

Malherbe Monthly

Number 63
October 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
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	Vacant	
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Miss Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
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 November edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th October**

Front cover: One of Southeastern's new 140 mph Javelin trains in the parish, about to pass under Bowley Lane Bridge on the high speed line. Picture Courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

Cream Teas

Our Cream Tea season has come to an end and a very successful time we have had this summer, our best yet. Many friends old and new have been along and spent a very pleasant afternoon chatting and eating our teas with much relish. They have all declared how delicious the teas are and how very reasonably priced too! The weather for the most part has been kind with several very warm days. Being British, our customers are stoic and choose to sit in the churchyard, even when the wind is quite strong. There is always a slight breeze, the down side of being on top of the hill. Over the years we have met many old residents, with childhood memories of their lives in Grafty Green especially during the Second World War years. Often people are out walking or riding bicycles and call in for a tea. Thank you so much for coming along and supporting us and we do apologise for the unwanted visitors we had this year, the 'WASPS'. We very much hope they won't return next year!!

Thanks also for those of you who rallied round and offered help to us, when Sally broke a bone in her wrist, which is much better now. The plaster is off and she is almost as good as new. Thank you to the main team, who come and help in various ways - putting out the tables and chairs, collecting them in afterwards, manning the washing-up bowl and using a tea towel or two. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you too to the two young ladies who came and helped us this year, Molly and Laura. Most of all a big thank you to Sylvia, whose idea it was to serve cream teas at the Church. Little did she think that almost 10 years later she would be still serving teas.

The Teas raised £1,761 towards our Equipment Fund for maybe a kitchen area and a loo, when we have water laid on in the not too distant future, we hope.

Harvest Festival and Back to Church Sunday

As these two items have not taken place yet the account will appear in November's issue.

Harvest Supper and Quiz Night

Harvest Supper will take place earlier this year on **10th OCTOBER** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall priced £7. Mair Chantler is organising this event for which we are very grateful and tickets are available from her on 01622 859672 and the Village Shop. Don't delay in applying for your Ticket.

Joan Davidson

Grafty Green Harvest Supper and Quiz Night

Saturday 10th October 2009 (NOT 17th)



Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Grafty Green Village Hall

Prize: Case of Wine for the winning team

Price: £7.00

Tickets: Available from Mair Chantler on 01622 859672 and
Grafty Green Village Shop

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

Mondays to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	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, Cook Inn	1252	1427	1620	1620
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1623	1623
Warmlake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626
Warmlake Village Hall	—	1438	—	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	—	1523	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	—	1530	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	—	1535	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	1544	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Lower Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return, Sheals Crescent, Harty Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street	0838	1241	1525	1755
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Brishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Cayser Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0840	1243	1527	1757
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.	0847	1250	1534	1804
Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maidstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravelly Bottom Road (Village Hall), Cayser Drive, returning via the normal route.	0859	1312	1556	1826
Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maidstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravelly Bottom Road (Village Hall), Cayser Drive, returning via the normal route.	0907	1320	—	1834
Service 66: Cornwallis Academy, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.	0914	1327	—	1841
—	0921	1334	—	1848
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—

Mondays to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	0723	—	0736	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	0723	—	0745	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0730	—	0750	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0735	—	0755	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	—	0827	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	—	0757	—
Warmlake Corner	0746	—	0808	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0739	—	0809	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cook Inn	0742	—	0811	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	—	0814	—
Cornwallis Academy	—	—	0820	—
Linton Corner	0750	—	0758	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	—	0802	—
Wheatshat	0758	—	0806	—
Maidstone, King Street	—	—	0810	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—

Saturdays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
—	0733	0923	1336	—
—	0740	0930	1343	—
—	0745	0935	1348	1604
—	0747	0937	1350	1606
—	0753	0943	1356	1612
—	0756	0946	1359	—
—	0759	0949	1402	—
—	0802	0952	1405	—
—	0807	0957	1410	—
—	0811	1001	1414	—
—	0815	1005	1418	1624
—	0823	1013	1427	1632
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—

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.

Grafty Garden Cuttings – October

We have nurtured and coddled a Kentish Cob nut tree, for the last 15 years and it had repaid us with heavy crops of nuts for many of those. Trouble is, the squirrels have taken them all while the kernels were still almost too small to see - until this year. This year they have allowed us the harvest. What a joy to gather each day, as they drop, the ripe, brown, cob nuts. They taste pretty good, too. Likewise to crunch through the leaves under the horse chestnut and collect the shiny, brown nuts now falling from their spiky cases. I grew this tree from a conker collected some 27 years ago. Simple pleasures that take one back to ones childhood! Shame there is so little that can be done with a conker. I seem to remember making dolls house sized chairs with pins and cotton.

A flock of starlings are attacking our grapes with gusto, aided by the blackbirds, who sidle in, when the former fly off. A few evenings ago, when the insects were flying high, we saw more swallows and house martins than in years, swooping above us, obviously having a final feed and get together, before leaving for the winter because by the next morning, they had gone.

Autumn is really here and that rain? Well, the almost 1 inch that we had, helped green the grass for a little while, but trees and shrubs are still seriously stressed and dying and I am concerned about anything shallow rooted; my ground cover plants especially, look terrible.

Lawns will still recover, but need some tender, loving care. Mowing should be done with the blades up at least 2 inches and scarifying will take out all the dead weeds and moss, but should not be heavy handed enough to destroy the grass itself. Aerating with a fork will also help, as will top dressing with a mixture of sandy soil and organic matter, worked in with a rake (once it has rained). If feeding is required, a fertiliser low in nitrogen (so growth is not too soft and lush for the winter) and high in phosphorous, should be applied. Any really bare patches can be scratched over to loosen the soil and re-seeded in the spring, unless it stays really mild.

Continue to take cuttings from tender perennials like salvias and penstemon as a back-up, likewise protect and take cuttings of pelargonium and when the first frosts do strike, dig up dahlias, cut back the tops to 2 inches, turn upside down to drain and store frost free until spring. Alternatively, to avoid all this work, take a chance and leave them in the ground cut down and cover with a really thick mulch.

I hope everyone saw the acres of orange pumpkins at Chart Sutton? It was quite an amazing sight.

Rosemary Smith

Heaths Countryside Corridor

Environment Week Gets Dirty

Another year, another summer and another week of environmental work for students at Swadelands School. As the sun shone gloriously over Charing Heath, 25 students, under guidance from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership committed themselves to a week of conservation and outdoor exploration.

The environmental week takes place on land owned by the Heaths Countryside Corridor, a community group dedicated to protecting tracts of land that have been dissected by the Channel Tunnel Rail link. One of their sites, Bull Heath, is a disused sand quarry, home to a huge diversity of plants and animals with large areas of rare lichen heath. Pyramidal orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) splash colour across the site and sand martins (*Riparia riparia*) visiting through the summer months provide exceptional aerial acrobatic displays as they catch prey on the wing. The site provides a quiet retreat for reptiles and larger mammals including badgers too.

However, without a dedicated task force of students, the site would quickly become overgrown and therefore lose its valuable and delicately balanced diversity. One week of scrub clearance, coppicing, path maintenance and invasive plant control and the site is ensured of its colourful and unique future. Students cleared large areas of scrub to create glades within which wild flowers will flourish as sunlight can now penetrate to the previously un-warmed soil. Increasing wild flowers will directly increase moth and butterfly populations as their food source becomes more plentiful.

It wasn't only the wildlife that benefited from the environment week. Steve Kirk, local Kent Mammal Group member and editor of Bushcraft Magazine was on hand to impart his knowledge on mammal natural history as well as enthuse students on the wonders of the green world and its resourcefulness about them. The students learnt woodland skills including shelter building, mallet making and atlatl (pronounced atlatul) throwing, a historic form of spear used for hunting.

The week was triumphantly rounded off with local sausages cooked over a camp fire served with fresh local apple juice.

The Heaths Countryside Corridor own sites in Charing Heath and Lenham Heath including designed parkland and ancient woodland. To discover more about the sites or to get information on how to find them look on their website at www.heathsc.co.uk/.

News from Maidstone Council

Museum bowled over by art fund donation

Maidstone Museum has been chosen by the art fund to receive a piece of Chinese porcelain. The late 17th Century, Chinese blanc de Chine bowl has been offered to the museum by the Art Fund's Gifts and Bequests Sub-Committee.

Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Brian Moss, said: This is terrific news and will be another highlight in the museum's collections. The piece fits in with our ceramics collection and we have been delighted to accept it. This donation recognises the fact that Maidstone Museum has a strong ceramics collection as well as complimenting its Oriental holdings.

The Japanese Collection from Sir Walter Samuel was also gifted to the museum via the National Arts Collection Fund in 1923, who are today known as The Art Fund. The museum has a long association with them and they also part funded the purchase of the Goodwin painting in March. The bowl, which is 13.8cm (including base) and 9.8cm wide, will be in the museum on the September 26.



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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____, A Soap Opera set in Yorkshire
2	Half a _____, A Tommy Steele Musical
3	_____ Small, Lead singer of M People
4	A _____ in Provence, TV series with John Thaw
5	_____ the Blues, Film with Diana Ross
6	Midnight _____, 1969 Film with Dustin Hoffman
7	_____ over Troubled Waters, Hit song for Simon & Garfunkel
8	The Killing _____, 1984 film drama set in Cambodia
9	_____ Heights, Kate Bush debut single
10	Village of the _____, Chilling 1960 movie

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NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO OUR OPEN MORNING AT ULCOMBE

Wednesday 21st October

Are you thinking about which primary school to send your pre-school child to in the future? Are you a parent of a child already here at Ulcombe? We will be pleased to see you any anytime between 9.15 and 11.30am on Wednesday 21st October for our Open Morning. Come and see what our happy, caring school can offer your child, as we work our way through a normal morning!

Celebrating Success!

I am delighted to be able to inform you that last Term saw us earning two very special awards. As a school we have been identified as an Extended School. This means that we try hard to provide extra-curricular activities, as well as trying to take an active part in our community. It is wonderful that our hard work has been recognised in this way. We have also achieved the Financial Management in Schools Standard. For this we have had to show that we spend money prudently, striving to get best value, and that we monitor our finances carefully. Thank you to all of the governors and staff who have played their part in each of these areas.

Funky Footwear Friday

On Friday 25th September we again raised money for the Kent Air Ambulance through Funky Footwear Friday. Children (and staff) thought long and hard about what they could do to make your footwear look especially funky! Well done for raising so much money for such a great cause.

Clubs

Clubs have begun again for the new school year. The list of clubs on offer really is incredible and I must say a huge thank you to everyone who is helping, including parents and staff. This term we are offering thirteen different clubs with some of our old favourites including film club, football and gardening, with new clubs such as hockey and line dancing added to the list.

Our Multi-Sensory Room

The multi-sensory room will be turning into an Anderson Shelter this term. We have asked parents for their support in gathering items to make this as authentic as possible, and we are thrilled that some of our friends in the wider community have also offered to help.

Road Safety

I know many of you have been pleased to see Mrs Sharp back on duty this term. All children crossing The Street before or after school should do so with Mrs Sharp, our Road Crossing Patrol Officer.

Can I also please remind all drivers again to be mindful of the law regarding speed, seat belts and booster seats. These laws have been written for the safety of all road users, including drivers and their passengers. I know that police cameras in the area are now being used to identify drivers using a mobile telephone, not wearing a seat belt and speeding. The PSCO has been looking into traffic problems around another local school recently, including unsafe parking. I would ask everyone, including parents, to avoid parking directly opposite the school as this can affect Mrs Sharp's line of vision.

Superstars and Certificates

This year, starting on Monday, we are slightly changing our rewards for children who have excelled in some way. Rather than stickers, children have the chance to earn a certificate each week. There will be certificates for 'Good Citizenship', 'Effort and Achievement' and, in Key Stage 2, for 'Homework'. We are sure that the children will take great pride in their achievements and be proud to win certificates during the course of the year.

National Schools Film Week

Term 1 ends with National Schools Film Week. This year we are planning two trips. Tawny Owls will be going to the Odeon Cinema to watch the Spiderwick Chronicles, whilst Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Owlets will be going to watch Ice Age 3. It seems especially appropriate after the success and popularity of Film Club during the past year that we should celebrate National Schools Film Week.

And In to Term 2 ...

The annual fireworks night, which was such a huge success last year, has been pencilled in for Friday 6th November. Look out for more details on the school's web-site after the Friends of Ulcombe School meeting, which took place after this article had gone to print. At 10.45am on Wednesday 11th November we will be holding our Remembrance Assembly in the School Hall. Our friends from the wider community are again invited to come and join parents, governors, staff and children as we remember the sacrifices made by others. We will have a two-minute silence at 11am, with the school bell rung to signal the start of this period.

Well I think that is enough to be going on with! Please remember to come and ask us in School if you have any concerns or require any further information. It would be great to see you on Wednesday 21st October for our Open Morning.

Mr V Hampton
Head Teacher

How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
Term starts Thursday 3rd September
and

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm
Term starts Wednesday 9th September

£5 a Session

If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in
please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339

GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB 2009 PROGRAMME

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 th January	AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips	Sissinghurst gardener: Amy Cabey
3 rd February	Dry Garden	H. Newman
3 rd March	Butterflies	Steve Weeks
7 th April	Spring Show & River Medway Part 2	Graham Johnson
Saturday 9 th May	Plant Sale – on the Green	
5 th May	Local garden visit	Sissinghurst
5 th June – 7 th June	Weekend visit to Hampshire	
12 th July	Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit	Tom Hart Dyke
4 th August	Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green	
1 st September	Autumn show - Aspects of showing	Lesley Feakes
6th October	Village Signs	Avice Harms
3 rd November	Kent in the 1900 century	Bob Ogley
1 st December	Gardening quiz and supper	

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

- ❖ Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- ❖ Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. 75p for members and £1 for visitors.
- ❖ The club enables members to swap plants/seeds, share ideas and improve their growing skills.
- ❖ Meetings are friendly and informal; visitors are always welcome; refreshments included.



The October meeting is on Tuesday 6th in the Village Hall at 7.30. The speaker is Avice Harms who is to give a talk on 'Village Signs'. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments provided.

The Gardening Club has been arranging the enhancement of two of the grassy triangles that bound the Headcorn Road at the Broadstone end of the parish. One triangle will be a stumpery (tree stumps with planting around them) and the other a wild flower meadow. We hope that these will provide pleasant attractions to our environment. I believe this type of enhancement is called Guerrilla Gardening.

Anyone wanting to help with these projects is welcome – please speak to Sue Burch on 850381.

We would also like to ask if anyone wants to help tidy (weeding and trimming) the border next to the Village Hall. The plan is to do this on Saturday the 3rd October 10 am – 11.30; refreshments with biscuits will be served as a reward

PS – Unfortunately there will be no stumpery for the time being as the stumps have mysteriously disappeared – they were so heavy too! Shame, after all the effort that that several people put in to enhance that area.

Sue Burch

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YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2009 when...

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
14. You actually looked back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

Now....

Don't ignore this just because it looks weird. Believe it or not, you can read it. I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in what oredr the ltteers in a word are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is that the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?



'Back to Basics' through to 'Digital Photography'

Egerton Telecottage does it all!

We are pleased to say we have now arranged the following computer classes to be run from September to December:

Basic IT	Tuesdays 15 th /22 nd /29 th Sept/6 th Oct 10am-12 noon
Basic IT	Wednesdays 11 th /18 th /25 th Nov/2 nd Dec 10am-12 noon
Digital Photography	Wednesdays 16 th /23 rd /30 th Sept/7 th Oct 7.30pm-9.30pm
Word Processing – Basic	Tuesdays 13 th /20 th /27 th Oct/3 rd Nov 10am–12 noon
Word Processing – Intermediate	Tuesday's 17 th /24 th Nov/1 st /8 th Dec 10am– 12 noon
Desk Top Publishing	Tuesdays 20 th /27 th Oct/3 rd /10 th Nov 7.30pm–9.30pm

For full details and any further information please contact our Booking Clerk – Sylvia Tillman on 01233 756050.

We can also arrange to run other classes such as Excel, Ebay, Home Security, Internet, etc. If there are four or more people interested in any of these subjects, we will be happy to look into arranging times and dates. In addition, if there are any other areas where you think we can help, don't hesitate to talk to Sylvia and we will do what we can.

Our computer clinic is open every Saturday morning from 10am to 12 noon to help you with technical advice, photocopying, scanning and laminating etc. – or just a coffee and a chat!

EGERTON FILM SOCIETY

The Autumn Programme 2009

The Egerton Film Society has gone from strength to strength since it started in 2001. It currently has a membership of around 150 with attendances of over 50 people at their screenings at Egerton's Millennium Hall on the last Thursday of each month.

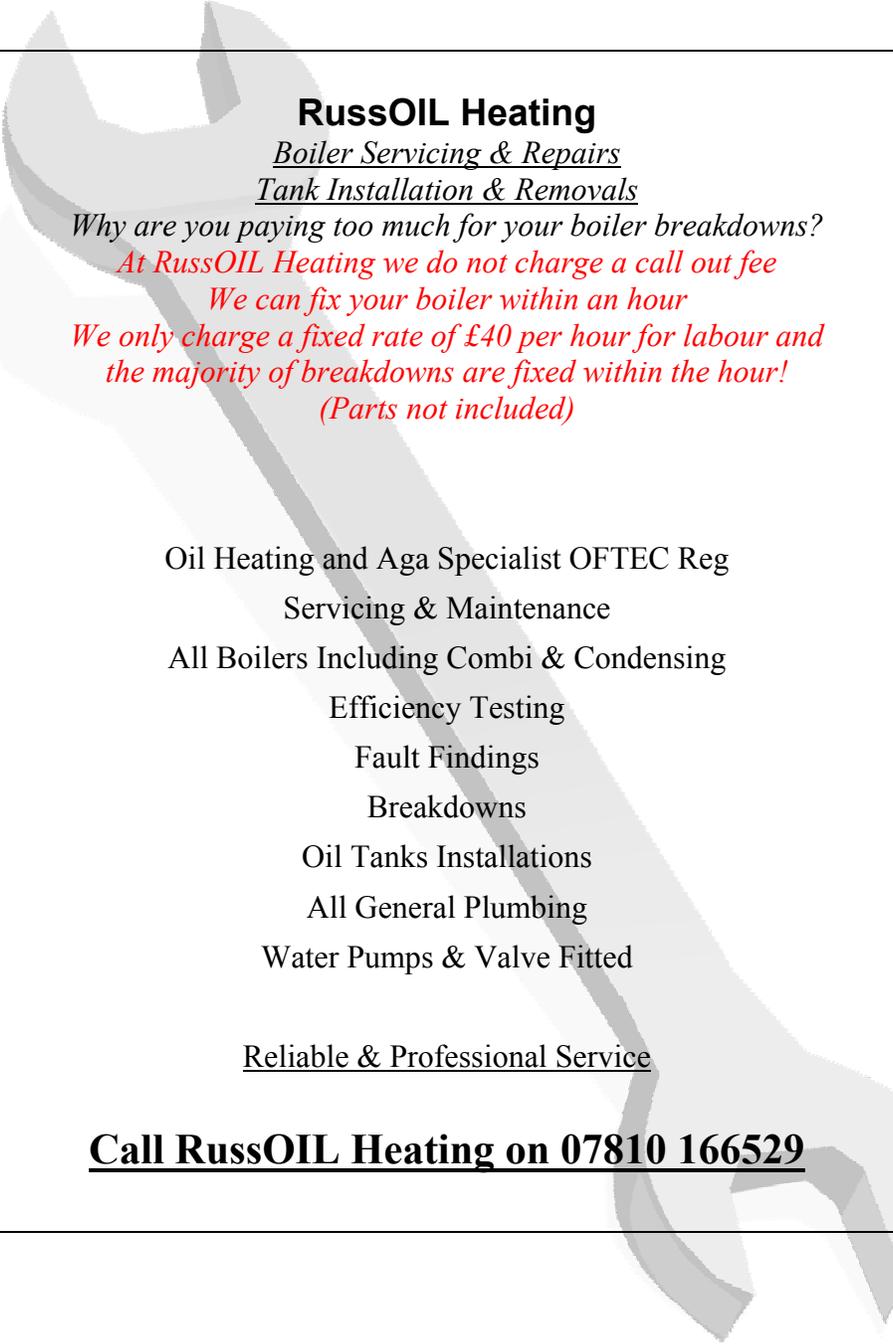
Their new season's programme showcases some wonderful films. The first of the season's films, following the Annual General meeting on 24th September, is "Slumdog Millionaire", Director Danny Boyle's stunning smash hit story of a teenage orphan boy from the slums of Mumbai who gets to the final round of Indian TV's equivalent of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?". It won 8 Oscars (including best picture), and a host of other awards earlier this year.

For our special evening on Thursday 15th October we will be screening what many consider the greatest of all the adventure-comedy films to come from days of the silent cinema. Buster Keaton directed and starred in "The General", released in 1927 and set at the time of the American Civil War. It tells the story a Confederate train driver doggedly in pursuit of his passionately-loved locomotive ("The General" of the title) and his girl, both abducted by Union troops. The film contains many spectacular stunts, beautifully filmed and all performed by Keaton himself.

At the end of October we mark the 65th anniversary of the ill fated Allied attempt to gain a bridgehead over the Rhine at Arnham by showing "A Bridge Too Far", the epic war film directed by Richard Attenborough with an all-star cast. In November the Society is screening Clint Eastwood's most recent film, "Gran Torino", a powerful drama about an ageing retired war veteran in Detroit (played by Eastwood himself) protecting his home and eventually defending his neighbours from the local street gangs. Highly praised by the critics, this is a masterful piece of storytelling and a film that will rightly be regarded as a classic.

The Film Society's Christmas offering will be chosen from suggestions by members made at the AGM and at other autumn meetings, and will be screened on Thursday 17th December.

Everyone is welcome to attend our screenings, at which there is a licensed bar and light refreshments. For further information call Richard King on 01233 756592.



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Lenham Valley Business Association

The website for the new business association had 1509 hits in the first month. Businesses in the Lenham area have a real opportunity to trade with each other (many members have already had some pleasantly surprising results!) that makes life easier, friendlier, faster and generally all round more co-operative - doing business locally makes sense. We may not have been the first to do it but so far, we've been the fastest and there are plenty more in Kent following us.

If the promises are anything to go by membership increased 20% this week. The success of the association though depends entirely on everyone getting involved - that means you too. If you want a place to advertise your vacancies free; advertise your articles for sale free; increase your revenue for free or network every month for free then become a member and you can do all that on the website (just to remind you again - for free).

Membership cost depends on the size of your business, but starts at less than a cup of tea per week. Costs are on the website. For the membership cost you get up to 5 mentions on the site as well as 5 more mentions in the membership directory due to be circulated to every home and business in the area soon. Join NOW and you'll be part of that directory and helping us all move forward. You don't have to have a business in the area. You could join just to be involved locally.

Market day, Sunday 11th October the LVBA are holding a small exhibition of members at The Lime Tree, the public are invited to come to see what the association members have to offer.

Every networking meeting is for 2 hours every month and during that time we have a 15 minute presentation from people like the Maidstone Mayor endorsing the LVBA; your local MP telling us about KIG; the leader of MBC informing us about his plans for the future; Zen Languages talking about building European business and grant opportunities to learn a foreign language; Invicta Chamber providing benefit opportunities to business; MBC tourism telling us how tourism could benefit Lenham and Custom Marketing Resources helping us all understand how marketing boosts profit.

All Tuesdays and all at 6pm: on 6th October it's the White Horse; on 3rd November the Dog & Bear and back to The White Horse on 1st December. Good networking, good fun and good business - don't miss out.

There is something for everyone in the Lenham Valley Business Association, full info see www.lenhambusiness.co.uk or simply call Alan Reading on 01622 820841.

The Grafty Gourmet

This makes a fantastic dinner, and is very simple to make. There are actually no olives in this recipe. The name of the dish is derived from the shape of the beef when rolled, as being 'olive shaped'. Serve with potatoes and fresh vegetables of your choice.

Beef Olives with Red Wine Sauce

Beef Olives

2 lb Topside of Beef Joint
(Sliced into 8 equal slices)
1 lb Sausage meat
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 clove very finely crushed garlic
60g Sage and Onion stuffing mix
200g Mushrooms, chopped
1 tablespoon of finely chopped fresh parsley
1 tablespoon of butter
1 tablespoon of olive oil

Red Wine Sauce

1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 tablespoon of Plain Flour
1 tablespoon of tomato puree
1 glass of red wine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of beef stock
Pinch of salt
Dash of fresh ground black pepper

1. Carefully flatten the slices of beef with a meat hammer. Alternatively place between sheets of grease proof paper and beat carefully with a rolling pin.
2. Make the sage & onion stuffing, as per instructions on the box. Mix together with the sausage meat, one chopped onion, garlic, mushrooms and parsley. Place the mixture into the middle of the slices of beef and roll up. Secure each roll with two cocktail sticks.
3. Put butter and olive oil in a frying pan and melt the butter. Add the rolls of beef, and cook for no more than 2 minutes, until brown.
4. For the Red Wine Sauce, remove the rolls of beef and add the onion to the pan and cook until softened. Stir in the flour and mix well with the onions. Add the tomato puree, wine and beef stock and bring to the boil. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Transfer the sauce to a casserole dish, and add the Beef Olives. Cover and place in a preheated oven. Cook on a low heat of 120 degrees for 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The Grafty Gourmet

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IN AID OF ULCOMBE CHURCH

The Jazz Advocates were formed about five years ago, mainly to play at local Jazz Festivals, with Viv Rogers, our leading vocalist.

After a short time a residency at the Bull Hotel in Wrotham was offered to the band, and all the members were pleased to join and play on a regular basis on the last Wednesday in each month.

We have played hymns and spirituals evenings, and concerts across the country which have been well received – especially with Viv Rogers singing blues and spirituals.

The band line up will feature: Viv Rogers, vocalist; Tony O'Sullivan, trumpet; Dave Stone, clarinet and saxophone; Tony Cardwell, trombone; Nobby Willett, banjo, Graham Rogers, drums; and Ian Rogers, double bass. During the evening we will play a cross section of traditional jazz in our usual relaxed style.

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St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

Well the holiday season is at an end the children are back at school breathing life into this little village of ours. I must say I enjoy seeing them as they go down to the school each morning and home again in the afternoon.

We have had a piano given to us which has now been tuned - one more asset for all who hire the hall and it means the children will be able to play at their end of term performances.

Bookings are coming in thick and fast now I am very glad to say, it is an ideal size for parties, we have even had a booking for December already. The Morris dancers are back for the winter months, and doubtless the keep fit girls will soon be back too.

Our line dance class is still going but we could do with some new members so if you fancy a fun way to exercise and pleasant company give us a try. We do not take ourselves seriously, have a good laugh and drive Joanne mad sometimes it is still only £3 per person on Thursday evenings 8pm-9pm.

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

Patricia Dibley Secretary

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	Mountain	Rifle	Free	Range
2	Graduate	Study	World	
3	Second	Friend	Man	
4	Board	Open	Ham	
5	Mate	Safety	Offender	
6	Family	Battle	Flush	
7	Space	Wreck	Cruise	
8	Harvest	Shine	Full	
9	Ballet	Agent	Top	
10	Garden	Picket	Mending	
11	Language	Drink	Head	
12	Zone	Half	Life	
13	Keeper	Panel	Computer	
14	Block	Main	Map	
15	Flight	Finder	War	
16	Land	Water	Trombone	



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The October Night Sky

The Sun is in the constellation of Virgo until the end of the month.

I am afraid we will not be getting much Sun in the evenings after Sunday 25th October, as British Summer Time comes to an end and clocks go back one hour.

Full Moon occurs on Sunday 4th October, when the Moon is in the constellation of Pisces, and New Moon on Sunday 18th October.

Mercury is at its greatest elongation west of the Sun on 6th October, and we have a good chance to see this little planet in the eastern sky before sunrise. Earlier in the month at about 6.30 am you will see the brilliant planet Venus low down in the east, and Mercury can be seen a little lower to the left.

Venus is rising a couple of hours before sunrise, and is visible in the eastern sky at dawn. It is still extremely bright and can easily be seen in the brightening sky.

Mars is rising in the northeast before midnight, and by dawn it is high in the southern sky. Relative to the stars it is moving steadily eastwards out of the constellation of Gemini and into Cancer. Through a telescope Mars can be seen as a small disc with very little detail. However, it is growing larger as the weeks go by.

Jupiter can be seen in the south in the middle of the evening, and sets in the southwest around midnight. Through a telescope the Great Red Spot should clearly be visible, together with some of Jupiter's four major moons.

Saturn is still very difficult to see, as it is slowly emerging from behind the Sun.

The Orionid meteor shower is active during the second half of October, and peaks around Tuesday 20th. They appear to radiate from the northern part of Orion, and can be best seen in the early hours of the morning.

Some of you may have read that a Nasa probe on an Indian Orbiter has found hydrogen and oxygen molecules in the topsoil of the Moon. As these are the major components of water, air and rocket fuel, it could pave the way for the Moon to become a 'service station' for commercial space exploration, and is a major boost for planned trips to Mars.

John Maunder

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Special needs - special people

Sitting on the floor he filled a plastic box with Lego pieces; tipped them out and then refilled the box. Over and over the process was repeated. Not a toddler but a man in his 60's. The L'Arche assistant sat with him chatting with no hint of impatience in her voice. She had come to take him to supper at the community house where he lives.

I have been connected with L'Arche, Lambeth for a few years so it was a pleasure for me to meet members of the community at Harrietsham in the summer. Groups of community residents, assistants and staff, make an annual pilgrimage to Canterbury each year. There are several groups each taking a different route but all staying overnight at various churches on their way.

At Harrietsham, with another Benefice Reader, David Essex, I welcomed the group and next morning spoke at their Holy Communion service. Tony Old, who was formerly Diocesan Chaplain to the Deaf, conducted the service and signed it to the great delight of the pilgrims.

L'Arche was founded in France in 1964 by Jean Vanier, a Canadian, who invited 2 men from an institution to live with him. There are now 125 communities in 30 countries. In Lambeth people with learning disabilities and their assistants live together in 5 houses sharing responsibility for the life of their home.

L'Arche assistants come from all over the world to share their lives with up to a dozen people, half of whom have severe learning difficulties. Assistants find their time with L'Arche often difficult but always rewarding. One wrote, *'Being able to share my life with people who have learning disabilities is a special gift to me. It's more than just a job - it's something that needs commitment but it can change your life.'*

I visit L'Arche monthly to "accompany" one of the assistants by listening, encouraging and giving general support. I have learned so much not only about this community but from it and come to value its ethos which is an example of loving and realistic care.

Husbands love your wives!

Several male readers expressed appreciation of last month's headline, 'Wives obey your husbands.' I must advise them to read on in St. Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. The letter continues, 'Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her.' Maybe some women readers will pin up this month's headline where their husbands can see it. It's quite a challenge!

The Bible studies on Ephesians continue on Thursday (except 8th October) at Weirton Villa at 10am. Do join us!

Joan Drury

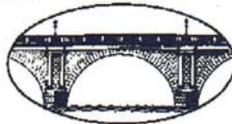
Courgette Cake

200g butter
200g caster sugar
2 eggs
150g courgettes (about 2 small ones)
1 small apple
200g plain flour
a large pinch salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
pinch cinnamon
60g pecans
80g sultanas

Preheat oven at 180°C/gas mark 4. Butter and line the base of a loaf tin 20cm x 12cm x 9cm deep. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat the eggs and mix them in, one at a time, making sure each is fully incorporated before adding the next. Grate the courgettes and the apple coarsely. Squeeze them with your hands to remove any excess moisture, then add to the mixture. Mix the flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon and fold gently into the mixture. Stir in the nuts and fruit. Transfer to the lined loaf tin and bake for about an hour or until golden and firm to the touch. Allow to cool in the tin before turning out.

Don't say NO when you are offered courgettes, which are plentiful this year. Instead use this Nigel Slater recipe to make a delicious cake. I made one for the Bible Study group and it was voted a great success.

Joan Drury



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CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD and GIFT SALE

Saturday 31st October

10.00 – 3.00,

Smarden Charter Hall

Visitors from all over Kent are expected to converge on Smarden's Charter Hall for what has become one of the most popular events in the village calendar. Twenty charities will sell a huge selection of cards and gifts at the sale. Last year the event raised over £5000 which organiser Gill Bromley hopes will be beaten this year. Since the event began in 1985 it has raised over £100,000 for the charities involved.

Charities attending range from local Kent-based charities, major national ones to smaller less well known and include Multiple Sclerosis, Pilgrim's Hospice, Kent Air Ambulance, Tear Fund, British Heart Foundation, Labrador Rescue, the Eczema Society, Cystic Fibrosis, R.N.L.I., Oxfam, Mencap, Lupus, Cancer Research UK, and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The stalls are run by people from local villages in the Ashford, Maidstone and Weald area. They love coming to Smarden and will provide you with a warm welcome. The Smarden W.I. is providing light refreshments throughout the day. There will be freshly made hot soup and rolls and (as you would expect of the W.I.) cakes and biscuits

**Gill Bromley
Organiser
01233 770451**

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

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

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Christian Message

At the time of writing a close friend has been taken into hospital and her future is uncertain. Just a few weeks ago she was making such exciting plans which must now be rethought. There are times when life is like that, one moment everything going smoothly and the next plunged into chaos.

It reminds me of something I read recently about a man who was out walking on the mountains of the Lake District. He was enjoying the wonderful views and loving the exhilarating sense of freedom when suddenly the clouds came down and the hills were covered in a thick cold mist. The mist was so thick that he could only see a few paces ahead. He struggled on for a while but then to his horror discovered that he had strayed from the path. What should he do? He didn't want to risk staying there all night, but there were sheer cliffs all around him and one false step could lead to injury, or worse... but then, through the mist, he caught sight of a pile of stones and he remembered something he had once heard. It was about stone cairns, placed at intervals along the main footpath as a guide to the walker. He inched towards it, and then, ever so slowly, followed the line of cairns back down to the town below, and to safety.

When our life is suddenly in chaos and we don't know which way to turn, it might feel like we are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. We might be feeling unsure whether to take that step forwards or backwards, or should we just dig in where we are. When that happens, what are our 'signposts'? We may not know where the path of our life journey may lead from day to day, but as Christians we are assured of our ultimate destination. If we keep travelling onwards, trusting in God's guidance and going where he might lead us, we can be certain that He will be there at our journey's end ready to welcome us home into his kingdom. Are we ready to walk in faith?

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. Psalm 89:15

Millie Hart



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

4th October – 17th Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise Service (Harvest)
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Praise Service (Harvest)
7pm Ulcombe Taize Service

11th October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

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

18th October - Luke the Evangelist (19th Sunday after Trinity)

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion (Sung)
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship

25th October - The Last Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Praise Service
11.00am Lenham Family Praise Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Rifle	Free	Answer
1	Mountain	Rifle	Free	Range
2	Graduate	Study	World	Under
3	Second	Friend	Man	Best
4	Board	Open	Ham	Sandwich
5	Mate	Safety	Offender	First
6	Family	Battle	Flush	Royal
7	Space	Wreck	Cruise	Ship
8	Harvest	Shine	Full	Moon
9	Ballet	Agent	Top	Secret
10	Garden	Picket	Mending	Fence
11	Language	Drink	Head	Strong
12	Zone	Half	Life	Time
13	Keeper	Panel	Computer	Game
14	Block	Main	Map	Road
15	Flight	Finder	War	Path
16	Land	Water	Trombone	Slide

	Find the missing word?
1	Emmerdale , A Soap Opera set in Yorkshire
2	Half a Sixpence , A Tommy Steele Musical
3	Heather Small , Lead singer of M People
4	A Year in Provence, TV series with John Thaw
5	Lady Sings the Blues , Film with Diana Ross
6	Midnight Cowboy , 1969 Film with Dustin Hoffman
7	Bridge over Troubled Waters, Hit song for Simon & Garfunkel
8	The Killing Fields , 1984 film drama set in Cambodia
9	Wuthering Heights , Kate Bush debut single
10	Village of the Damned , Chilling 1960 movie

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the new timetable up to 20th December 2009. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc. They state it is against EU rules and they have to provide a separate freighter to do this.

Grafty Green

Sunday 18th Oct 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Sunday 13th Dec 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 18th Oct 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Sunday 13th Dec 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 18th Oct 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Sunday 13th Dec 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

Lenham

Sunday 8th Nov 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd – Boughton Rd



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