

Malherbe Monthly

Number 65
December 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Happy Christmas to all our readers

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
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Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
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	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	
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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 January edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th December**

Front cover: Sunrise over Grafty Green – Picture courtesy of Jacqui Thompson

News from St. Nicholas Church

Water supply to the Church and Car Parking

We have very good news regarding a water supply at St. Nicholas Church. Our Rector Dick Venn has been to see the Clark family at Boughton Place about the possibility of taking a spur off their water main. The Clarks were very happy for us to do this, for which we are very grateful. This makes the project of a water supply possible especially as a very kind and generous person has offered to help with the cost of the installation. Of course there will be faculties to be granted etc., but the whole project now is very possible, which is wonderful. With water laid on, we can then install a toilet and perhaps a kitchen as well, which the Cream Tea ladies will be very pleased about. Producing teas and coffees after services will be so much easier. To be able to answer the question 'Have you got a loo here' with the affirmative will be so good.

We are also discussing the question of car parking for the church and a number of possibilities are emerging. Watch this space! This is all very exciting but we shall need a good deal of support, both practical and financial!

St. Nicholas Day 6th December

There will be a Sung Communion Service at 9.30am to celebrate St. Nicholas' Day at the Church, which as you know, is dedicated to St. Nicholas, the patron Saint of Children. I'm sure there will be a birthday cake for St. Nicholas for us to share when we have our coffee on that day. So do come along and celebrate St. Nicholas with us. We are also hoping to have a confirmation on that day with Bishop Graham.

Christingle Service

On the 13th December we will be holding a Christingle Service at 4.00pm and we are hoping that lots of children will come along and take part in the service. Each child will receive a Christingle to take home. A Christingle is an orange with a candle in it together with other symbols. Come and find out what it's all about. We will take a collection for the Children's Society at this service.

Carol Singing

We will be Carol singing again this year and are proposing to do this on Wednesday 16th December. Please come a long and swell our numbers. We will meet outside the Village Shop at 7.00pm and have been invited to sing at the Old Rectory and at the Kings Head. We would appreciate an invitation to sing at one other venue as well – so if anyone is interested, please contact Joan on 850210.

Carol Service

A Carol Service will be held at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday 20th December at 3.00pm. This service is conducted in candle-light. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.

Crib Service

Our Crib Service will be held at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve. Please do come and bring all the children to enjoy this special time.

Christmas Day Service

There will be a simple, short, celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas day at 10am, which will include communion. Please come: the children can bring one of their presents and tell us about it (if they wish!).

Organist Retiring

Gordon Drake, our organist, who has played the organ at St. Nicholas for a good many years has retired from playing on a regular basis, but will continue to play at evensong once a month. We are proposing to hold a little presentation party for Gordon after evensong on 10th January, 2010. There will be a collection made for a gift for him and if you would like to contribute please hand a sealed envelope to Kenneth Alexander, John Collins or Joan Davidson marked for Gordon Drake. Gordon has been a very faithful organist to us and has hardly missed a service even when the weather has been very bad and the river Beult burst its banks at Headcorn. As he lives in Biddenden that is quite an achievement! Thank you Gordon!

Coffee Morning

A Coffee morning will be held in the Village Hall on 9th December, 10.00am-12.00 noon. Please come along for a chat and a coffee, there is no charge. Our first get together was very successful, thanks to all those who came last time.

Joan Davidson

Grafty Garden Cuttings – December

With the high winds and rain that we are experiencing, it is a good idea to check the stakes and ties on trees and shrubs and firm back in, or re-stake, anything that has suffered wind rock. Add good mulch and for subjects such as standard roses and buddleias, cut back at least a third of the length of the branches to prevent further damage. New plantings are most likely to suffer and no plant benefits from standing in a pool of water that has gathered in a hole around the trunk. Wind rock breaks roots which, at best, slows growth and at worst, kills. I have had to stake many of my brassicas which blew over and will follow that with a covering of netting to keep away the pigeons, who will strike once the weather turns cold.

Apple and pear trees can be pruned now to let in more light and air and then sprayed with a winter wash to help control woolly aphids and all the other pests and their eggs that over winter on the branches and under the bark. This is a job often done in the Christmas break to work off the excesses of the festive season but, whenever done, needs to be completed before the trees start into growth in the spring. It should be noted that these sprays will also kill beneficial insects, so only use if pests are present. We don't bother and generally harvest enough good fruit to see us through.

With Christmas fast approaching, I protect a few branches of berried holly with festoons of fleece to ensure some colour in the decorations. Branches can be cut a week or two early and placed in a bucket of water in a cool shed, preferably mice free. If buying poinsettias, ensure they are well wrapped before leaving the shop as they hate suddenly being subjected to cold winds or vast temperature changes. In the home they are best kept cool, out of draughts, in good light but not direct sunlight and watered sparingly. Never leave them standing in water. Likewise cyclamen which, in my experience, also seem to do poorly in houses with gas. Orchids must never be over-watered, almost better to under-water, whilst azaleas are the complete opposite, requiring constant moist conditions and cool temperatures. Both subjects must have rain, not tap, water and a weak feed weekly to keep them happy.

Winter containers should be given the protection of a house wall when temperatures drop and if really cold nights are forecast, bubble wrap or garden fleece deployed to stop roots freezing. Regular dead heading will keep displays in bloom much longer, as will a liquid feed once nutrients are used up after the first 6 – 8 weeks. Time to relax with a stock of seed and plant catalogues and plan next year's garden.

Merry Christmas.

Rosemary Smith

Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall



Volunteering - Your County Needs You

A close neighbour of mine who has been retired for over a decade regularly takes elderly people to hospital appointments and shopping trips, using her own vehicle and a significant amount of her own time to do so. She told me of her concern that the organisation for which she volunteers is struggling to find fresh blood to join their efforts and help the housebound to get out and about.

Voluntary organisations across Kent really need volunteers with specialist skills to help them. The Kent County Council *Volunteer Your Skills* campaign is asking Kent residents to offer their professional skills and help make a difference.

The campaign started in the second week of November and is looking for people with finance, accountancy, marketing, IT and other skills to come forward and contact their local Volunteer Centre. We are also trying to attract more volunteers into trustee and committee member roles. A voluntary organisation recently told me that they are suffering from a lack of volunteers wishing to come forward as trustees, especially the "young" and active retired whose skills could be very usefully deployed in a range of areas.

As well as giving back to the community, volunteering can help people keep their professional skills alive and provide a way into future employment. For some, the benefit is simply being able to use their skills in a different environment that allows them to try something new.

Details about the campaign, including case studies and how to find your nearest Volunteer Centre, are on the Kent County Council website:

www.kent.gov.uk/volunteers.

Jenny Whittle

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk

01622 734897

News from Maidstone Council

More public toilets for Maidstone

Shops, pubs and cafes throughout Maidstone town centre will be opening up their toilets for people to use.

They have joined Maidstone council's new community toilet scheme which means that visitors to the town can use toilets within shops and cafes, free of charge, without having to make a purchase.

Participating shops will display a distinctive blue and orange sticker in their window and there will be directional signs throughout the town letting people know the location of these community toilets.

Cllr Mark Wooding, Cabinet Member for the Environment, commenting on the scheme says: "This new scheme follows other successful schemes introduced in Richmond and Brighton. These cafes, pubs and shops, with their longer opening hours, give people a wider choice of times that they can gain access to toilet facilities than ever before."

Participating businesses have been carefully selected to ensure the right type of facilities and a breadth of opening times, they include Marks & Spencer, the Society Rooms, McDonalds in Week Street, Ethos, the Royal Albion Public House, the Fortify Café, The Munch House, Tommy's Café, as well as the major shopping centres – Fremlin Walk, the Mall Chequers, the Royal Star Arcade, the Broadway Shopping Centre and Market Buildings. Maidstone Library is also joining the scheme. Maidstone council will provide toilets in the Gateway, Brenchley Gardens and Maidstone Market.

Mark Dale, manager of Ethos said: "We are happy to join the scheme. Our toilets are already open to customers and we see no reason why we shouldn't open them up to the wider community."

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days Only								
	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	0948	1227	1402	—	1555	1555	1615	1700	1750
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0950	1229	1404	—	1557	1557	1617	1702	1752
Wheatsharf	0957	1236	1411	—	1604	1604	1624	1709	1759
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1001	1240	1415	—	1608	1608	1713	1803	1803
Linton Corner	1005	1244	1419	—	1612	1612	1717	1807	1807
Cornewallis Academy	—	—	—	1505	—	—	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1010	1249	1424	—	1617	1617	1722	1812	1812
Boughton Monchelsea, Cook Inn	1013	1252	1427	1509	1620	1620	1725	1815	1815
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1016	1255	1430	1512	1623	1623	1728	1818	1818
Warmlake Corner	1019	1258	1433	1515	—	1626	1638	1731	1821
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	—	1306	—	1523	—	1634	1646	1737	1829
Kingswood, Village Hall	1024	1308	1438	1525	—	1636	1648	1739	1831
Ulcombe, Post Office	—	1313	—	1530	—	1641	1653	1836	1836
Grafly Green, King's Head	—	1320	—	1535	—	1648	1700	1843	1843
Grafly Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	—	1535	—	—	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	—	1544	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days Only		School Days Only		School Days Only		School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	0838	1241	1525	1755	—	—	—	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0840	1243	1527	1757	—	—	—	—
Wheatsharf	0847	1250	1534	1804R	—	—	—	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1254	1538	—	—	—	—	—	—
Linton Corner	1258	1542	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornewallis Academy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1303	1547	1817R	—	—	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cook Inn	1306	1550	1820R	—	—	—	—	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1309	1553	1823R	—	—	—	—	—
Warmlake Corner	0859	1312	1556	1826R	—	—	—	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0907	1320	1604	1834R	—	—	—	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0909	1322	—	1836R	—	—	—	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0914	1327	—	1841R	—	—	—	—
Grafly Green, King's Head	0921	1334	—	1848R	—	—	—	—
Grafly Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Service 59: Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Sheels Crescent, Hayle Road, Collage Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Pelham Road, Four Wents Fishing Road, Grover Lane, Chartway Street, Warmlake Corner, Wramlake Cross Road, Charney Street, Broadfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Linton Avenue, Caysers Drive, Grafly Bottom, Road, Lentham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafly 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 Grafly Green.

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

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

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days Only							
	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	0736	—	—	—	—
Grafly Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	0745	—	—	—	—
Ulcombe, King's Head	0723	—	0723	—	0915	—	1325	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0730	—	0730	0750	0922	—	1332	—
Wheatsharf	0735	—	0735	0755	0927	1027	1337	1440
Kingswood, Village Hall	0738	—	0738	0757	0929	1029	1339	1442
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0746	—	0744	0808	0935	1035	1345	1448
Warmlake Corner	0746	0739	0747	0809	0938	1038	1348	1451
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0742	0750	0811	0941	1041	1351	1454	1458
Boughton Monchelsea, Cook Inn	0745	0753	0814	0944	1044	1354	1457	1457
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0750	0758	0820	—	0950	—	1350	—
Cornewallis Academy	0750	0758	0820	—	0950	—	1350	—
Linton Corner	0750	0758	0820	—	0950	—	1350	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	—	—	0953	1053	1403	1506
Wheatsharf	0758	0800	0806	—	0957	1057	1407	1510
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	—	0810	0814	—	1005	1105	1415	1518
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0808	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0817	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	0826	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days Only		School Days Only		School Days Only		School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	0733	0923	1336	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0740	0930	1343	—	—	—	—	—
Wheatsharf	0745	0935	1348	1604	—	—	—	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0747	0937	1350	1606	—	—	—	—
Linton Corner	0753	0943	1356	1612	—	—	—	—
Cornewallis Academy	0756	0946	1359	—	—	—	—	—
Linton Corner	0759	0949	1402	—	—	—	—	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0802	0952	1405	—	—	—	—	—
Wheatsharf	0807	0957	1410	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0810	1000	1413	—	—	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0815	1005	1418	1624	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0820	1013	1426	1632	—	—	—	—

Sundays and Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

NOTE

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.

BUS SERVICE 59
Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

I'm sure you might just have noticed, but it will soon be Christmas, and many of you will now be well into your Christmas shopping. It might be timely, therefore, to remind you that Bus Service 59 is still operating, and that it really can provide a practical alternative to the car, with the particular difficulties of finding somewhere to park at this time of the year.

As with many rural services, bus routes, particularly those which are subsidised, are always under review, so the message as ever is **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

John Collins

(Representing Boughton Malherbe Parish Council on the Service 59
Working Group)

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Harry, Lead singer in pop group Blondie
2	Lucy ____, Charlie's Angel star
3	___ Oliver, Plays Lou Carpenter in Neighbours
4	Mr _____, Was the butler played by Gordon Jackson
5	_____ Stanley Fletcher, played by Ronnie Barker in Porridge
6	Lynda _____, Played fantasy character Wonder Woman
7	_____ _____ Pop, The sound of Rice Krispies
8	Ellen _____, Played by Sigourney Weaver in Alien
9	_____ Goldsmith, Married Pakistan politician Imran Khan
10	Little _____, Nickname of French singer Edith Piaf

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David Jenkins



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Kent County Crematorium PLC
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Charing, Ashford,
Kent.

☎ **01233 712443**

NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you, as ever, to all of the children, staff, parents and governors who have been working hard in so many different ways! Remember that if you want to know more about our fantastic school you can visit our web-site, which children try hard to keep up to date, at www.ulcombeschool.uk.org. You are also welcome to come and see us, especially if you have children of pre-school age. We now have application and information packs in school for parents whose children are starting school in September 2010.

School Improvement Update

As you may know, our plan is to use the proceeds from the sale of land to the north of the school site to fund an extension which will house a library. This will also be a room which can be used by the wider community for a variety of purposes. Many of you will know that Kent County Council have deemed the land which used to be the adventure trail is now surplus to requirements. The process being completed now is to apply to central government to support this view. Friday 27th November was the last date for making representation to Mouchel, regarding the proposed change in land use to this part of our site. We hope to know the outcome of this application by the end of January, at which point we will be able to move on with planning the improvements in earnest.

Children in Need

The eagle eyed amongst you may have seen the name of our school on screen on BBC1 on Friday 20th November. We were trying hard to raise money for the BBC's annual Children In Need appeal, dressing up as our favourite children's book, film or television character. Who would have imagined that Puff the Magic Dragon, Noddy and the Tin Man would all have been in the same place at the same time? Well done to everyone who came dressed for the occasion, helping us to raise over £100 for this fantastic charity.

Fireworks Night

The Friends of Ulcombe School (our PTA) organised our annual Fireworks Night for Friday 6th November. Unfortunately the weather had other ideas, but Friday 13th November did see a fantastic firework display set to music lighting up the sky over Ulcombe. Congratulations to Tawny Owls class whose guy raised the most amount of money. Thanks especially go to FUS and all who volunteered to staff stalls or act as stewards. Thanks also to our local amateur dramatic society who ran the barbecue for us. I, for one, am already looking forward to next year.

Extreme Reading Competition

Entries came in for the Extreme Reading Competition, from children, parents and staff. The task was to have a photograph taken in an unusual situation. It seems children read with their chickens, or whilst in the bath, among other strange situations. Well done to Robert, who was reading whilst cycling, to Ben, who was reading in his powerboat, to Mrs Roe, who was reading in the bottom of a wardrobe, and to myself, reading whilst making sure a lighthouse did not fall down. We all received a book voucher as the winners in each group. These pictures and many more, will be on display in school as soon as possible.

Remembrance Day Assembly

Parents and friends joined us for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Wednesday 11th November at 10.45am. It was great for the children to be joined by so many grown-ups, including Parish Councillors, with children and Rev. Bond helping to lead our special assembly.

Residential Adventure 2010

Also in Wednesday 11th November, at 3.30pm, there was an information session for parents and children of Tawny Owls to explain more about our fantastic Residential Adventure for 2010. We will be heading 'over-seas', being joined by pupils and staff from two other local schools, on a wonderful trip – we are going to a PGL activity centre on the Isle of Wight! Although the trip is not until May, we are already very excited about it!

Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner

As we carried on through November we had our Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner. Wednesday 25th November was the fifth time that we have invited friends of the school from the wider community to join us for a roast lunch prepared by our School Cook, followed by entertainment from the children. This was again a popular occasion. Look out for the next one during the spring!

Christmas is Coming

As Christmas already approaches, it will be fantastic to see lots of you at our Christmas Fayre on Friday 11th December. Father Christmas will be at the Village Hall at 6pm, before walking down to the school with us to his specially prepared grotto. There will be plenty to enjoy in the School Hall and we hope to see you all there. You have been able to join us already for the Nativity play. This takes place on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December. Please contact the School Office if you would like to know more, or to book your seat.

It is also wonderful to be joined by many from the wider community at our special church services and we will be holding our Christmas Celebration at All Saints Parish Church on Friday 18th December at 2.15pm. If you would like to

come along and celebrate this very special time of year, you are more than welcome. It would be great to see you!

Come and see our Anderson Shelter

One last invitation to you all – come and see our Anderson Shelter. We have, in school, a multi-sensory room, which during this autumn has been transformed to give children an idea of what it might have been like to have to take refuge during World War II. Some of you have been kind enough to lend items to us for this. If you would like to see what we have done, feel free to pop into school on Sunday 6th December between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Mrs Owens or I will be on hand to explain how we have been able to use this amazing resource with the children.

We hope to see you at one of our up-coming events, but to anyone who is unable to join us, may I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas!

Best wishes,

Mr V Hampton
Head Teacher

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

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
3 rd November	Kent in the 19 th century	Bob Ogle
1st 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.

December social – Grafty Gardening Club

Tuesday December 1st in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We will have supper, a quiz and a little competition – very light hearted; all welcome to come along.

There will be a preview of the events for 2010 which includes a weekend visit to Dorset in June. Monthly events include talks, visits to gardens and nurseries (discounts available). Membership still stands at £5 for the year – excellent value.

Further details from Sue Burch - 850381

Sue Burch

Lenham Wanderers Football Club

CLUB VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

As a growing grassroots football club, we are always in need of valuable help from willing volunteers to keep the club running.

Right now we need the following roles to be filled:

Club Welfare Officer – a vital role within the club to deal with any welfare-related issues within the club and also to process FA Enhanced Disclosures (CRB checks) for all the club volunteers.

Membership Secretary – another important role that needs someone with good admin skills to organise and collate contact details for all members of the football club.

Referees and Assistants – As a KCFA-affiliated club we are able to offer assistance to anyone interested in becoming a referee and right now we need some willing 'refs-to-be' to step forward.

If you or anyone you know is interested in taking up one of these positions then please contact Roy Dayes (Club Chairman) at chair@lwfc.org.uk.

Kevin
LWFC



Bragg
Web & Press Officer

BITS AND BYTES!

The team at Egerton Telecottage is now setting up the computer centre's programme of courses for the winter. They are keen to run more sessions that meet exactly what people need.

Jackie is the tutor for Excel and Digital Photography. With her last group she had a great time finding out about the aspects of spreadsheets that they really needed. Unlike a College course, which has to follow a curriculum to get you a qualification, learning about computers with the Telecottage can be tailored to what you want to cover.

In 2010 there will be more short courses that will allow you do this while also offering the longer introduction to basic computing and other courses that beginners and experienced people alike find so helpful. Here are the dates for the New Year:

IT Refresher - Tuesdays - 12th and 19th January 10am-12 noon
2 sessions of 2 hours covering those bits of basic computing that you may have forgotten such as storing and finding files, dragging and dropping, inserting pictures

Emailing Photographs- Tuesday 12th and 19th January 7.30pm/9.30pm
2 week course showing you how to send your photographs over the Internet and managing them on your computer

Excel- Wednesdays 20th, 27th Jan/3rd,10th Feb - 10am-12 noon
4 week course covering spreadsheets for use at work or home

Basic Word Processing - Tuesdays 26th Jan /2nd,9th/16th February - 10am-12 noon

4 week course to get you started with everything you need to know about using Word

Basic IT - Tuesday 23rd Feb/2nd,9th,16th March - 10am-12 noon
4 week basic introduction to using a computer for beginners

Digital Photography - Tuesdays 23rd Feb/2, 9,16th March - 7.30/9.30pm -

4 week course covering the basics of displaying and editing your photographs on the computer

We also hope to run courses covering Intermediate Word Processing, the Internet and a short eBay course - make some money for the new year or find a good home for those unwanted gifts! .

Hire our Centre!

If you have a group of people - or are a local business- and would like to use our centre to provide computer training, we are happy to arrange for the centre to be hired for one or more days - or just half a day. Refreshments can be arranged and full office facilities are available. We may also be able to provide a tutor if you need one or transport, using Wealden Wheels minibuses.

For more information about courses or hire of the Telecottage Centre, please contact Sylvia on 01233 756050.

Don't forget we are also open every Saturday morning from 10 to 12pm for drop in advice about computer problems or use of the Internet and centre facilities.

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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	Reserve	Human	Trail	Nature
2	Patent	Jacket	Strap	
3	Butter	Kidney	Runner	
4	Cut	Crystal	Conscience	
5	Listing	Going	Speak	
6	Landing	Coach	Back	
7	Character	Book	Grid	
8	Public	Expert	Second	
9	Counter	Short	Tape	
10	Sand	Cold	Circle	
11	Eleven	Fours	Sign	
12	Cooling	Control	Block	
13	Plastic	Dental	Tree	
14	Lining	Quick	Birch	
15	Hidden	Scout	Show	
16	Good	Stile	Over	

This has got to be simplest recipe to date, and a great way of using up left over turkey, from Christmas Day. Alternatively, you could use your left over turkey, and make a sandwich, with some pickle.

Left over Turkey Spaghetti

Serves 4

8 oz Spaghetti
1 Onion, chopped finely
1 Can of cream of chicken soup
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup of grated mild cheddar cheese
2 Cups of diced left over turkey
A pinch of salt and pepper

1. Place the spaghetti in boiling water and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes.
2. Sauté the chopped onion in a little butter, in a frying pan, until soft.
3. Heat soup as directed on the tin
4. Combine the soup, onions, spaghetti, turkey, cheese and salt and pepper in a saucepan, and stir until the cheese melts. Serve straight away with salad and garlic bread.

Happy Christmas

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Keith Anderson

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).



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Ophiuchus at the start of December, and
moves into Sagittarius on the 18th.

The shortest day of the year is Sunday 21st December. This is the Winter Solstice, when the Sun reaches its most Southerly point in the sky.

Full Moon occurs on Wednesday 2nd December, when the Moon is in the constellation of Taurus, and New Moon on Wednesday 16th. Full Moon occurs again on Thursday 31st December, when the Moon is in the constellation of Gemini.

Again this month Mercury will not be easy to observe, as it is setting less than two hours after the Sun, and by the end of the month it will be lost in the Sun's glare.

At the start of December Venus rises in the southeast just an hour before the Sun, and therefore should be visible low in the dawn sky. By the end of the month it will not be possible to see this planet.

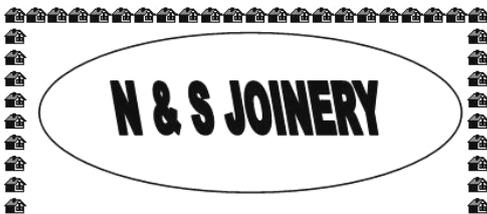
Mars is rising in the northeast around 8 pm, and is high in the southern sky in the early hours. Mars is above Regulus, the brightest star in Leo, and shines with a slightly orange hue.

Jupiter can be seen in the south just above the horizon at dusk, and sets in the southwest around 9 pm. The giant planet is much brighter than Mars or any of the stars.

Saturn is rising in the east in the early hours of the morning, and is well up in the southern 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.

One of the most reliable meteor showers of the year is the Geminid shower, which occurs every December. Geminid meteors may be seen any time between 7th and 16th December. They appear to radiate from a point close to the bright star Castor in Gemini, and can be seen throughout the hours of darkness.

Some of you may have read that the Large Hadron Collider is back in action following 14 months of repairs. The Collider has produced its first proton collisions just three days after it was restarted. Ultimately the Collider is intended to create conditions like they were a fraction of a second after the Big Bang, and it is hoped to find the elusive Higgs boson, the so-called "God particle" that theoretically gives mass to other subatomic particles.



John Maunder

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Music Notes, December 2009

With Christmas comes a plethora of Christmas music and carol services. From amongst it all I recommend Music for Christmas at Mote Hall, 7.30pm on Saturday 12th December. Lots of traditional carols and some

new ones, with BAE Systems Brass Band, Maidstone Choral Union to lead the singing, and Brunswick House Primary School to add a younger element. Tickets 01622 726193.

Brian Hardy



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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

0 HAPPY DAY!

November 15th was an especially happy day at Boughton Malherbe church. The reason was the baptism of Clare and David Wand who, until a few weeks ago, lived at Lewson Farm. Another adult, Ian Moore, took

the opportunity to be baptised by Rev Dick Venn at the same time as his infant godson, Angus Brown.

A happy day for them all and also for me because I first met Clare when she attended the Easter Day service at Boughton during which I preached. What brought her to church that day?

Dick invited Clare to speak about her faith journey. She explained that she had not been baptised as a baby but that since April last year some small events had led her to church. Let me quote Clare, *"In April 2008 I was rushed into hospital because my retina had become detached, the recovery period was a year and I found it a very difficult time. I was particularly worried about flying as all the medical advice seemed contradictory. A few months before my impending trip I was reading an article and it mentioned psalm 121 in relation to a story about a lady who was having eye trouble. I looked the psalm up on the internet and it seemed relevant to my situation. I drew real comfort from the psalm and I carried it with me on the plane. The trip went smoothly and I didn't have one problem throughout the two weeks."*

Clare is a great reader and another influence was "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren which she saw recommended on Amazon. She added it to her shopping list of romances, comedies and so on. Clare's words again, *"Rick Warren is the founding pastor of Saddleback Church in California which is the largest and best known church in America. The book is a 40 day journey which helps you to discover God's purpose for your life. It takes you through the journey of understanding God; it talks about eternal life and, most importantly it encouraged me to seek fellowship by joining a church. My first visit to church was on Easter Sunday. I went by myself and was very nervous. I need not have been because just as Rick Warren had described the church family was there waiting for me. The welcome I got was so wonderful that I managed to persuade David to come with me the following week. Since then we have not looked back and we enjoy our Sunday services. We are still surprised at how relevant and contemporary the sermons can be to everyday life. Coming to church has proved to us that Jesus is still working among us every day."*

Clare ended by encouraging anyone who is not a regular churchgoer to stop and think for a moment. She said that a Christian life can run alongside the material things in life often rendering them less important. Being Christians has helped her and David to become nicer people; they think more carefully before they speak; their actions are more considered; they listen more and expect less. Clare ended her testimony by reading Russell Kelfer's poem, "You are who you are for a reason." Here is the final verse:

You are who you
are for a reason;

You've been
formed by the
Master's rod. You
are who you are,
beloved, Because
there is a God!

Joan Drury

Remix

Two weeks ago I saw an excellent film, "The Age of Stupid" in Harrietsham Village Hall. Cllr Tom Sams and his wife organise a monthly programme of films showing one after school for young people and another in the evening for adults. Recently I have seen, for a mere £3, "Atonement" and "Slumdog Millionaire" among other good films. Details can be found in the Lenham and Harrietsham parish magazines as well as the Kent Messenger.

Joan Drury



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Christian message

Who's looking forward to Christmas?

Some of us look forward with excitement and can barely wait for our presents, the family all together or a special surprise.

Some of us look forward with mixed feelings. Will there be enough money for everything we want to buy or do? Will we have time to fit everything in? What will I wear to that party? When can I go shopping? Will the shops have run out? Will we get through it without becoming so tired and frazzled that we can't enjoy it? Will we have to travel to see the in-laws this year?

And others may look forward to Christmas with dread. The family always ends up having a blazing row at Christmas. The in-laws will stay too long. It will bring back memories that should be happy but are sad. We'll be on our own this Christmas.

And of course we all look forward to the credit-card bill coming through the door, after Christmas....

Mary, Jesus' mum, must have had her own worries as she looked forward to Christmas – Jesus' birth day. Maybe the in-laws will have a thing or two to say about an unplanned pregnancy. Maybe the road to Bethlehem will be too busy, dirty, dusty, and uncomfortable for someone so largely pregnant. How will we pay for our lodgings? Will there be everything I need in a strange town for the baby and me?

Despite all this, Mary looked forward to it with quiet faith and trust in God that he would see them through and that this special baby would somehow be worth it all. That's why she sang "I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Saviour God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened— I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him" (part of Luke's gospel, chapter 1).

In these four weeks of Advent, try to look forward to Christmas as Mary did: with happy anticipation, faith and trust in our Saviour God. One of Jesus' names is "Immanuel" which means "God with us". If you're worried, looking forward with dread – or even just plain excitement –

remember that Jesus is “God with us” and he came to help. Bring everything to him and he will help you and be with you.

And please do join us over Christmas for our special services.

Dick Venn
Priest-in-charge, Len Valley Benefice

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now has issued the new timetable up to 18th April 2010. 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.

Grafty Green

Sunday 13th Dec
Sunday 21st Feb 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Sunday 18th Apr

Platts Heath

Sunday 13th Dec
Sunday 21st Feb 11:15 – 12-15 -: Green Lane
Sunday 18th Apr

Ulcombe

Sunday 13th Dec
Sunday 21st Feb 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road
Sunday 18th Apr

Lenham

Sunday 14th Mar 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Road - Boughton Lane

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

6th December Second Sunday of Advent (St. Nicholas)

8am	Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	Harrietsham Christingle Service
9.30am	Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion (Sung)
11am	Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am	Ulcombe Christingle Service
7pm	Taize Service Ulcombe

13th December Third Sunday of Advent

8am	Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	Harrietsham Holy Communion
4pm	Boughton Malherbe Christingle Service
11am	Lenham Christingle Service
11.15am	Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm	Boughton Malherbe Choral Evensong

20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am	Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am	Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
11.00am	Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am	Ulcombe Morning Worship
3pm	Boughton Malherbe Nine Lessons and Carol Service
5pm	Lenham Carol Service
6.30pm	Harrietsham Carol Service

22nd December

7pm	Ulcombe Carol Service
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24th December Christmas Eve

4pm	Boughton Malherbe Crib Service
4pm	Harrietsham Crib Service
4pm	Lenham Crib Service
4pm	Ulcombe Crib Service
11.15pm	Harrietsham Midnight Communion
11.15pm	Lenham Midnight Communion
11.15pm	Ulcombe Midnight Communion

25th December Christmas Day

09.30am	Harrietsham Family Communion Service
10.00am	Boughton Malherbe Family Communion Service

10.00am Lenham Family Communion Service
10.00am Ulcombe Family Communion Service

27th December First Sunday of Christmas

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Four Parishes (Benefice) Service at St Mary's Lenham

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Bearsted

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Web www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Dec 23rd 6.00 pm Family Carol Service
(Younger children especially welcome)

Dec 24th 6.00 pm First Mass of Christmas
11.30 pm Carols and Christmas Midnight Mass

Dec 25th 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass

Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Harrietsham

Rectory Lane (off East Street)

Mgr Timothy Galligan Phone: 01622 736100

Web www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Dec 25th 8.45 am Christmas Morning Mass

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
1	Reserve	Human	Trail
2	Patent	Jacket	Strap
3	Butter	Kidney	Runner
4	Cut	Crystal	Conscience
5	Listing	Going	Speak
6	Landing	Coach	Back
7	Character	Book	Grid
8	Public	Expert	Second
9	Counter	Short	Tape
10	Sand	Cold	Circle
11	Eleven	Fours	Sign
12	Cooling	Control	Block
13	Plastic	Dental	Tree
14	Lining	Quick	Birch
15	Hidden	Scout	Show
16	Good	Stile	Over
			Turn

	Find the missing word?
1	Debbie Harry , Lead singer in pop group Blondie
2	Lucy Liu , Charlie's Angel star
3	Tom Oliver , Plays Lou Carpenter in Neighbours
4	Mr Hudson , Was the butler played by Gordon Jackson
5	Norman Stanley Fletcher , played by Ronnie Barker in Portlidge
6	Lynnda Carter , Played fantasy character Wonder Woman
7	Snap Crackle Pop , The sound of Rice Krispies
8	Ellen Ripley , Played by Sigourney Weaver in Alien
9	Jemima Goldsmith , Married Pakistan politician Imran Khan
10	Little Sparrow , Nickname of French singer Edith Piaf

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