



Malherbe Monthly

Number 55
February 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Vacant	
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	Christine King email: christine-king@hotmail.co.uk	07710 457297
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858915
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	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the March edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th February**

Front cover: ‘All our Yesterdays’ in Grafty Green – Picture taken on New Years Day this year by John Collins.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Questionnaire

I hope by now that a good many of you have picked up a questionnaire from the Village Shop or from the back of the Church and have filled it in. If you haven't had one put through your letter box please take one from the shop, take a little time to fill it out and place it in the box provided in the Church or shop. You are not expected to sign the Questionnaire, so it is a good chance to express your opinion. The information gathered will help with any decisions we may make regarding the Church services or alterations to the building (disabled access, toilet facilities or creating extra space so that the building can be used to better effect).

Lent Lunches

We will be holding our Lent Lunches again this year. The lunches will start on 4th March and will be held Wednesdays during the season of Lent finishing on the 8th April. The lunches start at 12.00 and end at 2.00 p.m. We serve many different soups which are delicious and are served with fresh bread, with a coffee or tea to finish. Next month I will have a list of venues worked out and hope you will be able to join us on one or two or perhaps all of the Wednesdays. There will be a dish at the door for your donation and the proceeds are sent to Christian Aid as our contribution to Christian Aid Week, which is held in May each year.

Prayer List

Our new Rector Dick Venn has asked Vanessa Goodwin to be our contact person for prayers to be said for those people, who are sick, distressed or for whom life has become very difficult. If you know someone who is having a difficult time and you would like prayers to be said for them, please let Vanessa have the person's name either by e-mail or phone. Vanessa's e-mail is: vanessa@goodwin.net and her telephone number is 01622 858372. She will then inform the Benefice Office and the person's name will be added to the Prayer List.

Transport to Benefice Services

I would just like to remind you that on Benefice Service Sundays when the Service is held in a neighbouring parish, there are people who will be attending these Services who would be very happy to take an extra passenger or two in their cars. Please ring Joan on 850210 to request transport and a lift can be arranged for you.

Dates for your Diaries

- Lent Lunches on Wednesdays starting 4th March until 8th April - venues to be arranged
- Parish Picnic: It is hoped to have a parish picnic in early June
- Cream Teas: Once again we will be holding Cream Teas in July and August at St. Nicholas Church.
- Invicta Singers Concert at Ivy House Farm 11th July. Bring a picnic, look at the view and listen to the Invicta Singers with their selection of popular music, songs from shows, spirituals, classical and folk. Let's pray for good weather.

Joan Davidson

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



Sue's Yoga Classes

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

* BALANCING * ENERGISING * DE-STRESSING * MAINTAINING
FITNESS *

at

Grafty Green Village Hall
Church Road

Thursday Mornings

8th January – 12th February 2009

Mixed ability class - suitable for beginners

9.30 – 11 £5 a session

And yoga for Mums with Baby

Also Thursday Mornings

11.15 – 12.30

£5 a session

*Wear clothes that allow free movement and bring a small
blanket.*

For further details contact Sue Burch on 01622 850381

Yoga for maintaining or regaining youthful agility, strength,
stamina and relief from stress

News from Maidstone Council

January 26, 2009 - Ref: KJ/090119

Reduce, reuse, recycle and be reassured where it's going

Maidstone residents can be sure that none of their recycling is being stockpiled or sent to landfill. Recent reports in the national press have suggested that recycling is in crisis with rubbish carefully sorted by householders piling up in vast warehouses as the market for waste paper collapses.

That isn't the case in Maidstone.

In Maidstone paper is reprocessed at Aylesford Newsprint in Kent where it is recycled into newsprint. Card is reprocessed in Kent into new cardboard; glass is reprocessed in the UK into new glass bottles and jars; cans are reprocessed in the UK into steel and aluminium for various uses; plastics are reprocessed in the UK into plastic for various uses and garden waste is composted in Essex.

Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Mark Wooding said: "Keep on recycling because we're going to make it even easier for people to recycle once the council's new fortnightly recycling service for paper, cardboard, tins and cans and some types of plastics is fully rolled-out by May.

"We are committed to ensuring recycled materials from Maidstone residents are dealt with properly and we are recycling everything either locally or nationally.

"We want to reassure people that what they recycle is going to the right places and in Maidstone's case not piling up in vast warehouses as the national newspapers suggest."

Most households will be getting a new 190 litre bin for their weekly rubbish collection. Residents will be asked to use their existing green bins for their fortnightly recycling collections and special arrangements will be made for people who don't have wheelie bins or space for a second bin.

Glass bottles and jars can be taken to recycling banks, where they will be recycled into new bottles and jars but if you put them in with your rubbish they will be collected and burnt and used as aggregate in road construction.

There are no changes to the way Maidstone council collects garden waste.

News from Maidstone Council

January 28, 2009 - Ref: KJ/090122

There'll be fun, fun, fun in February

Maidstone Museum has the half-term activities covered so pop in and take part.

On Monday, February 16th youngsters under 12 can 'makasaurus'. From 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm there will be drop-in sessions to create fake fossilised dinosaur bones by sprinkling sand over a 3D picture. The cost is £2.

On Tuesday, February 17th there is a session called guess how much I love you? Children can come along for a story-telling and craft activity. This will be on from 10.30am-11.30am and 1.30pm-2.30pm. The cost for this is £2 and it is recommended for under 5's.

On Wednesday, February 18th there will be a chance to make an ancient Greek plate out of clay. It can be decorated with black painted figures and youngsters can learn about pottery that was fashionable over 2,000 years ago. The cost is £2.

There will be a Roman objects hands on station on **Thursday, February 19th**. From 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm there will be a drop-in session looking at artefacts and replicas from the museum's collections. This event is suitable for all ages and is free.

Also on **Thursday**, adults and children over 12 can make a fabric covered coat hanger. All the materials are provided or you can bring along your own fabric remnants.

To finish off half-term week at the St Faith's Street museum there will be chance to make a Netsuke on a key chain on **Friday, February 20th**.

Netsuke are Japanese toggles that secure cords holding personal object containers onto robes. Materials will be provided and the cost is £2.

For more information on any of the events listed call 01622 602838 or visit museum.maidstone.gov.uk

GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB 2009 PROGRAMME

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 th January	AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips	Sissinghurst gardener: Amy Cabey
3rd 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	
? 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 Ogle
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 Grafty Gourmet

Being a bit of a romantic, I have decided to do a recipe for Valentine's Day. However, it can be made all year round. As usual, the dish is very simple to make, so even some of the non-cooking males out there, could make this for their loved one.

VALENTINE'S CRAB NEWBURG

(Serves 2)

175g/6oz White Crab Meat

75g/3oz Long Grain Rice

150ml 1/4 Pint of Double Cream

2 Eggs Yolks

25g/1oz Butter

4 Tablespoons of Sherry

Salt, Paprika

1. Boil the rice in salted water until tender. (Between 10 and 15 minutes).
2. Melt the butter in a frying pan and add the crab meat and fry gently for 2 minutes.
3. Put the eggs yolks and cream in a bowl and beat together.
4. Stir the sherry into the crab meat, and then slowly stir in the egg and cream mixture. (This must be done slowly, ensuring that the heat is not too high).
5. Season with a pinch of salt and paprika.
6. Simmer gently for 5 minutes without boiling, and stirring quite frequently.
7. Drain the rice and arrange on a warm plate, and add the crab mixture to the centre and serve.

The Grafty Gourmet

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

Find the missing word?	
1	The Dynamic ____, Batman & Robin
2	____ __ Wine, A hit song by UB40
3	Romeo and _____, Shakespeare play
4	____ Abbot, Lou Costello's comedy partner
5	Pied _____ of Hamlet, Legendary Character
6	_____ under the Sun, Agatha Christie book
7	Game _____, A TV Quiz for example
8	Gail _____, A corrie character
9	Leamington ____, Warwickshire Town
10	_____ Walker, Motor racing commentating legend

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

Grafty Garden Cuttings – February

With gardens either solid or sodden, it has not been easy to continue working them this winter. A quick dash between down-pours, to cut off a barrow load of dead leaves and top growth has been about the limit - no digging, no mulching and very little pruning, as yet. Other things have kept us busy, including decorating, although I cannot claim to have done much, as apparently I splash the paint too much?! I do however; provide endless coffee and helpful advice, pointing out runs and missed patches and suggestions along the lines of 'shall we do the bathroom next1. Quick, back to the gardening.

Weather permitting this month, the digging and tidying really need completing; sweet peas can still go in, likewise an early sowing of peas and beans, which can all be started off in pots, or with peas, in lengths of guttering and transplanted at a later stage. With the ground so wet, it is best to work from a plank, or cover sections with cloches to aid warming up and drying out, but better still, stay off all together and plant into containers for a few early crops. Buy seed potatoes and 'chit1 them, i.e.: stand them, the end with the 'eyes' uppermost, in trays (egg boxes being ideal), in a cool, light and frost free place, for shoots to develop, ready to plant next month. Autumn fruiting raspberry canes should be cut to the ground and any spotted or old leaves cut away from hellebore clumps, which both removes disease and shows off the blooms. Winter flowering shrubs can be given a tidy, once blooms fade and maintenance to tools and machinery can be completed.

Very few birds have visited our feeders this winter, but we still have some about the garden, especially blackbirds - or we did have. I followed the pitiful sound of one in distress to see two hawks flying off, one with the blackbird in its talons. Little piles of black feathers testify to their other successes at the top of the garden. A day or two later, I disturbed another hawk as it plucked the feathers from a small catch, in the Norway spruces. A few little feathers floated sadly down as the hawk dashed away: I know they have to live too, but they seem to be doing a good job of clearing out many of our local garden birds. On a more positive note, the Long Tailed Tits come busily through on most days, Blue, Coal and Great Tits are also about and pair of Thrushes are back. When I did manage some undergrowth clearance, I also found the remains of a clutch of partridge eggs, so I hope they too, will return. The Robins have also paired up, so it might be an idea to trim any unruly hedges before nesting starts - but not if hard frosts are forecast again.

For those of you with areas of dry ground, beside walls or hedges, for example, why not come along to our next Garden Club meeting, on Tuesday 3rd February, and find out how to deal with them?

Rosemary Smith

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The Morris dancers, Line dancers and Toddler group are all now back at the centre after the Christmas break.

I have to thank Hazel for a great Karaoke night the first one she has done she told me, but it did not show. Some how Hazel always seems to organise a great time what ever she does, and even better still enjoys herself at the same time. An added bonus were the folk with good voices, now where were **they** when we were looking for carol singers?

It will soon be time for our AGM and I would like to see more villagers attend and voice their views on community use of the hall this year. Any villager willing to serve their community on the committee would be extremely welcome, we are in need of new ideas. With the current economical climate we should be using the hall for more community based entertainment .

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

Patricia Dibley Secretary St Edmunds Trustees

News from Platts Heath School

Firstly, may I start with an apology to those of you who like to keep updated with news from Platts Heath School as it has been several months since I have written, but I wasn't in the best of health throughout the month of December and well January is just a struggle at the best of times. I'm glad to say I'm back in good health, a few pounds heavier mind you, but nothing a bit of exercise won't sort out! Note to self : be honest, stay focused - winter is almost over and remember not to eat cakes, biscuits, crisps, crackers, cheese, butter, bread, chocolates, wine, calories, anything nice or tasty.....

I am glad to report that the Christmas Fayre was a roaring success, fortunately, we were blessed with a dry day, a wee bit nippy for some but it all adds to that Christmassy feeling doesn't it, anyway the cold didn't stop you paying us a visit or taking your hand out of your pocket for which we are most appreciative. Your generosity enabled us to raise a spectacular £2,250.82. As far as we know that is the highest sum ever raised at a PHS Christmas Fayre and as you can imagine we are ecstatic.

We hope to purchase a PA system for the school that will enhance the already fabulous shows the children put on for our entertainment at Christmas and in the Summer, and as I mention fabulous entertainment I must thank all of the infants who delighted us with their carol singing at the Fayre, it was such a treat, thank you also to Mrs Thomas for organising this. Special thanks to Peter Reeves of Woods of Headcorn who donated a brand new BMX bike won by Josef Huntington, age 12 of Sandway, Ged Butler and family for the tasty BBQ amongst other stuff, Fiona Reeves for her fab chutneys, Kane Goddard for scrumptious pies, Santa, all the parents, children and teachers of PHS, the residents of Platts Heath, The Kings Head, Grafty Green Garden Centre and of course the PTFA

It feels like we've only been back at school for five minutes but we are fast approaching another break. It all passes by so quickly I hardly have time to draw breath never mind write this article, if that sounds like I'm moaning I'm not! There just never seems to be enough time to fit everything in, I know we always get there in the end somehow or other and better to be busy than not but how are some people able to get everything done and make it look easy.

This all comes about as I am reflecting on my experience recently of getting organised for our Christmas Fayre and the kid's craft club in particular. Throughout November the PTFA invite our junior children to an after school club to make a variety of crafts to sell at the Fayre, This has always been very successful as it was again this year but I don't mind telling you it was hard work and got me thinking, how does the teacher make sure that every child is doing what he/she is expected to do, that no one is left out, that everyone is praised and that they are all behaving, that they have fun, enjoy learning, plus make sure they reach their targets, keep up to date with the latest teaching methods and teach mixed year groups to boot? Conclusion: I don't know how they do it, I find it remarkable that they do, I am in awe of their talent and I have a new found admiration for what they do!

Unfortunately, at the end of 2008 we had to say good bye to one of those talented people as Mrs Janet Coleman, our year 3 and 4 teacher retired. We wish Janet and her husband a happy retirement and want her to know she really will be greatly missed. We welcome Mr Peter Brown who has taken over from Mrs Coleman.

And very sadly, we will end this term with the heartbreaking news that Norma Jones, who taught our Year 5 and 6 students until she retired in July 2008 died on 21 January. Norma was a much loved teacher at Platts Heath for many years and was greatly missed when she retired. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad and difficult time.

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	Planning	Ghost	Centre	Town
2	Straight	Thinking	Fast	
3	Health	School	Chief	
4	Shopping	Dash	Bus	
5	Clock	Weight	Bird	
6	Stick	Light	Wick	
7	Warming	Purple	Beat	
8	Attention	Life	Wing	
9	Water	Ground	Neck	
10	Precious	Heavy	Scrap	
11	Reaction	Saw	Anchor	
12	Drinking	Milk	Box	
13	Brand	Broom	Moon	
14	Builder	Key	Piece	
15	Decay	Pick	Sweet	
16	Ball	Elbow	Lawn	

This page is intentionally blank



Egerton Telecottage

New Computer Courses for 2009

Situated in the centre of the village of Egerton, the Telecottage is run by volunteers and offers computer courses for all levels, starting with the absolute beginner.

Egerton Telecottage Computer Centre is starting a new programme of computer courses in the New Year - including a brand new course to give parents hands on experience in protecting their children from some of the risks of using the Internet.

Carol Hulm, a qualified instructor and computer consultant, who has joined the team of volunteers at the Telecottage, has designed a short two session 'Parent Aware' course which will alert parents, relatives or school staff to the risks for children of using the internet and provide easy to understand tips for checking children's on line activities and methods of parental control, including understanding anti-virus software.

Carol says "I think the internet is brilliant with all the special offers and the special networking that it brings - it can save you money, bring you closer to friends and relations from around the world and lots more. But it can bring risks. If you don't know what your children are doing on the internet they could accidentally get into trouble using chat rooms, downloading inappropriate material or allowing a virus on the computer that could cost hundreds of pounds to get fixed. It only takes a few hours to understand how to keep your computer free from viruses and make it safer for your family"

The Telecottage is planning to offer some other new courses in the New Year if there is demand – such as editing videos to put on to computers and using Skype for free telephone calls. It now has the latest Office 2007 software with Vista and can provide training in how to use it for those used to earlier versions or facing it for the first time with a new computer.

Dates for courses starting from January 2009 are:

- Basic IT Tuesday mornings – 13/20/27 Jan/3 Feb
- Basic IT Wednesday mornings - 4/11/18/25 March
- Intermediate W.P. Wednesday mornings - 14/21/28 Jan/4 Feb
- Basic W.P. Monday mornings - 2/9/16/23 March
- Digital Photography Tuesday evenings - 6/13/20/27 Jan
- Desk Top Publishing Thursday mornings - 5/12/19/26 March
- Vista & Office 2007 Thursday evenings - 15/22 Jan
- Parent Aware Monday evenings - 26 Jan/2 Feb
- Parent Aware Tuesday mornings - 3 and 17 March
- Ebay Thursday afternoons - 12/19 March
- Internet Wednesday evenings - 4/11/18 March

Ring Sylvia on 01233 756050 to find out more about the courses and to book a place.

The Ulcombe History Society

The next meeting of the Ulcombe History Society will be on Tuesday the 17th of February at 7.30 pm in Ulcombe Village Hall.

There will be a brief AGM followed by a talk by Imogen Corrigan on *The Green Man in English Churches*. This will be a return visit by Imogen as she is an excellent speaker.

Her talk will be followed by light refreshments.

We welcome visitors. The History Society is open to anyone with an interest in history.

Membership Secretary

We are looking for someone to take on the task of Membership Secretary. It's not an onerous task – just a question of keeping up to date with names and addresses and the payment of subscriptions - £7.50 a year.

Anyone interested please contact Molly Poulter on 01622 842988

The February Night Sky

At the start of February the Sun is in the constellation of Capricornus and is moving into Aquarius on the 16th. Full Moon occurs on Monday 9th February in Leo. At this phase, it is on the opposite side of the sky to the Sun, and therefore rises at sunset in the east, and shines through the night and sets in the west at sunrise. New Moon will occur on Wednesday 25th, and will be visible in the southwest at sunset.

Mercury is at its greatest separation from the Sun on February 13th, but as it rises just an hour before sunrise, it again will not be easy to see this elusive planet.

As many of you will have noticed, Venus is still a brilliant 'Evening Star' in the southwest at dusk, and throughout this month it is not setting until about 9:30 pm. Relative to the stars Venus is moving rapidly north-eastwards in Pisces, and is far brighter than any of the stars. In fact it is at its brightest on 19th February, and can be bright enough to cast a faint shadow. It is interesting to note that on the evening of Friday 27th February, the narrow crescent Moon will appear just below Venus, and will be in the same field of view if observing through a telescope or binoculars.

I am afraid that this month both Mars and Jupiter rise shortly before sunrise, and therefore will not be easily visible. We will all have to wait until after summer to get any reasonable views of these planets. Saturn is still rising in the middle of the evening, and is well up in the southern sky by dawn. It is moving very slowly north-westwards, and lies to the lower left of the star Regulus in Leo.

In 'The May Night Sky' article last year I briefly explained the theory of thermonuclear fusion, the power source of our Sun, and in fact all the stars. I also mentioned that many scientists were working on ITER, 'The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor' with the aim of creating the fusion reaction on Earth, which could solve the world's energy problems. To this aim scientist in a Californian laboratory will begin attempts to ignite a tiny man-made star in a laboratory and trigger a thermonuclear reaction. From a speck of fuel no bigger than a pinhead, their goal is to generate temperatures of more than 100 million degrees Celsius and vast pressures. If successful, this will be the first step towards building a practical nuclear fusion power station. The process involves firing 192 laser beams at a small fuel pellet held inside a gold capsule, needed to generate x-rays. The laser beams enter the capsule through holes, releasing x-rays, which heat the fuel to vast temperatures. This in turn causes the outer shell of the fuel pellet to burst off generating huge pressures, which compress the fuel. Hydrogen atoms then fuse together creating thermonuclear fusion.

John Maunder

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 22nd February 2009. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 21st Feb: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 1st Feb: 12:15 – 13:00 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 8th Feb: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

Saturday 21st Feb: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

The following correspondence was received by Pat Anderson - Clerk to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council from Maidstone Borough Council:

We know that some parish councils are concerned that the weekend freighter service could be withdrawn.

I want to assure you that there are no plans to withdraw the service although we do want to make it more efficient. We want to reduce the travelling time between sites and target the areas where it is needed most.

A decision will be made in the next few weeks and we'll keep you informed of any changes, which would be introduced in April.

**Steve Goulette
Assistant Director
Regulatory and Environmental Services**

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

Music Notes - February

February gives us a little more local music to choose from. Here is my selection, of which of course our local Leeds musical panto production must be first choice:

- Friday 6th February, 7.30pm at Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Music Society presents a programme by the prize-winning Brodowski quartet. Works include Mozart's string quartet in D minor K421, Mendelssohn's string quartet No2 Op13 and Schubert's string quartet in D minor D810. Tickets 01622 844888
- Friday & Saturday 6th & 7th February, LADS presents *The Pied Piper* at Leeds Village Hall. Details 01622 631280.
- Saturday 7th February, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra concert of 20th Century music includes Elgar's *cello concerto* (soloist Guy Johnson) and Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*. Tickets 01622 736 392.
- Saturday 21st February, 7.30pm at Astley House Concert Hall, Kent Music, Hastings Road Maidstone – Kent Chamber choir and Kent schools Orchestra present a “Something for everyone” concert - Anthems, songs, orchestral music from the movies, and more. Tickets 01622 737916

The Month's Good Cause

Kenward Trust

It is four years since we featured Kenward Trust as our "Month's good cause". Then they had just started work on the construction of a new residential rehabilitation wing to be built onto Kenwood House, at Yalding. That is long completed and in operation, and now they are set to open in Hawkhurst a residential rehabilitation project for women.

This local Christian charity provides a home for homeless people needing a stable base to recover from problems or addiction, including drug and alcohol misuse. Delivered by fully trained and competent staff, the main components of the programme at the new venture will be individual care plans, group therapy, key working, weekly objectives, personal development reviews, spiritual awareness, life skills (including, where appropriate, parenting skills) and more, all designed to help residents return to society as contributing members of the community.

The continuing expansion of their work means more fund-raising is required, above that needed for the day-to-day running of the charity. The trust needs donors to enable them to continue this work of bringing new life from addiction to those who consider themselves to be worthless, by contributing to their funds.

They also ask you to pray for their work, including not just the residential homes, but also the two structured day recovery programmes they run in Maidstone and Tonbridge, and their small team of outreach workers who actively seek out and help those unable to help themselves. Incidentally, one outreach team that works with young people in Pembury and who go out in our Winter weather to achieve their aims say "On nights like this we could really do with some of those large "puffer jackets" or padded anoraks, but realise that finances are scarce just now so we will have to wait" If you think you can help, please phone the Grey Zebra Youth Outreach Team on 01622 817 820.

Kenward Trust is a registered charity no. 265394. You can add your help by including them in your prayers and by sending donations to Bill Morris at Kenward House, Yalding, Kent ME18 6AH. Further information is available on website www.kenwardtrust.org.uk

Brian Hardy

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Planning	Ghost	Centre	Town
2	Straight	Thinking	Fast	Forward
3	Health	School	Chief	Inspector
4	Shopping	Dash	Bus	Trolley
5	Clock	Weight	Bird	Watcher
6	Stick	Light	Wick	Candle
7	Warning	Purple	Beat	Heart
8	Attention	Life	Wing	Span
9	Water	Ground	Neck	Polo
10	Precious	Heavy	Scrap	Metal
11	Reaction	Saw	Anchor	Chain
12	Drinking	Milk	Box	Chocolate
13	Brand	Broom	Moon	New
14	Builder	Key	Piece	Master
15	Decay	Pick	Sweet	Tooth
16	Ball	Elbow	Lawn	Tennis

	Find the missing word?
1	The Dynamic Duo , Batman & Robin
2	Red Red Wine , A hit song by UB40
3	Romeo and Juliet , Shakespeare play
4	Bud Abbot , Lou Costello's comedy partner
5	Pied Piper of Hamlet, Legendary Character
6	Evil under the Sun, Agatha Christie book
7	Game Show , A TV Quiz for example
8	Gail Platt , A corrie character
9	Leamington Spa , Warwickshire Town
10	Murray Walker , Motor racing commenting legend

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

1st February Candlemas

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Service
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Service

8th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Service
11.00am Lenham Family Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
7.00pm All Saints Ulcombe Taize Service

15th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm St. Nicholas Boughton Choral Evensong

22nd February Sunday before Lent

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm St. John the Baptist Harrietsham Informal Service

Christian Message – February 2009

Testing times

You shall not put the LORD your God to the test Deuteronomy 6:16

The trouble is that I have done so, many times. Maybe it's because He always helps when I need it.

In the 1980s my brother lived in Cincinnati and a friend lived in Canada. I saved hard and by the spring of 1981 I could afford to visit America.

Two weeks before going my mother phoned me at work. "Don't go, you'll come home in a box," she fretted. Scathingly, I continued with my plans, determined to prove that nothing could go wrong. At 22 I was fearless and I was about to test God far further than I should.

The cheapest flights were To JFK Airport where I needed to spend 36 hours on my own in New York before starting my travels overland. I went to ask an airport official about taxis.

"You alone?" He looked incredulous. "Go down the escalators and only get in a yellow taxi as advised by one of our people in uniform. Keep your bags with you in the back - and stay away from 42nd Street." For once I decided to do as I was told.

The next official bundled me into a blue taxi and swept my bags into the trunk. The driver asked where I was going and looked up the price of the hotel rooms in a catalogue before setting off at high speed, ignoring my request for my bags to be returned. I tried to follow his route with my street map but he swung round corners and circled the city every which way he chose. 42nd Street came and went. It was quite obvious we weren't going to the hotel.

I began to pray but somehow seemed removed from the situation as if in a dream. I was praying for my life but at the same time I felt sure that God would look after me, in whatever guise that took. I felt many emotions but I can remember remaining calm.

Eventually the driver stopped in a remote street and turned round to look at me. He asked me for half of everything I had for my trip. I simply gave him what he asked for. He shrugged, perhaps disappointed that I hadn't given him a good excuse to dump me in Harlem, and he took me back into the city.

I was filled with thankfulness and praise but such is the insatiable energy of youth that, far from taking heed of my mother's words or those of the first airport official, I spent the next day walking the length and breadth of Manhattan Island. Only much later did I really think about all the *What ifs* and that we are actually responsible for our own actions. I'd tested God beyond any reasonable degree and yet He had continued to look after me quite literally, every step of the way.

So why shouldn't we test Him?

Do not put the LORD your God to the test Matthew 4:7

We should respect the Lord obediently and have faith in His promises rather than seek continual proof of His power and care. Due to our own weakness I expect we do the latter far too often but because He loves us He forgives and continues to provide the reassurances we need, sometimes quite dramatically!

Pamela Cuerden

Furniture Recycling

What shall we do with it? Surely someone could use it. These are questions asked by those who have surplus items of furniture to dispose of but as reluctant to put them on the freighter.

For over 20 years the **Beacon Furniture Service** has been providing a recycling service for residents of Maidstone and the surrounding area. The original aim was to provide furniture for those in need. Skill training and work experience is also available for those who are unemployed.

If you would like to donate some furniture please telephone 01622 671792 (furniture@thebeaconchurch.org). Please note that the furniture needs to be in good condition and fire retardant and labelled as such to comply with the Furniture and Furnishings Regulations 1988.

The Beacon Furniture Service exists as an expression of the vision of the Beacon Church to visibly demonstrate God's love and power.

Joan Drury