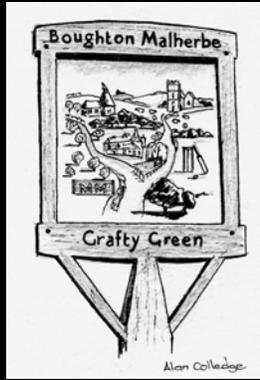


Malherbe Monthly

Free



Number 33

April 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 May edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th April

Front cover: Ellie Naismith and her friends cleaning up litter in Platts Heath

News from St. Nicholas Church

Firstly, may I wish all our readers a very Happy Easter.

Church Flowers

We will be using lilies in our Easter arrangements. If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of these, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please get in touch with Joan on 850210. Thank you.

Lent Lunches

Our last Lent Lunch will be on 4th April at Sylvia Evans' home Liverton House, Liverton Hill 12.00-2.00 p.m. Entrance by donation. This is the last chance for us to support Christian Aid this year in Boughton Malherbe Parish.

Don Irvine's Farewell

At the end of the month on April 29th Don will take his last Service as our Parish/Benefice Priest. It will be a very sad day as he has worked hard to bring the four Parishes of Boughton Malherbe, Harrietsham, Lenham and Ulcombe together to work as a Benefice. We are all so different, but we have tried hard and the result is that we now know people in the three other Parishes and are able to look forward to the Interregnum with the support of the other Benefice members.

On the 28th April a Farewell Party is being held in Harrietsham's new School Hall, which will give us a chance to see the new hall. Unfortunately, we will be unable to see the rest of the building.

A collection for a leaving present for Don is being made and donations should be sent to Sue Perkins at Wellesley House, Runham Lane, Harrietsham and cheques made out to Sue Perkins. She will then purchase a suitable gift for Don. If you have not given a donation and would like to, don't delay - send your donation off immediately you read this reminder.

A Farewell Wish

Don, we at Boughton wish you well in your new post - House for Duty in Swalecliffe. We shall miss you and thank you for all the encouragement you have given us in our Outreach opportunities. Don't forget to come back when you can for a Cream Tea this summer - Swalecliffe is not a million miles away. Good Luck and God Bless you. We will keep you in our Prayers.

Joan Davidson

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

Children's Party and Games from 4pm

BBQ Raffle Tombola
Morris Dancers

Live Music from 7.45pm to 11.45pm

Drink and Dance the night away

Litter collection in Platts Heath

The picture on the front cover is that of Ellie Naismith and her friends from Platts Heath who gave up their Sunday afternoon to collect litter and rubbish from around the roads and lanes in the village. They picked up three wheelie bins of assorted rubbish from verges ditches and hedgerows, litter mainly discarded from passing vehicles. It is good to see the youngsters of our village taking a pride in the area where they live

Micky Bowes. (Resident of Platts Heath)

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Our April meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 6th March at 7-30 pm when Chris Wade will talk to us about 'Saxon Shore way'. All welcome – further details from Rosemary Smith 850526 or Sue Burch 850381.

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. Details to be finalised	
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 GREEN GARDENING
CLUB
SPRING NEWS 2007***

Welcome to all the new members who have joined this year – we hope that you will enjoy the events that have been planned for 2007.

As you know, the club's finances are very healthy and although we have made donations to The Woodland Trust and Heath Country Side Corridor we still have funds to buy more planters for the village; have you a piece of verge near your property that a planter (or spring bulbs) can be sited and would you be willing to water the plants during the drier times of the year? If yes, please talk to Rosemary or myself.

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.

The Grafty Gadabouts!

An informal group of villagers who aim to organise occasional outings to all sorts of events

This time we have two varying events for your consideration, horseracing and the local theatre – we had three but the Art one at Boughton Monchelsea on 25th March is past the print date of this magazine.

April 7th - Easter Saturday

Charing Races - Point-to-Point racing starting at 2.00, preceded by two pony races starting at 12.45. Licensed bar, Bookmakers, Children's Amusements, Trade Stands.

Entry is charged at £20 per car, however many people you can fit in! (£30 at the top of the hill, where some think it's a better view)

The advice is to get there by 1130, as the queue to get in after that is not good. Take a picnic (and a brolly?) The action starts at 12.15 with the Pony Parade when you can spot the form.

So, if you fancy a flutter, or just a good laugh, get in touch. Let us know who has transport, so that we can organise into carloads, then each car can decide its own arrangements.

April 20th - An evening at The Hazlitt Theatre, Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward.

A classic comedy performed by the Willington Players, of which Richard Pilborough is a member. He takes the lead role as the smug and supercilious Charles Condomine, brought down to earth by the visitation of his dead wife Elvira. What better entertainment could you ask for?

We have chosen the Friday night as the play is entered in the Kent Drama Festival 2007, and this is the performance at which the adjudicator will be present in the audience. He goes on stage after the performance to tell the audience what he thinks, as well as speaking to the company later. It can be very interesting, and sometimes amusing, but adjudicators vary. For those wishing to hear the adjudication it will add about 20 mins to the evening. The play starts at 7.30 and lasts about 2hrs 15mins.

Tickets are £8.50 (17.50 for concessions).

We need to know definite numbers, and have payment for the tickets by April 10th so that the booking can be made. Any cheques to be made out to Sandra Pilborough.

For any of these events please let Sandra on 850484, Carole Frost on 850221 or Sylvia Galton on 850369 know as soon as you've made a decision so that we can get an idea of what numbers we're dealing with, and get transport organised.

Hope you fancy at least one of these?
Speak to you soon.

Sylvia, Carole and Sandra

Grafty Garden Cuttings - April

A few notes for those new to gardening and growing:

1. Don't be afraid to give it a go, it's not that difficult.
2. When buying packets of seeds, look for those that indicate 'easy'. There is nothing more depressing than buying expensive seeds that do not germinate because they are difficult, or need special conditions and lots of experience. Leave those until later.
3. Follow the instructions on the packet!
4. Always use clean equipment, pots, trays, tools etc.
5. Always use new compost. Compost in bags goes stale quite rapidly, so anything from last season, especially for germinating seeds is not a good idea. Either mix it with new, for potting-on, when plants are more tolerant, or dig it into the garden.
6. Use the correct compost for the job and type of plants: Seed sowing for just that, ericaceous for lime hating plants, general purpose for most other jobs and so on.
7. Seeds require few nutrients to germinate, so I use general purpose compost, weakened down with fine vermiculite, roughly 3 parts compost to 1 part vermiculite. For potting up, I add a scoop of sharp sand to about 6 scoops of compost, which helps retain moisture while aiding drainage and if a pot should dry right out, makes it easier to re-moisten.
8. Do not sow too thickly: seedlings will rush up to the light and if thickly packed, become leggy very quickly. Better to use half the seeds, or sow into more containers. I find the most economical way is to use 5" half pots or 12 cell trays for most of my seeds, which means I use less seeds and make a packet last more than 1 year, although some should only be used very fresh i.e. parsnip as one good example. Keep a check on the emerging seedlings, if they are in the dark and covered with glass etc, again they will grow leggy very speedily. They need uncovering as soon as they emerge. Leggy seedlings rarely make good, strong plants later on, although some, such as tomatoes and the cabbage family will tolerate very deep planting when potting-on.
9. Pot-on seedlings as soon as the first pair of true leaves form and always handle by the leaves, never the stem. If a leaf is damaged or broken, a plant will just shrug and grow some more, rarely can a seedling 'shrug' if its stem is bruised or broken.

10. Seeds of marrows and relatives should be gently pushed into the soil on their sides. Very hard coated seeds need to be scarified (nicked with a knife or rubbed with sandpaper) or soaked over night in tepid water to aid germination. Again the seed packet will advise

11. Once there are trays of healthy, young plants ready to be planted out, they must be hardened-off properly. Stand them outside each day for a few days, returning them to their protection at night, or move them into a cold frame and close that at night, then leave them out and uncovered for another few days, making 2 weeks in total, before planting them in the garden.

12. Plant out after all danger of frosts has passed, which used to be the end of May or beginning of June. Now, who can be quite sure!

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 28th Apr: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 16th Jun: 13:45 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Saturday 14th Apr: 07:45 – 08:30 -: Lodge Gardens
Sunday 3rd Jun: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Platts Heath

Saturday 7th Apr: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Green Lane
Sunday 27th May: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Family History Group

COACH TRIP TO THE FAMILY RECORD CENTRE LONDON

A coach has been booked for a trip to the record centre on Monday 23rd April 2007. It will leave the car park at the Harrietsham Community Centre at 8-30am and leave London at about 3-30pm. Please park your car on the far side of the car park.

Cost £11 to £13 per head, according to numbers on coach. It is advisable to bring a packed lunch with you, there is a place to sit and also buy liquid refreshments. At the time of sending this message there are plenty of spaces, but do not leave it too late to book, I hope to have a full coach. To book a seat please call Frank Long on 01622 850863, leave a message if I am not available.

A Date for your Diary - A Flower Festival at St John the Baptist, Harrietsham on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July. 10-am to 5pm each day. Buffet luncheons will be served during the day.

Frank Long

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

Grafty Green Village Hall – WI Banner

In case any of you are wondering what has happened to the magnificent WI Banner that is usually displayed on the Village Hall Wall, I can assure you it has not been stolen or mislaid.

It has in fact been selected to be part of a display of WI textiles at Denman Collage in Oxfordshire from 9 – 14th July and at the International Craft & Hobby Fair in the autumn and in the spring 2008 to Exeter, Harrogate, Cardiff, Brighton, Glasgow and Birmingham. After the exhibition has finished it will be returned to its rightful place in the Hall.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Maldstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	59	1225 1400	59	1552 1612 1657 1747
Maldstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	59	1227 1402	59	1555 1615 1700 1750
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	59	1229 1404	59	1557 1617 1702 1752
Wheatshiel	59	1236 1411	59	1604 1604 1624 1709 1759
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	59	1240 1415	59	1608 1608 1713 1803
Linton Corner	59	1244 1419	59	1612 1612 1717 1807
New Line Learning — Cornwalls	59	1505	59	1612 1612 1717 1807
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	59	1249 1424	59	1617 1617 1722 1812
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	59	1252 1427	59	1620 1620 1725 1815
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	59	1255 1430	59	1623 1623 1728 1818
Warmslake Corner	59	1258 1433	59	1626 1626 1731 1821
Kingswood, Village Hall	59	1438	59	1638 1638 1731 1821
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	59	1306	59	1523 1634 1646 1829
Ulcombe, Post Office	59	1313	59	1530 1641 1655 1836
Grafty Green, King's Head	59	1320	59	1535 1648 1700 1843
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	59	1535	59	1535
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	59	1544	59	1544

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	59	0736	59	0736
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	59	0745	59	0745
Ulcombe, King's Head	59	0723	59	0915 1325
Grafty Green, Post Office	59	0730 0750	59	0922 1332 1703
Kingswood, Village Hall	59	0735	59	0935 1348 1604
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	59	0738	59	0937 1350 1606
Warmslake Corner	59	0744	59	0943 1356 1612
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	59	0747	59	0946 1359
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	59	0742 0750	59	0949 1402 1615
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	59	0745 0753	59	0952 1405
New Line Learning — Cornwalls	59	0820	59	0957 1410
Linton Corner	59	0750 0758	59	0957 1410 1624
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	59	0756 0802	59	1001 1414
Wheatshiel	59	0758 0800 0806	59	1005 1418 1624
Maldstone, King Street	59	0810 0814	59	1013 1427 1632
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station	59	0808	59	1013 1427 1632
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	59	0817	59	1013 1427 1632
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	59	0826	59	1013 1427 1632

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, Chart Sutton, Warmslake Road, Bishopton, Green 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, 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.

Sundays and Public Holidays*

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.	See Note 1	
	Only	Days
0836	59	1525 1755
0838	59	1241 1525 1755
0840	59	1243 1527 1757
0847	59	1250 1534 1804
0859	59	1254 1538
0859	59	1258 1542
0907	59	1303 1547 1817
0914	59	1306 1550 1820
0921	59	1309 1553 1823
0921	59	1312 1556 1826
0921	59	1604
0921	59	1320
0921	59	1327
0921	59	1334

Saturdays

Service No.	See Note 1	
	Only	Days
0733	59	0923 1336
0740	59	0930 1343
0745	59	0935 1348 1604
0747	59	0937 1350 1606
0753	59	0943 1356 1612
0756	59	0946 1359
0759	59	0949 1402 1615
0802	59	0952 1405
0807	59	0957 1410
0811	59	1001 1414
0815	59	1005 1418 1624
0823	59	1013 1427 1632

St Edmunds Centre – Platts Heath

The builders have not quite finished yet but another two or three days should see them complete the work, and I am writing this on the 7th March of course. Unfortunately all the rain we have had has held up some of the outside work.

By the time you read this article the AGM will have been held in the hall so some people will already know how it is looking. We have some tidying up to do before Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart opens the hall on 28th April 2007 at 2pm.

There will be a teenage swing band and some entertainment by the Platts Heath Primary School during the afternoon, with a display of ballroom dancing by the Grafty Dance Club. We hope to see as many villagers as possible come along and join in the celebrations.

Platts Heath is a small village but the help we have received from so many residents proves it deserves to have this community asset along with our school.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank Jim Rose for the donation of a very fine electric organ it is much appreciated.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

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

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

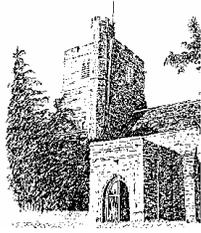
Try a 'taster session' if you're not sure

For further details contact Liz Watts on

01622 737321

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

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



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).

Saturday 21st April
The Barbican Piano Trio

This is a return visit. The Trio celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. It is regarded as one of the UK's leading ensembles. The Trio has performed across four continents, and in London performs regularly in the Wigmore Hall. Its cycle of the complete Beethoven trios featured in the Master Concert series.

The Barbican Trio will be performing, at Ulcombe, Schubert's Adagio (D.897), and Beethoven's Trio in D (The Ghost). The main work in the programme will be Beethoven's Trio in B flat (The Archduke).

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, Rakhmanivov, 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 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) where we will have lunch (pre-ordered).

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.

If you would like to go, please let Molly Poulter know as soon as possible – The Old Dairy, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone ME17 1DP (01622 842988).

THE ANTIQUES ROAD-SHOW COMES TO ULCOMBE

(Well, almost!)

Have you got something indoors that you look at from time to time and say ‘ I wonder what that really is’ or ‘I wonder what that may be worth’? Well, now is the time to find out.

Bring your antiques, collectibles or interesting items along to the Village Hall on Friday 20 April, between 3pm and 9pm and have them valued by an experienced Fine Art Valuer.

The entrance fee will be £1.50 per person and this will include one free valuation, you will be able to purchase additional valuations (up to a maximum of 4 at any one time) for an additional 50p each. All money raised will be split between the Kent Air Ambulance and the upkeep of your Village Hall.

There will be a ‘mini’ antiques fair for you to wander through and refreshments will be on sale for you to consume while you are waiting. If you would like to sell at the event, large tables are available for £7.50 (on a first come, first served basis).

For more details, or to book a table, please contact Jane on 843228.

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

Pat and David Abson are having a Coffee Morning at

15 High Street Lenham
on
Thursday 19th April
10.00am – noon

There will be a raffle and a Bring and Buy Stall

Proceeds to the ongoing “Son Rise”
programme for their Autistic Grandson, Bailey.

All Welcome

Ulcombe Pre-School



Ulcombe Pre-School offers your child the opportunity to learn through play with a varied range of activities.

The Pre-School caters for children aged from two and is Ofsted inspected. It has a very high staff to children ratio and meets in a modern, spacious hall, with a safe and fenced garden area.

It has received 'top marks' from Ofsted during their Care Inspection.

The Pre-School runs Monday - Thursday, 9.15 - 12.15
term time only.

Places are available for this academic year and reservations are being taken for September 2007 and beyond. For more details, contact Corinne Giles, Supervisor, on 07765350077 (out of hours) or 07940225341 (during Pre-School hours), or Jane Williams, Chairman of Committee on 843228. Alternatively, you are more than welcome to visit the Pre-School during opening hours at Ulcombe Village Hall.

We also run a baby/toddler session on a Tuesday from 9.30 - 11.30 when younger children are welcome to come along with a parent/career and join in with the pre-school children at a cost of £2.00 per child per session. (Refreshments included)

Missing Word Puzzle

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Berry, Singer of My Ding-a-Ling
2	Alfred _____, Swedish inventor of Dynamite
3	There is Something About _____, 1988 film
4	Lady Jane _____, Nine Day Queen
5	Some Like It _____, Marilyn Monroe film
6	_____ Days a Week, a Beatles song
7	Samuel _____, Famous Diarist
8	____ Longoria, Desperate Housewives star
9	Uriah _____, David Copperfield character
10	Rod _____, In the Heat of the Night actor

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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	Contest	Sleep	Spot	Beauty
2	Lucky	Sheep	Stick	
3	Prison	Plan	Fire	
4	Washing	Fruit	Gun	
5	Blue	Feed	Bank	
6	Flash	Log	Set	
7	Spirit	Headed	Sea	
8	Plain	Line	Horse	
9	Flying	False	Kick	
10	Tape	Recorder	Game	
11	Grease	Reader	Bullet	
12	Fight	Bull	Hot	
13	Easy	Lift	Arm	
14	Festival	Mouse	Moon	
15	Pony	Delivery	Train	
16	Laughing	Subject	Grey	

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

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	Contest	Sleep	Spot	Beauty
2	Lucky	Sheep	Stick	Dip
3	Prison	Plan	Fire	Open
4	Washing	Fruit	Gun	Machine
5	Blue	Feed	Bank	Bottle
6	Flash	Log	Set	Back
7	Spirit	Headed	Sea	Level
8	Plain	Line	Horse	Clothes
9	Flying	False	Kick	Start
10	Tape	Recorder	Game	Video
11	Grease	Reader	Bullet	Proof
12	Fight	Bull	Hot	Dog
13	Easy	Lift	Arm	Chair
14	Festival	Mouse	Moon	Harvest
15	Pony	Delivery	Train	Express
16	Laughing	Subject	Grey	Matter

	Find the missing word?
1	CHUCK BERRY , Singer of My Ding-a-Ling
2	Alfred NOBEL , Swedish inventor of Dynamite
3	There is Something About MARY , 1988 film
4	Lady Jane GREY , Nine Day Queen
5	Some Like It HOT , Marilyn Monroe film
6	EIGHT Days a Week, a Beatles song
7	Samuel PEPYS , Famous Diarist
8	EVA LONGORIA , Desperate Housewives star
9	Utah HEAP , David Copperfield character
10	Rod STEIGER , In the Heat of the Night actor

Len Valley Christian Union

Good Friday walk of witness

Come and join us at 10.15am on the 6th April. We will start at 10.15am at the Church of the Good Shepherd in East Street, where we will open in prayer, collect the cross and then walk with it around Harrietsham, stopping at the Church of St John the Baptist, the A20 by the old school, and Chippendayle Drive, for a short prayer; and ending at the West Street Green for a short act of worship. Everyone is welcome to join in the walk or to meet us at any of the places above.

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 weekend at Oak Hall in Otford

We are pleased to be organising a party to attend an Unlocking the Bible weekend at Oak Hall in Otford. The weekend will be a tremendous opportunity to study the scriptures in a relaxed setting and you will have a unique opportunity to study the Bible in greater depth. This is not an academic workshop but a practical down-to-earth study.

The cost of the weekend is £59.00 (excluding transport) and includes all your meals; the accommodation is in shared rooms. The weekend starts on Friday evening and finishes after Sunday lunch at 2pm. The weekend we have chosen to go is 28th - 30th September and we will be studying 2 Peter.

If you would like to attend this weekend with other friends from the Christian

Union would you please get in touch with Barbara Verga. Telephone Number 07919 597665 or email her on barbaraverga@yahoo.co.uk before the end of April, please.

Bible Study evenings

We will be holding a four-week Bible Study with guest speaker Derek Savage. Situated in the centre of Harrietsham, it is our aim to be accessible to anyone without transport. (Venue to be confirmed next month). The usual Tuesday Evening Bible study group has agreed to join in on these dates in support of the event

Please put the following dates in your diaries and look out for more details next month: May 8th; May 22nd; June 5th and June 15th.

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 June 13th in a chosen residential area, 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 31st May for anyone interested and willing to take part.

From the Registers

Friday 9th February, at Boughton Malherbe, St Nicholas, interment of ashes of the late Gordon Burr.

Sunday 11th February, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, baptism of Molly & Henry Brown.

Friday 16th February, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, interment of the late Ruby Oakey-Hill.

Tuesday 20th February, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Mary Thompson of Lenham.

Monday 26th February, Boughton Malherbe, St Nicholas, funeral of the late Jean Fudge.

Wednesday 28th February, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, funeral of the late Denis Tong.

Thursday 29th February, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, interment of the late Denis Tong.

Friday 2nd March, at Boughton Malherbe, St Nicholas, interment of ashes of the late Jean Fudge.

Sunday 4th March, at Lenham, St Mary, baptism of Elyse Ratcliffe.

Tailpiece - Humour

A keen sense of humour helps us to overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected, and outlast the unbearable'. Billy Graham

'Everyone laughs in the same language' Anon

Easter Hope ~ Christian Hope

Christians are an Easter people: we know the trials of Lent, the anxiety of Holy Week, the agony and anguish of Good Friday and Easter Eve and the overwhelming joy of Easter Day. Easter is the climax of the Christian year. Of course Christmas is a huge celebration and without Christmas, and the birth of the Christ-child, there can be no Easter. Nevertheless, for all its trauma - indeed because of its very trauma - Easter is the key.

The words 'Easter' and 'Hope' are synonymous; they speak of so much more than mere optimism - rather, a real confidence and trust. You may remember Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, who was thrown out of South Africa in the 1960s at the height of the *apartheid* era, and who refused to go back until the country really was free. At the dawning of the new era of freedom in South Africa he was asked if he was optimistic about its future. He said, *'No', he wasn't optimistic, but he was Hopeful!* He explained the difference along the lines that optimism was the assumption that things were going to get better, but Christian Hope offers no such expectation. Christian Hope is about looking life in the face, surviving on the barest of spiritual survival rations, but trusting in God's grace. Christian Hope is not escapism. Christian Hope is Credible, not Incredible.

Living in Hope, Christian Hope, is about trusting in God, it's about looking for Christ at the centre of things, about being Christ-centred ourselves. We know that we may not be able to change the world; we know that at times, when we're really up against it, we may indeed be forced to exist on spiritual survival rations. But we can take courage from the gospel message of love and hope:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life." Jn 3:16*

We know that the Messiah came, He came at Christmas and died for us at Easter; but He was raised from the dead and will come again. All we have to do is live in HOPE, and share that Hope with others.

Happy Easter!

Don Irvine

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 01 Apr 07	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 Fam Svc
Palm Sunday	11.00 L 11.15 U 15.00 L 19.00 Bearsted	CW 1 Fam Svc Baptism - Isobel Duncan-Webster Taize
3rd before Lent		
Mon 02 Apr 07 □ Mon of Holy Week	19.30 in Hollingbourne	Meditation & Night Office
Tue 03 Apr 07 □ Tue of Holy Week	19.30 L	Meditation & Night Office
Wed 04 Apr 07 □ Wed of Holy Week	19.30 in Hucking	Meditation & Night Office
Thu 05 Apr 07 □ Maundy Thursday	19.30 H	Meditation & Communion
Fri 06 Apr 07	14.00 H U L BM	Easter Vigil at the Foot of the Cross
Good Friday		
Sat 07 Apr 07	18.30 H	Service of Light
Easter Eve		
Sun 08 Apr 07	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 20.00 C'ham	BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 - EMYP depart for Canterbury CW 1 CW 1 EMYP Worship
Easter Day		
1st of Easter		
Mon 09 Apr 07	12noon Canterbury Cathedral	Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage
Sun 15 Apr 07	08.00 L 11.00 in Hollingbourne	BCP HC CW 1
'Low Sunday' 2nd of Easter		
Sun 22 Apr 07	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC MS CW 1 CW 1 CW 1
3rd of Easter		
Sun 29 Apr 07	08.00 L 10.30 U 18.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 Informal
4th of Easter		

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.

The monthly costs are:

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

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