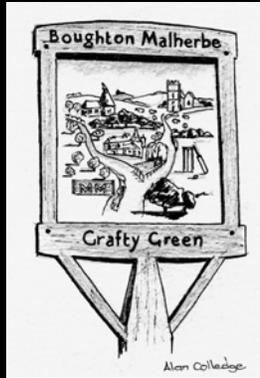


# Malherbe Monthly

Free

Number 19

February 2006



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.  
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Sandy Bruce Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Liz Watts	737321
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Revd Don Irvine (email: <a href="mailto:revdonirvine@uwclub.net">revdonirvine@uwclub.net</a> )	859466
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk">churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk</a> )	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 3.30 by Post Office	
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Chris King	Advertising: <a href="mailto:Christine.kings@btinternet.com">Christine.kings@btinternet.com</a>	850711
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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 March edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)) by 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Front cover: Picture taken in Singapore Botanical Gardens – If anyone knows what it is please e-mail the editor.

## **News from St. Nicholas Church**

### **Lent Lunches**

Lent Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The first one will be at Bowley Farm, Sandway 12.00-2.00p.m. There will be a choice of Soup served with Crusty Bread or a Roll and Coffee. We ask for Donations in payment, these Donations will go towards our contribution to Christian Aid Week, which is in May.

Do come along and join us, we spend a very friendly and chatty two hours together. Later, there will be a Poster with a list of dates and the Venues in the Village Shop, the Notice Board in the Church Porch and outside Platts Heath Hall.

**Joan Davidson**

### **ARRIVA BUS SERVICE 59** **Grafty Green - Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood**

Arriva has now decided to continue until the end of March the reduced fare offer on Saturdays of a £2-50 return fare (£1-25 for those in possession of the half fare permit issued by Maidstone Borough Council).

The existing level of Saturday service will also continue until the end of March but decisions have yet to be reached on what happens to it from April. Whatever happens on Saturdays, however, the Monday to Friday service is unlikely to be altered and will continue as now.

From April, of course, local bus travel for those aged 60 and over should be free! Hopefully more details will be available next month.

## Platts Heath Primary School



First things first.....We're still here and we're planning to stay! Following an article in the Downs Mail, rumours abound that Platts Heath Primary School is in danger of closing. This is NOT true. We have an increasing roll and maintain a four-class structure. There are many benefits associated with rural, village schools, not least the class sizes, the ratio of children to staff and the friendly, family ethos that abounds in both the classes and the playground.

If you have a child coming up to school age and would like to visit the school and meet the teachers, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01622 850316, we would be delighted to show you around.

In January we welcomed Mrs Lorna Church as a new addition to the teaching staff for Reception and Year 1, Mrs Church is an experienced teacher who has settled well into the hectic pace of our Rainbows class.

We have had a busy start to the new term, seven out of our ten Year 6 children took the recent PESE test for entrance into Grammar School and already some pupils have been "out and about". Earlier this week the Juniors travelled to Tunbridge Wells to see a production of Horrible Histories "Vile Victorians" and plans are in place for the Infants to visit both Leeds Castle and The Rare Breeds Centre later this term.

Yet again, a number of our children have been successful in their ballroom dancing exploits, some as young as five gaining trophies. Three of the older children were featured on BBC1's "Strictly Come Dancing" before Christmas.

We are looking forward to a busy and successful year at Platts Heath School.

**Carin Reddings, School Secretary**



**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**To:** Parents of Platts Heath, Detling, Ulcombe, Kingswood, Laddingford, Hollingbourne, Leeds and Broomfield, Hunton Primary Schools

**From:** Sarah Howe – Spokesman, Kent County Council

**Subject:** Downs Mail Article

**Date:** Friday 20th January 2006

Following the rather alarming and unhelpful news in the Downs Mail, I would like to give some reassurances to parents of each of the schools named. The Kent Primary Strategy document has been published and the public consultation has just finished. Nowhere in that document is your school named as being under threat of closure.

Headteachers have put the strategy together so that there is a framework for the development of primary education in Kent over the next 10 – 15 years. In total there are 56 recommendations, some of which address the national problem of falling pupil numbers in schools.

Please speak to your headteacher if you have concerns regarding the press coverage and if you wish to make your feelings about the strategy known. The Primary Strategy document can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/primarystrategy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/primarystrategy)

**Dr. Ian Craig**  
**KCC Assistant Director of Education**

## **Grafty Green Gardening Club**

On **February 7<sup>th</sup>** we will be given a talk by Charles Drake on the ‘Birds of North Kent Marshes’; not a subject that has much to do with gardening but as many members are keen bird watchers and encourage birds to the garden by growing different plants to attract a wide variety we are confident that it will be an interesting evening.

I would like to draw your attention to The Sweet Pea and Roses show that will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. This gives you a chance to tend your roses (give them a good feed) and plant some sweet peas as entries will be open to all.

More information: Sue Burch 850381 or Rosemary Smith 850526.

**Sue Burch**

## **Last word on carols for this year**

In addition to the village carol singing, Boughton Church Choir, plus a couple of friends, carried out their annual visit to sing carols on Christmas Eve at Chilston Park Hotel, for which we were given a cheque for £200.00. This, plus a collection made during a concert, brought the total we sent to the Demelza House this year to £420.00.

**Doreen Hulm**

## Grafty Garden Cuttings - February

We are all encouraged to 'Garden for Wildlife', so we do try, but I suppose, we are a little picky over the wildlife encouraged. We are pleased that the Greater Spotted Woodpecker seems to have taken up residence in one of our apple trees. We can tell by the spread of fresh wood chippings on the ground around the tree, that of the several test holes drilled into a branch, one hole has been made ever deeper and the bird seen flying out on occasion. I fear it may have taken a few pecks too far though, as the branch is fairly thin and the one hole that goes right through is expanding, and rot setting in.

We celebrated Christmas in the usual fashion, which meant very infrequent trips into the garden, especially with the snow: when I did trek round - horrors, those furry, grey things, with small, fluffy tails (whose name Michael forbids me to say ever again), had broken in, chewed at all sorts of plants and taken the bark off several of our apple trees. Dead - the trees, I mean. The animals were not even glimpsed, although they left plenty of tracks. Rats are at work around the compost heaps and the heron came in quietly one morning to steal fish and leave our pond with just three. And mice have been in the loft, chewing at this and that and clog dancing over the ceiling. Not so wonderful. Otherwise, we do welcome wildlife, we really do!!

Now is a good time to clean out the greenhouse, if not already done, ready for the sowing of seeds, like tomatoes, onions, leeks, petunias lobelias etc, provided there is some heating. Organic matter can be dug into vacant ground, ready for vegetables and lawns can receive a top dressing of loam and boarders, shrubs etc a feed. There is also time to move those shrubs and conifers that may be in the wrong place and plant new hedges.

If we have more snow, it is best to shake it off trees, hedges and shrubs, especially if there is a big build-up, as it can break them down quite easily. Small plants/bulbs can stay covered, as the snow protects them from cold winds and frost.

I have spent a happy few hours, going through the seed and plant catalogues making out lists of everything I would like to buy, then pruning them back to something sensible, and have ordered from three sources. This I should have done in November. Orders for plug plants must go in now, to give the companies time to germinate all that are needed, by the correct despatch time.

Grafty Green Gardening Club is going from strength to strength - New Year, new programme of speakers and visits. Do join us for the first Tuesday of the month (usually), when we spend 1 ½ - 2 hours of thoroughly enjoyable and interesting evening. Nothing too serious, I hasten to add, more of a social, with a gardening theme.

Rosemary Smith

### **Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)**

Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during February thru April

#### **Ulcombe**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February: 07:45 – 08.45 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

#### **Grafty Green**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February: 07:45 – 08.45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

#### **Platts Heath**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March: 14:15 – 15:45 -: Green Lane – side of road

## Short Monthly Quiz – Answers at the back (don't look first!)

1. What is the common name for the wild cat known as an ounce?
2. The adjective cervine refers to which of the following animals:  
Deer, Cats, or Beavers?
3. Other than walrus, what is the only sea creature that possesses  
an ivory tusk?
4. What slow moving, winged insect has varieties called Chinese  
and Carolina?
5. Which London Park houses London Zoo?
6. How many feet do snails have?
7. From which animal is nutria fur obtained?
8. Which Disney character was named after the Swahili word for lion?
9. Which mammals native to Madagascar, have species called  
Ring-tailed and Indri?
10. What bird lays the smallest egg?

Many thanks to **Paul Neaves** who set this quiz – hopefully another one will be set next month.

## **Grafty Green Heating Oil Club**

Most of you are probably aware that Grafty Green has an Oil Club, we now have about 70 members all benefiting from cheaper domestic heating oil. I have extended the boundary to cover Lenham, Sandway, Platts Heath, Liverton Hill, Ulcombe, and East Sutton.

By having Oil delivered in bulk benefits everyone including the environment, not so many heavy noisy tankers clogging up our roads and the countryside. To make the club work we all need to at least top up with the minimum 500 Litres or more at the same time, giving us maximum discount. It's easy, theoretically the more oil I order the more money we save. At the beginning of January the supplier delivered nearly 50,000 Litres and that was only about 35 members participating, 40 or 50 needing oil would have pushed the price even further down. Generally we save around 3 to 4p per Litre. So if you think it's for you please email me at [europa.13@btinternet.com](mailto:europa.13@btinternet.com) or telephone 858350. The Oil Club is non-profit making.

**Keith Anderson**

## **Family History Group**

We meet on Monday 27th February at 7-70pm at The Village School, Harrietsham at 7-30pm.

Cost £1, there is no joining fee; you only pay when you come along. Car parking is available. Do join us to see how and where to look for those elusive ancestors, it is not that difficult, but it is challenging. There are many books etc that are on display and may be borrowed.

Further info from Frank Long 850863; hope to see on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Frank Long**

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

The following two articles are from the Ringmaster (Maidstone Police) regarding Rogue Traders.

1. A trader is operating in the Bearsted area collecting unwanted clothing left out by consumers, but they are collecting bags which are specifically marked with Great Ormond Street Hospital on them. The organisers of the hospital collection are worried that consumer's donations are not going to the good cause they intend them to. They may start operating in our area, if so it's worth asking for identification and for which Charity they are collecting for.

2. A trader is operating in the Allington area of Maidstone, the description is of a young man of around 25 years of age, wearing high visibility clothing, with dark, cropped ear length hair. He is knocking on doors and asking residents if they would like Block Paving done. Kent Trading Standards advise consumers to be wary of doorstep callers. Be cautious and do not allow them access to your home. Should you decide you would like the work to be carried out ask neighbours or relatives if they could recommend suitable tradesmen. Try to get at least two written quotations before agreeing to have the work done.

If you know of any similar incidents, please report them to Trading Standards using the Rogue Trader Hotline on 0845 3450210.

## **The Clean Kent Campaign**

Kent County Council is trying to promote the responsible disposal of waste in our county.

The Clean Kent Campaign aims to improve the quality of the Kent environment by reducing fly-tipping and littering. There is widespread public concern about the quality of our environment in England. Litter, rubbish, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles are seen as key drivers of anti-social behaviour and potentially, in turn, crime. The Clean Kent Campaign recognises all of these issues and the effect that they may have on the quality of life, tourism, economic development and crime in Kent.

### **Don't let anyone spoil your views...**

If you see someone fly tipping, don't confront them but note the description and registration of any vehicle, what the person looks like, time and place and call your local council on one of the numbers below:

Ashford - 01233 330535

Maidstone - 01622 602162

If the rubbish appears to be hazardous or there is a lorry load of it, ring the Environment Agency's 24 hour hotline 0800 807060.

## **Miscellaneous observations on life...**

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, isn't it nice that wrinkles don't hurt.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.

He who hesitates is probably right.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't a lot more people happy?

Most of us go to our graves with our music still inside us.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

Don't cry because it's over: smile because it happened.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Happiness sometimes comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Once over the hill, you pick up speed.

If not for STRESS, some days I'd have no energy at all

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some of us just don't have film.

If you can't be kind, at least be vague.

Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.

We cannot change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails.

If the shoe fits, buy it in every colour.

### **Musings on modern life...**

I've had amnesia once -- or twice.

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

What is a 'free' gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible ... and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto a motorway.

Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.

A torch is a case for holding dead batteries.

My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

Is there another word for synonym?

The speed of time is one-second per second.

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Upper crust: a number of persons stuck together by their dough.

Reunion: when you meet people your own age who all look a lot older than you.

Rich man: a man who has so much money that he doesn't even know his son is about to start university.

## Answers to the Quiz

1. What is the common name for the wild cat known as an ounce?  
**Snow Leopard**
2. The adjective cervine refers to which of the following animals:  
Deer, Cats, or Beavers?  
**Deer**
3. Other than walrus, what is the only sea creature that possesses  
an ivory tusk?  
**Narwhal**
4. What slow moving, winged insect has varieties called Chinese  
and Carolina?  
**Praying Mantis**
5. Which London Park houses London Zoo?  
**Regents Park**
6. How many feet do snails have?  
**One**
7. From which animal is nutria fur obtained?  
**Coypu**
8. Which Disney character was named after the Swahili word for  
lion?  
**Simba**
9. Which mammals native to Madagascar, have species called  
Ring-tailed and Indri?  
**Lemur**
10. What bird lays the smallest egg?  
**Hummingbird**

**ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING  
ALLIANCE**



**JOB VACANCY**

With immediate effect, the pre-school has a vacancy for a **Pre-School Leader**. The successful applicant will need to hold an NVQ Level 3 Qualification in Childcare / Early Years and will be responsible for the day to day running of the pre-school. An ability to carry out curriculum planning is essential, along with processing of Early Years Funding. We are a small, friendly group, located in the middle of Lenham village, offering a high quality of care and education as recognised by OFSTED for 2½ - 5 year olds. Lenham Acorns Pre-School is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Further information and an application form  
can be obtained from

Melissa Alexander, Tel: 01622 858558

Registered Charity: 1109938

## **From the Registers**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November**, at Lenham, St Mary, Authorisation of five Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs).

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Anne Washington of Harrietsham.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Roger Milligan of Lenham.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December**, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, interment of cremated remains of the late Dick Woods.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December**, at Lenham, St Mary, wedding of James McNama & Clare Furneaux-Harris

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December**, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Gladys Durey of Bearsted.

## **Bits 'n Pieces**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2006 - Ways in Prayer.** This is the fifth year in succession when a day of experiential workshops on prayer is being arranged by the Canterbury Diocesan Spirituality Group. The venue is the Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury and you can select three workshops from a total of six available; they include: Journal Writing; Music and Heaven's Open Door; Made up Stories, Our Story, The Great Story; Moving into Silence; Meditation on an Icon of Christ. The cost is £6.50; bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Enquiries to Michelle at the Benefice Office (850604).

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2006 - Family Services.** This month, and for the foreseeable future, the Sunday on which Family Services are held in Harrietsham

and Ulcombe will revert to the first Sunday of each month. Also, today is the first Taize service of the year, in Bearsted, Holy Cross at 7.00pm.

**Tuesday 7th February 2006 - Ploughman's Lunch.** At 'Shalom' in Maidstone Community Centre in Marsham Street noon to 2.00pm with guest speaker, Diana Greenfield, Chaplain to the Night Clubs, speaking on "*Night Work*"; suggested contribution £3.00 to include refreshments. Contact 01622-683878

**Wednesday 8th February 2006.** At 7.30pm in St Paul's, Boxley Road, Maidstone, a consultation about the Diocesan Budget for 2007/08, presented by either by David Kemp - Diocesan Secretary or Julian Hills - Diocesan Accountant. In addition Raymond Harris Chairman of the Board of Finance and other members of the Finance Committee of Archbishop's Council will be making contributions. Prime contributions are invited from the 'floor' and it is expected that the draft budget will be changed as the Diocese responds to comments from these consultations.

**Wednesday 1st March 2006.** Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, with services at Lenham, St Mary at 9.30am and Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, at 6.30pm.

### **Tailpieces on Prayer**

*"When I pray, coincidences happen.*

*And when I stop praying, the coincidences stop"*

[Archbishop William Temple 1881-1944]

*"Prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue"*

[Adam Clarke 1762-1832]

*If you would like to find out more about Church services or activities please contact either the Revd Don Irvine (859466) or the Revd Fiona Naylor (853919) or the Benefice Administrator, Michelle Saunders (850604).*

**Revd Don Irvine**

**The Len Valley Benefice**  
**Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe**  
**Sunday Services - February 2006**

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 05 Feb 06	08.00 L 08.00 H 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U 19.00 Bstd	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc Taize
5 <sup>th</sup> of Epiphany		
Sun 12 Feb 06	08.00 L 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U 15.00 H	BCP HC Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc CW 1 ?Baptism
3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent		
Sun 19 Feb 06	08.00 L 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 BCP EP
2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent		
Sun 26 Feb 06	08.00 L 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U 18.30 H	BCP HC MS CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 Informal
Sunday next before Lent		

## 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)  
CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One) Holy Communion  
Informal = Evening worship in an informal style

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

If you would like to advertise in Malherbe Monthly and reach the whole of Boughton Malherbe, Grafty Green, Liverton Street, Platts Heath and Internet via [boughtonmalherbe.com](http://boughtonmalherbe.com)

The monthly costs are:

1/8 page	£3.00
1/4	£5.00
1/2	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

Phone 01622 850711 or Email [christine.kings@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.kings@btinternet.com)