



Malherbe Monthly

Number 42
January 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
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the February edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th January

Front cover:

New Almshouses being constructed in Lenham. An article about these will be published in next month’s magazine. Picture courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to Everyone

Village Carol Singing

Carol Singing on 13th December for Demelza House Hospice for Children at Bobbing near Sittingbourne went very well in spite of our reduced numbers owing to the fact that our instrumentalist and main leader was unable to come due to a chest infection - we missed you Jack and you too Janie getting us organised and selecting soloists for the carols that require a soloist or two. Beverley and Matthew Hone did us proud playing their guitars and we raised £117.00. Thanks also to Ken Sweet at 'The Kings Head' and to Jo at the 'Who'd a Thought It' for allowing us to sing in the bar. Many thanks to Doreen and Les Hulm and to Audrey and Roy Wickens for keeping us fed and watered. We hope to come again next year. Thanks also to the singers who came along and helped to make a good sound.

Christingle Service

Our Christingle Service on the 9th went well but we could do with more support. We choose 3.00pm for our Service hoping to attract more people, which it did but we could do with a few more. Christingle is a lovely little service for children.

Carol Service

The Carol Service on the 16th was very well attended. It was a service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the choir had two solo spots. Quite a few people come from outside the Parish, having been raised here in Boughton Malherbe, and they love to come back to this service to remember old times. Thank you to the ladies who helped to decorate the Church. The decorations are different every year but the Church always looks lovely with the candles twinkling. I would also like to thank the people who read the Lessons, it was good to have your support.

Thank you

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who help in various ways to keep the Church clean and tidy during the year, the winding of the clock and keeping the churchyard borders looking lovely and generally doing things that need to be done to keep our Church spick and span. THANK YOU everyone.

Wine

In the November issue we asked for someone to come forward and claim the Wine which we found on the Bar after the Harvest Supper, there was one bottle of White and one of Red. Please ring 850210 to claim your Wine; if no one claims it we will put in the next Raffle we hold.

Joan Davidson

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 17th February 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 12th Jan: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 2nd Feb: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 16th Feb: 07:45 – 08:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

Saturday 12th Jan: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

Sudoku Quiz

9	1	5	8	2	4	1
7		8		3		5
3			1	5	4	
	9	2			1	8
		4		9	2	7
4				8	3	9
					9	6
					2	4
6	5			4	7	

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Diaz, US actress who provides the voice of Shrek's Wife, Princess Fiona.
2	Richard _____, Crystal Maze and Rocky Horror Picture Show, Star.
3	_____ Murder's, ITV Drama about vicious crimes in idyllic settings.
4	_____ Robinson, Actor who played Baldrick in Blackadder.
5	_____ Feltz, TV Motormouth Presenter.
6	Mike _____, Late Weatherfield Fashion Mogul.
7	_____ Downstairs, A popular 70's TV Drama.
8	Cheryl _____, Played Kris Monroe in Charlie's Angels.
9	Shere _____, Villainous Tiger from Jungle Book.
10	_____ Ellis, was last woman to be executed

Road Closure – Liverton Hill

The following road closure notification has been issued by Kent County Council which will take effect from 7th January for a period of up to 12 weeks.

In the Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND WAITING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto.

The alternative route for each route described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto is described in Column 2 of that Schedule.

The Order will come into operation on Monday 7th January 2008 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The works are scheduled to commence on Monday 7th January 2008 and are programmed for completion within an estimated period of twelve weeks.

SCHEDULE 1

<u>The affected routes (Column 1)</u>	<u>The alternative routes (Column 2)</u>
C258 Headcorn Road, Platts Heath from Lenham Road to Eastwood Road. 24 hours per day. Sunday to Saturday.	Southbound traffic via C83 Lenham Road, C85 Ulcombe Hill/The Street, C85 Eastwood Road and Lenham Road. Northbound traffic vice versa.

County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 2XQ

Grafty Garden Cuttings - January

After the excesses of Christmas and New Year, here I give you something entirely different, (with grateful thanks and acknowledgement to the Irish Linen Company that produced the tea towel from which I copied this)

The Gardeners Guide:

- Hoeing: Method of killing seedlings whilst re-distributing stones.
- Compost: The only thing which grows.
- Allotment: But little achieved.
- Broad Bean: Vegetable grown as food for Blackfly.
- Annual: An unwanted plant which persists in re-seeding itself year after year.
- Pruning: Method of killing plants.
- Perennial: Should appear each year but does not.
- Rockery: Heap of rubble left behind by the builders.
- Digging: Wife's nagging about the garden
- Weed: Main garden crop.

Feel free to add your own to this list.

Rosemary Smith

- ❖ Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- ❖ Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated 75p for members and £1 for visitors.
- ❖ The club enables members to swap plants/seeds, share ideas and improve their growing skills.
- ❖ Meetings are friendly and informal; visitors are always welcome; refreshments included.



PROGRAMME FOR 2008

Date	Topic	Speaker
8th 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	

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

59

Monday to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days		59	59	59	59
	Only	Days	Only	Days				
Maidstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	1552	1612	1657	1747	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1615	1700	1750	59	59
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1617	1702	1752	59	59
Wheatshaf	1236	1411	1604	1604	1624	1709	1759	59
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608	1713	1803	59	59
Linton Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612	1717	1807	59	59
New Line Learning — Cornwalls			1505					
Boughton Monchelsea, Albn	1249	1424	1617	1617	1722	1812	59	59
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1620	1620	1725	1815	59	59
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1623	1623	1728	1818	59	59
Wormlake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626	1731	1821	59	59
Kingswood, Village Hall		1438						
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	1523	1634	1646	1829		59	59
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	1530	1641	1653	1836		59	59
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	1537	1648	1700	1843		59	59
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle			1535					
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by			1544					

Service 59: Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Crescent, Hays 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, Charway Street, Bromfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysier Drive, Gravely Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe 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, Charway Street, then Gravely Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysier Drive, returning via the Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Monday to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days		59	59	59	59
	Only	Days	Only	Days				
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by			0736					
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle			0745					
Ulcombe, King's Head	0723		0915	1325			1703	
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730		0750	0922	1332		1710	
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735		0755	0927	1337	1440	1715	
Wormlake Corner	0738		0757	0929	1339	1442	1717	
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746		0744	0808	0935	1345	1448	1723
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0749		0747	0809	0938	1346	1451	1726
Boughton Monchelsea, Albn	0742		0750	0811	0941	1351	1454	1729
New Line Learning — Cornwalls			0745	0753	0944	1354	1457	1732
Linton Corner			0820		0949	1359	1502	1737
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill			0756	0902	0953	1403	1506	1741
Wheatshaf, King Street	0759	0800	0902	0957	1407	1511	1741	
Maidstone			0810	0814	1005	1415	1518	1753
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808							
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817							
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826							

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 the 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.

What is Yoga?

Some see yoga as contorted postures or of someone sitting crossed legged meditating; but yoga is far more than that. Yoga is a complete system to bring harmony and balance into your life together with adding suppleness, stamina, strength AND yoga can be practiced by anyone, young or old, male or female.

As a rule, a yoga class will spend time practicing postures which will bring the most benefit such as the four spinal movements; a forward bend, back bend, side stretch and rotation; these can be experienced gently or strongly depending on the fitness level. Towards the end of the class there is time for reflection and relaxation. Relaxation is as important as the postural movements, releasing stress and tension and bringing a feeling of rejuvenation.

How about joining a Class?

The exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counteracting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind and aligning the body's energy centres (the chakras) which will also give a wonderful feeling of well being.

I will be running a class on Thursday mornings starting 10th January 2008. The cost is £5 a session. I am hoping that we will have a guest yoga teacher every now and then to bring fresh interest to the class. You will need to wear clothes that allow free movement and bring a light blanket for relaxation. It is also advised to practice yoga on an empty stomach. If you are interested in joining and would like to contact me please call 01622 850381 or email: burch1997@aol.com.

Sue Burch

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 and 2007 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

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

Things have been a little slow and quiet lately. However the Taylor and Sams families led a group of carol singers on Friday 14th around the village. They were in very good voice and collected £80.08p.

Every one returned to the hall very cold but in good spirits and enjoyed the sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine.

We are most grateful to Ray Canning who has donated his time and expertise and finished installing the new storage heating system. He has also installed a new ring main giving us electric sockets in the Nave and the storage loft ready for any stage sound and lighting we may need in the future. I am sure all our users will be thrilled with the improvements when they return after Christmas.

Finally I am glad to report bookings for January are doing well. The committee worked so hard to provide the village with this focal point and it is heartening for us to see it being used at last.

Line Dancing starts back at 8pm on Thursday 10th January 2008 £2.50 and beginners are most welcome. So if you want to get rid of the holiday excesses and have some fun come and join us.

The St Edmunds committee wish you a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

WANTED

YOUR HELP.

**A BOOK IS BEING PLANNED ON THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF BOUGHTON
MALHERBE AND THE VILLAGE OF GRAFTY GREEN.**

**NEEDED ARE OLD PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE VILLAGE AND
THE HISTORY OF THE OLDER HOUSES IN THE PARISH.**

**STORIES FROM FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY YEARS RECALLING
THEIR CHILDHOOD AND HANDED DOWN TALES FROM THEIR PARENTS.**

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT: JOHN COLLINS

**THE HOMESTEAD
HEADCORN ROAD
GRAFTY GREEN
TEL: 01622 850213**

E'MAIL: john.collins15@btinternet.com

OR

**PETER BIRD
BUCKHURST
HEADCORN ROAD
GRAFTY GREEN
TEL: 01622 850456**

E'MAIL: birdatgrifty@tiscali.co.uk

**ANY PHOTOS OR DOCUMENTS WILL BE SCANNED WITH YOUR PERMISSION AND
RETURNED TO YOU AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.**

Platts Heath School Christmas Fayre

Every year this just seems to get better. I'm not sure if it's because we sort of know what we're doing now or whether it's just that the sheer determination of all involved is so strong to make sure the day is successful. It's probably a combination of the two but whatever it is, it certainly seems to work.

We are still amazed that so many of you turn up and support this event, and we are very grateful that you do. A whopping, £1680 was the takings of the day, which is just extraordinary for a school with only 68 children. A lot of hard work comes from the parents and friends of the school, who all freely give their time, which is so precious to us all, especially at this time of the year, and if they are not giving their time they are donating supplies that without, we wouldn't be able to have the day that we do.

As usual there are just too many people to mention but we would like to say a big thank you to the residents of Platts Heath for their donations and support, to the local businesses who donated prizes for our raffle, The Kings Head at Grafty Green, Chilston Park, The Dog and Bear at Lenham, the Ramada Hotel and The Taste of Bengal at Harrietsham and of course we would like to thank the parents for all they do, we are blessed in having some very extraordinary people in our midst.

But let's not forget the little people who we do it for and why, because it's not all about the money, it's about being part of a community, getting involved in one way or another and our children certainly do learn from this. They are always so eager to get involved and want to be part of it and that is in my mind the makings of extraordinary people, so thank you to all of the children.

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful start to the New Year.

If you would like to know more about our school please contact our Headmaster Mr Ian Priddle on 01622 850316. You will find us on Headcorn Road in Platts Heath.

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School PTFA

The January Night Sky

Now that we have passed the Winter Solstice, we can expect the days to start lengthening, and hopefully get a bit warmer. You would have to be a very keen stargazer to brave the cold nights we have had recently. Although it doesn't feel it, the Earth is at perihelion (closest to the Sun) on January 2nd.

At the beginning of January the Moon rises in the early hours of the morning, and sets around midday. New Moon occurs on 8th January, and Full Moon on January 22nd.

Mercury is at its greatest elongation eastwards from the Sun on January 22nd, so there is an opportunity to see this small planet immediately after sunset. If you look southwest in the early evening it will appear as a small point of light just above the horizon.

This month Venus is still a brilliant 'Morning Star' low in the southeast at dawn. It rises at about 5:30 am at the start of the month and gets progressively later.

Again a good month to view Mars, although it is now drawing away from us, it can clearly be seen in the southern sky with its reddish-orange colour. I have a little more about Mars later.

For most of the month Jupiter cannot be seen. You may, however, start to see it in the dawn sky at the end of the month, to the lower left of the much brighter Venus in the southeast.

This month Saturn rises in the east in the middle of the evening and gets earlier as the month progresses. It is still worth viewing through a telescope to see the famous rings.

There is yet another meteor shower this month known as the Quadrantid. This will peak early in the month, and the best time to see them is on the 3rd after midnight. The meteors appear to radiate from a point between the handle of the Plough and the bright star Vega to the North.

Now back to Mars. Some of you may have read that the chances of an asteroid hitting the surface of Mars this month is quite high. The large asteroid, known as 2007 WD5, would make a hole the size of The Asteroid crater in Arizona, and would throw up a plume of debris which scientists could analyse to discover what lies under the surface.

John Maunder

Maidstone Borough Council – News Release

Release Date: 20th December 2007

Ref No: RJA/071210

Free bus travel throughout England

Maidstone's over sixties will soon get a new bus pass giving them free travel throughout England.

Maidstone council's cabinet has agreed to adopt the new national concessionary travel scheme. It offers free travel for the over sixties and disabled people on all local buses throughout England, between 9.30 a.m. and 11 p.m. weekdays and all day at weekends. The new passes, which are completely free to residents, will come into force on 1 April 2008.

The decision to join the new national scheme will cost the council at least an extra £525,000 next year, taking total spending up to £1.9 million. The Government has provided some additional funding with a grant of £440,000 and the council has asked the Government for extra grant to fully fund the new scheme.

The new Government scheme is different to Maidstone council's current scheme. Maidstone's current scheme offers two discretionary elements - travel after 9 a.m. and companion passes. The council will be alerting bus operators to see if any bus times can be changed to fit in with the new regulations.

However, the Government has made it clear that if a council operates any discretionary services over and above the national scheme then they will not be in any position to challenge the funding shortfall. Therefore the voucher scheme has also had to be withdrawn.

In addition the council will now pick up the cost of all concessionary bus pass journeys that start in the borough, irrespective of where the holder is from.

The cabinet took the decision to adopt the new national concessionary fares scheme following a complete Best Value Review of the Maidstone service and taking into account the costs of the new national scheme. The review included consultation with users and others, and tests to compare the service against others, challenge the way it is delivered and to make sure that it is competitive.

The council regularly updates pass holder details and early in 2008 it will be writing to all 24,000 bus pass and voucher holders with details of the new scheme and how to apply in time for April 2008. In most cases the council has all the necessary details required for the new national smart pass. It will also publish full details on its website www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk.

Ends



NEW COMPUTER FOR CHRISTMAS?

Would you like some help? Egerton Telecottage will be running a new term of classes from January through to Easter. Daytime classes are from 10am to 12 noon and evenings from 8pm to 10pm. You can sign up for any of the following by contacting Alison on 01233 756366:

- Digital Photography – 4 weeks – Tuesday evenings from 8th January
- Word Processing Intermediate - 4 weeks – Wednesday mornings from 9th January
- Internet – 4 weeks – Wednesday evenings from 16th January
- Basic IT – 4 weeks – Tuesday mornings from 22nd January
- Clean up your Computer – 2 weeks – Thursday evenings from 7th February
- Desk Top Publishing – 6 weeks - Tuesday evenings from 12th February
- Excel – 4 weeks – Monday evenings from 25th February
- Word Processing Basic – 4 weeks – Wednesday mornings from 27th February
- Email – 2 weeks – Thursday evenings from 6th March

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

I hope you enjoyed last months 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	Clock	Under	Paid	Carriage
2	Rambling	Bush	Hip	
3	Water	Dance	Root	
4	Door	Dumb	Hare	
5	Set	Lag	Ink	
6	Bottle	Tin	Eye	
7	Music	Piece	Job	
8	City	Tube	Ear	
9	Singer	Grand	Soap	
10	Jumping	Side	Case	
11	Timer	Nest	Slice	
12	Holiday	Last	Beach	
13	Village	House	Fly	
14	Felt	Toe	Off	
15	Skin	Boat	Split	
16	Business	Game	Open	

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

The Ulcombe History Society

Following the success of the trip to the Somme, the Ulcombe History Society History, by popular request, is planning a two day trip to the Normandy beaches. This will probably be either the weekend of the 14-15 July or 28-29 July. Details to be announced in the February Newsletter.

We are also planning a visit to the Wealden Museum which is said to be very interesting.

The Somme Visit

At the end of September a party of us from Ulcombe had an overnight visit to the Somme. The legacy of war is terrible. In the area covered by the Somme battlefield, some 159,000 Commonwealth soldiers are buried in 250 military and 150 civilian cemeteries.

We saw a number of small graveyards, all beautifully tended. We visited the Historical Museum at Peronne which was fascinating, giving us a clearer idea of what it was like to be a soldier in that terrible war. It was the personal items that were most moving – the uniforms, cooking utensils, guns, letters, photos,

We visited the Delville woods where unexploded shells (probably neutered) were lying against trees.

Our last port of call was the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing; the largest graveyard in the Somme. We saw the trenches, now covered with grass, weaving their way like a snake. Then, before we walked up to the Memorial we sat on benches looking up to the huge monument in brown and white stone, which was designed by Sir Edwin Luytens.

We walked up the steep slope to the monument, where, through the arch, we saw row upon row of graves stretching out into the misty distance. Inscribed on the walls of the monument were the names of all the missing. It is difficult to describe how we all felt as we laid a wreath at the monument - a deep sadness at the colossal waste of life, and an urgent need to pray for peace.

Molly Poulter

Ulcombe Graveyard

One of the large tombs in the graveyard, near the huge oak tree which you see as you come up the church path, has broken up and fallen into what appears to be a vault below.

Members of the Ulcombe Parochial Church Council are now looking into ways to raise and restore it. The top slab is very heavy and with the narrow entrance to the churchyard, it would not be possible to get in lifting equipment

The Ulcombe Friendship Club

The Ulcombe Friendship Club's New Year Lunch will be at the Dog and Bear on Thursday 17th January at The Red Lion in Lenham at 12 noon. Price £15.

New members are very welcome. For details please contact either Dorothy Playford (842826) or Molly Poulter (842988).

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successfully run Oil Consortium. We now have over 130 members all benefiting from discounted heating oil when ordered in bulk. To keep the Consortium working, all members need to order the minimum 500 Litres of oil at least 3 times a year. I'm sure you'll all agree, oil tankers trundling through our villages 3 or 4 times a year is better than seeing them every week. The word is spreading, as well as Grafty Green and Boughton Malherbe, we now reach out to Ashford, Biddenden, East Sutton, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Kingswood, Lenham, Lenham Heath, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway, Stalisfield Green and Ulcombe.

So if you would like to join, and benefit from cheaper oil, please email europa.13@btinternet.com or phone 858350 for details.

Keith Anderson

CROSSROADS
Caring
Carers



“An Audience with Ann Widdecombe”

(Including book signings of Ann's latest novels)

In aid of Crossroads

**Maplesden Noakes School Hall
Buckland Avenue, Maidstone
(ample car parking available)**

on

Saturday 9th February 2008

between

3.00 & 5.00 pm

*Please contact Maidstone & North Kent Crossroads “The Lodge”
Holborough Road, Snodland on 01634 249090 for tickets or on the door.
(to avoid disappointment—book in advance)*

**Tickets: £10.00 per person: £6.00 Concessions & Students
(Including Afternoon Tea)**

CROSSROADS
Caring
Carers

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 2nd February 2008 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone. The programme will consist of three works:

- Bizet – Carmen Suite
- Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 2 – Soloist Mark Simpson
- Rachmaninov – Symphony No. 2

This concert has a programme for every taste, with the current BBC Young Musician, Clarinetist Mark Simpson, joining MSO in Weber's delightful 2nd Concerto. Elsewhere, Rachmaninov expansively exploits both sumptuous harmonies and lyrical, romantic melodies in his 2nd Symphony and there's the evergreen suite from Bizet's Carmen.

Concert tickets £10, £16 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 Maidstone Leisure Centre on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

Many thanks for your continued cooperation and support to the MSO.

David Bramley
Maidstone Orchestral Society

Sudoku Quiz Solution

2	3	5	8	6	7	9	4	1
9	1	6	2	4	5	8	7	3
7	4	8	9	3	1	2	6	5
3	6	7	1	5	8	4	9	2
5	9	2	4	7	3	1	8	6
1	8	4	6	9	2	5	3	7
4	2	1	7	8	6	3	5	9
8	7	3	5	1	9	6	2	4
6	5	9	3	2	4	7	1	8

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Clock	Under	Paid	Carriage
2	Rambling	Bush	Hip	Rose
3	Water	Dance	Root	Tap
4	Door	Dumb	Hare	Bell
5	Set	Lag	Ink	Jet
6	Bottle	Tin	Eye	Opener
7	Music	Piece	Job	Centre
8	City	Tube	Far	Inner
9	Singer	Grand	Soap	Opera
10	Jumping	Side	Case	Show
11	Timer	Nest	Slice	Egg
12	Holiday	Last	Beach	Resort
13	Village	House	Fly	Green
14	Felt	Toe	Off	Tip
15	Skin	Boat	Split	Banana
16	Business	Game	Open	Plan

	Find the missing word?
1	Cameron Diaz , US actress who provides the voice of Shrek's Wife, Princess Fiona.
2	Richard O'Brien , Crystal Maze and Rocky Horror Picture Show, Star.
3	Midsomer Murder's , ITV Drama about vicious crimes in idyllic settings.
4	Tony Robinson , Actor who played Baldric in Blackadder.
5	Venessa Feltz , TV Motormouth Presenter.
6	Mike Baldwin , Late Weatherfield Fashion Mogul.
7	Upstairs Downstairs , A popular 70's TV Drama.
8	Cheryl Ladd , Played Kris Monroe in Charlie's Angels.
9	Shere Khan , Villainous Tiger from Jungle Book.
10	Ruth Ellis , was last woman to be executed.



A face-lift for the Harpur Memorial Hospital, Egypt

Like so many of BibleLands-supported projects, the Harpur Memorial Hospital is a lifeline to the surrounding population, providing medical care to the city of Menouf and villages for miles beyond.

The Hospital was founded in 1910 by an Irish missionary, Dr Frank Harpur, and has since expanded to meet the growing needs of the area, now serving a population of 400,000. With an excellent reputation across the region, this Christian hospital now treats 50,000 patients a year. While some travel from as far as 70km (44 miles) away, the Hospital also organises medical outreach to three villages. As the Hospital faces a growing number of demands to meet the needs of its patients, however, there is also an urgent need to modernise its premises.

Director of the Hospital, Dr Samir, recently visited the UK to observe some of the facilities and medical practices in a variety of hospitals in the Midlands and South. In addition, he visited a number of churches and interested groups to raise funds for a building project at Harpur that will vastly improve the Hospital's services. He explained that this exciting new project will not only improve the level of care and comfort offered to patients but also increase the numbers of patient admissions, therefore also increasing the Hospital's revenue.

On his visit to BibleLands, Dr Samir was able to show staff the plans for the renovated Hospital building, with an impressive range of new and improved features. These facilities will include a well-equipped intensive care unit, neonatal room and lift, and wards that offer patients a much greater level of comfort and privacy. The whole building will be renovated to bring it totally up-to-date with modern medical standards.

Thankfully, the response to fundraising by Dr Samir and his Hospital team has brought in sufficient funds for the renovations, and building work is now underway, with plans for completion by the end of 2008.

On a recent visit to the Hospital, BibleLands' staff and Trustees saw for themselves the transformation that was taking place to provide the best possible environment for patient care.

Please remember Dr Samir, all the staff at Harpur Memorial Hospital and those responsible for renovating the building. Through their dedication and skill, they ensure the continued service of care offered to a growing population in the Menouf region.

BibleLands 24 hour donation line 01494 897969. Registered charity: 1076329

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 6 th January Epiphany	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 Holy Cross Breasted	BCP HC CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Family Service Taize Service
Sun 13 th January Baptism of Christ	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC Family Service CW 1 Family Service CW 1
Sun 20 th January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	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 27 th January	08.00 L 10.30 BM 18.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 (Benefice service in St Nicholas Boughton Malherbe) 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)

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