



Malherbe Monthly

Number 41
December 2007



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson 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	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Yvonne Celder	630607
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	To be announced	
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 4.45 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
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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 15th December

Front cover: Children in Need fundraisers relaxing in the Kings Head after their activities in raising £800 on Saturday 17th November

Children in Need – Saturday 17th November

Being a Saturday I dropped into the local to have a quiet beer or two – or so it seemed at the time. A friend of mine was already in there and it was unusual to see him in there at that time. “You’re in here early.” I prompted – “Yes” he said “I had to drop off the Missus as she is off with some friends, dressed up in some very strange gear”. “They are on a pub crawl to elicit or otherwise generally to empty people’s pockets of their cash for Children in Need”. Knowing who they were, some of them had done this sort of thing before, I knew that some customers were in for a surprise as they can be very persuasive in the extraction of cash for good causes.

I asked where the pub crawl was taking them, “They are starting in Headcorn, then the Who’d-a-thought-it and on to Lenham before finishing here in the King Head.”. Well I thought I should be out of here before they get here but as one leads to another in the pub I was wrong. I should have known better – when they passed the pub on the way to Lenham car horns sounded as if we had just won the world cup – this should have been a warning to drink up and get out.

Some time later the pub door opened and in burst the ‘Children in Need fundraisers’, you could tell they had been to a few pubs and the bucket was laden with cash. It was our turn now, there was no escape and the bucket did its rounds. Of course everyone was generous as the cause was worthy and everyone seemed to enjoy the moment. Photos were taken, stories exchanged and then the time came to see how much had been collected (acquired would be more accurate). Fortunately this proved to be easier than one might have expected, for as luck would have it a certain accountant was in attendance and was cajoled into assisting the count; actually he seemed to be in his element. Notes were sorted and stacked, coins piled into tall columns all over the table, representing a growing Manhattan style skyline and then the total was announced – the eight of them had raised well over £700. What a magnificent effort; they should be congratulated for their achievement; it is amazing how generous people can be.

The next day, some additional cash was found and when this was added to the previous total, the amount raised for Children in Need was **£800**.

The eight who took part in this fundraising event, six of whom can be seen on the front cover of the magazine, are:

Bev: Ms Zorro, Ann: Saloon Girl, Mags: Pirate Wench, Julie: Cow Girl, Carol: Punk, Jaci: Cow Girl, Suzi: Cow Girl and Kev: Clint E

News from St. Nicholas Church

Posada - Making room for Jesus this Christmas

The Posada Family will be travelling around the Parish in the days leading up to Christmas. The Posada family are a group of figures representing the Holy Family in the Manager scene. They will be starting their journey after the service on 2nd December and will spend a night or two in each house. If you would like to have the Posada figurers visit you just let a Church member know and we will be glad to put your name on the list. Posada is a Mexican tradition which keeps the meaning of Christmas foremost in our thoughts on the run up to Christmas.

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service will take place on Sunday 9th December at 3.00pm in St. Nicholas Church. This Service is for everyone but most of all it's a Service for Children. Each Child is given an Orange to take home which is decorated with a Candle and candied Fruits and represents the light of Christ coming to the World and there are four cocktail sticks with the fruits on, which represent the four seasons of the year and a red band around the middle of the Orange is symbolic of Christ's blood which was shed to save us all. The Service is a short one so that small people do not get bored. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please come along a join us.

Carol Singing

We will be Carol Singing in the Village on Thursday 13th December, meeting on the Green at 7.00pm we will then sing at Lavender Cottage and then on to March Farm to sing for the Wickens Family. The Who'd A Thought It will be next stop and then back to the King's Head to spend the rest of the evening. The Collection will be for Demelza House Children's Hospice. Come and join us, it's a fun evening; we need to swell our numbers with some more voices.

Carol Service

The Carol Service will be on 16th December at 3.00pm we will have Candlelight and the Christmas tree. It is a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served after the Service. This Service is usually well attended with many people coming back to re-visit the Church of their Childhood. St. Nicholas always looks especially good at Christmas, with the candlelight dancing on the old stone walls.

Blessing the Crib

Our Crib Service is at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve. We will be collecting for Winston's Wish Charity, which is a Charity for bereaved Children and this will be the 3rd year that we have supported this Charity at the Benefice's 4 Churches.

As we enjoy the excitement of preparing for Christmas, I ask you to spare a thought for children who have lost a parent, a friend or a brother or sister. You might have watched the Channel 4 series *The Mummy Diaries* during November which followed, very movingly, the lives of 5 ordinary Families who have faced the unthinkable – a life without Mum. The programmes featured the work of this charity that provides support services to children and their families. The charity's founder, Julie Stokes OBE, supports the mums as they write 'mummy manuals' so that they can provide their children with advice and reassurance for the future, when they will no longer be with them, Julie also shows the families how to create poignant 'memory boxes' which help the children to hold on to their memories and maintain that precious bond with their mums.

The Charity supports children with heart-wrenching, but also often heart-warming stories. I have read recently about a teenage girl whose father was murdered, and another father who died of cancer leaving a young family distraught. There are many other situations, maybe brothers and sisters die in accidents or because of terminal illness. There are also the parents and siblings of those who die on active service.

Do you remember Prince Harry's moving tribute to his Mother, Diana? In many ways he spoke for every child who has experienced the death of a parent. To speak about the death of a loved one takes courage for any Child and Winston's Wish supports children as they learn to cope with such a traumatic experience. Another way that the charity helps these children is by providing camps where they meet others in similar situations.

Please help us to support this very worthwhile charity by either attending one of our Crib Services, or by contacting me for further information or by allowing me to add your donation to our collection. Thank you for your help. Millie Hart 01622 859753.

During the Service you will be asked to buy a Star to stick onto a Skyscape. The suggested donation is just £1.00. You can, if you wish, write the name of a loved one who you will miss this Christmas. They might have died or it might just be that you will not be seeing them. You might wish to write a message on the Star. You will also be given a smaller Star to stick on to your coat to remind you of them.

Benefice Service

On 30th December at 10.30am there will be a Eucharist Service at St. Nicholas these services happen once a month on the 4th Sunday and if there is a 5th Sunday in the month. These services are held in each Church of the Benefice in turn, and it is St. Nicholas' turn this December, so come along and join us. With Candle light and Carols it should be good.

Joan Davidson

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 and 2007 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

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

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Be Warned

Lunchtime on Friday 16th I was in our lounge waiting for a bed to be delivered. I noticed some movement on our drive 20 yards away and assumed the delivery had arrived. Wrong! I realised it was my trailer canopy (made from copper tube) being taken away by an undesirable. To do so he had to climb over 4ft 6ins high locked gates in broad daylight in full view. Although very useful to me and cost about £50 to make its scrap value would be just £2 or £3 ~ amazing front and risk for so little reward. Unfortunately he made his getaway. He is well built, probably in his fifties, and drives small open backed lorry ~ back probably aluminium or possibly dirty white or grey. Three days earlier he was seen coming out of another nearby property albeit without anything.

Recently a farm tractor was stolen from a nearby field, so too a large quantity of diesel from another yard storage tank. Obviously there is unhealthy activity in the area and we all need to be careful and vigilant.

Chris Wheal

Sudoku Quiz

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

Missing Word Puzzle

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Sunrise, A Mel Gibson Film.
2	Pixie and _____, Cartoon Mice.
3	_____ Gwyn, 17 th Century Orange Seller.
4	Susan _____, Eastenders Michelle Fowler.
5	_____, African Country, formerly Rhodesia.
6	Black _____, Novel by Anna Sewell.
7	_____ Out, Escape from Prison.
8	Sir _____ Laker, Airline Owner.
9	_____ Fonteyn, Ballerina.
10	Faye _____, Bonnie and Clyde Actress.

Grafty Green Post Office and Stores

We are glad to be able to confirm that Grafty Green Post Office is not on the list for closure in the current cull of Post Offices. We hope that it is generally thought that it is good for the local community to have a Post Office and shop.

We are pleased that the old adage "use it or lose it" was quoted last month - it means at least one person besides us realises the fact! The continuance of a Post Office and shop does not just depend on the government and Post Office Ltd; it depends on there being enough trade for someone to be able and willing to run them.

At the time of writing, circumstances have meant we are closing the shop between 10am and 2pm on Mondays and Thursdays and we are sorry for any inconvenience. In considering the future, it would be useful to hear if people are inconvenienced. The plus side of reduced opening hours in a small community might be that people meet each other more, surely one purpose of having a shop here.

Christmas will soon be here. At this time, as at other times, we are willing to try and meet requests for products if possible. In a small shop we can't stock a whole lot of products just in case someone wants them, with the risk that none will be bought.

At Christmas time especially quite a few of our customers find it convenient to get fruit and vegetables etc from us. Forms will be available for orders.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Rob and Hazel Eastwood

Grafty Garden Cuttings - December

The seasons really have become muddled, or maybe it's just the plants that have. I have had hellebores, primroses and violets in bloom since September and I hear that I am not alone. The autumn colours have been glorious and the leaves have taken their time in falling. These do need clearing from lawns, but can be left on borders, as I have oft repeated, to shelter wildlife and stop roots freezing, provided they are not smothering or rotting the crowns.

I have started the winter clean-up by cutting back any perennials that look messy and will continue to do so as the seasons progress, leaving those that have attractive stems and seed heads until the spring. These can look wonderful on cold, misty and frosty days. Winter containers of pansies and violas need dead-heading regularly, otherwise they set seed and stop blooming.

Root vegetables left in the ground need covering with something like fleece or fern fronds, so they can still be dug if the ground becomes frozen solid (does it ever these days?). And cloches need placing over autumn sown peas, broad beans and salad crops. It is also a good time to plant new fruit trees, but check that frosts are not lifting the roots.

Time to look back on the year: no late spring frosts gave everyone a bumper crop of top and soft fruit and the plentiful summer rains helped everything grow in leaps and bounds. Trees and shrubs really filled out, making up for the previous dry years, but giving tons more leaves to rake up, although the bonus there should be some lovely, friable leaf mould for the borders, provided it rains enough over the winter, to rot them down.

A dry autumn, with little to no cold weather, has meant plenty of late colour, raspberries on the canes and strawberries still ripening in November.

Best of all, make the most of the slow-down outside in the garden by spending time planning next year's projects and enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Rosemary Smith



PROGRAMME FOR 2007

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jan 9th	AGM - Light up your garden with bulbs	Janet Bryant
Feb 6th	Japanese garden	Jean Cockett
March 6th	Organic Vegetable Gardening	Nick Robinson
April 3rd	Saxon shore way	Chris Wade
May 1st	Evening visit to Hole Park	
May 5th	Plant sale	
First weekend in June	Weekend trip to Worcestershire	
June 5th	Evening visit to Torry Hill	
July 3rd	Evening visit to Hall Place	
Aug 4th	Afternoon visit to Stoneacre	
Sept 4th	Autumn Show Talk on Chrysanthemums	John Lawrie
Oct 2nd	Mushrooms and Toadstools	Martin Newcombe
Nov 6th	History of Weather forecasting	Ian Currie
Dec 4th	Smuggling in Kent	Chris Wade

The December Social will no longer be a Port and Stilton evening, as this speaker had to cancel. Instead it will be as in other years with food provided by members (please?). Chris Wade has kindly stepped into the breach to talk to us on Smuggling in Kent. Chris had talked to us before and always provides an enjoyable and entertaining evening. The January meeting will be on the 8th, with the AGM (which usually lasts only 15 - 20 minutes, tops) and Mr Newman speaking about the vertical garden.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	Only	59
Maidstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	1552	1612
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1615
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1617
Wheatshaf	1236	1411	1604	1624
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608
Linton Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612
New Line Learning — Cornwalls		1505		
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1249	1424	1617	1617
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1620	1620
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1623	1623
Warmlake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626
Kingswood, Village Hall		1438		
Kingswood, Asford Drive	1306	1523	1634	1646
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	1530	1641	1653
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	1537	1648	1700
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle		1535		
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by		1544		

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	Only	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by				
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle		0736		
Ulcombe, Post Office	0723	0723	0915	1325
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730	0730	0922	1332
Kingswood, Asford Drive	0735	0735	0927	1337
Warmlake Corner	0738	0737	0929	1339
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746	0808	0935	1345
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0749	0809	0938	1348
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742	0750	0941	1351
New Line Learning — Cornwalls		0753		0944
Linton Corner	0750	0758	0949	1354
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	0953	1359
Wheatshaf	0759	0806	0956	1402
Maidstone, King Street	0808	0810	1005	1415
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0817			
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0826			
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park				

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	Only	59
Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Road, Upper Stone Road, Mill Street, High Street, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0836	1241	1525	1755
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0840	1243	1527	1757
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0847	1250	1534	1804
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0851	1254	1538	1808
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0859	1312	1556	1826
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0907	1320	1604	1834
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0914	1327	1611	1841
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0921	1334	1618	1848

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	Only	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by				
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle		0736		
Ulcombe, Post Office	0723	0723	0915	1325
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730	0730	0922	1332
Kingswood, Asford Drive	0735	0735	0927	1337
Warmlake Corner	0738	0737	0929	1339
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746	0808	0935	1345
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0749	0809	0938	1348
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742	0750	0941	1351
New Line Learning — Cornwalls		0753		0944
Linton Corner	0750	0758	0949	1354
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	0953	1359
Wheatshaf	0759	0806	0956	1402
Maidstone, King Street	0808	0810	1005	1415
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0817			
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0826			
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park				

Service 59: Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Road, Upper Stone Road, Mill Street, High Street, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

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

Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maidstone to Kingswood, Charway Street, then Gravelly Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysar Drive, returning via the Warmlake Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.

Service 56: New Line Learning — Cornwalls, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Sundays and Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

NOTE

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

CODES

— These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the appropriate 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.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 13th January 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 12th Jan: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Sunday 16th Dec: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Platts Heath

Sunday 9th Dec: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Lenham

Saturday 12th Jan: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

Dolly Town

Dolly Town of Church Road Grafty Green died in the Heart of Kent Hospice on 5th November 2007.

Dolly was born on 3rd November 1925 just outside Orphir in the Orkney Islands. She met Albert when he was stationed there during the War when he came back from Germany. They were married in 1946 and moved south to Grafty, where Albert had been brought up. They first lived in Fermor Cottage and then moved to Church Road. They had four boys, Brian, Ian, Kevin and Andrew and there are several grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Her ashes are being interred with Albert's at St Nicholas Church, Boughton Malherbe.

Dolly was President of the Grafty Green WI for many years, and she baked many cakes and scones in support of their fundraising activities. She also supported the Heart of Kent Hospice. If anyone would like to make a donation to the Heart of Kent Hospice in memory of Dolly, please send it to A W Court, Funeral Directors, Grafty Green marked with Dolly's name.

The December Night Sky

Good news, the Winter Solstice occurs on Saturday 22nd December, so at last our days will be lengthening.

Unfortunately the Leonid Meteor Shower I mentioned last month was not visible owing to overcast skies when it peaked on 18th November. But this month we have one of the most reliable meteor showers known as the Geminid shower. I will give details later.

The moon is at Last Quarter at the beginning of the month. New Moon will occur on Sunday 9th December, and Full Moon on Monday 24th December.

Last month we were able to see Mercury briefly in the southeast at dawn. However, this month it will not be visible as it is behind the sun. (at superior conjunction) on 17th December.

In early December Venus rises in the east at about 4 am, and by the end of the month well after 5 am. I awoke early on 24th November and saw Venus in the east, and can confirm that it is an intensely bright object in the sky.

Again an excellent month to view Mars, as it is in opposition to the sun. This means that it rises at sunset and shines though the night. Mars has an elliptical orbit, and it is closest to us this month. It is moving westward in the constellation of Gemini, to the right of the 'Twin' stars Caster and Pollux. It is best observed in the southern sky at about midnight, with its unmistakable reddish-orange colour.

The giant planet Jupiter cannot be seen this month as it is in conjunction with the sun.

Saturn rises in the east in late evening, and is well up southern sky by dawn. With a telescope it is possible to see its famous rings, together with many of the moons, the largest of which is Titan.

Now for the earlier mentioned Geminid Meteor Shower. The meteors can be seen between December 6th and 16th, and appear to radiate from a point close to the bright star Castor in the constellation of Gemini. They are best observed after midnight, and in the early hours on 14th, one can expect to see them at the rate of one every couple of minutes. Let us hope for some clear nights.

John Maunder

Lenham Nursery School

It's that time of year again! Extremely busy with lots of festivals from different cultures to celebrate, and lots of fun with everyone and everything covered in glitter and sequins by the time we go home every night!

Outside of Nursery you may have met us at the switching on of Lenham Xmas Lights where we were lucky enough to have a stall selling some stocking filler gifts and sweets plus some lovely toys and books donated by our generous parents. Many thanks to my team and all the parents who supported that event and also for joining our Quiz team held at the Primary School – I won't reveal our results!

For the children in Nursery this is a wonderful time as we look forward to decorating our trees, generously donated by Kingswood Christmas trees. Party time during the last week of term brings 'Jolly Dizzy' through our doors; a fabulous children's entertainer just perfect for making our Pre Schoolers chuckle with delight. A wonderful Christmas Lunch on the 18th, cooked to perfection in the school Kitchen creates a perfect festive atmosphere, and finally a fantastic Christmas party to finish our celebrations and our term on the 19th. It certainly wouldn't be Christmas without a very special visitor, so we're hoping Santa can take a break from his frantic preparations to join our party with a full sack of presents for some very good children!

So, it just leaves me with this opportunity to wish all our parents, friends and members of the local community, who have so willingly supported Nursery this year, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy and prosperous New year! On a personal note I would also like to extend my thanks and Glad Tidings to my supportive, hard working and committed team.

If 2008 is the right time for your child to join in the fun and learning at Lenham Nursery School, then please pop in and see us anytime. We always welcome visitors! Or alternatively call us for more information on 07967128 056.

Jo Glazebrook

A request from America

I received the following from Edith Browne who lives in New Jersey USA and reads our magazine on the Internet. If you can help, her e-mail address is: edybun@yahoo.com

William Brown, shoemaker, and Anne Elizabeth Apps were married in Boughton Malherbe on Nov. 7, 1831 by C. Borckhardt (sic) in the presence of Horatio Day and Maryanne (Margaret?) Apps. The children were baptized in Boughton Malherbe: Mary 1832, John 1834, Sarah 1836, Jane 1838, and Edward 1843 (my great-grandfather).

It may be that William was buried there April 4, 1851 at age 62. Edward told his grandchildren about being sent to an orphanage, "Old King Cole's Castle".

When the daughters married (Sarah to John Hearndon 1867 and Jane to Richard Reeves 1869), the last name was spelled BROWNE.

I would very much like to learn more. William Brown was from Wales, but where? Would it be on his gravestone?

Anne Elizabeth may have remarried. One A.E. married to Joseph Town was buried in August 1873 at age 66; their home was Hollingbourne.

If anyone could help me discover William Brown's hometown in Wales or tell me more about the poorhouse for the district, I would appreciate it very much! If you think we are related, I'd like to know that, too!

Thanks for reading!

**Edith Browne
New Jersey
U.S.A.**

A DOG'S LIFE

My friends in Grafty Green have asked me to contact the magazine because my 'reeding and riting' is quite good as my human has taught me.

We are becoming very concerned about the bad press that we dogs of the village are receiving.

Alright, alright, I know that there was that unfortunate incident with the lady with the snazzy red shoes but we know which dog was responsible and **HE** knows we know!

Ever since those nasty posters depicting Grafty Green as an area of outstanding dog mess my human only takes me out under cover of darkness.

The final straw was in the last magazine when even that nice garden lady took a swipe at us.

Anyway, just to be picky, my human has a friend who works at **THE COUNCIL** and apparently according to the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 Chapter 20 says:

(2) This Act does not apply to Land comprising or running alongside a highway which comprises a carriageway unless the driving of motor vehicles on the carriageway is subject, otherwise or temporarily, to a speed limit of 40m.p.h. or less..... **SO THERE!**

Perhaps now the posters could come down and they really do frighten the horses

Signed:

A Dog

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

I hope you enjoyed last months link word here is another
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Grid	Highland	Thief	Cattle
2	Lending	Mobile	Ticket	
3	Bread	Grind	Paper	
4	Express	Tail	Talk	
5	Check	Flash	Pin	
6	Book	Country	Night	
7	Ant	Fire	Man	
8	Back	Sell	Shoulder	
9	Active	Charge	Room	
10	Car	Lines	Way	
11	Cutting	Stud	Trouser	
12	Half	Imperial	Prince	
13	Boost	Nuclear	Saving	
14	Colour	Kick	Top	
15	Band	Neck	Top	
16	Memory	Noun	Ownership	

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

The Desmond Tutu Community Build – Part 2 of 2

This is the second part of the article that featured in last month's issue

Each morning, we were up early in order to have breakfast and be on the coach by 7.30 am. We first went back to the community hall where we were given instructions for the day – with special emphasis on safety – followed by an act of worship led by an African clergyman. Then we were off to our sites. There was a feeling of excitement as we neared our site Number 8. We drove through road after road of horrendous 'houses'. Most of them were made of assorted sheets of corrugated iron. They were very flimsy and far from water or draught proof. The whole area was sandy, and very little greenery could be seen. There was a letterbox on a stake outside each house, and the number on our letterbox was 923 – giving an indication of the size of just this one township.

The South African Government had made some basic input into the Mfuleni. First of all, they had given to the shack dwellers the freehold of the land on which their shack was built. Proper roads and pavements had been laid; water and electricity had been installed (though very few families could afford to connect up). Outside each shack stood a grey building – very like a telephone kiosk without any windows. This was the toilet – not exactly spacious – but it was a flush toilet, and the sewage went into main drains. A tap was fixed to the outside wall, and beneath the tap was a very large grey basin attached to the wall. This basin was what families used for washing their clothes, their cooking utensils and themselves. Despite these primitive facilities, we saw washing lines full of immaculately clean clothes and all the women seemed cleanly dressed.

Waiting for us on the site was Lisl, our Leader, two black Africans who were to do the building, and two African ladies, wearing aprons with an X on them, who were to be our 'guards'. Our leader said that before we began we had to go through a brief ceremony. We must hold arms in a circle bow our heads and shout very loudly 'Daggha daggha daggha, oi oi oi'. Daggha means cement and the 'oi' means 'let's get on with it.' That first morning we felt a bit foolish shouting out the words, but we soon got used to it and shouted the words as loudly as we could. Then, still in the circle, we said a brief prayer, committing the day to the Lord, and then we started work.

When we arrived at the site we found that the foundations of the house had been laid - a large concrete slab laid over a plastic underlay. In the road, stacked high, were huge piles of breezeblocks - some large for the outside, and some smaller for the inside. There was a huge pile of sand, and bags of cement.

We got to work quickly. Half the group started mixing daggha (cement) and the other half passed the breezeblocks in a chain along to the builders. I passed five breezeblocks along the line but they were so heavy that I realised I would damage my

back again and be no use for the rest of the build if I continued. So I gave up and told Lisl that I couldn't do it. Lisl told us later that she wondered 'What on earth am I going to give this woman to do if she can't lift or carry.' But I very soon found things I could do and I got a good 'Report' from Lisl at the end!

I became the 'Water Lady' and kept the team watered throughout the day. It sounds a cushy job, but it was quite complicated as there were no flat surfaces on the site. I had to balance the plastic glasses on a breezeblock very carefully so they didn't drop down the hole. When they had finished drinking, I had to wash them with a hosepipe and stack them carefully back on the blocks. Being the Water Lady, I also fed water into the daggha as it was being mixed by hand. There were no cement mixers anywhere on the site. It was exciting to see the first wall going up and I soon found myself another job – sweeping away with a large broom all the daggha that leaked out between the breezeblocks onto the floor and beginning to harden. One of the African ladies lent me a wide broom – and I was off. Another job was 'bagging. This was to gently smooth out, with a broken bit of breezeblock, the dagga that was oozing between the blocks.

Mid morning we were given coffee and a large roll-cum-doughnut by Luvuyo Ntontela who was doing sweat equity on her cousin's house. Our house went up at a good rate, and I attempted to photograph every stage. We quickly forged into a very happy team. Helen the youngest was twenty and I, at almost seventy-four, the eldest. We came from all sorts of backgrounds.

Our remit, as well as building a house, was to make contact with the local community. This was very easy to do, as every day there was a group of African ladies watching what was going on and chatting to each other. When I was not needed, I spent time chatting to them, though the contact was limited as they had very little English. But we managed to communicate. They wanted to see our photographs (which we had been told to bring) but I refrained from taking any photographs of my own house. It didn't seem kind. They all wanted their photographs taken and they all wanted to come to England, and hoped we would find a job for them. Perhaps this wishful thinking was one of the things that kept them cheerful.

That language was a bit of a problem was evidenced by the fact that almost to the last day we thought we were building the house for Luvuyo. But when it came to the handover of keys, her cousin arrived to take over the house. Despite the awful conditions in which they lived, all the women seemed very cheerful. How they managed it I don't know, but they all kept very clean with brightly coloured dresses reaching to the ground, over which they all wore aprons.

I was privileged to see the inside of a shack owned by Happiness and her dog Happy. Her shack was made of bits of corrugated iron of all shapes and sizes but she had done her best to make the inside look cheerful. The corrugated iron walls were covered with the front covers of magazines. There was just the one room which contained a double bed, a low table and two dining chairs, a cupboard containing

china and ornaments, and at the side of the bed a cabinet with a Gaz stove on top. She wanted to go to England, and begged me to speak up for her for a house. There were a number of onlookers as we started work, and it was not long before small children, below school age, came along to see what was going on. Little ones, no older than two or three, arrived, unaccompanied by an adult, and tried to come into the site. Louise, one of our team, got out her face painting kit. Once she had painted two or three faces, the news got round and soon Louise could not be seen, surrounded as she was by little children. She reckoned she painted the faces of fifty children that morning!

I took my turn next and read to them some of the illustrated story books that my children had loved and which could be told with actions. The children were beautiful with lovely sunny smiles. They liked to take off our hard hats and walk round the road with them. Unemployment is very high and the state unemployment benefit very low. The women had to walk quite a distance to the one shop which was on the edge of Mfuleni. Near the shop were several ex-toilet buildings in which people had set up shops – including one that advertised hairdressing. The more one thought about it and observed, the more one felt desperately sorry for the people. While we were there it was sunny all the time, but when the rains came the tin shacks were far from waterproof. How they could seem so cheerful was a mystery.

Desmond Tutu visited us on the Wednesday. His first words were, ‘Today God looked down on Mfuleni and he smiled. And Mfuleni won’t stop smiling for a long long time’ Then he went on to say, ‘With your own magic touch you have touched the lives of a community and at least twelve families will smile every time they think of you. And even when you are stiff and sore and scratched and nicked after a hard five days on site, you will smile when you leave Mfuleni, knowing that what happened here was a truly blessed and unique experience. Go back home and spread the word. You are a legend now.’ And then he did his little dance - and waved farewell. He left a wonderful feeling of love and light which stayed with us for the rest of the day.

It is difficult to describe the excitement we felt as we watched our house going up bit by bit. It was clear that a lot of preliminary work had been done before we arrived to do our little bit toward the build. As we reached each new stage, the correct materials arrived. First, it was the window frames. Then on the Thursday the roof joists arrived on a big lorry. By 5 o’clock when we signed off, all the roof trusses were in place, and the tiles were delivered ready for the last day.

That day, I got a new job. As the joists were too long, they were sawn off and fell to the ground. To keep the site safe, I collected the sawn off wood and took it round to the back of the house where there was a huge open space. Site tidiness was very important for safety. By the time all the roof joists were fixed, there was a sizeable pile of wood behind the house. Later, as we were reached the finish, all the wood was brought back and put in a tidy pile for future use.

Friday was the best day of all. The tiles were all placed on the roof - nearly everyone (except me) found an excuse to go up. The glaziers came to put glass in the windows, and the front door was installed. All that remained was the site to be tidied and the tree planted. This was my job. A bag of compost had been delivered together with a tree and a tray of mauve pansies. We selected a spot, dug a hole and filled it with most of the compost. Then Luvuyo and I put in the tree and watered it. There was absolutely no hope of the pansies surviving in the sandy soil, so I filled two interior breezeblocks, filled them with peat, and stood them on either side of the front door.

Then came the final ceremony, handing over the house to the owner. Along came a lady we had not seen since the first evening, elegantly dressed in a lovely brown outfit decorated with gold. We gave her the key. She opened the door and we all clapped. Then she was handed a Bible and we all prayed, thanking God for the most wonderful week, and praying that the family will be very happy in their splendid new house. We all felt very emotional but very happy. We then shed what dirt we could, and went straight back to the community hall for a final ceremony when we all received a certificate and thanks.

It's difficult to explain why we all so enjoyed the build. Not once did I ask myself what I was doing there – it just seemed so right. It was wonderful to be with an all Christian group sharing the same belief with such love and warmth. There was an incredible atmosphere of camaraderie and warmth. I was completely happy during the week and never wished myself elsewhere. We all said we would like to do it again but, of course, it all depends on health and finance. I was the oldest on the build. People ask what we built. We built a two bed-roomed house with kitchen, bathroom and sitting room, with a tiled roof and breezeblock walls. The next stage depends on the owner's ability to pay. Electricity and water were on the site but not connected up, while the walls inside and out have to be plastered. The other Habitat houses in Mfuleni had all been painted in bright colours.

What is really wonderful is that Habitat has now linked up with the Cape Town authorities and will be helping with the training of bricklayers and carpenters so that the plans to build 220,000 houses can go ahead more rapidly. Habitat is also getting together another team for September 2008 to build 20 more houses. This, of course, is a drop in the ocean, but it is inspiring some of the Mfuleni population to organise their own builds.

It is a venture I thoroughly recommend!

Molly Poulter

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successfully run Oil Consortium. We now have over 130 members all benefiting from discounted heating oil when ordered in bulk. To keep the Consortium working, all members need to order the minimum 500 Litres of oil at least 3 times a year. I'm sure you'll all agree, oil tankers trundling through our villages 3 or 4 times a year is better than seeing them every week. The word is spreading, as well as Grafty Green and Boughton Malherbe, we now reach out to Ashford, Biddenden, East Sutton, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Kingswood, Lenham, Lenham Heath, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway, Stalisfield Green and Ulcombe.

So if you would like to join, and benefit from cheaper oil, please email europa.13@btinternet.com or phone 858350 for details.

Keith Anderson

Charity in December

We call December the 'Festive Month', although most of the month is occupied by the season of Advent – preparation for the Coming Event. Whether it is considered as preparation, or participation, charities large and small remind us at this time of the particular needs they meet, or try to meet. Every reader must be bombarded with appeals, many of them very justified and drawing to our attention most deserving causes.

This year I shall not attempt to select any one charity for mention, Instead, I will draw you attention to the need to make a will, and suggest that in making it you give serious consideration to allowing some provision for one or more charitable causes that you know of. Whatever the charity – children, the old, the disabled, the Church – it is a practical way of saying 'thank you' for the blessings you have enjoyed during your life.

Did you know that for nearly 500 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make a will? When Archbishop Cranmer wrote the first English Prayer Book in the 16th century he reminded parishioners to keep their wills up to date while they were still in good health, for their own peace of mind as well as to help their executors. Today, without a will that has been properly witnessed UK law requires the courts to decide how to distribute the estate according to a fixed legal formula. This takes time, incurs cost and almost certainly differs from what was really wanted.

So during December, give what you can to those you feel to be most deserving, and then as a New Year resolution, make or update your will, with something in it for a good cause

Brian Hardy

Music Notes, December

December is a month crammed full of events with a musical aspect – carol services and Christmas concerts abound. If you enjoy carols with the children, don't forget the Christingle services – a real family event. If you can't one, other local Christmas services are listed elsewhere in the magazine. In addition, here is the monthly list of selected December musical items:

- Saturday 1st December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra present Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 and Bruckner's 6th Symphony. Tickets 01622 736392.
- Saturday 8th December, 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted – Christmas Concert including Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, and carols for audience participation. Tickets 01634 245704.
- Saturday 15th December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone – Maidstone Choral Union's *Music for Christmas*. Carols for audience & carols to listen to, seasonal songs, dance performance by Hilton Hall, Dance Academy, This evening is always well supported – book your tickets early. Tel 01622 726193
- Saturday 22nd December, 7.30pm at the Church of St. James the Great, East Malling, The Easy Malling Singers' Christmas Concert is a jolly social event, with hot mince pies and wine during the interval. Tickets 01622 750943.

Brian Hardy

Sudoku Quiz Solution

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

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Grid	Highland	Thief	Cattle
2	Lending	Mobile	Ticket	Library
3	Bread	Grind	Paper	Daily
4	Express	Tail	Talk	Pony
5	Check	Flash	Pin	Point
6	Book	Country	Night	Club
7	Ant	Fire	Man	Eater
8	Back	Sell	Shoulder	Hard
9	Active	Charge	Room	Service
10	Car	Lines	Way	Tram
11	Cutting	Stud	Trouser	Press
12	Half	Imperial	Prince	Crown
13	Boost	Nuclear	Saving	Power
14	Colour	Kick	Top	Off
15	Band	Neck	Top	Brass
16	Memory	Noun	Ownership	Collective

Find the missing word?	
1	Tequila Sunrise , A Mel Gibson Film.
2	Fixie and Dixie , Cartoon Mice.
3	Nell Gwyn , 17 th Century Orange Seller.
4	Susan Tully , Eastenders Michelle Fowler.
5	Zimbabwe , African Country, formerly Rhodesia.
6	Black Beauty , Novel by Anna Sewell.
7	Break Out , Escape from Prison.
8	Sir Freddie Laker , Airline Owner.
9	Margot Fonteyn , Ballerina.
10	Faye Dunaway , Bonnie and Clyde Actress.

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 2nd December 1 st Sunday of Advent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 Holy All Saints Ulcombe	BCP HC CW 1 Christingle Family Service CW 1 Christingle Family Service Taize Service
Sun 9 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	08.00 L 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 15.00 BM	BCP HC CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Christingle Family Service (This is instead of the 9.30am service)
Sun 16 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 15.00 BM 18.30 H	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 9 Lessons and Carols 9 Lessons and Carols
Fri 21 st December	19.30 H	9 Lessons and Carols
Sun 23 rd December 4 th Sunday of Advent	08.00 L 10.30 H 18.30 L	BCP HC CW 1 (Benefice service in St John the Baptist Harrietsham 9 Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	See below for details of Services	
Sun 30 th December 1 st Sunday of Christmas	08.00 L 10.30 BM	BCP HC CW 1 (Benefice service in St Nicholas Boughton Malherbe)

Key

Parishes / Churches

L: Lenham
 BM: Boughton Malherbe
 H: Harrietsham
 U: Ulcombe

Services

BCP HC = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion
 BCP EP = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Evening Prayer
 Fam Svc = Family Service (not Communion)
 MS = Morning Service (not Communion)
 CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One)
 H = Holy Communion
 Informal = Informal! (not communion)

From the Registers

Correction from last month:

Monday 10th September, St. Mary's Lenham, Funeral of the late Sylvia Briggs of Lenham followed by burial in Lenham Cemetery.

We unreservedly apologise for the error published last month and for any distress this may have caused.

Services

Monday 24th December: CHRISTMAS EVE

3pm crib Service in St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe
3pm crib Service in St. John the Baptist Harrietsham
3pm crib Service in All Saints Ulcombe
6.30pm Crib Service in St. Mary's Lenham
11.15pm St. John the Baptist Harrietsham Midnight Service with Holy Communion.
11.15pm All Saints Ulcombe Midnight Service with Holy Communion.
11.15pm St. Mary's Lenham Midnight Service with Holy Communion.

Tuesday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion in St. Mary's Lenham
09.30am St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe Family Service and Holy Communion
09.30am St. John the Baptist Harrietsham Family Service and Holy Communion
11.00am St. Mary's Lenham Family Service and Holy Communion
11.15am All Saints Ulcombe Family Service and Holy Communion

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:

$\frac{1}{8}$ page	£3.00
$\frac{1}{4}$	£5.00
$\frac{1}{2}$	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

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email mf.hitchins@virgin.net