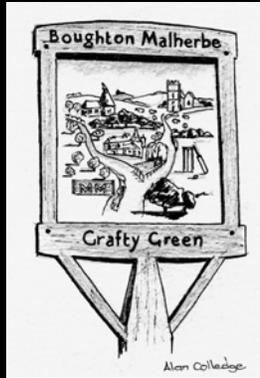


# Malherbe Monthly

Free

Number 31

February 2007



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.  
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

|                                  |   |                  |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| County Councillor                | Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart   | 890651           |
| Borough Councillors              | Jenny Gibson<br>Richard Thick   | 890200<br>891224 |
| Church Wardens                   | Kenneth Alexander<br>Joan Davidson  | 858348<br>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<br>Sue Burch   | 858350<br>850381 |
| Incumbent                        | Rev'd Don Irvine<br>(email: <a href="mailto:revdonirvine@uwclub.net">revdonirvine@uwclub.net</a> )                              | 859466           |
| Benefice Office                  | Michelle Saunders<br>(email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk">churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk</a> ) | 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: <a href="mailto:Christine.kings@btinternet.com">Christine.kings@btinternet.com</a>                                 | 850711           |
| Mike Hitchins                    | Editor: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>  | 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 March edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)) by 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Front cover: Operation Stack on the M20 in December (also in Jan as well!!)

## **News from St. Nicholas Church**

### **Carol Service**

The Carol Service at St. Nicholas on 17th December had a large congregation of over 100 people. The Church was Candle lit with just the spotlights of the new lighting system to help illuminate the Church with the Christmas tree lights. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was attended by one of our Patrons Lord Cornwallis, who came with Lady Cornwallis and stayed afterwards for Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. A History of the Cornwallis family has recently been published and there are one or two copies in the Parish, it traces the Cornwallis family back to 1200s. If anyone would like to see a copy please contact one of the Churchwardens. Thank you to all those who read a Lesson at the Service and also to the Ladies who made Mince Pies and to Sally for preparing the Mulled Wine and Kenneth for supplying the Wine.

### **Crib Service**

On Christmas Eve we had a Crib Service to bless the Crib. This Service is mostly for Families but anyone can come along, it was well attended with some 70 people, children and adults present during that Service the children were encouraged to buy a Star for the Winston's Wish Charity. This charity supports bereaved Children, and we were able to send £57.00 to them. Thank you to all those who gave on Christmas Eve.

### **Church Decorating**

Thank you to all the people who came along and helped to decorate the church for Christmas. The tree decorated by the Sunday school looked lovely with some of the decorations made by the children themselves. St. Nicholas always looks lovely at Christmas with the Candles and the Evergreens, being small it lends itself to looking really charming and each year the decorations are slightly different, but each year it looks really lovely.

### **Carol Singing**

The Carol Singing went well again this year. With Jack Grace with his Guitar leading us, and with Beverley Hone and Chris King accompanying us we are

well supported with instrumentalists and a good number came along to sing. Thank you to Janie for running a Raffle in the Kings Head and to Audrey and Roy Wickens who entertained us royally in their home and to the Who'd for letting us sing in the Bar. We started near the Tree on the Green and ended in the Kings Head. Thanks also to Ken and Eve for letting us take over the Bar area for the end of the Evening with a roaring fire, it's a lovely start to Christmas. Sadly Doreen and Les Hulm were unable to be with us this year because Les was unwell, we wish him a speedy recovery

### **Coffee Morning**

A Coffee Morning held at Ferndown, Woodcock Lane was most enjoyable and thank you Sylvia for entertaining us on a rather miserable morning. This Event was hastily arranged so wasn't in last month's Magazine but in spite of that we raised £66.00 for church funds.

### **Lent Lunches**

The first Lent Lunch will be on 21<sup>st</sup> February at the Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe, the second on 28<sup>th</sup> at Bowley Farm, Sandway and the third on the 7<sup>th</sup> March at Foxes Earth, Grafty Green. Further venues will be in next month's Magazine

**Joan Davidson**

## **Grafty Green Village Hall**

The next scheduled event in the Hall will be a Barn Dance with the Band **Folkal Point** with calling by the experienced and popular Roy Gill to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007 starting at 7.30pm. More information regarding this event will be published in forthcoming issues of this magazine and on posters throughout the parish.

**Grafty Green Village Hall Committee**

## Grafty Green Gardening Club

'The Japanese Garden' by Jean Cockett – This is the topic for the February meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> at Grafty Green Village Hall at 7.30 pm. All welcome – further details from Rosemary Smith 850526 or Sue Burch 850381

### PROGRAMME FOR 2007

| <b>Date</b>           | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Speaker</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 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     |

- ☀ New members are always welcome and membership is only £5.
- ☀ We meet in the village hall at 7.30 unless there is an outing.
- ☀ Contact Sue Burch on 850381 for more details.

**Monday to Fridays**

| Service No.                               | School Days Only |      | School Days Only |      | Not School Days |      | Not School Days |  |
|---|------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|--|
|   | 59               | 59   | 66               | 59   | 59              | 59   | 59              |  |
| Maidstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2          | 1225             | 1400 | 1532             | 1552 | 1612            | 1657 | 1747            |  |
| Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2 | 1227             | 1402 | 1555             | 1555 | 1615            | 1700 | 1750            |  |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4  | 1229             | 1404 | 1557             | 1557 | 1617            | 1702 | 1752            |  |
| Wheatshaf                                 | 1236             | 1411 | 1604             | 1604 | 1624            | 1709 | 1759            |  |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill         | 1240             | 1415 | 1608             | 1608 | 1618            | 1713 | 1803            |  |
| Linton Corner                             | 1244             | 1419 | 1612             | 1612 | 1612            | 1717 | 1807            |  |
| New Line Learning - Cornwalls             | 1505             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion               | 1249             | 1424 | 1617             | 1617 | 1617            | 1722 | 1812            |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn             | 1252             | 1427 | 1620             | 1620 | 1620            | 1725 | 1815            |  |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head              | 1255             | 1430 | 1623             | 1623 | 1623            | 1728 | 1818            |  |
| Warmslake Corner                          | 1258             | 1433 | 1626             | 1626 | 1626            | 1731 | 1821            |  |
| Kingswood, Village Hall                   | 1438             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive                  | 1306             | 1523 | 1634             | 1634 | 1634            | 1739 | 1829            |  |
| Ucombe, Post Office                       | 1313             | 1530 | 1641             | 1641 | 1641            | 1746 | 1836            |  |
| Grafty Green, King's Head                 | 1320             | 1537 | 1648             | 1648 | 1648            | 1753 | 1843            |  |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle               | 1535             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by            | 1544             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |

**Monday to Fridays**

| Service No.                       | School Days Only |      | School Days Only |      | Not School Days |      | Not School Days |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|--|
|                                   | 59               | 59   | 66               | 59   | 59              | 59   | 59              |  |
| Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by         | 0723             | 0723 | 0745             | 0745 | 0915            | 1325 | 1703            |  |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle       | 0730             | 0730 | 0750             | 0750 | 0922            | 1332 | 1710            |  |
| Ucombe, Post Office               | 0735             | 0735 | 0755             | 0755 | 0927            | 1337 | 1715            |  |
| Kingswood, Village Hall           | 0738             | 0738 | 0757             | 0757 | 0929            | 1339 | 1717            |  |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive          | 0746             | 0746 | 0808             | 0808 | 0935            | 1345 | 1723            |  |
| Warmslake Corner                  | 0739             | 0747 | 0809             | 0809 | 0938            | 1348 | 1726            |  |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head      | 0742             | 0750 | 0811             | 0811 | 0941            | 1351 | 1729            |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn     | 0745             | 0753 | 0814             | 0814 | 0944            | 1354 | 1732            |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion       | 0750             | 0758 | 0820             | 0820 | 0949            | 1359 | 1737            |  |
| New Line Learning - Cornwalls     | 0756             | 0802 | 0853             | 0853 | 1403            | 1506 | 1741            |  |
| Linton Corner                     | 0758             | 0800 | 0806             | 0806 | 0957            | 1407 | 1745            |  |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill | 0810             | 0814 | 1005             | 1415 | 1518            | 1525 | 1753            |  |
| Wheatshaf                         | 0808             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| Maidstone, King Street            | 0817             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station   | 0826             |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| London Road, Somerfield Hospital  |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |
| Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park        |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                 |  |

**Saturdays**

| Service No.                               | School Days Only |      | School Days Only |       | Not School Days |    | Not School Days |  |
|---|------------------|------|------------------|-------|-----------------|----|-----------------|--|
|   | 59               | 59   | 66               | 59    | 59              | 59 | 59              |  |
| Maidstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2          | 0836             | 1241 | 1525             | 1755  |                 |    |                 |  |
| Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2 | 0840             | 1243 | 1527             | 1757  |                 |    |                 |  |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4  | 0847             | 1250 | 1534             | 1804  |                 |    |                 |  |
| Wheatshaf                                 | 0851             | 1254 | 1538             |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill         | 0859             | 1312 | 1556             | 1826R |                 |    |                 |  |
| Linton Corner                             | 1303             | 1547 | 1817R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| New Line Learning - Cornwalls             | 1306             | 1550 | 1820R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion               | 1309             | 1553 | 1823R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn             | 1312             | 1556 | 1826R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head              | 1320             | 1564 | 1834R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| Warmslake Corner                          | 1327             | 1571 | 1841R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |
| Kingswood, Village Hall                   | 1334             | 1578 | 1848R            |       |                 |    |                 |  |

**Saturdays**

| Service No.                       | School Days Only |      | School Days Only |      | Not School Days |    | Not School Days |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------|----|-----------------|--|
|                                   | 59               | 59   | 66               | 59   | 59              | 59 | 59              |  |
| Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by         | 0733             | 0923 | 1336             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle       | 0740             | 0930 | 1343             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Ucombe, Post Office               | 0745             | 0935 | 1348             | 1604 |                 |    |                 |  |
| Kingswood, Village Hall           | 0747             | 0937 | 1350             | 1606 |                 |    |                 |  |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive          | 0753             | 0943 | 1356             | 1612 |                 |    |                 |  |
| Warmslake Corner                  | 0756             | 0946 | 1359             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head      | 0759             | 0949 | 1402             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn     | 0802             | 0952 | 1405             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion       | 0807             | 0957 | 1410             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| New Line Learning - Cornwalls     | 0811             | 1001 | 1414             |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Linton Corner                     | 0815             | 1005 | 1418             | 1624 |                 |    |                 |  |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill | 0823             | 1013 | 1427             | 1632 |                 |    |                 |  |
| Wheatshaf                         |                  |      |                  |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Maidstone, King Street            |                  |      |                  |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station   |                  |      |                  |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| London Road, Somerfield Hospital  |                  |      |                  |      |                 |    |                 |  |
| Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park        |                  |      |                  |      |                 |    |                 |  |

**Service 59: Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Headcorn, Green Lane, Chart Sutton, Broughton Monchelsea, Greer Lane, Heath Road, Farnham, Warmingale, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmingale Road, Warmingale Cross Roads, Charney Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Charleford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravely Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.**

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

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

**Service 56: 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.

## **GRAFTY GREEN POST OFFICE AND STORES**

You will probably be aware from the media of the discussion involving the Government about the future of the Post Office network and the closure of post offices. There has been talk of the value of a post office in the life of a community, a large part of which cannot be measured financially. As a postmaster I would agree with this! At the moment I have no idea how Grafty Green will be affected.

However I would like to make some points which although relevant to the present debate have been true for years. I think the local community should consider that it is not likely that any government would think every post office should be subsidised to remain open however little trade it does and whatever the cost to the taxpayer.

The shop and Post Office need to be seen as one. The 'wage' paid to a sub postmaster to run a post office depends on the amount of business it does. For an office doing the amount of trade that Grafty Green does it works out at well under the minimum wage. Therefore to make what would generally be regarded as a viable business a flourishing shop or something else needs to be run alongside.

Many of the processes and overheads involved in running a shop take as long and are as expensive in a small shop as a large. In fact some take longer. For example, a shop doing as little trade as we are cannot acquire many of the products we have by normal means i.e. delivered or 'cash and carry'. This is because an individual item is likely to come in a larger quantity than will sell before going 'out of date'. Even when we only get 1 or 2 they may go out of date.

One likes to be able to provide bread from a local bakery and fresh greengrocery in a village shop. However if there is very little sold there are difficulties.

At present this shop and Post Office together would not be seen as viable as a business proposition by most people, let alone either separately.

My attempt to explain the situation may sound rather impersonal so I must add that we enjoy serving the community and are always pleased to see you, however small or large your purchase.

**Rob Eastwood**

## **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

The following letter has been received by the Parish Clerk from Maidstone Borough Council concerning Refuse & Recycling Collections.

### **Important Changes to Refuse & Recycling Collections**

**We are working with our contractor, SITA UK, to improve our refuse and recycling services. As a result, collection days will be changing for some people from the week commencing Monday 29 January.**

**People will receive notification on Monday 15 January and an information pack on Monday 22 January.**

The information pack will contain a sticker and a recycling calendar. The sticker will have details of peoples' collection day which needs to be put onto their wheeled bins or retained for future reference if on a sack collection. The recycling calendar will have details of the recycling services in the area.

We ask people to put their refuse and recycling at the boundary of their property by 7am, on collections days. There is no limit to the amount of recycling that we'll collect - additional boxes are free on request. Normally we only collect extra bags of rubbish, left beside wheeled bins at Christmas and New Year, but we will collect all extra rubbish for two weeks after the change in collection day.

The rubbish Maidstone Borough Council collect from wheeled bins and sacks is taken to the Energy from Waste facility at Allington to produce electricity, so we ask people **not** to put any of the following items in with their rubbish:

Building materials (e.g. rubble, bricks, concrete, plaster)  
Garden waste (for details of the garden waste collection service see below)  
Paint tins  
Hypodermic needles  
Bulky items (e.g. furniture, tyres, and carpets)  
Car parts (including batteries)  
Hazardous materials (e.g. asbestos)  
Unwrapped animal waste

These and other items can be recycled or disposed of in a number of ways:

**Bulky Waste Collection** - Chargeable service for the collection of large household items such as furniture or bundled garden waste

**Weekend Freighter Service** — Free weekend ‘bring to’ service for bulky and general household waste, visiting most areas every six weeks

**Clinical Waste Collection** - Free collection of clinical waste following a medical referral

**Garden Waste Collection** - Service charged through hire of wheeled bin (£25 per year) or purchased green sacks (£1.95 for five)

**Kerbside Recycling** - Borough-wide paper collection and glass collection in some areas

**Local Recycling Sites** - 24 sites across the borough for recycling of different materials including paper, cardboard, cans, textiles, shoes and glass

**Household Waste Recycling Centre, Burial Ground Lane, Tovil, Maidstone**  
Drop off household waste items for recycling. Open Monday to Saturday, 8am to

4.30pm, and Sunday and Bank Holidays, 9am to 4pm

**Please could you help us to inform the people living in your area about the changes to this service?**

If you would like more information about any of these services or if you have any questions about the change in collection day, please call the cleansing hotline on 01622 602162 and we'll be pleased to help you. Alternatively, you can visit [www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk).

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Wells  
Environmental Services Manager

## Speed Limit and Liverton Hill

Please find below an e-mail trail that details efforts the Parish Council have been making in getting the Speed Limit in Grafty Green reduced to 30mph and to get improved signage on Liverton Hill in an attempt to slow down traffic on what is a narrow and dangerous hill.

**Sent:** 17 January 2007 12:49

**To:** Rowlands, Louise - E&R KHS

**Subject:** Speed Limit Grafty Green & Liverton Hill

Dear Louise

Back in November when Peter Rosevear was on leave, I contacted you about the Speed Limit changes and additional signing along Liverton Hill. Peter is obviously dealing with the speed change, but at the time you said you would investigate the additional signing and I wondered whether you had done anything? As you can hopefully appreciate, it continues to be an absolute nightmare on the hill and around the bends, people travel far too fast and consequently when 2 vehicles need to pass each other, the drive up on the verges and are steadily eroding the verges away. I would be grateful if you could look into this.

Kind Regards

Pat Anderson

**Parish Clerk to  
Boughton Malherbe PC**

**Reply:**

Dear Pat

A scheme has been drafted for improved signing and lining along Liverton Hill and this has been passed to the Project Delivery Team. The Project Delivery Team are undertaking some detailed design work and checking whether funding is available from the 2006/7 budget.

I am hoping that a response is received from them by the end of next week and I can assure you that I will keep you informed of all progress.

Kind Regards

Louise Rowlands

Transportation Engineer

Kent Highway Services

Mid Kent Division

Tel. 01622 798473

## **Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)**

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

### **Grafty Green**

Saturday 10th Mar: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

### **Ulcombe**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

### **Platts Heath**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

## **Family History Group**

There will not be our usual monthly meeting in February; this is due to many circumstances. Further info regarding the group may be obtained from Frank Long 01622 850863

**Frank Long**

### **A Date for your Diary**

There will be a Flower Festival at St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th July 2007, from 10-00am to 5-00pm each day. Further details later, book the date now.

**Rita Long**

## Grafty Garden Cuttings – February

Has anyone seen our birds? Most of them have left our garden, and my bird feeders remain almost untouched. Is it the weather, have they moved north, to where it is colder, or south to find the sun, or has the sparrow hawk eaten them all or frightened them away? We really do not know, but the garden is a sadder and quieter place.

The recent wild winds have been rocking some of my taller trees and shrubs, so I am checking stakes and ties and firming and topping up the soil round the base of their trunks to prevent the roots being water logged or cracked and damaged beyond recall. In worst case scenarios, the tops of plants such as standard roses can be broken off completely, but so far, I have only had to prune down my hardy Abutilon, which was blown on to its side.

I usually prune all my roses and buddleias during March, but with the warmer winters, February maybe a better time, unless it does turn very cold and frosty, when it will be better to wait. Hard frosts can penetrate fresh cuts, which can cause die-back, or even death.

Hellebores should be in bloom now and to appreciate their flowers more, old leaves, especially if brown or blotched, should be removed. I always feel that a few nice green ones, around the base of the clump set the flowers off well, but that is a matter of personal preference and some gardeners like to remove them all. Congested clumps of snowdrops and aconites should be dug now, split up and replanted to the same depth - in the green, as this is known because the bulbs/corms hate drying out are more easily found when in leaf (try finding aconites when not in growth) and can re-establish themselves before summer comes and the ground dries out.

Late flowering clematis, i.e. after June, like the viticella and texensis groups, should be pruned to a pair of green buds and if taken down to varying heights, the problem of bare stems at the base, can be overcome. Early flowering groups (montanas, armandii, macropetala etc) should not be pruned, just trimmed to tidy up straggling stems if necessary, and those that produce two flushes of flowers and all the double varieties, also need no major pruning, apart from the removal of dead or weak growths.

Lastly, I hear it is National Nest Box Week from 14 - 21 February, so if you are lucky enough to still have your birds, or want to attract more, putting up some nest boxes would help them enormously.

**Rosemary Smith**

### **Maidstone Symphony Orchestra**

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra. Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park Maidstone. The programme consists of three works:

- Prokofiev - Lieutenant Kije Suite
- Khachaturian - Violin Concerto, Soloist Barry Wilde Violin
- Tchaikovsky - Symphony No.2 'Little Russian'

Here Russian fireworks abound as MSO's Leader, Barry Wilde, takes an even more centre-stage position than usual to play Khachaturian's effervescent Violin Concerto. Surrounding him are Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kije Suite, a colourfully quirky miscellany, and Tchaikovsky's wonderful evocative "Little Russian" 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. This is a Muriel Tassell Memorial Concert.

**David Bramley - Maidstone Orchestral Society**

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

### **Question 1**

The following artists have the best selling UK albums of all time. Can you put the names to the albums: Michael Jackson, Dire Straits, Oasis, Madonna, The Beatles.

1. Sgt Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band. (4.5m)
2. (Whats the Story) Morning Glory. (4.2m)
3. Brothers in Arms (3.9m)
4. Bad. (3.9m)
5. The Immaculate Collection. (3.6m)

### **Question 2**

Can you match the following Tea Drinking Nations to the Kilograms of tea drunk per capita per year: U.K Libya, Iraq, Ireland, Qatar.

1. (2.77kg)
- 2.(2.76kg)
- 3.(2.61kg)
4. (2.29kg)
- 5.(2.26kg)

### **Question 3**

Can you match the five largest countries in the world to the areas below: USA, China, Brazil, Russia, Canada.

- 1 (6,592,850 sq miles)
- 2 (3,855,103 sq miles)
- 3 (3,600,948 sq miles)
- 4 (3,539,245 sq miles)
- 5 (3,265,077 sq miles)

## Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successful Heating Oil Club. We have to date nearly 100 members all taking advantage of cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. To make this club work all members have to have at least the minimum 500 Litres every time we order, that is about 3 to 4 times a year. It makes sense to have a bulk order delivered over 2 to 3 days every 4 months, rather than have tankers clogging up our village every week.

We now cover Harrietsham, Headcorn, Lenham, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway Ulcombe and Biddenden. If you would like to join or need some information about the club, email me on [europa.13@btinternet.com](mailto:europa.13@btinternet.com) or 01622 858350. The Oil Club is non-profit making.

## 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](http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## Parochial Church Council of Ulcombe Church

Ulcombe Church will be hosting a concert in memory of Jenny Balston on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April at 7. 30 pm. We are privileged to have the renowned **Barbican Piano Trio** who will be performing music by Schubert and Beethoven – the Archduke Trio being the main work in the programme.

Tickets will be £10 and available from Sue Balston on 01580 765161 or Molly Poulter on 01622 842988. All profits will be going to the Ulcombe Church Restoration Fund.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Police in Mid Kent are asking people to be vigilant after a number of thefts of Kent Peg tiles from church roofs.

The warning comes after three incidents in the Mid Kent area where thieves have climbed up on the roofs of churches in East Sutton, Sutton Valence and Harrietsham, and stolen some of the Kent Peg tiles.

Officers believe the thieves may be getting away with it because people in the area assume they are legitimately working on the church roof. If you are at all suspicious that someone maybe taking tiles, please check with the owner of the building or if this is not possible call the police.

Also, there have been a number of incidences of property taken from sheds and outbuildings. Can I ask that you alert your Neighbours to take a close look at the security of their outbuilding and to mark items with their postcodes. If you do wish any further advice, please contact your Neighbourhood Watch office who can provide marker pens and alarms at a small cost.

**Keith Anderson**

## **The Women's World Day of Prayer**

The Women's World Day of Prayer is being held at All Saints Church, Ulcombe, on Friday the 2nd of March at 7. 30 pm.

The theme this year is 'United under God's tent', and the Speaker will be Mrs Sally Collins, Authorised Lay Minister in the Len Valley Benefice. The service has been produced by the women of Paraguay.

This service is always very special as we have visitors from the other three churches of the Len Valley Benefice (Harrietsham, Boughton Malherbe and Lenham) as well as from many churches around – Leeds, Hollingbourne and Kingswood. After the service we enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

# YOGA

Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings

9.30 - 11.00

£5 a session

Yoga for stamina, suppleness,  
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Mixed Ability Class

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

For further details contact Liz Watts on

01622 737321

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SPECIAL EXHIBITION PREVIEW**

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SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2007  
12.00 - 2.00pm**

**at  
GOLDSMITHS FINE ART  
9 High Street, Lenham, Kent**

**The EXHIBITION will run until  
10th March 2007**

**Enquiries 01622 850011**

# **Maidstone Borough Council – News** **Release**

Release Date: 5th January 2007

Ref No: RJA/070102

## **Conservation works at Mallards Lake, Downswood**

Major conservation works will start in February on the large island at Mallards Lake, Downswood. It won't look like it at first, to the untrained eye, but coppicing of the willow and dogwood trees, which will be cut to knee high, will encourage rapid new growth and provide a haven for nesting birds and other wildlife.

The coppicing is part of a conservation plan recommended by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership and Kent Wildlife Trust. The cut material from the island trees will be put to good use as backfilling behind a ring of posts surrounding the island. This will be designed to prevent further bank erosion, encourage vegetation and new species of wildlife, and create a larger area for the water birds to use.

The large weeping willow on the island will remain as a decorative standard tree.

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership has appointed a contractor who has many years experience in aquatic engineering solutions to carry out the work at minimal disturbance to visitors and wildlife on the lake. For more information call Debra Collick at Maidstone Borough Council on 01622 602191.

Last year similar works to the smaller island at the western end of the lake caused some concern until the coppiced trees sprang back to life to create an even better show.

**ENDS**

# **Maidstone Borough Council – News** **Release**

Release Date: 5th January 2007

Ref No: ARL/070111

## **A place to call home**

Helen Eberlain from Maidstone has become the first to benefit from a Maidstone Borough Council grant to help new homeowners onto the property ladder.

Cash grants of up to £10,000 are available to first time buyers looking to purchase a property in the Maidstone borough in council tax bands A or B. The money must be spent on essential repairs such as rewiring, roofing work and damp proofing or installing basic amenities.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr Chris Garland, said: “This is great for young people looking for their first home as well as ensuring the housing stock in our borough remains desirable and is kept in a good condition. It will mean that people will be able to purchase homes they can afford, even if they require extensive repairs.”

Helen said she would have struggled without the grant: “It would have been very difficult financially to complete the works that needed doing, but thanks to this initiative I now have a home of my own.”

The grant is not means tested; applicants just have to be a first time buyer and prepared to live in the property for three years after receipt of the grant.

For more information about applying for a grant contact Stuart White at Maidstone Borough Council on 01622 602103.

**ENDS**

# **Maidstone Borough Council – News** **Release**

Release Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Ref No: ARL/070111

## **Maidstone’s gambling policy**

Following consultation, Maidstone council has published its gambling policy as required by the Gambling Act 2005, which created a new system of licensing and regulation for commercial gambling in the UK.

The policy, which will be effective from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007, aims to:

- prevent gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;
- ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- protect children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Licensing Committee Chairman, Cllr Peter Parvin, said: “This document sets out what the Licensing Committee expects from people who offer gambling and we are committed to trying to ensure that gambling only takes place in premises which prevent crime and disorder and in circumstances which protects children and other vulnerable persons. The challenge ahead will be made easier by working with our partner organisations and very importantly with residents to ensure our ambitions for responsible gambling are met.

Among other changes, the Gambling Act gives the council new and extended responsibilities for licensing premises for gambling. In some cases, such as gaming machine arcades, these build on existing responsibilities.

In other major areas, including betting, casino gaming and bingo, they transfer responsibilities to the council from local magistrates.

The Statement of Licensing Principles may be viewed on the council's website — [www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk). It may also be inspected at the County Library, Earl Street, Maidstone and at the council's receptions at - London House, 5/11 London Road, 13 Tonbridge Road or Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME16.

### **Missing 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?

|    | <b>Word 1</b> | <b>Missing Link</b> | <b>Word 3</b> |
|----|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
|    |               |                     |               |
| 1  | Paper         | <b>Round</b>        | Robin         |
| 2  | Bowling       |                     | Cat           |
| 3  | Safety        |                     | Phrase        |
| 4  | Tennis        |                     | Grease        |
| 5  | Bed           |                     | Maid          |
| 6  | Electric      |                     | Ready         |
| 7  | Kitchen       |                     | Trust         |
| 8  | Steam         |                     | Coast         |
| 9  | Soft          |                     | Check         |
| 10 | Easter        |                     | Timer         |

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

# **Maidstone Borough Council – News** **Release**

Release Date: 5th January 2007

Ref No: ARL/070107

## **Freefall into the New Year**

Young people will be in sporting heaven in 2007!

The annual Freefall program has been revealed for the New Year, and is bursting with sports activities, outings and events for under 20s. Bookings are being taken now, so don't delay!

The ever popular basketball tournament, Night Hoops, held at Maidstone Leisure Centre, is back for another year with a grand final on 14 January, with special guests the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Mike FitzGerald and Tom Connors, a World Champion Basketball Freestyler. A new tournament will begin on 18 February. Squads can have up to nine players, cost £2 per person. Spectators can watch for free.

Young people will be able to dance the night away at SNAP dance nights, held throughout the year at Maidstone Leisure Centre, starting on 9 February.

Brand new to 2007, Maidstone Borough Council has organised a trip to the Gillingham Ice Bowl, with return travel from Maidstone Leisure Centre. The coach will leave at 11am on Friday 16 February, returning at 4pm.

There will be the chance to learn basketball skills at the Mote Park Sharks Camp on Wednesday 14 February, open to beginners and those who want to develop their talent.

With dance, drama, athletics, cricket, skateboarding, Chariton Athletic football schemes and much more throughout the year young people will be spoilt for choice.

For more information about any of the above activities, or to request a brochure, contact Maidstone Borough Council's sports and play team on 01622 602222, or email [sportsandplay@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:sportsandplay@maidstone.gov.uk).

Anyone interested in joining the Maidstone Youth Forum, where young people can have a say in issues that affect them, should contact Julia Harrison on 01622 602795 or email [juliaharrison@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:juliaharrison@maidstone.gov.uk)

**ENDS**

### **Family Tree help required**

I am currently researching my family tree and was wondering if I could ask your readers if they have any information that may help me.

Although I live in Tonbridge my mother's family comes from Leicestershire. During my research I have found that Henry Jesson Simkins (b 1865) and listed as an agricultural labourer in Hallaton Leics in 1891 had become a Butler for the Ackers Douglas family in Boughton Malherbe by 1901.

I can find no more information on Henry Simkin after this date and wondered if any local historians in the village could throw any light on either himself or the Ackers Douglas household.

Yours  
Neal Hardy  
4 Powdermills  
Leigh  
Tonbridge Kent  
TN11 9AP  
01732 833025  
[nealleehardy@aol.com](mailto:nealleehardy@aol.com)

# Egerton Telecottage



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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 Link Word Puzzle

|        |              |        |
|--------|--------------|--------|
| Word 1 | Missing Link | Word 3 |
| 1      | Round        | Robin  |
| 2      | Alley        | Cat    |
| 3      | Catch        | Phrase |
| 4      | Elbow        | Grease |
| 5      | Chamber      | Maid   |
| 6      | Oven         | Ready  |
| 7      | Unit         | Trust  |
| 8      | Roller       | Coast  |
| 9      | Spot         | Check  |
| 10     | Egg          | Timer  |

1. Russia. 2. Canada. 3. China. 4. USA. 5. Brazil.

1 (6,592,850 sq miles) 2 (3,855,103 sq miles) 3 (3,600,948 sq miles) 4 (3,539,245 sq miles) 5 (3,265,077 sq miles)

Can you match the five largest countries in the world to the areas below: USA, China, Brazil, Russia, Canada.

1. Iraq. 2. Ireland. 3. Libya. 4. Qatar. 5. UK.

1. (2.77kg) 2.(2.76kg) 3.(2.61kg) 4. (2.29kg) 5.(2.26kg)

Can you match the following Tea Drinking Nations to the Kilograms of tea drunk per capita per year: UK Libya, Iraq, Ireland, Qatar.

1. Sgt Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band. (4.5m)  
 2. (Whats the Story) Morning Glory. (4.2m)  
 3. Brothers in Arms (3.9m)  
 4. Bad. (3.9m)  
 5. The Immaculate Collection. (3.6m)  
**The Beatles**  
**Oasis**  
**Dire Straits**  
**Michael Jackson**  
**Madonna.**

The following artists have the best selling UK albums of all time. Can you put the names to the albums: Michael Jackson, Dire Straits, Oasis, Madonna, The Beatles.

## **From the Registers**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**, at Boughton Malherbe, St Nicholas, funeral of the late Violet Bristow.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Evelyn Allchin of Ulcombe.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December**, at Medway Crematorium, funeral of the late Valerie Longstaffe of Chatham.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**, at Lenham, St Mary, marriage blessing of Nicholas & Laura Tuffney.

## **Tailpiece - The Church**

*A church decided to have four different services every Sunday: one for people new to the faith; one for regular members who like traditional services; one for those who had lost their faith and one for those who had bad experiences of other churches. The four services were called: Finders, Keepers, Losers & Weepers! Anon.*

*“The Church is the only co-operative society in the world that exists for the benefit of its non-members”! Archbishop William Temple*

**Revd Don Irvine  
Incumbent**

## **Harrietsham Bible Study Group**

The Harrietsham Bible Study Group is meeting in February on 13th and 27th, February 8pm, at Deans Hill Lodge. We are currently studying The Holy Spirit. Help with transport can be arranged, everyone welcome. For more information, please phone Pamela Cuerden on 01622 859442.

**Pamela Cuerden**

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

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
*New start time of 11.00 am for Sunday Services in Lenham  
and 9.30 am in Boughton Malherbe*

| Date   | Time/Location   | Service  |
|--|---|--|
| Sun 04 Feb 07<br><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent | 08.00 L<br>09.30 BM<br>09.30 H<br>11.00 L<br>11.15 U<br>19.00 B'std | BCP HC<br>CW 1<br>Fam Svc<br>CW 1<br>Fam Svc<br>Taize at Bearsted  |
| Sun 11 Feb 07<br><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent | 08.00 L<br>09.30 BM<br>09.30 H<br>11.00 L<br>11.15 U                | BCP HC<br>Fam Svc<br>CW 1<br>Fam Svc<br>CW 1   |
| Sun 18 Feb 07<br><br>Next before Lent            | 08.00 L<br>09.30 BM<br>09.30 H<br>11.00 L<br>11.15 U<br>18.30 BM    | BCP HC<br>BCP HC<br>CW 1<br>CW 1<br>CW 1<br>BCP EP   |
| Wed 21 Feb 07<br>Ash Wednesday                   | 18.30 H   | BCP HC<br>(with Imposition of Ash)   |
| Sun 25 Feb 07<br><br>1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent     | 08.00 L<br><br>10.30 U<br><br>18.30 H                               | BCP HC<br><br>CW 1 (benefice service in Ulcombe;<br>no services in other three churches)<br><br>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.

The monthly costs are:

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|---------------|--------|
| 1/8 page      | £3.00  |
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