



Malherbe Monthly

Number 43
February 2008



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	890200
	Richard Thick	891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348
	Joan Davidson	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	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson	858350
	Sue Burch	850381
Incumbent	To be announced	
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. 4.45 by Post Office	01580
		754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
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 does 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) by 15th February

Front cover:

The walled tree near Boughton Malherbe Church allegedly planted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1573 when she visited nearby Boughton Place.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Carol Singing

The total amount of money raised from Carol Singing was £512.00 which has been sent to Demelza House Children's Hospice. The Choir gave up their Christmas Eve evening to sing Carols at Chilston Park and also at Elmstone Hole Farm.

Lent Lunches

With Easter falling very early this year we will be starting our Lent Lunches on the 13th February the list of venues is as follows:

13th Feb: Sally Alexander, Bowley Farm, Sandway

20th Feb: Joan Davidson, Ivy House Farm, Liverton Hill

27th Feb: Joan Drury, Weirton Villa, Grafty Green

5th Mar: Vanessa Goodwin, The Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe

12th Mar: The Village Hall, Grafty Green

19th Mar: Sylvia Evans, Liverton House, Liverton Street

The Lunches are served between 12.00 and 2.00p.m. Entrance is by Donation, which will go towards our Christian Aid Week collection in May. The Lunch is a Bowl of Soup and Crusty Bread with a cup of Coffee or Tea to finish. Sometimes there is enough soup for second helpings. It's amazing what lovely soups the Hostesses prepare for us each week

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday falls on the 2nd March this year and there will be a Service - watch for a poster as to the time.

Wine

The Wine that was left behind after the Harvest Supper has not been claimed so it will be put into our next Raffle.

Joan Davidson

Paul Neaves Quiz

Grafty Green Village Hall

23rd February 2008

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Teams of 4 - 6

Food included, Licensed Bar

Bring a pen

Raffle

Tickets £6

Available from Bernard Dodson
(850645), Mandy Hitchins (858937)
& Grafty Green Shop

All profits go to the Village Hall refurbishment fund

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council has five sitting members who were elected in May 2004 for a four year term. On 1st May 2008 there will be an election for a new Parish Council and this will give anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor the opportunity to stand as one of the five elected councillors who represent Boughton Malherbe.

However, in the past there has been little notice of this opportunity and to some extent little interest in standing. It should be said that there will be an uncontested election if all five current members stand unopposed; though at this time it is not known if any or all of the existing members will be standing for re-election. The five current members are:

Ken Alexander (Chairman), Robert Turner (Vice-Chair), Silvia Close, Mike Hitchins and Shaun Wickens.

The procedure for standing is that you need to complete and return a Nomination form obtainable from the Parish Clerk or Maidstone Borough Councils offices in Maidstone. These will be available from the end of February and need to be completed and returned between 28th March and noon on 4th April.

If you are interested in standing the below article may help in assisting you make your mind up:

Becoming a Councillor

Are you someone that cares about the community you live in?

If the answer is 'yes' then becoming a local councillor is one way of making a difference. Being able to listen, communicate and work well with others will be important and training and support will be provided by the council, particularly on how things work.

If you think you would enjoy engaging with the public and being part of the local decision making process come along to our informal information evening at the Town Hall, Maidstone, on 11th February 2008 anytime between 4.30pm and 8.00pm. Councillors and Council staff will be on hand to discuss the role and answer any questions.

If you would like any further information about becoming a local councillor please visit our website www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk or contact Janet Barnes on 01622 602242

THE HONYWOOD & DOUGLAS CHARITY

Most of you will probably not have heard of this charity and therefore may not be aware that it is for the benefit of the residents of both Lenham and Boughton Malherbe parishes, which include Grafty Green and Platts Heath.

The charity has 21 almshouses in Lenham and is currently building 3 further bungalows and 2 flats. The Honywood Almshouses are situated in the High Street, opposite Lenham Fire Station, and the Douglas Almshouses are in Douglas Court, off the Faversham Road next to the gaol.

The almshouses are run by a Board of Trustees, of which two, Mike Davidson and I, David Chantler, come from Boughton Malherbe, and our treasurer John Collins, is also from the parish.

The Honywood Almshouses date from 1622, Anthony Honywood setting up what eventually became the Anthony Honywood Charity, and the Douglas Almshouses were established in 1858 by James Stoddart Douglas of Chilston Park.

There are few villages with almshouses and our charity, with 26, will be in the top 15% of almshouse charities in the country.

The almshouses are available to those who have been resident in the parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for more than two years, are aged 60 or over, and are in need of accommodation.

The 5 units under construction should be available for occupation by mid-summer 2008. If you, or anyone you know, might qualify for an almshouse, please get in touch with me and I can get you an application form.

David Chantler

Broadstone Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AT

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 19th April 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 1st Mar: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 19th Apr: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 2nd Feb: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Green Lane
Sunday 30th Mar: 14:30 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 16th Feb: 07:45 – 08:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)
Sunday 6th Apr: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

Saturday 1st Mar: 09:00 – 10:30 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd
Saturday 19th Apr: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007 and 2008 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

Sudoku Quiz

5 1 6	3 8	5 7 3
2 6 5	4 7 8	3 9 4
9 4 8	6 2	4 5 9

Winter Breaks at Baidland Mill



Sleeps six and consists of three double bedrooms bathroom & separate shower room, large kitchen & dining room. Situated at the foot of the Fairlie Moor in a very rural setting on a quiet country lane. There is fishing, golfing, quad biking, Abseiling horse riding and much more nearby.

Just 20 minutes from Glasgow offering Full retail therapy + Art galleries, Theatre, Restaurants, Bars and clubs. 40 Minutes from Loch Lomond/ 20 minutes from Royal Troon. Available at a discounted price between October and April (excluding Christmas and New Year Weeks and the February Half Term) we are offering a week at **£350** reduced from £450.

For Booking Information and more details call Fiona on:
07985 324 542 or Email: misslfsmith@msn.com

Grafty Garden Cuttings - February

From our New Zealand correspondent in a Camper Van somewhere in New Zealand:

This month sees a change to the usual scribbling, with a few notes from New Zealand on how to survive life in a motor home for weeks and weeks with just a microwave between us and starvation – no, not really: it is a great way to travel and the notes are about plants, gardens and birds.

The north of the North Island, above Auckland in particular, enjoys a climate that allows gardeners to indulge in all things sub-tropical. Their gardens are full of lush Musa (banana), palms, tree ferns, magnolia (especially grandiflora) eucalypts, acacias, cordylines (Cabbage Trees), New Zealand Flax – the list goes on. There are flowers of many bright hues as well and I am particularly envious of the wonderful pelargonium (ivy-leaved, regal and zonal) that stay in the ground year round to form frothing mounds or plants the size of shrubs covered in bloom, without danger of being frosted off. Roses, too, do particularly well with little sign of disease and can also be found growing as wild hedges in huge, massed heaps, only dying from old age or weed killer. Bougainvilleas in vibrant reds, pinks and oranges are another favourite, grown where we would plant, say, clematis. Watsonias, Verbena Bonariensis, Cinerarias, Jasmine, Trachelospermum jasminoides, Japanese honeysuckle, Helichrysum and Tradescantia all grow wild, some in vast quantities and with the Mimosa (Acacia) in bloom at the same time the perfume is exquisite. There are only around 2,200 native species of plants in New Zealand but over 24½ thousand introduced species, many brought in by gardeners and some have escaped into the wild to create havoc. The honeysuckle is one such, lantana another and gorse and broom are invasive pests, both in the bush and on farmland.

75% of New Zealand was once covered in bush but that is now down to about 30%. We have driven through some of these areas, which are mostly in the mountains and it is quite an experience. Of necessity, the roads twiddle and twine and switch-back, notices warn of 'bends' but fail to mention the massive drops of hundreds of metres just inches from the wheel that are always on my side. There are also frequent 'washouts' where the rain has taken out a chunk of mountain and sent it sliding down, complete with rocks, trees and probably art of the road. White knuckle at times.

The sight of vast swathes of tree ferns marching up hillsides and gullies intermingled with huge Rimu, Totara or Kauri and of course, Kanuka and Manuka (Tea-trees) are glorious, especially if the latter are in bloom.

Gardens of note that we have visited: Waih Waterlily Garden (Self explanatory but with the addition of some huge specimen oaks and tulip trees and a lovely café), south

of Auckland and Waitoka Scenic Gardens near Mount Ruapehu, where we met the owners for a lovely long chat and then had the whole beautiful garden to ourselves. Auckland, Gisborne (earthquake permitting), Taupo and Wellington – all have excellent botanic gardens which are well worth visiting.

Bird life is many and varied, despite the best efforts of introduced predators with the song of the thrush and blackbird daily filling the air. Many species were imported from Europe, to make the immigrants feel more at home, and they have thrived and spread to both islands. We have seen or heard some native birds too: parrots, Tui (with its incredible call – a cross between a rusty gate hinge and a bell), Pukeko, Bell Birds, Weka, Fantail, thousands of ducks, gannets, cormorants, stilts, gulls, terns, Welcome Swallows and thousands more ducks. The list goes on. Kiwi have been sighted but only in captivity, as they are night hunters of the forest floor and poking around in the bush at dead of night is not top of the agenda.

I will not elaborate on the woes of the plumbing in this van, nor its consequences, or the fact that the hot water system gave up after 2 weeks – not at all, for we are having the most wonderful time and next month may see some notes on the South Island, if I have recovered enough from the jet lag!

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 from cheaper oil, please email europa.13@btinternet.com or phone 858350 for details.

Keith Anderson



village hall at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated 75p for members and £1 for visitors.

- ❖ Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- ❖ Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the
- ❖ The club enables members to swap plants/seeds, share ideas and improve their growing skills.
- ❖ Meetings are friendly and informal; visitors are always welcome; refreshments included.

PROGRAMME FOR 2008

Date	Topic	Speaker
8 th January	AGM & The Vertical Gardener	Hilary Newman
5 th February	New Zealand Interlude	Brian Self
4 th March	The Garden as a Nature Reserve & Spring Show	Janet Bryant
1 st April	“Saxon Shore Way” part 2	Chris Wade
Sat 3 rd May	Plant Sale	
6 th May	Outing to Coptonsh, Faversham 6.30 pm. £2.50 + £1 tea and biscuits	
Sat 31 st May	Outing Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst (National Trust) 2 pm House and Garden £7.50, Garden only £5.80	
20 th - 22 nd June	Weekend away staying in Bury St Edmunds, Best Weston Hotel, dinner bed and breakfast. Visiting Beth Chatto, Foggy Bottom, Mannington Gardens and Hyde Hall. £212 per person	
1 st July	Outing Tram Hatch, Charing Heath 6.30pm £3.50 + £1 tea and biscuits	
Sat 2 nd August	Outing Great Dixter, Northiam 2pm £6.50 garden only	
2 nd September	National Trust Gardens and how they are maintained & Autumn Show	Roger Smith
7 th October	Venezuela – plant hunting	Tom Hart-Dyke
4 th November	A Kent Woodland through the Seasons	Robert Canis
2 nd December	Practical evening making Christmas table or door decoration & Wine and nibbles	

Saturdays

Saturdays	See Note 1					
	★	59	59	59	59	★
	0838	1241	1525	1755		
	0840	1243	1527	1757		
	0847	1250	1534	1804		
		1254	1538			
		1258	1542			
		via Sutton Rd				
		and Langley				
		1303	1547	1817		
		1306	1550	1820		
		1309	1553	1823		
		0859	1312	1556	1826	
			1604			
		0907	1320		1834	
		0914	1327		1841	
		0921	1334		1848	

Saturdays

	See Note 1					
	* 59	* 59	* 59	* 59	* 59	* 59
Saturdays	—	—	—	—	—	—
	0733	0923	1336	—	—	—
	0740	0930	1343	—	—	—
	0745	0935	1348	1604	—	—
	0747	0937	1350	1606	—	—
	0753	0943	1356	1612	—	—
	0756	0946	1359	—	—	—
	0759	0949	1402	—	—	—
	0802	0952	1405	—	—	—
	0807	0957	1410	—	—	—
	0811	1001	1414	—	—	—
	0815	1005	1418	1624	—	—
	0823	1013	1427	1632	—	—

Sundays and Public Holidays*

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

⚡ — 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.

R – Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

What is Yoga?

Some see yoga as contorted postures or of someone sitting crossed legged meditating; but yoga is far more than that. Yoga is a complete system to bring harmony and balance into your life together with adding suppleness, stamina, strength AND yoga can be practiced by anyone, young or old, male or female.

As a rule, a yoga class will spend time practicing postures which will bring the most benefit such as the four spinal movements; a forward bend, back bend, side stretch and rotation; these can be experienced gently or strongly depending on the fitness level. Towards the end of the class there is time for reflection and relaxation. Relaxation is as important as the postural movements, releasing stress and tension and bringing a feeling of rejuvenation.

How about joining a Class?

The exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counteracting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind and aligning the body's energy centres (the chakras) which will also give a wonderful feeling of well being.

I will be running a class on Thursday mornings starting 10th January 2008. The cost is £5 a session. I am hoping that we will have a guest yoga teacher every now and then to bring fresh interest to the class. You will need to wear clothes that allow free movement and bring a light blanket for relaxation. It is also advised to practice yoga on an empty stomach. If you are interested in joining and would like to contact me please call 01622 850381 or email: burch1997@aol.com.

Sue Burch

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The centre is back in full use now and I am glad to say in addition to the regular bookings there have been a number of private parties over the last couple of months. The trustees are hoping this is a trend and the hall will be in use each weekend for one reason or another.

We are also hoping to start a film club during 2008 with a film for the children in the afternoon and an adult film in the evening. The Harrietsham film club have agreed to hire out their projector and films to us, and we already have a volunteer to run the Platts Heath club.

The new heating system is now up and running and makes quite a difference.

The Line dancers are now back after the Christmas break, we had a late party at the start of January which we all enjoyed. Anyone interested in joining us are very welcome on Thursday evenings 8pm - 9pm

Finally it is time for another AGM this will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2008 at 8pm in the St Edmunds Centre. Anyone wishing to serve the village on the committee would of course be very welcome; all committees need new ideas and shaking up from time to time.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

DAISY'S STORY

There she was a twenty two months old golden retriever, looking very thin and losing her fur. Her tail wagging furiously and a photograph in her mouth as a gift for me (she has continued to bring visitors a gift all her life). "Her puppies are 8 weeks old and all gone to new homes" said Claire the breeder. "That is why she is so thin feeding so many babies; she will make up her weight quickly now they are weaned"

Daisy's story was she had been sold as a puppy but at 3 months the new owners had returned to Claire saying she was vicious. However Claire saw the pup in the owner's home with a small child miss-treating her and refunded the purchase price and took Daisy home. Daisy's name was changed to Lady and she was quite successful in the show ring as a prize winning pup. Unfortunately she did not develop into show material as an adult bitch. So she had one litter of pups, but Claire and her partner felt

Lady should be more than a breeding bitch she had such a beautiful temperament. Claire already had four other retrievers for showing and a rottweiler as a pet, Lady needed a chance of a new home. As I had recently lost my dog Bess I was asked whether my husband and I would like to buy Lady.

There she was as I say with this gift for me!

We went for a walk with all the dogs, Lady's mum among them too, earlier in the day it had been raining and Lady found a very large puddle and laid down in it, with what can only be described as a grin on her cheeky face. I was in love.

She leapt into the back of my car and became Daisy again I later learnt that had been her first name. The vet confirmed her condition was due to having raised 11 pups and she was in good health. Daisy soon regained her proper weight and coat; she has always loved water and swimming in any sort of water. If it is not deep enough to swim in she just lies down and looks at you with a "aren't I clever look". She loves being groomed including bathing and drying off with the hair dryer.

Daisy has travelled all over the country on our holidays and loved walking for miles. She has made many friends over the years and with a variety of other dogs in the village, George a black retriever/cross is her greatest friend, Holly also a close friend from next door. Then of course there are Dillion and Flora a boarder collie and a spaniel. Lucy a black Labrador and Minty another cross. What fun they have when they meet up in the local orchard and woods. There is no shortage of dog sitters to cover holidays and weekends away if needed.

After I retired from work Daisy became a 'Pets as Therapy' dog and visited the Pilgrims Hospice.

The first owners of Daisy will never know what a wonderful loyal loving dog they let slip through their fingers. Daisy has gained the love of most of the villagers of Platts Heath and the children of our school. When I am seen without her the first thing people ask is how Daisy is.

Unfortunately old age catches up with us all and Daisy is no exception she has retired from PAT dogs and only manages to walk a few hundred yards. Daisy has been a great ambassador for her kind and there will be a great hole in our lives when her time comes to leave us, but our lives have been richer for sharing her life and her devoted company.

Patricia Dibley

Citizens Advice Maidstone



Free Independent Confidential Impartial

Whoever you are - Whatever your problem - We are here to help

2 Bower Terrace, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone
Telephone 01622 752420 or 757882



Maidstone Citizens Advice Bureau is sponsored by Maidstone Borough Council

Christmas Blues? Overspent?

Beware of loan sharks and doorstep lenders

The best advice for dealing with loan sharks is 'don't'. They're unlicensed moneylenders who charge very high interest rates and sometimes use threats and violence to threaten people who can't pay back their loan.

The Office of Fair Trading regulates moneylenders who must follow a code of practice. Phone 020 7211 8608, 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday to check if a lender is licensed

If a lender isn't licensed don't borrow money from them

Always make sure you know how much money you'll have to pay back. Here's a typical example from a doorstep lender:

Loan amount £200
32 weekly repayments of £10
Total amount payable £320
Typical 399.7% APR

Important points to remember –

- Do not feel pressurised to sign an agreement NOW
- Take time to consider how much you can afford
- Check the total amount you will have to repay
- Shop around for the best deal
- Is there anywhere else you can borrow the money from?

If you are not sure – please come and speak to us at
Maidstone Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Bower Terrace Tonbridge Road or
phone us on 752420/757882, Monday-Friday 10am – 4 pm

Maidstone Citizens Advice Bureau is sponsored by Maidstone Borough Council

WANTED

YOUR HELP.

**A BOOK IS BEING PLANNED ON THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF BOUGHTON
MALHERBE AND THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTY GREEN.**

**NEEDED ARE OLD PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE VILLAGE AND
THE HISTORY OF THE OLDER HOUSES IN THE PARISH.**

**STORIES FROM FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY YEARS RECALLING
THEIR CHILDHOOD AND HANDED DOWN TALES FROM THEIR PARENTS.**

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT: JOHN COLLINS

**THE HOMESTEAD
HEADCORN ROAD
GRAFTY GREEN
TEL: 01622 850213**

E'MAIL: john.collins15@btinternet.com

OR

**PETER BIRD
BUCKHURST
HEADCORN ROAD
GRAFTY GREEN
TEL: 01622 850456**

E'MAIL: birdatgraffy@tiscali.co.uk

**ANY PHOTOS OR DOCUMENTS WILL BE SCANNED WITH YOUR PERMISSION AND
RETURNED TO YOU AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.**

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

Theme Quiz – Paper, Cotton, Tin, Crystal	
Paper	
1	Who bought Express Newspapers in 2000 ?
2	Who had a hit record in 1973 with Paper Roses ?
3	Which quantity of paper sounds like a Group of Singers ?
4	What completes “Paper _____” , something which looks strong but is in fact feeble ?
Cotton	
5	Which King of Skiffle had a hit with “Pick a Bale of Cotton” ?
6	In Eastenders, what is Dot Cotton’s new married name ?
7	In Beatrix Potter’s stories, who were the Cottontails Three siblings ?
8	Which state in the USA is nicknamed “The Cotton State” ?
Tin	
9	What breed of dog was Rin Tin Tin ?
10	What part of the body is affected by “Tinnitus” ?
11	Which county is particularly associated with Tin Mining ?
12	Teddy Tinling famously designed outfits for which sport ?
Crystal	
13	In the TV cartoon what was the name of Crystal Tipps dog ?
14	A Crystal set was an early version of what ?
15	For which 1851 event was the Crystal Palace built ?
16	Which city of SE Ireland is associated with the manufacture of Crystal ?

Music Notes, February

Surprisingly several choirs and orchestras are ready to perform in February, in spite of the fact that most of them put on a concert in December. Here are my monthly recommendations:

- Saturday 2nd February, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra present Weber's Clarinet Concerto No.2 and Rachmaninov's 2nd Symphony. Tickets 01622 736392.
- Saturday 9th February, 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted – Kent Chamber Choir 'Sing Joyfully' in support of Holy Cross missionary Links. Tickets 01622 737916.
- Also on Saturday 9th February, 7.30pm but at Kent Music, Maidstone –Simon Proctor, , the well known and locally based pianist, will give a concert, together with the FONO orchestra, conducted by Michael Simpson from the USA. Tickets or details 01622.
- Book early for the Maidstone Choral Union concert on 8th March, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone. The concert will include the popular and exciting work *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins. Tickets tel 01622 726193.

This Month's Good Cause

MedicAlert

Registered Charity 233705

With over 40 years' experience, The MedicAlert Foundation is the only registered charity that provides a life-saving identification for people with hidden medical conditions. The charity provides members with a bracelet or necklet engraved with a personal identification number and a medical emergency number. In an emergency, (for example, after an accident when the person concerned is unable to give coherent personal details) medical staff anywhere in the world are provided with key personal medical information on the back of the emblem, and, by phoning the emergency number given there, gain vital medication data, plus next of kin and doctor contacts.

If you know of someone who might benefit from this service, why not pass on the details? Members normally pay a fee, and purchase their bracelet/necklet (which can, optionally, be of jewellery standard) but sponsorship is available to those unable to

pay, and as a registered charity the Foundation relies heavily on donations to continue its life-saving work on a non-profit basis.

You can send donations to The MedicAlert Foundation, 1 Bridge Wharf, 156 Caledonian rd, London N1 9NU or obtain more details from www.medicalert.org.uk



The Ulcombe Friendship Club 2008

an informal social club open to
all villagers and friends.

It meets at 2.30 pm in Ulcombe Village Hall
on the last Thursday in the month .

There is an annual Membership fee of £3.
Most expenses are met by a monthly Raffle.
Everyone shares in providing cakes and scones

For more details please contact:
Mrs Molly Poulter, Tel. (01622) 842988
The Old Dairy, Street Farm, Ulcombe.
Maidstone, Kent ME17 1DP

PROGRAMME 2008

Jan 17	<i>New Year Lunch</i> at The Red Lion Lenham at 12 noon (£15. 00)
Feb 28	Talk by Donna Wills <i>Demelza House, the children's hospice</i>
Mar 27	Talk by Mrs Pamela Smith on: <i>Paper Craft</i> (return visit)
Apr 24	Talk by Mrs Tsuyoko Page: <i>Origami</i>
May 29	Outing
Jun 26	Talk by Rev Nigel Fry: <i>From business</i>
Jul 31	Summer Garden Party
Aug 28	Talk and music by Mrs Pauline Fisher: <i>My life and my trumpet</i>
Sep 23	Outing
Oct 30	Talk by Mrs Ann Chance: <i>Petticoat Pilot</i>
Nov 27	Talk by Peter Hartley: <i>Royal interlude</i>
Dec 18	Christmas Party
Jan 15	New Year Lunch



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CONTACT DETAILS

LOCAL OFFICERS

**PC Paul Kemsley - 01622 604392
paul.kemsley@kent.pnn.police.uk**

**PCSO Tom Smith - 07772226099
01622 604392
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IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

Non-Emergency - 01622 690690

The February Night Sky

This month I have a little more to say about the moon. New Moon occurs Thursday 7th February and will be visible in the southwest at sunset, and Full moon will be on Thursday 21st February, when there will be a total eclipse.

At every Full Moon, the Moon lies on the opposite side of the sky to the Sun, as viewed from here on Earth. This month, however, the three bodies are perfectly aligned, which will result in a total eclipse of the Moon in the early hours of February 21st. You will see the Earth's shadow start to appear on the left of the Moon shortly before 2 am, and will be totally obscured by 3.am. Although it will remain like this for about 50 minutes you will still be able to see the Moon with a dim reddish glow owing to the Earth's atmosphere.

It is not a good month to view both Mercury and Venus, as Mercury is at inferior conjunction (between us and the Sun) on February 6th, and Venus is at its most southern part of the sky.

Mars was at its best in December and January, but it is still worth viewing in the southern sky at dusk. Although now fading, it is still brighter than most of the stars and with its reddish-orange light can be seen moving eastwards towards the Twin stars of Gemini.

Last month I mentioned that an asteroid known as 2007 WD5 could hit the surface of Mars later in January. As I write this article in advance I should report that the chances of a collision in late January are now very slim. NASA's scientists have refined its course and it is now estimated that it will miss Mars by about 20,000 thousand miles.

Jupiter is now emerging from behind the Sun in the dawn sky. At the beginning of the month it can be seen just below Venus, low in the southeast before sunrise. It is possible to see Jupiter's four major moons with binoculars, and in twilight, Callisto, the outermost one, can be seen with the naked eye.

At the beginning of the month Saturn rises in the east at 7 pm, and by the end of the month at sunset. On the 24th of February Saturn is in opposition to the Sun and is closest to the Earth. The rings can clearly be seen with a telescope, together with many of the moons, the largest of which is Titan.

John Maunder



NEW COMPUTER Need some training

Would you like some help? Egerton Telecottage will be running a new term of classes from January through to Easter. Daytime classes are from 10am to 12 noon and evenings from 8pm to 10pm. You can sign up for any of the following by contacting Alison on 01233 756366:

- Digital Photography – 4 weeks – Tuesday evenings from 8th January
- Word Processing Intermediate - 4 weeks – Wednesday mornings from 9th January
- Internet – 4 weeks – Wednesday evenings from 16th January
- Basic IT – 4 weeks – Tuesday mornings from 22nd January
- Clean up your Computer – 2 weeks – Thursday evenings from 7th February
- Desk Top Publishing – 6 weeks - Tuesday evenings from 12th February
- Excel – 4 weeks – Monday evenings from 25th February
- Word Processing Basic – 4 weeks – Wednesday mornings from 27th February
- Email – 2 weeks – Thursday evenings from 6th March

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	Folk	Tap	Sword	Dancer
2	Military	Station	Secret	
3	Sweet	Burn	Felt	
4	Monkey	Chest	Pea	
5	Bread	Pan	Mint	
6	Bell	Animal	Found	
7	Pillow	Dog	Gun	
8	Bird	Cake	Pearl	
9	Powder	Machine	Line	
10	Weight	Clock	Bird	
11	Birthday	Company	Day	
12	Juice	Light	Stone	
13	Score	Demand	Cup	
14	Shop	Mail	Food	
15	Ordinary	Large	Film	
16	Soaking	Suit	Paint	

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

Sudoku Quiz Solution

8	9	7	1	2	4	5	6	3
5	4	2	3	6	7	9	1	8
1	3	6	8	9	5	7	4	2
3	7	1	2	5	8	6	9	4
4	8	5	6	7	9	3	2	1
2	6	9	4	3	1	8	5	7
7	2	8	9	1	6	4	3	5
6	5	3	7	4	2	1	8	9
9	1	4	5	8	3	2	7	6

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 2nd February 2008 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone. The programme will consist of three works:

- Bizet – Carmen Suite
- Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 2 – Soloist Mark Simpson
- Rachmaninov – Symphony No. 2

This concert has a programme for every taste, with the current BBC Young Musician, Clarinetist Mark Simpson, joining MSO in Weber's delightful 2nd Concerto. Elsewhere, Rachmaninov expansively exploits both sumptuous harmonies and lyrical, romantic melodies in his 2nd Symphony and there's the evergreen suite from Bizet's Carmen.

Concert tickets £10, £16 and £20, seats for children or 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 Maidstone Leisure Centre on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

Many thanks for your continued cooperation and support to the MSO.

David Bramley Maidstone Orchestral Society

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Folk	Tap	Sword	Dancer
2	Military	Station	Secret	Police
3	Sweet	Burn	Felt	Heart
4	Monkey	Chest	Pea	Nut
5	Bread	Pan	Mint	Sauce
6	Bell	Animal	Found	Dumb
7	Pillow	Dog	Gun	Fight
8	Bird	Cake	Pearl	Seed
9	Powder	Machine	Line	Washing
10	Weight	Clock	Bird	Watcher
11	Birthday	Company	Day	Present
12	Juice	Light	Stone	Lime
13	Score	Demand	Cup	Final
14	Shop	Mail	Food	Junk
15	Ordinary	Large	Film	Extra
16	Soaking	Suit	Paint	Wet

	Theme Quiz – Paper, Cotton, Tin, Crystal
Paper	1 Richard Desmond
2	Maria Osmond
3	Quire
4	Tiger
Cotton	5 Lonnie Donegan
6	Brannin
7	Flopsy, Mopsy and Peter
8	Alabama
Tin	9 German Shepherd (Alsatian)
10	Far
11	Cornwall
12	Tennis
Crystal	13 Alstair
14	Radio
15	Great Exhibition
16	Waterford

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – February 2008

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 3 rd February Candlemas The Sunday next before Lent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 All Saints Ulcombe	BCP HC CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Family Service Taize Service
Sun 10 th February First Sunday of Lent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC Family Service CW 1 Family Service CW 1
Sun 17 th February Second Sunday of Lent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 BCP Evening Prayer
Sun 24 th February Third Sunday of Lent	08.00 L 10.30 U 18.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 (Benefice service in All Saints Ulcombe) Informal Service

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)

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