



Malherbe Monthly

Number 48
July 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	890200
	Richard Thick	891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348
	Joan Davidson	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	858350
	Sue Burch	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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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 August edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th July

Front cover:

A view of what you can expect from the “Cream Teas” on Sundays at St Nicholas Church Boughton Malherbe. Photo: Courtesy of John Collins.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Goldsmith's Exhibition

The Goldsmith's Exhibition of Church Gold and Silver Plate is on until 12th July and admission is free. The Goldsmiths' Hall is in Foster Lane off Gresham Street in the City of London, just behind St. Paul's Cathedral.

I was lucky enough to be asked to a preview evening, at which the Prime Master of the Goldsmith's Company entertained the representatives of the organisations which have loaned their precious items to be exhibited. Most of the pieces were from Parish Churches and Cathedrals in England. There were some most beautiful pieces on display. We found our Communion Cup, which is being displayed in the same case as the plate from St. Peter's in Thanet's. Nearby in another display case was the Steeple Cup from St. Peter & St. Paul's, Charing, which must stand about 18" high and is embossed with scallop shells all over - a most unusual piece and a very good example of the goldsmith's art. There was a beautiful Saxon brooch and pieces set with many precious stones - for the most part the stones were uncut just polished. There were several Bishop's Crosiers, just the tops of them, set with many beautiful jewels and fashioned in gold and silver. Canterbury's gold Crosier had pride of place on the landing of the staircase.

Seeing such a wealth of beautiful works of art under one roof was a truly wonderful experience. Do go if you have time, it probably won't happen again for a very long time. All the items have a Government Indemnity covering them, should they be lost, stolen or damaged during their time with the Goldsmith's.

Benefice Walk

The Benefice Walk took place on the 7th June. The rain held off, but it was not a bright day. Unfortunately not many people took part this year, but those who did enjoyed the walk and the fellowship encountered on the way. St. Mary's, Lenham and St. Nicholas, Boughton provided lunch and Harrietsham and Ulcombe light refreshments.

Benefice Hog Roast

The Benefice Hog Roast is on the 6th July at Wellesley House, Runham Lane Harrietsham. Tickets £9.00 It starts at 12.30 pm for lunch at 1.00 pm. I still have some tickets but not many as they are going fast.

Cream Teas

Once again we will be serving our delicious cream teas at St. Nicholas on Sunday afternoons. We begin on the 13th July, 2.00pm to 5.00pm. If wet, we will be in the Church, otherwise in the closed part of the Churchyard with its beautiful views of the Weald of Kent. What better way to spend a summer Sunday afternoon relaxing in the sun (we hope) and meeting friends old and new. We have many people who come year after year. The price is still the same at £2.50, but if you wish and think the teas are worth more, feel free to give a further donation. We are trying to refill our bank account after the expense of the installation of new heating, lighting and re-decoration at the end of 2006 and we have further projects in mind, such as having water laid on and the creation of a W.C., along with disabled access.

Position Vacant

We are hopeful that our search for a new Priest will be at an end soon - perhaps by the time you read this our search will be at an end. On 1st July, the Church Councils of all four Parishes are to meet the Bishop's preferred candidate in St. Mary's, Lenham for a buffet supper and afterwards the representatives from the Parishes will form a Selection Board to interview the candidate and hopefully we will, after this process, have a new priest and our search will be over. We do have the right to turn down this person should we decide they are not suitable for us, but hopefully not. During the day of the 1st the candidate will be taken around the four Parishes of this Benefice and the four Parishes of our neighbouring Benefice of Hollingbourne and Leeds, with whom we are expected to co-operate and share various activities during the year. I'm sure our person will be glad of the support of our neighbouring Benefice.

Golden Wedding

Finally, we would like to Congratulate David and Judy Stevens on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 5th July. For those of you who don't know, David and Judy moved into the North Barn at Boughton Place on its completion and have joined in our Services at the Church ever since.

Joan Davidson

HOG ROAST

The Kings Head
Grafty Green

Sunday 31st August 2008

From 2pm

Grafty Garden Cuttings - July

Sunflowers have been popping up in all sorts of odd places and I have at last, discovered who takes so much time and energy, carefully sowing them: Coal Tits. Trouble is, they all germinate and grow so much better than those I have planted in the garden, which either do not germinate at all, or are eaten off by slugs.

Bird numbers have risen quite well in the garden, in the garden, especially starlings, sparrows, blackbirds and tits and most days a flock of long tailed tits work their way through. Magpies are becoming bolder and frequently visit the ground under the feeder and it was they mobbing the fox that helped alert us to the raid on our neighbours chicken, the other week.

For anyone who has a surfeit of plastic plant pots, 90% of Wyevale Garden Centres recycle them, depending upon space available. Look for the bin provided. Conversely, if you need pots, you can also remove them from said bin. It is advisable to phone beforehand, to check that your nearest Wyevale does provide this service: the Willesborough and Hamstreet ones do.

We all pay 17%% VAT on ornamental plants and seeds, so the RHS have launched a petition to reduce this to 5%, in line with other 'green' goods, hoping it will encourage more people to buy and grow more plants and trees to help safeguard the environment. (Vegetable plants and seeds are classed as foodstuffs and are zero rated). The campaign will run until May 2009. To sign up, visit: www.rhs.org.uk/news/VATpetition.asp or sign at any RHS show or garden, or write to the RHS at: 'Petition' The Garden, 4th Floor, Churchgate, New Road, Peterborough, PE1 1TT.

A comprehensive list of jobs still to do would be somewhat boring, so the more pressing might be to dead head roses and lupins, to encourage a second flush of blooms, remove side shoots from tomato plants and pinch out the growing tip from same, once 4 or 5 trusses have formed, unless encouraging more trusses of fruit by unhooking the stems, laying along the ground, once each bottom truss is harvested, then training them up a cane further along, something I have yet to try. Also monitor pests like lily beetle, aphids and vine weevil, which latter will attack primulas and strawberry plants, not only in pots, but also in the open ground, if given the chance. Tomato plants need regular watering to prevent blossom end rot (black, flattened patches at the bloom end of the fruit).

Late sowings of French and runner beans, peas, salad crops, beetroot, radish, Chinese cabbage and carrots, can still go in, as can winter spinach and spring cabbage. Feed all plants and the lawn.

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	
20 th - 22 nd 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	

Advance Notice: our October speaker is Tom Hart-Dyke, who will tell us about plant collecting in Venezuela. For those who do not know, he was kidnapped and; held for 9 months and threatened with death, which is when he conceived the idea of a World Garden at his home at Lullingstone Castle. He has featured in two television series on the trials and tribulations of same so should provide us with a memorable evening. Entry is by TICKET ONLY, available in advance. Free for members, £2 to visitors. Book early. Limited numbers due to the size of our hall.

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	Popular	Live	Hall	Music
2	Quartet	Bow	Ham	
3	Skipping	Ladder	Tight	
4	Financial	Light	Leap	
5	Witness	Brown	Hug	
6	Shop	Horse	Token	
7	Mail	Craft	Bag	
8	Sausage	Call	Pay	
9	Prize	Bridge	Back	
10	Contact	Shadow	Naked	
11	Cricket	Fever	Dark	
12	Perpetual	Picture	Slow	
13	Fit	Bull	Talk	
14	Minded	Combat	File	
15	Interest	Birth	Second	
16	Work	Make	Key	

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

Mondays to Fridays

	School Days		Not School Days	
	59	59	59	59
Service No:	59	59	59	59
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
Wheatsharf	1236 1411	—	1604 1604	1624 1709 1759
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240 1415	—	1608 1608	1713 1803
Linton Corner	1244 1419	—	1612 1612	1717 1807
Cornwallis Academy	—	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
Wormlake Corner	1258 1433	1515	—	1626 1638 1731 1821
Kingswood, Village Hall	1258 1438	—	—	1634 1646 — 1829
Ucombe, Post Office	1306 —	1523	—	1641 1653 — 1836
Grafty Green, King's Head	1313 —	1530	—	1648 1700 — 1843
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	1320 —	—	1535	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	1544	—

Saturdays

	See Note 1	
	59	59
Service No:	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	0838 1241 1525 1755	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0840 1243 1527 1757	—
Wheatsharf	0847 1250 1534 1804	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1254 1538	—
Linton Corner	1258 1542	—
Cornwallis Academy	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1303 1547 1817	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1306 1550 1820	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1309 1553 1823	—
Wormlake Corner	0859 1312 1556 1826	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0907 1320 — 1834	—
Ucombe, Post Office	0914 1327 — 1841	—
Grafty Green, King's Head	0921 1334 — 1848	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—

Service 59: Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Homney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Sheats 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, Brining Road, Amber Lane, Chartway Street, Wormlake Corner, Kingswood, Village Hall, Chart Sutton, Bromfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Cornhill Avenue, Cayser Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, 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: Cornwallis Academy, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Mondays to Fridays

	School Days		Not School Days	
	59	59	59	59
Service No:	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	—	0736	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	0745	—
Ucombe, Post Office	0723 —	0723 —	0830 1325	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730 —	0730 0750 0937 1332	—	1703
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735 —	0735 0755 0942 1337	1440 1440	1715
Wormlake Corner	0738 —	0738 0757 0944 1339	1442 1442	1717
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746 —	0744 0808 0950 1345 1448 1448	1723	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0739 0747 0809 0953 1348 1451 1451	1726	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742 0750 0811 0956 1351 1454 1454	1729	—	—
Cornwallis Academy	0745 0753 —	0959 1354 1457 1457	1732	—
Linton Corner	—	0820	—	1507
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0750 0758 —	1004 1359 1502 1509	1737	—
Wheatsharf	0756 0802 —	1008 1403 1506 1513 1741	—	—
Maidstone, King Street	0758 0800 0806 —	1012 1407 1510 1517 1745	—	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	—	0810 0814 —	1020 1415 1518 1525	1753
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0808 —	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0817 —	—	—	—
0826	—	—	—	—

Saturdays

	See Note 1	
	59	59
Service No:	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—
Ucombe, Post Office	0733 0923 1336	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0740 0930 1343	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0745 0935 1348 1804	—
Wormlake Corner	0747 0937 1350 1806	—
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0753 0943 1356 1612	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0756 0946 1359	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0759 0949 1402	—
Cornwallis Academy	0802 0952 1405	—
Linton Corner	—	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0807 0957 1410	—
Wheatsharf	0811 1001 1414	—
Maidstone, King Street	0815 1005 1418 1624	—
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0823 1013 1427 1632	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	—	—

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.

Would a small Pre-school suit your Child?

Ulcombe Pre-School offers your child the opportunity to learn through play with a varied range of activities.

The Pre-School caters for children aged from two and is Ofsted inspected. It has a very high staff to children ratio and meets in a modern, spacious hall, with a safe and fenced garden area.

It received good marks from Ofsted at their last Inspection.

The Pre-School runs Monday – Thursday, 9.15am – 12.15 term time only.

Places are available for this academic year and reservations are being taken for September 2008 and beyond.

You are more than welcome to visit the Pre-School during opening hours at Ulcombe Village Hall – we are only 5 minutes drive from Headcorn and 10 minutes from Egerton.

*We also run a baby/toddler session on a Tuesday from 9.30 - 11.30, when younger children are welcome to come along with a parent/carers and join in with the pre-school children, at a cost of £2.00 per child per session.
(Refreshments included)*

For more details, please contact Jane Williams, Chair of Committee on 01622 843228.

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)

Platts Heath School

Everyone a winner at Platts Heath Summer Fayre

We woke up on Saturday 21 June to rain and a sky that looked like it wasn't going to clear 'Oh no, not again', the thought of another wet so called summer Fayre just made us want to climb back into bed, but you can't, as a lot of time and effort goes into organising these events and so the show must go on, and it did! And how lucky were we? The rain soon stopped, the sky began to clear and even the sun came out, it was going to be alright. But it was more than alright, it was absolutely blooming fantastic!



This year we tried to bring you a more traditional Fayre with lots of games, entertainment and competitions, something all the family could participate in, afford and enjoy, it was all about having fun. We've been told that we succeeded, it was a lovely day and the sunshine was the cherry on the cake. Speaking of cakes, well done to Kane Goddard, winner of our dad's cake competition, he swore it was his first attempt but I'm not so sure, but you better watch out as I hear on the grape vine that there will be some stiff competition

for next year. Congratulations also to Mrs Thomas our infants' teacher for winning 1st place in the mum's jam competition, being a WI lady I'm sure it was no mean feat. We would especially like to congratulate all of the children who entered the rice krispie cake competition, all efforts were highly commended by the WI ladies who judged all three of our competitions but they were most impressed by the winning entry from Mathew and Eleanor Davies with their 17 individual cakes spelling out Platts Heath School, Well done!



But, it seemed everyone was a winner on Saturday, maybe that's why the atmosphere was so good. Mr Rand was a winner as he won our brand new BMX bike donated by Peter Reeves from Woods of Headcorn, Mr & Mrs Carden won our BBQ Barrow and Jan & Tom Sams won Full afternoon tea for two at the Chilston Park Hotel to name but a few of our winners. If you didn't win a prize on the coconut shy, the lolly game, hook a duck, crack the safe, golf, bucket game, buzz wire, ping pong, or hoopla then maybe you won something on the bottle tombola or the raffle...no...then you must have felt like a winner when you splashed the headmaster Mr Priddle with a heavy wet sponge, or got a ball past our two talented goalies Craig & Glen on beat the goalie, if not, then you were a winner in my eyes if you entered the hobby horse

gymkhana, it was no easy task to get over those jumps with a hobby horse underfoot, but you all made it look so easy, thanks to Jaime Cottier for putting our idea into practice. If you really didn't win anything then there was always bash the rat, tug-o-war and the crockery smash to get rid of any frustration and our lovely teachers to cheer you up with a nice cup of tea and slice of cake...Aunt Sally. If tea and cake didn't suffice then Ged Butler of Butler Driveways and his crew were on hand once again with their tasty burgers and sausages, guaranteed to fill a gap and nicely washed down with a beer from the beer tent. For those looking for a healthy option, there was strawberries dished up with a dollop of cream....how very English.

Spare parts made us smile yet again with another winning performance, these oldies are a real treat and we can't thank them enough for their sense of humour, fun and generosity for the variety of entertainment that they bring to us and all out of the goodness of their hearts. The children of our school wowed us with their Maypole dancing, with colourful energetic and intricate dances. Thanks to Abi Crutcher and the children, who should be highly commended (I think I spent too long in the company of those lovely WI ladies) a lot of time and effort was freely given and it proved to be a winning formula and definitely a highlight of the day.

And so it's all over and we can sit back (for a few days anyway) and feel content, we've all had a lovely time and raised some money for our school at the same time. We somehow, amazingly managed to take an outstanding sum of £2,674.41 on the day. That is just unbelievable for such a small school with only 75 pupils. One pupil in particular, Callum Tyndall should be congratulated for his enterprising efforts.

With so many to thank, the list is endless but if we could just say thank you to the parents, children and staff of Platts Heath School and the residents of Platts Heath for putting up with our never ending requests and for their unfailing generosity and support. It is so much appreciated!

An extra special thank you to Peter Reeves for donating his carpentry skills amongst everything else, Ged Butler and his crew, without who the logistics of putting this event together as we do would be impossible, Colin Walder for acting as our MC, he always delivers and ensures the entertainment timetable runs to plan, Hazel Woollett for her uncanny knack of getting people to do stuff, it still amazes me and of course lets not forget who set the whole thing in motion the Platts Heath PTFA.

And sadly we will be losing two of our most dedicated volunteers, Ann Tucker and Val Coomber who you will know if you live in Platts Heath go knocking on doors and take donations of bottles etc which go to make up our bottle tombola which is one of our biggest earners at the Fayre. Thank you ladies for your efforts, you always make it look so easy, you will be missed and Charlie too!

If you would like to know more about our school, please contact our headmaster Mr Ian Priddle on 01622 850316.

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 below picture, sent to me by Clara Watson, is of the parsonage at Boughton Malherbe as it was around 1899. At that time her husband's great grandfather was parson of the church there. His son, Alan Springett Watson, (her husband's grandfather) emigrated to Canada as a young man. His sister, Linda M Watson, drew the picture that you see below, and, mercifully she dated her picture.



The July Night Sky

On Friday 4th July the Earth is at aphelion, which means it is furthest from the Sun. We are now about 3% further from the Sun than we are at perihelion, which occurs in early January.

This month New Moon occurs on 3rd July, and will be visible in the northwest after sunset. Full Moon is on 18th July and rises in the southeast at sunset.

It is again not the best month to view either Mercury or Venus. Mercury is at its greatest elongation west of the Sun on 1st July, and by the end of the month it hidden behind the Sun. Venus is now starting to emerge from behind the Sun.

Mars is just about visible low in the west immediately after sunset, and is moving south-eastwards in the constellation of Leo.

Whilst on the subject of Mars, you may have read that the Phoenix Mars Lander, which touched down on the Martian surface just over three weeks ago, is sending back remarkable pictures of the rust-coloured arctic landscape of the Red Planet. From the samples it has taken scientists have discovered that the soil is surprisingly sticky, which they think could be due to the presence of ice or minerals. I am sure in its 150-day mission there will be many more surprising discoveries to come.

The giant planet Jupiter is at opposition to the Sun on 9th July, so is rising in the southeast at dusk, and setting in the southwest at dawn. During the night it remains near the horizon, but it is still the brightest star-like object in the sky.

Saturn is low in the western sky at sunset, and sets a couple of hours after the Sun. Like Jupiter it remains near the horizon and therefore will not be easily observed through a telescope.

Since my article about the new list of planets in the October 2007 issue, I can report that Pluto has been stripped of its status as a dwarf planet by astronomers, and instead it will be classified as a celestial body known as a 'plutoid'. This term will also apply to all small, nearly spherical objects orbiting beyond Neptune, now the most distant planet from the Sun.

John Maunder

The Grafty Gourmet

Summer is here and no doubt many of you have had the barbecue out. So I have decided this month to do a barbecue recipe. These burgers can be made 2 days ahead if desired. Additionally, should your planned barbecue be fouled by the traditional English Summer weather, these burgers can be cooked in the oven. Funny isn't it, that the only time most men are interested in cooking, is when they take charge of the barbecue, and then they all become instant Gordon Ramsey's. So guys, have a go at making these burgers, with a difference, from scratch.

BRIE AND BEEF BURGERS

(Serves 6)

30g Butter

1 x Onion - finely chopped

500g minced beef

250g minced sausage meat

1 Tablespoon whole grain mustard

2 Tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

200g brie cheese

1. Melt butter in a frying pan. Add onion, cook until soft.
2. Combine minces, mustard, parsley and onion mixture in a bowl and mix by hand.
3. Remove rind from the brie, and cut the brie into six equal pieces.
4. Divide the mince mixture into six equal portions, and place a piece of brie in the centre of each portion. Shape portions into patties, enclosing the brie.
5. Cook burgers on hot greased barbecue plate or griddle until well browned and cooked through.

This recipe is not suitable for freezing or microwaving.

Happy barbecuing

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 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 26th July: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

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

Heaths Corridor Walk

PRESS RELEASE

Over 50 people took part in the Heaths Corridor Walk on Sunday 18th May. The walk started at one Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) site, Hurst Wood, Charing Heath, and finished 3 miles down the road at another HCC site, Chilston Ponds, Sandway. Much needed refreshments were provided on the way, at the third HCC site, Bull Heath in Lenham Heath. Many of the participants were children, and they particularly enjoyed following the trail of red wool along the route. Sally Evans, the Mid Kent Downs project office, designed a fantastic leaflet, which suggested interesting things to look out for along the way. However, after spending the afternoon at Chilston Ponds eating free hot dogs and chocolate most people took advantage of the free bus home.

At Chilston Ponds the Kent Wildlife Trust provided a variety of wildlife activities including bug catching, desk top pond dipping and tree investigations. The more artistic made models of a variety of bugs, real and imaginary thanks to the help and provisions (many of which were washed waste) provided by the Whole Hog Arts Company. The event was funded by the Heaths Countryside Corridor and Rail Link Countryside Initiative and the generous support of the Kent Wildlife Trust, the Mid Kent Downs and AJ & NM Carr Ltd.

All-in-all a great way to spend a sunny Sunday!

For more information about the Heaths Countryside Corridor visit our website <http://www.heathsgcc.co.uk/>

Ruth Lovering

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

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

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 Mission to Seafarers: Registered charity 212432

Yes, if you are of an older generation you probably know this charity as 'The mission to seamen', but in this age of equality of course they serve all who ply the sea, as they have done for the last 150 years. The origins of the Mission go back to 1835, when John Ashley, a Church of England clergyman, started visiting seamen on ships at anchor in the Bristol Channel. This developed to the Missions to Seamen in 1856, and became The Mission to seafarers in April 2000.

The Mission to Seafarers cares for seafarers by providing centres in ports around the world, visiting seafarers on board their ships, and working with other agencies in justice and welfare cases. The Mission is committed to meeting the spiritual and practical needs of seafarers regardless of nationality or creed, its members believing that is what God has called them to do.

July 13 is Sea Sunday – a particular opportunity to offer prayers in support of all 'who go down to the sea in ships'. Why not also take the opportunity to make them your charity of the month, by sending a donation to "The Mission to Seafarers, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4EP". You can also contact them on their website **www.missiontoseafarers.org**

Music Notes - July

The 16th Maidstone International Festival of Music & Dance, which I mentioned last month, continues to July 21st. It is not possible to list all the events here; for full details phone the Festival Office on 01622 695283. However I have presumed to select a few items for your delectation:

- Saturday 5th July 10.00am to 4.00pm Maidstone Town Centre Jazz Festival – Jazz in the streets!
- Saturday 5th July 7.30pm at Mote Hall The Maidstone Festival concert – Verdi's *requiem*, performed by Maidstone Choral Union together with the choir from Decin (in Northern Bohemia). Jeffrey Vaughan Martin is retiring from his post as the conductor of MCU after 34 years of service, and this will be his last concert directing them. A really special event. Tickets 01622 726193.
- Saturday 12th July, Bearsted Choral Society's Summer Concert, 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church Bearsted will be a vocal tribute to Ralph Vaughan Williams. Tickets 01634 245704
- Throughout the period of the festival, and then continuing through to 25th September, there are free concerts at **1.05pm every Thursday** at All Saints' Church, Maidstone. Retiring collections at each concert are in aid of local charities. Bring your own sandwiches, but coffee and biscuits available!

Not part of the Maidstone Festival, but worth your evening:

- Sunday 20th July at 7.00pm. The City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra (CRSO) performs outdoors at the Snodland Festival. Tickets and Details 01634 404977

Brian Hardy

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Popular	Live	Hall	Music
2	Quartet	Bow	Ham	String
3	Skipping	Ladder	Tight	Rope
4	Financial	Light	Leap	Year
5	Witness	Brown	Hug	Bear
6	Shop	Horse	Token	Gift
7	Mail	Craft	Bag	Air
8	Sausage	Call	Pay	Roll
9	Prize	Bridge	Back	Draw
10	Contact	Shadow	Naked	Eye
11	Cricket	Fever	Dark	Pitch
12	Perpetual	Picture	Slow	Motion
13	Fit	Bull	Talk	Fighting
14	Minded	Combat	File	Single
15	Interest	Birth	Second	Rate
16	Work	Make	Key	Shift

	Find the missing word?	Answer
1	Who won the reality show, "How do you solve a problem like Maria" ?	Connie Fisher
2	Who is the Father to Poppy Honey and Daisy Boo ?	Jamie Oliver
3	Whipsnade wild animal park is in which county ?	Bedfordshire
4	Boxing day 26 th December is also which Saints day ?	Stephen
5	Which Veteran Broadcaster was the first ever host of Juke Box Jury ?	David Jacobs
6	In which street did the "Great Fire of London start" ?	Pudding Lane
7	Who provides the voices for the kid's TV "Fireman Sam" ?	John Alderton
8	Which is the second largest country in the world	Canada
9	Who presented "Wipeout" and "Every Second Counts" ?	Paul Daniels
10	Judith Koppel was the first to win what ?	Who wants to be a Millionaire

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sunday 6 th July	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.30 BM	CW 1
	09.30 H	Family Service
7 th Sunday after Trinity	11.00 L	CW 1
	11.15 U	Family Service
Sunday 13 th July	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.30 BM	Family Service
	09.30 H	CW 1
	11.00 L	Family Service
8 th Sunday after Trinity	11.15 U	CW 1
	19.00 U	Taize Service – All Saints Ulcombe
Sunday 20 th July	08.00 L	BCP HC
	09.30 BM	BCP HC
	09.30 H	CW 1
	11.00 L	CW 1
9 th Sunday after Trinity	11.15 U	CW 1
	18.30 BM	BCP Evening Prayer
Sunday 27 th July	08.00 L	BCP HC
	10.00 U	Benefice Service Ulcombe
10 th Sunday after Trinity	18.30 H	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

I would like to share some thoughts with you which were stimulated.

From listening to a thought for the day broadcast. Imagine this scenario:

You turn up at the doctor's surgery to collect the routine confirmation that you're not fit to work, and you're offered something quite different. Your 'sick note' has become a 'well note'. It could be quite a shock to the system.

Instead of signing you off for another week with a statement of what you CAN'T do, your GP is setting out what you CAN do. This 'well note' concentrates on what is possible rather than what's not. This makes the principle much more to do with fitness. With working towards healing and wholeness, than with dwelling on that which is out of control.

We must all have known, or, at least seen, people struggling with disabilities preventing them from doing what they'd hoped with their lives. Yet, if they had a 'well note' there would be much written on it. Maybe it would say how they are able to build good relationships. Maybe that they are able to nurture other peoples' abilities. Maybe they encourage others just with their sheer courage with which they struggle every day. When I think of someone I knew like this, I wonder if part of the secret is in their

refusal to write anybody off. This has shown itself in their insistence on looking for the good in the unlikeliest of characters. A seeking out that 'God is in everyone'. It's an insistence that there's a 'well note' to be issued for everyone, a potential for good often hidden deep beneath a pile of old 'sick notes' of moral failure which have told only part of the story. They are full of possibilities.

I suppose we're not likely to see the disappearance of the GP's sick notes in place of sudden inspired doses of the power of positive thinking. After all, diagnosis of illness and incapacity is essential for the beginning of any healing process. But the therapists would no doubt tell us how much happier and healthier we'd all be if only we could get rid of our failure and guilt. But we know that part of the Christian faith is to address these issues.

We read in St Matthew's Gospel 'It's not the healthy who need a doctor,' said Jesus, but 'the sick. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' Which must, I suppose, be about allowing a 'sick note' to be converted into a 'well note'. Just a thought .

Millie Hart

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