



Malherbe Monthly

Number 37 August 2007



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	Liz Watts	737321
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. 3.30 by Post Office	
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
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The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the September edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th August

Front cover: The Post bus leaves Grafty Post Office – but not for long!!

Photograph courtesy of John Collins – 17th July 2007

News from St. Nicholas Church

Cream Teas

Cream teas are now being served at St. Nicholas. We have been lucky with the weather for the first two Sundays in July and hope our luck will hold for the rest of the Summer. We will be offering our delicious Teas until the 9th September and then, if the weather is favourable, we may continue for another one or two weeks. Watch for posters around the Village to tell you further dates. Already we have had some customers from last year returning to see us, which is really good. We have jam and sometimes cakes for sale. Mugs, notelets, postcards, second hand books and tea towels are also on sale.

Invicta Singers Concert

The Concert was well attended and the evening was fine if a little chilly towards the end of the evening. The 40 strong Choir sang us a very good selection of music which included All Things Bright and Beautiful by John Rutter, Moon River, Angels by Robbie Williams and Guy Chambers, Tragedy by the Gibb brothers, a Medley from Mary Poppins, Can you feel the love tonight? music by Elton John and words by Tim Rice and several more numbers.

The guest spot was filled by the Buckthorn Band, who played and sang traditional Irish and English music. The raffle was a good one and made £256. After expenses, we raised upwards of £1,250 towards Church expenses and the Fabric Fund. Our thanks are due to the Invicta Singers, who don't charge for their time but we give them a donation to buy more music. With about 50 copies of music to buy each time a new number is needed it is quite an expense. Thank you to all those who helped on the gate, car parking and selling tickets for the raffle.

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 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

Grafty Green Village Hall - Chairman's Report - 2007

During the past year the Village Hall has been used for a wide variety of events and social gatherings. It is currently being regularly rented by several local organisations; these include the Gardening Club, Yoga classes and the Headcorn Morris dancers.

Several fundraising events have been held during the year:-

- In August a BBQ was held by kind permission of Richard and Sandra Pilborough in their garden.
- In October a Quiz and Games Supper was organised by Paul and Margaret Neaves.
- In November a Dance was held with the band - Walls have Ears.
- In March this year a Barn Dance was held with the band - Folkal Point.

All these events were very well supported and most enjoyable. In total they raised over £1,500 - the best year in terms of fundraising for a long time.

Our finances, which have been of concern in the past, are now in reasonable order. We have received considerable additional funding from the Parish Council, which will go towards the continued refurbishing and upkeep of the Hall. In addition this year we applied for and were successful in obtaining funding from a Maidstone Borough Devolved Fund under the management of Richard Thick, one of our Borough Councillors. This funding of £950 has been used to replace our aging electrical distribution board and switches with a modern safe panel that includes a single emergency power shutdown switch. In addition emergency lighting has been installed along the external escape routes.

Income from rentals still does not cover our expenditure and in this respect a modest increase in rental terms and rates has been implemented. A letter explaining this increase was sent to regular users of the Hall, which was the first increase for many years. Our rental rates are still low when compared to other halls of a similar size.

To comply with the new no smoking law starting on 1st July this year we have adopted a no smoking policy in the Hall and accordingly have put up signs to that effect.

Refurbishment has continued this year and includes –:

1. **The border to the side of hall** has been dug over and planted with shrubs. This was undertaken by the Gardening Club and the Hall Committee are most grateful for their efforts and support.
2. **New Curtains** have been made up and fitted to all the windows in the Main Hall. They are a great improvement and we are thankful to Sandra Pilborough who spent many hours making up the curtains and to Richard Pilborough and Bernard Dodson who put up the new poles.
3. **Electrical Installation** – This work as mentioned above has now been completed and is a significant improvement to that previously installed and will further improve the safety aspects the Hall gives to its users. Additionally this completes all the recommended improvements highlighted in last year's annual Electrical Survey.

In the coming year it is planned to purchase replacement kitchen equipment, refurbish the Gents Toilet and to put up a new sign on the front of the Hall. Car parking has been a problem for users of the Hall and this will be reviewed this year to see if anything can be done to improve the situation.

Lastly I would like to record a vote of thanks to all the Committee members for their work during the last year and I look forward to working with them during this year when we hope to further improve our financial position and the facilities the hall offers for the use of the local and wider community.

Mike Hitchens
Chairman Grafty Green Village Hall Committee

Grafty Garden Cuttings - August

So, there I am busily heaving out armful's of faded flowers when, about to grab and heave at the next clump, I noticed a speckled back, hidden amongst the greenery. A pheasant, sitting on eggs, but so still and silent I thought her dead. I spoke to her but she didn't reply. There is no track in or out to give her away and this is within 2 meters of the back door. It is great, but we are not looking forward to being kept under siege when the eggs hatch, like last time. Such fierce mamas, not afraid to use beak and claw and can they run! Our version of the road runner is not in it.

It means that I have had to abandon attempts to tidy that particular border for the moment. Roses, sweet peas and all early flowering plants need dead-heading and old foliage cutting back. Like-wise with any spring flowering shrubs that have become totally unruly after all the rain; although it is rather late and next year's flowering may be compromised. I continue to dead-head, water and feed containers

and cut hard back anything straggly for another show later in the year. The wet weather is rotting leaves fast, so these need removing to allow movement of air and prevent the spread of disease. Blight and mildew seem to be hitting tomatoes hard this year, so speedy removal of those leaves affected and regular watering and feeding will help. Good air circulation is vital and if a plant becomes at all stressed, it succumbs much faster.

Late August is the time to trim yew hedges and wisterias - a once a year cut is sufficient. The long straggly shoots of the latter need taking back to 3 leaves to encourage spurs for next years blooms. Ours has produced its second batch, which is a lovely bonus.

According to the RHS, experiments have shown that many perennials can be moved in the summer if dug up, split up and carefully looked after (maybe by planting into pots for a while). Correct watering and the initial removal of a high percentage of leaves to prevent collapse is necessary and 'take' can prove as successful as at the usual times of autumn or early spring. Some even perform better, so if you are moving house and want to take any special plants, give it a try.

Containers are a good way to grow many food crops, lettuce, radish, carrots and especially a winter supply of new potatoes (specially prepared tubers obtainable from Mr Fothergill's or Thompson & Morgan) can go in now. Keep slugs and snails at bay by grease bands, copper bands or hand picking in the evening.

Some of our most recent sightings from the garden are: 6 greater-spotted woodpeckers all at once, the buzzard flying high and being mobbed by a rook, the green woodpecker (most days) and many long-tailed tits which are so trusting they fly to within touching distance They are usually accompanied by a rabble of blue tits. And we have little hedgehogs which snuffle around at dusk, bulldozing through the borders after slugs. A thrush even comes into the porch, but I haven't seen any slugs in there lately!

Do join the Grafty Green Gardening Club for our special day at Brogdale (see advertisement further on)

Rosemary Smith



PROGRAMME FOR 2007

Date	Topic	Speaker
Jan 9th	AGM - Light up your garden with bulbs	Janet Bryant
Feb 6th	Japanese garden	Jean Cockett
March 6th	Organic Vegetable Gardening	Nick Robinson
April 3rd	Saxon shore way	Chris Wade
May 1st	Evening visit to Hole Park	
May 5th	Plant sale	
First weekend in June	Weekend trip to Worcestershire	
June 5th	Evening visit to Torry Hill	
July 3rd	Evening visit to Hall Place	
Aug 4th	Afternoon visit to Stoneacre	
Sept 4th	Autumn Show Talk on Chrysanthemums	John Lawrie
Oct 2nd	Mushrooms and Toadstools	Martin Newcombe
Nov 6th	History of Weather forecasting	Ian Currie
Dec 4th	Port & Stilton	David March

Monday to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Maldstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	1552	1612
Maldstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1615
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1617
Wheatshiel	1236	1411	1604	1624
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608
Linton Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612
New Line Learning - Cornwallis	1249	1424	1617	1617
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1252	1427	1620	1620
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1255	1430	1623	1623
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1258	1433	1626	1626
Wormlake Corner	1306	1438	1634	1634
Kingswood, Village Hall	1313	1445	1641	1641
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1313	1445	1641	1641
Ulcombe, Post Office	1320	1452	1648	1648
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	1452	1648	1648
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	1320	1452	1648	1648
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	1320	1452	1648	1648

Monday to Fridays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	0723	0736	0915	1325
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	0730	0745	0922	1332
Ulcombe, Post Office	0735	0750	0927	1337
Kingswood, Village Hall	0738	0753	0930	1340
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0746	0761	0938	1348
Wormlake Corner	0746	0761	0938	1348
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0739	0754	0941	1351
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	0757	0944	1354
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	0760	0947	1357
New Line Learning - Cornwallis	0750	0765	0952	1362
Linton Corner	0756	0771	0958	1368
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0758	0773	0960	1370
Wheatshiel	0800	0815	0962	1372
Maldstone, King Street	0806	0821	0968	1378
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station	0817	0832	0979	1389
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0826	0841	0988	1398
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	0841	0988	1398

Saturdays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Maldstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	0836	0851	1000	1015
Maldstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	0838	0853	1002	1017
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0840	0855	1004	1019
Wheatshiel	0847	0902	1011	1026
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0847	0902	1011	1026
Linton Corner	0847	0902	1011	1026
New Line Learning - Cornwallis	0847	0902	1011	1026
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0847	0902	1011	1026
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0847	0902	1011	1026
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0847	0902	1011	1026
Wormlake Corner	0847	0902	1011	1026
Kingswood, Village Hall	0847	0902	1011	1026
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0847	0902	1011	1026
Ulcombe, Post Office	0847	0902	1011	1026
Grafty Green, King's Head	0847	0902	1011	1026
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	0847	0902	1011	1026
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	0847	0902	1011	1026

Saturdays

Service No:	School Days Only		Not School Days Only	
	59	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	0733	0923	1336	1703
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	0740	0930	1343	1710
Ulcombe, Post Office	0745	0935	1348	1715
Kingswood, Village Hall	0747	0937	1350	1717
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0753	0943	1356	1723
Wormlake Corner	0756	0946	1359	1726
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0759	0949	1402	1729
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0802	0952	1405	1732
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0807	0957	1410	1737
New Line Learning - Cornwallis	0811	1001	1414	1741
Linton Corner	0815	1005	1418	1745
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0823	1013	1427	1753
Wheatshiel	0823	1013	1427	1753
Maldstone, King Street	0823	1013	1427	1753
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station	0823	1013	1427	1753
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0823	1013	1427	1753
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0823	1013	1427	1753

Service 59: Maldstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Sheels Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street), Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Post Office, Ashford Drive, Kingswood, Village Hall, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Chart Sutton, Wormlake Road, Warmingale Road, Ashford Drive, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Charistford Avenue, Caysor Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

Buses running via Langley run as normal from Maldstone to Loose Road, then Sutton Road, Langley, Sutton Road, Wormlake Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.

Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maldstone to Kingswood, Chartway Street, then Gravelly Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysor Drive, returning via the normal route.

Service 66: New Line Learning - Cornwallis, Heath Road, Four Wens, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

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.

THE POST BUS – R.I.P.

As many of you will know, especially the more regular users, the Monday to Friday Post Bus service between Lenham Heath, Grafty Green, Platts Heath, Lenham and Maidstone is being withdrawn after August 31st. This is a decision taken by the Post Office, and despite Kent County Council offering to increase the subsidy it pays to support the service, it is clear that the Post Office just does not want to continue to run this or several other similar services in the county.

So what are the alternatives?

For those in Grafty Green wishing to travel to and from Maidstone, there is, of course, a quite reasonable alternative in service 59, the timetable for which is printed opposite, and any increased usage of this service will naturally contribute to helping ensure that this bus route continues in the future. Running daily on Mondays to Saturdays, the morning service leaves the village slightly earlier than the Post Bus but gets back at about the same time.

For Platts Heath passengers and those wishing to travel to Lenham, it is unlikely that there will be any replacement service for the Post Bus, certainly not in the foreseeable future. At a recent meeting of the Route 59 Working Group, which I attend on behalf of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council, KCC representatives explained that to replace it with a conventional bus service, even using a minibus, would involve a subsidy per journey way above the upper limit set for supporting services within the budget available for that support. The subsidy per journey for the Post Bus service is apparently already above the upper limit, not helped presumably by the Post Office deciding for operational reasons to run an eight seater vehicle on the service rather than the slightly larger vehicle originally specified by KCC.

There is one other possible alternative which could be of interest to some and that is the Kent Carrier and Dial-A-Ride services for Maidstone, operated by Streamline with financial help from Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council.

However to qualify to use either of these services, you have either to live in a rural area more than 500 metres from a conventional bus route, such as Service 59, or you must have a medical condition that makes travelling on public transport difficult (vehicles used are fully wheelchair accessible). There is an annual membership fee of £5 and a fare is payable every time you travel. You should note that over 60s' free passes are NOT available for use on these services.

The Kent Carrier Shopping Service serves Platts Heath on Tuesdays, and as well as going to Maidstone Town Centre, also goes to Grove Green Tesco. Grafty Green is served on Fridays and goes to Park Wood Morrisons as well as the Town Centre.

However, to use these services, you have first to be a member of the Kent Carrier scheme, and you must book your journey by 'phone, on 01622 750044, at least a day before you want to travel. You will be given an approximate pick up time, usually from 10am, returning from Maidstone after 1pm. The fare is £2-70 single or return.

The Dial-a-Ride service will take you anywhere in the Maidstone Borough Council area and you can travel between 10am and 2pm on schooldays and 10am and 5pm on non-schooldays and Saturdays. Again, you need to be a member of the scheme, and book your journey on the Dial-a-Ride service 'phone, 01622 750044. Fares are mileage based, for example, the fare for 3 miles is £2-20, for 6 miles £4-60, for 10 miles £7-80, and for 15 miles £11-80.

For further information and an application form, 'phone 01622 605349.

John Collins

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 30th September 2007. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 4th Aug: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 22nd Sept: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Sunday 9th Sept: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Platts Heath

Sunday 2nd Sept: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Lenham

Saturday 4th Aug: 09:00 – 10:15 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd
Saturday 22nd Sept: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

“By Special Invitation”

***Visit Brogdale National Fruit Collection
Faversham***

“A GRAFTY GREEN DAY AT BROGDALE”

Saturday SEPT 15th 2007

All Villagers / Parishioners Welcome

Programme

*11am Arrive. Coffee & tea in the tea room. Talk about Brogdale,
Past, Present and Future*

11.30 FREE Guided Tour of the Orchards – approx 1 hour

1.00 Lunch (lunch menus available in advance)

*This is a **FREE** event but booking by **12th September** is essential
since we need to know numbers in advance.*

*Book your place by phoning Rosemary Smith on 01622 850526
Saying if you need a lift, or have space in your car*

*Our invitation comes from the group of people who have joined
forces to try to ensure Brogdales future.*

Hope you can accept!

Platts Heath Primary School



The OfSTED Inspection took place on 5th July 2007. A year ago, nearly to the day, we were fighting to keep the School open. A strong performance at the Public Meeting and a vigorous campaign by parents, staff, governors and the local community persuaded KCC to drop the proposal to merge us with another primary school. However, uncertainty over the future of the School led to us losing approximately 20 children - a huge amount for a small village school.

The OfSTED Report says quite clearly "This is a good school. Teaching and learning are good and pupils achieve well".

The Lead Inspector was overwhelmed by the near 100% response from the survey sent out to parents. "The children look forward to going to school each morning" said parents.

The Report goes on to say "The Headteacher and staff have been successful in creating a school where pupils have a sense of pride and where they are increasingly doing well. Standards are well above average by the end of Year 6. Test results have risen steadily and markedly over the last four years".

Headteacher, Ian Priddle, was overjoyed by the Report. "It confirmed everything that we do here at Platts Heath. The parents' response was fantastic. The Y6 SATs results were even better than last year's; in fact we received the results the day before the Inspection. On the actual day of the Inspection we launched our School Magazine "Kidz Newz", in glorious colour! Later on that day, we were presented with our awards for "Safety in Action" by the Deputy Mayor. The timing could not have been better.

I would like to publicly thank all those who stood by us when our future looked uncertain. There is no uncertainty now, its official...we are a "Good School"....and proud of it".

Platts Heath 1940's Summer Fayre

I laughingly say summer Fayre but given the weather on Saturday 30th June you could have been forgiven for thinking we were in mid winter never mind mid summer!

Yes, we could have cancelled as many others did but instead we decided to go with it. 'Put on your wellies and think of Glastonbury in the 1940's' was my advice. And you did!

If you were there, you would have to admit that there most definitely was a lovely community spirit on our school field that day. I heard Dunkirk spirit mentioned several times as we battled against the rain and the wind; not to mention the mud! We can't believe so many of you came - it was truly amazing.

Okay, so it didn't all go to plan. The vintage cars couldn't get onto the field because of the mud - it's just as well the tank didn't turn up as it would have churned up the field; and the Spitfire wasn't allowed to fly as the rain was too heavy and the clouds too low and dense. So it could have been disastrous. We might even have heard Ollie tell Stanley what another fine mess, but no, you all turned up ready to battle the weather. We tried to get you all under cover but you just didn't seem to mind getting wet anyway. (Thank you to everyone who provided tents, gazebos etc.)

We have so many of you to thank. Firstly to the Mayor Cllr Colin Ash and his lovely wife who were notably impressed at the achievements of such a small school. Who could believe that this time last year we were fighting to save this wonderful little school. Thanks to our headmaster, Mr Ian Priddle, who really didn't mind getting wet. He was held captive for 3 hrs and was the target for continuous firing of wet sponges. He really was rather decent about it as were all the wonderful parents and friends of our school who displayed fantastic camaraderie in their determination to have a good day. Manning our stalls they managed to keep you all fed, watered and entertained.

And didn't we have some fantastic entertainment A huge thank you to the wonderful group of singers known as Spare Parts who were anything but!! They were absolutely, blooming marvellous as they sang 'Bless em all', 'Wing and Prayer', 'Goodnight, Sweetheart' and 'Apple Tree' to name but a few. To Karen Day's young ballroom dancers who wowed you with their moves and in the pouring rain too! Far Setting sun was our WW2 encampment that is a living history group and gave an insight into the life of a young soldier during wartime. Our very own Platts Heath Stompers wowed us once again with their toe tapping line dancing. To all of you who joined in on the tug of war, I have to say it was one of the highlights

for me. You just looked like you had so much fun, sliding and rolling around in the mud. Thanks to the thoroughly decent chap who was our MC, Mr Colin Walder who made me smile throughout the day with his wonderful sense of humour, and last but not most definitely not least to all of you who turned up and made our Fayre such a special memorable day. Let's hope 'We'll meet again some sunny day'.

All of the proceeds from our Fayre are put back into our school providing essential equipment, books or games. This year we will be using some of the £1,000 profit made to give the children of Platts Heath School an action packed fun day to celebrate their outstanding achievements over the last year.

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School PTFA

St Edmunds Centre – Platts Heath

The St Edmunds coffee morning ladies were sad to lose Betty Price, who died on Saturday 30th June. She was one of the last remaining natives of Platts Heath and had always come to the coffee mornings since we started them. She was delighted to see the refurbished hall, having attended Sunday school at St Edmunds as a child. She was very interesting to listen to and also enjoyed hearing about the activities of the rest of us; coffee mornings won't be quite the same again.

Our dance to the Invicta Swing Band was enjoyed by everyone, including the band. We look forward to the next one. However, with final exams and viewing universities, the band members are rather busy so we will have to wait awhile for their next performance.

We do have the "Platts Heath Platter" to look forward to in October. I understand from Murray Motley they are progressing. He would like to have a few more performers. If you want to take part give him a call on 859169.

You may have seen the Platts Heath Stompers at the school fete doing their best in a fair amount of rain. You would be welcome to join us on Thursday evenings at 8pm. It is a fun way to exercise.

August coffee mornings are Wednesday the 8th and Wednesday 22nd. We have quite a lot of toys and books etc for the children - so while they are on holiday they are welcome to come along with you.

Patricia Dibley Secretary

Platts Heath School Camp Night

After the weather endured at our Summer Fayre, there was just no stopping the hardy stamina and sheer determination of the pupils and parents of Platts Heath School who were camping out no matter what. (Well some of them were!) All week we kept a watchful eye and a cocked ear on the weather reports, and to our amazement we were blessed with some of the best weather so far this summer! Yes, it is summer!

On Saturday 7th July, we woke to the sun shining and the birds singing. It certainly got everyone in the mood as tent after tent appeared on the school field - a variety of size and colours, some took longer than others to put up but only because I had the wrong tent!! After much activity and an exploration of everyone's tents we were treated to the wonderful culinary delights of Jed & Crew's BBQ, thank you guys.

A game of rounders, a camp fire, ghost stories, toasted marshmallows, scary moments and lots of merriment followed. What a wonderful evening. The kids went to bed late, slept like logs and were up at the crack of dawn the next morning to the start of another beautiful sunny day. I don't think I got a wink of sleep but it didn't matter, I thoroughly enjoyed my outdoor fried breakfast but I have to confess I was blissfully fast asleep on the sofa by 2 o'clock and I'm sure I wasn't the only one!

Having this sort of event provides a very informal and relaxed environment for the families to get to know each other and the kids can enjoy the freedom of space and a safe place to play without too many restrictions. I've received so much positive feedback, so it certainly is worthwhile doing.

Thank you to all 63 of you who turned up and supported this event, that's quite an advancement on last year's numbers, we might need a bigger field for next year!

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School PTFA

Grafty Green Village Hall Activities

Thursday morning Yoga: takes a break for the summer and will resume on 13th September.

Yoga in the Evening: Is there a demand for running a yoga class in the evening? - let Sue Burch know on 850381 if you would be interested.

The Millennium Group (who haven't organised any activities for a while) have funds left over from previous events and would like to see the money being used by the parish residents. Our thoughts were that:

- Parents may wish to use the money for activities for their children - restart the youth club or to fund outings during August/school holidays.

If you have any ideas or would like to get together with other parents and see if there is a possibility of organising something, please let us know:

Sue Burch 850381 (email: burch1997@aol.com)

Missing Word Puzzle

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

	Find the missing word?
1	___ Collins, Just reformed the group Genesis.
2	Tommy ____, Just like that.
3	Climb Every ____, a song from the Sound of Music.
4	_____ Van Gogh, Painter of the Potato Eaters.
5	Stand __ Me, a Ben E. King Classic.
6	Johnnie & Fanny _____, 1950s/60s T.V Cooks.
7	___ Doolittle, Cockney flower seller in My Fair Lady.
8	Amazing ____, A Hymn written by John Newton.
9	The _____, a long running Radio 4 series set in Ambridge.
10	Jamie _____, a pukka chef.

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	Place	Cold	Law	Common
2	Throb	Felt	Beat	
3	Splinter	Blood	Pop	
4	Dummy	Fun	Way	
5	Middle	Space	New	
6	Morning	Instant	Table	
7	Bus	Wind	Bomb	
8	Fortune	Story	Bank	
9	Brown	Cane	Bowl	
10	Human	Typing	Prone	
11	Spoon	Force	Back	
12	Long	Pot	Gun	
13	Dirty	Lions	Opium	
14	Jump	Regiment	Reserve	
15	Album	Finish	Passport	
16	Address	Secretary	Wave	

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

Back to School?



When the new school year starts in September, how about doing some learning for yourself? Brush up your computer skills or make a start in learning how to use a computer and take advantage of the Internet for anything from shopping to researching your family history.

Over 80 people from local villages used Egerton Telecottage computer centre last year to take a course for the first time and enjoyed the friendly, informal atmosphere in our purpose built computer centre. One of our enthusiastic students has taken nearly every course offered and her skills have been admired by friends and family! We are non-profit making and run by volunteers with computer expertise.

A range of courses are planned in the autumn on the dates shown below. New ideas for this year are making best use of Outlook software for emails and appointments and a "Music on the NET" course- showing how to download tunes from the best sites to your IPOD. If you are interested in these or any of the courses shown below, please contact Alison on 01233 756366 for further information.

Evenings - 8-10pm:

Sept 12th/Oct 3rd - **Digital Photography** - 4 weeks (Wednesdays)

Sept 13th/Oct 4th - **Internet** - 4 weeks (Thursdays)

Oct 17th/Nov 21st - **Desktop Publishing** - 6 weeks (Wednesdays)

Oct 18th/25th - **Clean up your Computer** - 2 weeks (Thursdays)

Oct 22nd/29th - **Email** - 2 weeks (Mondays)

Nov 1st/22nd - **Basic Excel** - 4 weeks (Thursdays 7.30/9.30pm)

Daytime - 10am-12noon

Sept 18th/Oct 9th - **Basic IT** - 4 weeks (Tuesdays)

Oct 16th/Nov 6th - **Basic Word Processing** - 4 weeks (Tuesdays)

Nov 20th/Dec 11th - **Intermediate Word Processing** - 4 weeks (Tues)

Letters to the Editor

New Neighbours

It seems that we are to have new neighbours in the village.

The purchase of a field last year in one of our pretty lanes has lead to firstly, hard standing being laid, then water connected, and now, lo and behold "dwellings" have been moved onto the site.

Our pathetic Planning Department in Maidstone, despite being advised in January that the hard standing had been laid, have done nothing, thereby losing the opportunity to serve an enforcement order.

I myself rang the council in January together with other concerned villagers. No action was taken and no return phone calls either, what a surprise!

It now seems that because the Planning Department did not act soon enough to halt the progress, our new neighbours have certain rights to move in and once the planning application has been filed, the enforcement process comes to a halt.

Surely we have a right to answers from Maidstone Borough Council why they did not act upon the information given to them in January, or am I alone in my deep unease at the steady invasion of travellers and gypsies.

I propose that every parishioner in Grafty Green moves a mobile home or caravan into their garden and then applies for Planning permission to make it permanent, but I expect our rights are rather different from our new neighbours.

A Villager

Please find below a letter sent by Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart to the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council – it concerns planning applications in our Parish (amongst others)...

Cllr Fran Wilson
Leader
Maidstone Borough Council
Council Offices
13 Tonbridge Road
Maidstone

16 July 2007

Dear Fran

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER

I am getting an increasing postbag about travellers applying for planning permission retrospectively for Greenfield countryside sites. Permission it seems is very often granted for travellers for these sites, where no-one who was not a traveller would have any chance of obtaining planning permission. This lack of regard for the human rights of the majority, the obvious lack of fair play, is causing widespread distress and anger amongst local residents.

As you are aware the situation is particularly severe in the Maidstone area. It seems that even when Maidstone Borough Council rejects planning permission the applicant then goes to the Government Planning Inspector who often overrules Maidstone. Although often "temporary" permission is granted, there are almost no cases where this is not later transferred into permanent permission

The County Council has in the past offered to contribute towards MBC's legal fees to fight these Public Inquiries, but the chances of success are decreasing as the Planning Inspector increasingly expects Councils to have identified and established alternative Council Traveller Sites.

It is clear from numerous cases across England that at Appeal the Planning Inspector will always be likely to grant permission:-

- (1) If the local council has not completed its "Accommodation Needs Assessment".
- (2) If the Council has not identified the number of sites identified in the Accommodation Needs Assessment.

Way Forward

On discussing this, with those in the Department and Communities and Local Government Gypsy and Traveller Group, it seems that there is a clear way forward. The Council should complete its Accommodation Needs Assessment as fast as possible; but it should also pre-empt its Accommodation Needs Assessment and move immediately to identify a sufficient number of alternative Council Traveller Sites. Then the Planning Inspector will nearly always reject an application - pointing the Traveller applicant to the alternative Council Sites.

I am keen to help on this difficult issue any way I can, and would be very grateful if you could set out your timetable for the completion of the identification and establishment of Traveller Council Sites, and for the completion of the Accommodation Needs Assessment.

I know that Kevin Lynes, the KCC Cabinet Member for Gypsies and Travellers is keen to move fast and give Maidstone Borough Council full support from the County Council in identifying and establishing traveller sites.

Yours sincerely



Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

Dear Sir,

My mum and I walk down Woodcock Lane most Sunday afternoons. She hasn't good sight and is not nimble on her feet. On one occasion she had to make a hasty retreat to the verge and she slid in some dog mess covering her almost new red hotter shoes. So unnecessary! Dog mess can cause serious health issues and blindness. It is also against the law to allow your dog to foul the public highway. On this Sunday we walked through Hemstead Woods. The path was littered from side to side with dog mess. We followed families of children and on occasions heard grown ups moaning about the dog mess.

Please, please just pick it up and dispose of it safely – it stinks.

Liz Burgess.

**THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHURCH,
HARRIETSHAM**



HOG ROAST SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd

The Friends of St John's are joining forces with the St John's Church Choir to host a fund raising Hog Roast at Hillside, Pilgrims Way from 12.30pm on Sunday September 2nd, by kind permission of Rita and Paul Butler. Tickets, price £7.50 for adults and £4.00 for children under 14, are available from Paul Butler on 858981, Andrew Bond on 858251 or from the Church Office on 850604 and include main course, sweet and soft drinks. Please bring your own garden chairs and alcoholic drinks.

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8th

The Friends of Kent Churches Annual Sponsored Bike Ride takes place on Saturday September 8th between 10.00am and 6.00pm. Obviously this event is more fun the more people take part. You don't have to be a great cyclist since it's entirely up to you how many churches you choose to visit. Indeed you don't have to be a cyclist at all – Marian Bond is hoping to take a party from Marden to walk around all the churches in Canterbury and would very much welcome any Harrietsham walkers who would like to join them. You don't even have to ride or walk for St John's although we'd obviously prefer it if you did – you can specify any participating church as the recipient of one half of your sponsorship money, the other half going to the Friends of Kent Churches. Sponsorship forms are available from our local organiser, Helen Hubble, on 859692.

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



MUSIC
at
All Saints, Ulcombe
2007
Concerts at All Saints, Ulcombe

Members of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church have endeavoured to produce a varied programme of music in the hopes that at least one or two of the concerts will appeal. All the concerts will start at 7.30 pm and during the interval refreshments will be served. The price of each concert is £7 50

For more details and tickets, please contact either: Mrs Molly Poulter, The Oast, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, ME17 1DP. Tel. (01622 842988) **or** The Church Office, Harrietsham Village Hall, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP. Tel (01622 850604).

Saturday 20th October – The Sutton Valence Choral Society

This will be a concert with a difference - a Come Sing event. The rehearsal will be in the afternoon when anyone who enjoys singing can come along. The performance will be at 7.30 pm in the evening.

Anyone interested in taking part in singing Faure's Requiem and Vivaldi's Gloria should get in touch with Alexandra Brown on 01622 85379.

LEN VALLEY CHRISTIAN UNION

HARVEST SUPPER BARN DANCE

HARRIETSHAM VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER, 2007

TICKETS £7.50

7pm for 7.30 Start

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND GLASSES

THE USUAL HARVEST SUPPER FAYRE WILL BE SERVED

Tickets are available on a first come first served basis from

Barbara Verga Telephone 07919 597665

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Place	Cold	Law	Common
2	Throb	Felt	Beat	Heart
3	Splinter	Blood	Pop	Group
4	Dummy	Fun	Way	Run
5	Middle	Space	New	Age
6	Morning	Instant	Table	Coffee
7	Bus	Wind	Bomb	Shelter
8	Fortune	Story	Bank	Teller
9	Brown	Cane	Bowl	Sugar
10	Human	Typing	Prone	Error
11	Spoon	Force	Back	Feed
12	Long	Pot	Gun	Shot
13	Dirty	Lions	Opium	Den
14	Jump	Regiment	Reserve	Parachute
15	Album	Finish	Passport	Photo
16	Address	Secretary	Wave	Permanent

	Find the missing word?
1	PHIL Collins, just reformed the group Genesis.
2	Tommy COOPER , just like that.
3	Climb Every MOUNTAIN , a song from the Sound of Music.
4	VINCENT Van Gogh, Painter of the Potato Eaters.
5	Stand BY Me, a Ben E. King Classic.
6	Johnnie & Fanny CRADDOCK , 1950s/60s T.V Cooks.
7	ELIZA Doolittle, Cockney flower seller in My Fair Lady.
8	Amazing GRACE , A Hymn written by John Newton.
9	The ARCHERS , a long running Radio 4 series set in Ambridge.
10	Jamie OLIVER , a pukka chef.



A Safe Haven for Learning

Bethany Girls' School continues to be a safe haven for learning for children in the West Bank, despite the increasing difficulties experienced by those living and working in the area. For Russian Orthodox Sister Martha and her colleagues who manage the School, the past year has been a challenging one.

Students have found it increasingly difficult to get to and from school now that the town of Bethany has been cut off from the rest of the West Bank by the separation 'Wall'. It has also created difficulties in the recruitment of qualified teachers, many of whom travel from Jerusalem and are finding their access a daily challenge.

The School has faced increasing demands to expand its places this academic year, as a result of travel restrictions preventing many students from getting to school in Jerusalem. A teachers' strike also affected Palestinian state schools in the autumn term and many turned to private schools like Bethany Girls' School, in the hope of gaining a place. Although as many students as possible were accommodated, with numbers reaching record heights, many other hopeful young girls also had to be turned away.

The School works hard to encourage religious tolerance among its students, while also providing boarding facilities to Christian girls from poor or broken families. Although the majority of the staff and students are Muslim, they have a great respect for their Christian peers. This year, of the 331 students, 13 Christian girls board at the School. These girls had the chance to enjoy a time of relaxation and fun together on summer camp last year. A second camp was organised specifically for Bethany School girls and their siblings by a joint coalition of Israeli and Palestinian agencies working for peace.

Students at the School have had to manage without heating every winter– arriving in thick layers of clothing to cope with the cold. Thanks to a **BibleLands** grant of £11,500, a new heating system has recently been fitted and the girls now study in comfort. Many families cannot afford to pay the School fees and the majority of the daily expenses are covered by **BibleLands**. Despite this, funds are always needed to renovate classrooms, some of which are currently not fit for use.

Please remember the sisters, staff and students of Bethany Girls' School, as they provide an excellent education against such overwhelming odds. †

- Over the years, the School has provided an education and in some cases a home for over 2,500 children.
- According to UN reports, there are 518 physical obstacles to movement in the West Bank including checkpoints, roadblocks, barbed wire, fences, gates and earth mounds across roads.
- 152,000 Palestinian Authority workers have not received their salaries since February 2006. Nearly 1 million people are dependent on these salaries.

Visit www.biblelands.org.uk for further information and donating on line
Registered Charity: 1076329

From the Registers

Friday 15th June, at Harrietsham, St. John the Baptist, funeral of the late Angela Smith of Harrietsham.

Friday 15th June, at Vinters Crematorium, funeral of the late Alan Davis of Lenham.

Tuesday 19th June, at Harrietsham, St. John the Baptist, funeral of the late Jean Earle of Lenham.

Friday 22nd June, at Charing Crematorium, funeral of the late Maurice Coppins of Lenham.

Friday 22nd June, at Lenham, St. Mary, funeral of the late George Eastaway of Lenham.

Wednesday 27th June, at Lenham, St. Mary, funeral of the late Frances Fox of Lenham.

Friday 29th June, at Lenham, St. Mary, funeral of the late Peggy Hulland of Lenham.

Friday 29th June, at Paddock Wood, funeral of the late John Page of Harrietsham.

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services - August 2007

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 5 th August Transfiguration of Our Lord	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 Bearsted	BCP HC CW 1 Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc Taize Service
Sun 12 th August 10 th Sunday after Trinity	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc CW1
Sun 19 th August 11 th Sunday after Trinity	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 EP
Sun 26 th August 12 ^h Sunday after Trinity	08.00 L 10.30 BM	BCP HC CW 1 - Benefice Service in St Nicholas Boughton Malherbe

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)

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

$\frac{1}{8}$ page	£3.00
$\frac{1}{4}$	£5.00
$\frac{1}{2}$	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

Phone 01622 850711 or email
christine.kings@btinternet.com