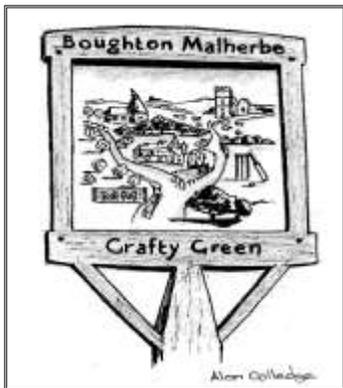


Malherbe Monthly

Number 86
September 2011



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.
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	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Priest in charge	Rev: Dick Venn (Sat -Thurs) email: dickvenn@gmail.co.uk	858195
Curate	Mille Hart (N/A Tues, & Sun afternoon) email: mille.hart@uwclub.net	859753
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Office opening times as 9am – 12noon Monday - Thursday	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons - 4.40pm	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20pm by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	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 **October** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th September**

Front cover: Volunteers working on Bull Heath, a site owned and managed by the Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) - See article on page 26

News from St. Nicholas Church

Cream Teas: The Cream Teas have proved once again to be very popular this year with many people coming along for the first time. Our reputation has spread far and wide. There are two more Sundays left; 4th and 11th September 2.00pm – 5.00pm, unless we decide to do an extra Sunday which will depend on the weather. Look in the 'KM Around the Villages' for information. We now have mains water piped to the Church and this has made a big difference.

Morning Prayers: Prayers will begin again at the beginning of September. Prayers are said in St. Nicholas and All Saints Ulcombe on alternated Tuesday mornings starting on 6th at 9.30am for about 30 minutes.

Bible Study: Bible Study will resume on the 15th September at Weirton Villa, Grafty Green. On Thursday mornings at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. If you would like to come along ring Joan Drury on 01622 853766 and you will be most welcome. The sessions are very interesting indeed, so why not join us.

Coffee Morning: The Village Coffee Morning will be held on 14th September in the Village Hall Grafty Green from 10.30am to 12.00 pm. Do come along and join in the chat and enjoy a piece of homemade cake or a biscuit - sometimes there are cheese scones or sticky tea-bread. A choice of coffee or tea is served. There is no charge, but we always have a dish for a donation if you would like to give one, which is given to a charity at the end of the year.

Harvest Supper: The date has changed from that printed last month - it is now on 22nd October, 7.30pm for 8.00pm and there will be a licensed bar and a raffle. Tickets will be available soon.

Ride and Stride: The Friends of Kent Churches are once again organising their Ride and Stride Event around the Churches of Kent on September 10th starting at 10.00am until 6.00pm. The idea is for each Church to encourage members of their congregation to ride a bicycle or walk around a route visiting churches on the way. A list of churches that will be open can be obtained from Joan Davidson in advance, so you can plan your route and get sponsorship forms.

The money raised is sent to the Friends and each Church is given back half of the sum raised to go into their funds for improvements and repairs. The Friends put their share into an account, which is used to support Churches who are in need of help to be able to carry out repairs to the fabric or in re-organising their interiors. Any church can apply to the Friends for help stating their needs. Churches are encouraged to open their doors to meet and greet the walkers and riders, so we will need some people to be at St. Nicholas Church to do this. Once again let Joan know on 01622 850210 if you can help with this. There will be a list of hourly slots for you to sign at a time that you can help during the day.

Joan Davidson

Report from Jenny Whittle, County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East



GET ON BOARD YOUR BUS – USE IT OR LOSE IT

- I am a passionate advocate of protecting public bus services in rural areas as vital lifelines for the young and older people, the disabled and those without access to a car. I initiated the Wormshill-Sittingbourne minibus service in November 2009 immediately after the withdrawal of the last Postbus service in the South East which covered this route. I fund this service with three other County Councillors which provides one return trip five days a week for residents (and the bus does a return trip to pick up passengers waiting if it is full).

That is why I am very concerned about the proposed withdrawal of the **Saturday No.59** bus service that runs from Grafty Green to Maidstone. In the current financial year, KCC has had to find some £95m of savings (10% of the revenue budget) and next year will need to identify a further £65m of savings. This has inevitably meant having to make some very difficult decisions and KCC has highlighted 15 services which require significant public subsidy and/or are poorly used.

The KCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Bryan Sweetland, has offered to protect these services if more people use them, thus reducing the level of taxpayer subsidy which is currently £5 per trip on the no.59. Mr Sweetland will review service usage at the end of the year to establish whether continuing to fund these services, against the other massive pressures in the KCC budget, is viable.

The message is therefore clear – we must get as many people as possible to use the No.59 on Saturdays to protect this service beyond the New Year. If you are a parent who drops off your child(ren) to town on a Saturday morning, can you encourage them to use the bus instead (free to use if they have a Freedom Pass)? Do you do your shopping on a Saturday morning – and can you use the bus even say once or twice a month?

Let's get on board the **Saturday no.59 bus** and help those who need the bus service to continue enjoying it in the future. The bus leaves the Kings Head at Grafty Green at 0733, 0923 and 1336. Return services from King Street in Maidstone are at 0838, 1241, 1525 and 1755.

If you would like to contact me about the bus service (e.g. is the route too long, does it take too long to reach the town centre), please let me know.

REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON LIVERTON HILL - Last year I met with residents of Liverton Hill who called for a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph. Robert Stuttle established the "30 on the Hill" website

(<https://sites.google.com/site/30onthehill/home>) and since then I have met with Kent Highways, Robert and Parish Clerk Pat Anderson to discuss the best way to take this forward.

All residents and interested road users will be able to make their views known shortly. I am advised at the time of writing that Kent Highways will publish a statutory Traffic Regulation Order in the **Kent on Sunday on 11th September**. Notices will also be displayed in the area and a letter drop may be organised for residents living on Liverton Hill. This will give ample opportunity for comments and views on the proposed reduction.

INFORMATION ON KCC GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Small Community Capital Grants *(the total available to distribute across Maidstone is £52,400)*

This fund is available to formally constituted organisations in Kent that wish to obtain money **only for capital works** connected with a project that will bring community benefit. This includes parish and town councils, district councils and KCC, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies and charities. The maximum application is £20,000 (although in reality, and considering the amount to distribute, grants are usually offered at a much lower level).

Small Community Capital Projects Fund grants are one-off grants, available only in the financial year in which the Council awards them. An organisation cannot apply for additional grant for the same project in a subsequent year. An organisation can put forward more than one project at a time, but will usually only receive a grant for one project in any year.

Local Schemes Grants *(the total available to distribute in Maidstone is £12,200)*

This fund is available to formally constituted organisations in Kent that wish to obtain money for minor **capital or revenue** improvements connected with a project that will bring community benefit. This includes parish and town councils, district councils and KCC, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies and charities.

The grant is offered as one-off and non-recurring payments with no on-going revenue or capital commitments. An organisation cannot apply for additional grant for the same project in a subsequent year. An organisation can put forward more than one project at a time, but will usually only receive a grant for one project in any year.

The closing date for both schemes is 31st October 2011. Please contact me on jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk or 01622 734897 if you would like further information and an application form.

Member Community Grant

County Councillors have an annual £10,000 fund to support organisations across their electoral Divisions. I represent a large area comprising 15 parishes stretching from Stockbury to Headcorn. Most of my 2011-12 pot has already been allocated – but not all! If you would like further information about applying please do get in touch.

REPRESENTING YOU AND YOUR VILLAGE AT COUNTY HALL - If you are interested in finding out more about my activities and duties as your County Councillor, my Annual Report is available to read online – http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council.aspx and you will see a section on me under "Find Your Councillor". If you would prefer a copy in the post, please contact me on Tel: 734897.

Jenny Whittle

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

✉ jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk ☎ 01622 734897

Honywood & Douglas Charity

The Trustees hereby give notice that the following accommodation is available at the almshouses at Douglas Court:-

A one bedroom upper floor flat with sitting room/kitchen and bathroom.

Applicants must be 60 years of age or more, able to look after themselves and have lived in the Parishes of Lenham or Boughton Malherbe for at least two years.

Applications should be made in writing to the Secretary, as below, to reach her no later than 22nd September, 2011:-

Mrs. Pat Sutton,
18 Headcorn Road,
Platts Heath,
Lenham,
Kent ME17 2NH

Christmas Quiz - Save the date notice

Please make a note in your diary (or whatever device you use these days) that a Christmas Quiz will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on Saturday 10th December. A similar event was held last year (well actually in January as the snow disrupted the event in December) and it was a huge success. More details next month !!

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Do you have excellent organisational, administrative, IT and inter-personal skills? Boughton Malherbe Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) from 1st April 2012. The appointed person would be expected to shadow the current Clerk so that they will be independently up and running by April 2012.

Responsibilities include offering legal guidance and liaison with five parish councillors, parishioners, agencies and other local authorities, financial and administrative duties including correspondence, minute-taking at 5 Meetings a year, budgeting, year end accounts and a wide range of matters affecting the Parish of Boughton Malherbe.

Duties also include the smooth running of our Parish Meetings and Committees via the preparation of agendas and taking of minutes, control of the Council's finances, and general support and administration of the Council's affairs.

Professional development will be encouraged, and training will be provided to obtain CILCA within 2 years if not held.

This is a home based appointment, requiring 80-90 hours per annum with flexible hours including one evening approximately every quarter.

Remuneration is usually paid annually at an hourly rate in line with The National Joint Council for Local Government Services Salary Scales for Part time Clerks.

Please apply in writing with CV by 30th September 2011 to: Pat Anderson, Foxes Earth, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Kent ME17 2AP

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

Find the missing word?	
1	_____ Capp, Cartoon character created by Reg Smythe
2	Johann Sebastian _____, A German composer
3	_____ & Garfunkel, Duo whose hits include Mrs Robinson
4	Rio _____, Manchester United & England defender
5	_____ Private Ryan, Military film with Tom Hanks
6	St _____, Popular Cornish holiday resort
7	_____ Jones, Singer daughter of Ravi Shankar
8	A A _____, Creator of Winnie the Pooh
9	_____ We Dance, A song from The King and I
10	Video Killed The _____ _____, 1979 hit from the Buggles

Ken and Eve Sweet
 extend a warm welcome to
The Kings Head
Grafty Green

A
16th Century
Coaching Inn
 haunted by
"Dover Bill" -
the Highwayman!



Traditional Sunday Lunches
Fresh Fish Fridays
Lunches and Suppers

Booking Advisable
01622 850259

Children's Room Beer Garden



LENHAM
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Ham Lane, Lenham.



The Nursery School is
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 and a member of the
Pre-School Learning Alliance;
 holds an excellent Ofsted Report
 and has validation to accept
Early Years Funding.

*We're here to serve your needs.
 Why not call in to discuss
 your requirements?*

It's never too early
 to add your child's name to our Waiting List.

Contact Jo Glazebrook
07967 128056

Registered Charity No. 1041661

Grafty Green Village Hall

As announced in the August issue of the Malherbe Monthly, an open meeting of the Village Hall committee was held on 18th August, following Mike Hitchins' announcement that he wished to step down as chairman.

At the meeting, long-standing members Bernard Dobson and John Collins retired from the committee and Mandy Hitchins relinquished the role of secretary, but a good turnout of villagers meant that the vacancies could be filled with keen newcomers!

Richard Pilborough was elected chairman and Carol Hulm secretary. Annie Henderson, Margaret Neaves, Jacky Simmons, Barbara Pearce and Jacqui Thompson all joined the Committee - which also still includes John Maunder, Sue Burch, Sandra Pilborough and Robert Turner (Treasurer).

It was clear that there were serious issues to address in relation to the fabric of the hall (in particular the kitchen floor) but the new committee was also keen to improve the toilet facilities and general appearance of the hall, eg with some new stage curtains.

If you can wield a hammer or a paintbrush, could we call upon you to help occasionally with such minor maintenance and improvements? Indeed, if you have something more than those basic skills, might you consider offering your services as a general handyman/woman for the Hall?

There was a great determination on the part of the new committee to foster more social events in the village, not just to fund the Hall improvements but to give opportunities for people to get to know each other better and generally to have fun together!

"Chicory Tip" (Remember "Son of My Father"?) have already been booked for a 1960s/70s evening on **19th November** (call Margaret Neaves on 850320 to reserve your tickets) and the committee is keen to have your ideas for future ventures.

In the past there have been quizzes, a line-dancing evening, and a good old-fashioned Beetle Drive, amongst other things, but how would you feel about Talks? Entertainments? A silly games evening?

A few years ago a Gardening Club was formed and now meets regularly in the Hall. More recently a youngsters' drama group was formed. Is there any interest out there for other new groups to come together? Arts & Crafts? Wine appreciation? Photography? Indoor bowls?

If you have any suggestions, or if you are that handyperson we're looking for (or just are someone prepared to support us by offering an hour of your time occasionally to help with small jobs) please contact Richard Pilborough on 850484, or email him on pilborough@grifty.plus.com

He's waiting to hear from you!

Grafty Green Village Sign



You may have noticed that the Grafty Green Village Sign located on the village green has disappeared. You can rest assured that it has **NOT** been stolen (unlike the 30mph and Grafty Green sign at the south end of the village). It has in fact been sent by the Parish Council to be refurbished back to its original condition. Over the years it has been in place the weather has taken its toll and it will be back in place soon looking as good as new.

Recent Break-ins

Over the last 3 weeks there have been incidents whereby garden tools have been used to force entry into property and items were stolen.

It's a good idea to make sure all garden tools etc are stored away securely overnight to prevent them being used as tools of entry.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mondays to Fridays

Service No	School Days Only				
	59	59	66	59	59
Maidstone, King Street, Stop L2	1220	1350	....	1600	1715
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, J4	1222	1352	....	1602	1717
Wheatsheaf, Loose Road	1229	1359	....	1609	1724
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	1233	1403	....	1613	1728
Linton Corner	1237	1407	....	1617	1732
Cornwallis Academy	....	....	1505	....	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1242	1412	....	1622	1737
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1245	1415	1509	1625	1740
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1248	1418	1512	1628	1743
Warmlake Corner	1251	1421	1515	1631	1746
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	....	1426	1523	....	....
Kingswood, Village Hall	1259	....	1525	1639	1754
Ulcombe, Post Office	1306	....	1530	1646	1801
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1313	....	....	1653	1808
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	....	....	1535	....	....
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	....	....	1544	....	....

Sundays & Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Saturdays

Saturday				
59	59	59	59	59
0838	1241	1525	1755	....
0840	1243	1527	1757	....
0847	1250	1534	1804	R
via	1254	1538	....	....
Sutton	1258	1542	....	....
Road	....	....	....	....
and	1303	1547	1817	R
Langley	1306	1550	1820	R
....	1309	1553	1823	R
0859	1312	1556	1826	R
0907	1320	1604	1834	R
0908	1322	....	1836	R
0914	1327	....	1841	R
0921	1334	....	4848	R
....
....

CODES

R - Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue

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, Gibbon Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QG.

* - Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.

Grafty Green - Kingswood - Chart Sutton - Maidstone

Mondays to Fridays

Service No	School Days						
	School Days Only	Not School Days	School Only	Not School Days	School Only	School Only	School Only
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	....	....	0736	....	....	....	....
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	....	....	0745	....	....	....	....
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0710	0721	....	0930	....	....	....
Ulcombe, Post Office	0717	0729	0750	0937	....	....	....
Kingswood, Village Hall	0722	0733	0755	0942	1430	1430	....
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0725	0736	0757	0944	1432	1432	....
Warmlake Corner	0731	0742	0801	0950	1438	1438	....
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0735	0745	0804	0953	1441	1441	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0738	0749	0807	0956	1444	1444	....
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0741	0751	....	0958	1446	1447	....
Cornwallis Academy	....	....	0820	....	....	1505	....
Linton Corner	0746	0756	....	1003	1451	1506	....
Loose, Loose Road/Old Loose Hill	0750	0800	....	1006	1454	1509	....
Wheatsheaf, Loose Road	0756	0806	....	1012	1500	1515	....
Maidstone, King Street	....	0814	....	1020	1508	1523	....
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	....	....	....	....	....	....
London Road, Somerfeld Hospital	0817	....	....	....	....	....	....
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826	....	....	....	....	....	....

Sundays & Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Saturdays

Saturday				
59	59	59	59	59
0733	0923	1336	....	....
0740	0930	1343	....	....
0745	0935	1348	1604	....
0747	0937	1350	1606	....
0753	0943	1356	1612	....
0756	0946	1359	via	....
0759	0949	1402	Langley	....
0802	0952	1405	and	....
....	....	....	Sutton	....
0807	0957	1410	Road	....
0811	1001	1414	....	....
0815	1005	1418	1624	....
0820	1013	1426	1632	....
....
....

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, Gibbon Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QG.

CODES

* - Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.

The Grafty Gourmet

This is another very simple recipe that can be served with salad or vegetables. One Salmon Fillet is required per person. I have therefore based the ingredients below for a family of 4.

Salmon in Puff Pastry

4 skinless salmon fillet 3/4 - 1 inch thick (approx 6 to 8 ounces each)	1/2 cup white wine
2 tablespoons olive oil	1/4 teaspoon thyme
1/2 teaspoon salt	4 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons butter	dash of cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon white or black pepper	1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
3 large leeks (white part only)	4 tablespoons Philadelphia Cheese
1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard	1 packet of frozen puff pastry, thawed to room temperature

1. Set the oven to 180 degrees (centigrade). Slice the leeks thinly crosswise. Warm the olive oil and butter in a frying pan and add the leek slices. Sauté over medium heat for 3 - 4 minutes until the leeks begin to soften.
2. Add the wine and garlic, and continue cooking for about 5 more minutes until the liquid almost evaporates. Remove from the heat. Stir in the lemon zest, half the salt, half the pepper, mustard, thyme. and a dash of cayenne.
3. Lightly roll out 2 pastry sheets on a floured surface into 12 inch squares. Cut each square in half to get 4 rectangles measuring 6 x 12 inches.
4. Spoon 1/4 of the leek mixture onto the middle of each pastry rectangle, spreading the mixture in an area roughly the shape of each piece of salmon. Put the salmon filets on top of the leeks, and sprinkle with the remaining salt and pepper. Place a tablespoon of Philadelphia Cheese on each fillet and spread evenly. Bring together the ends of each pastry rectangle, and pinch to form tight seams. Pinch together the side seams as well.
5. Place each salmon pastry packet on a non-stick baking sheet, seam side down. Bake for about 20 minutes, until the pastry is golden brown. Cut one pastry in half to see if the salmon is done (exact cooking time depends on the thickness of the fillet). If not, push the two halves back together, return to oven for 3-4 more minutes, and check again. When the salmon is done, cut remaining pastries in half. Serve with salad or vegetables of your choice.

News from Ulcombe's Village School

Looking Ahead to Another Wonderful Year!

There is not a lot of news as we have all been on holiday for a few weeks. We hope everyone, pupils, parents and our friends in the wider community have all had a fantastic summer. For some children, this September will be a new start with a new teacher in a new classroom, for others it will be a change of classmates, and for some it will be their first few days in school. We wish all of our pupils a very happy and successful school year.

We are already looking ahead to the coming terms with several events already pencilled in. Look out for more details here in the Ulcombe Village News as we head on through the autumn terms. There will certainly be an Open Day, another 'Friends' Dinner' and the FUS Fireworks night to enjoy. As well as all of these preparations at an early stage for one class to visit London and teachers all plan the months ahead. Our topic at the start of the year is 'Ahoy! There', which all of the children will tackle, but in some very different ways.

The Library Extension

At the time of writing I still have little information for you. We do want to keep you informed, so please feel free to check our web-site and the Maidstone Borough Council web-site to find out when an application has been submitted. We will be endeavouring to have plans on display as soon as possible, so that you can pop in to look at what we want to achieve, and KCC's plans for the land at the very northern end of our school site.

Considerate Parking

We would be very grateful if all drivers could remember not to park blocking the entrance to the school AT ANY TIME. Staff often need to come into school at weekends and in the holidays. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

The support that we receive from parents, grandparents and other friends in the wider community is very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again after our summer holiday.

Very best wishes,

Mr. Vincent Hampton *Head Teacher*



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Tel: 01233 840373 or 01622 851542

We would like to say a BIG thank you for all the support we have received in our opposition to the recent planning application at Ivy Farm.

Although we appreciate you are all affected by the decision to grant permission for the Dwelling (sorry, cannot bring ourselves to call it a house!) and the Anaerobic Digester building: we were very moved by all your encouragement, mails, calls, kindness & general support, & eventually the fact that so many of you chose to attend the final meeting at the Town Hall. What a great bunch of neighbours & friends we are lucky to have - Not one letter of objection was written from our community.

Also to our wonderful Parish Council who have worked on our behalf for the last ten months. This application has given them so many headaches and late night meetings, phone calls, and the inevitable paper trail especially Ron & Pat.

Additionally, great thanks to those other individuals (you know who you are), who have come out of 'The Woodwork', with their various skills and advice. So much talent in such a small community!

So often of late have we heard the expression "they thought we were a village of people who had straw coming out of their ears";

Well, we certainly proved them wrong and became fantastic in the face of adversity!

Keep in touch all of you. Pearce.steel@tiscali.co.uk ; although that must be the hottest line around now.

Best regards, & thanks once again,

Barbara & Roy Pearce

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Contest	Sleep	Spot	Beauty
2	Lucky	Sheep	Stick	
3	Washing	Fruit	Gun	
4	Flash	Log	Set	
5	Spirit	Headed	Sea	
6	Flying	False	Kick	
7	Child	Reader	Bullet	
8	Tape	Nasty	Game	
9	Easy	Lift	Arm	
10	Festival	Mouse	Moon	
11	Laughing	Subject	Grey	
12	Cottage	Broad	Cake	
13	Frog	Year	Quantum	
14	Instructor	Water	Jump	
15	Union	Mark	Rag	
16	Pony	Purpose	Train	

Bulky Refuse Collections (Saturday Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Saturday Freighter Service up to 15th October 2011.

Grafty Green

Saturday 8th October 15:15 – 15:45 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 8th October 14:30 – 15-10 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 15th October 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on 15th November at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to the public and there will be time set aside for public representations to be made.

Making people happy is what we do best

We love what we do

and we do lots of it
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E: enquiries@jspmltd.com
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St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

Quiz night at the St Edmunds Hall

Friday 30th September, 7.30 for 7.45 start

£3 per head, teams of up to 6

To book a table call 01622 858208

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

The Monday mother and toddler group will continue to run throughout the summer holidays from 10 - 12. We are a very small, friendly group and are always happy to welcome new families.

The hall is a great venue for any party, family gathering or club! If you would like to make a booking call Karen Yardley on 01622 858208

What can you look forward to with the Lenham Valley Business Association?

The first Tuesday of every month there is a business networking meeting presented by the LVBA. It is held at various venues around the Lenham Valley area from Harrietsham to Charing to Ulcombe.

On 6th September we meet at The Dog and Bear on Lenham Square when there will be a presentation by Alison King from King Associates, "What is Coaching?" Alison has over 20 years experience focussed around people and their development. After leaving the corporate world she studied life and business coaching. These experiences led naturally to what she offers now; getting ground rules and policies in place together with developing your people and your business to the optimum level.

To give you plenty of time to organise your diary on 4th October we meet at Victoria's Cabaret Club in Harrietsham. Our speaker is Jenna Hunter, Associate at Whitehead Monckton. The presentation is entitled "Essential HR issues - ways to protect your business". After graduating Jenna initially worked in the charity sector before becoming a solicitor. Employment law is her specialism and since 2004 she's been helping businesses mainly in Kent, to avoid employment law pitfalls and to cope with them when they arise.

Other meetings are on 1st November where we are awaiting confirmation from the venue and on 6th December - the big one where we are doubling up with the South Maidstone Business Association at Chilston Park Hotel. If you can only make one meeting for the rest of the year make it that one!

Speakers already lining up are Denise Humphries from Bytesize Training who will be teaching us all some new tricks in Excel Spreadsheets; Alex Waterton from F-Keys telling us about the new version of Cloud Computing from Microsoft and their new 265 and the Chairman who is threatening to tell us all about the LVBA website in case we miss anything - everyone welcome to that meeting, even if you are a non member and want to know what's on the site for you. More on www.lenhambusiness.co.uk

**Alan Reading, Chairman
Lenham Valley Business Association**

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Grafty Green Gardening Club

The September meeting is on Tuesday the 6th at 7.30, which is also the Autumn Show, our speaker is Sue Scrivens who will enlighten the club members and their guests on the '*Saltwood Foxglove*.' Also this month the club is off to the Three Counties Show at Malvern on 23rd September for the weekend.

Sue Burch

The categories for the Autumn Show are as follows:



Name:-

(Please tick the classes you wish to enter and bring this to the meeting)
Staging your entries from 7 pm.

		- Vegetable Classes & Fruit:-	
1	One spike of gladiolus		
2	one specimen Dahlia (large flowered type)	8	3 Beetroot
3	One specimen rose (hybrid Tea type)	9	5 tomatoes
4	One specimen Chrysanthemum	10	9 runner beans
5	Vase of mums , 5 stems	11	9 pods of peas
6	One vase of annuals (not more than 12 stems)	12	5 potatoes
7	One pot of succulent plant(s) up to 6" pot.	13	Plate of 5 apples
Photo		Flower arrangement	
14	Birds, bees (or wildlife) with flowers	15	My Garden "...not to exceed 12" in any direction and must contain flowers from one's own garden.

Further details regarding the show from Lesley Feakes - 850275

Date	Topic	Speaker
Sept 6	Autumn Show - Sue Scrivens	Saltwood Foxglove
Sept 24/25	Weekend to Malvern, Worcestershire, Bank House hotel and Country Club.	Three Counties Autumn show
Oct 4	Brogdale National Fruit Collection	Tasting Apples and Pears
Nov 1	Alison Sollis	Composting
Dec 6	Social	

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

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7th September - 19th October - 7 sessions £35
and

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am
15th September - 20th October - 6 sessions £30

Drop in students £6 per session. If you are able to make any of the dates and would like to join in please give me a call -: Sue Burch - 01622 850381,
email:graftyyoga@gmail.com

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Staff from the Citizens Advice Bureau are available for consultation in Headcorn Library on the third Friday of each month from 10am until noon.

Kent Police Neighbourhood Watch

If you have the occasion to call the Police because of an incident that is happening in your area and you do not wish a Police attendance at your address, please tell the operator. Kent Police aims to attend every call, particularly those that report Anti Social Behaviour, but there are going to be occasions where you do not wish a visit. The operator will most probably ask you, but if they do not, you will have to tell them

Police in Mid Kent are issuing a reminder to not leave valuables on display in cars.

The advice comes after a number of thefts where valuables were stolen from cars, having been left clearly on display in unattended vehicles.

As part of the force's 'Stay Safe' campaign, which focuses on helping the public avoid becoming victims of crime, officers are reminding motorists to take all their belongings with them when they leave their vehicles.

Inspector Jerry Prodger from the Maidstone Neighbourhood Team said: "Motorists can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime by ensuring they take all their belongings with them when they leave their vehicles. Items such as satellite navigation devices, mobile phones, or even loose change are an easy target for criminals. Thieves will often look for marks on the windscreen where a satellite navigation device has been previously attached so its good practice to ensure this kind of mark is wiped away.

"In the summer months some motorists leave their windows slightly open to let cool air in and thieves will look to take advantage of this. Our advice is to take your valuables with you and fully secure the vehicle before leaving it unattended."

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The September Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Leo at the start of September, and moves into Virgo.

The **Autumn Equinox** occurs on Thursday 23rd September, when the Sun crosses the celestial equator. At this point, night and day are of equal length. After this the Sun moves into the southern half of the sky, and I'm afraid that for the next six months the nights are longer than the days.

Full Moon is on Monday 12th September when in the constellation of Pisces. The September Full Moon is often called the "Harvest Moon", because it continues to rise around sunset for several evenings, allowing farmers to work long after sunset. **New Moon** occurs on Tuesday 27th September. I have more on the **Moon** at the end of the article.

Mercury is at its greatest elongation west of the Sun on 3rd September, so there will be a brief opportunity to see the planet in the dawn sky. Earlier in the month it will appear high in the eastern sky, and the best time to view it will be about an hour before sunset.

Venus is setting only a few minutes after sunrise, so we will not be able to see the brilliant "Evening Star" until well into autumn.

Mars is rising in the northeast just after midnight, and is high in the east at dawn. Relative to the stars, **Mars** is moving eastwards, leaving the constellation of Gemini on 15th September, and crossing into Cancer. We will have to wait until later in the year to see more detail through a telescope.

Jupiter rises in the east at dusk, and is high in the southern sky at dawn. Relative to the stars it is moving north-westwards in the constellation of Aries. Through a telescope the disc of Jupiter can clearly be seen, together with the dark and light cloud bands and some of the four major moons.

Saturn is nearly at **superior conjunction** (almost directly behind the Sun), which occurs on 13th October, so again we will not be able to see the planet this month.

Some of you may have read that experts believe that the Earth originally had two moons in orbit around it, but that one was absorbed into the other when they smashed together about 4.4 billion years ago. The theory would explain why the far side of the Moon has a thick mountainous crust, while the near side is flat. It could also explain why the near side is rich in minerals and the other side is not. They believe it is likely that both moons were formed when an object the size of Mars crashed into Earth and broke up.

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Bull Heath, a Sand Pit, a Lichen Heath, a Sanctuary for Wildlife

August 2011

Bull Heath, a site owned and managed by the Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) is a disused sand quarry. The remnant quarry has left a bowl in the landscape that has flourished as a sanctuary for wildlife. The HCC proudly maintains the site and its rich diversity including lichen, pyramidal orchid and a wealth of specialist acid loving plants.

Sandmartins, the smallest member of the Hirundinidae family (swallows and martins) have been seen living in the sheer sand cliffs on the site. This summer migrant burrows into fresh cliff faces to lay their eggs. In conjunction with a clear cliff face, this species needs to eat a large number of insects to survive. The presence of a pond at Bull Heath increases the number and range of insects available to the birds and enables the species to breed successfully.

A natural process called succession takes place in the quarry. Succession is the gradual formation of a climax community of plants. In this instance, woodland including alder and silver birch are establishing across the site. This process is impeding on the sites true value as an open lichen heath with low ground cover and open cliff faces for the sandmartin, solitary bees and other reptiles. Volunteers from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) have been working with the HCC to remove areas of woody growth in an effort to maintain the high biodiversity value of the site.

KSCP volunteers cleared the pond area of all alder and silver birch growth, creating a vast open space for Sandmartins to hunt for insects on the wing. Other work included scrub clearance and management of an open glade behind the pond. Removing the vigorous growth of trees and scrub encourages an attractive array of flowers including white Campion, vipers bugloss and common stork's-bill to establish.

Managing the site in this way, with conservation volunteers, mirrors the effect that browsing animals such as goats would have on the site. Maintaining low vegetation and thus increasing floral diversity creates a honey-pot of pollen and nectar sources for butterflies, moths and insects.

Bull Heath is an idyllic spot and well worth a visit. If you would like more information on the HCC sites please visit <http://www.heathsc.co.uk/>

If you are interested in conservation and would like to accompany the KSCP on some conservation tasks in the Ashford area please contact the KSCP on 01233 813307 or email debbie.adams@kent.gov.uk

Grafty Green Roads Update

I had hoped to have a definitive e-mail regarding various works now in hand following a further meeting with Kent Highways. However the following is a brief summary.

Kent Highways apologise for lapses following the resurfacing of the 3 miles of Lenham Road between Grafty and Headcorn almost a year ago. Kent Highways are now undertaking necessary remedial work to bring the surfacing and various safety issues up to a satisfactory standard, the cost of which will be taken from the retention monies from the contractor. Work includes many surface repairs, infilling where the surface is above verge / ditch level together with edge marker posts where appropriate, also centre white line and / or edge white lines.

Eastwood Road has now been brought up to standard for the entire length apart from a bit of patching at the Ulcombe junction which will happen soon.

Potholes which have previously been temporarily or badly patched should be remedied from September with the starting of a new KCC main contractor.

Ulcombe Hill and Chegworth Road will be assessed and where necessary remedial work undertaken.

Headcorn Road between the Post Office and Eastwood Road is showing many signs of wear and 'break down' which could become serious over the winter, the engineer I met will be carrying out a detailed assessment to determine the extent and timing of remedial work.

Kent Highways has recently had a major restructure and so far I am positively encouraged.

Chris Wheal

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Christian Message September 2011

Stepping back helps us to step forward: I wonder how many of us have visited the magical coast of Northumbria during the Summer. It is a place that I have fond memories of. I visited Lindisfarne with a friend a few years ago, and it made a huge impression on me. At that time I had recently finished a three year training as a lay minister in our local churches, and felt fulfilled in that role, thinking I was in the role that God had called me to for the rest of my life.

Maybe you have heard of Henry the Hermit, or St Cuthbert? Both of them are associated with that coastline in Northumbria. St Cuthbert made his home on Lindisfarne, otherwise known as Holy Island. It is a small area, connected to the mainland by a narrow causeway which for a lot of the day is submerged by the sea. For access you are at the mercy of the tide. Henry was even more of a recluse. He spent his days in prayer and meditation on an island some distance offshore. Maybe we have something to learn by their example.

There are times when we all need to get away from it all, if only for a short while, possibly a day or two, in order to hear God's voice. It's not that he's removed from our busy lives - far from it - but our business can obscure his presence with us. For example, there was I, determined I was where God wanted me to be. Looking back now, I know his voice was speaking to me, but it seemed dim, and I was unconvinced, possibly because I was so busy with all the other things going on in my life. It was only when I made time to step back, times like my stay at Lindisfarne, that it slowly dawned on me. God was calling me to ordained ministry.

It is noticeable that Jesus himself, at key moments in his life, made time for quietness, drawing away from the crowds, spending time alone on high hills so that he could focus on the presence of God, away from the innumerable pressures and demands put on him. I do know that it's not always easy to do that. Maybe the children are screaming, and there's a pile of washing, or another meeting to attend, another deadline to meet, and stepping back can seem like a luxury we can not afford. Yet, my experience is it is a necessity, a step we sometimes need to make if we are going to have any hope of progressing further.

This year is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through, yet it has been an amazing year for me. Having been ordained as deacon last year, I was preparing for priesthood this year. As part of that preparation I spent some time in Israel. This was time to explore the roots of my faith, and understand more of the background to our scriptures, and of the land where our Lord lived and ministered. I was ordained priest on 3rd July and my feet haven't touched the ground since. I love the business of my life as priest, serving you, the people of this benefice as part of our local ministry team. I thank you all for your support and encouragement. I thank you all for your prayers. And I invite you all to join with me in finding time for God and therefore finding time for all. I pray that you will make enough time in your life to step back so that God can lead you forward.

Reverend Millie Hart

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Music Notes - September

I had to search everywhere this month to find concerts outside London (apart from pub gigs, of which there are plenty), and I almost came to the conclusion that I would have to provide a list of radio broadcasts! Eventually I did find a few events, though they are not very local I'm afraid. And I will still remind you that the Last Night of the Proms is on Saturday 10th September, 7.30pm on radio3. So here is what Kent has to offer in September:

- Every Thursday, 1.05 pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone, free lunchtime concerts continue throughout September., Retiring collection in aid of a charity nominated by the performers. Those attending are invited to bring their lunch-time sandwiches!. Drinks available.
- Sat. 10th Sept, 7.00pm at All Saints Birchington, an organ recital by David Flood (Canterbury Cathedral organist) to celebrate the centenary of the organ. Tickets 01843 833582
- Sat 17th Sept, Rye Festival presents the Wihan Quartet with a concert of chamber music., 7.00pm at St. Mary's church, Rye. Tickets 01797 224442
- Sun 25th Sept at 7.30pm the Oare String Orchestra is performing a concert of 18th century music, including Mozart's *Symphony No. 29*, at The Alexander Centre, Faversham. Tickets 01795 434542

Quote of the month

From an advertisement in a parish magazine:

To raise money for much needed repairs, The Friends of St. xxx are hosting an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Well, it's a novel idea!

The Great Leeds Book Sale

Yes, it's coming to that time of the year again! Make a note in your diary that the book sale is at St. Nicholas' Church on November 19th. Please keep the date clear so that you can come and browse, buy, and meet all your friends.

Brian Hardy

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – September 2011

4th September – 11th Sunday after Trinity

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
8am Harrietsham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Worship
9.30am Boughton Holy Communion
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Worship

11th September – Blessed Virgin Mary (12th Sunday after Trinity)

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Morning Worship
11am Lenham Morning Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Boughton – Choral Evensong

18th September – 13th Sunday after Trinity

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Morning Worship
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
11am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Morning Worship

25th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Family Worship
11am Lenham Family Worship
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

Charity Band Concert by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas
at Sutton Valence School on Friday, 14th Oct 2011 at 7.30 pm.
In aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

Details and application forms from cfgparkinson@tiscali.co.uk
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Momentous Journeys

I have travelled up the Nile to Murchison Falls in a small boat; flown from Entebbe to Northern Uganda in a tiny Mission Aviation Fellowship plane and whizzed through the Kent countryside at 100mph on the pillion of my boy friend's Vincent Black Shadow.

A more recent momentous journey was my first ride (free on account of my age!) on the 9.30am 59 bus from Grafty Green, which has a splendid new bus stop, to Maidstone. From the front seat on the top deck I enjoyed an entirely new perspective on familiar villages including Ulcombe, Kingswood and Chart Sutton. In addition to the visual treat there was an audio experience as overhanging branches of the many trees crashed on to the roof of the bus sounding rather like machine gun fire.

A momentous journey which I warmly recommend. We arrived in Maidstone within an hour. Sadly only two buses return to Grafty Green during the day. Unfortunately the 12.20pm was twenty minutes late leaving Maidstone. I am told that it is usually punctual. Another bus leaves at 4pm allowing more time for shopping or lunch with a friend.

I shall certainly travel by the 59 again and I encourage others to make the journey. As was said at the recent Parish Council meeting, we must 'use it or lose it.'

Baptism Evening

The next evening for parents wishing to have a baby baptised will be held in Lenham Community centre on Monday September 5th at 7.30pm. It would be helpful if Michelle in the church office could be advised of anyone planning to attend. Her telephone number is 01622 850604.

Messy Picnic

The field behind Harrietsham Church is the venue for the Messy Church picnic. This event is for Mums and Dads as well as children and will take place from 4pm onwards. Please bring your own food. Messy fun will be provided.

'God's Family – Our Family' is the overall title for a series of Messy Church events beginning on Saturday September 17th in Lenham Church at the earlier time of 4 to 6pm. Once again parents are invited to come with their children to an afternoon of craft activities, prayers and a meal together. Do telephone Helen Venn on 01622 858195 if you have any questions or would like to help.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Contest	Sleep	Spot	Beauty
2	Lucky	Sheep	Stick	Dip
3	Washing	Fruit	Gun	Machine
4	Flash	Log	Set	Back
5	Spirit	Headed	Sea	Level
6	Flying	False	Kick	Start
7	Child	Reader	Bullet	Proof
8	Tape	Nasty	Game	Video
9	Easy	Lift	Arm	Chair
10	Festival	Mouse	Moon	Harvest
11	Laughing	Subject	Grey	Matter
12	Cottage	Broad	Cake	Cheese
13	Frog	Year	Quantum	Leap
14	Instructor	Water	Jump	Ski
15	Union	Mark	Rag	Trade
16	Pony	Purpose	Train	Express

	Find the missing word?
1	Andy Capp, Cartoon character created by Reg Smythe
2	Johann Sebastian Bach, A German composer
3	Simon & Garfunkel, Duo whose hits include Mrs Robinson
4	Rio Ferdinand, Manchester United & England defender
5	Saving Private Ryan, Military film with Tom Hanks
6	St Ives, Popular Cornish holiday resort
7	Norra Jones, Singer daughter of Ravi Shankar
8	A A Milne, Creator of Winnie the Pooh
9	Shall We Dance, A song from The King and I
10	Video Killed The Radio Star, 1979 hit from the Buggles

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