



Malherbe Monthly

Number 64
November 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| County Councillor | Jenny Whittle | 734897 |
| Borough Councillors | Jenny Gibson Richard Thick | 890200 891224 |
| Church Wardens | Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson | 858348 850210 |
| Parish Council Clerk | Pat Anderson | 858350 |
| Village Hall bookings | Doreen Walters | 850387 |
| KM Correspondent | Vacant | |
| Gardening Club | Sue Burch | 850381 |
| Church Choir | Doreen Hulm | 850287 |
| Yoga | Sue Burch | 850381 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Keith Anderson Sue Burch | 858350 850381 |
| Incumbent | Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com | 858195 |
| Associate Priest | Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday | 07966 442181 |
| Reader | Miss Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com | 853766 |
| Benefice Office | Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk | 850604 |
| Mobile Library | Wednesday afternoons | |
| St. Edmunds Centre | Tricia Dibley | 858891 |
| Fresh Fish delivery | Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 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 December edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th November**

Front cover: The 30mph sign on Headcorn Road in Grafty Green.
Take note – Speedwatch is coming to Grafty Green soon – keep to the speed limit !!!

News from St. Nicholas Church

Harvest Festival and Back to Church Sunday

Harvest Festival this year was linked with Back to Church Sunday which was held on 27th September and the Church looked lovely decorated with corn and apples etc with lovely autumn flowers. The auction of produce took place after the service while coffee and biscuits were served. It raised £175 for Demelza House Children's Hospice. Back to Church Sunday enabled us to welcome a few new people to our Service which was lovely. See you again soon, we hope.

Harvest Supper

The Harvest supper was held on 10th October, 2009 and Mair has written an article later in the magazine. Our thanks are due to Mair Chantler who organised this event for us on behalf of St. Nicholas Church. The proceeds will be split between the Church and a charity. Thank you very much Mair.

New Bibles

Bible Sunday was on 25th October, when our new bibles were blessed by Rev: Marian Bond, our Associate Priest, during our monthly All Age Worship Service. We also have a beautiful new Lectern Bible, the pages of which are numbered exactly the same as the small bibles, so it will be easy to refer to certain passages, to illustrate points of Scripture. Some of the bibles will be in the Church for anyone to use. The cost of these bibles was covered by donations and money raised at a coffee morning.

Coffee Morning

The Ladies of St. Nicholas have decided to hold a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall Grafty Green, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 10.00am & 12.00 starting in November. This will be non-profit making, just a donation to cover the cost of the coffee. Anyone who wants to pop in will be most welcome.

We thought that an opportunity to meet was needed, to have a chat and a coffee or tea and a biscuit, particularly during the winter months. So if you have time to join us, just come along for as long as you can – to meet and get to know other people in the village. We know there are new people living amongst us, but opportunities meet them and each other are very limited, so do come along.

See you there on the 11th. As this is Armistice Day, we will be observing the 2 minutes silence at 11 o'clock.

Joan Davidson



Protecting Maidstone's Maternity Services

In January 2008 I gave birth to my daughter, Katie, at Pembury Hospital. I expected to give birth at Maidstone Hospital and even undertook a tour of the maternity facilities there a month before I had Katie. When I went into labour, however, I telephoned Maidstone's maternity unit only to be told that there were no beds available and I would have to go to Pembury instead. I was in too much pain to kick up a fuss and had a superb team of midwives look after me at Pembury during a very long and exhausting labour. Fortunately the 21 mile trip from my home to Pembury Hospital occurred before the morning rush hour began – had I gone into labour later in the morning, I would have been stuck in heavy traffic whilst in the most severe pain that I have ever experienced in my life.

It is with interest and concern therefore that I learnt the maternity unit at Maidstone is going to lose its consultants in 2011, to be replaced by a midwifery-led unit. Women who have had difficult current or previous pregnancies will be directed to go to Pembury where consultants will be retained; in fact, any expectant mother in Maidstone can opt to go to Pembury if she so wishes. My concern, however, is for those women with uncomplicated pregnancies who suffer severe complications during labour at Maidstone and are whisked to Pembury by ambulance over 20 miles of single carriageway A-roads. I cannot begin to think of the anxiety this would cause mothers in labour as well as the potential increased risk to mothers and babies.

After I was elected in June, I was appointed as a member of the KCC Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee. I have a particular interest in maternity issues and have been tasked to undertake some research on the potential impact of withdrawal of consultants from Maidstone's maternity unit. If you or your family have any experience of having had a normal pregnancy but a difficult birth at Maidstone in which the consultants' presence has been essential, I would be grateful if you could get in touch. I believe that highlighting individual "human

case” stories are the only chance we have of protecting the provision of hospital consultants in Maidstone’s maternity unit.

Best wishes

Jenny Whittle

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk

01622 734897

Harvest Supper & Quiz Night

Firstly, a big thanks go to Mandy and Mike Hitchins for all the help in setting up and organizing and running the bar, Joan Drury, Sally Alexander and Andree Chantler for help with the catering, Mike and Joan Davidson for supplying the delicious apples, Jackie Hansen for organizing the quiz and to all who helped with serving, washing up and clearing up.

Although a disappointing number of tickets were sold, I am sure that everyone who attended will agree that it was a good night out with plenty to eat and drink and a taxing quiz to get our brains cells going and a chance to catch up with old friends.

The intention was not to make a great profit but to draw the community together to be thankful for the harvest. However, a profit was made in the region of £374 which is to be split between St Nicholas Church and the Crisis at Christmas Organisation, who provide food and shelter over the Christmas period for the homeless.

Thank you once again for all who helped and bought tickets. I have enjoyed being part of the organising team for the past two years, it was hard work but worthwhile.

Mair Chantler

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

59

Mondays to Fridays

| Service No: | School Days | | Not School Days | | Service No: | School Days | | Not School Days | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Only | Days | Only | Days | | Only | Days | Only | Days |
| Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2 | 1227 | 1402 | — | 1555 1555 | 1615 1700 | 1750 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4 | 1229 | 1404 | — | 1557 1557 | 1617 1702 | 1752 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Wheatshaf | 1236 | 1411 | — | 1604 1604 | 1624 1708 | 1759 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill | 1240 | 1415 | — | 1608 1608 | 1617 1713 | 1803 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Linton Corner | 1244 | 1419 | — | 1612 1612 | 1617 1717 | 1807 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Cornwallis Academy | — | — | — | 1505 | — | — | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion | 1249 | 1424 | — | 1617 1617 | 1620 1722 | 1812 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn | 1252 | 1427 | 1509 | 1620 1620 | 1623 1725 | 1815 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head | 1255 | 1430 | 1512 | 1623 1623 | 1626 1728 | 1818 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Wormlake Corner | 1258 | 1433 | 1515 | — | 1626 1638 | 1731 1821 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Kingswood, Village Hall | — | — | — | — | — | — | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive | 1306 | — | 1523 | — | 1634 1646 | — | 1829 | 59 | 59 |
| Uitcombe, Post Office | 1313 | — | 1530 | — | 1641 1653 | — | 1836 | 59 | 59 |
| Grafty Green, King's Head | 1320 | — | 1535 | — | 1648 1700 | — | 1843 | 59 | 59 |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 59 | 59 |
| Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by | — | — | — | 1544 | — | — | — | 59 | 59 |

Saturdays

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

Service 59: Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Sheats Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Brishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Chartway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Cayser Drive, Gravely Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Uitcombe Hill, Uitcombe, 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, Warmlake Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.

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

Service 66: Cornwallis Academy, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Mondays to Fridays

| Service No: | School Days | | Not School Days | | Service No: | School Days | | Not School Days | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Only | Days | Only | Days | | Only | Days | Only | Days |
| Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by | — | — | — | 0736 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle | — | — | — | 0745 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uitcombe, Post Office | 0723 | — | 0723 | — | 0915 1325 | — | — | — | 1703 |
| Kingswood, Village Hall | 0730 | — | 0730 0750 | 0922 1332 | — | — | — | — | 1710 |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive | 0735 | — | 0735 0755 | 0927 1337 | 1440 1440 | 1715 | — | — | — |
| Warmlake Corner | 0738 | — | 0738 0757 | 0929 1339 | 1442 1442 | 1717 | — | — | — |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head | 0746 | — | 0744 0808 | 0935 1345 | 1448 1448 | 1723 | — | — | — |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn | 0739 | 0747 | 0809 0938 | 1348 1451 | 1451 1451 | 1726 | — | — | — |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion | 0742 | 0750 | 0811 0941 | 1351 1454 | 1454 1454 | 1729 | — | — | — |
| Cornwallis Academy | 0745 | 0753 | — | 0944 1354 | 1457 1457 | 1732 | — | — | — |
| Linton Corner | — | — | — | 0820 | — | — | — | — | 1507 |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill | 0750 | 0758 | — | 0949 1359 | 1502 1509 | 1737 | — | — | — |
| Wheatshaf | 0756 | 0802 | — | 0953 1403 | 1506 1513 | 1741 | — | — | — |
| Maidstone, King Street | 0758 | 0800 0806 | — | 0957 1407 | 1510 1517 | 1745 | — | — | — |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station | — | 0810 0814 | — | 1005 1415 | 1518 1525 | 1753 | — | — | — |
| London Road, Somerfield Hospital | 0808 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park | 0817 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 0826 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Saturdays

| See Note 1 | | See Note 1 | |
|---------------------|----|------------|----|
| 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| 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*

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 Garden Cuttings – November

The warm, moist conditions are producing their bounty of fungi, which are appearing in ever increasing shapes, sizes and varieties. Our favourite are field mushrooms, easily identified by look and smell. Or so one thinks. I spotted a wonderful crop surrounding a bush in the front garden, but upon harvesting them, they turned out to be Yellow Staining mushrooms. Almost identical to field mushrooms, the give-away is the bright yellow stain that appears as soon as they are touched or cut, and they are poisonous enough to cause sweating, flushing and stomach cramps. They have gone onto the bonfire and we have hopes of something more edible appearing elsewhere in the garden. We did try the edible Birch Bolete one year but it looked and tasted rather as one might expect cooked slugs to look and taste, so we will not be eating that again.

I spotted a squirrel this morning, the first for months as it swore at something it did not like, before dashing away up the back of the tree, where it thinks it cannot be seen. It was collecting acorns, all that are left, apart from a few rather small chestnuts. Our trees are not mature enough to produce worthwhile sized nuts, as yet.

Something large and strong has been forcing its way through our hedge by much use of teeth, claw and brute strength, over the past few weeks. We think badgers are the culprits, especially as before it rained, it was beside the damson trees, where they could easily Hoover up the fallen fruit for the moisture. Something has also taken a small hedgehog and left me to find a sad little pile of skin and prickles. On a more cheerful note, 6 beautiful cock pheasants were strutting around the orchard as well as the squirrel, possibly taking refuge? Although I did not hear any guns at the time.

The compost bin devoted to leaves has yielded a wonderful amount of leaf mould this year despite having taken 2 years to rot down. I have been able to bag up enough to use for potting next spring, filled the green house borders for next year's tomatoes and mulch a very hungry border. Next job; to dig out a compost heap to mulch further areas, including the vegetable garden. The last of the tulip bulbs are being planted, the onion sets for sweet, white 'Snowball' onions are in, as is a sowing of broad beans under cloches. Other, spring flowering bulbs like narcissi, hyacinths, alliums and anemones can go into the ground or containers any time during the month. To stop squirrels digging them out place a piece of wire netting over the bulbs, before covering with soil.

Pot-grown tender plants should be brought into shelter and containers placed against a wall, if frosts are forecast. Those containers with spent plants and compost need emptying and cleaning. The used soil should not be re-used for

other plants, although grow bags can be revitalized with the removal of the old roots, the addition of a handful of fertilizer and a little new soil, and lettuce or salad leaves sown. Now is a really good time to have a mower serviced; ours was done in less than 24 hours, and bird feeders and baths need a thorough clean with disinfectant, ready for all the winter visitors.

Rosemary Smith

Platts Heath Primary School

Well here we are, term one completed in what feels like the blink of an eye. I swear time passes quicker every year but the beginning of this term was strange for me this year as I watched my youngest go into her final year of primary school looking so different (they seem to go into a metamorphosis over the holidays) and then seeing the new little ones walking into school who I remember being born as if it were yesterday. How time flies.

It must have been strange for the staff of the school too because as we saw the school return to a four class structure. We also welcomed a new teacher, Miss Sarah Keywood. This new structure has been well received and means that we are able to focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage as it should be. I understand that the day's learning stems from the children's interests whereby they learn through play. The four classes have now been named after castles and a house system has been introduced. House points will be given for good work and good behaviour and there is a trophy for the house with the most points.

After school clubs are doing well and we have something to offer not only every day but for everyone. Drama, Netball, Football, Warhammer, French, Science and Film Club.

The Eco Warriors are still doing their bit to keep us green. Last year we gained our bronze award and are now well on our way to achieving the silver award.

The school has been very lucky this year with several new opportunities arising. As part of the Government's Wider Opportunities in Music scheme, KCC have provided funding for a teacher from Kent Music School to give the year 5 & year 6 children a music lesson for one hour every week. The children have chosen to learn to play the clarinet. From my own experience it seems to be going very well but I will be glad when they learn a new tune, I'm sure the hot cross buns tune is firmly embedded in my brain!

The year 5 & year 6 children have also been given the opportunity to build a Go-Cart under the guidance of Mr Ian Rapley a former head teacher who is now an Ambassador for Medway Education Business Partnership.

We have been very lucky to acquire a Go-cart kit which the children have to build and have been doing so over the last six weeks , the cart is put together solely by the children under Mr Rapley's guidance. Once completed the children will test the vehicle to ensure it is fully functional and in June will be given the opportunity to race against other schools at the Kent County Show in what I am told is like a mini grand prix. It's all very exciting.

The Halloween disco went down a treat once again, the costumes were fantastic the dancing was superb and as always the PTFA did wonderful job organising the event. All in all it seems to have been a very busy first term and I'm sure term two will prove to be the same.

Don't miss our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December with all the usual festivities.

If you would like to know more about our school, please contact our headmaster Mr Ian Priddle on 01622 850316.

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School

The Lenham Players

The Lenham Players will be presenting **A Victorian Christmas Revue** at Lenham Community Centre for two nights this Christmas on Friday 4th & Saturday 5th December at 7:45pm.

This is an entirely new show in the format that was very popular for many years in the old Village Hall. There will be free Mince Pies in the interval and the audience will be able to bring their own wine and nibbles to further their enjoyment. They are also encouraged to wear appropriate Victorian garb to add to the atmosphere.

Tickets will be available from Len Valley Newsagents, The Community Centre or by telephoning 01622 858561 at £8:00 each.

David Abson

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

| | Find the missing word? |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | |
| 1 | _____ Young, Radio DJ retired in 2002 |
| 2 | Melvyn _____, Highbrow TV presenter |
| 3 | George Frideric _____, German born composer famous for his water music |
| 4 | _____ _ No Deal, TV game show with Noel Edmonds |
| 5 | _____ Melody, a song covered by the Righteous Brothers |
| 6 | _____ Swift, Writer who penned Gulliver's Travels |
| 7 | Ding _____, Top Chinese snooker player |
| 8 | The _____, 1970 comedy set aboard The Pacific Princess |
| 9 | _____ Coltrane, Larger than life actor |
| 10 | ____ ____, Motoring programme with Jeremy Clarkson |

**Cornhills
Gems and Crystals**

The Corner House, The Square,
Lenham, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 2PQ
Tel No 01622 853920

Crystals & Gemstones

Handmade Dream

&

Crystal Sun Catchers



Angels, Dragons
Gem Stones, Silver Rings

New In

Amazing Wind Spinners
and Finely Tuned Chimes

**Shop Open Every day 10 til 5
also on market Sundays**

WGJ Plumbing

Warren Johnson

Your Friendly Local

Plumber

Free estimates
No call out charge
Sensible rates
Fully insured

***From a dripping tap to a complete
new bathroom***

Tel: 01233 756054

Mob: 07936 408853

email: wgjplumbing@tiscali.co.uk

ALL-FIX PLUMBING

Home maintenance & repairs

David Jenkins



Leaking Pipes

General Domestic
Plumbing

Replacement Taps

Repairs & Installation

Toilets & drains
repaired or unblocked

Painting and Decorating

*Odd Jobs, Fully Insured
No job too small*

**FREE QUOTES
NO CALL-OUT CHARGE
FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE**

**01622 851186 &
0791 438 0521**

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

The Kings Head Grafty Green

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



Traditional Sunday Lunches

**Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers**

***Booking Advisable*
01622 850259**

Children's Room Beer Garden

Charing Crematorium

Situated in 12 acres
of peaceful lawns and woodland garden.
Kent's first crematorium has served the public
for over 50 years.

Our help, advice and experience on all matters
relating to cremation is freely available to you.

Kent County Crematorium PLC
Newcourt Wood,
Charing, Ashford,
Kent.

☎ 01233 712443

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is fantastic to be able to start this article by thanking people. Firstly, I would like to thank all of those parents who have given up time and energy during October to help make our school look wonderful. Some areas have had some much needed 'TLC' which is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank those from the school and wider community who came to the public meeting earlier in the month to find out more about how we are trying to improve our school. And once again, thank you very much to those parents who have let us know how pleased you are with what we are trying to do in school. There have been yet more positive comments about a wide range of things. It is great to know that what are doing is appreciated!

Improving Our School

As you may now be aware, we are hoping to build an extension to house a library, disabled toilet, storage and a small kitchen area. As well as being a fantastic resource for the children to use in school we hope to be able to open it up to the wider community for small group meetings such as adult education. It will also be a suitable area for breakfast and after-school clubs. We have been working on plans to improve the school as Kent County Council is selling unused land at our school. We have been able to come to an agreement with them that the proceeds from the sale of the land will be made available to us to improve the building. If there are sufficient funds we will also be improving the office and entrance areas as well as working on other key areas for improvement of the fabric of our school. This is a wonderful opportunity which we are keen to take advantage of whilst we have this agreement with KCC. At the present time KCC are applying to the DCSF in central government to confirm that the land can be taken out of educational use. We hope that you will be able to support us as we seek to take advantage of the offer being made to us by the local authority, an offer which gives us a unique opportunity to improve the school in such a fantastic way.

Open Morning

On Wednesday 21st October we held an Open Morning, so that parents and friends of children at the school could come and see what we get up to on a 'normal morning'. It was fantastic to meet children and their parents who may be joining us next September as well as parents of children already in school. If you were unable to join us, or you know others who have a pre-school age child who were not able to join us, please contact the school and we will arrange a time for you to come and see our wonderful school at work.

Cinema Visits

The children all enjoyed their trip to the cinema as part of National Schools' Film Work. The trips went really well following on from the outstanding success of Film Club. Tawny Owls went to watch the Spiderwick Chronicles, whilst Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Owlets watched Ice Age 3. Thanks to the Odeon Cinema in Maidstone for their help.

Fireworks Night

The Friends of Ulcombe School are organising our annual Fireworks Night for Friday 6th November. Everyone who joined us was amazed by the fireworks last year, which were definitely our best yet. As well as a fantastic fireworks display again this year, there will be a barbecue and various other stalls. We look forward to seeing you there from 6.30pm!

Remembrance Day Assembly

Parents and friends are again invited to our Remembrance Day Assembly on Wednesday 11th November at 10.45am. This will include a two minute silence at 11 o'clock. We hope lots of you will join us for this very special occasion.

Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner

Our next Friends' Dinner will be on Wednesday 25th November. It is always wonderful to welcome friends and neighbours to our school. For just £3.95 you will be able to enjoy a wonderful lunch cooked by our own School Cook, with some of our older children being the waiters and waitresses. After lunch children from each class will show what they have been doing in class in, I am sure, a very entertaining way. If you would like to know more please contact the School Office (01622 842903).

Harvest Celebration

I am sure, those of you who were there will agree that the Harvest Celebration at the start of October was a wonderful occasion. The children were great leading our worship in a variety ways. Well done to everyone who kept singing when the music stopped!

Well I think that is enough to be going on with! Please remember to come and ask us in School if you have any concerns or require any further information.

Mr V Hampton
Head Teacher

How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting 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.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 3rd September
and

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm
Term starts Wednesday 9th September

£5 a Session

If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in
please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339



GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB 2009 PROGRAMME

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 th January | AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips | Sissinghurst gardener: Amy Cabey |
| 3 rd February | Dry Garden | H. Newman |
| 3 rd March | Butterflies | Steve Weeks |
| 7 th April | Spring Show & River Medway Part 2 | Graham Johnson |
| Saturday 9 th May | Plant Sale – on the Green | |
| 5 th May | Local garden visit | Sissinghurst |
| 5 th June – 7 th June | Weekend visit to Hampshire | |
| 12 th July | Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit | Tom Hart Dyke |
| 4 th August | Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green | |
| 1 st September | Autumn show - Aspects of showing | Lesley Feakes |
| 6 th October | Village Signs | Avice Harms |
| 3rd November | Kent in the 19th century | Bob Ogley |
| 1 st December | Gardening quiz and supper | |

- ❖ Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- ❖ Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. 75p for members and £1 for visitors.
- ❖ 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.

Tuesday evening at 7.30 November 3rd in Grafty Green Village Hall - the gardening club welcomes Bob Ogley who will speak on 'Kent in the 1900 century'.

Sue Burch

Re- housing the homeless

One of the objectives of MAIDSTONE CHRISTIAN CARE is to help to re-house the homeless. When they are re-housed they usually have nothing by way of furniture, bedding or the normal items of cutlery etc. etc. Some of these items are provided by the Beacon church but they do not handle electrical equipment in view of the rules and regulations now operating. I am happy to store moderately sized electrical items – carpet sweepers, fires, toasters; kettles etc. (provided they are in working order) and make them available to those we re-house. If you have surplus items of this sort or if you become involved in clearing the house of a friend or family member where such items are surplus to requirements will you please have a word with me.

The Revd. D.W. Bond

Hon. Treasurer, Maidstone Christian Care

6 Denton Close, MAIDSTONE

Kent, ME15 8ER Tel: 01622 202239 Fax: 01622 205149

Jenny, Jane & Peter Welcome you to



THE WHITE HORSE

Lenham Heath Road, Sandway,
Maidstone, Kent. ME17 2HY

01622 859511

WWW.THE-WHITE-HORSE.COM

BOOK NOW FOR

*Christmas
Day Lunch*

£49.95 per adult
£24.95 children

To see the menu please
visit our website or call
01622 859511

*"Mum's
Sunday Lunch*

*"Just like Mum
used to make!"*

ONLY £7.95

OR WITH HOMEMADE
DESERT FOR JUST £10!

BOOKING ADVISED



‘Back to Basics’ through to ‘Digital Photography’

Egerton Telecottage does it all!

We are pleased to say we have now arranged the following computer classes to be run from September to December:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Basic IT | Tuesdays 15 th /22 nd /29 th Sept/6 th Oct 10am-12 noon |
| Basic IT | Wednesdays 11 th /18 th /25 th Nov/2 nd Dec 10am-12 noon |
| Digital Photography | Wednesdays 16 th /23 rd /30 th Sept/7 th Oct 7.30pm-9.30pm |
| Word Processing – Basic | Tuesdays 13 th /20 th /27 th Oct/3 rd Nov 10am–12 noon |
| Word Processing – Intermediate | Tuesday’s 17 th /24 th Nov/1 st /8 th Dec 10am– 12 noon |
| Desk Top Publishing | Tuesdays 20 th /27 th Oct/3 rd /10 th Nov 7.30pm–9.30pm |

For full details and any further information please contact our Booking Clerk – Sylvia Tillman on 01233 756050.

We can also arrange to run other classes such as Excel, Ebay, Home Security, Internet, etc. If there are four or more people interested in any of these subjects, we will be happy to look into arranging times and dates. In addition, if there are any other areas where you think we can help, don’t hesitate to talk to Sylvia and we will do what we can.

Our computer clinic is open every Saturday morning from 10am to 12 noon to help you with technical advice, photocopying, scanning and laminating etc. – or just a coffee and a chat!



RussOIL Heating

Boiler Servicing & Repairs
Tank Installation & Removals

Why are you paying too much for your boiler breakdowns?

At RussOIL Heating we do not charge a call out fee

We can fix your boiler within an hour

*We only charge a fixed rate of £40 per hour for labour and
the majority of breakdowns are fixed within the hour!*

(Parts not included)

Oil Heating and Aga Specialist OFTEC Reg

Servicing & Maintenance

All Boilers Including Combi & Condensing

Efficiency Testing

Fault Findings

Breakdowns

Oil Tanks Installations

All General Plumbing

Water Pumps & Valve Fitted

Reliable & Professional Service

Call RussOIL Heating on 07810 166529

An Obituary printed in the London Times.....

Interesting and sadly rather true.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but over-bearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

Common Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility, his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;
I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

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

I hope you enjoyed last month's 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 | Double | Bar | Fire | Cross |
| 2 | Kidney | Grind | Wall | |
| 3 | Rhyme | Slope | Day | |
| 4 | Silent | Sparring | Business | |
| 5 | Blanket | Paint | Suit | |
| 6 | Shoulder | Sore | Feet | |
| 7 | Club | Fall | Cap | |
| 8 | Birthday | Sharp | Post | |
| 9 | Clean | Onion | Chicken | |
| 10 | Milk | Fly | Cup | |
| 11 | Driving | Match | Acid | |
| 12 | Clock | Pirate | Controlled | |
| 13 | Quality | Film | Sign | |
| 14 | Front | Lion | Dog | |
| 15 | Clear | Short | Near | |
| 16 | Passive | Chain | Ban | |

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a great alternative to the more familiar beef and tomato lasagne. Thick with fresh mozzarella, parmesan and ricotta cheeses, this chicken and spinach recipe could make you forget about the other type completely.

Chicken Lasagne

9 x Sheets of Lasagne (buy fresh, as they require no pre-cooking and are much easier to use)

115g Butter

1 Onion, chopped

2 Cloves of Garlic - crushed

60g Plain Flour

1 Teaspoon of Salt

475ml Chicken Stock

355ml Milk

450g Grated Mozzarella Cheese

80g Grated Parmesan Cheese

1 Teaspoon Dried Basil

2 Teaspoons Dried Oregano

1 Teaspoon Ground Black Pepper

490g Ricotta Cheese

280g Cubed, Cooked Chicken Meat

550g Frozen chopped Spinach, thawed and drained

4 Tablespoon chopped Fresh Parsley

1. Preheat oven to 175 degrees C.
2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Cook the onion and garlic in the butter until tender, stirring frequently. Stir in the flour and salt, and simmer until bubbly.
3. Gradually, a little at a time, add the chicken stock, stirring constantly and then repeat with adding the milk, a little at a time, and bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Be sure to add a little of each at a time, whilst stirring constantly, or else the sauce will go lumpy with the flour.
4. Stir in half (220g) mozzarella cheese and a quarter (20g) of the Parmesan cheese. Season with the basil, oregano, and ground black pepper. Remove from heat, and set aside.
5. In a bowl, mix together the ricotta cheese, spinach and the chicken.

6. Spread 1/3 of the ricotta, spinach and chicken mixture in the bottom of a 9 x13 inch baking dish. Layer with 3 sheets of the lasagne. Place over the lasagne, 1/3 of the sauce mixture and sprinkle with a 1/3 of the remaining mozzarella and 1/3 of the remaining parmesan.

7. Repeat the layers another 2 times, with the chicken mixture, lasagne and sauce/cheese. Sprinkle the final layer of the sauce/cheese with the chopped parsley.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven.

The Grafty Gourmet

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1965

A.W. COURT
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

(West & Coe Ltd)

Your local, family business offering
caring, personal service to families in the
Boughton Malherbe/Grafty Green
and Lenham areas

Golden Charter
Pre-Payment Plans

Should you wish to telephone
there is always an experienced
member of staff available
to offer advice

Tel: 01622 850840
Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

THORNELOE & CO

SOLICITORS

Michael J. Thorneloe

Your local
Solicitors

*Friendly, personal attention
for all your legal problems*



**22, High Street, Lenham,
Kent. ME17 2QD**

☎ 01622 859416
Fax 01622 859406

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year and are fed up with oil tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads, not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non profit making.

Keith Anderson

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The committee welcomed three new members onto the management committee at their October meeting, Anna Stubbs, Kate Stansfield and Karen Yardley. You may have met Karen at the Mother and Toddlers group on Monday mornings.

The new ladies came up with quite a few suggestions for future use of the hall one of which is to re-instate a carol singing evening on Christmas Eve 16.00-18.00. The singers will go from the hall around the village and back to the hall at 17.00 for Mulled Wine and Mince pies. It was felt those villagers at home on Christmas Eve might like to take a break from the stressful preparations for an hour or two. We have also arranged with John and Helen Nye to hold a quiz night in late January.

There have been a number of parties held of late and Platts Heath School held their Harvest Festival before the half term break. The Line Dance class is in need of new members so if you fancy a fun way to exercise and pleasant company give us a try. We do not take ourselves seriously, have a good laugh and drive Joanne mad sometimes; it is on Thursday evenings 8pm-9pm.

Anyone wishing to hire the hall can do so by phoning me on 858891 or Duffrey Robinson on 850463.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

Len Valley Christian Union

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Len Valley Christian Union at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th November 2009, at the Church St John the Baptist, Harrietsham, where the committee will be discussing the proposed closure of the charity.

Pamela Cuerden

New church youth group

The new church youth group for the Len Valley met in Harrietsham Village hall on Sunday September 20th from 7.00 to 8.30. Young people from Y7 to Y9 met for games and discussion and had a good time. Groups decided who they would pick as the 5 most important people from the Bible and why. Our next meeting is Oct 18th, then Nov 15th and Dec 13th. Why not come along and join us?

Helen Venn

Concert at All Saints, Ulcombe

Saturday 5th December
Music from Six Centuries; Composers of the Year

The Musick Cabinet is a group of like-minded musicians based in and around Kent. They use a variety of instruments to bring to life a wide ranging selection with an eye (and ear) for the unusual in both repertoire and instrumentation they explore the less-trodden paths of both mainstream and forgotten composers.

The group is adaptable. Different players appear depending upon the needs of the music. They have been playing together since the early 1970's in several early music ensembles, most also being members of the Southern Early Music Forum. Carl Willetts created "The Musick Cabinet" in 2007 as a focus for the kaleidoscope of musical activities of his friends.

Why "The Musick Cabinet"? Imagine a cabinet of many small drawers. Pull out each one and you find a different musical treasure, whether a strange instrument, unheard of composer or unusual ensemble. A cabinet is also a small room (they play chamber music) and a close group of colleagues and friends (they are).

This year's concert at Ulcombe will include music from the fifteenth to twentieth centuries. It will feature composers whose birth or death centenaries or half centenaries fall in 2009. Thus the programme will be built around pieces by Hoffhaimer (b1459), Gardane (b1509), Purcell (b 1659), Handel (d1759), Graun (d1759), Mendelssohn (d1859) and Martinu (d1959).

The concert will start at 7.30 pm and during the interval refreshments will be served.

For more details and tickets (price £7.50), please contact either: Mrs Molly Poulter, The Old Dairy, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, ME17 1DP. Tel. (01622 842988) or The Church Office, Harrietsham Village Hall, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP. Tel (01622 850604).



Interior Tiling Services

**Bathrooms, En-suites, Wetrooms,
Cloakrooms, Kitchens, Floors,
You name it we'll tile it!!**

££££ "Credit Crunch" beating rates ££££

**Free no obligation advice, measurements and
quotations.
Local service (Platts Heath & Lenham based but
will travel)**

Call: 01622 850783 or 07988 944392

**e-mail: enquiries@jspmltd.com
web: www.jspmltd.com**

LENHAM IRONMONGERS

**8, FAVERSHAM ROAD, LENHAM
(Just off the Square)
Tel: 01622 858286**

**EVERYTHING you need for DIY
IF IT'S NOT IN STOCK WE CAN ORDER IT**

- Household/Kitchen
- Le Creuset Cookware
- Electrical Goods
- Garden Items
- Hand Tools
- Black & Decker Tools
- Nails & Screws
- Nuts & Bolts
- Carpet Cleaner Hire
- Wire Netting & Barbed Wire
- Cement & Timber
- Shotgun Cartridges
- Key & Glass Cutting
- Wallpaper Books/Fabrics
- Calor Gas & Camping Gas
- Pet Food & Sundries
- Cake Tins for Hire (novelty, numbers etc)
- Plumbing

TRADE COUNTER

FREE ADVICE

LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE

SR Interiors
Painting & Decorating Services

**Residential and Commercial
Quality Decorating at a Fair &
Competitive Price
Fully Insured & References
Available
Internal and External Decoration**

**Tel/Fax: 01622 737225
Mobile: 07816 149502
www.sr-interiors.com**



email: info@sr-interiors.com

**LENHAM
NURSERY SCHOOL**
at Lenham Primary School,
Ham Lane, Lenham.

**The Nursery School is
K.C. Registered
and a member of the
Pre-School Learning Alliance;
holds an excellent Ofsted Report
and has validation to accept
Early Years Funding.**

***We're here to serve your needs.
Why not call in to discuss
your requirements?***

**It's never too early
to add your child's name to our Waiting List.**

**Contact Jo Glazebrook
07967 128056**

Registered Charity No. 1041661

The November Night Sky

For most of November the Sun is in the constellation of Libra, and then moves briefly into Scorpius, and finally into Ophiuchus.

Full Moon occurs on Monday 2nd November, when the Moon is in the constellation of Aries, and New Moon on Monday 16th November.

We are unlikely to see Mercury this month as it is at “superior conjunction” (passing directly behind the Sun).

Venus is rising just before dawn, and is visible low in the south eastern sky. Although it is still extremely bright, it is gradually getting more difficult to see.

Mars is rising in the northeast around 9.30 pm, and is high in the southern sky at dawn. The light from Mars is slightly orange in colour and is steadily getting brighter. It should not be long now when we will be able to see some detail through a telescope.

Again Jupiter is well placed for viewing this month. It can be seen due south just above the horizon around 6 pm. Relative to the stars it is moving slowly north-eastwards in the constellation of Capricornus. Through a telescope the disc of Jupiter can clearly be seen, together with the dark and light cloud bands and some of the four major moons.

Saturn is rising in the east in the early hours of the morning, and is well up in the south-eastern sky at dawn. Through a telescope you should be able to see many of Saturn’s moons, together with the famous rings forming a narrow oval.

Some of you may have read that scientists have discovered an eighth ring around Saturn. The thin layer of ice and dust was discovered by the Spitzer Space Telescope at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. The new ring extends way into space and is about 3.7 million miles from the planet.

This month we have an opportunity to see the Leonid meteor shower, which is generally active between 15th and 20th of November. Experts are predicting an extra peak of activity around 10 pm on 17th of November. The showers will appear to radiate from the constellation of Leo just above the north eastern horizon, and will continue to be visible well up in the southern sky at dawn.

John Maunder

N & S JOINERY

PROFESSIONAL
CARPENTRY & JOINERY
KITCHENS
BATHROOMS
BEDROOMS

Any Job Undertaken

Tel/Fax: 01622 851611
Mobile: 07973 193310

The Old Dairy



Real Food Sourced Locally

The Old Dairy
Rectory Farm, Sutton Road
Langely, Kent ME17 3LY
01622 861113
www.theolddairy-online.co.uk

Vegetable Box Schemes Online Shopping Retail Shop

95% of our products come
from Kent farms and producers

DELIVERING IN YOUR AREA



FOUR JAYS GROUP



MARQUEE & PORTABLE TOILET HIRE

Marquees, Furniture, Flooring, Lighting,
Heaters & Chiller Trailers
Luxury & Event Trailer Toilets
Individual Event & Site Units

Janet's China Hire: 01622 844646
China, Cutlery and Glassware



Tel: 01622 843135
www.fourjays.co.uk



TV and VIDEO

Repairs and Service
Most Handsets Repaired or Replaced
Tel: 01622 683784

MICROWAVE OVENS

Repairs and Services
Safety Checks to
all Major Makes

BRIAN OSMER

Tel: 01622 683784

Harrietsham Computers

Computer Problems?

Need an upgrade
or a new machine?

Just want some extra tuition?



For local, friendly, experienced
Help, call Mike Cuerden at
**01622 859442 or
07963 020092**



No call out fee
Reasonable rates
Private &
Commercial Work
No job too small

NIGEL COLLISON FUELS LTD

Suppliers of Domestic Heating Oils
Agricultural and Industrial Fuels
A family run local company dedicated to service excellence

Boiler Maintenance and Tank Replacement Service
Emergency Run Out Service
phone 01580 755678



N. PLUMMER

**GENERAL BUILDING
UNDERPINNING
STRUCTURAL REPAIRS
PROFESSIONAL CARPENTRY**

**Marchant Farmhouse, Grafty Green. ME17 2AP
Tel/Fax: 01622 859079
Mobile: 07973 193310**

BARRY WHEBLE PLUMBING

**Tel: 01233 841808
Mobile: 07768 945705**

Blocked drains Dripping Taps
Burst Pipes Boilers
Central Heating Appliances

**THE LOCAL PLUMBER YOU'LL
RECOMMEND**

All areas covered
24 Hours / 7 Days
No Call Out Charge

Corgi Registered Gas Installer
No 68640

D.FLISHER ROOFING

*Free winter check on roofs
Roofing repairs, ridge &
hips checked*

*Moss cleaned off roofs
Gutters & window frames
cleaned*

Chimneys re-pointed

**Call Dave for a quote on
01622 850659 or 07941 324286**



Professional Qualified Dog Groomers

For All Breeds Of Dog

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| • Bathing | • Clipping |
| • Hand-stripping | • Scissoring |
| • Trimming | • Nail-Clipping |
| • De-matting | • Anal Glands |

Collection & delivery
available upon request

- Lenham, near Maidstone
- info@cutsformutts.co.uk
- Mobile: 07738 088169
- Tel: 01622 858302 (Office Hours)



SUTTON VALENCE CHORAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN CONCERT 2009

CELEBRATING THE CHORAL SOCIETY'S TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY YEAR

Sutton Valence Choral Society celebrates 20 years of music-making during its 2009-10 season, which begins with a performance of Mendelssohn's *St Paul* on Sunday 22nd November, 7.30pm, in All Saints' Church Maidstone.

Musical director Bryan Gipps conducts the 80-strong choir, accompanied by the Beresford Sinfonia, in this brilliant, dramatic oratorio about the life of St Paul. The work was completed by Mendelssohn in 1836 and was immensely popular in his lifetime, although 200 years after his birth (in 1809), the work is now rarely heard.

Three top international soloists will be helping to make this a special occasion. American soprano *Kathryn Copeland* has given concerts in world-famous venues, from Carnegie Hall to the Albert Hall, under some of the world's greatest conductors. Tenor *Clifford Lister* has sung with the choirs of Canterbury and Westminster Cathedrals and now tours frequently in Europe, the US and Far East. Baritone *Stephen Alder* specialises in oratorio; he performs regularly with the BBC singers and has toured in Europe, China, Japan, USA, Israel, Brazil and Argentina.

Tickets are £10, available in advance from Sharon Music, 65 High Street, Maidstone, ME14 1SR (Tel: 01622 761649) or by ringing 01622 842269.

Sutton Valence Choral Society (reg. charity no. 1119160) supports Demelza House (reg. charity no.1039651)

Fathers, do NOT exasperate your children!

Younger readers of this magazine may rejoice to read the above words from the Bible! Fathers may pause for thought and review the way they treat their children. Who knows? What I do know is that the headline above is a quotation from St. Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

Studies from this book of the Bible will continue at Weirton Villa on Thursdays at 10am for 10.30. Why not join us and discover more of God's teaching about family life? You can be sure of a warm, coffee-fuelled welcome.

Joan Drury 853766



STONEBRIDGE ACCOUNTING
ACCOUNTS AND TAX SUPPORT
FOR THE SELF EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESS
Tel: 01233 840373

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, 2008 and 2009 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

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

CARPETS & VINYL
SUPPLY & FITTING SERVICE
HOME SELECTION
OVER 30 YEARS
EXPERIENCE
ALAN POULTON
Tel 843019
NICE!



Christian Message

The 1st of November is All Saints Day, and as Ulcombe's church is dedicated to All Saints, we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival. On All Saints Day we remember not only the well known saints, but the ordinary men and women who are called to be saints through baptism.

If asked to name a few saints, most people these days would immediately name our Patron Saints – St George for England, St Andrew for Scotland and St Patrick for Ireland. Many would also name the four saints after whom the first four books of the New Testament are named –St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John.

What is a saint? We often hear the phrase, 'She's a real saint putting up with ...', or 'He's a saint doing all he does for'. We say this because we see people doing things and putting up with things that we know we would find difficult or impossible. And we feel they are very special people.

In the early days of Christianity, St Paul used the word 'saints' when writing his letters (epistles) to the congregations of Philippi, Ephesus, Colossus, Thessalonica etc. All the baptised Christians in the churches were called saints.

But the word 'saint' has developed a more specific meaning over the centuries. Many thousands of people have been beatified (made a saint) for a whole variety of reasons. Some have been martyred; others have done wonderful things for their people and communities. What they all have in common is that they are holy people who have allowed themselves to be used by God.

St Stephen was the first Christian saint, stoned to death soon after Jesus was crucified. Then there was St Paul, who first persecuted the early Christians and then, after his Road to Damascus experience, took the Christian message to the Gentiles. Most of the disciples of Jesus suffered a martyr's death and are called saints. There are too many saints to be recalled, but there are some we specially remember: St Benedict whose Rule of Life was used throughout the monastic world; St Catherine, a 4th century virgin, who was broken on a spiked wheel for her faith (the origin of the name *Catherine Wheel*); and Joan of Arc who talked the Dauphin into defending France, and was later burnt at the stake by the English.

Here in England, our first saint was St. Alban. He lived in Verulamium, now known as St. Albans. He was converted to Christianity in AD 304 by a fugitive Christian priest whom he sheltered. Christianity was forbidden by the Romans and Alban was caught and beheaded.

St Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory 1 to England to convert the 'Angles' to Christianity. He arrived in 597 AD with forty monks, and they set up churches

across the south. It is quite probable that our church here in Ulcombe was established by one of St Augustine's monks.

St Cuthbert was a holy man who took great care of the poor and the sick. He lived as a hermit for many years, and then was made Bishop of Lindisfarne in 685 AD. He was one of the first men to protect wild life – trying to preserve the eider ducks on the Farne Islands.

What many saints have in common is that they did not come to sainthood without struggle. Many, as people today, rejected for many years the saving grace of Jesus Christ and refused to believe. Some, like St Augustine of Hippo, was so reluctant to give up his hedonistic life that he prayed 'Grant me continence and chastity, but not yet.'

What makes a saint? A very popular hymn, 'For all the Saints', says that God is 'their rock, their Fortress and their Might.' Saints are people fired up with God's love, who allow themselves to be burnt up and consumed for the glory of God, who shine and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. St Matthew quotes Jesus as saying 'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

None of us can aspire to sainthood, but Jesus has given us guidelines. He told the rich young man, who asked what he should do to inherit eternal life, that he should not murder, steal, or give false testimony, that he should honour his father and mother, and love his neighbour as himself. On another occasion, when talking about the end time, Jesus said that those who will inherit the kingdom are those he will recognise: 'for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was sick and you looked after me; I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Although we can't all be saints, with God's help, we can endeavour to follow the Christian path by putting our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, admitting our faults, and acknowledging God's promise that he 'so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'

Molly Poulter

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – November 2009

1st November 4th Sunday before Advent (All Saints)

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise Service
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Praise Service

8th November Remembrance Sunday

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.15am Harrietsham Remembrance Service
10.15am Boughton Malherbe Remembrance Service
10.15am Ulcombe Remembrance Service
10.45am Lenham Remembrance Service
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe Choral Evensong
7pm Taize Service Bearsted

15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion (Sung)
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

22nd November Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Praise Service
11am Lenham Family Praise Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

29th November 1st Sunday of Advent

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.30 am Ulcombe Holy Communion (Benefice Service)
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

| | | | | |
|----|----------|----------|------------|---------|
| | Word 1 | Word 2 | Word 3 | Answer |
| 1 | Double | Bar | Fire | Cross |
| 2 | Kidney | Grind | Wall | Stone |
| 3 | Rhyme | Slope | Day | Nursery |
| 4 | Silent | Sparting | Business | Partner |
| 5 | Blanket | Paint | Suit | Wet |
| 6 | Shoulder | Sore | Feet | Cold |
| 7 | Club | Fall | Cap | Night |
| 8 | Birthday | Sharp | Post | Card |
| 9 | Clean | Onion | Chicken | Spring |
| 10 | Milk | Fly | Cup | Butter |
| 11 | Driving | Match | Acid | Test |
| 12 | Clock | Pirate | Controlled | Radio |
| 13 | Quality | Film | Sign | Star |
| 14 | Front | Lion | Dog | Sea |
| 15 | Clear | Short | Near | Sighted |
| 16 | Passive | Chain | Ban | Smoking |

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Find the missing word? |
| 1 | Jimmy Young, Radio DJ retired in 2002 |
| 2 | Melvyn Bragg, Highbrow TV presenter |
| 3 | George Frideric Handel , German born composer famous for his water music |
| 4 | Deal or No Deal , TV game show with Noel Edmonds |
| 5 | Unchained Melody, a song covered by the Righteous Brothers |
| 6 | Jonathan Swift , Writer who penned Gulliver's Travels |
| 7 | Ding Junhui , Top Chinese snooker player |
| 8 | The Love Boat , 1970 comedy set aboard The Pacific Princess |
| 9 | Robbie Coltrane , Larger than life actor |
| 10 | Top Gear , Motoring programme with Jeremy Clarkson |

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the new timetable up to 20th December 2009. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc. They state it is against EU rules and they have to provide a separate freighter to do this.

Grafty Green

Sunday 13th Dec 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 13th Dec 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 13th Dec 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Lenham

Sunday 8th Nov 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd – Boughton Rd

**Cybereye
Security**

**Call
Marcus Shephard
on 01622 858612
or 07821776334**

**Digital colour night
vision cctv**
Comes with monitor, digital
recorder and cameras

Video entry system
See who's at the door or
at the gate

Alarm system
Monitor your own alarm
system
dials you're Mobile phone
when activated






Maintaining you're alarm system
I will look after you're system for £50 a year which
Includes free callout and a once a year inspection
For more information on all products ring

ALPINES
AQUATICS
BARBECUES
BEDDING PLANTS
BIRDS
BIRD TABLES
BOOKS
BULBS
CHEMICALS
CHIMINEAS
CLOTHING
CAFE
COMPOST
FENCING
FERTILISERS
FISH
FRUIT TREES
FURNITURE
GARDEN ARCHES
GARDEN LIGHTING
GAZEBOS
GIFTS
GLOVES
GREENHOUSES
GROWBAGS
HANGING BASKETS

THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT GARDEN CENTRE IN THE AREA

GRAFTY

10 ACRES OF
GREAT GARDENING
WITH OVER 37,000
SQ FT OF INDOOR
SHOPPING

Superb
aquatics
& pets
depts

Large free
car park

Huge
on-site
nursery

Grafty staff
know their stuff
for really useful
help and advice

Call
**01622
858800**

GET CRAFTY, FIND GRAFTY

Crumps Corner, Grafty Green, ME17 2AT.

OPEN 7 DAYS. CLOSED EASTER SUN. FULL INFORMATION PLUS
LATEST NEWS AND SEASONAL DEALS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE AT

www.graftygardencentre.co.uk

HERBACEOUS
HERBS
HOUSE PLANTS
KOI
MOWERS
ORNAMENTS
PARROTS
PATIO HEATERS
PAVING
PETS
PONDS &
PUMPS
POTS
REPTILES
ROSES
SEEDS
SHEDS
SHRUBS
STONEWARE
TERRACOTTA
TOOLS
TREES
TROPICAL FISH
VEGETABLE PLANTS
WATER BUTTS
WATER FEATURES

carpets *direct*

- ☛ Visit our showroom to view our extensive range
- ☛ Over 200 carpet and Vinyl ranges
- ☛ Quality British made underlay and accessories
- ☛ No obligation FREE estimating and measuring
- ☛ See samples in the comfort of your own home
- ☛ Professional installation by our own fitters
- ☛ All carpets vacuumed with our compliments

01233 714999

OPEN MON - SAT 9am - 5pm

Selecta House, Charing Hill, Charing



Brintons
FINE CARPET