

# Malherbe Monthly

Number 45  
April 2008



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath**

Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.  
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	Sue Burch	850381
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		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!  
Anything for the May edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)) by 15<sup>th</sup> April

**Front cover:**

Chilston Park – On the route of the Heaths Corridor Walk 18<sup>th</sup> May

## **News from St. Nicholas Church**

### **APCC Meeting**

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008 at 7.30p.m. The Evening begins with the Annual Vestry Meeting at which the Churchwardens and the members of the Parochial Church Council will be voted into Office. This meeting is followed at 7.45p.m. by the Annual Meeting of the PCC at which reports for the year will be given on the Church Fabric and Building, The Financial Report by the Treasurer, Synod Report and other matters concerning the running of the Church which is a listed building and belongs to us all. Please come along and support us at this meeting.

### **Lent Lunches**

The Lent Lunches went very well this year with a record amount being raised for Christian Aid. Those who attended these lunches enjoyed them very much indeed. A very big thank you is due to all the Ladies who hosted the lunches; we were given good variety of delicious soups such as Broccoli and Stilton, Mushroom, Spring Onion, Celery, Chicken and Sweetcorn and many more. We hope to be having more Lent Lunches next year, so give it some thought and come along and join us. The conversation is very varied and quite serious at times putting the world to rights.

### **Easter Day**

Our service on Easter Day was taken by Rev: Tony Old assisted by Joan Drury, thank you both very much. The service which was a Eucharist was attended by a good number of Parishioners. The Children had an Easter Egg Hunt in the Nave after the service because of the snowy weather conditions; it is usually held in the Churchyard. While this was happening the congregation were served with coffee and biscuits.

### **Benefice Walk**

The annual Benefice Walk will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 and we will be hoping that a number of you will take the opportunity to do this walk. The distance that can be walked is 11.5 miles of which you can do all or part. Each Church provides refreshments and the route is mostly over farmland, it is a good opportunity to see the countryside and visit the four Benefice Churches.

## **A New Priest**

We will be advertising for a new Priest for our Benefice this month. The advertisement will appear in the appropriate newspapers such as the Church Times, and we hope to be interviewing applicants in early May.

**Joan Davidson**

## **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

### **Parish Council Elections – Last Chance to stand**

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

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

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

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

**Barn Dance  
with  
Folkal Point**

**Calling by Roy Gill**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**7.30 pm**

**Grafty Green Village  
Hall**

**Licensed Bar, Snacks provided**

**Tickets £7.50 Available from:  
Mandy Hitchins (858937), Bernard Dodson  
(850645) and Grafty Village Shop**

### Sudoku Quiz

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

### 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](mailto:europa.13@btinternet.com) or phone 858350 for details.

**Keith Anderson**

## **Grafty Garden Cuttings - April**

Abandoning our garden for almost 3 months, even though it was over the winter months, has meant much catching up to be done in a very short time. The weeds and lawn edges revelled in their freedom and I am only now up tight with the spring pruning - autumn fruiting raspberries, buddleias, roses etc. All the digging that should have been done has not, neither has the spreading of the compost heap and I shall be interested to see how late sowings of sweet pea, onion and brussel sprout seed come along. If the wet and chilly spring continues it's probably better than early sowings. Cloches, fleece, cold frames and black plastic will help enormously.

Many jobs to do this month, for if there is warm spring sunshine, the ground should warm up nicely ready for other sowings. No sun? Cover the ground with black plastic instead. Two weeks should suffice, and then such goodies as peas, broad beans, parsnips and onion sets and salad leaves can go in. Protect with fleece or environmesh to stop birds, cats and squirrels digging them out. Early potatoes should be planted and even in the smallest garden, some can go into large pots or even old compost bags. Roll the sides down, cut slits in the bottom for drainage, then place a layer of compost in the bag and plant 2 or 3 tubers (or 1 if the bag is small). Cover with another layer of compost and water regularly without water logging or allowing them to dry out completely. Add more compost as the plants shoot, unrolling the bag to accommodate the ever taller foliage, which needs this 'earthing-up' to produce a heavier crop.

Summer flowering bulbs can be planted this month, either into containers for positioning in blank-spaces in the border, or straight into the ground where a good layer of grit in the bottom of the planting hole helps to stop any rot. Houseplants needing rejuvenation can be pruned back and re-potted into a container of a size that allows easy access for the fingers round the root ball, to firm-in the new soil, i.e.: around half an inch. If house space is limited, many plants can be carefully root pruned and potted back into new compost in their original containers (take no more than about a third of the roots away).

Hanging baskets and containers will need planting-up next month, so do come along to the Grafty Green Garden Club plant sale, on the village green (the hall if wet) on Saturday 3rd May at 10 am. There will be tea and coffee and a cake stall, so it will also be a pleasant social occasion as well.

**Rosemary Smith**



## PROGRAMME FOR 2008

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

April meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> is a talk by Chris Wade from the Footpaths and Byways Department at the KCC. His talk is part 2 – The Saxon Shore Way. The evening also incorporates the spring show; schedules available from Rosemary Smith 850526.

Coming up is the plant sale of the green on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 10am – If you want to run a stall to sell your own plants please contact Sue Burch 850381. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

The weekend outing to Norfolk has a few places left – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June leaving Grafty and visiting Hyde Hall, Beth Chatto, Foggy Bottom and Mannington Gardens. We stay at the Best Western Hotel in Bury St Edmunds, dinner, bed and breakfast; the cost is £212 per person. Deposit of £20 per person required to secure a place – book through Carole Frost on 850221.

How about joining the Gardening Club - £5 membership that also allows 10% discount at Lenham Ironmongers on garden items/plants. (Lenham Ironmongers have supported the club for 10 years now and it is a joy to go into their shop – helpful advice and good service.)

### **and another happy customer**

Have just used Carpets Direct at the top of Charing Hill to fit some new flooring – excellent, efficient service and well finished job – due praise, I came away from their shop feeling that they are there to serve and be helpful. – **Sue Burch**

**Editors note:** It is good to hear about such service – Carpets Direct have been advertising with us for several years and it is pleasing to hear that our readers are using and valuing their service.

### **St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath**

Calling all Mum's in Platts Heath & beyond! Would you be interested in coming along to a regular toddler group held in the St Edmunds Centre? Monday mornings would be a possibility.

It would be a wonderful opportunity to meet other Mum's, Dad's or Gran's, & of course making new friends for your little ones.

If you would be interested in coming along, please phone Karen Yardley on 01622 858208, to help me get an idea as to whether there would be enough interest & start the ball rolling!

The first coffee morning of 2008 will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am at which we will discuss what day of the week and how often they will be during 2008.

**Patricia Dibley Secretary**

# ON THE BUSES

## **FREE NATIONAL BUS TRAVEL**

From April 1<sup>st</sup>, everyone aged 60 or over is entitled to free off peak **local** bus travel anywhere in England. It does not include National Express or other coach services, so you might have to change a few times if you want to get to Lands End!

The national scheme replaces the Kent Countywide scheme and there is one important change. The Kent scheme allowed free travel from 9am on Mondays to Fridays but the national scheme has a starting time of 9.30am and a finishing time of 11pm on Mondays to Fridays. However, free travel continues to be permitted at any time on Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays.

If you have previously had a Kent Countywide Pass, you should by the time you read this have automatically received a National Bus Concession Pass. If you previously opted to receive vouchers rather than a free travel pass, you are probably aware that the voucher scheme is being discontinued by Maidstone Borough Council, and if you now want a free travel pass, you will have to apply for one, as does anyone else on reaching the age of 60. For full details of how to apply and to get an application form, go to [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk), click on 'c' at 'A-Z of Services', and then follow the link to 'Concessionary Fares'. Alternatively ring 01622 602334.

## **SERVICE 59**

To enable those eligible to make use of the new national free travel pass, the 9.15am departure from Grafty Green to Maidstone on Mondays to Fridays is being retimed to depart at 9.30am from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. A revised timetable is not yet available but arrival time in Maidstone is presumed also to be 15 minutes later, i.e. at 10.20am. There are not thought to be any other changes being made to the timetable although confirmation is still awaited. In the meantime, the existing timetable is being reproduced again in Malherbe Monthly – just bear in mind the one known alteration from April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **SERVICE 331**

The Thursday only return journey, introduced last September as a temporary replacement for the withdrawn Postbus, is still operating and is expected to continue for a few more weeks yet. It departs from Grafty Green Post Office at 9.50am, Platts Heath at 10.00am, Sandway at 10.02am, Lenham Square at 10.10am, and is due to arrive in Maidstone at 10.25am. It returns from Maidstone at 12.45pm from King Street outside Somerfields, and is due to arrive in Lenham Square at 1.05pm, and Grafty Green at 1.15pm.

## **KENT FREEDOM PASS FOR STUDENTS**

Already introduced in some parts of the county, this pass is being extended from June to students at schools in the Maidstone Borough area. For an annual fee of £50, the pass will allow students who will be in academic Years 7 to 11 in September 2008 to travel free on virtually all bus services in Kent at anytime. Application packs are to be distributed through schools in April and passes will be distributed from 2<sup>nd</sup> June (passes for new Year 7 students will be available in school in September 2008).

For full details, including a list of schools and bus operators, go to [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) and follow the 'information about...' link to 'Public Transport' and then the link to 'Kent Freedom Pass'.

**John Collins**

## **Heaths Corridor Walk**

Spend a day enjoying the countryside around Charing Heath, Lenham Heath and Sandway on Sunday 18th May 2008 10:30am to 4pm. The event is funded by the Heaths Countryside Corridor and Rail Link Countryside Initiative and promises to be a fun day for the whole family.

The Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) is providing a free bus from Sandway to Charing Heath throughout the day (from 10:15am to 4pm) to enable local people to visit the three sites owned by HCC. The bus will stop regularly along the route and will ensure everyone gets home at the end of the day. There will be trustees at Hurst Wood, Hurst Lane, between 10:30am and 12 noon providing information and a quiz about the route for the Walk at Hurst Wood. The Walk is 3.2 miles long, for the most part, public rights of way, but the cycle route along the country roads will also be well marked.

There will be free refreshments along the way and the walk finishes at Chilston Ponds, where there will be a variety of free activities including Animal model making, Desk top pond dipping, Tree investigation, Mini beast Hunt, Nature treasure Hunt. Why not bring a packed lunch or try the food available on site at minimum cost.

Limited parking available in and around these villages. For more information Contact Karen Gillett on 01622 859392, visit <http://www.heathsc.co.uk/>, or email: [ruth\\_lovering@hotmail.com](mailto:ruth_lovering@hotmail.com)

**Ruth Lovering**



# **PLATTS HEATH SCHOOL**

## **HEALTHY, WEALTHY & WISE**

In this day and age where health issues are often the topic of the day, not only about what we eat, or how active we may or may not be both mentally & physically, but also how we live our lives in general. The media is only too quick to sensationalise the latest news of what we should and shouldn't be doing, but do any of us take any notice and actually do something about it.

Some do. Here at Platts Heath School we operate a Healthy Schools Scheme. We have been involved with this programme for quite a while now, and we are continually assessed to ensure that we meet the programme's criteria. Our commitment was rewarded with a certificate and the right to display the Health School logo.

So what is a healthy School and how does Platts Heath School promote health in its day to day running?

A healthy school:

- Is successful in helping pupils to do their best and build their achievements.
- Is committed to on-going improvement and development.
- Promotes physical and emotional health by providing accessible and relevant information and equipping pupils with the skills and attitudes to make informed decisions about their health.
- Understands the importance of investing in health to assist in the process of raising levels of pupil achievement and improving standards.
- Recognises the need to provide both a physical and social environment that is conducive to learning.

In our quest to fulfil the above we have also gained the Activemark 2007 certificate. Activemark 2007 rewards exceptional delivery of the National School Sport Strategy. Platts Heath School received the mark because at least 90% of pupils across the school were doing at least 2 hours high quality P.E. and school sport each week. With such a variety of activities from football, netball, dance and judo to name but a few, it's no wonder everyone is happy to participate.

Not only are we 'getting healthy' but we're also 'getting green'. Some of you may already know that we recycle aluminium cans. All of the monies gained from this process are donated to the school. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and residents who remember to bring their cans but most of all a huge

thanks to Peter Reeves who co-ordinates this venture. We hope to expand our environmentally friendly trend by recycling cardboard, this project has been undertaken by our Infants teacher Mrs Wendy Thomas, it is still in progress and we will of course keep you updated when we are up and running.

So, an active, healthy school in more ways than one!

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

**Angie McElvanney**  
**On behalf of Platts Heath School**

### **WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN GOIN ON**

Can I just say a big thank you to Steve Campbell who chairs the PTFA at Lenham Primary School. Steve and his committee organised a 1970's disco on Saturday 1 March to raise funds for their school and it was fantastic! A few of us parents from Platts Heath School went along to show our support and we just had such a brilliant night. For those of you who don't know, Steve is also a marvellous Elvis impersonator and we were fortunate enough to be treated to a few songs from his repertoire.

For those of you who didn't make it, you missed a fun evening and all for just a fiver. Now that's a chirpy chirpy cheap cheap (sorry, couldn't resist it) night out with great entertainment and all for a good cause!

**Angie McElvanney**

**ART SHOW**  
The Tithe Barn • Lenham • Kent

**11th Annual Summer Art Show**

This will be the 11th annual Summer Art Show by the Pilgrims Way Artists in the magnificent 14th Century Tithe Barn in the village of Lenham Kent.

**The Tithe Barn**

The barn is reputed to be the largest of its type still standing in England. The wagon pond has recently been restored and is a wildlife haven.

**26 Artists and Sculptors**

26 artists and sculptors will be showing their work in what is becoming the biggest and best art event in Kent.

The artists exhibiting, range from students to age unknown, and their talents from the naive to the extraordinary.

In the group there is a smattering of Fine Art Degrees; a dab of Fauves; a splash of exhibitionists including some who have dipped their brushes into the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition; a smudge of pastellists; a whiff of oil painters; a splash of water-colourists and a cluster of ingenious sculptors

**Free Demonstrations**

There is an outdoor area for large sculptures and in the barn, free demonstrations in oils, batik, watercolour, pastels, portraiture and jewellery.

**Talk to the artists**

The artists will be on hand to discuss their work and you can watch artists in action.

**Portraits**

Have your portrait sketched for £30

**Featured Artist Lee O'Connor**  
Bright, colourful landscapes, seascapes and flowers

**Tea, Coffee & Homemade cakes**  
Relax with a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cakes

**Opening Times are from 10 am to 6 pm daily**

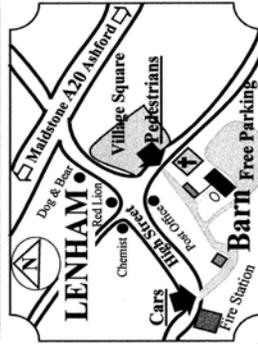
**Catalogues £1**  
Includes a free draw for an Original Painting by Janet Jackson

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
Free parking

Car entrance next to Fire Station, The High Street  
Pedestrians from the village Square - Easy wheelchair access

**Artists & Sculptors**

Pat Abson Pauline Appleton  
Bruce Argue Thomas Boyd  
Yvonne Bonham Carol Calver  
Mike Calver Marina Elphick  
Barry Elphick Emmy Elphick  
Jane Ford Janet Jackson  
Clive Lennard Natalie Greenwood  
Charles Miller Lee O'Connor  
Ailsa Rees Don Pattinson  
Lesley Feakes Richard Nott  
Marie Prett Justin Calver  
Annette Stephens Josie Mahoney  
Richard Friend Tim Riddihough



**ARTISTS DEMONSTRATION EVENING**  
Demonstrations by 26 artists, each showing their unique styles and techniques • Sociable & fun  
Tickets £5 (includes refreshments)  
Wednesday Evening at 6.30 pm • 21 May 2008

11<sup>th</sup> Summer Art Show – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

**NOT WORKING?  
ANY SPARE DAYS IN THE WEEK?  
AT A LOOSE END?  
WANT SOMETHING WORTHWHILE ON YOUR CV?**

**Come and join us as a Volunteer Driver and start a new chapter in your life.**

**Our drivers help to provide transport for frail, elderly people with mobility problems and disabled people.**

**All you need is a clean driving licence, a reliable car and comprehensive car insurance**

**The cost of running your car is covered by a mileage allowance.**

**PLEASE CALL**

**01622 756662**

**for further info or an informal chat with John or Shelagh, or call in**

**@ MVB 39-48 Marsham Street Maidstone**

**TRANSP  RT**

*If you can't help us, but know of someone who can,  
please pass this information on to them.*

## **BLUEBELL WALK'S 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY THIS MAY BANK HOLIDAY**

The 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary Bluebell Walk, in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice, takes place this year on Sunday May 4th.

The popular walk attracts more than a thousand walkers through its picturesque route and still remains the largest fundraising event for the hospice, raising more than £60,000 last year.

For loyal walkers, the day is a chance to once again experience the beauty of the bluebells and the North Downs of Kent, in a spirited walk for a local charity. For new walkers, it is chance to see Kent at its finest in spring time and walk paths that are normally closed to the general public, whilst enjoying the ambiance of a great day out for all the family – including the dog!

Known for its beautiful scenery and pure countryside route, the circular walk is 8.5 miles and starts from Harrietsham community centre with a halfway stop at the Ringlestone Inn for much earned refreshments.

Walkers will enjoy the picturesque views of the North Downs, parts of the Pilgrim's Way, whilst also going through the privately owned bluebell woods, opened especially for the walk by Torry Hill Estate.

Jane Newman from the hospice has been organising the walk for more than a decade and said: "People may not associate walking with a family day out, but the Bluebell walk provides that perfect opportunity. In this special anniversary year, we are hoping to raise £70,000, which will mean that 21 years of Bluebell Walks will have raised almost £1 million pounds for the hospice."

The walk is popular with families, and will be a great day out on the bank holiday weekend.

Fun activities on the day include a certificate for all dogs on the walk, a treasure hunt and goodie bags for children and a free Ploughman's lunch for all walkers at the end, sponsored by the staff from Tesco, Grove Green.

For further information, please contact the hospice on 01622 790195 or email [enquiries@hokh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hokh.co.uk)

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

<b>Find the missing word?</b>	
1	Saving Private _____, Movie with Tom Hanks.
2	_____ Welles, Director and star of Citizen Kane.
3	The Dark _____, Latest in the Batman Film's.
4	Purple _____, A hit record for Prince.
5	_____ Bergman, Actress who starred in Casablanca.
6	_____ Betty, US fashion magazine comedy.
7	Nutbush _____, Classic Tina Turner hit.
8	_____ Little, Film about a Mouse.
9	The _____ the Game, 1977 ABBA hit.
10	Little _____, Film starring Kate Winslet as a bored mum.

**Harrietsham Cricket Club**

Well it's been a while folks, and the waiting is almost over. Yes you've guessed it, the 2008 cricket season starts in April! Our first two games are both at home at the Booth Field, on the 26th and 27th April against Pluckley and Newington respectively. We would welcome as much village support as possible this year, refreshments are provided.

The team so far has had a few indoor net practice sessions, and certainly compared to the same time last year the players do seem a lot more focused, in better touch with bat and ball, and raring to go, chomping at the bit so to speak! There is an eagerness and belief that the Club could have a very good season if we all perform to our abilities. Let's just hope we can produce and reap the rewards thereafter.

If any of you out there would like to come along to the net sessions, please contact Rod Martenstyn on 07958 956938, as we still have nets up until our first game in April, every Saturday 4-6pm at the Senacre College in Maidstone. Lifts can be provided.

Regarding our club (non-playing) membership scheme, we are currently working on our fixture/membership booklet for 2008/09 which should have even more discount offers than 2007/08. Further details will be provided in May's Network.

So until next time folks, and let's hope the cricket club can provide some village cheer this year! Ciao for now.

***Rod Martenstyn***

### **Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)**

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

#### **Grafty Green**

Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April:	13:30 – 15:15 -:	Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June:	07:45 – 08:45 -:	Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> July:	13:30 – 15:15 -:	Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

#### **Platts Heath**

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May:	07:45 – 08:45 -:	Green Lane
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July:	14:30 – 15:30 -:	Green Lane

#### **Ulcombe**

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April:	11:15 – 12:30 -:	Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May:	07:45 – 08:30 -:	Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July:	11:15 – 12:30 -:	Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

#### **Lenham**

Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April:	07:45 – 08:45 -:	Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June:	09:00 – 10:30 -:	Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> July:	07:45 – 08:45 -:	Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

## **The April Night Sky**

In my magazine articles I haven't yet mentioned the Sun. During the course of last month the Sun began a new cycle. Every solar cycle lasts approximately eleven years, ranging from the present minimum, when the Sun is comparatively inactive, to a violent maximum, when flares and sunspots are almost constant. Between 1645 and 1715 there was almost a complete absence of sunspots and solar activity. This period, now known as the Maunder minimum, was named after (yes I'm going to name drop) my great grandfather, E W Maunder, who was an astronomer at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, and was famous for his research into the eleven year solar cycle.

Now for the Moon, New moon occurs on Sunday April 6th, and Full Moon on Sunday April 20th.

Again it is not the best month to view both Mercury and Venus, as Mercury is at superior conjunction (behind the Sun), and Venus rises only a few minutes before sunrise.

Mars is well up in the south-western sky at dusk and sets in the northwest in the early hours. It moves across the constellation of Gemini, and is a little brighter than the twin stars Castor and Pollux, and shines with a steadier light and a distinctly orange colour.

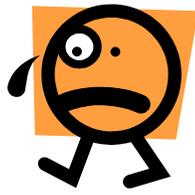
Jupiter rises in the southeast about three hours before sunrise, and is not easy to observe as it remains near the horizon.

Saturn is high in the southern sky at dusk, and sets shortly before sunrise. It is in the constellation of Leo, moving slowly north-westwards; close to the bright star Regulus. Through a telescope, Saturn's rings can clearly be seen, together with many of its moon, the largest of which is Titan.

According to astronomers from the Applied Physics in Maryland, alien life may exist on Titan. By analysing spacecraft radar observations, the team has identified an ocean beneath the moon's surface where life may be able to develop.

Finally, there is yet another meteor shower this month, known as the Lyrid meteor shower. This is active during the third week in April, and will peak in the early hours of Tuesday 22nd April. The meteors will appear to radiate from a point in the constellation of Lyra, close to the bright star, Vega.

**John Maunder**



## Still struggling with your Computer?

We would be happy to help! **Egerton Telecottage** will be running more classes after the Easter holidays and all of our new machines are now running with Vista so we have most up-to-date software available. If you need help for real beginners, our Basic IT class is just for you – but hurry, as there are only a few places left on our 4 week course which starts week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> April – 10am to 12 noon. If you would just like a bit of help writing your letters and making your documents look good you need our Basic Word Processing which begins week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Other proposed classes during the spring will cover Desk Top Publishing, Internet and Email. Ring Alison on 01233 756366 for full details and let us know whether you could join us for day or evening classes and we will do our best to organize what you need.

If you just need some technical advice, an internet connection or a chat and a coffee, don't forget to drop into our open session any Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon. You can also get help with programmes such as Excel from one of our friendly tutors - we look forward to meeting you!

### **Malherbe Monthly Magazine**

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007 and 2008 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

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

[www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## 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	Starter's	Doctor's	Last	<b>Order's</b>
2	Carrier	Stool	Wood	
3	Muddle	Break	Traffic	
4	District	Wet	Maid	
5	Production	Media	Land	
6	Quarter's	Shave	Knit	
7	Strip	Music	Aircraft	
8	Baking	Siphon	Cream	
9	Pocket	Maker	Stop	
10	Flying	Warrant	Petty	
11	Lone	Park	Power	
12	Honorary	Ceremony	Third	
13	Jewellery	Designer	Drama	
14	Unknown	Book	Public	
15	Splinter	Therapy	Blood	
16	Oyster	Necklace	Barley	

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

## Music Notes - April

There is plenty of good local music to choose from in most months, but this April there is a magnificence of really special events. Dodge those showers and make the effort to get out and listen to a live concert; you will be surprised to find how good the quality of performance is in the Maidstone area. Here is just a selection:

- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm there will be a concert of English and French music at St. Nicholas' Church, Leeds, performed by Bearsted Choral Society and Chorale des 2 Caps (from Wissant, France). 100+ voices in a church with excellent acoustics – not to be missed and we look to you for local support. Tickets £7.00 (students £4.00) – obtainable at the door or tel 01624 245704
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone, Sutton Valence Choral Society present Rutter's *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. A feast of some of the most popular of choral works. Tel 01622 853791 to book in advance.
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at Canterbury Cathedral, the Kent County Youth Orchestra will perform works by Berlioz and Messoiaen, plus Saint-Saens' *Organ Symphony*. KCYO is no struggling school orchestra; this will be a quality event in a superb location. Tickets 01622 358402
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at Ulcombe church is the occasion of a return visit of the Russian group LYRA. The programme is varied, starting with Russian Orthodox music and moving to traditional Russian songs. Again, this is not your run-of-the-mill local event, but something you might otherwise expect to travel far to experience. Telephone 01622 842988 for details of tickets etc.

**Brian Hardy**

## Sudoku Quiz Solution

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



## **EGERTON FILM SOCIETY**

Would you like to join us in the Village Hall on Thursday April 24th when we are showing the 'The Last King of Scotland' starring Forest Whitaker who gives a towering, Oscar winning performance as the megalomaniac Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in this riveting thriller.

*We can give you full details of how to be a member which will entitle you to attend any of our other films which, this season, include 'The Dam Busters' (an additional special screening on the 65th anniversary of the raid on the Ruhr dams) on Thursday 15th May, "Last Orders", a deft working-class remembrance of things past on Thursday 29 May or "Shine", Scott Hicks' powerful film of a promising concert pianist. All screenings are at 7pm for 7.30pm and a licensed bar is available.*

If you would like any further details, please do not hesitate to contact Richard on 01233 756592

## **Friends of Kent Churches Annual Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk**

This event has been running for over 20 years and this year promises to be a really successful day. The event takes place on Saturday 13th September 2008 from 10am to 6pm.

Over 700 churches across Kent will be involved, welcoming riders and walkers, often with refreshments. Money is raised through sponsorship and is shared between your nominated church and the Friends of Kent Churches, who give grants for church repairs. Last year more than £140,000 was raised.

Plan your own route, long or short, flat or hilly, challenging or relaxed, whatever suits you. This is a lovely day out for all the family.

Visit the website – [www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk](http://www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk) for more information, sponsor forms, tee-shirts and more. Or contact – Carolyn Millen on 01622 843383, [carolynmillen1@btinternet.com](mailto:carolynmillen1@btinternet.com)



### **Concerts at All Saints Church Ulcombe**

All Saints, Ulcombe church is to host several concerts this year.

The first will be a return visit of the Russian group called LYRA. They will be singing in Ulcombe Church on Tuesday the 15th April at 7.30pm. This will be the third visit of this very popular and talented group. Their programme is varied - starting with Russian Orthodox music and moving to traditional Russian songs.

The second concert takes place on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm - Acoustic Rhythm & Pews: A Candlelit evening of songs by Paul Dunton & Joan Louise Parker. There are more concerts in the pipeline.

## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
1	Starter's	Doctor's	Last
2	Carrier	Stool	Wood
3	Muddle	Break	Traffic
4	District	Wet	Maid
5	Production	Media	Land
6	Quarter's	Shave	Knit
7	Strip	Music	Aircraft
8	Baking	Siphon	Cream
9	Pocket	Maker	Stop
10	Flying	Warrant	Petty
11	Lone	Park	Power
12	Honorary	Ceremony	Third
13	Jewellery	Designer	Drama
14	Unknown	Book	Public
15	Splinter	Therapy	Blood
16	Oyster	Necklace	Barley
			Pearl

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	Saving Private Ryan, Movie with Tom Hanks.
2	Orson Welles, Director and star of Citizen Kane.
3	The Dark Knight, Latest in the Batman Film's.
4	Purple Rain, A hit record for Prince.
5	Ingrid Bergman, Actress who starred in Casablanca.
6	Ugly Betty, US fashion magazine comedy.
7	Nutbush City Limit's, Classic Tina Turner hit.
8	Stuart Little, Film about a Mouse.
9	The Name of the Game, 1977 ABBA hit.
10	Little Children, Film starring Kate Winslet as a bored mum.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time/Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> April  3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Family Service
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> April  4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 U	BCP HC Family Service CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Taize Service – Holy Cross Bearsted
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> April  5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 BCP Evening Prayer
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> April  Rogation Sunday	08.00 L 11.00 U 18.30 H	BCP HC Benefice Service Informal Service

## Key

### Parishes / Churches

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

### Services

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

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

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

Phone 01622 858937 or  
email [mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)