



Malherbe Monthly

Number 47
June 2008



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| County Councillor | Lord 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 | Sue Burch | 850381 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Keith Anderson Sue Burch | 858350 850381 |
| Incumbent | To be announced | |
| Benefice Office | Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk) | 850604 |
| Mobile Library | Wednesday afternoons | |
| St. Edmunds Centre | Tricia Dibley | 858891 |
| Fresh Fish delivery | Thursday afternoons at approx. 4.45 by Post Office | 01580 754300 |
| Council Rubbish Freighter | See article in magazine | |
| Malherbe Monthly Production Team | | |
| Mike Hitchins | Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net | 858937 |
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| 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 July edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th June

Front cover:

Passport control – Platts Heath School trip to Peru – See article for details of this “exciting day trip to South America”

News from St. Nicholas Church

The Four Churches Walk

The Four Churches Walk will take place on 7th June 2008. The walk can start at any of the four Churches in the Len Valley Benefice between 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. The route will take you through woodland, farmland, the Greensand Way and the North Downs between Harrietsham and Lenham taking in the Pilgrims Way. The Churches will have refreshments available, payment by donation. You can walk, ride your bicycle or even use your car and drive between the Churches so, even if you are not very mobile, you can still join in and be part of the day. Whatever you decide to do, you will be doing it at your own risk.

Our Communion Cup

Our 17th Century Communion Cup made between 1660 and 1675 has been handed over to the shipping company to be transported to the Goldsmiths Company for exhibition in the Guild's Hall for six weeks. Church silver and gold from all over England will be on display so it is a golden opportunity (excuse the pun) to see the largest collection of the goldsmiths' art ever assembled under one roof. The exhibition lasts for six weeks, 30th May to 12th July 2008 and admission is FREE. There will be items on display from many of our cathedrals and some from the royal collection. We are honoured to have been asked to loan our Communion Cup as there are only two other parishes in the diocese who have been asked to loan their silverware (and of course Canterbury Cathedral are sending exhibits from their collection). Goldsmiths' Hall is very near St. Paul's Cathedral in Foster Lane, London EC2V 6BN

Cream Teas

Our cream teas will be starting on 13th July - make a note in your diary to come along and join us. It is a lovely way to spend a summer's Sunday afternoon sitting in the sunshine eating one of our delicious cream teas. Our teas are very reasonably priced and eco-friendly: the scones are homemade and so is our jam, so our carbon-footprint is very small. We look forward to seeing old and new friends this summer.

The Hog Roast

The Benefice Hog Roast is on Sunday 6th July 2008, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm. It will be held at Wellesley House, Runham Lane, Harrietsham, which is just to the west of Platts Heath for those of you who don't know. Tickets are: Adults £9.00 and Children £5.00 available from Joan on 01622 850210 and Bob Wood 01622 859638.

Joan Davidson

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

| Find the missing word? | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | _____ Tuesday, Eve of Lent when Pancakes are traditionally eaten. |
| 2 | San _____, Home of the Golden Gate Bridge. |
| 3 | _____ Palace, London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. |
| 4 | John Logie _____, Inventor of the Television |
| 5 | _____ Doone, Novel by R.D Blackmore – set on Exmoor |
| 6 | Barry _____, Crooner who sang Copacabana. |
| 7 | _____ Mills, Recently divorced Mr McCartney |
| 8 | Lady _____, Noblewoman who rode naked through Coventry |
| 9 | _____ Blaine, Jaded gin joint owner in Casablanca. |
| 10 | Saint _____, said to guard the Pearly Gates |

Any
Brigh
t
Ideas
?

Whilst
small
grants
for
project
s
which
benefit
the
comm

unity are available and have been obtained on past occasions there is now Lottery Fund Money available for grants of up to £50.000 which would permit larger projects to be undertaken within our Parish.

For example, we understand Bearsted has completely refurbished its Village Hall with the help of the Lottery Grant.

There could be several possible projects for which our Parish could apply for funding. However, these submissions can take a long time to prepare and if we do proceed we should first receive suggestions.

Therefore, if you think you have a good idea to benefit our community then why not get in touch with Ron Galton who will collect and coordinate your ideas in the first instance. Ron can be contacted on **01622 850369** or alternatively drop him a note at 'Maples' Woodcock Lane, Grafty Green over the next 4 weeks.

Grafty Green - Yoga in the holidays:-

As the summer holiday season approaches and families may be planning what activities they could take part in, I thought I would offer to take an hour and half taster class for anyone who would like to experience yoga without having to sign up to a series of classes.

If this idea appeals to you, let me know on 850381 or email: burch1997@aol.com and I can work out a convenient time and date to organise the session. I am flexible with timing, morning, afternoon, or weekends. The cost will depend on the number of people taking part and the venue will be Grafty Green Village Hall.

Yoga enables you to keep muscle tone and strength with flexibility and relieves stress and tension. Yoga is a complete system to bring harmony and balance into your life AND yoga can be practiced by anyone, young or old, male or female. Hope to hear from you.

Sue Burch

Smarden Open Garden Weekend

Saturday and Sunday
21st & 22nd June 2008, 1 pm to 6 pm

Programme with Map £5 in advance
From Post Office and Village outlets
(£6 on the day)

8 lovingly tended gardens

Vintage Car Rally (Saturday), Classic Car Rally (Sunday)

Heritage Display and Village Trail by the History Society

See the Village from the Church Tower (£1)

Teas and Homemade Cakes at the Dragon House (£2)

Plant Stalls, Art Exhibition at the West House Gallery

Enquires 01233 770237

Friends of Smarden Church, Registered Charity Event

Grafty Garden Cuttings - June

The Chelsea Flower Show has just ended for another year. We did not manage to visit this year but enjoyed the television coverage. Gorgeous plants and flowers as ever and gardens impossible to recreate without taking out a massive mortgage but plenty of ideas to be gleaned. Something to be done once in a lifetime, though. (Visit the show, I mean!)

On the subject of gardens, Kenilworth Castle is a magnificent ruin well worth seeing, with a fine restaurant in the beautifully restored stable barn and lovely grounds to walk in. The newly built and planted Elizabethan Garden is a touch behind schedule, and not due to open until next year, which was a little disappointing, but did not spoil the day too much. A more recent visit, to the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle also gave us a lovely day out. A newly planted and opened cacti house added to the attractions, as did the refreshment tent and the plant sales section, where Tom Hart-Dyke added to everyone's enjoyment with his boundless enthusiasm and energy and knowledge of plants. The World Garden is coming along in leaps and bounds and proved to be interesting and informative.

Among the summer jobs to be done in our own patches, we have to keep up with removing weeds, cutting lawns and edges and treating lawn weeds which can romp away and smother out the grass very quickly in this wet weather. Borders need attention, cut back spring flowering perennials to encourage fresh foliage and dead-head lupins and delphiniums to encourage a second flush of blooms. If any early flowering shrubs are old and over-grown, they can be rejuvenated by taking out a third of the old growth to the ground, each year for three years.

Look out for the usual pests and diseases, especially slugs and snails which, until this rain, have kept quite a low profile. I am trying yet another slug barrier this year; coffee grouts. We are having trouble producing enough tons for all my vulnerable plants though.

Once all the baby birds have flown, hedges can be cut and the soft trimmings quickly mown up and composted, where they rot down quite easily. Weeds need hoeing down frequently; especially the zillions of ash and sycamore seedlings there are this year. Like mustard and cress every one has germinated and every metre of garden is sprouting. It is a constant battle.

Rosemary Smith



PROGRAMME FOR 2008

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|------|-------|---------|
|------|-------|---------|

| | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| 8 th January | AGM & The Vertical Gardener | Hilary Newman |
| 5 th February | New Zealand Interlude | Brian Self |
| 4 th March | The Garden as a Nature Reserve & Spring Show | Janet Bryant |
| 1 st April | “Saxon Shore Way” part 2 | Chris Wade |
| Sat 3 rd May | Plant Sale | |
| 6 th May | Outing to Coptonsh, Faversham 6.30 pm. £2.50 + £1 tea and biscuits | |
| Sat 31 st May | Outing Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst (National Trust) 2 pm House and Garden £7.50, Garden only £5.80 | |
| 20th - 22nd June | Weekend away staying in Bury St Edmunds, Best Weston Hotel, dinner bed and breakfast. Visiting Beth Chatto, Foggy Bottom, Mannington Gardens and Hyde Hall. £212 per person | |
| 1 st July | Outing Tram Hatch, Charing Heath 6.30pm £3.50 + £1 tea and biscuits | |
| Sat 2 nd August | Outing Great Dixter, Northiam 2pm £6.50 garden only | |
| 2 nd September | National Trust Gardens and how they are maintained & Autumn Show | Roger Smith |
| 7 th October | Venezuela – plant hunting | Tom Hart-Dyke |
| 4 th November | A Kent Woodland through the Seasons | Robert Canis |
| 2 nd December | Practical evening making Christmas table or door decoration & Wine and nibbles | |

The Garden Club visits Scotney Castle on the 31st May at 2pm, there is no visit in June, apart from our weekend to Bury St. Edmunds and on the 1st July, we go to Tram Hatch, at Charing Heath for 6.30pm. Entry £3.50 plus £1 for tea and biscuits.

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 | Smoke | False | Burglar | Alarm |
| 2 | Capital | Centre | Inner | |
| 3 | Commentary | Water | Repairs | |
| 4 | Battle | High | Roof | |
| 5 | Minute | Resort | Straw | |
| 6 | Good | Way | Lost | |
| 7 | Cabinet | Fore | Eye | |
| 8 | Level | Hard | Hot | |
| 9 | Sit | Rope | Air | |
| 10 | Control | Game | Solar | |
| 11 | Television | Back | Jet | |
| 12 | Number | Sided | Off | |
| 13 | Sleep | Hill | Jay | |
| 14 | Cutting | Model | Steam | |
| 15 | Board | Sticking | Cast | |
| 16 | Stock | Part | Breath | |

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

Platts Heath School Traditional Summer

Notes from the unapproved minutes of a meeting of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council on Tuesday May 13th 2008 in Grafty Green Village Hall.

Local Policing: The Parish Clerk reported that she had been advised that from now on PCSO Tom Smith would be providing information on crime figures. He had informed her that there were no crimes in the area since the last meeting and there had actually been a 9.5% reduction in crime across the ward since this time last year. PC Kemsley had informed the Clerk that he was still due to carry out a concentrated speed check,

although he had been around the village and felt that his presence had slowed vehicles down. However, speeding is still a problem and the Police will be advised that this needs to be made a priority.

Disappointment was expressed by Councillors that no representative from the Police had been able to attend the Annual Parish Council Meeting and hoped that this would be rectified at future meetings.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 18th March 2008

Speed Limit: As mentioned above the extensive speed check has yet to take place. Discussion took place as to what measures could be implemented to slow vehicles down and it was agreed that the feasibility of an electronic speed sign which shows drivers how fast they are travelling be looked in to, the general consensus of opinion being that drivers would be shocked into realising that they are driving above what, in this case, would be the 30mph speed limit. Another option might be to erect gates as has been done in Frittenden where the road becomes single track, thus slowing vehicles right down.

Kent Highways are still waiting for the Traffic Order to be advertised concerning the 30mph speed limit signs. Once this has been done, the signs can be re-sited; there had been some delay to this because of the re-organisation within Kent Highways. The estimate of £2000 for 'slow' markings in red tar at each end of the village was discussed, but will not be decided upon until the 30mph signs are re-sited.

HGV Weight Restrictions: The Parish Clerk has not yet received the relevant survey data concerning HGV weight restrictions and will again be contacting the Transportation Department at KCC to get the necessary information.

Potholes: At long last potholes have been, in the main, filled in. Kent Highways had launched a blitz on potholes across Kent during April which had resulted in the majority of potholes in our area being repaired. A few have since appeared in Woodcock Lane which the Clerk has reported.

Public Footpath-Church Road: The Clerk reported that although she had e-mailed David Nunn to find out if he had received a reply to his letter to the owners of the fence by the footpath, she had not heard from him. (A supporting stake had been driven into the ground making the already narrow path even narrower.)

Village Green: Various improvements are to be made to the Village Green, particularly in areas where the ground has been sinking. Soil has been ordered to raise the level to normal. The old bench is rotting and the seat is to be repaired. It was suggested that where fencing is in poor repair it be replaced. Rosemary and Michael Smith have all jobs in hand.

Liverton Hill: Following the report from Jacobs, the company Kent Highways use for Health and Safety issues, plus the warning from Kent Police, the hill is due to be closed on 19th May for approximately 7 days to remove the wooden bollards and replace with plastic ones; install road narrows signs on both approaches to warn drivers of the oncoming hazard and to paint 'Slow' in the road near the 30mph signs plus white lines in front of the posts on both sides. It is hoped that whilst the hill is closed something will be done about the water which is cascading down the hill together with the drainage problem.

2 Dipping Manholes: These had been reported to Richard Emmett and the Clerk was awaiting his return from honeymoon, to see what was being done. Both are in Grafty Green, one outside Lavender Cottage and the other outside the old garage.

Honywood & Douglas Charity Lenham: The Parish Clerk has advised Pat Sutton, Lenham Parish Council Clerk that Boughton Malherbe Parish Council has no objections to David Chantler and Mike Davidson being reappointed as its representatives to the Honywood and Douglas Charity.

Who'd' a Thought It: The hearing regarding the extension of hours was held on 14th April. It was determined that the hours of opening would be Sunday – Thursday 11:00-01:00, Friday and Saturday 11:00-01:30. Alcohol & Food can be served between the hours of 11:00-00:30 Sunday – Thursday and 11:00-01:30 Friday and Saturday with the following conditions:-

Notices to be displayed requiring customers to leave quietly

Doors & windows are to remain closed whilst entertainment is taking place

Noise is to be inaudible inside the nearest noise sensitive premises after 23:00. If any of the neighbours have noise issues they are to report them to the Environmental Health Dept or the Police.

The marquee outside can only be used when a special license has been applied for and granted.

Public Session: The question was raised as to whether anything was going to be done about the drain and water problem on Liverton Hill during the closure due to take place on 19th May. The Clerk reported that she was doing as much as she could by emailing and contacting the Manager and Director of Kent Highways to ensure that something is done, as it would be ridiculous to have to close the hill again. She was assured that the problem would be looked at when the hill is closed. We will have to wait and see.

Chairman's Report: This was read out by Robert Turner.

This was the final report written by Kenneth Alexander, in which he stated that the Parish Council has met on 5 occasions with an additional two meetings as a planning committee.

The speed limit, at long last, has been reduced to 30mph, though whether the speed of the traffic has been reduced is a different matter.

The state of the Woodcock Lane, in particular, was mentioned at every meeting throughout the year. All the roads and lanes in the parish are in an appalling state. Potholes are mended very occasionally, only to reappear again a few weeks later.

Liverton Hill has been opened and closed on several occasions during the year, the final fiasco being the erection of wooden and plastic posts to protect a bank which is being eroded by vehicles passing each other at the pinch places. It was very badly handled by Highways Department.

The 59 bus continues to make its journey to and from Maidstone and, as long as it pays its way, will be a permanent fixture.

There were 11 planning applications during the year, some of which are still in the melting pot. 7 have been approved, 1 refused on appeal, and 1 withdrawn.

During the year David Chantler and Mike Davidson were reappointed as our representatives on the Honywood and Douglas Charity. This Parish has an allocation of houses and if any parishioner is in need of a retirement home they should apply for one, especially as there are new ones being built now.

Finally, thanks were expressed to thank Pat Anderson, Clerk, for her support of the Chairman and Councillors and work throughout the year.

Planning Applications:

2 Walleth Court Cottages, Southernden Road, Headcorn TN27 9LN –MA/08/0668
Erection of a two-storey extension.

Development Control Manager's Recommendation is to approve and the application will be reported to the meeting of the Planning Committee on 15th May at 6pm.

The Clerk read out a reply she had received from Hugh Robertson regarding the copy letter that had been sent to him about Petsfield, in Eastwood Road. (A planning application had been submitted from travellers at Petsfield requesting the change of use of land from 'Grazing' to 'Residential'. In the letter he sympathises and agrees that it is quite wrong that travellers get rights that are denied to other people. He pointed out what we already know that all these problems are as a direct result of a decision by John Prescott. He will be writing to Maidstone Borough Council on our behalf.

Matters Arising: The Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways to report that the triangle of grass at the junction on Eastwood Road (opposite what was the Pig & Whistle), needs cutting, and could be causing a problem obscuring the vision of motorists.

Dates of the Next Meetings

12th August 2008, 4th November 2008, 13th January 2009, 17th March 2009

Christine King

Editors Note: Complete minutes of all Boughton Malherbe Parish Council meetings are available either from the Clerk or on the Parish Council Website –:

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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

Mondays to Fridays

| Service No. | School Days Only | | Not School Days Only | |
|---|------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2 | 1227 | 1402 | 1555 | 1555 |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4 | 1229 | 1404 | 1557 | 1617 |
| Wheatsharf | 1236 | 1411 | 1604 | 1624 |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill | 1240 | 1415 | 1608 | 1608 |
| Linton Corner | 1244 | 1419 | 1612 | 1612 |
| Cornwallis Academy | — | — | 1505 | — |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion | 1249 | 1424 | 1617 | 1617 |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn | 1252 | 1427 | 1620 | 1620 |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head | 1255 | 1430 | 1623 | 1623 |
| Warmslake Corner | 1258 | 1433 | 1626 | 1638 |
| Kingswood, Village Hall | 1306 | 1438 | — | 1821 |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive | — | — | 1623 | — |
| Ulcombe, Post Office | 1313 | 1530 | 1641 | 1653 |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle | 1320 | — | 1648 | 1700 |
| Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by | — | — | 1535 | — |
| | — | — | 1544 | — |

Saturdays

| See Note 1 | |
|------------|------|
| 59 | 59 |
| 0838 | 1241 |
| 0940 | 1243 |
| 0947 | 1250 |
| 1254 | 1538 |
| 1258 | 1542 |
| 1303 | 1547 |
| 1306 | 1550 |
| 1309 | 1553 |
| 0859 | 1312 |
| 0907 | 1320 |
| 0914 | 1327 |
| 0921 | 1334 |
| 1834 | — |
| 1841 | — |
| 1848 | — |

Service 59: Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Shatts 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, Linton Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Wainslade Road, Wainslade Cross Roads, Chartway Street, Bramfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Wainslade Avenue, Caysers Drive, Grafty Green, 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, Wainslade Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.
Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maidstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravely Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysers Drive, returning via the normal route.
Service 66: Cornwallis Academy, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Mondays to Fridays

| Service No. | School Days Only | | Not School Days Only | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| | 59 | 59 | 59 | 59 |
| Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by | — | — | 0736 | — |
| Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle | — | — | 0745 | — |
| Ulcombe, Post Office | 0723 | — | 0930 | 1325 |
| Kingswood, Village Hall | 0730 | 0730 | 0937 | 1332 |
| Kingswood, Ashford Drive | 0735 | — | 0735 | 0942 |
| Warmslake Corner | 0738 | — | 0737 | 0944 |
| Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head | 0746 | — | 0744 | 0808 |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn | 0739 | 0747 | 0809 | 0953 |
| Boughton Monchelsea, Albion | 0742 | 0750 | 0811 | 0956 |
| Cornwallis Academy | — | — | 0745 | 0753 |
| Linton Corner | 0750 | 0758 | — | 0820 |
| Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill | 0756 | 0802 | 1004 | 1359 |
| Wheatsharf | 0758 | 0800 | 1012 | 1407 |
| Maidstone, King Street | — | 0810 | 0814 | 1020 |
| Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station | 0808 | — | — | — |
| London Road, Somerfield Hospital | 0817 | — | — | — |
| Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park | 0826 | — | — | — |

Saturdays

| See Note 1 | |
|------------|------|
| 59 | 59 |
| 0733 | 0923 |
| 0740 | 0930 |
| 0745 | 0935 |
| 0747 | 0937 |
| 0753 | 0943 |
| 0756 | 0946 |
| 0759 | 0949 |
| 0802 | 0952 |
| 0807 | 0957 |
| 0811 | 1001 |
| 0815 | 1005 |
| 0823 | 1013 |

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.

May Day Celebrations

We certainly were blessed this May Day. When the weather looked like it would take a turn for the worse it held off just long enough so that our May Day celebrations could be enjoyed without a hitch. Even though they had been up since the wee small hours to welcome the sun rise on this important day of the Celtic calendar known as Beltane, The Rabble Folk Theatre Group brought along their 'Jack in the Green' and performed traditional pagan songs and dances to celebrate the coming of summer and the fertility of the coming year. The children were able to join in and demonstrate the Maypole dances that they have been taught over the past few weeks from one of our mums Abi Crutcher, who is a member of the Rabble Folk Theatre Group. Every year Abi takes on this task and we are never disappointed, once again it was an enchanting display.

In case you didn't know, The name Beltane originates from the Celtic god Bel – the 'bright one' and the Gaelic word 'teine' meaning fire, giving the name 'bealttinn', meaning 'bright fire'. This is the beginning of the 'lighted half' of the year when the sun begins to set later in the evening and the hawthorn blossoms. To our ancestors Beltane was the coming of summer and fertility. Nature is in bloom and the earth is full of fruitfulness and life

Here's one for the ladies and I can remember my mum telling me this one:
The dew on the May Day morning is believed to have a magical potency – wash your face and body in it and remain fair all year, and guarantee your youth and beauty continues.

See you in the garden next May Day morning then girls?.....The lengths we women will go to!

Fly to Peru for £1

That was the offer to good to refuse on Tuesday 20th May at Platts Heath School. In their goal to help the street children of Peru the whole school took a day out to learn about the culture of this country. I have to confess that I knew little of this country other than the fact that it was somewhere in South America and that it was once part of the great Incan Empire. Peru is now a country racked by economic troubles and corruption. Many families live in extreme

poverty and unfortunately the children suffer. Education takes a back seat for these working children who work long hours in squalid conditions and are surviving on a day to day basis. In these harsh conditions so many are abandoned by their families who cannot afford to keep them and they are forced to live and work on the streets.

One of our teachers Mrs Coleman has a daughter Melanie, living and working in Peru trying to help and educate these children. She asked if there was anything we could do to help. Being a small school with only 72 pupils they weren't sure that they could raise very much or how, but the teachers managed to come up with the ingenious idea of 'visiting Peru' for a day.

The children were invited to fly to Peru for the cost of £1. They were asked to come to school in their holiday clothes and were permitted to carry one item of hand luggage. After checking in at 9 o'clock they were steered through passport control where their passports and bags were checked by Glenn (Jacobs dad) our local customs and excise officer. All seemed to run smoothly as they were escorted to the St Edmunds Hall, oops sorry, I mean the aeroplane, where they were successfully boarded by the very smart PH air stewardesses, who all wore black and red outfits and bore a striking resemblance to our teachers. The children were welcomed by the pilot Mr Priddle who looked very smart in his pilot uniform. They were informed of the emergency procedures with accompanying actions from both Mrs Neil and Mrs Robinson, before taking off and settling down to some light refreshments and in flight entertainment with a short film about Peru followed by a Paddington Bear film.

Their visit to Peru consisted of sampling the local cuisine, learning some history, Peruvian dancing, making rain makers, weaving and learning the language which of course is Spanish. If you remember your history, Peru was captured by the Spanish Conquistadors in 1533 and was under Spanish rule for almost 300 years until they regained their independence again in 1821. The Spanish lessons were kindly given by Miranda Motley, daughter of one of our teaching assistants Catherine. So, I am now able to count to twelve and name various body parts in Spanish. Gracias Miranda.

At the end of the day it was back through passport control where Glenn was kept on his toes with a few suspicious characters, who of course had nothing to declare!

The Captain and his crew should be congratulated on such an outstanding day. There was so much attention to detail and an abundance of activities going on, I

don't know how they managed it. All their efforts certainly paid off as they have raised an unbelievable sum of £243.

All of the money raised will be forwarded to Peru and let's hope it can make a difference to someone's life. We wish Melanie Coleman all the best with the remarkable work she has undertaken in Peru

Gracias to all those involved in such a fantastic day, one I'm sure the children will remember for a long time.

Adios Amigos

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

Platts Heath "Little Angels" Toddler Group.

As from May 19th we will be holding regular toddler Group playing sessions in the St Edmunds Centre.

They will be on Mondays 10 to 12. (Term time only)

Any queries call Karen Yardley on 01622 858208

THE LEN VALLEY BENEFICE

St John's, Harrietsham

St Mary's, Lenham

The Four Church Walk
All four churches will be open on
Saturday June 7th
9.00 AM – 4.00 PM

**But if walking is just too much, dust off your cycle,
and if you feel too wobbly on that, it will not be frowned upon if
you even use a car.**

St Saints, Ulcombe

St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

Neighbourhood Watch

It is strongly recommended to fit a locking device to your Oil Tank. Several villages in Kent have been hit by thieves stealing Oil from unlocked tanks.

Keith Anderson (Neighbourhood Watch)

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

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

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

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 27th July 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 7th June: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 26th July: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Sunday 6th July: 14:30 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Sunday 13th July: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

Saturday 7th June: 09:00 – 10:30 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd
Saturday 26th July: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

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

The June Night Sky

It doesn't seem that long ago I was mentioning the Winter Solstice. As the Sun moves into the constellation of Gemini later this month it reaches it's most northerly point on June 20th, which of course is the Summer Solstice (the longest day). So then, to depress you, our days will start to shrink!

This month New Moon occurs on 3rd June and can be seen low in the north-eastern sky at sunset. Full Moon is on 18th June and rises in the southeast at sunset.

It is not the best month to view either Mercury or Venus. Mercury is in front of the Sun (inferior conjunction) on 7th June, and Venus passes behind the Sun (superior conjunction) on 9th June.

Mars is still visible in the western sky after sunset, and sets in the west about midnight. It is moving rapidly into the constellation of Leo and will set earlier every evening.

Whilst on the subject of Mars, some of you may have read that Nasa's Mars Phoenix Lander is due to make its perilous descent onto the surface of Mars any time now. One has to marvel at modern technology when you consider that this small craft, after a nine-month journey, hits the atmosphere of Mars at 13,000mph. It then deploys a heat shield followed by a parachute at 1000mph, and finally rockets thrusters for a soft landing.

The giant planet Jupiter rises in the southeast about midnight and is low in the south at dawn. It is in the constellation of Sagittarius, moving slowly westward. It should be difficult to miss, as it is brighter than any of the stars.

Saturn is in the western sky after sunset and sets in the west around midnight. It is moving very slowly south-eastwards in the constellation of Leo.

June is the best time of the year to see Noctilucent ('Night-Shining') Clouds. These are high altitude clouds, which are still in the sunlight, and formed of tiny ice crystals. They can be very beautiful varying from a pink sunset colour to a blue-white light. The best time to look for them is around 1.0 am, low in the northern sky.

John Maunder

The Grafty Gourmet

This month's recipe is another simple dish that can be made in about 10 minutes. It can also be served with rice instead of Tortilla Chips, by leaving out the cheese and grilling process. However I find that the Tortilla Chips make a nice change to rice, especially during the warmer months of the year.

CHILLI CHICKEN WITH TORTILLA CHIPS

(Serves 4)

40g Butter

4 x Chicken thigh or breast fillets - chopped

4 x Shallots - chopped

1 cup of sieved tomato (purchased in cartons)

½ cup of mild chilli sauce (I tend to use 'Linghams' - with yellow label, which is not a sweet chilli sauce)

1 Tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

245g packet of Cheese or Cool flavoured Tortilla Corn Chips

1 Cup (125g) grated tasty cheddar cheese

1 Tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1. Heat butter in a frying pan. Add chicken and cook until browned. Add chopped shallots, stirring until the shallots are soft.

2. Stir in sieved tomato, chilli sauce and parsley, simmer for about 5 minutes or until sauce has thickened.

3. Place Tortilla Chips in an ovenproof dish, top with chicken mixture in centre of Tortillas (leaving some of the Tortilla exposed around the edge of the dish), sprinkle with cheese. Grill until cheese is melted. (Keep an eye on it under the grill, as the cheese melts quite quickly. It is very easy to over cook the cheese and burn the Tortilla Chips).

4. Serve sprinkled with extra parsley. Serve with salad if required.

This recipe (without Tortillas) can be made a day ahead and stored (covered) in the fridge. The chicken mixture can also be frozen for future use.

Friends of Kent Churches Annual Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk

This event has been running for over 20 years and this year promises to be a really successful day. The event takes place on Saturday 13th September 2008 from 10am to 6pm. Over 700 churches across Kent will be involved, welcoming riders and walkers, often with refreshments. Money is raised through sponsorship and is shared between your nominated church and the Friends of Kent Churches, who give grants for church repairs. Last year more than £140,000 was raised.

Plan your own route, long or short, flat or hilly, challenging or relaxed, whatever suits you. This is a lovely day out for all the family.

Visit the website – www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk for more information, sponsor forms, tee-shirts and more. Or contact – Carolyn Millen on 01622 843383, carolynmillen1@btinternet.com

The Month's Good Cause

The Salvation Army

A leaflet through my door reminded me that it is some time since we last had the 'Sally Annie' as our month's good cause. Like so many charities, they have to keep going day in, day out and their need for financial help is continuous.

Their role in helping people who sleep rough in our big cities is well known, but did you know that their activities extend from such things as caring for abandoned children in Bolivia, by providing children's homes, to running a Family Tracing Service, to operating a scheme to help those who have suffered from an addiction to find and keep a job

A different area of activity came to the fore during the incident at Heathrow in January, when a BA plane crash-landed. The Salvation Army not only provided people to help with providing information to friends and families, they also provided an emergency vehicle with hot drinks and food for the firefighters, air accident investigators, police etc.

The Salvation Army is a registered charity no. 214779. You can add your help to any of their range of activities by sending donations to Lt.-Colonel Royston Bartlett, The Salvation Army, Slough, Berks. SL3 0EN. Further information is available on website www.salvationarmy.org.uk.

Music Notes - June

The main musical event – or rather series of events - of the month has to be the 16th Maidstone International Festival of Music & Dance , which runs from June 20th to July 21st. Full details are not available at the time of going to press {even though I was late!!}, but will be in all the local press nearer the time. On quite a different note, if you were one of the many who attended the Radio One Pop Concert in Mote Park in May, you may also be interested in the "Concert in the Park" on Saturday 21st June at Goodnestone Park. The concert featuring many well known groups begins at 4.00 pm – gates open at 3.00pm. More info from the web – www.goodnestone.com.

Consider also:

- Saturday 7th June, 7.30pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone. The 25th Anniversary Concert of Kent Chamber Choir – a well known group of expert singers. They will be performing Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. Proceeds in aid of All Saints' restoration Fund. Tickets: Tel 01622 737916
- Saturday 14th June, 7.30pm at Rochester Cathedral. Rochester Choral Society performs Fauré's *Requiem* and Handel's *Coronation Anthem*. Tickets 01634 401049.
- Saturday 28th June, 8.00pm at Leeds Castle. A concert by the band of the Royal Marines, with a fireworks finale. Book online at www.Leeds-castle.com, (or through you local Leeds Castle contact!).
- Also 28th June, 7.30pm at St. George's Church, Gravesend, Gravesham Choral Society present 'Midsummer Mendelssohn', a concert including extracts from *Elijah* and *Verleih uns Freiden*. Tickets 01622 752126.

And finally, advance notice of Maidstone Choral Union's contribution to the Maidstone Festival, on Saturday 5th July at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone, which will be a performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. This will be the last performance of MCU conducted by Jeffrey Vaughan Martin before his retirement, and promises to be a really special event. Tickets 01622 726193.

Brian Hardy

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

| | | | | |
|----|------------|----------|---------|---------|
| | Word 1 | Word 2 | Word 3 | Answer |
| 1 | Smoke | False | Burglar | Alarm |
| 2 | Capital | Centre | Inner | City |
| 3 | Commentary | Water | Repairs | Running |
| 4 | Battle | High | Roof | Pitched |
| 5 | Minute | Resort | Straw | Last |
| 6 | Good | Way | Lost | Cause |
| 7 | Cabinet | Fore | Eye | Shadow |
| 8 | Level | Hard | Hot | Headed |
| 9 | Sit | Rope | Air | Tight |
| 10 | Control | Game | Solar | Panel |
| 11 | Television | Back | Jet | Set |
| 12 | Number | Sided | Off | One |
| 13 | Sleep | Hill | Jay | Walker |
| 14 | Cutting | Model | Steam | Railway |
| 15 | Board | Sticking | Cast | Plaster |
| 16 | Stock | Part | Breath | Taking |

| | |
|----|--|
| | Find the missing word? |
| 1 | Shrove Tuesday, Eve of Lent when Pancakes are traditionally eaten. |
| 2 | San Francisco, Home of the Golden Gate Bridge. |
| 3 | Lambeth Palace, London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. |
| 4 | John Logie Baird, Inventor of the Television. |
| 5 | Lorna Doone, Novel by R.D Blackmore – set on Exmoor. |
| 6 | Barry Manilow, Crooner who sang Copacabana. |
| 7 | Heather Mills, Recently divorced Mr McCartney. |
| 8 | Lady Godiva, Noblewoman who rode naked through Coventry. |
| 9 | Rick Blaine, Jaded gin joint owner in Casablanca. |
| 10 | Saint Peter, said to guard the Pearly Gates. |

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

| Date | Time/Location | Service |
|---|--|--|
| Sun 1 st June | 08.00 L 09.30 BM | BCP HC CW 1 |
| 2 nd Sunday after Trinity | 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U | Family Service CW 1 Family Service |
| Sun 8 th June | 08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 Bearsted | BCP HC Family Service CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Taize Service – Holy Cross Bearsted |
| Sun 15 th June | 08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM | BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 BCP Evening Prayer |
| Sun 22 nd June The Birth of St. John the Baptist | 08.00 L 10.00 H | BCP HC Benefice Service Harrietsham |
| Sun 29 th June 6 th Sunday after Trinity Peter and Paul Apostles | 08.00 L 10.00 L 18.30 H | BCP HC Benefice Service Lenham Informal Service |

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)

Christian Message

For many of us June is the best month of the year.

The dark nights of winter and the unpredictable frosts of spring are finally behind us. The daffodils have been replaced by roses and the signs inviting us to 'Pick your Own' promise raspberries with flavour and strawberries that don't look as if they have been grown in a mould and painted with nail varnish. It is the season of Summer Fetes, outdoor concerts; of the early June Bank Holiday when the smoke of barbequing food mingles with smell cut grass in the late afternoon and June brides' glory in their special day in the sunshine. Evenings seem to glow and go on forever in that particular gold of the early summer sun. And, finally, we can 'cast our clouts' because May is 'out' and enjoy 'flaming June'.

For others, though, it isn't quite so idyllic.

In schools, colleges and Universities thousands of youngsters are sweating – literally and figuratively – under the 'cosh' of examinations. From the age of seven onwards our children are denied the pleasure of the sunshine by revision and tests which are the cause of worry for them and often much worse anxiety for their parents and carers. In offices and shops, too, people are enviously looking out at glorious sunshine and wondering just how they are going to last until the first two weeks in August for their holiday. The AirCon in our cars is switched on in the evening crawl home through the traffic, adding to fuel bills and drying our throats.

For all of us there is the message of the Gospel of Matthew from which this month's readings are taken to reflect upon whatever our June holds.

We are both challenged and comforted by the readings taken from Chapters 9 and 10. Christ invites Matthew, the tax collector, to follow him reminding us that he came to call 'sinners' and not the righteous. We read of the miracles of Jairus' daughter brought back to life; of the two blind men whose sight was restored because they believed that He could heal them; and of the woman who touched his garment who was made well by her faith in Him. He tells the disciples that 'even the hairs of your head are all numbered' and challenges them that 'he who loses his life for my sake will find it'. The month ends with the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, the pillars of the early church. Christ tests Peter by asking three times if he loved Him. Jesus' final comment to Peter contains the simplest and yet the most profound message for us all. He said to Peter 'Follow me.'

So, in our gardens, at the fete or in the exam room the message is a clear one: follow Christ in faith and whoever we are, whatever we've done He will be with us every day.

Ian Collins

Bible Study Evenings

Starting 3rd June at 8pm, then 17th June, 1st and 15th July in the Booth Hall, Bible Study Evening with Derek Savage. The theme is Love, Life and Death with Jesus!

The First one is based on the Commandment Love the Lord your God.
The Second one is Life after death - what happens when you die.
The Third one is based on the Commandment Love your neighbour as yourself. The Fourth is on Forgiveness

Please bring a Bible. Refreshments will be available. Let us know if you would like help with transport. For more information please contact either Pamela Cuerden on 859442, Bill Washington on 853577 or Michelle Saunders on 858376