



# Malherbe Monthly

Number 44  
March 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	890200
	Richard Thick	891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348
	Joan Davidson	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	858350
	Sue Burch	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 April 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> March

**Front cover:**

Spring is in the air – Daffodils in bloom in Boughton Malherbe Churchyard

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

### **Mothering Sunday**

Mothering Sunday is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March this year, very early indeed. There will be a Service at St. Nicholas Church, at 9.30am. Children please bring your Mother along to this Service and collect some Flowers to give to her to thank her for all the care and love she gives you throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you. I know that 9.30am is a bit early for a Sunday, but it does give you a good long day to spend with your Mother afterwards.

### **Lent Lunches**

Our Lent Lunches have started very well indeed with very good support. Our Christian Aid Donation this year will be a very good one if this keeps up. The next Lunch is at the Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe on 5<sup>th</sup> March, then in the Village Hall and the last one will be at Liverton House, Liverton Street. The Lunches are on Wednesdays and are from 12.00 to 2.00pm and you can come for as long or as short a time as you like. Entrance is by Donation. We serve Soup and Crusty Bread and finish with a Coffee or a cup of Tea. Hope to see you at one of these.

### **Easter Day**

Easter Day falls on 23<sup>rd</sup> March this year, almost the earliest date it can be. St. Nicholas Church is having a Service that day at 9.30am. Do come along it is the most important day in the Christian Year. We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard after the Service.

### **Welcome to new Residents**

We welcome all the new residents who have come to live in our community during this last year and hope that you will be happy living among us. Do come along and join in our events, when they are held, we look forward to seeing you. The Malherbe Monthly News has information about most happenings. We are a small community but there are events staged throughout the year.

### **Looking forward**

Date for your Diary. The week-end of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October we are planning to stage a Flower Festival in the Church, the theme will be 'Harvest' and we hope that many of you will come along and support this event. We will be looking for Flower Arrangers and Cake makers etc., to help build up interest on the day. We are still in the

early stages of planning for this so we hope there will be more to say next month. If you are interested in helping in any way, phone Joan on 850210.

**Joan Davidson**

## **EASTER**

Greetings from the Hollingbourne & Leeds group of churches and across the borders! This feels a bit like writing as an 'overseas correspondent' but I have been asked to write a 'one off' article to put in your magazine for Easter.

Easter is incredibly early this year and as I write, we are starting Lent and I expect, like our group of churches, some of you have been doing the Lent Course on 'The Lord's Prayer'. Hopefully we might get to see some familiar faces turn up at Hollingbourne Vicarage for my group on Tuesday evenings, or maybe you have gone for something a bit more challenging with Robin Gill's Saturday morning study group on a Rowan William's book. Anyway, wherever you have decided to go, I hope that Lent is proving to be a useful time to step back and reflect and maybe do a quick personal spiritual health check.

One of the great advantages of Easter being so early is that it falls during term time and Hollingbourne school, for example, is coming in to All Saints' Hollingbourne during term time, to journey through the 'before and after' experience of Easter. I always think that it is good to experience the rich contrasts that the Christian faith brings with the quietness and stillness of Holy Week (March 24th – 29th) including the solemnity of the crucifixion on Good Friday – and then the JOY of the Easter Day Resurrection. I always try to give the message to schoolchildren – that actually Easter is probably more important as a festival than Christmas. Because it is through the Resurrection that we have that great message of HOPE, something that is sadly missing in so many lives now. And it is upon the Resurrection that the Christian Faith is founded and supported and brings so much more meaning to an otherwise 'hopeless' society.

So this message comes to you with my prayers and love (and from Jan) and I hope that you will have an opportunity to go into St Nicholas Boughton Malherbe over Holy Week and Easter and renew that deep sense of God's love for you and for the world. St Nicholas is a beautiful and holy sacred space that offers a place to be both quiet and prayerful – and also a space to sing praise and offer thanks to God!

*May God richly bless you this Easter  
Nigel Fry, Hollingbourne, Lent 2008*

## **Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

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.

## **Grafty Green Village Hall – Barn Dance**

Grafty Green Hall committee are pleased to announce that Folkal Point will be returning to entertain us to a Barn Dance on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Please note this event in your diaries – full details will be available in next month's magazine.

Our last event, a Quiz evening, was held on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb and this was attended by over 66 people. This was a very entertaining evening and in the region of £500 was raised for the village hall refurbishment fund.

We seem to have mislaid all our green and yellow tablecloths and the oilskin cloth used to protect the bar area (very careless) – if you know where they are please contact the editor as we would like them back.

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

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

### Grafty Green

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Apr: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

### Platts Heath

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Mar: 14:30 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

### Ulcombe

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Apr: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

### Lenham

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar: 09:00 – 10:30 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Apr: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

## **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)

### Sudoku Quiz

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

### Grafty Garden Cuttings - March

From our New Zealand correspondent no longer in a Camper Van somewhere in New Zealand!!

It takes a 3 hour ferry journey across the Cook Strait, to reach the South Island of New Zealand, from the North Island and can be a delightful in good weather.

The South Island has more scenery, caves, bush, switch-back roads, glaciers and snow-covered mountains than the North Island and far less people, not counting the droves of camper vans. The choice between the Queen Charlotte Drive along the north coast, from Picton to Havelock or the east coast road from Picton to Kaikoura and Christchurch, is too difficult to make. Both are glorious - both should be done. Those areas devoid of bush are home to goats, vast herds of cattle and deer and even vaster flocks of sheep and, of course, acres and acres of grape vines.

Gardening, for the main, does not appear to be quite as popular in the more difficult climate but Christchurch has a large botanic garden, with plants from around the world and the River Avon running through, upon which masses of ducks live and people punt. A little further south Timaru's rose garden and town plantings were a joy to see.

Bedding schemes are very similar to ours, with bog standard petunias, salvias, alyssum dahlias, begonias etc, etc and many of the same plants in our gardens are used in gardens on this island. The main difference comes in the climate. Where it is cold, it is much colder, where hot, it is much hotter, and can be either far wetter or far dryer and for longer. Drought conditions prevail this year.

In the Southlands (as far south on the mainland, as one can get), the bush has changed and much of the lower storey is made up of hebes and tree fuchsias, with stunning patches of scarlet. *Tropaeoikiam speciosum* (flame nasturtium) are everywhere. The Pohutukawa or New Zealand Christmas Tree is just coming into bloom, also turning the coastline and bush red, with their blooms that look like little brushes. These are extraordinary trees. They love to grow right on the edges of beaches, where their roots are washed by the sea, which also washes away the coastline around them, but despite this most of them are huge and gnarled and lean at crazy angles over the water clinging to life and still blooming.

More birds to add to our list: the South Island Tom-tit, the rare Red Crowned Parakeet, Falcons, Harriers, Skylarks, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Yellow Hammers and when we visited the only mainland nesting colony of Royal Albatross, at Tiaroa Head, we were privileged and delighted to see over 20 of these magnificent and huge birds in flight.

We visited Helen Love's 'Seaforth'<sup>1</sup> garden, at Hokitika on the western side of the island: 4 acres, much of it in a deep valley with her plantings integrated into the native bush. She not only has to battle terrific sea winds and hot sunshine, but also the ravages of rabbits, possums, Cicadas and Wekas. Her garden was none-the-less stunning and she was kind enough to spend 2 hours of her precious time showing us around.

Our journey to Milford Sound was enlivened, if that were necessary, by the sight of 5 Keas (large, mischievous parrots) busy dismantling a camper van, but upon our return they or someone had reassembled it for there were no bits lying around and the birds were well hidden by then, as they dislike the sun. Te Anau Glow Worm caves and a Glow Worm dell at Hokitika, were quite magical and of course, back on the North Island a visit to the Waitomo Glow worms was a must, as was a few hours in the lovely Hamilton Gardens, suffering from drought, but still beautiful, the day before we flew home. Eleven weeks: 8505 kilometres: wonderful: recommended.

**Rosemary Smith**





- ❖ Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- ❖ Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm unless

otherwise stated 75p for members and £1 for visitors.

- ❖ The club enables members to swap plants/seeds, share ideas and improve their growing skills.
- ❖ Meetings are friendly and informal; visitors are always welcome; refreshments included.

### 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
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>The Garden as a Nature Reserve &amp; Spring Show</b>	<b>Janet Bryant</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> April	“Saxon Shore Way” part 2	Chris Wade
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	

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

**Mondays to Fridays**

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1555
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1557
Wheatshat	1236	1411	1604	1604
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608
Linton Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612
Cornwallis Academy	—	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	1306	1438	1634	1634
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1313	1445	1641	1641
Ulcombe, Post Office	1320	1450	1648	1648
Grafty Green, King's Head	—	1535	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	1535	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	1544	—	—

**Saturdays**

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Sheels Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose Road, Linton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Peabody Road, Four Wents Road, Kingswood, Kingswood, Chartway Street, Warmlake Corner, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartway Street, Bromfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartway Street, Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0838	1241	1525	1755
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0840	1243	1527	1757
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0847	1250	1534	1804
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1254	1538	—	—
Linton Corner	1258	1542	—	—
Cornwallis Academy	—	1303	1547	1817
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1306	1550	1820	1820
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1309	1553	1823	1823
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0859	1312	1556	1826
Warmlake Corner	0907	1320	1604	1834
Kingswood, Village Hall	0914	1327	1611	1841
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0921	1334	1618	1848
Ulcombe, Post Office	—	1544	—	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	—	1535	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	1535	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	1544	—	—

**Mondays to Fridays**

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	0736	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	0745	—	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0723	—	0723	0915
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	—	0730	0922
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	—	0735	0927
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	—	0738	0929
Warmlake Corner	0746	—	0746	0935
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0739	0747	0809	0938
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	0750	0811	0941
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	0753	—	0944
Cornwallis Academy	—	0820	—	—
Linton Corner	0750	0758	—	0949
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	—	0953
Wheatshat	0758	0800	0806	—
Maidstone, King Street	—	0810	0814	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—
London Road, Somerset Hospital	0817	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—

**Saturdays**

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	0736	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	0745	—	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0723	—	0723	0915
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	—	0730	0922
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	—	0735	0927
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	—	0738	0929
Warmlake Corner	0746	—	0746	0935
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0739	0747	0809	0938
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	0750	0811	0941
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	0753	—	0944
Cornwallis Academy	—	0820	—	—
Linton Corner	0750	0758	—	0949
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	—	0953
Wheatshat	0758	0800	0806	—
Maidstone, King Street	—	0810	0814	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—
London Road, Somerset Hospital	0817	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—

**Sundays and Public Holidays\***

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

**NOTE**

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

**CODES**

\* — These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG.

\* — Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.

R — Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

## **St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath**

Well at last after two hiccups along the way by EDF the storage part of the heating system is also working making an enormous difference to the atmosphere in the hall.

Our Line dancers were pleased to welcome two new couples last month and we do hope this will encourage more gentlemen to come along and join the fun too. Joanne accommodates all abilities and we are a friendly little club. So if you fancy some different exercise and a laugh with friends do come and have a go Thursday evening 8-9pm £2-50.

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.

Finally it is time for another AGM this will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 8pm in the St Edmunds Centre. Anyone wishing to serve the village on the committee would of course be very welcome; all committees need new ideas and shaking up from time to time.

**Patricia Dibley Secretary**

## **PLATTS HEATH SCHOOL**

They say time flies when you're having fun but it just seems to be whizzing by here at Platts Heath School, we feel we can hardly keep up. Christmas has been and gone in a flash, we've completed another term since then and are about to start term three. So what have we been up to, well, we just seem to be going from strength to strength.

- The school is still growing in numbers as we've welcomed some more new students who seem to be settling in very well.
- The new Judo Lessons every Tuesday are going down a treat, as am I when my daughter practices her moves! just kidding
- Lots of cooking: We always have cooking sessions at school anyway and I was fortunate enough to sample some delicious butterfly cakes but every child was able to enjoy pancake day courtesy of Simon Miller Estate Agents who very kindly donated some money to ensure the day was a great success and enjoyed by all. Everyone made and ate pancakes, I wasn't fortunate

enough to sample those because they ate the lot but my two couldn't wait to show me their tossing technique when they got home.

- There have been lots of trips, the juniors went off to Tunbridge Wells to see the 'Horrible Histories, Vile Victorians' and the infants visited Leeds Castle for a literacy workshop and some of our juniors had another trip to Oakwood Park as part of the Maths Challenge course.
- Love was in the air on Valentines Day as the PTFA organised our very own Valentines Disco which was extremely well attended, there were prizes for the best couples dancing but no one was left out as there were prizes for those who wanted to rock out on their own too. We have some very talented movers.

So, after a well earned break it's all go again in the first week of the new term as we race off to take part with many other primary schools in the Cross Country event at Mote Park, this event really tests their stamina but they have such good fun as they cheer each other on but I think the parents get more excited than anyone.

- There will be music in the air as our young musicians once again take part in the Maidstone Recorder Festival, this is a really lovely opportunity for all the schools to show off their musical abilities and also perform together.
- We will of course be celebrating World Book Day on 6<sup>th</sup> March
- This term will also be a busy time for our gardening club who will be getting ready to sow seeds and plant bulbs to ensure we have some lovely floral displays throughout spring and summer.
- The PTFA will be kept very busy with various events the first of which will be a Quiz Night on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and of course our Summer Fayre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June (summer solstice, this is officially summer so let's hope we get the weather this time)! This year we hope to bring you a traditional Fayre and Gymkhana with a difference.....hobby horses!

We will endeavour to keep you posted with more information in due course. If you would like to know more about our school or arrange a visit, please contact our Headmaster, Mr Ian Priddle on 01622 850316

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

## **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.

## **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	Saint _____, Patron of England.
2	_____ 17, Pop Band from London.
3	Jimi _____, Late Blues & Rock Guitarist.
4	Judy _____, Leading Lady in the Wizard of OZ.
5	Queen of _____, Biblical Figure associated with King Solomon.
6	Desperate _____, Comic Book character
7	The _____ Seven, 1960's Western
8	Quiche _____, Pastry dish with egg and bacon
9	_____ Humperdinck, English singer
10	_____ Flynn, Movie swash buckler

**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**

## **Kent Trading Standards – Informational Message**

Kent Trading Standards want to remind people about dealing with property maintenance and improvement cold-callers. We are aware of a group currently working in the Bearsted area, but given that spring is approaching we want to remind and warn people about dealing with cold-callers across the county.

Whenever consumers agree to deal with cold-callers to carry out work e.g. driveways, roofing, gardening, and worth over £35 they are entitled to 7 days cooling off period. The trader must give cancellation details in writing. However, these rights are hardly ever offered and in some cases consumers are being asked to waive these rights.

Work often commences immediately, which means that although the consumer certainly still has cancellation rights in law it can prove very difficult in practice to enforce this and especially if consumers are subject to pressure.

Any paperwork that is given will in all likelihood carry either a false address, or at best a temporary accommodation address, and will not state where the trader is actually based, or who actually runs the business. Free-phone telephone and mobile telephone numbers should be treated with equal scepticism. The trading name may seem impressive, but that is all it is - a trading name, which means nothing. If a consumer wants to contact the trader after the work has been done to report a problem this can be extremely difficult given that you probably won't know who you're really dealing. Don't rely on any guarantees that the trader may offer. Though the work may appear satisfactory, there are standards and codes of practice that genuine traders will follow. There is no easy way of knowing whether the work has been done properly by a cold-caller and whether it will last.

### **TRADING STANDARDS ADVICE IS NOT TO DEAL WITH COLD-CALLERS OFFERING PROPERTY MAINTENANCE WORK.**

If work has commenced, we would advise you to cancel and seek a genuine business to complete the work. You are not liable for the cost of any work if you cancel within 7 days.

Trading Standards can recommend reliable local tradesmen to carry out home and garden work at [www.buywithconfidence.info](http://www.buywithconfidence.info) or via Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

**If you want to seek advice or report a rogue trader, please call  
Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.**



**Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

**ROAD CLOSURE LIVERTON HILL**

**I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY KENT HIGHWAYS, THAT LIVERTON HILL WILL BE CLOSED FROM NEXT MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH FOR APPROXIMATELY 3 WEEKS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS VERY SHORT NOTICE, DUE TO THE EARLY COMPLETION OF ANOTHER JOB.**

**WHEN & WHERE POSSIBLE, ACCESS MAY BE ALLOWED, BUT ONLY FROM ONE END AT ANY GIVEN TIME.**

**THE DIVERSION IS VIA LENHAM ROAD, ULCOMBE HILL, THE STREET, EASTWOOD ROAD & CHURCH**

**ROAD MAY BE OPEN TO SMALLER VEHICLES, BUT THIS IS NOT DEFINATE.**

**Pat Anderson Parish Clerk**

## **The March Night Sky**

Time is certainly flying by. Believe it or not British Summer Time begins on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>, so we will all need to put our clocks forward.

Those of you who got up in the early hours of February 21<sup>st</sup> to view the total eclipse of the Moon would have been disappointed, as we had one of our few overcast nights. Never mind we only have to wait another seven years for the next one.

This month New Moon will occur on March 7<sup>th</sup> and Full Moon on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Again it is not the best month to view Mercury and Venus as both planets come up just before sunrise.

Although Mars is fading it is still brighter than most of the stars, and can be seen in the southern sky at dusk, and sets in the early morning.

It's not good news for those who believe in Martians. Apparently NASA's scientists maintain that Mars is too salty to sustain life, and has probably been similarly inhospitable for much of the planet's history. They say that although water existed on the surface it would have been very salty and often highly acidic.

Jupiter is now taking the place of Venus as a 'Morning Star'. It rises in the southeast about two hours before sunrise. Although it is not as brilliant as Venus it still outshines any of the real stars. Unfortunately it is not easy to observe, as it remains low down near the horizon.

It is a good month to view Saturn in the evening sky. It is high in the southeast at dusk and sets at sunrise. With a telescope the rings can clearly be seen, together with many of its moons.

In my first article I mentioned a mnemonic to cover the revised list of planets following the downgrading of Pluto. Here is another one, which is a little more down to earth, for the planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune:

"My very exotic mistress just served us noodles"

**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!

## **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?

	<b>Word 1</b>	<b>Word 2</b>	<b>Word 3</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	Tender	Snack	Crow	<b>Bar</b>
2	Through	Warden	Jam	
3	Eagle	Sheet	Wide	
4	Crystal	Out	Cut	
5	Touch	Work	Sand	
6	Knife	Cutting	Ways	
7	Mineral	Colour	Shed	
8	Paper	Reader	Agent	
9	Weight	Clock	Bird	
10	Assault	Race	Damp	
11	Marching	Starters	Last	
12	Partner	Line	Tap	
13	Worthy	Foot	Pad	
14	Made	Money	Oven	
15	Ginger	Garden	Mat	
16	Centre	Ran	Gas	

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

## **Maidstone Borough Council – News Release**

Release Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Ref No: RJA/080211

### **Bus service changes are ticket to ride**

Maidstone Borough Council wants improvements to the Government's National Concessionary Fares scheme for the over sixties and is working with local bus companies for changes to service times.

The council has already negotiated some important changes to bus times so that people will be able to use the new bus pass on early morning services. The new passes will only be valid after 9.30am and several operators have changed the times of services so that passengers' passes will be accepted. The changes to Arriva and Nu Venture services will come into force from 6<sup>th</sup> April:

13 - Hollingbourne  
23 and 26 - Marden and Yalding  
59 - Grafty Green and Kingswood  
79 - Palace Wood  
84 - Senacre and Coombe Quarry  
89 - Marden and Chainhurst

Cabinet member Mike Fitzgerald welcomes the cooperation of the bus companies: "They have responded positively to our requests and are continuing to work with us to identify journeys which can be changed to help pass holders."

The council has also called on the Government to include companion passes, on a national basis, for the benefit of disabled people and it wants the Government to fully fund the new national scheme.

Full details of the new timetables will be available from the bus companies in late March.

**ENDS**

## **Maidstone Symphony Orchestra**

Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Park Maidstone. The programme consists of four works:

- Ravel - La Valse
- Cellist Sylvia Chiesa playing two works:  
Tchaikovsky's - Rococo Variations and Nino Rota's Cello Concerto No.1
- Debussy's - La Mer.

MSO is delighted to welcome superb Italian cellist, Sylvia Chiesa, to play the popular Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations and a fine Concerto by her famous film composer compatriot, Nino Rota. Sylvia's performances will be framed by two of the greatest French impressionist masterpieces, Ravels' sparkling vision of Imperial Vienna, La Valse and Debussy's intoxicating set of orchestral seascapes, La Mer.

Concert tickets £10, £16 and £20, seats for children and students with a Student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Maidstone Leisure Centre on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card. This is a Muriel Tassell memorial Concert.

Many thanks for your continued cooperation and support to the MSO.

**David Bramley**  
**Maidstone Orchestral Society**

## Music Notes - March

As Easter falls in March this year there will be the usual spate of Easter music to choose from. From a great choice here is my selection of local events:

- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 7.30pm at the Central Theatre, Chatham. The City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra presents 'A Viennese Gala' including works by Mozart, Schubert and Brahms as well as the obligatory Strauss selection of waltzes, polkas and marches. Tickets 01634 404977.
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone. Maidstone Choral Union's Spring Concert will include the popular and exciting work *The Armed Man* a mass for peace by Karl Jenkins, and songs performed by the internationally acclaimed tenor Julian Gavin. Tickets tel 01622 726193.
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Music Society has a concert by Amy Dickson, a very talented American saxophonist. Something a bit different! Tickets 01622 844888
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at the United Reformed Church, Week St Maidstone, a performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*. Tel 01622 726193 for details including timing.

**Advance notice that on 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm there will be a concert at St. Nicholas' Church, Leeds, performed by Bearsted choral society and a touring French choir.**

**Brian Hardy**

### Sudoku Quiz Solution

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

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

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



## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	<b>Word 1</b>	<b>Word 2</b>	<b>Word 3</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	Tender	Snack	Crow	Bar
2	Through	Warden	Jam	Traffic
3	Eagle	Sheet	Wide	Spread
4	Crystal	Out	Cut	Clear
5	Touch	Work	Sand	Paper
6	Knife	Cutting	Ways	Edge
7	Mineral	Colour	Shed	Water
8	Paper	Reader	Agent	News
9	Weight	Clock	Bird	Watcher
10	Assault	Race	Damp	Course
11	Marching	Starters	Last	Orders
12	Partner	Line	Tap	Dancing (Dance)
13	Worthy	Foot	Pad	Note
14	Made	Money	Oven	Ready
15	Ginger	Garden	Mat	Beer
16	Centre	Ran	Gas	Nerve

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	Saint George, Patron of England.
2	East 17, Pop Band from London.
3	Jimmi Hendrix, Late Blues & Rock Guitarist.
4	Judy Garland, Leading Lady in the Wizard of OZ.
5	Queen of Sheba, Biblical Figure associated with King Solomon.
6	Desperate Dan, Comic Book character.
7	The Magnificent Seven, 1960's Western.
8	Quiche Lorraine, Pastry dish with egg and bacon.
9	Kingsley Porter, English singer.
10	Errol Flynn, Movie swash buckler.

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  Mothering Sunday	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 9 <sup>th</sup> March  5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	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 – All Saints Ulcombe
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> March  Palm Sunday	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 23 <sup>rd</sup> March  Easter Day	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> March  Low Sunday	08.00 L 11.00 All Saints Hollingbourne 18.30 H	BCP HC Benefice Service Informal Service

## **Holy Week Services**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Kingswood

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe - Meditation

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm St. Margaret Hucking - Choral Evensong

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm All Saints Ulcombe - Washing of Feet and Holy Communion

Good Friday 2pm 1 Hour Vigil in each of the Four Churches in the Benefice

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm St. John the Baptist Harrietsham - Service of Light

## **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)