



# Malherbe Monthly

Number 61  
August 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
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	Christine King email: <a href="mailto:christine-king@hotmail.co.uk">christine-king@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07710 457297
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: <a href="mailto:dickvenn@gmail.com">dickvenn@gmail.com</a>	858195
Reader	Miss Joan Drury email: <a href="mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com">jdrury23@btinternet.com</a>	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@lvb.org.uk">churchoffice@lvb.org.uk</a>	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: <a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>	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 September edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)) by **20<sup>th</sup> August**

**Front cover:** Who'd A Thought It Pub in Grafty Green

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

### **Ashford Invicta Singers Concert**

The Ashford Invicta Singers Concert at Ivy House Farm on 11<sup>th</sup> July had to re-locate to St. Mary's Lenham for the performance due to the threat of rain and a very breezy evening, which would not have been very pleasant as the garden at Ivy House catches all the prevailing winds. The concert was a huge success and a grand total of £1,275 was raised for the Fabric Fund. This will help to meet costs when we receive the Quinquennial Report on the Church Fabric, which is due to be carried out later this year. Our thanks are due to the Invicta Singers, the Wardens and PCC of St. Mary's for the use of the Church and to John Arthur and Valerie for use of the Tithe Barn Car Park.

### **Cream Teas**

The Cream Teas have started and the first week-end was most successful but the second was a battle with high winds. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a Cream Tea on 26<sup>th</sup> July as a wedding had been arranged for that day, but from the 2<sup>nd</sup> August we hope to have a clear run until the 13<sup>th</sup> September. Let's hope the sun will shine and encourage our customers out into the countryside. The Cream Teas consist of a pot of tea, 2 large homemade scones, freshly made strawberry jam, whipped cream and butter all for just £2.50 per tea. Do come along and support us on one or more Sundays.

### **The Licensing of our Associate Priest**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 our new Associate Priest, the Reverend Marian Bond was licensed in St. Mary's, Lenham by the Archdeacon of Maidstone, The Venerable Philip Down.

Marian, who lives in Harrietsham with her husband Andrew, was ordained Priest three years ago in her then parish, Marden. She has been working in Marden for the past three years. She has always wanted to come back to the Len Valley benefice where she first was encouraged to take holy orders - and now she has the opportunity to continue her ministry among the people that she knows well.

We welcome her back among us and I am sure she and Dick Venn will make a very good team with the help of all the ministry team.

The service was attended by the Area Dean Rev. Professor Canon Robin Gill, the Lay Chair of the Deanery Mrs. Molly Poulter, fellow Clergy from the Deanery, which included the Rev. Nigel Fry from Hollingbourne and Leeds and Rev. John Corbyn, Bearsted and Thurnham, Rev. Don Irvine from the Whitstable Team Ministry and

Rev. Ann Irvine, The Rev. James Robinson from Marden and members from the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels, Marden and Wardens and PCCs and parishioners from across the benefice. After the service we had refreshments provided by each of the four parishes.

### **Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride**

The Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to ride for us visiting the churches on their route? Joan Davidson has a list of the churches which will be open and if the weather is good (or not) you can spend a good day riding or walking between churches. The churches are open to sign your sponsor forms from 10 am to 6 pm.

Don't forget to get lots of sponsors to encourage you to bike/walk the extra mile (!!). The sponsorship raises money for your Church and the Friends, who do great work giving grants to churches to help with the cost of repairs to their buildings.

**Joan Davidson**

### **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, 2008 and 2009 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

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

**[www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)**

## Jenny Whittle



Dear Resident,

I thought it would be helpful to update you on two major developments.

Following the recent publication of the South East Plan, a major consultation is underway on the number of **gypsy and traveller pitches** that each county in the region should take. The former South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) proposed that Kent and Medway should take 75% per cent of the additional pitches, a total of some 35. I argued at the last Gypsy and Traveller Board meeting that our county should take no more than 50% and that the pitches should be spread across the county more evenly. It is very difficult however for Members to consider such figures in isolation from knowing where these pitches will be. I am concerned that the good relations that have existed for many years between settled residents and the gypsy and traveller community could be adversely affected if too many pitches are sited closely together.

I have been in a series of meetings with KCC, MBC, the StopKig group, the Joint Parishes Group and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CRPE) to ensure that our arguments are consistent, based upon strong evidence and meet the Inspector's request to avoid unnecessary duplication. The Public Inquiry will start on 13 October and will last 6-8 weeks. An evening session will be held to enable those who work in the day to air their views. I would urge as many of you as possible to attend the Public Inquiry whenever you can as this will give a resounding message to the Inspector of the strength of local feeling. If you can attend, please contact the Stop KIG group ([secretary@stopkig.org](mailto:secretary@stopkig.org)) to advise of the dates you will be available and whether you can attend a morning or afternoon session. It will run Tuesday to Friday each week, normally 10am to 5pm, but will occasionally start at 9.30, with an early finish on a Friday. During the Half Term week in October, the Inquiry will only sit on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Please do come along.

With my very best wishes

**Jenny Whittle**  
**County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East**

Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

**Mondays to Fridays**

Service No.	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1555
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1557
Wheatsharf	1236	1411	1604	1604
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608
Linton Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612
Chart Sutton	1252	1427	1620	1620
Wheatsharf	1255	1430	1623	1623
Wormlake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626
Kingswood, Village Hall	1306	1523	1634	1646
Kingswood, Post Office	1313	1530	1641	1653
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	1537	1648	1700
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	1327	1544	1655	1707
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	1334	1551	1662	1714

**Saturdays**

Service No.	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney 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, Brishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Chartway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0838	1241	1525	1755
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0840	1243	1527	1757
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0847	1250	1534	1804
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	1254	1538	—	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	1258	1542	—	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	1303	1547	1817	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	1306	1550	1820	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	1309	1553	1823	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0859	1312	1556	1826
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	—	—	1604	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0907	1320	—	1834
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0914	1327	—	1841
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0921	1334	—	1848
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	—	—	—	—

**Mondays to Fridays**

Service No.	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	—	—	0736	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	0745	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0723	—	0723	0915
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730	—	0730	0922
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735	—	0735	0927
Wormlake Corner	0738	—	0738	0929
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746	—	0744	0935
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0739	0747	0809	0938
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742	0750	0811	0941
Linton Corner	0745	0753	—	0944
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0750	0758	—	0949
Wheatsharf	0756	0802	—	0953
Maidstone, King Street	0758	0800	—	0957
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0806	—	—	1005
Maidstone, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	1013
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	1022

**Saturdays**

Service No.	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0733	0923	1336	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0740	0930	1343	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0745	0935	1348	1604
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0747	0937	1350	1606
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0753	0943	1356	1612
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0756	0946	1359	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0759	0949	1402	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0802	0952	1405	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0807	0957	1410	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0811	1001	1414	—
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0815	1005	1418	1624
Maidstone, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chartford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ucombe Hill, Ucombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.	0823	1013	1427	1632

**Sundays and Public Holidays\***

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

**NOTE**

1. The Saturday buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council by Nu-Venture (Tel: 01622 882288), NOT Arriva.

**CODES**

- \* — These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG.
- \* — Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.
- R — Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

## Grafty Garden Cuttings – August

There are at least three fledgling thrushes, chasing mum around the garden, demanding to be fed. They are more successful than the blackbirds that made such an untidy nest near the back door. They only managed to raise one huge and ever hungry youngster. We heard it for days, deep in the border, voice constantly raised to its ever tattier father - mother seemed to have given up and ignored it. Three buzzards can now be seen circling above us, so they too must have reared a youngster successfully.

The year is also a good one for wasps and butterflies. The former are around in hordes, with a large and very active nest in our alpine beds (former coal bunkers), which we decided to deconstruct and reconstruct elsewhere. After various attempts to dislodge the lodgers, which only succeeded in making them terribly annoyed, Michael tugged at a plant to remove it and out came said hordes to chase him halfway through the village, stinging him several times. We called in professional help. The plant had removed their roof, so no wonder they were a little irked!

The butterflies are far more acceptable and rise in dozens every time we walk around the garden, more than we have seen for years. Peacocks and Painted Ladies predominate, with Cabbage White, Commas and Small Copper close behind, plus a few Red Admirals. The environmesh has worked well, keeping the cabbages caterpillar free and looking as healthy as any I have ever grown, although the weeds like it too.

Hedging is an on-going job. Beech hedges should be trimmed in late July and Yew in the third week of August, all others as needed. We cut our mixed hedges while growth is young, rake it out and mow it up so it can be composted. This may mean two or three cuts a year but is far easier and quicker and encourages bushy growth for the full height of the hedge, provided they are not taken back too close to the main stems/trunks/branches.

For the rest of the month, it is the usual weeding, trimming, lawn maintenance, fruit picking, et al. Weeding paths can be a time consuming task: rather like painting the Forth bridge, once finished, start again, so organic or not, I resort to a residual weedkiller, Doff Total Path Weedkiller which lasts up to a year, or Pathclear. Saves hours of fun with a knife, knee pads and back ache.

**Visit of note:** the World Garden at Lullingstone castle. We (the Garden Club), enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon there, as a follow-up to Tom Hart-Dyke's talk. Some of us managed to chat to him, which was a bonus and the garden is maturing nicely with lots of interest, in a fabulous setting.

**Rosemary Smith**

## **Trading Standards Information**

Dear all, please see the below message from Trading Standards that I hope you will find useful. Please feel free to pass this onto your scheme members. Very many thanks Mick PC Mick Wright Force Watch Liaison Officer

The role of Trading Standards is to provide advice and guidance to consumers and businesses. Amongst other tasks we try to disrupt the activities of doorstep criminals. If necessary we can prosecute the worst offences provided we have sufficient evidence. Please take the time to report doorstep criminals to us via Consumer Direct on 0845 404 05 06. The information we receive is valued. Consumer Direct can also give you information on your rights as a consumer. Visit our website at [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent) to find out more about what we do.

We have recently published a booklet "The Smart Guide to Scams - How to deal with doorstep criminals, scam mail and unwanted phone calls" to get a copy email [tsadvice@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tsadvice@kent.gov.uk) or view it on line at

<http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent/documents/AE%20factsheets/The%20smart%20guide%20to%20scams.pdf>

### **Doorstep Callers**

Doorstep Callers offering most goods or services valued at over £35.00 should provide you with a 7 day cancellation period in writing. A recent change to the law means that you will be able to cancel any contract made while in your home; this applies to both cold callers and businesses you invite to call. Always carefully consider any offer that is made to you at your door. If you are told work needs to be done on your property take extra care. There are very few jobs around the house that need to be done immediately. Do not be pressurised into making an instant decision.

Call Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or visit [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk) for further advice or to report any details that have been taken e.g. descriptions of the caller(s) vehicle details/registrations, phone numbers.

Check out the Buy with Confidence Scheme for details of approved traders you can trust at [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) or by ringing Trading Standards on 01233 652385

### **Scam Mail**

Scam mail could be mail order catalogues, letters asking for your assistance in transferring money, letters telling you that you have won a prize in a draw or offering to tell you your future. Never respond as it could increase the amount of scam mail that you will get. Dispose of it in your recycling bag remembering to remove any personal information.



**Unwanted Mail**

By registering with the Mail Preference Service it is possible to reduce the amount that is received. It is a free service. It is unlikely that this will stop any mailings from abroad.

Mailing Preference Service

DMA House

70 Margaret Street

London

W1W 8SS

Tel 0845 703 4599

[www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)

**Unwanted Telephone Calls**

Register with the Telephone Preference Service to reduce the number of unwanted calls. It is unlikely to stop calls coming from outside the UK.

Telephone Preference Service

DMA House

70 Margaret Street

London

W1W 8SS

Tel 0845 070 0707

[www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

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

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	___ Liu, Charlie's Angel Star
2	Dale ____, Host of Supermarket Sweep
3	___ McCrirck, Racing Pundit
4	Pete ____, Former lead singer of Baby Shambles
5	_____ Force, Action drama series about SAS soldiers
6	A ___ ___ Alice, 1950 novel by Neville Shute
7	___ Merton, Housewife chat show host created by Caroline Aherne
8	The ___ ___, Captain Pugwash Pirate Boat
9	Red ____, A cult science fiction TV sitcom with Chris Barrie and Craig Charles
10	_____ Spillane, who created fictional detective Mike Hammer

## Platts Heath Primary School

Platts Heath has been truly blessed with two dazzling sunny weekends during late June and early July.

**On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** the sun held out for us for our Summer Fayre which in turn brought so many of you out to join in the fun giving us once again a very successful day. If this is a credit crunch summer then we didn't do too badly at all. A total of £2572.90 was the takings for the day which is just amazing! Of course it's not all about the money we do hope you enjoyed the day and we thank you for your support.

We saw the Hobby Horse Gymkhana back by popular demand and even funnier than last year. The number of entries doubled and there were certainly some imaginative ways to get round the course. Some of you were very quick, some of you were very graceful but all of you were just so very entertaining. The Mandy Ellen Dancers took to the course like nothing we've seen before, after wowing us with their dance performances as seen on 'Britain's got talent' they wowed us yet again with acrobatic somersaults, back flips and sky high leaps. The firemen made us laugh when they dressed in up in full kit and equipped with hobby horse attacked the course presenting us with some comedy slapstick reminiscent of the keystone cops (who knew they could be so funny). All of you were great from tiny tots to full grown men and women, you certainly entertained us and I can't wait to see how you get round it next year!

The Platts Heath School Maypole dancers gave yet another amazing performance with such intricate dances. I don't know how they remember them or how Abi manages to teach them but all those Wednesday afternoons of hard work certainly paid off. Well done, it so nice to see this tradition carried on. Sadly, this will be the last year Abi Crutcher teaches the children as she is moving to pastures new, we wish her luck in her new life and welcome Grace and Kelly who will be taking over.

As always there are so many people to thank for these events don't just happen on their own. So we would like to thank the parents, carers and teachers of Platts Heath School and the residents of Platts Heath community for their unfailing generosity and support. We would like to give special thanks to several people who just help in so many ways. Peter Reeves of Woods of Headcorn not only for donating a BMX bike but for being such a wonderful lovely guy who is always on hand to help, nothing is ever too much trouble and for always making us laugh. Ged Butler of Butler Driveways and his crew not only for an outstanding BBQ but if it weren't for the transport and muscle they provide the logistics of getting equipment on to the field would prove very difficult indeed.

Mandy Ellen, who very kindly brought not one but four of her very talented dance groups to entertain us. All performances were outstanding and how lucky are we to have so much talent around us. Mr & Mrs Robinson, for providing us with much needed water.

Mr & Mrs Evans for providing the jumps for our Gymkhana. And finally the PTFA team who work so hard to put this event together. This is the last year as chair for Hazel and myself as we feel it is time to move over and let some of the new parents bring their ideas and enthusiasm to the fore. We are by no means walking away, we will still be on hand for a while yet but we just won't be giving the orders anymore! 'Thank God for that!' I hear so many cry. But seriously we have enjoyed our time and would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last five years.

**On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** the sunny weather allowed us to make use of our school field yet again as the villagers of Platts Heath enjoyed a BBQ and game of rounders organised by the St Edmunds centre committee. A chance for grown ups and children to mix and have a bit of fun. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July** saw the first of our school camp weekend. This is the fourth year we have camped on the school field and normally we only do it for one night but this year we attempted two nights. It turned out to be a great success. We had lots of activities planned to keep the days and nights busy and we did manage to carry out some, rounders, races, making fairy wands, water bombing and spraying, toasting marshmallows and a bit of singing round the campfire, but we soon discovered that the children just enjoyed the freedom of being able to run around and hang out with all of their friends in a safe and secure environment, I think the same can be said for the adults too. Everyone seemed to enjoy the weekend which had a very laid back holiday atmosphere.

Thank you to all of you who came along and joined in the fun and thank you to the residents of Platts Heath who didn't mind us being a bit noisy!

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**

With the holiday season upon us there is little going on at St Edmunds at present, in fact the whole village seems strangely quiet whilst the school is closed for the summer. So many families are away or doing the trips out to the seaside, zoos, etc. I have to say I look through rose tinted glasses and see happy families enjoying the break together in the sunshine we are having so far this year.

However the "Little Angels" mother and toddlers group are continuing throughout the summer holidays and older siblings are welcome to come along with mum too. They meet every Monday morning from 10am - 12 noon for further information ring Karen Yardley on 01622 858208.

The coffee mornings have been cancelled this year as we have lost so many of the original ladies that started them. However we will look at things again if villagers miss them. The keep fit club has now finished for the summer and will start again in September.

Our line dance class is still going strong so if you fancy a fun way to exercise and pleasant company give us a try. We do not take ourselves seriously, have a good laugh and drive Joanne mad sometimes it is still only £3 per person on Thursday evenings 8pm-9pm.

Anyone wishing to hire the hall can do so by phoning me on 858891 or Duffrey Robinson on 850463.

**Patricia Dibley Secretary**

# **NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **END OF THE YEAR**

It has certainly been an eventful academic year. We seem to have taken part in an enormous number of events, raising thousands of pounds for the PTA and other good causes. Children have made great progress during the year. Ofsted came and went, reporting that those of us in school were aware of what we need to do better and that we had, before they came, already started to make many improvements. On the subject of good causes, please remember that tomorrow is Denim for Diabetes Day. For a donation of £1 or more to Diabetes UK children can wear jeans or other denim clothes.

As ever, if you have any concerns about school please remember to come and talk to us and we will do our best to help. From our point of view there are few things more frustrating than finding out that parents have concerns when it is too late to resolve the issue as well as we could have done. Coming to talk through concerns with us may alert us to a problem of which we were unaware, or we may be able to reassure you that we are already dealing with it.

### **PTA Fundraising**

Thank you very much for your support in recent weeks. The Summer Fayre raised over £1,000 for the PTA and the Summer Ball on Saturday was a huge success, raising more than £1,300. It was fantastic to see so many parents and friends from the wider community coming together for a great evening. Our thanks must go to Mrs Berry for doing so much to organise the Ball, and to Mrs Williams for her hard work in organising the Summer Fayre. Many thanks to all of the PTA committee who have been working so hard to make these events so successful. This was the first Summer Ball and we are already talking about the next one!

### **Other Fundraising and Promotions**

Many thanks to those of you who attended the Travelling Book Fair recently. We earned over £150 of books for the school library. We must again say thank you to everyone who has contributed to the supermarket voucher schemes. We have used them to 'purchase' two new football goals, footballs for use on the playground, cookery equipment and a video camera. This is absolutely fantastic. The Times newspaper is still running its Books for Schools scheme. If you have The Times newspaper, please remember to cut out the tokens and bring them in to school. On Friday we had our final Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner for the year. As well as raising a few pounds for the school, it is always great to see friends from the wider community coming into school.

## **Ulcombe Village Day**

On Saturday (11<sup>th</sup> July), the Ulcombe Village Day took place. Groovy UV 2009 was a long evening of music featuring a selection of the best local songwriters and musicians. Our talent show winners, and everyone who could come along and join our choir, performed before the start of the music festival and were brilliant!

## **End of Year Production**

The children did a great job with our end of year production, Britain Is Poptastic. It was a really great toe-tapping evening. Thank you to everyone who helped with costumes and line-learning, but thanks especially to the children who worked so hard. Well done.

## **Celebrations**

Thank you to Andy Davis and our guitarists who played for us in assembly. It is always great to hear what they have been learning in their sessions. To celebrate the wide range of achievements of our leavers this year we held an End of Year disco on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. For children in our oldest class, this was followed by a barbecue. We all came together at All Saints Parish Church on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July for our Leavers' Service. It was great to see parents and friends joining us. The children in Year 6 planned the service and lead much of it, and what a great job they did, too!

## **Next Year!**

Looking ahead to the new term we have several things happening right at the start of the new school year. On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Two Feet will be in the hall running a shoe fitting surgery. This is a great opportunity to check that your child has the right size shoes. You can also buy shoes, though there is no compulsion to buy from them and the fitting service is free.

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September Premier Sport are hoping to run a Multi-Skills day from 9.30am. If you have ordered uniform for the new school year, you will be able to collect this from 10am, also on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Much further ahead, please put the date of our Open Morning in your diary. This is for parents of children in school, and for parents of children who are yet to start primary education. We look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, finding out what a morning is like in our school.

Best wishes to all of our friends for the summer. We are already looking forward to our new school year, starting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Mr V Hampton,**  
Head Teacher

## The August Night Sky

The Sun is in the constellation of Cancer at the start of the month, and moves into Leo in mid August.

Full Moon occurs on Thursday 6th August, when the Moon is in the constellation of Capricornus, and New Moon is on Thursday 20th August.

Again this month it will not be possible to see Mercury, as it is at its greatest elongation on 24th August, and sets only a few minutes after the Sun.

Venus is rising about three hours before the Sun, and by dawn it can be clearly seen just above the eastern horizon. Even in the twilight conditions its brightness dominates the eastern sky.

Mars is rising in the northeast around midnight, and by dawn it is high in the eastern sky. During the month it is moving eastward out of Taurus and into Gemini.

Jupiter is at opposition to the Sun on 14th August, so it rises as the Sun sets, and can be seen due south at midnight. Through a telescope it may be possible to see its two dark equatorial cloud-belts, together with some of Jupiter's four moons.

At the beginning of the month it may be possible to see Saturn in the western sky just after sunset, but by the end of the month we will have lost sight of the Ringed Planet.

Whilst still on the subject of Saturn, some of you may have read that gas jets, that could signify an underground water supply, have been spotted by scientists on one of Saturn's moons, suggesting it could be a home for extraterrestrial life.

A team from the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg has identified seawater salt in ice grains forming Saturn's outermost ring. Scientists already know that the ring is replenished by plumes of water spurting into space by Saturn's sixth largest moon, Enceladus. Organic chemicals have also been detected in the plumes.

**John Maunder**

## How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting 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.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING SUMMER YOGA**

*Grafty Green Village Hall*

I am going to run a series of yoga sessions on Wednesday evenings  
7 - 8.30 at £5 a session. These are the dates:

29<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August

If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in please  
give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339



## GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB 2009 PROGRAMME

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips	Sissinghurst gardener: Amy Cabey
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Dry Garden	H. Newman
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Butterflies	Steve Weeks
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show & River Medway Part 2	Graham Johnson
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale – on the Green	
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Local garden visit	Sissinghurst
5 <sup>th</sup> June – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Weekend visit to Hampshire	
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit	Tom Hart Dyke
<b>4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Autumn show - Aspects of showing	Lesley Feakes
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Village Signs	Avice Harms
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Kent in the 1900 century	Bob Ogley
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Gardening quiz and supper	

Further details from Sue Burch on 850381 or Rosemary Smith on 850526

- ❖ 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.

## Grafty Green Gardening Club



An invitation for you to join us at the  
Grafty Green Gardening Club  
Summer Social (drinks and nibbles)

@

Myrtle House, Headcorn Road  
Grafty Green

6.30 onwards on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Parking in the field (hope the hay has been  
cut)

Further details from Sue Burch on 850381

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

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

Phone 01622 858937 or  
Email [mf.hitchins@virgin.net](mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net)

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

Maidstone Borough Council has now has issued the new timetable up to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early.

Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc. They state it is against EU rules and they have to provide a separate freighter to do this.

### **Grafty Green**

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

### **Platts Heath**

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	11:15 – 12-15 -: Green Lane
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11:15 – 12-15 -: Green Lane
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:15 – 12-15 -: Green Lane

### **Ulcombe**

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

### **Lenham**

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd – Boughton Rd
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd – Boughton Rd

## **The Grafty Gourmet**

I thought I would attempt fate, by suggesting a Barbecue recipe this month. Well it is supposed to be summer! These Kebabs are simple to make, and a delicious served with Mango Chutney. The kebabs can be made well in advance, and stored in the fridge. If you are using wooden skewers, soak them in water for 30 minutes first. This will prevent them burning when on the barbecue.

### **Spiced Chicken & Cashew Kebabs**

Serves 4 to 6

500g chopped boneless and skinless chicken thighs.  
50g blanched cashews chopped  
2 spring onions, finely chopped  
1 tbsp finely chopped coriander  
Small knob of fresh root ginger, finely grated  
½ tsp garam Marsalla  
½ tsp turmeric  
½ tsp ground coriander  
½ tsp ground cumin  
1 tsp hot chilli powder  
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 medium egg, beaten  
Olive Oil, for basting  
Mango chutney, to serve

- 1.** Put the chicken in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until coarsely minced. Transfer to a large mixing bowl and add the nuts, spring onions, coriander, ginger and dry spices. Season well with salt and pepper.
- 2.** Mix everything together, adding a little of the beaten egg to bind (don't add too much egg or the mixture will become too wet to handle).
- 3.** Scoop out a golf ball-sized portion of the mixture and wrap around the end of a skewer into a thick sausage shape. Repeat with the rest of the mixture to make 10-12 kebabs. Chill in the fridge for at least 1 hour to firm up.
- 5.** Wait for that rare moment of English sunshine and light the Barbecue. Brush the kebabs with a little oil, then grill on a hot barbecue or griddle for about 10 minutes, turning occasionally. Serve with mango chutney on the side.

**The Grafty Gourmet**

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Dear all please see below details of an initiative, to engage with young people and introduce them to NhW. Certainly their views are important and we need to hear what they have to say.

The Kent Police Youth Panel is made up of young people, aged 11 and over who live in Kent and Medway, who tell us what they think about a number of crime and policing issues.

The panel helps us to understand the views and needs of young people across Kent and Medway. We use this information to help us improve the service provided by Kent Police.

### **How it works**

During a year, panel members will be invited to take part in up to four surveys or discussion groups.

We will ask for your opinions by email, telephone or post or at informal discussion group meetings.

### **Get involved**

If you are aged 11 years and older,(or know a young person who is), live in Kent and Medway and would like more information about becoming a Youth Panel member, please email the Youth Panel or call 01622 652667.

Please visit [www.kent.police.uk/youthpanel](http://www.kent.police.uk/youthpanel) for more information

Very many thanks  
PC Mick Wright  
County Watch Liaison Officer

## **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?

	<b>Word 1</b>	<b>Word 2</b>	<b>Word 3</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	Glass	Moral	Optics	<b>Fibre</b>
2	Nervous	Solar	Immune	
3	Threat	Talk	Bone	
4	Landscape	Market	Head	
5	Bread	Litter	Sin	
6	Kettle	Stick	Beat	
7	Family	Blue	Flush	
8	Flower	Room	Time	
9	String	Horse	Horn	
10	Enemy	Bishop	Duke	
11	Battle	Pick	Ice	
12	Foreign	Busy	Blow	
13	Smoke	False	Clock	
14	Pepper	Spear	Sauce	
15	Real	Pale	House	
16	Sheet	Pan	Saw	

## HOW ARE YOUR REFLEXES?

Having moved into this benefice in April it is a privilege to be asked to contribute to the parish magazines.

My new role is Archbishops' Missioner. I am charged, by our Archbishops, with the task of helping the parishes and dioceses of the Church of England (together with our Methodist and United Reformed partners) reach out to the majority of our population, who have little or no contact with the church. The challenge is either to draw them into our churches, through our hospitality and Christian concern, or, as will often be the case, to create new forms (fresh expressions) of church appropriate for them.

At the heart of all this is the belief that church exists for others, before it exists for us. In fact it exists so that in every place there would be a community introducing others to the grace they themselves had found. Grace is the only source of mission. If we have encountered the extraordinary grace of God in Jesus Christ it is transformative. The grace we have received at such cost not only saves us, through Christ's death for our sins, it changes us. By that same grace we can become, little by little, more like Christ; in other words people who live for others before themselves.

A church is God's community of people becoming like his Son. The journey closer to Christ is simultaneously a journey closer to those in need of the love of Christ, or who do not yet know Christ. Every decision in a parish or benefice has to pass one ultimate test. Will it help us introduce others to the grace of Christ? Our personal level of giving, our shared decisions about our much loved church buildings, and every decision about liturgy, styles of music or coffee in church is to be made for others, not to suit us.

This makes mission a reflex. Being loved enables love. Mission does not happen because Christ tells us to do it (although he does!) Being told to sacrifice rarely goes down well, but sacrificial living happens in response to grace. Because we have been and are loved unconditionally, we begin to find ourselves doing the same.

Grace is the only thing that can change the Len Valley, so I want to ask you a church health question. How are your reflexes?

**Bishop Graham Cray**

***The Len Valley Benefice***  
***Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe***  
**Sunday/Main Services – August 2009**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 8th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise Service  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion  
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion  
11.15am Family Praise Service  
7pm All Saints Ulcombe Taize Service

**9<sup>th</sup> August 9th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Morning Service  
11.00am Lenham Morning Service  
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion  
6.30pm St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe, Choral Evensong

**16<sup>th</sup> August 10th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion  
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion  
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 11th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Praise Service  
11.00am Lenham Family Praise Service  
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

**30<sup>th</sup> August 12th Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
10.00am Benefice Celebration Service in St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe  
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service



## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	<b>Word 1</b>	<b>Word 2</b>	<b>Word 3</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	Glass	Moral	Optics	Fibre
2	Nervous	Solar	Immune	System
3	Threat	Talk	Bone	Idle
4	Landscape	Market	Head	Gardener
5	Bread	Litter	Sin	Bin
6	Kettle	Stick	Beat	Drum
7	Family	Blue	Flush	Royal
8	Flower	Room	Time	Bed
9	String	Horse	Horn	Shoe
10	Enemy	Bishop	Duke	Arch
11	Battle	Pick	Ice	Axe
12	Foreign	Busy	Blow	Body
13	Smoke	False	Clock	Alarm
14	Pepper	Spear	Sauce	Mint
15	Real	Pale	House	Ale
16	Sheet	Pan	Saw	Dust

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	Lucy Liu, Charlie's Angel Star
2	Dale Winton, Host of Supermarket Sweep
3	John McCrirk, Racing Pundit
4	Pete Doherty, Former lead singer of Baby Shambles
5	Ultimate Force, Action drama series about SAS soldiers
6	A Town Like Alice, 1950 novel by Neville Shute
7	Mrs Merton, Housewife chat show host created by Caroline Ahern
8	The Black Pig, Captain Pugwash Pirate Boat
9	Red Dwarf, A cult science fiction TV sitcom with Chris Barrie and Craig Charles
10	Mickey Spillane, who created fictional detective Mike Hammer