



Malherbe Monthly

Number 57
April 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Vacant	
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Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
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Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
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Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the May edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th April**

Front cover: Lambs enjoying the spring weather on Church Hill Boughton Malherbe
Picture taken on Monday 30th March 2009.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Lent Lunches

There are two more chances left to come to a Lent Lunch. On 1st April Pat Anderson at Foxes Earth, Grafty Green will host a Lunch and on 8th April there will be a Lunch in the Village Hall Grafty Green. We have had some delicious soups and wonderful fresh breads with a good friendly welcome at all our venues. Do come along if you haven't done so yet - the Lunches are held between 12.00-2.00pm. Remember the proceeds support Christian Aid.



Mothering Sunday

We had a most enjoyable Service to mark Mothering Sunday, each child and adult took home a small pot of flowers for their Mother. We also helped a member of our congregation to celebrate a very special Birthday. Happy Birthday, Gerda.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday falls on 5th April this year and there will be a distribution of Palm Crosses at the 9.30am Service on that day. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week when there will be a Service each evening in one of the four Benefice Churches during that week.

Monday	at St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe
Tuesday	at St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham
Wednesday	at St. Mary, Lenham
Maunday Thursday	at All Saints, Ulcombe

All these Services will start at 7.30pm.

On Good Friday each Church will have an hour's vigil between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Harrietsham will have a walk of witness at 10.15am and on Saturday a Service of Light in the Evening at 6.30pm. 12th April, Easter Day, there will be a Service of Holy Communion at St. Nicholas and services at each of the other Churches at their usual times.

Flowers for Easter

If there is anyone who would like to contribute towards Easter Lilies for the Church, please get in touch with Joan on 850210.

Morning Prayers

Prayers are said between 9.30am and 10.00am in each of the four Churches of the Benefice Monday - Thursday starting with Boughton Malherbe and ending with Ulcombe.

APCM

St. Nicholas' APCM took place on 31st March, 2009 and therefore can not be mentioned in this issue, but next month it is hoped that a short report will be given.

Joan Davidson

Grafty Garden Cuttings – April

Everyone can compost, no matter the size of garden, a compost container can be built or purchased to suit. A wormery can deal with kitchen waste and small amounts of well chopped garden waste, while anything goes from there on up. It is best not to encourage rats and other vermin by adding kitchen waste to an open heap, so a lidded bin on a good base is ideal here. A barrow load of grass clippings mixed in occasionally plus junk mail and any other paper that can be shredded all helps the rotting process. (No glossy, highly coloured or plastic coated paper and no see-through envelope windows). Wet newspaper and tissues can also be added and the whole lot will rot down very quickly.

It does take a surprisingly long time to actually fill the container though. Our garden waste goes into huge heaps surrounded by tin sheets and wire and I have three. One is for leaves only, one in use and the other left for a year to rot down and being spread on the ground. Everything goes in, apart from seed heads and pernicious weeds like couch grass, ground elder and bindweed. This method is known as the cold heap method, as I have neither the time nor the energy to turn the tons involved every few weeks, which would be the ideal, plus I build up the heap over the course of the year, so not enough heat is generated for the hot heap method. Again, it helps to chop or shred any sizeable pieces, especially if it is woody. Anything dubious that needs dealing with can be sealed into a black plastic bag with a few holes punched into it, placed somewhere out of sight for a year or two and left to fester: even the worst weeds will eventually succumb. The outcome of all this work can be sieved and used as potting compost, spread on the ground as a mulch as it comes, or dug in and is an excellent soil conditioner with some nutrients for the plants as well.

Everything is gearing up to seed sowing and planting: early potatoes should be in, with main the crop planted towards the end of the month and many other vegetables can be sown. Keep in mind that frosts can strike at any time from now until early June, so timing is of the essence for such as cucurbits and beans, both runner and French, which are all susceptible. I am planning on sowing a good selection of root vegetables including beetroot, which until now have been rather neglected especially as a winter food - no longer, for we have discovered the delights of beetroot chutney. *

Visits enjoyed: Wisley at the beginning of March with wonderful displays of crocus, cyclamen corm, snowdrops, Hamamalis and hellebores and one that involved birds: the Wildlife and Wetland Trust's reserve at Arundel. Only a 2 hour drive and we enjoyed seeing many and varied ducks, geese, swans et al in large numbers, on paths that are mostly level and paved and suitable for all, including both push and wheel chairs.

* Recipe can be found in the Good Housekeeping Complete Book of preserving, but be warned, visitors arriving during the making of this chutney may think a foul crime has been committed! White or golden beetroot have a little less flavour but none of the staining properties.

Rosemary Smith

**THE ST EDMUNDS CENTRE
IS HOLDING THE AGM AT
SCHOOL LANE PLATTS HEATH
MONDAY 20th APRIL 2009 AT 8PM**

So come along and have your say about the future use of our community centre. Anyone willing to serve their community on the management committee is most welcome

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Blackman, Actress who starred in the Avengers
2	Reet _____, No 1 song for Jackie Wilson
3	_____ Stallone, Actor who played Rocky & Rambo
4	David _____, Leader of the Conservative Party
5	_____ Cooper, High Noon Actor
6	Barry _____, Crooner who sang Copacabana
7	_____ Doone, Novel by R D Blackmore
8	John Logie _____, Inventor of the TV
9	_____ Palace, London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury
10	Harry _____, Star of Kevin & Perry Go Large

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year and are fed up with oil tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads, not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non profit making.

Keith Anderson

Willington Players

The Willington Players are presenting a play called 'Pack of Lies' at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone. You may ask why this is being promoted here – well you may not know that we have one of the Willington Players living here in the village – Richard Pilborough. He will be playing the mysterious man from MI5.

PACK OF LIES

by Hugh Whitmore

Tuesday 21st to Saturday 25th April 2009

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone 7:30 pm

Tickets £9.50 concessions £8 (except charity nights Tuesday and Wednesday)

Box Office 01622 758611

The play is set in Ruislip, 1961. The Cold War. Two Americans are arrested, spying for the Russians and subsequently sentenced to 20 years in prison... Pack of Lies is based on the actual events which led up to their arrest. Bob and Barbara Jackson and their daughter Julie are a respectable middle class family who form a close friendship with their convivial 'Canadian' neighbours, the Krogers. All is well until one day a MI5 officer, Mr Stewart appears asking the Jackson family for their help with a surveillance job. As this gripping tale unfolds, Bob and Barbara are plunged into an alien world of deceit and intrigue.... Barbara reaches breaking point with the realisation she has betrayed her friends as they have betrayed her.

You can buy tickets from the Theatre or online at

<http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk>

The Willington Players website address is:

<http://www.willingtonplayers.org.uk/>

St Edmunds Centre – Platts Heath

Our first coffee morning this year will be on Tuesday 21st April 2009. All are welcome to come along, we won't know ourselves this year with the new furniture! Yes, we have taken delivery of the upholstered chairs I mentioned last month and now await the new curtains for the stage area. All this possible thanks to the "Grassroots Grant" people who have made a grant of £2,343.31 to cover the cost. This will make a more attractive finish at the Nave end of the hall and make life easier for any productions performed in future.

Mothers and toddlers group is held Monday mornings from 10pm – noon. Any new mums wishing to go along on Mondays can ring Karen Yardley on 858208 for more details.

Whilst on the subject of the toddler's group one of the fathers Chris Hills is raising money for THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY, by running a first aid course covering babies, children and adults on Monday 27th April 2009 from 10 am to 1 pm. The course will cost £20 per person. For further details telephone his wife Sarah Hills on 859174.

A nice link between the generations.

Line Dancing is held on Thursday evenings at 8 pm £3 per person. It was nice to welcome Helen as a new member in March.

I have taken some bookings for private users and hope we can get more as the word gets around how nice and cosy the hall has become. It is the right size for family celebrations you don't get lost but still have room to let your hair down, with no risk to the furniture and carpets in the house! The added bonus is it does not cost too much either.

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

Patricia Dibley

Dyslexia and Me

How can I communicate better with the people around me? I have started this article at 9.40 the time is important as I want to illustrate how long it takes me to write even a small piece of composition. Why? Because I am dyslexic. O yes I can read and I can write and yes there is a "but" it is a very slow process and the spell check helps a lot. However it can't help when I try to address a group of people such as my fellow school governors and the St Edmunds Centre AGM.

At meetings or courses I attend the words on the papers I need to read just swim around before my eyes, I undoubtedly look foolish at time and when I endeavour to make a comment the right words do not come. I find myself interrupting people lest I forget what it was I needed to say most rude I know and I always regret it afterwards.

So how did I become the secretary of St Edmunds and fill in all those forms needed to become a charitable trust and apply for the grants we needed to do the refurbishment. Well there was no one else with the time to devote to the job so this square peg squeezed into the round hole.

Then with the help of people like Annette a secretary who lives opposite, Ian Priddle the headmaster of Platts Heath School, Tom Sams our borough councillor and Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart I managed. It has not been easy and I tell you all this now because it strikes me that over the years I have avoided involvement in a lot of things because of a lack of confidence and to hide my problem.

So the next time some one you know is reluctant to participate in anything you feel they should become involved with just take a minute to think, do they actually need help taking part? Filling in application forms however simple they may be are a nightmare for some of us. Reading the question and then comprehending the meaning to give a correct answer is daunting in itself doing so whilst someone is waiting for you to finish is beyond a lot of us so much easier to walk away as though you are not interested than to be laughed at.

I finished typing at 10.22 so 40 minutes to write then.

Patricia Dibley

Interesting Stuff

- In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'
- Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.
- The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.
- The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.
- Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David; Hearts - Charlemagne; Clubs - Alexander, the Great; Diamonds - Julius Caesar.
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
- If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

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.

Sue's Yoga Classes

Yoga for agility, strength, stamina and relief from stress
current class at
GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD
Thursday Mornings - **9.30 - 11**
Mixed ability class but also suitable for beginners
£5 a session

Would like to join a class but this time doesn't suit?
Would you join at a different time/day?
How about a Wednesday afternoon or evening?
For further details contact Sue Burch on 01622 850381
Trial session half price.

News from Maidstone Council

Museum offers an egg-citing array of activities

Book your place at the front of the queue for the activities on offer this Easter at Maidstone Museum.

The museum in St Faith's Street has a full programme of activities from Monday April 6th to Saturday, April 18th.

Here is what is on offer:

- Monday April 6th – Peg dolls – 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.
- Tuesday April 7th – Storytelling and craft activity - 'Ambrose goes for Gold' 10.30am-11.30am and 1.30pm-2.30pm. Cost £2.
- Wednesday April 8th – jewellery making - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2 per item.
- Thursday April 9th – Teddy Bear's picnic handling station and craft - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.50 per child.
- Friday April 10th – Bouncing bunny cards and egg cosies - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.
- Saturday April 11th and Sunday April 12th – Easter egg hunt – 10.30am-4.30pm on Saturday and 11.30am-4pm on Sunday. Cost £1.
- Monday April 13th – make a corsage from scrap fabrics - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.
- Tuesday April 14th – a tale from Percy the Park Keeper: The Treasure Hunt' – 10.30am-11.30am and 1.30pm-2.30pm. Cost £2.
- Wednesday April 15th – Victorian lace pottery - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.
- Thursday April 16th – Cuddly animals from Nepicar Farm – 10am-2pm drop-in session. This event is free.
- Friday April 17th – Saint's day windows - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £2.
- Saturday April 18th – weaving with recycled newspaper - 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm. Cost £1.

For more information log onto www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk

News from Maidstone Council

Flying the flag for St George's Day

Details: Maidstone is turning medieval for St George's Day and a bonanza of events is planned to celebrate in style.

There will be a schools parade on **Thursday April 23rd** between 1.45pm and 2.30pm. This will be a culturally diverse celebration of St George's Day with local school children, a brass band and dhol drummers. The parade will start in Week Street and finish in Brenchley Gardens where there will be a St George flag raising ceremony.

On **Saturday April 25th** from 10am to 4.30pm there will be a medieval fayre in Brenchley Gardens. There will also be medieval clothing, jewellery, toys, tarot reading and be on the look out for the clown. Maidstone Museum will be holding scriptwriting sessions and there will be Celtic style, folk rock music playing in the bandstand.

On **Sunday April 26th** the Medieval Fayre will continue to entertain crowds in Brenchley Gardens from 10am to 4.30pm, along with a mechanical fire breathing dragon and robotic horse. At 1.30pm there will be the traditional Scouts parade in the town centre.

The events have been organised by Maidstone council, North West Kent Racial Equality Council and Town Centre Management and is supported by the Kent Messenger and Kent County Council. For more information visit www.tour-maidstone.com

Times are changing for Maidstone Market

Visitors and traders will benefit the most when Maidstone Borough Council's Market changes its closing time.

From Tuesday, April 7, Maidstone Market is changing its closing time from 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Brian Moss, says: "The extra hour will give people a chance to come along during their lunchtime, this always happened in the past and the market was then busy. I think it's a great decision and everyone will gain from it."

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
7th April	Spring Show & River Medway Part 2	Graham Johnson
Saturday 9 th May	Plant Sale	
? May	Local garden visit	TBA
5 th June –7 th June	Weekend visit to Hampshire	
12 th July	Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit	
4 th August	Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green	
1 st September	Autumn show & talk - TBA	
6 th 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.

Grafty Green Gardening Club



- ❖ April meeting (Tuesday 7th) is the Spring Show and we have a new trophy to present to the exhibitor with the most points so more entries mean more points. Show schedule is available from Rosemary Smith. The speaker is Graham Weeks, who will talk and display his images of The River Medway – part two; we saw part one last year.
- ❖ Sissinghurst visit – we meet there at 6.30 on 5th May if you are a National Trust member bring your membership card.
- ❖ Saturday 9th May – plant sale day on the village green at 10am. Please bring any contributions on the morning. Excellent quality plants for the tubs, baskets and bedding. Also a selection of vegetable plants. There will be some cakes, biscuits, buns etc. at the cake stall and to go with the tea and coffee which will be served outside the shop.
- ❖ Any enquiries the following committee members will be glad to hear from you. Rosemary on 850526, Carole on 850221 or Sue Burch - 850381.

GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB HAMPSHIRE GARDENS - WEEKEND TRIP

Come and join us for an interesting and enjoyable weekend away visiting the Gardens of Hampshire. We will be staying at the Holliday Inn, Southampton leaving on Friday 5th and returning on Sunday 7th June.

The cost of the entire trip is £200.00 which includes Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meals, Coach and all entry costs.

For further details please contact Carole Frost at (01622) 850221 or Mobile 07817 459 186

The Grafty Gourmet

Yet another very simple recipe for you to try. This is a great alternative to seafood risotto. Long-grain rice can be used instead of risotto rice, but it won't give you the traditional, creamy texture that is typical of Italian risottos. I usually use unsalted cashew nuts, instead of peanuts, but either will do.

Italian Chicken Risotto

Serves 4

2 tbsp sunflower oil
15 g (1/2 oz) 1 tbsp butter or margarine
1 medium leek, thinly sliced
1 large yellow pepper, diced
3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, diced
350 g (12 oz) risotto rice
a few strands of saffron
1.5 litres (2 3/4 pints) chicken stock
200 g (7 oz) can sweetcorn (drained)
60 g (2 oz) 1/2 cup toasted unsalted peanuts or cashew nuts
60 g (2 oz) 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
salt and pepper

1. Heat the sunflower oil and butter or margarine in a large saucepan. Fry the leek and pepper for 1 minute, then stir in the chicken and cook, stirring until golden brown.
2. Stir in the risotto rice and cook for 2 - 3 minutes.
3. Stir in the saffron strands and salt and pepper to taste. Add the chicken stock, a little at a time, cover and cook over a low heat, stirring occasionally, for about 20 minutes, or until the rice is tender and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Do not let the risotto dry out - add more stock if necessary.
4. Stir in the sweetcorn, peanuts or cashew nuts and Parmesan cheese. Then season with salt and pepper to taste and stir for a further 2 minutes.

The Grafty Gourmet

PILGRIMS WAY ARTISTS

Valerie Woollven President - Marie Prett Chairman - Yvonne Bonham Treasurer



VISUAL ARTS

PILGRIMS WAY ARTISTS 2009 - 12th ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Saturday 16th May to Monday 25th May Lenham Tythe Barn 10am-6pm daily.

30 local artists including potters and sculptors - exhibiting over 300 works
FEATURED ARTIST JANET JACKSON - PAINTINGS ON SILK & RAKU
CERAMICS

Demonstrations - Workshops - and on the spot portraits.
Parking & Admission Free.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 12th April 2009. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 11th April 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Lenham

Saturday 11th April: 09:00 – 10:30 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

Lenham Swimming Club

Please help save this valuable community facility

We are seeking more volunteers to help us continue opening the pool at Swadelands School to the public this summer and will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 14th April from 7pm in the meetings room at Swadelands School.

As reported at the end of last season, there are doubts as to whether the pool will open this year due to lack of helpers. This has been an ongoing issue during the last few years but we have always managed to operate some of the sessions. This year, however, we have even fewer volunteers than ever before and it is likely that the pool will not open at all.

If you would be willing or interested in helping in any way - for 2 hours a month or 2 hours a week - all offers of assistance are welcome, please come along to the meeting or contact myself on 01622 859174 before 14th April. Thank you.

Chris Hills
Chairman

Lenham Wanderers Football Club

Centenary Club Lottery

The results of the **February** 'Centenary Club' draw were as follows:

1st Prize - No. 29 Winner - John Taylor
2nd Prize - No. 53 Winner - Samantha Bragg
3rd Prize - No. 49 Winner - Paula Fairman

The results of the **March** 'Centenary Club' draw were as follows:

1st Prize £30 No. 57 Kim Kerry
2nd Prize £12 No. 29 John Taylor
3rd Prize £6 No. 33 Julie Stockman

If you would like to join our 'Centenary Club' and have a chance of winning a cash prize each month, please contact either Bill Taylor on 01622 858724 or Roy Dayes on 01622 850203. Cost to enter is £1 per month or £10 for full 12-month membership (2 free months!). Entry is for over 18s only.

Kevin Bragg
LWFC Youth Secretary

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 give details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:

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	Arch	Cake	Fish	Angel
2	Basin	Rice	Summer	
3	Mother	Second	Trail	
4	Body	Day	One	
5	Back	Butt	Soda	
6	Big	Blood	Half	
7	Day	Pipe	Sweet	
8	Agent	Country	Real	
9	Better	Broke	Chance	
10	Hang	Run	Tones	
11	Starters	Doctors	Last	
12	Carrier	Stool	Wood	
13	Muddle	Break	Traffic	
14	District	Wet	Maid	
15	Production	Media	Land	
16	Quarters	Shave	Knit	

The April Night Sky

The sun is in the constellation of Pisces at the start of April, and moves into Aries on the 18th April.

Full Moon occurs on Thursday 9th April, when the Moon is in Virgo, and New Moon on Saturday 25th April.

For a while now it has not been possible to see Mercury. However, this month there is an opportunity to see this small planet in the western sky after sunset. After Saturday 18th April shortly after 9:00 pm BST, it will appear as a tiny dot just above the horizon slightly north of due west.

At the end of last month Venus was at inferior conjunction (almost directly in front of the Sun). During April it rises in the east about an hour before sunrise. Although still very bright it will not be easy to see just above the horizon at dawn.

As I reported last month we will not be getting any good views of Mars or Jupiter until late summer. However towards the end of the month you should be able to spot Jupiter low in the south-eastern sky early in the morning before sunrise.

Again this month you should be able to get some good views of Saturn through a telescope. Saturn rises in the east in the middle of the afternoon, and reaches its highest point in the sky to the south in the late evening. You should clearly see the disc of Saturn together with many of its moons. The famous rings will appear as a narrow oval.

Towards the end of April the Lyrid meteor-shower should be active. The meteors will seem to radiate outwards from a point in the constellation of Lyra, close to the bright star Vega, which is high in the southeast after midnight.

A number of you may have read early last month that NASA has launched a rocket in search of answers to the age-old question: "Are there other worlds like ours out there?"

The Kepler mission with a sophisticated telescope, named after the 17th century German astrophysicist, will not be looking for signs of life, but will be focused on the so-called 'habitable zone' within our own galaxy. Up to now Astronomers have found over 300 planets orbiting other stars, but they are mainly inhospitable gas-based giants similar to Jupiter. The latest update on the mission is that Kepler is about 1 million miles away, which is about 4.5 times the distance to the moon.

John Maunder

Spring into Action!

Now that spring is here, why not sow the seeds to grow your IT skills?

Egerton Telecottage Computer Centre is running its last programme of short courses before the summer break. These include popular favourites for beginners – Basic IT, Word Processing and an introduction to the Internet - as well as instruction on Digital Photography and Desk Top Publishing. The Centre is also offering a further Parent Aware course to guide parents and guardians on the safe use of the Internet for children and making the most of eBay to buy and sell goods. The dates are:

WP Basic – 4 weeks Monday mornings 10am-12pm - 20/27 April, 11/18 May
Basic IT – 4 weeks Tuesday mornings 10am-12pm - 21/28 April, 5/12 May
eBay – 2 weeks Monday afternoons 1-3pm - 22/29 June
Parent Aware – 2 weeks Wednesday mornings 10am-12pm – 3/10 June
Digital Photography – 4 weeks Wed mornings 10am-12pm - 22/29 April, 6/13 May
Desk Top Publishing – 4 weeks Wed afternoons 1/3pm - 27 May, 3/10/17 June
Internet – Thursday evenings 7/9pm from 7th May – dates to be confirmed

Contact SylviaTillman on 01233 756050 to find out more or book a place.

Don't forget you can also get technical help and advice on using computers by dropping into the Computer Clinic at the Telecottage between 10am and 12pm every Saturday morning. You can make use of the up to date PCs and software, as well as our facilities for printing, photocopying, scanning and laminating equipment – ideal if you need to produce copy for your local club or society or want to search the Internet for work or leisure. Our volunteer helpers can guide you on finding useful websites - such as on producing a CV, or booking travel and accommodation.

Find out also about the benefits of social networking sites for senior citizens! Age Concern research shows that over two thirds of 'silver surfers' say using the Internet has improved their lives. Whether it's using Facebook to stay in contact with friends, Skype for international calls to family abroad or using blogs to just have their say, social networking empowers previously isolated older people to stay connected and engaged.

We look forward to seeing you at the Telecottage

Music Notes – April

As Easter is earlier this year we do not have quite as many “Easter Concerts” as last year – our musicians do not have quite as much time to prepare! However, church music features at Easter and is prominent in my April list:

- Sunday 5th April, 7.00pm at Canterbury Cathedral, local singers under the direction of David Flood perform Stainer’s *Crucifixion*. Tickets 01227 464764
- Good Friday, 10th April - Churches Together in Maidstone have a service open to all at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Week St., Maidstone, centred around Roger Jones’s cantata *Jerusalem joy*.
- Saturday 25th April, 7.30pm at the Church of St. James the Great, East Malling, East Malling Singers are leading a “come & sing concert”. Singers can join them for a performance of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*. Potential singers phone 01622 750943 for details. Tickets for the performance phone 01622 750943.
- Also on Saturday 25th April Gravesham Choral Society have a Mendelssohn Celebration Concert at 7.30pm in Rochester Cathedral. Details GCS website or 01795 436669
- Wednesday 29th April at 2.30pm Margaret Tomlinson (known to many readers as Margaret Macham, her married name) will give a piano recital at Pastorate, Ulcombe Hill. The programme includes pieces by Scarlatti, Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. Tickets, which include afternoon tea, from Frances Hardy 01622 842915.

The Month’s Good Cause

The Samaritans

The UK now has one of the highest attempted suicide rates in Europe. Last year alone, at least 142,000 people tried to take their own lives. Of those, around 6,000 sadly succeeded – leaving countless grieving family members to face life without them.

Samaritans take some small comfort from the fact that without their phone lines, thousands more people could have lost their loved ones. However, they rely on the

financial support of givers, and it is clear that they need assistance to continue to reach out to people in distress.

They do not just man telephones, valuable though that is. They target groups they have identified as being particularly vulnerable to suicide, so that they can help people to deal with their feelings before they become suicidal. For example, their current project is to increase their work with young people, and to channel help to their volunteers who take the message of prevention into colleges, and who teach students how to look out for each other.

During the foot and mouth crisis they increased their work in rural areas, and distributed 60,000 copies of their booklet "coping with stress".

They believe that only by reaching out in ways like these can they hope to reduce the shocking suicide rates in the UK. And they need your help.

The Samaritans is a registered charity no. 219432. You can make your contribution to their work by including them in your prayers and by sending donations to David Richards, Head of marketing, The Samaritans, FREEPOST, Melksham, Wilts. SN12 7BR. Further information is available on website www.samaritans.org.uk

Brian Hardy

Women's World Day Of Prayer

On March 6th two Women's World Day of Prayer services were held in the Benefice, and it was great to have so many people attend. At St. Mary's Church in Lenham a service was held for the first time in several years. On arrival worshippers were asked to "sign in" on a large gingerbread man signifying the variety of members of the Body of Christ. This was the theme chosen by the women of Papua New Guinea who wrote the service. Churchwarden, Vera Congdon led the service. Speaker Helen Venn spoke about the value of each member of Christ's body; she encouraged women to use their differing gifts.

In the evening at All Saints', Ulcombe, Rosemary Davis led the service. Joan Drury was the speaker, choosing for her theme the women involved in saving the infant Moses from death. At both services Rosemary exhibited artifacts from P.N.G. and spoke about life there. Earlier in the week school assemblies were held at both Platts Heath and Ulcombe schools where the children were fascinated about the day in the life of a schoolchild there.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 3	Word 2	Word 1
1	Angel	Fish	Cake
2	Pudding	Summer	Rice
3	Nature	Trail	Second
4	Every	One	Day
5	Water	Soda	Butt
6	Brother	Half	Blood
7	Dreams	Sweet	Pipe
8	Estate	Real	Country
9	Even	Chance	Broke
10	Over	Tones	Run
11	Orders	Last	Doctors
12	Pigeon	Wood	Stool
13	Through	Traffic	Break
14	Nurse	Maid	Wet
15	Mass	Land	Media
16	Close	Knit	Quarters

Find the missing word?	
1	Honor Blackman, Actress who starred in the Avengers
2	Reet Petite, No 1 song for Jackie Wilson
3	Sylvester Stallone, Actor who played Rocky & Rambo
4	David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party
5	Gary Cooper, High Noon Actor
6	Barry Manilow, Crooner who sang Copacabana
7	Lorna Doone, Novel by R D Blackmore
8	John Logie Baird, Inventor of the TV
9	Lambeth Palace, London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury
10	Harry Enfield, Star of Kevin & Perry Go Large

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

Sunday 5th April Palm Sunday

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham All Age Service
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe All Age Service
7pm All Saints Ulcombe Taize Service

Lenten Reflections in Holy Week

Monday 6th April

7.30pm Boughton Malherbe

Tuesday 7th April

7.30pm Harrietsham

Wednesday 8th April

7.30pm Lenham

Thursday 9th April

7.30pm Ulcombe

Good Friday 10th April

10.00am for 10.15 start Walk of Witness starting from the Church of The Good Shepherd Harrietsham, finishing at The URC in Lenham at approx 12noon where those who would like to can stay and have refreshments and a Bring and Share Lunch 2pm - 3pm an Hour vigil in each of the four Churches.

Saturday 11th April

6.30pm Service of Light in St. John the Baptist Church Harrietsham

Sunday 12th April Easter Day

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

Sunday 19th April 2nd Sunday of Easter 'Low Sunday'

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
6.30pm St. Nicholas Boughton Choral Evensong

Sunday 26th April 3rd Sunday of Easter
8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

St Peter's Catholic Church, Bearsted

Button Lane, off Cavendish Way, Ashford Road, ME15 8NJ.
Mgr Timothy Galligan 736100

4 April - Palm Sunday Vigil

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass with Blessing of Palms

5 April - Palm Sunday

10.30am Mass with Procession and Blessing of Palms

9 April - Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

10 April - Good Friday

11.00am Way of the Cross

Children especially welcome

3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's
Passion and Veneration of the Cross

11 April - Easter Vigil

8.30pm The Easter Vigil Service

12 April - Easter Sunday Morning

10.30am Easter Sunday Mass

The Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Harrietsham

Rectory Lane, off East Street

5 April - Palm Sunday

8.45am Mass with Blessing of Palms

10 April - Good Friday

12 Noon Way of the Cross

12 April - Easter Sunday Morning

8.45am Easter Sunday Mass

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

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meetings will be held in Grafty Green Village on 12th May 2009 at 7.30pm.

All members of the Parish are invited to attend and see what the Parish Council has been doing for the past year. There will be reports presented by that main organisation that use Parish facilities – such as the Village Hall and the Gardening Club.

After the meeting there will be a get together with the parish Councillors with drinks and nibbles supplied. Should you wish to view any of the past meetings minutes they can be viewed online on the Boughton Malherbe Parish Website.

<http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

Select **Minutes & Agendas** from the options on the left of the presented homepage.

Christian Message – April 2009

I suppose we must all remember some particular journeys we have taken. Some of them have been long and tiring, some have been beautiful, some we have enjoyed the company and often they might have been journeys which have not gone according to our plans. For instance, we might remember problems of reading maps, or taking short cuts which have led to us becoming very lost.

I recall the surprise of outstandingly beautiful views as we drove through Western Ireland on a holiday. I remember having to keep young children amused as we travelled on long journeys. And then there was a car journey to an interview north of Manchester. It was an important interview which would span 3 days. Of course, I wanted to make sure I would be there in time, but, as I approached Manchester I discovered that the motorway was closed. I found I was exploring unfamiliar territory, with the knowledge that I would now be late arriving. Of course, when I arrived I discovered that everyone else had experienced the same problem and that was how we broke the ice, sharing the experiences we had all had on that journey.

In the Christian calendar our journey to the Easter season began on Ash Wednesday which was on 25th February this year. Since then we have been travelling through the season of Lent and looking forward to the glory of Easter day. This journey for the Christian is a journey of purpose and focus. Jesus began his journey to Jerusalem resolutely. There was no indecisiveness in his course of action. Like our life journeys his would take some unusual twists in surprising directions, that are often not the easy way.

I wonder if you can remember part of your life journey when the travelling had taken longer than expected but you may have concluded that 'it was meant to be'? When we say that, do we mean that God had wanted us to take that particular route to accomplish some particular purpose?

At other times we might actually have chosen to take the longer route through our short-sightedness, or maybe we have tried the short cut which has taken us somewhere quite different to where we had intended to go.

We read in Luke 9; 51 that Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem. As we travel towards Easter let us decide where we will set our face to look for our guidance and our focus on our continuing life journey.

Millie Hart