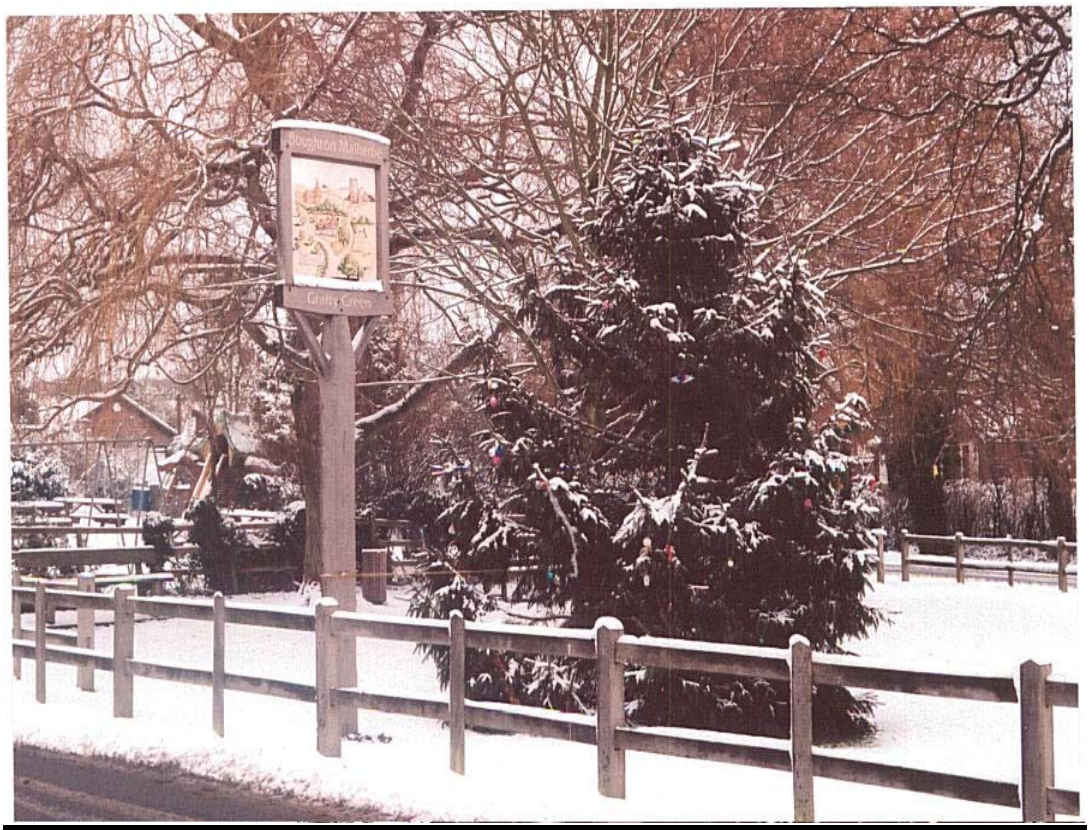
Malherbe Monthly

Free

Number 29 December 2006



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Sandy Bruce-Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Liz Watts	737321
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Revd Don Irvine (email: revdonirvine@uwclub.net)	859466
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 3.30 by Post Office	
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Chris King Mike Hitchins John Collins	Advertising: Christine.kings@btinternet.com Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net Treasurer	850711 858937 850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts do not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the January edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 10th December

Front cover: Grafty's Village Green late Dec 2005 – Picture courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas re-wiring, the installation of new lighting and heating and the re-decoration of the interior of St. Nicholas is almost complete. The Church is looking wonderful inside and features which have not been very visible before can now be seen. All the monuments on the walls are easy to read, including the very old wall brasses on the walls of the Chancel. A hearing loop has yet to be installed, but the wiring for this is in place. New legislation decrees that we have this facility. The roof repairs and re-plastering of the facade of the porch is next on the list and is about to be started as I write this piece for the magazine.

When all the work is finished, we hope to have an open day so that we can show off our wonderful new decorations etc, but of course before that happens anyone can come along and have a look inside the church. Our services are at 9.15a.m. and on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Evensong is at 6.30p.m. Starting in the New Year our morning services will be at the new time of 9.30a.m.

Some of you maybe wondering how we have managed to have all this work done and the cost of it all - the answer is by very careful money management lead by John Collins. The overseeing of the work has been done by Kenneth Alexander on behalf of the PCC. Our legacy to the next generation is a clean, bright and WARM Church - a Church to be really proud of. We haven't got a loo yet but that will come in the not too distant future we hope.

Our thanks are due to Peter Culham our electrician, Keith the painter and the other members of the team, not to mention all ladies and gentlemen who have helped with the cleaning of the church after the scaffolding had been removed and that has been a mammoth task. Thank you all so much.

St. Martin's Day Procession

On Sunday 12th November the children of the Sunday School, supported by mums and dads and members of the Benefice Congregations, celebrated the feast day of St. Martin with a short service held by the West Door of St. Nicholas followed by a lantern lit procession to the Old Rectory, where the Goodwin

family laid on a wonderful candle-lit tea for us all. Many many thanks to Vanessa, Dominic and Gerda for such a fantastic tea.

St. Nicholas Procession

The St. Nicholas Day Procession is to be held in Canterbury again this year. It will gather at the Westgate at 1.00p.m. The procession will start from there about 2.00p.m. and will parade through the main shopping area of the City finishing at the Cathedral with a short service lead by Bishop Stephen and the Dean of Canterbury and St. Nicholas. They will have taken part in the procession making sure people realise that, despite all the rush and bright lights and panic of "Have I got enough of this and that", all this is because a little baby was born in Bethlehem in a stable all those years ago. Come and join us – it's great fun. If anyone would like a lift get in touch with Sally, Mair or Joan.

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service will be held in St Nicholas Church on 10th December at 9.15a.m. This is a lovely Service for children and their parents. Each child will receive a Christingle to take home.

Carol Singing

We will be Carol Singing again this year on Tuesday 19th December. We will meet on the Green by the Christmas Tree at 7.30p.m., sing there for a short time then move on to March Farm where Audrey and Roy Wickens will entertain us. Next we're off to the Who'd a Thought It and back to the Kings Head. Come along and join us for a fantastic evening. We will be collecting for Demelza House Children's Hospice once again.

A Candlelit Carol Service

The Carol Service will be held on 17th December at 3.00p.m., a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This will be a celebration for the completion of the all the new lighting etc. After the Service we will serve punch and mince pies as usual. Do come along and see for yourselves what a lovely old Church we have, now that it's properly illuminated and heated.

Crib Service

The Blessing of the Crib will be on 24th December Christmas Eve at 3.00p.m. - a lovely service for the children. This service is candlelit too.

Joan Davidson

Neighbourhood Watch

Kent Trading Standards would like to make you aware of the following.

Consumers may receive a card posted through their door or an E-mail from a trader called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service). The card or E-mail suggests that the sender was unable to deliver a parcel and that they need to be contacted on 0906 6611911. This is a premium rate number charged at a minimum of £1.50 per minute. Consumers are advised **NOT** to call.

Kent Police is urging the public to be vigilant to the dangers of identity theft. This coincides with National Identity Fraud Prevention Week which aims to raise public awareness of the threat of identity theft.

Kent Police's Cheque and Credit Card Unit have recently uncovered an Aladdin's cave of stolen property, along with lists of credit card numbers used to buy the goods, at two addresses in Gravesend following a number of arrests and property searches.

We would like to encourage you to pick up a leaflet in your bank, post office or on the front counter of Maidstone Police Station. Please read the leaflet to make you aware of ways you can protect yourself.

With the nights darker earlier can I warn you and your member to take caution in keeping your curtain and blinds open when your internal house lights are on. This will ensure that passer-by can not see into your home. Also, please think about getting timer switches for your lights, then if you are home later in the

evening your house has not been kept in darkness. Mid Kent Police still has one of the lowest burglary rates, however it is always better to be safe than sorry.

I have been informed that the yellow pages will delivered in your area over the next three weeks. Can you please make your members aware and ask them to take any in for the neighbourhood. Having them left on the doorstep can make your house look empty.

Sue Burch

Grafty Green Gardening Club

A social event on Tuesday 5th December in Grafty Village Hall from 7.30. Supper and talk by Colin Coe - Further details from Sue Burch 850381.

The new programme for 2007 will be published in December and membership renewal is in January. The January meeting will be on Tuesday 9th - AGM plus a talk - further details to follow.

Sue Burch

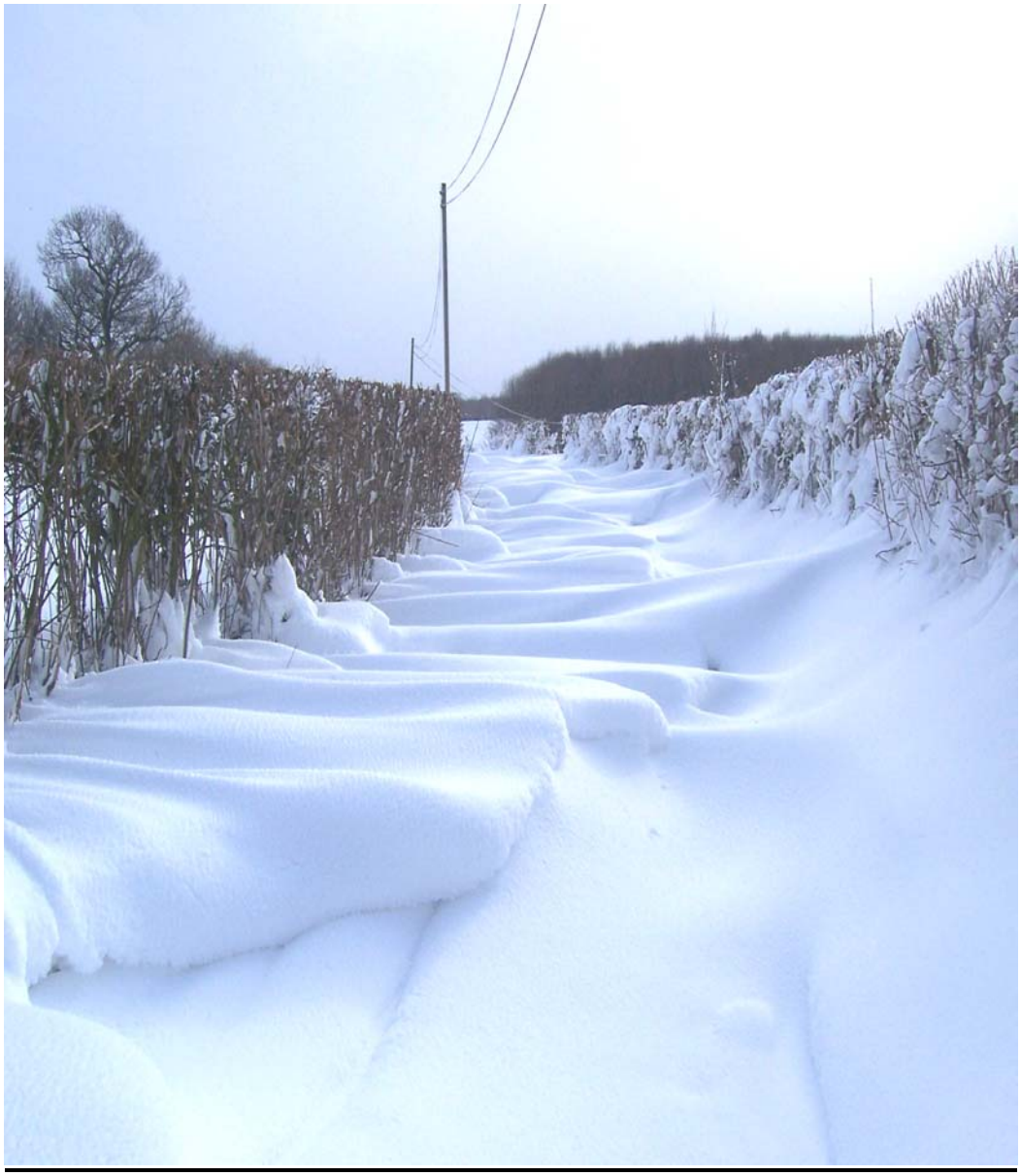
Grafty Green Village Hall

The Dance held in the Hall on Saturday 18th November was an outstanding success with over 70 people enjoying the excellent band **Walls have Ears**. Many thanks to all those who attended and contributed towards a great evening. The event raised £530 that will go towards Hall funds to improve the facilities the Hall can offer its users.

With Christmas almost upon us the next scheduled event in the Hall will be a Barn Dance with the Band **Folkal Point** with calling by the experienced and popular Roy Gill to be held on Saturday 24th March 2007 starting at 7.30pm. More information regarding this event will be published in forthcoming issues of this magazine and on posters throughout the parish.

Grafty Green Village Hall Committee

Winter Scenes from 2005 – Let's hope its not repeated this winter Looks good though !!



BUS SERVICE 59
Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

I'm sure you might just have noticed, but it will soon be Christmas, and many of you will now be well into your Christmas shopping. It might be timely, therefore, to remind you that Bus Service 59 is still operating, and that it really can provide a practical alternative to the car, especially with the particular difficulties of finding somewhere to park at this time of the year.

The Monday to Friday service is provided by Arriva (01622 697000 / www.arrivabus.com) and on Saturdays, including the period 27th to 30th December, by Nu-Venture (01622 882288 / www.nu-venture.co.uk).

Nu-Venture's Saturday service is funded by Kent County Council (www.kentpublictransport.info) and the same prices and ticket arrangements apply as on Arriva's Monday to Friday services. The current fares between Grafty Green and Maidstone, some of which were reduced earlier this year, are as follows:-

- Adult Single £3-20
- Adult Off-Peak Day Return £4-80 (available after 9am Mon to Fri and all day on Saturdays)
- Children from aged 5 to their 16th birthday travel at half the Adult fare at Off-Peak times.
- Persons aged 60 and over, of course, travel free at Off-Peak times, as long as they are in possession of a countywide free off-peak travel permit, available on application from Maidstone Borough Council (01622 602334).

Although unchanged from the last time it was published in July's Malherbe Monthly, the current timetable is reproduced again for reference.

As with many rural services, bus routes, particularly those which are subsidised, are always under review, so the message as ever is **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

John Collins
(Representing Boughton Malherbe Parish Council on the Service 59 Working Group)

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

59

Mondays to Fridays

Service No:	59	59	♣ School Days Only 66	School Days Only 59	Not School Days 59	School Days Only 59	59	59
Maidstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	—	1552	1552	1612	1657	1747
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	—	1555	1555	1615	1700	1750
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	—	1557	1557	1617	1702	1752
Wheatsheaf	1236	1411	—	1604	1604	1624	1709	1759
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	—	1608	1608	via Sutton Rd and Langley	1713	1803
Linton Corner	1244	1419	—	1612	1612		1717	1807
New Line Learning – Cornwallis	—	—	1505	—	—		—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1249	1424	—	1617	1617		1722	1812
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1509	1620	1620		1725	1815
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1512	1623	1623		1728	1818
Warmlake Corner	1258	1433	1515	—	1626	1638	1731	1821
Kingswood, Village Hall	—	1438	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	—	1523	—	1634	1646	—	1829
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	—	1530	—	1641	1653	—	1836
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	—	—	—	1648	1700	—	1843
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	1535	—	—	—	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	1544	—	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

See Note 1				
♣ 59	♣ 59	♣ 59	♣ 59	
0836	—	—	—	
0838	1241	1525	1755	
0840	1243	1527	1757	
0847	1250	1534	1804	
	1254	1538	—	
	1258	1542	—	
	—	—	—	
	1303	1547	1817	R
	1306	1550	1820	R
	1309	1553	1823	R
0859	1312	1556	1826	R
—	—	1604	—	
0907	1320	—	1834	R
0914	1327	—	1841	R
0921	1334	—	1848	R
—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	

Mondays to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only 59	School Days Only 59	Not School Days 59	♣ School Days Only 66	59	59	Not School Days 59	School Days Only 59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	0736	—	—	—	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	0745	—	—	—	—	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0723	—	0723	—	0915	1325	—	—	1703
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	—	0730	0750	0922	1332	—	—	1710
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	—	0735	0755	0927	1337	1440	1440	1715
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	—	0738	0757	0929	1339	1442	1442	1717
Warmlake Corner	0746	—	0744	0808	0935	1345	1448	1448	1723
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	via Langley and Sutton Rd	0739	0747	0809	0938	1348	1451	1451	1726
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn		0742	0750	0811	0941	1351	1454	1454	1729
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion		0745	0753	—	0944	1354	1457	1457	1732
New Line Learning – Cornwallis		—	—	0820	—	—	—	1507	—
Linton Corner		0750	0758	—	0949	1359	1502	1509	1737
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill		0756	0802	—	0953	1403	1506	1513	1741
Wheatsheaf	0758	0800	0806	—	0957	1407	1510	1517	1745
Maidstone, King Street	—	0810	0814	—	1005	1415	1518	1525	1753
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

See Note 1				
♣ 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	via Langley and Sutton Rd	
0759	0949	1402		
0802	0952	1405		
—	—	—		
0807	0957	1410		
0811	1001	1414		
0815	1005	1418	1624	
0823	1013	1427	1632	
—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	

Service 59: Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, **King Street,** Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Sheals Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Roads, Heath Road, Church Street, **Boughton Monchelsea,** Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Brishing Road, Amber Lane, **Chart Sutton,** Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Chartway 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.**

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.

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.

Service 66: New Line Learning – Cornwallis, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

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 – December

The sparrow hawk came to breakfast the other day, so close that we could look it in the eye. As we sat in the conservatory, eating ours, it dashed into the clematis, hooked out a sparrow and was away. We did have quite a large colony of sparrows, but either they are too frightened to come down to the feeders as much as they did, or most of them have already made sparrow hawk breakfast, lunch or supper. A sight that thrilled us recently was seeing the flock of starlings that comes in to Eastbourne pier as dusk falls. Little flocks gradually come in from all directions, to make one huge flock, which then performs amazing acrobatics and shape shifting, before falling to earth to roost for the night on the metal struts under the pier. This is one of the few places where this sight can still be seen.

Our strange late autumn continued with little really good colour, but in the end a few frosts did bring the leaves down and the grass, at last, seems to have stopped growing but the digging still beckons. It is also a good month for 'projects', like moving sheds or reorganising the borders, planning spring jobs and ordering seeds. Garlic, peas and broad beans should be up and protected by cloches and sweet peas will need pinching back, once they are 2-3 inches high.

To keep rose diseases, like blackspot, at bay, all dropped leaves should be collected up and burnt and mulch spread around the base of the plant, to smother any spores which might linger. New roses can be planted now, using plenty of compost in the planting hole (roses like rich soil) and more of the oft mentioned mulch applied, or hardwood rose cuttings can also be taken, inserted into a slit in the ground filled with grit, firmed in and left for a year until well rooted, before being lifted and moved to their final spots.

A composting trench for next year's runner beans can be started: dig out a deep trench and, completing small sections at a time, line the bottom with several layers of damp newspaper, add a thick layer of kitchen waste and cover with soil. Leave to rot over winter.

Between all these jobs it's time to celebrate, so I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

Rosemary Smith

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

	Question	Answer
1	What gave Band Aid a Christmas No1 in 1984 & 1989?	
2	Which Brenda was Rocking Around the Christmas Tree in 1962?	
3	What went with Mistletoe on Cliff Richards 1988 hit?	
4	Which group shouted out Merry Christmas Everybody?	
5	Who went from Crinkley Bottom to the Christmas top spot in 1993?	
6	At Christmas 1980 St Winifred's School Choir sang There's No One Quite like who?	
7	Which duo sang about Last Christmas in 1984-85 and 86?	
8	What colour Christmas did Elvis have in 1964?	
9	Which Christmas cartoon film had "Walking in the Air" as a theme tune?	
10	In 1975 where is Santa Claus Coming, according to the Jackson Five?	
11	Driving Home for Christmas was a big hit for whom in 1988?	
12	Who did Greg Lake say he believed in, in1975?	
13	Which Tale did David Essex take to No2 in1982?	
14	What did Dora Bryan want for Christmas in 1963?	
15	According to Adam Faith what was in a Christmas Shop in 1960?	
16	Who wished It Could Be Christmas Every Day in 1973?	
17	Who had a Wonderful Christmas Time in 1979?	
18	What was Johnny Mathis/s 1976 Christmas hit?	
19	Who sang "Frosty the Snowman" in 1963?	
20	Who is credited on the label of "Happy Christmas War is Over"?	

YOGA

Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings

9.30 - 11.00

New Term Commenced 7th September

£5 a session

Yoga for stamina, suppleness, strength and stress relief

Mixed Ability Class

For further details contact Liz Watts on 01622 737321

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

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

This magazine can now additionally be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition all back issues for 2006 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

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 1st April 2007. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 20th Jan: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Saturday 10th Mar: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Saturday 23rd Dec: 07:45 – 08:30 -: Lodge Gardens

Sunday 25th Feb: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Platts Heath

Saturday 16th Dec: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Green Lane

Sunday 18th Feb: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 2nd December 2006 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone. The programme consists of three works:

- Sibelius - Symphony No.7
- Britten - Serenade for tenor, horn and strings, Soloist Neil Jenkins Tenor, Peter Hatfield Horn
- Dvorak - Symphony No. 7.

A concert that contrasts the magnificent 7th Symphonies of Sibelius and Dvorak - the one broodingly Baltic, the other passionately Bohemian. They frame one of Britten's greatest works, his Serenade, with Neil Jenkins, one of our finest tenors, joining old-Maidstonian, Peter Hatfiled, horn currently playing in Norway. Concert tickets £10, £15 and £20, seats for children or students with a student Card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Mote Hall Box Office 01622 761111 when payment can be made by credit card. This concert is sponsored by Annabel Luzzatto. Many thanks for your continued cooperation and support to the MSO.

David Bramley Maidstone Orchestral Society

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successful Heating Oil Club. We have to date nearly 100 members all taking advantage of cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. To make this club work all members have to have at least the minimum 500 Litres every time we order, that is about 3 to 4 times a year. It makes sense to have a bulk order delivered over 2 to 3 days every 4 months, rather than have tankers clogging up our village every week.

We now cover Harrietsham, Headcorn, Lenham, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway Ulcombe and Biddenden. If you would like to join or need some information about the club, email me on europa.13@btinternet.com or 01622 858350. The Oil Club is non-profit making.

Family History Group

We had a successful trip to the Family Record Centre in October, 36 persons, and room for more next time. Both the journey up and back were done in record time, 1 1/2 hours up and 1hr 35 mins back. I look forward to a full coach in 2007.

There will not be a meeting in December. We resume on Monday 22nd January 2007, the 4th Monday at 7-30pm in Harrietsham School West Street.

While you are sitting at home during the winter days, why not tune into Channel 4 Teletext Pages 174 and 175 for Family Tree and Page 171 for Lost Touch. It is on from Monday to Sunday, it changes each Monday. You may find some one else who is searching the same name as yourself. It has happened to two or three of our members. Further info can be had from Frank Long 01622 850863.

Finally may I wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Frank Long

Maidstone Film Society

58th Season 2006 -2007

Maidstone film society will be showing a selection films from around the world from 11th September to 2nd April. Starting with *Les Choristes* and finishing with the Buster Keaton in *The General,* our 58th season includes *Brokeback Mountain* from the USA, *Brotherhood of war* from South Korea and *Bombon El Perro,* a comedy from Argentina.

Membership is only £24 for the complete season of 12 films.

All films are shown on Monday evenings in the Exchange Theatre, Maidstone.

See our web site **www.maidstone-film-society.org.uk** where you can see our complete program, or contact our membership secretary on 01622 672307

Egerton Telecottage

Your local Computer Centre

Can we give you some help with your computer?

Leaflets to prepare? Need to set up accounts for your club or home expenses? Tired of those problems with the internet? Want to buy something on Ebay?

We can help! We are running courses from September right through to Christmas covering Desk Top Publishing, Internet & Email, Excel, Digital Photography and Ebay, together with Basic IT, Word Processing, and Clean up your Computer plus a brand-new course which will cover simple accounts using Excel. There's sure to be something which would be of interest and we would be very glad to see you.

Most of the courses are run in the evening with one or two daytime subjects. Our rates are extremely reasonable and our facilities are excellent.

Please ring Alison, our Booking Clerk, on 01233 756366—she will be happy to give you full details.

Or call in to our drop-in centre on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon and have a chat with one of our tutors. We are situated in the new Millennium Hall in Egerton in the centre of the village.

Heaths Countryside Corridor

A Ghostly day at Bull Heath

Visitors to Bull Heath, Lenham Heath, were surprised on Sunday 29 October to find Ghosts of Lenham Heath reliving their time in this village. Local actors portrayed a variety of characters including parlour maids, farmers and bishops. Nearly 100 people spent the afternoon in Bull Heath, experiencing this event, enjoying the unusual landscape, eating hot dogs, drinking soup and warming themselves by the bonfire. The event was organised by the Heaths Countryside Corridor and the Mid Kent Downs Project and funded by Kent County Council.

HCC's AGM takes place on Thursday 7th December at 7:30 at Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Memorial Hall. This year Lesley Feakes, a local historian, will be presenting a summary of the archaeological surveys of Chilston Park. There will also be festive refreshments and everyone is welcome to join us.

To find out more about the Heaths Countryside Corridor visit http://www.heathscc.co.uk/ or contact Ruth Lovering, phone: 01622 842257, email: ruth_lovering@hotmail.com.

Get into the Christmas Spirit
at
Platts Heath School Christmas Market
Saturday 2nd December
3pm until 6pm

Tea & Cakes, Secret Room, Tombola, Grand Prize Raffle,
Craft Stalls, Mulled Wine, Hot Food and of course Santa.

You will find us on Headcorn Road, Platts Heath

The Parochial Church Council of Ulcombe Church is holding a Barn Dance in Ulcombe Village Hall on Saturday the 20th of January at 7. 30 pm.

The Caller will be Martin Young with a live band.
Children will be very welcome.
Tickets at £7.50 a head, or £18 for a Family ticket,
will include supper - but bring your own drinks. (Glasses will be provided).
Tickets are available from Molly Poulter (842988), Jean Davis (842983) or the Church Office (850604).

Date for your diary – Saturday 21 April

Ulcombe Church will be hosting a concert in memory of Jenny Balston on Saturday the 21st of April at 7. 30 pm. We are privileged to have the renowned **Barbican Piano Trio** who will be performing music by Schubert and Beethoven – the Archduke Trio being the main work in the programme.

Tickets will be £10 and available from Sue Balston on 01580 765161 or Molly Poulter on 01622 842988. All profits will be going to the Ulcombe Church Restoration Fund.

St Edmunds Centre - _Platts Heath

Well after one or two hiccups the builder has started the refurbishment at last. The paper work has taken a very long time to get in place but at long last we are there.

We held a quiz night on the 21st October and raised £339. The trustees would like to say a big thank you to the villagers of Platts Heath for their generosity on Saturday 4th November when we collected £538 in donations. The hall is now closed for 12 weeks and, weather permitting, completion should be the second week of February.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers and supporters a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Tricia Dibley Secretary

Answers to the Christmas Quiz

	Question	Answer
1	What gave Band Aid a Christmas No1 in 1984 & 1989?	**Do They Know Its Christmas**
2	Which Brenda was Rockin Around the Christmas Tree in 1962?	**Brenda Lee**
3	What went with Mistletoe on Cliff Richards 1988 hit?	**Wine**
4	Which group shouted out Merry Christmas Everybody?	**Slade**
5	Who went from Crinkley Bottom to the Christmas top spot in 1993?	**Mr Blobby**
6	At Christmas 1980 St Winifred's School Choir sang There's No One Quite like who?	**Grandma**
7	Which duo sang about Last Christmas in 1984-85 and 86?	**Wham**
8	What colour Christmas did Elvis have in 1964?	**Blue**
9	Which Christmas cartoon film had "Walking in the Air" as a theme tune?	**The Snowman**
10	In 1975 where is Santa Claus Coming, according to the Jackson Five?	**To Town**
11	Driving Home for Christmas was a big hit for whom in 1988?	**Chris Rea**
12	Who did Greg Lake say he believed in, in 1975?	**Father Christmas**
13	Which Tale did David Essex take to No2 in 1982?	**Winters Tale**
14	What did Dora Bryan want for Christmas in 1963?	**A Beatle**
15	According to Adam Faith what was in a Christmas Shop in 1960?	**Lonely Pup**
16	Who wished It Could Be Christmas Every Day in 1973?	**Wizzard**
17	Who had a Wonderful Christmas Time in 1979?	**Wings**
18	What was Johnny Mathis/s 1976 Christmas hit?	**When a Child is Born**
19	Who sang "Frosty the Snowman" in 1963?	**Ronettes**
20	Who is credited on the label of "Happy Christmas War is Over"?	**John Lennon**

From the Registers

Saturday 7th October, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, marriage of Graham Sullivan & Maria Smith

Wednesday 1st November, at Lenham, St Mary, funeral of the late John Kendall

Wednesday 1st November, at Vinters Park Crematorium, funeral of the late Ethel Denman

Friday 3rd November, at Vinters Park Crematorium, funeral of the late Elizabeth Fernig

Wednesday 8th November, at Ulcombe, All Saints, funeral of the late Christopher Egglesden

Changes to Sunday Service Times in the Len Valley Benefice

The leadership of the Benefice has spent some time over recent months examining the best way to meet the needs of the parishes within the constraints of the available resources. Those resources, across the four parishes, number several scores of committed Christians, elected and appointed members of the Leadership Team, Church Councils, Church Officers, Authorised Lay Ministers, Readers and one Priest.

In September, the leadership from across the benefice spent a day at Aylesford Priory and conducted an in-depth examination of parish life under the heading of the *'Healthy Churches Exercise'*. A separate leaflet explaining this in some detail has been widely circulated and is available upon request. The outcome of this exercise will form a basis for on-going discussion and will inform regular

Parochial Church Council meetings over the year ahead. In essence, the exercise concluded that the parishes are in *'good health'* but, inevitably and appropriately, changes and improvements were identified.

One of the first alterations to be agreed affects the timings of Sunday services; with effect from the New Year, the following will take place:

~ an additional benefice service will be introduced at the end of every month; this will 'rotate' around the four parishes in turn and will be at 10.30am. On quarterly occasions with five Sundays in the month there will be benefice services on two successive Sundays.
~ the once-monthly 8 o'clock service of Holy Communion at Harrietsham will cease; the weekly 8 o'clock service in Lenham is, of course, available to worshippers benefice-wide.
~ the regular time of Sunday worship in Boughton Malherbe will move from 9.15am to 9.30am.
~ the regular time of Sunday worship in Lenham will move from 10.45am to 11.00am; this enables the adjustment of service times in our sister-church in Boughton Malherbe.

These changes are designed to draw the worshipping community across all four parishes closer together. It is recognised that they may also bring some sense of loss but the pattern of services needs to be achievable within present staffing levels. I am most grateful to all concerned in parish leadership not only for formulating these modifications to the services, but also for their toleration and understanding of the need for change and its acceptance.

As Christians we are called to recognise that the Church, the *ecclesia*, (which is Greek for the *'gathered people of God'*) is at its most perfect when it acknowledges its unity in God's redeeming love with all who confess that *'Jesus is Lord'*. In practical terms, this means that we are called to share with those around us; to worship and work together as a united benefice of four parishes. Please watch for service times and locations in your monthly Parish Magazines and on Church Notice Boards. If you have difficulty with transport to any of the services, please contact the Office (850604) and we will try to arrange a lift for you.

Parish identity is foundational but foundations are there to be built upon and not to stand alone. Accordingly, in addition to welcoming you to regular worship in your own parish church, I look forward to welcoming you to churches other than your own, especially over this Christmas-tide when we shall also be having benefice services on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve.

Christmas blessings,
Revd Don Irvine

Len Valley Christian Union

The Len Valley Christian Union will be enjoying an evening of carol singing around Harrietsham with musicians from the Salvation Army, on Wednesday 6th December, starting in West Street by the Christmas tree at 7pm for 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join the happy occasion of rejoicing and worship. For more details, please contact Pamela Cuerden on 859442.

The Len Valley Christian Union Carol Service will be on December 17th at St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham, at 6.30pm, with guest speaker, Monsignor Timothy Galligan from St Pater's Roman Catholic Church in Bearsted. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a mixture of nine traditional and modern lessons and carols. Refreshments will be served afterwards. For more details please contact Pamela Cuerden on 859442.

There will be Carols in the Barn on Stede Hill at 6.30 on Tuesday 12tth December. This event is intended for younger people with live animals, Methodist minister, Chris Esgate speaking, plenty of song and rejoicing, and refreshments afterwards.

Pamela Cuerden

Bible*Lands*

Two of BibleLands Project Partners will be featured in a BBC1 series called 'What the world needs now'. Nazareth School of Nursing will be in the edition scheduled to go out on Sunday 3rd December and Sheepfold will be featured on Christmas Eve. Do try to watch this.

Richard Jones (BibleLands Regional Representative)

The Len Valley Benefice

Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe

Sunday/Main Services - December 2006

Date	Time/Location		Service
Sun 03 Dec 06	08.00	L	BCP HC
	08.00	H	BCP HC
Advent	09.15	BM	CW 1
Sunday	09.30	H	Christingle Fam Svc
	10.45	L	CW 1
Common Worship Year C	11.15	U	Christingle Fam Svc
begins	19.00	Bearsted	Taize
Sun 10 Dec 06	08.00	L	BCP HC
	09.15	BM	Nativity Fam Svc
	09.30	H	CW 1
	10.45	L	Christingle Fam Svc
	11.15	U	CW 1
2nd of Advent	15.00	H	'Care Home' Carols
Thu 14 Dec 06	18.30	U	Carol Svc
Sun 17 Dec 06	08.00	L	BCP HC
	09.15	BM	BCP HC
	09.30	H	CW 1
	10.45	L	CW 1
	11.15	U	CW 1
	15.00	BM	Carol Svc
	18.30	H	Carol Svc
3rd of Advent	18.30	L	Carol Svc
Sun 24 Dec 06	08.00	L	BCP HC
	10.30	H	CW 1 - whole benefice svc
	15.00	BM	Crib Svc
Christmas	15.00	H	Crib Svc
Eve	15.00	U	Crib Svc
	18.30	L	Crib Svc
	23.15	H	Midnight HC - CW 1
	23.15	U	Midnight HC - CW 1
4th of Advent	23.30	L	Midnight HC - CW 1
Mon 25 Dec 06	08.00	L	BCP HC
	09.15	BM	Fam HC
Christmas Day	09.30	H	Fam HC
	10.45	L	Fam HC
	11.15	U	Fam HC
Sun 31 Dec 06	08.00	L	BCP HC
1st of Christmas	10.30	L	CW 1 - whole benefice svc

Key

Parishes / Churches

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

Services

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

Many thanks to Eddie Brooke for printing this magazine - It is very much appreciated

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

The monthly costs are:

⅛ page	£3.00
¼	£5.00
½	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

Phone 01622 850711 or Email -christine.kings@btinternet.com