



Malherbe Monthly

Number 58
May 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Vacant	
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	Christine King email: christine-king@hotmail.co.uk	07710 457297
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.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		
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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 June edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th May**

Front cover: Platts Heath Primary School Five Aside football team, who took part in the Lenham Five Aside Football Tournament held at Lenham Primary School on Saturday 25th April 2009.

Front row L-R: Nick Swinerd; Anthony Kerry-Wright; Ross Wickison.
Middle Row L-R: Jacob Reddings; Tom King; James Barron; Matthew Davies.
Back Row L-R: Carin Reddings; Ian Priddle; Coach.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Lent Lunches

We held the Lent Lunches this year at six different venues. The proceeds of these lunches will be going to Christian Aid for their fund raising week in May. Thank you very much to all the ladies who hosted a lunch and to those who helped to serve them - and also to all of you who came and supported us. Without your support the lunches just wouldn't happen. We raised £387.50

New Pattern of Services at St. Nicholas

The new pattern of Services starts this Month at St. Nicholas. The morning services will still be at 9.30am and Choral Evensong at 6.30pm. The times that we will be holding services have not changed, just the Sunday on which the different services are to be held.

1st Sunday of the month - Book of Common Prayer **Holy Communion** (said)

2nd Sunday of the month - **Morning Worship** 9.30am and **Choral Evensong** at 6.30pm

3rd Sunday of the month - **Holy Communion** CW1 (Sung)

4th Sunday of the month - **Family Praise.**

When there is a 5th Sunday in the month there will be a Benefice Service at one of the four Churches in the benefice in rotation. Look for posters to find out where these are to be held and at what time.

On the 1st Sunday of the month a Taize Service will be held at All Saints, Ulcombe at 7.00pm.

On the 4th or the last Sunday of the Month, an informal service will be held at St. John's, Harrietsham at 6.30pm

Each Sunday at St. Mary's Lenham a BCP Service of Holy Communion will be held at 8.00am.

Date for your Diary

Invicta Singers in Concert

The bi-annual Concert by the Invicta Singers at Ivy House Farm, Liverton Hill will be held on the 11th July, 2009.

Come along at 5.00pm and bring a picnic and sit in the garden or in the orchard near the house. The concert will start at 7.00 pm and will be the usual mix of music from musicals and films, spirituals, folk and light classical.

Our conductor is Charlotte Coles and the accompanist is Duncan Finn. There will be one or two guest spots, which are arranged by Charlotte. Tickets will be on sale during June and available from Joan Davidson on 01622 850210. Please bring your own chair or rug to sit on. If you bring a picnic table, not a very big one, please pack it away during the performance. A raffle will be held during the evening.

All we need is fine weather !!

Joan Davidson

Rubbish! Part 2

What do you do on Sunday afternoons? Recently Pat Anderson, our Parish Clerk, and I, wearing plastic gloves and carrying grabbers took a gentle stroll from her home as far as Broadstone. On the journey we filled at least 6 sacks with litter. As the ditches on both sides of the road are deep it was hard work but satisfying. The variety of litter was amazing. We even found long forgotten road signs!

Not only did we clear the verges but we had an IDEA! Would other residents, we wondered, be prepared to be responsible for clearing litter from a section of the road near to their home. This would ensure that parts of the village are taken care of leaving smaller areas for other volunteers to deal with. Maybe those walking their dogs would consider 'adopting' part of their route?

If our idea appeals to you, please contact me on 01622 853766, email me at jdrury23@btinternet.com or come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May in the Village Hall.

Joan Drury

Any Bright Ideas – Another Update

The first bright idea to be submitted was to publish a book on the history of Boughton Malherbe and give a free copy to every household in the Parish. This has now reached the first stage towards fruition.

The BOUGHTON MALHERBE HISTORY SOCIETY has been formed to carry out the project and a bank account has been opened. Initial funding of £500 has been gratefully received from the Parish Council and further funding will be actively sought.

Anyone interested in joining or helping in any way would be most welcome and should contact one of the following members:-

Chairman – Ron Galton - 01622 850369
Secretary – Peter Bird - 01622 850456
Treasurer – John Collins - 01622 850213
Committee Member – Mike Davidson - 01622 850210.

To all those who have already helped with documents and information a very big thank you.

A lot of research has already been completed and a target date for completing this work has been set for 31st October 2009.

It is hoped to have the draft of the text substantially complete by 1st May 2010 with a target for publication August/September 2010.

These are ambitious targets and will depend upon circumstances but to distribute by Christmas 2010 would be wonderful.

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

Grafty Garden Cuttings – May

Weeds: according to the experts, there are no such things, just plants in the wrong place. Well, I have an awful lot of plants in the wrong place and the battle is once more on. Dandelions make a glorious show, witness some of the road-side verges in April, but like many others, their seeds blow in and often catch in the middle of a shrub or clump of perennials and are extremely difficult to remove. Pulling is good only if the entire root is removed or the pieces left will happily grow again.

I have an influx of White Bryony, which is quite an attractive climber but the lovely, red berries are POISONOUS and it will eventually clamber all over its victims, year on year as more and more seeds germinate around. I try and spot them when very young and dig out and burn the tubers. One I missed for some years, hidden among other climbers, had me excavating well over a foot into the ground to remove a tuber half the size of a football. Again, all must be dug out or any piece left will regenerate. Other 'plants in the wrong place'¹ include ash tree seedlings, thousands of them, brambles, buttercups, thistles, speedwell, ragwort and wild arum. It may mean some spot weed killing, this year to win this battle, something I have, so far tried to avoid.

This spring, the gardens have been glorious and with the warm, moist conditions, growth has burgeoned, resulting in much pruning back to be done, when all the early flowering shrubs are over. I have been tempted into planting out a few things that really need the shelter of a greenhouse until the end of the month, so have bundles of fleece at the ready, if frosts are forecast. It really is best to protect plants intended for containers or bedding-out, until at least the middle of the month, when hardening-off can begin, i.e.: placing outside during the day, taking in at night, for a week then a second week of plants being left out 24/7 but covering in the event of late frost. Anything that begins to look pot bound, starved or pale and uninteresting can either be potted on into something a little larger, or given a weekly feed, to keep them ticking over. Sometimes, depending on the variety of plant, a good cut back will reap rewards, even if rather later in the season.

Trenches for runner beans should be prepared in advance, the beans potted up, ready for planting out later in the month, French beans, both Climbing and dwarf can be sown, indoor tomatoes should be well away and all the usual suspects (cucurbits, sweetcorn, radish, lettuce peas etc), sown in succession.

Brassicas can all be planted out, or thinned well if direct sown and covered to protect from pests. I found something called Builda Ball at Wisley which are round, plastic balls with holes strategically placed to take any length of canes or ½" metal rods, to build a cage to whatever size required, that can then be covered with fleece or environmesh, very easily. I am determined to keep the cabbage white butterflies off this year.

Our garden club plant sale is on the 9th May, on the green, 10 - 11 am or in the hall if wet. Do come along, if not for plants, then to buy a cake or cup of tea or coffee and enjoy a chat.

Rosemary Smith

ORGAN AND TRUMPET RECITAL – MAY 9th 2009

Don't miss the organ and trumpet concert in St John the Baptist's Church, Harrietsham on Saturday May 9th at 7.30pm.

Philip Horley (Director of Music at Sutton Valence School) and his assistant, Natalie Hall, are presenting what promises to be a hugely enjoyable programme which will include the Charpentier Te Deum, movements No 2 and 3 of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto and Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue plus what Philip describes as "other light pieces"!

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Friends of St John's.

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

Find the missing word?	
1	Nellie _____, Bread Matriarch who made Jean Boht famous
2	_____ Holiday, Song and Film by Cliff Richard
3	Kym _____, Former Hear'Say member now behind the Rovers Return Bar
4	_____ Barlow, Former Corrie actress went on to be a dinner lady
5	Natasha _____, Britain's highest paid female newsreader
6	_____ Sutherland, 24 hero and son of Donald
7	Gaby _____, Inside sport host
8	Ian _____, Walford chip shop owner
9	_____ It, A TV show to get people to sell antiques
10	_____ Bottom, A family show hosted by Noel Edmonds

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

Old Skyline, New Era

Chilston Pines, an area of historical influence on the Kent landscape, faced a crushing blow in the hurricane of 1987. Scots Pine, formerly planted to create a designed landscape with far reaching vistas from the grandeur of Chilston Park, fell to the hands of the wind. For years scattered timbers have lain like an elephant's graveyard in the field adjacent to the M20 coast-bound. Whilst the fallen wood has created satisfying homes for invertebrates, fungi's and small mammals, the once noble skyline has appeared empty.

The Chilston Pines and Ponds sites are now owned by the Heaths Countryside Corridor. Funding from the Grafty Green Gardening Club and the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) was used to re-planted the site with a range of tree species including Scots Pine, Oak and Larch. A fantastic team of KSCP volunteers undertook this task on Wednesday 25th February. Planting has once again been designed to ensure the striking silhouette of Scots Pine, which the skyline of this beautiful and intrinsically planned landscape from yesteryear demands.



For more information about the Heaths Countryside Corridor visit www.heathsec.co.uk

St Edmunds Centre – Platts Heath

With the AGM approaching later this month I don't have much to report before the Malherbe goes to press. The curtains for the Nave area are ready for collection so the next job on Duffrey's list will be to put them up. That is not a job I envy as the ceiling is very high and the frame of the Nave brickwork goes to a point in the middle so it will not be easy.

There was a private party over the Easter weekend and the comfort of the new chairs was mentioned by the hirer, a jolly good time was had by all.

Fortunately the weather has warmed up enough for us to turn off the storage heaters - our latest electricity bill was a whopping great £741. So if you hire the hall please remember to turn off all the blowers and water heater before you leave.

A look at the back garden revealed a lot of weeds in the lawn as well as the flower beds, but I noticed our volunteer gardener has been down and done some work. I never see them but see the results of their labours. Thanks from the committee.

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

Patricia Dibley

FOR SALE

52 WOODEN STACKING CHAIRS

SOME WITH A PRAYER BOOK SHELF

PRICE £55

TELEPHONE DUFFREY ROBINSON 850463

OR TRICIA DIBLEY 858891 FOR DETAILS

St Edmunds Centre AGM held on Monday 20th April

Secretary's Report 2009

I would like to thank you all for attending this evening.

This year we welcomed the toddler group which is now well established on Monday mornings thanks to the group leader Karen Yardley. Mrs Thursting of the Black Dragon Academy of Karate has started a club on Thursdays for the very young members of the village.

I have to thank the very popular quiz masters John and Helen Nye who never fail to entertain us on quiz nights and help raise much needed funds once or twice a year as their time allows. Also thanks to Mike and Jenny our volunteer gardeners who not only do the hard graft but also donate so many of the plants too.

Those of you who attended the Harvest Supper this year, I am sure will agree with me it was a splendid meal thanks to our vice chair lady Karen Taylor and her band of helpers.

The Line Dancers and the Morris Dancers have been joined this winter by our beat the credit crunch keep-fit ladies.

Mr Priddle the head master of Platts Heath School has again used the hall for a variety of activities. I do look forward to seeing the next school production with the new curtains in place.

Our treasurer Duffrey Robinson will be putting the said curtains up shortly and continues to carry out the day to day maintenance. I would therefore like to thank him on behalf of the rest of the committee for all his hard work.

Having mentioned the curtains I have also to thank the Grassroots Grant funding for the £2343.00 to purchase both the new upholstered chairs and the curtains.

We now have over 50 wooden chairs surplus to our needs and if anyone knows of a group in need of them please let me know. At the present time we are becoming rather stuck for space and in the coming year will have to dispose of some items to enable easier and safer access.

Finally may I thank those villagers who continue to support us in our efforts to make the St Edmunds Centre a much needed community centre for us all in this time of financial difficulties?

Tricia Dibley

My childhood with Dyslexia

In last months Malherbe Monthly I told you all how dyslexia affected me now, but this is how when I was about 6 or 7 years old my parents became aware I had a problem.

"What makes you think my daughter is deaf?" my mum said to the school medical officer as I hid behind her skirt.

"Well when we did the hearing test this is what she wrote" a paper passed from the lady in a white coat to my mum. "How was this test carried out?" mum asked "The children sat crossed legged on the floor with headphones on, with a pencil and paper and were told to write down the words spoken over the headset" was the reply

"All this indicates is the school has not taught Patricia the alphabet yet" was mum's reply "There is nothing wrong with her hearing"

What happened after that I don't remember except I was taken home without any sort of hearing aid.

Then at home a discussion took place and my school book was examined closely no one could read anything in it. My Dad wrote some words down and told me to copy them. I did as I was told and still they were unable to read what I had written. By now I was in tears I did do it right, I was so frustrated why couldn't they all see? I had tried really hard and I could see the words.

Then my big brother watched what I was doing and said "You aren't doing it right you should start on the left side of the paper " I was writing from right to left and not left to right. My Mum picked up the paper and held it in front of a mirror "Look at that Tom you can read parts of it now, do you think it is because she is left handed?"

The adults discussed the "problem" as though I was not there. How were they going to change things?

Why had the teachers not noticed this major problem etc?

Fortunately for me my parents had a friend whose son was a teacher at a private school and in conversation told him, and showed him my writing book.

The teacher was Mr Ashton and he changed my life. My Dad took me three stops on the tube line and a bus ride to Mr Ashton's home twice a week and for one hour each visit this kindly man taught me how to read and how to write.

My parents were not well off Dad a plumber, Mum a nurse, but they paid for these lessons and the fares for about eighteen months to two years I have always been grateful for their sacrifice.

My schoolwork improved, I went from 56th out of 58 to 34th (yes our classes were very much larger than to-days) my handwriting was legible but has never been good. Dad took my brother and I to join the library to encourage us to read, books were a bit too expensive to buy. Enid Blyton's fairy stories, the Famous Five and Secret Seven were all among my favourites.

What would have been my destiny if my parents had not known Mr Ashton and he had not been prepared to take on this miserable shy child and help, I do not know, but I have never forgotten him his welcome and the patience he had with me during these lessons and the sweetie I was given when I successfully completed my work. There was a sweet ration in those days so sweets were almost unknown. Numbers were not such a problem and in adulthood I went into the accounts side of office work.

Then when there was a chance to, I enrolled in the English evening classes at Swadelands School, however after only one term the course was cancelled as there were only two people wishing to attend. The teacher there said I was a typical dyslexic, left-handed writing from right to left which would be picked up quickly in primary school now. I was disappointed to be unable to continue with the evening class as nouns, pro-nouns, verbs etc are still a mystery to me and I mainly go on what sounds correct grammar. There are times when I open my mouth and put my foot in it but at my age I am not trying to impress anybody, so hey hoy I am what I am you like me or loath me it is your choice.

However I would have liked to be more confident throughout my life, able to become more involved sometimes, as a dry mouth and the loss of the right words when I try to talk in a group of people is still a nightmare but I still don't need that hearing aid.

Patricia Dibley

Platts Heath Primary School

As always another action packed term has whizzed by in a flash and we're really looking forward to the Easter break. Our Easter Celebrations got under way at St Mary's Church, Lenham with lots of wonderful singing and acting, the Easter bunny paid a sneaky visit and left some treats while the children took part in an egg hunt on the school field and of course there was the making of traditional Easter bonnets.

Although the children have been learning all about the Easter story and Christianity these last few weeks, the year 5 & 6 children have been learning about another religion and culture as their project topic this term was India. To celebrate the end of the project the children dressed up in Indian style clothes and sampled a variety of Indian foods cooked by the teachers, I'm told the food was very tasty and that there was also music and pretty amazing dancing going on but that's no surprise as we get up to many extraordinary things here and of course we have many talented dancers at Platts Heath School as they have regular practice getting ready for Maypole dancing at our May Day Celebrations and our Summer Fayre on June 27th.

A lot of stamina is required for Maypole dancing as anyone who has watched them will tell you but that is something we're not short of here. Our staying power and determination to keep our school open and prove that small schools do have a lot to offer are paying off. The school continues to grow in numbers, so much so that we are delighted to announce that we will be moving back to a 4 class structure from September 2009. This is as a direct result of an increase in pupil numbers, due mainly to the excellent reputation the school has gained in the locality. The new class structure will be Reception, Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. This is amazing given what we were facing a few years ago.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support us, it is very much appreciated and we will need that support in abundance together with that stamina and determination on Sunday 7th June as 32 ladies and girls (staff, parents & pupils) will be participating in the Race for Life at Mote Park. We will be running in memory of Norma Jones who sadly died earlier this year. If you would like to sponsor us then please visit our web page where you can donate online. www.raceforlifesporsome.org/plattsheathplodders
Although all our runners are female we know our men folk will be there to support us and maybe Mr Brown, our year 3 & 4 teacher, can give us some

coaching or strategic tips to see us to the finish line. I should explain that Mr Brown has introduced a new after school club called Warhammer 40k. This is a strategic battle game (a sort of modern chess, I'm told) which involves the building of armies of orks, space marines and the like, painting and organising them and learning the rules of the game which in turn incorporates maths, English and artistic talent whilst having lots of fun! After all that, coaching 32 females to run a race sounds like a doddle in comparison!

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

Charity Family First Aid Session

Come to the aid of Channel Swimmer.

Following the First Aid session held at the Platts Heath Mother and Toddler group, an evening session is being held on Monday 22nd June beginning at 7pm in the St Edmund's Centre. The cost is £20 (per individual or family) and it will run for approximately 3 hours and will cover adult, children and baby First Aid. All proceeds will raise funds for the Maidstone and Rural Communities branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

You may recall from the March issue that First Aid trainer, Chris Hills from Platts Heath, is making his attempt to swim the English Channel in September and in doing so raise vital funds.

To book a place on the 22nd June or if you would like any further information please contact Sarah or Chris on 01622 859174 or e-mail them at sarah@plattsheath.fslife.co.uk.

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.

Sue's Yoga Classes

Yoga for agility, strength, stamina and relief from stress
current class at
GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD
Thursday Mornings - **9.30 - 11**
Mixed ability class but also suitable for beginners
£5 a session

Would like to join a class but this time doesn't suit?
Would you join at a different time/day?
How about a Wednesday afternoon or evening?
For further details contact Sue Burch on 01622 850381
Trial session half price.

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 9th 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	
4 th August	Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green	
1 st September	Autumn show & talk - TBA	
6 th October	Village Signs	Avice Harms
3 rd November	Kent in the 1900 century	Bob Ogle
1 st December	Gardening quiz and supper	

Further details from Sue Burch on 850381 or Rosemary Smith on 850526

- ❖ 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.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Tuesday 5th May the Gardening Club will be visiting Sissinghurst Gardens - in particular the vegetable garden which is a new addition to their attractions. Members and their guests will be meeting at Sissinghurst at 6.30 for a guided tour by Amy Covey.



Saturday 9th May is the annual plant sale which takes place on the village green at 10 am. Not only plants but cakes and other home baked goodies to buy or nibble with a cup of tea or coffee. Buy some plants and meet up with your friends and neighbours.

More information from Sue Burch - 850381 or Rosemary Smith – 850526

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has issued the timetable for this service only up to 10th May 2009. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Platts Heath

Sunday 10th May 12:15 – 13:00 -: Green Lane

There will be more dates released soon, but it has come to the notice of the Parish Council that Maidstone Borough Council are proposing that the frequency of the Weekend Freighter for Grafty Green will be reduced from 8 to 6 times per year and that it will only be here for 45 minutes. A final decision is expected within the next couple of weeks and we will publish the new timetable as soon as it is available.

The Grafty Gourmet

Yet another very simply recipe for you to try. Take care not to over cook the chicken, otherwise it will lose its moisture and flavour. Serve with sautéed potatoes and vegetables.

Garlic Stuffed Chicken with Thyme & Chives

Serves 6

6 Boned Chicken Breasts (with skin on)

Butter

Salt & Freshly Ground Black Pepper

1 Medium Onion, chopped

225 g (8 oz) Full Fat Soft Cheese

½ Tablespoon of chopped Fresh Thyme

½ Tablespoon of chopped Fresh Chives

2 Large Cloves of Garlic, crushed

1 Egg Yolk

A Little Grated Nutmeg

1. Preheat oven at 180°
2. Melt the butter for the stuffing in a small saucepan and sauté the onion for 5 minutes, simmering until soft and tender.
3. Allow the onions to cool, and mix in the soft cheese, thyme, chives, garlic, egg yolk and a pinch of nutmeg. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Place the chicken on a chopping board with the skin side up. Loosen the skin from one side of the breast and stuff this pocket of each breast with a sixth of the stuffing mixture. Replace the skin over the mixture.
5. Place the chicken in a buttered, seasoned roasting tin, and brush each chicken breast with melted butter. Place in the oven for 15 minutes. Test the chicken, by prodding the thickest part with a fine skewer. If the juices run clear, the chicken is done. If it's still pink, give the chicken a little longer, making sure not to over cook.
6. Serve immediately, cutting the breasts in diagonal slices. Strain off the juices from the roasting tin, and add a little white wine and cream, and use as a gravy for the potatoes and vegetables.

The Grafty Gourmet

PILGRIMS WAY ARTISTS

Valerie Woollven President - Marie Prett Chairman - Yvonne Bonham Treasurer



VISUAL ARTS

PILGRIMS WAY ARTISTS 2009 - 12th ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Saturday 16th May to Monday 25th May Lenham Tythe Barn 10am-6pm daily.

30 local artists including potters and sculptors - exhibiting over 300 works
FEATURED ARTIST JANET JACKSON - PAINTINGS ON SILK & RAKU
CERAMICS

Demonstrations - Workshops - and on the spot portraits.
Parking & Admission Free.

Lenham Swimming Club

Following our earlier appeal - the good news is that a couple of volunteers have come forward, enabling us to run some of the pool sessions this year. Thank you to those who have kindly offered their time. Further offers of help are still needed and are very much welcomed.

It is planned to open the pool on Sunday 24th May. However, we can only open every other Saturday this year and our Sunday opening times will change. Session times are detailed below:

6.00 – 6.45pm	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
7.00 – 7.45pm	
2.30 – 4.00pm	Saturday (alternate)
4.30 – 6.00pm	Sunday

Our membership and admission fees have always represented a very affordable family activity; an important consideration in the current financial climate. Membership forms are available on arrival and membership fees and charges are as follows:

Membership Fee	Charge per Swimming Session	
	Members	Visitors
Adult - £4.00	£1.00	£2.00
Child - £2.50	£0.50p	£1.00

We are cleaning the pool in preparation for the season on Saturday 16th May from 8.30pm. If you would be willing or interested in helping in any way please contact me on 01622 859174.

Chris Hills
Chairman

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	Wooden	Greasy	Table	Spoon
2	Block	Stiff	Sea	
3	Goat	Pass	Ash	
4	Bread	Sugar	Sauce	
5	Cuckoo	Roast	Fire	
6	Traffic	Fairy	Out	
7	Load	Ball	Over	
8	Community	Secret	Charge	
9	Handshake	Eagle	Age	
10	Register	Council	Priest	
11	Dealer	Race	Small	
12	Green	Idiot	Hall	
13	Medium	Trigger	Hour	
14	Sentence	Open	Cell	
15	Arctic	Liner	Floor	
16	Detector	Fatigue	Scrap	

Spring into Action!

Now that spring is here, why not sow the seeds to grow your IT skills?

Egerton Telecottage Computer Centre is running its last programme of short courses before the summer break. These include popular favourites for beginners – Basic IT, Word Processing and an introduction to the Internet - as well as instruction on Digital Photography and Desk Top Publishing. The Centre is also offering a further Parent Aware course to guide parents and guardians on the safe use of the Internet for children and making the most of eBay to buy and sell goods. The dates are:

WP Basic – 4 weeks Monday mornings 10am-12pm - 20/27 April, 11/18 May
Basic IT – 4 weeks Tuesday mornings 10am-12pm - 21/28 April, 5/12 May
eBay – 2 weeks Monday afternoons 1-3pm - 22/29 June
Parent Aware – 2 weeks Wednesday mornings 10am-12pm – 3/10 June
Digital Photography – 4 weeks Wed mornings 10am-12pm - 22/29 April, 6/13 May
Desk Top Publishing – 4 weeks Wed afternoons 1/3pm - 27 May, 3/10/17 June
Internet – Thursday evenings 7/9pm from 7th May – dates to be confirmed

Contact SylviaTillman on 01233 756050 to find out more or book a place.

Don't forget you can also get technical help and advice on using computers by dropping into the Computer Clinic at the Telecottage between 10am and 12pm every Saturday morning. You can make use of the up to date PCs and software, as well as our facilities for printing, photocopying, scanning and laminating equipment – ideal if you need to produce copy for your local club or society or want to search the Internet for work or leisure. Our volunteer helpers can guide you on finding useful websites - such as on producing a CV, or booking travel and accommodation.

Find out also about the benefits of social networking sites for senior citizens! Age Concern research shows that over two thirds of 'silver surfers' say using the Internet has improved their lives. Whether it's using Facebook to stay in contact with friends, Skype for international calls to family abroad or using blogs to just have their say, social networking empowers previously isolated older people to stay connected and engaged.

We look forward to seeing you at the Telecottage

The May Night Sky

In early May the Sun is in the constellation of Aries, and moves into Taurus on the 14th May. I have more about the Sun and solar activity at the end of this article.

Full Moon occurs on Saturday 1st May, when the moon is in Libra, and New Moon on Sunday 24th May.

Mercury is at inferior conjunction (almost directly in front of the Sun) on 18th May, and again as in April you may be able to glimpse it in the western sky after sunset in the early part of the month. Venus is rising an hour or so before the Sun, so you should be able to see the brilliant “Morning Star” very low in the east at dawn. Jupiter is higher to the right and very much dimmer.

I am afraid again this month you will not be able to see Mars, as it rises in the east just after Venus and is very faint.

Jupiter rises in the early hours of the morning in the southeast, and is well up in the southeast sky at dawn. It is moving slowly north eastwards in Capricornus. As it is such a low altitude you will not be able to get any detailed views through a telescope. Saturn is well up in the south western sky at dusk, and will not set until dawn. It is virtually stationary this month in the constellation of Leo. Through a telescope Saturn’s ring should clearly be visible together with many of its moons, the largest of which of is Titan.

Now back to the Sun. There is something about the Sun that is puzzling astronomers. Apparently it is the dimmest it has been for nearly a century. There are no sunspots, few solar flares and indeed it is the quietest it has been for a considerable time.

The Sun normally undergoes an eleven-year cycle of activity, but last year it was expected to become more active after a quiet spell. Instead it hit a 50-year low in solar wind pressure, a 55-year low in radio emissions, and a 100-year low in sunspot activity.

There is a big scientific debate at the moment between those who think the Sun will soon return to its normal period of activity, and those who suggest that we are entering another minimum period. You may recall in an earlier article that I mentioned the Maunder Minimum. This is the very quiet period of activity in the 17th century, named after my Great Grandfather, which lasted for 70 years, and was followed by a “mini ice” age. Of course people are now suggesting that this might counter the affects of global warming. We will just have to wait and see.

John Maunder

Music Notes – May

I would preface my May list by introducing two very different approaches to the provision of regular music concerts. On the one hand, the free lunchtime concerts at All Saints' church, Maidstone give the opportunity to slip in any lunchtime and enjoy music provided in aid of charity by talented musicians, often but not always local people. Booking is not necessary, and the cost is entirely up to you, by means of a retiring collection.

On the other hand, The Vinehall Subscription Concerts, which are now in their 20th season, feature international artists (the current season has included the Allegri String Quartet and The Hanover Band), cost up to £20 per ticket, depending on the event, and are often fully booked well in advance. Both have their place, and it is good to know that we can take advantage of such a good choice of music, to suit all tastes and pockets, without having to travel to London.

Then my May selection is:

- **Saturday 7th May**, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone, The Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's Spring Concert has what they publicise as "a blockbuster programme". As well as the great German violinist Ulf Hoelscher playing Samuel Barber's *Violin Concerto* there are works by Bernstein, Saint-Saens, Fauré and Ravel. Tickets 01622 736392

- **Saturday 16th May**, 7.30pm at the Central Theatre, Chatham, The City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra concert features Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A major* (soloist Graeme Vinall) and Beethoven's *Eroica* symphony. Tickets 0705 643354.

- **Also on Saturday 16th May**, 7.30pm at Vinehall School, Robertsbridge, The St. Petersburg Quartet perform quartets by Haydn, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky – see above. Tickets 01580 880413.

- The **Thursday** free lunchtime (1.00pm) concerts at all Saints' Church, Maidstone have restarted. Coffee available, you may bring your sandwiches! Retiring collections in aid of charity.

The Law and the Car

(An extract from “Newnes motorists touring guide”)

“To begin with, no one may drive without a driving licence. This is issued, on payment of five shillings, by the clerk to the council of the county or borough in which the motorist resides. The deaf, the dumb, the halt, even the maimed can obtain such a licence, the only stipulation being that no-one may drive a car until he or she has attained the age of seventeen, or a motor bicycle before fourteen. The driving licence lasts for twelve months, when another five shillings is required for renewing it. The driving licence must always be carried and produced on demand to any police constable in uniform.”

An edition of the guide published in the late 1920's, in good condition and bound with a complete set of 4 mile to the inch maps of the UK, will be available for purchase at The Great Leeds Book Sale in Leeds Church on November 14th.

Brian Hardy

LYRA concert

The celebrated group vocal ensemble from Russia will be making their fourth visit to All Saints, Ulcombe, on Saturday the 23rd of May at 7.30 pm.

Tickets, price £7.50. are available from Molly Poulter on (01622) 842988 or the Church Office (01622 850604).

These LYRA concerts have provided a wonderful opportunity both to hear some traditional Orthodox Church Music and Russian Folk Music, but also to meet the delightful group lead by Andrey Sysoev. Their costumes alone are worth coming for!

Refreshments are provided during the interval.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
1	Wooden	Greasy	Table
2	Block	Sift	Sea
3	Goat	Pass	Ash
4	Bread	Sugar	Sauce
5	Cuckoo	Roast	Fire
6	Traffic	Fairy	Out
7	Load	Ball	Over
8	Community	Secret	Charge
9	Handshake	Eagle	Age
10	Register	Council	Priest
11	Dealer	Race	Small
12	Green	Idiot	Hall
13	Medium	Trigger	Hour
14	Sentence	Open	Cell
15	Arctic	Liner	Floor
16	Detector	Fatigue	Scrap

Find the missing word?	
1	Nellie Boswell, Bread Matriarch who made Jean Bohn famous
2	Summer Holiday, Song and Film by Cliff Richard
3	Kym Ryder, Former Hear'Say member now behind the Rovers Return Bar
4	Thelma Barlow, Former Corrie actress went on to be a dinner lady
5	Natasha Kaplinsky, Britain's highest paid female newsreader
6	Kiefer Sutherland, 24 hero and son of Donald
7	Gaby Logan, Inside sport host
8	Ian Beale, Walford chip shop owner
9	Flag It, A TV show to get people to sell antiques
10	Crinkley Bottom, A family show hosted by Noel Edmonds

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

3rd May 4th Sunday after Easter

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise Service
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Praise Service

10th May 5th Sunday after Easter

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Morning Service
11.00am Lenham Morning Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
3pm Harrietsham Rose/bereavement Service
7pm Holy Cross Bearsted Taize Service

17th May 6th Sunday after Easter

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship
6.30pm St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe, Choral Evensong

24th May 7th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Praise Service
11.00am Lenham Family Praise Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

31st May Pentecost

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Harrietsham Celebration Service
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

If you would like to advertise in Malherbe Monthly and reach the whole of Boughton Malherbe, Grafty Green, Liverton Street and Platts Heath, the monthly costs are:

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

Phone 01622 858937 or
Email mf.hitchins@virgin.net

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meetings will be held in Grafty Green Village on 12th May 2009 at 7.30pm.

All members of the parish are invited to attend and see what the Parish Council has been doing for the past year. There will be reports presented by that main organisation that use parish facilities – such as the Village Hall and the Gardening Club.

After the meeting there will be a get together with the parish Councillors with refreshments supplied. Should you wish to view any of the past meetings minutes they can be viewed online on the Boughton Malherbe Parish Website.

<http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

Select **Minutes & Agendas** from the options on the left of the presented homepage.

Christian Message – May 2009 - Asylum Seekers

Just about everyone has an opinion on this topic. It's one of those subjects which invariably lead to heated debate. I've been asked to write this month's Christian message so I thought it would be interesting to check what the Bible has to say about asylum seekers.

First, a definition. Asylum seekers are not economic migrants. They are not allowed to work. They have fled from another country having alleged persecution because of their religion, politics, race or nationality.

In the Old Testament book of Leviticus, chapter 19 verse 23, the Lord says, **'When an alien (foreigner) lives with you in your land, you should not oppress the alien. You shall love the alien as yourself.'**

Many Christians have taken this command to heart. Here are two examples. In Manchester the Boaz Trust, which is run in a church hall, is open most days for clothes, snacks, food parcels and company. The leaders give advice on finding a lawyer or arranging an appointment with a doctor. The Trust also arranges for asylum seekers to do gardening and decorating for others. A woman who married late in life moved into her husband's home and gave her house to Boaz to accommodate a few asylum seekers.

In Bradford several denominations united to form BEACON. This group funds a part-time worker to oversee volunteers. It has trained twelve people in immigration matters and they accompany seekers to hearings and appeals. Near the court BEACON's volunteers run a café which provides a welcome, food and space for children.

Iain Duncan Smith, the former leader of the Conservative party, visited a church project in Scotland. As a result in 2007 he set up an Asylum Working Group which brings together representatives from various asylum agencies. Its report, 'Asylum Matters' was launched last December and contains recommendations for a fair system of decision making for those who want asylum; for a humane approach to those who should leave and for proper treatment of those who stay. Details can be seen on www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

I end where I began: with the Bible. In the well known parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew chapter 25), the King (Jesus) said to the righteous, **'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'**

Joan Drury