol with your team details on: 01622 853 583
or email carolhulm@gmail.com**

* ALL PROCEEDS TO GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 31. August

**From 4PM
The Cricket Field**

**Then join us at;
The Kings Head from 6:30pm
For a BBQ, Awards Ceremony & Disco**

“PS We still need people to help run the event on the day – if you could help, please contact Carol”

Grafty Green Gardening Club - 2013 Programme

Date	Event/Speaker	Subject
January 8th	AGM – Adrian Hutchinson	Alpine plants
February 5th	Steve Harmer	History of gardening
March 5th	Rob Masters	Adventures on the allotment!
April 2nd	Spring show and George Pearson	Madagascar
May 7th	Old Farm Otterden, Near Faversham	Outing
May 10th – 13th	Weekend away Malvern Spring Show	
June 2nd (Sunday)	Old Bladbean Stud, Near Elham, Canterbury	Outing
July 2nd	Michael and Gill Bushell, Garden House, Surrenden	Outing
August		Outing
Sept 2nd	Autumn Show Peter Kirby	My lost Kent
Oct 1st	Produce, jams chutney evening	Bring and Buy/swapping
Nov 5th	Sue Marshall	Love affair with Irises
Dec 3rd	Social and quiz	

The next garden club event will be to the 2 acre walled garden at the Garden House, Swan Lane, Surrenden. Members are advised that a Satnav will not be helpful in finding the garden. For information about this event or the Gardening Club telephone Rosemary Smith (01622) 850526 or Sue Burch on (01622) 850381.

For information about any of our events please call Sue Burch on 850381 or Rosemary Smith 850526 or Carole Frost 757536 for information on the weekend away trip.

Who'd A Thought It

- 26th July: James Bond Casino Evening. 7:30, Champagne, Casino tables, Rat-Pack music. Black tie.
- 15th Sept: 40th Anniversary of the Who'd A Thought It. Celebrations as we head back to 1973. Dress in 70's attire and disco! Activities hoping to raise money for Help The Heroes.

Kings Head

- 14th July: Sunday Lunch - Please phone 850259 to book your table

News from Ulcombe Village School

Some time ago it seems, I sat down to write this article thinking it would only take me a few minutes this month. Then I listed all the things that needed to go in it and I realized how much there is to report for June and to look forward to in July. I only hope I can get it all down before the newsletter goes to print!

What You Might Not Know...

As well as the things which are seen by all, plenty goes on behind the scenes that is sometimes known about, but rarely observed. At the start of June those of us that use the office computers were delighted with the hardware which replaced our previous, often frustratingly slow, IT equipment.

Also behind the scenes we continue to try to work with parents whose children have poor levels of attendance. Mrs Hargrave, since returning from maternity leave in May, has taken this on as Senior Teacher and has already started meeting with parents to find ways forward and ensure children make the best progress that they can. We look forward to witnessing improved achievement for children.

Mrs Wills is both sad and excited to have been given the opportunity to move on from Ulcombe and work in a large Infant school from September. We know that it will be difficult to replace her, as her enthusiasm and energy are infectious to both staff and children. I know they will all have plenty to say at the Leavers' Service on the last day of term, with plenty of funny and embarrassing moments to recall I am sure. We have almost completed the appointment process for her replacement, with final checks to be undertaken before we can announce who is joining our team for the new school year.

One of the pieces of work Mrs Wills has just completed with the children in Year 1 and some of Year 2 is the Phonics Screening Check that you may have heard about in the media. This requires children to use their knowledge of sounds to read unknown or unreal words. An awful lot of time is spent on such tests, and we will be sharing outcomes with parents at our forthcoming Parent-Teacher Consultation evening.

This is the time of year when parents of children in Year 5 have to decide if they want their child to take the 11+ exam. If you are a parent of a child in Year 5 and you want to know more please feel free to contact the school, or visit www.kent.gov.uk.

What You Might Have Seen...

The children have been involved in a wide variety of activities during June. Our Film Club has continued with several children enjoying the opportunity to watch films including Peter Pan, Prince Caspian and Meet the Robinsons as we use the club to broaden their exposure to different story ideas and characters.

On Monday 10th June Tawny Owls class made their way to Mote Cricket Club in Maidstone for the annual Asda Kwik Cricket Festival. The children had an enjoyable afternoon, taking part against three larger primary schools in the group stage. On the following morning Year 6 attended the annual Safety In Action competition at Maidstone Barracks. The children did very well, scoring full marks in some of the scenarios, which were set up to encourage them to think about their personal safety. In the same week the whole school walked through the village taking part in a World Record attempt to have the largest ever Walking Bus. We will have to wait some time for the attempt to be verified, but we hope we will hear good news about it

later this year. Lastly for that particular week we had a meeting for parents and children about next year's Residential Adventure. We will be heading off to the Isle of Wight again in 2014 and we will be joined by our friends from Platts Heath and John Mayne CE Primary Schools.

It was wonderful to be joined by so many family and friends for our final Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner for this school year. As it was just after Fathers' Day, Owlets told us why they love their dads, Barn Owls told us why their dads are super-heroes and Tawny Owls presented sketches to show what their dads are like when things are not going smoothly. At the end of that week Kent Fire And Rescue Service came in and spoke to each of the classes about fire safety, particularly in the home.

Our Sports Day and Summer Fayre took place on Saturday 22nd June. Whilst the sunshine made only brief appearances, many parents, family and friends from the village came along to support this event. We do not know how successful it was in terms of fundraising, but we know everyone who came had an enjoyable time. At the time of writing we are getting ready to go on a whole school trip to Groombridge Place before the end of the month. We hope the weather will be kind as we explore the formal gardens, meet the animals and birds of prey and find our way around the Enchanted Forest. The month will end, in terms of school activities, with the KCC/Hornby Model Railway Competition District Judging. The winning school will represent Maidstone at the County Final.

What You Might Yet See...

July will continue to see us keeping busy. We will have visits to the school from our New Entrants. Our guitar teacher will be leading an assembly so that all of the children who have been learning with him can show off their talents. Our Summer Production takes place in the second half of July, when we hope to stage The Wizard of Oz! All of our friends and neighbours are welcome to join us – please contact the School Office if you would like tickets. FUS will be hosting our end of year disco, before the Leavers' Barbecue on the last Friday of term. Everyone connected with the school, including family, friends and neighbours, is welcome to the Leavers' Service on Tuesday 23rd July at 9.15am, at All Saints Parish Church, when we will be celebrating the achievements and contributions to our school of all of the children in Year 6, and, of course, Mrs Wills.

And Finally ... A Library Update

We are delighted to be able to inform you that our extension project is still moving forward. The latest news is that the Diocese of Canterbury, who own some of the school site, and UK Power Networks are finalizing arrangements for building a new sub-station in the far north-western corner of the school site. This will mean that the current sub-station can be dismantled and KCC can complete the sale of our old adventure trail. I look forward to being able to tell you more as soon as it happens!

As ever, if you have any questions, or if you would like to offer your time to help in some way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us in school. We hope to see you at one of the forthcoming events.

Best wishes,

Mr V Hampton, *Head Teacher.*

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Charles, Actor who played Dave Lister in Red Dwarf
2	Sporty _____, Nickname of Melanie Chisholm
3	_____ Le Bon, Lead singer with Duran Duran
4	Tom _____, Voice of Woody in Toy Story
5	_____ Lane, A Beatles favourite
6	Deeply _____, UK No 1 single for Right Said Fred
7	_____ Ronay, Late author of Restaurant Guides
8	Claude _____, French impressionist famous for paint Water Lilies
9	Sir _____ Jagger, Vocalist in The Rolling Stones
10	_____ Roberts, Pretty Woman star

LVBA networking: The more the merrier!

Every month, in a venue near you, the Lenham Valley Business Association meets on the first Tuesday to network. Attendees register their interest by responding to an email or by registering online or on the phone (01622 820841). They arrive at 5.45pm for a 6pm start and a brief update from organiser and presenter Alan Reading. Then there is a speaker for 20 minutes or so followed by a quick announcement of who's who and an hours networking. It's all over by 8pm. It is all painless and very beneficial. Better still, it is all still just £65 per year for a sole trader (that's 5 entries on the website and in the directory, entries on opportunities, offers, vacancies and even articles for sale - all for nothing extra! (If that doesn't have you wondering why you are not part of it by now - nothing will).

On Tuesday 2 July, at the Dog and Bear, Emily Chapman from Loud Monkey will complete her trilogy on Social Media with a presentation on LinkedIn. On Tuesday 6 August at The Harrow Inn, a new speaker for LVBA, David DiCara will present "How to lose business without really trying". The September meeting is on Tuesday 3 at The Holiday Inn in Hothfield. In October it is on Tuesday 1 at the White Horse. On 12 October (not the first Tuesday), Steve Goulette the Business Champion from MBC is returning to keep us updated. On 3 December SMBA come to 'us' for a combined meeting at Chilston Park Hotel. SMBA have even more new members than LVBA recently. Keep up with what is going on by visiting our website - www.lenhambusiness.co.uk. A full page of benefits will tell you why you should join if you are not already a member. The networking page will tell you where and when the meetings are and is packed with photos. See our Facebook and group pages (on Facebook) for more.

Alan Reading, Chairman Lenham Valley Business Association

Grafty Geek - About Virtual Drives

The arrival of Windows 8 has introduced people to the world of virtual drives. Virtual Drives have been around for some time, but not many people have been using them. Some people have been using them, but did not know how they worked or that they were known as Virtual Drives eg: Flickr for photos.

What is a Virtual Drive?

Computer storage area (Drive) that you can access from any device (Mobile Phone, Tablet, Computer), anywhere you can get access to the internet using the Cloud.



Why use a Virtual Drive?

1. You can store any documents, pictures or videos in the Drive just as you can on your computer and they can be shared with other people if desired.
2. Documents stored in virtual drives will not be lost if your computer fails.
3. If you travel a lot and just want to get access to your documents using a Virtual Drives means that you do not need to carry heavy laptops or use USB sticks.

Where do you get a Virtual Drive?

There are many different providers of Virtual Drives eg: Google, SkyDrive, BT Cloud and Dropbox. All offer different storage capacity and all have their own plusses and minuses. The best thing to do is consider why you need the drive, what you use already for email and, if you want to share your documents, what the other people are using, as they will need to sign-up for the same provider. You will also need to consider the type and size of documents you want to store to make sure you get enough storage space for free. All providers do offer more space at a cost, but there is a lot of space available for free.



How do you use a Virtual Drive?

Once you have signed up for a Virtual Drive, which is accessible only by you logging in with a username and password, you can simply upload your documents. The documents will then be available to you via the internet from whatever device you are using and from wherever you are accessing the internet. You can then share your documents with others if you wish, when you select share you will be asked to add the email address of who you wish to share with, they will be sent an email with a link to the document you have shared. Remember they will also need to sign-up for the same provider. Only documents you share will be seen by other people.



Note: There are other benefits of using Virtual Drives, for example: you can set up your computer to have a quick link to the Drive to make things quicker, but you need to be careful about making sure you keep a track of the latest version of the document as it doesn't always save in the way you think, and in some cases, you may have to re-share the document once it has been changed. More on this next month!

Yoga Classes Grafty Green Village Hall

Do you feel that you are being stretched in too many different directions? The family need you, your colleagues at work need you; your friends need you, the chores around the home are mounting up and you end up feeling frayed at the edges. When you experience a yoga practice you begin to experience the rejuvenation effect, shedding the stress and gaining energy and you are then able, somehow, to do more! This all happens in Grafty Green Village Hall.

If you would like to try a practice I am happy for you to dip in, maybe occasionally when the need arises (recharge the batteries); I am flexible in more ways than just physically!

Classes are on *Wednesday evening* 7 - 8.30 pm 5th June – 24th July and on *Thursday morning* 9.30 – 11 am 6th June – 25th July

If you have an inclination to experience just meditation sessions I am happy to take appointments – Sue Burch 850381. For further details, other classes and events see my web www.yogawithsusan.co.uk

Sue Burch, (British Wheel of Yoga Teacher – 26 years' experience) contact 850381, grafftyyoga@gmail.com.



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New planning rules are coming! Will they mean:

Chaotic house-building? Rampant development?

Little boxes on every hillside? Wind turbines everywhere?

Does it make you angry? Then join us now!

secretary@wkps.org.uk OR www.wkps.org.uk

What Does WKPS Do and How Does It Work?

WKPS is concerned with the welfare of the Weald as a whole. One of the activities which contributes to this goal is the detailed examination of planning applications that are made to the 3 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) that cover the area, Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells borough councils.

Every village/town in WKPS area is the immediate responsibility of a Planning Scrutineer. Typically he/she has responsibility for about 3 of them, normally though not invariably excluding his own. Each week they study the latest applications for their respective towns and villages. A minority appear to warrant WKPS response: Objection (3%), Comment (5%), or Support (2%). They draft the response for the Planning Secretary, who edits to be stylistically consistent for LPAs and emails it to the relevant LPA. If there is a difference of view, the Planning Secretary will contact the relevant scrutineer; if they still disagree, the matter is referred to the chairman of the Planning Committee for a final decision.

The system has worked well. Anyone volunteering to Prospective scrutineers is interviewed promptly; generally, only thoughtful people welcome the job, so the quality is high. Our reputation for comments is pretty solid with all 3 LPAs.

Scrutineers should, and generally do, keep in good touch with WKPS' network of village contacts, and they are not blind to Parish Council comments. For the past year or two, the very low numbers of substantive planning applications have resulted in low numbers of Scrutineer responses.

Generally, the Planning Committee discusses individual cases (getting consistency of approach and keeping up to date), rather than WKPS response to wider issues and to LPA and central government initiatives and consultations. The latter are primarily the remit of the Policy Committee. Although WKPS responses to such initiatives and consultations comes from Policy Committee, though they are usually drafted by the Planning Committee's 2 representatives on it. Responses to central government are rarely heeded (though we certainly wrote long and hard on NPPF), but those to the 3 LPAs and Kent County Council are much more likely to receive reasonable attention. It is the developing local Plans which cause the bulk of the Policy Committee's work.

For more details of WKPS and its work, please contact **Society Secretary, WKPS:**
Email : secretary@wkps.org.uk

Parish Calendar 2014

Now that summer has at last arrived there are plenty of photo opportunities for pictures for our 2014 calendar. I've already received some lovely ones, - but more will be needed!

People, pets, places, views, flora and fauna - whatever you like, please send to me at christine-king@hotmail.co.uk or leave in my mail box: Gowell Cottage, Boughton Malherbe.

Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME - JOIN US

gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available
further information - Chris Wheal 01622 858100

Platts Heath Mini-Beer
 Festival
 Saturday 20th July, 7.30
 Featuring Beers From Whitstable
 Brewery
 (Brewed In Grafty Green)
 Tickets £5 In Advance
 Phone Kate On 07500895851
 Or Karen 858208
 St Edmunds Hall, School Lane,
 Platts Heath.

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Going	Parts	Room	Spare
2	Civil	Cold	Fare	
3	Cold	Glands	Shop	
4	Age	Hat	Maid	
5	Close	Free	Rifle	
6	Air	Feed	Magnetic	
7	Card	Draw	Points	
8	Drip	Ice	Sherry	
9	Alarm	Start	Teeth	
10	Act	National	Woven	
11	Digital	Ham	Mast	
12	Colour	Kick	Rip	
13	Conference	Stud	Trouser	
14	Beans	Belt	Putting	
15	Extreme	Motor	Racket	
16	Car	Cattle	Common	

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CHIMINEAS
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FISH
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Sutton Valence Choral Society's Summer Concert

Saturday 6th July at 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School

Sutton Valence Choral Society's summer concerts are traditionally fun events with a mix of sacred and secular choral favourites. The society's other major concerts of the year attract professional soloists and a professional orchestra, but the summer concerts still retain the high standards that people now expect from this strong well-disciplined chorus of eighty plus.

This year, the sacred section includes Lift thine eyes from Mendelssohn's Elijah, Bruckner's Locus iste, Rutter's The Lord bless you and keep you and Bach's Jesu, joy of man's desiring. Popular favourites in the second half include English folk songs Early one morning, The oak and the ash, and a lovely arrangement by our own accompanist, Martyn Williams, of Greensleeves.

You can buy tickets @ £10 to include a glass of wine, for this concert on Saturday 6th July at 7.30pm from Music Matters in Week Street, Maidstone, from any member, by ringing 01233 840540 or via the website www.suttonvalencechoral.co.uk The concert starts in Sutton Valence School Chapel, then later moves to the School's Refectory for wine and further song.

LITTER PICK DAY

Saturday 6th July

Please come and help
pick up litter around
Grafty Green.

Meeting on the Green
at 10am

Grafty Gourmet

This is a fantastic yet simple recipe for barbequed chicken. Served with fresh pineapple and bacon salsa it is refreshing with a hint of smokiness from the bacon.

BBQ Chicken with Pineapple & Bacon Salsa: Serves 4

4 skinless chicken breasts
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 cups of your favourite barbecue sauce
Olive oil, for brushing the BBQ grill

For the Pineapple Bacon Salsa:
2 cups diced fresh pineapple
4 strips cooked smoked bacon, chopped
1/2 cup chopped Coriander
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
1 tablespoon finely chopped jalapeno pepper
1 clove garlic, minced
Juice of 1 large lime
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Season the chicken breasts with salt and pepper. Place the chicken breasts in a large freezer bag. Add the barbecue sauce and mix until breasts are covered. Let the chicken marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour.
2. Make the Pineapple Bacon Salsa in a medium sized bowl. Combine pineapple, bacon, coriander, red onion, jalapeno, garlic, and lime juice. Stir until well combined. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.
3. When the chicken has marinated, brush the grill on the BBQ at medium-high heat with olive oil. Remove the chicken breasts from the bag and place on the grill. Discard the leftover barbecue sauce and the bag.
4. Barbeque the chicken until cooked through, about 5 minutes per side. Remove from grill and serve warm with the Pineapple Bacon Salsa

Broadband Update

The Malherbe Monthly understands that soon an agreement with Internet Service provider VFast will result in infrastructure being installed in Boughton Malherbe which will facilitate fast internet connections. This has already happened in Ulcombe with reports of very high speeds attained (in excess of 20mb per sec). More will be announced as soon as possible. Contrary to some reports the infrastructure will be installed regardless of any committed uptake from residents.

The July Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Gemini for the whole of July. There is more about the **Sun** at the end of this article.

New Moon occurs on Monday 8th July. **Full Moon** is on Monday 22nd July when in the constellation of Sagittarius.

Mercury rises with the **Sun** in the constellation of Gemini, so again we will not be able to see it in the twilight.

Venus also rises in the northeast just after sunrise in Cancer, and sets in the late evening with the **Moon**, and towards the end of the month moves into Leo. So again will not be visible this month.

Mars & Jupiter both rise in the northeast just after sunrise in Gemini, so again this month will not be visible.

Saturn is rising in the southeast in the late afternoon, near the constellations of Virgo, and is low in the southern sky before setting in the early hours in the west. Through a telescope you should be able to see the famous rings together with many of its moons.

The famous **Perseid Meteor Shower** returns at the end of this month. The meteors appear to radiate from the constellation of Perseus, which is rising in the north-east in the evening, and is high in the east at dawn. The meteors are expected to peak next month. I will give you more information in my next article.

I have recently read that NASA has launched a new telescope to solve a particular sun heat mystery. NASA's Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph, known as "IRIS", is a high resolution telescope, which will be placed in orbit 660 kilometres above the Earth. It is hoped to carry out a more detailed study of the **Sun's** chromosphere, a region between the **Sun's** surface and the corona, the plasma layer that envelopes it. The aim is to help explain why the temperature of the corona at 1 million Kelvin is so much hotter than the surface at 6000 Kelvin.

John Maunder



He

Photographing Ancient Trees and Sandy Cliffs

Sunday 21st July 2013 2 - 5pm

Free Photography Event

in Bull Heath,

with professional photographer

Surrounded by dramatic cliffs, carpeted with lichen, with sand martins swooping overhead, Bull Heath is a special place. At Chilston see some truly veteran trees including monstrous oaks and towering pines.

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Telephone: 0300 333 6490

Email: info@wildsites.org

<http://www.wildsites.org/activity/ancient-trees-sandy-cliffs/>

Location: Bull Heath, Bull Hill Road, Lenham



Ulcombe Pre-School

The children have been making the most of the better weather, spending lots of time in the garden doing obstacle courses and eagerly awaiting the ripening of the strawberries they have been growing. We have lots of exciting things planned for the summer term, including a sponsored obstacle course on Tuesday 25th June and a trip to Kent life in early July.

Changes to the committee

We would like to thank Melissa who after 3 years of being Chairman of the pre-school committee has decided to step down. She has worked very hard to keep the pre-school moving forward and we are all grateful for her time and commitment. Also stepping down as Secretary and Treasurer are Beth and Michelle, and we would like to thank them for their hard work. From the start of the new school year in September we will welcome our new Chairman, Helen Leat, who will be supported by Shelley (Secretary) and Emily (Treasurer).

Spaces at the Pre-School

We currently have spaces available for children over the age of 2. If your child is already 3 then pre-school is free and there is some funding available for 2 year olds. (Conditions apply please contact us on committeeups@hotmail.com or Corinne Giles on 07940225341 for more details)

Toddler Morning

There is a toddler morning every Tuesday 9.30am- 11.30am held at the Pre-School in Ulcombe Village Hall. Please bring along your little one for a play and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat yourself. We hope to see you soon!

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We will also ask you to pay the price of £10 prior to your session, by cheque or pop into the Telecottage any Saturday morning where bookings can also be made.

The list below is not exhaustive, but gives you an idea of what can be covered

Getting Started	Digital Photography	Family History
Word Processing	Managing Documents	Getting Photos to PC
Edit Photographs	Email Photographs	Produce a Calendar
Produce a Newsletter	Using the Internet	Facebook/Twitter/Skype
Excel	PowerPoint	Paint Shop Pro

We are still running our Saturday morning clinics every week between 10am and 12noon – call in for a coffee and a chat – we would love to see you!

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Christian message July 2013

During the past few days, at the time of writing, I have been asked to visit several families who are living with differing difficult situations. It seems that anyone of us can be living our lives quite smoothly one day, then suddenly we can be plunged into crisis. There must be times when all of us are fearful of what might be happening.

How many of us are scared of the dark? Probably few of us, as adults, are afraid in the sense we once were, as children. But there is still something about darkness that makes us associate it with the sinister, the evil, and the unknown. Only last week I heard a visiting preacher say how he was fearful of walking through Maidstone alone, in the dark! He felt it intimidating.

It is not surprising then, that if there is one thing we associate with God, and one symbol used for him more than any other, it is light. 'The Lord is my light and my salvation', says Psalm 27, 'of whom shall I be afraid? And yet, while this is true, as far as we are concerned, it is not the complete picture. There are times when life seems bleak, grim and forbidding, when even God seems far away and we might cry out in despair. What do we understand of moments like these? Where is God we might be asking. Has the God of light no place in these situations? Must we face them alone? Certainly not if the words of the gospels concerning the death of Christ are to be believed. In the gospels we read of how darkness descended on the land as Jesus hung on the cross. It seemed, even to Jesus who called out, 'My God, why have you forsaken me?', as though God wasn't present ... but, the reality, of course, was different.

It was here that God was supremely and astonishingly at work, offering himself for the life of the world. Though darkness seemed to have overtaken the world, the reality was that the light of God's love was shining brighter than ever, and nothing would be able to overcome it. There are times when, for us all, Christian and any other, life seems dark and God seems far away, but I encourage you to never feel that God has abandoned you, because it is sometimes in those darkest moments that he carries you most of all. Maybe this prayer will help:

God of light, be with me in my darkness, until night passes and your light breaks through. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

'If I say, 'Surely darkness will come upon me, and daylight become as night', even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is as bright as day, for darkness is as light to you.' Psalm 139: 11-12

Reverend Millie Hart

Music Notes, July 2013

The key local musical event of the month has to be the Leeds Castle concert on 13th July, but there is plenty more going on. As well as the selection below, don't forget the free lunchtime concerts in Maidstone have started again - Wednesdays at the United reformed Church in Week St., and Thursdays in All Saints' Church.

- Saturday 6th July, 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Choral Society present "Light Music for a Summer's Evening". Tickets include complimentary drinks - Tel:01233 840540.
- Sunday 7th July, 7.30pm at All Saints' Church Maidstone, The Maidstone Singers' programme includes Dvorak's *Mass in D*. Tickets by email at: tickets@themaidsingers.org.uk or at the door.
- Saturday 13th July is the date for The Leeds Castle Classical concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Military Wives as guest artists. Bring your picnic! Event starts at 4.00pm. Book at the Castle or on the web at www.heritage-events.co.uk
- Saturday 20th July, 7.30pm at Holy Cross church Bearsted, Bearsted Choral Society offer a "Summer Concert of light music" which includes choral arrangements of 8 popular classic swing items. Tickets 01634 666730.

The "Proms" start on July 12th and conclude on 7th September. Dr. Who fans won't want to miss the " Dr. Who Prom" on 13th July at 7.30pm, (broadcast live on radio3) or , for younger fans, its repeat performance on 14th July at 10.30am (but not on the radio). The other special prom in July is the performance on 21st July (prom 14) of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* by the orchestra Les Siècles, as a celebration of 100 years since its first performance. It will be on TV BBC4.

Brian Hardy

July Informal Service

Come along to our next Informal on July 28th. We will continue studying the Lord's Prayer. This month Joan Drury will lead us in considering 'and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.' There will be an informal Communion service.

The service will be in St John the Baptist's church Harrietsham at 6.30pm. Please bring your families and friends and join us for praise and worship. There will be refreshments. If you would like a lift please telephone 01622 859442. All welcome!

Pamela Cuerden



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The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – July 2013

7th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

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

14th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

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

21st July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

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

28th July – 9th Sunday after Trinity

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

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to 14th September 2013.

Grafty Green

Saturday 24th August 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 24th August 14:30 – 15:10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 31st August 09:25 - 09:55 -: Lodge Gardens

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Going	Parts	Room	Spare
2	Civil	Cold	Fare	War
3	Cold	Glands	Shop	Sweat
4	Age	Hat	Maid	Old
5	Close	Free	Rifle	Range
6	Air	Feed	Magnetic	Force
7	Card	Draw	Points	Score
8	Drip	Ice	Sherry	Dry
9	Alarm	Start	Teeth	False
10	Act	National	Woven	Inter
11	Digital	Ham	Meat	Radio
12	Colour	Kick	Rip	Off
13	Conference	Stud	Trouser	Press
14	Beans	Belt	Putting	Green
15	Extreme	Motor	Racket	Sport
16	Car	Cattle	Common	Thief

	Find the missing word?
1	Craig Charles, Actor who played Dave Lister in Red Dwarf
2	Sporty Spice, Nickname of Melanie Chisholm
3	Simon Le Bon, Lead singer with Duran Duran
4	Tom Hanks, Voice of Woody in Toy Story
5	Penny Lane, A Beatles favourite
6	Deeply Dippy, UK No 1 single for Right Said Fred
7	Egon Ronay, Late author of Restaurant Guides
8	Claude Monet, French impressionist famous for paint Water Lilies
9	Sir Mick Jagger, Vocalist in The Rolling Stones
10	Julia Roberts, Pretty Woman star



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