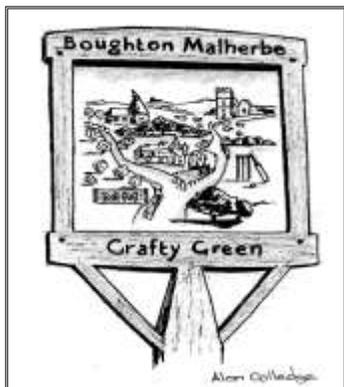


Malherbe Monthly

Number 85
August 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	890200
	Richard Thick	891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander	858348
	Joan Davidson	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	858350
	Sue Burch	850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858195
Reader	Joan Drury email: jdrury23@btinternet.com	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk	850604
	Office opening times as 9am – 12noon Monday - Thursday	
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Karen Yardley	858208
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post	01580
	Office	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 **September** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th August**

Front cover: Headcorn Morris performing outside the Kings Head pub. Picture courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

Cream Teas: Our first Sunday was a successful day for us with people arriving from 2.00pm onwards. The second Sunday was equally successful, in fact even better, but the third was not good as it was raining. I think perhaps our customers had forgotten that we still serve teas on rainy days in the nave of the Church. We very much hope to see all our customers during August and into September.

Each tea is very good value for money, as we have not changed the price since we began over 10 years ago. We look forward to seeing you all again soon for scones, jam, cream and a pot of tea or coffee and the lovely view of the Weald.

Mains Water: A great shout went up at St. Nicholas when we had mains water laid on just in time for this year's Cream Teas. It will make such a difference to the ladies who organise the teas - no longer will they have to transport water in 5 litre containers from their homes. We now hope it won't be too long before we can also boast a toilet and kitchen!!!

Portaloo: The Portaloo has been cleaned and is now re-instated in the Churchyard, but we shall be keeping a close eye on this. This little piece of mischief cost us over £70 to put right.

Village Coffee Morning: The Coffee Mornings began again in July and we had 12-15 people who came along and enjoyed a pleasant morning chatting over coffee and homemade cake and biscuits. Our next Coffee Morning will be on 10th August at 10.30-12.00 - do please come and join us.

Millie Hart: We welcome Millie Hart to the Benefice as our new ordained Priest. She is now able to perform all the rites of the Church of England, but will still be going off on courses etc., to complete her training. Millie is from Harrietsham and has been with us for many years now.

Marian Bond: Whilst welcoming Millie as our new Priest, it has been sad saying good-bye to the Rev. Marian Bond, who has moved on to a new Benefice on the Downs and was licensed as the Assistant Curate of the United Benefice of Tunstall with Bredgar with special responsibility for the parishes of Bredgar, Bicknor and Frinsted with Wormshill and Milstead on 20th July at 7.00pm. We all wish Marian every success in her new post.

Date for your Diary: The Village hall has been booked for the Harvest Supper on 1st October, 2011.

Joan Davidson

Boughton Malherbe - Update from your County Councillor

Lenham Youth Centre - have your say

KCC is undertaking a consultation on the future of Kent's Youth Service which will involve retaining one "hub" in each district (the Infozone in the centre of Maidstone) and is seeking expressions of interest from the private and voluntary sector to safeguard the future of other centres. I am working with senior officers and parish councillors in Lenham to help secure the future of the youth provision there for young people in the rural parishes in my Division. A public consultation on the proposals started on 1 August (www.kent.gov.uk). The proposals are intended to produce a saving of £900,000 out of a Youth Service Budget of £7million.

Reducing the speed limit on Liverton Street

I can only apologise for the delay in proceeding with a reduction in the speed limit on Liverton Hill to 30mph following the well publicised campaign of last year. I have been pressing for the statutory Traffic Regulation Order that needs to be advertised and hasn't been to date. I am meeting with Kent Highways officers shortly to expedite the publication of this notice so we can consult with local residents and hopefully proceed with a reduction in the speed limit if the majority of people who respond agree.

On a more positive note, I am delighted that the new signage scheme and improvements to carriageway markings on Liverton Hill is now in place - hopefully this will help to improve the safety of residents, pedestrians, motorists and cyclists alike.

Changes in post-16 transport

Following the abolition of the Educational Maintenance Allowance and a presentation by young people to a full County Council meeting on 21 July, three pilot schemes will be introduced this September and these will run in tandem with a public consultation on a permanent concessionary bus travel pass for Kent's post-16 students. We will ask people of all ages for their input and views about the post-16 bus travel concession, what they would like it to be and how much they would be prepared to pay for it. At the same time we need to test the practicalities of the scheme and will introduce three pilots around the county. Following the consultation and pilot schemes, a permanent, countywide post-16 travel concession is expected to be introduced in September 2012.

Please contact me if you need my help or advice. I am always happy to help!

Jenny Whittle

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

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

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

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ dance for me, A 1960 hit for the Four Tops
2	Pretty _____, A No 1 song in 1966 for Manfred Mann
3	_____ in the ground, A Bernard Cribbins song from 1962
4	_____ on main street, Acclaimed Rolling Stones LP of 1972
5	The _____ of Silence, A 1966 hit for Simon and Garfunkel
6	_____ Bogart. A star in the 1951 box office smash The African Queen
7	The 39 _____, 1935 Alfred Hitchcock thriller
8	Easter _____, 1948 musical with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland
9	Betty _____, WW11 pin-up whose legs were insured for a million dollars
10	Huckleberry _____, A cartoon dog whose first screen appearance was in 1958

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!



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Children's Room Beer Garden



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Stop, Go ... and Gone!

Thursday 14th July saw the erection of numerous safety signs and traffic lights either side of the Bell House bend at Boughton Malherbe while necessary tree surgery was carried out. Unfortunately, the traffic lights were out of the vision of the tree surgeons whilst they worked.



On the morning of Friday 15th July, the occupants of one vehicle interpreted the green light as the go-ahead to remove and steal the batteries from the traffic light, rendering it useless for the duration of the job. Traffic control continued in the form of hand signals and shouts under the direction of a man at each end.

Christine King

Grafty Green Village Hall Committee

There will be a meeting of the Village Hall Committee on Thursday 18th August at 7.30 in the Village Hall. We are looking for new members, so if you are interested please come along.

Note for your diaries: Chicory Tip are playing in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th November. More information to follow in later editions of the magazine.

Mandy Hitchins

Water comes to St. Nicolas' Church



Wednesday 22nd June 2011
The first buckets of first earth are removed as trenching begins.



Opposite the west gate, the mole is put in place...



.. and moling begins, on what should have been a job of just a few hours, underneath the road ...



... after almost 3 days the mole appeared at the other side - watched by (l-r) Tom Chantler, Mike Chantler, and digger operator Michael Hanson.

The water pipe was pushed through behind the mole and into a trench dug through the churchyard. (A watching brief was carried out, details next month)



Monday 27th June: At last, after 5 days digging and moling; after all the planning, talking, hard work fund raising and supporting; generous donations of both money and time and, overall, what has been a tremendous community effort of which we should all feel proud, St Nicolas Church now has its own water supply. Phase 1 complete!

Christine King

BUS SERVICE 59

Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

At a recent meeting of the East of Maidstone Rural Transport Group, it was announced that KCC is soon to withdraw its funding for the Saturday Service 59 (and also the Saturday Service 13 to Hollingbourne). Whilst moves are afoot to try and ways of keeping the Saturday service going, including alternative sources of funding, as things stand the Saturday service will cease to run after 31st December 2011.

The Monday to Friday service is continuing to be run by Arriva as a commercial service and is not said to be under any immediate threat following the changes made to the service in April. However, Arriva will continue to monitor closely the financial viability of the service so the message continues to be **USE IT OR QUITE POSSIBLY LOSE IT** as well.

It doesn't matter if you personally don't pay to use the service as bus companies do obtain some financial reimbursement from local authorities for concessionary travel, so every little really does help. It's all about usage.

The background to the proposed withdrawal of the Saturday service is simple economics. Having retained the contract to run the Saturday service for another four years from April 2010, Nu-Venture decided to cancel the contract from April this year, citing as the main factors increases in the price of fuel and confirmation of the actual level of reduction in the rate of reimbursement for carrying passengers using concessionary permits. KCC duly re-tendered the Saturday contract which was awarded to Arriva but at a much higher contract price. This meant that the level of subsidy per passenger journey also went up considerably, putting the contract high on the list of contracts which no longer met the criteria for financial support. It was therefore identified as one of the contracts to be cancelled as KCC looked to reduce its spending on subsidising public transport as part of the overall budget cuts which KCC and all other local authorities are having to make.

Whilst KCC says it will not be in a position to reverse its decision on the Saturday service or commit funding to new services, comments or suggestions are apparently welcomed and should reach KCC by Friday 2nd September, by email to transport.integration@kent.gov.uk, by post to Transport Integration, Commercial Services, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4QG, or by phone to 0845 8247800.

Finally, it is worth repeating that, whilst it is only the Saturday service that is currently up for withdrawal, the Monday to Friday service will only continue if people demonstrate that it is needed by using it. Its future is in your hands. **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

John Collins Boughton Malherbe Parish Council's representative on the East of Maidstone Rural Transport Group

BUS SERVICE 59

Grafty Green – Maidstone via Ulcombe and Kingswood

Shown below is the revised Monday to Friday timetable which Arriva which is introducing from 11th April 2011. The only change from the outline times shown in March's magazine is that the proposed 1550 departure from Maidstone will now leave at 1600.

A new timetable leaflet is awaited

Please note that there are no changes being made to the Service 59 Saturday timetable operated by NuVenture, nor to the Schooldays only Service 66 timetable, also operated by NuVenture.

Service 59 Timetable - Mondays to Fridays from 11th April 2011

	Sch	NSch		NSch	Sch
Grafty Green, Kings Head	0710	0721	0930	-	-
Ulcombe Post Office	0717	0729	0937	-	-
Kingswood Village Hall	0722	0733	0942	1430	1430
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0725	0736	0944	1432	1432
Warmlake Corner	0731	0742	0950	1438	1438
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0735	0745	0953	1441	1441
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0738	0749	0956	1444	1444
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0741	0751	0958	1446	1447
Linton Corner	0746	0756	1003	1451	1506
Loose Road / Old Loose Hill	0750	0800	1006	1454	1509
Wheatshaf	0756	0806	1012	1500	1515
Maidstone, King Street, Stop L2	-	0814	1020	1508	1523
Maidstone Chequers	0808				
Somerfield Hospital	0817				
Tonbridge Road, Oakwood Park	0826				

Sch - Schooldays

NSch - Not Schooldays

On Schooldays the 1430 from Kingswood runs via Cornwallis Academy (arr 1457/dep 1506)

Maidstone, King Street, Stop L2	1220	1350	1600	1715
Maidstone Chequers, Stop J4	1222	1352	1602	1717
Wheatshaf	1229	1359	1609	1724
Loose Road / Old Loose Hill	1233	1403	1613	1728
Linton Corner	1237	1407	1617	1732
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1242	1412	1622	1737
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1245	1415	1625	1740
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1248	1418	1628	1743
Warmlake Corner	1251	1421	1631	1746
Kingswood Village Hall	-	1426	-	-
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1259	-	1639	1754
Ulcombe Post Office	1306	-	1646	1801
Grafty Green, Kings Head	1313	-	1653	1808

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a fantastic alternative to your usual gravy, and so quick and simple to make. It's my own version of the classic Italian sauce, to which I have added cream and mushrooms. The flavour is out of this world and will accompany roast beef, steak or chicken. The mushrooms are not essential, but are particularly great with steak or chicken.

Marsala Sauce for Chicken or Beef

½ Large Onion chopped
2 Cloves of Garlic chopped
150ml Marsala Wine
150ml Stock (if using cubes, use 1
beef stock cube & 1 chicken stock
cube)

Small Handful Fresh Rosemary
chopped (you can use 2 teaspoons of
dried if fresh is not available)
Approx 8 Mushrooms, sliced
100ml Single Cream
100g unsalted butter
Dash of salt
Fresh Ground Black Pepper

1. In a saucepan, fry the chopped onion and garlic in 50g of the butter for a few minutes until soft. Then put into a blender together with the chopped rosemary, stock and Marsala wine, and blend for approx 2 minutes until onion is liquified.
2. Heat the remaining 50g butter in a saucepan, and gently melt, without burning.
3. Add the Marsala Wine mixture from the blender and slowly bring to the boil, stirring occasionally. Turn down the heat to very low and simmer whilst adding the cream, mushrooms, dash of salt and fresh ground black pepper. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms soften.
4. Serve with your roast chicken, beef or steak.

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News from Ulcombe's Village School

Zooming to the End of the Year

"Outstanding." "Fantastic." "Excellent." "The best play ever." These were just some of the comments from the audience after the children performed the musical comedy, Zoom on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July. This was a highly amusing re-telling of Aesop's fable about the tortoise and the hare. The children worked really hard to learn a huge script, with some children even having to take on more than one part. Our thanks go to all of the grown-ups, both in school and at home, who helped the children learning whatever they needed to, and with the children's costumes. Most of all, our thanks and congratulations go to the children, for giving us all such great entertainment.

During July, as we headed towards the end of term activities including Zoom, we had plenty to keep us occupied. The month started with a trip to see The Jungle Book at The Assembly Halls in Tunbridge Wells. This was to fit in with our topic, 'The Entertainer.' It was great to see a real show in an actual theatre, which many of the children had never done before. All of the children and adults really enjoyed seeing the performance. Some of our older children picked up tips to use in our own production, as what made the trip even more special for them was the chance to meet the cast afterwards. It was fascinating to learn how the actors and actresses go about their work and to get some idea of the preparation that they have to go through before each performance.

July has also seen our new entrants (i.e. the children starting school in September) coming in to school for short sessions to help them get used to their new school. It has been great to see how easily they have settled in on these occasions, which bodes very well indeed for September and their first day at school.

On Thursday 7th July our Year 6 children were all at their new secondary schools for a taster day. Those of us who were in school got to meet our new teachers, which meant Barn Owls got to meet Mrs Boorman, who will be joining us from September. During the same week we also had Parent-Teacher Consultations when parents found out how good and hard-working (!) their children had been since Easter. This was also the week when parents heard about next year's Residential Adventure. We will be going to PGL Little Canada, on the Isle of Wight, in March 2012. We all enjoyed welcoming visitors to our Open Afternoon during the following week. Owlets Class held a Cake Sale as part of the afternoon, which was particularly popular.

Thursday 21st July was the day of our end of year disco and Leavers' Barbecue. The disco was great, so thanks again to Mr Tew for providing the music. We must thank Friends of Ulcombe School, our PTFA, who have worked hard during the course of the year not just with fund-raising, but with making sure we have events simply to enjoy. They even helped by providing the burgers, hot dogs and

drinks for the Leavers' Barbecue.

Friday 22nd July was a special time when we could all say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children. Our Leavers' Service, when Year 6 share their many memories of their time here at Ulcombe CE Primary School, and others reflect on the year that has passed, took place at All Saints Church. It was lovely to hear so many happy memories and times when the children had fun whilst they were learning.

This year's service was also a chance to say goodbye to Mrs Owens. Mrs Owens has been teaching here at Ulcombe for several years and all of us have wonderful memories of her teaching us or helping us in some way. She helped us particularly with our art work over the years. We know that she will thoroughly enjoy a very well-earned rest and we send our very best wishes for the future.

Sporting Prowess

It has been confirmed that our football team finished as runners-up in the area league. This is a tremendous performance from the whole team, finishing level on points with Lenham Primary School, and ahead of all of our other, larger neighbours. Congratulations to our footballers for a marvellous season.

In other sports, we have taken part in athletics and rounders competitions recently. On Friday 1st July the rounders team played with great enthusiasm. Two days before a small team of athletes had taken to track and field at the Julie Rose Stadium to compete against children from school across Mid-Kent, Maidstone and Ashford. The team did brilliantly well to come third in their group, despite having seven, rather the permitted twelve, competitors.

Thanks, again, to everyone who supported school events during the school year. 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.

Mr V Hampton *Head Teacher*



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Grafty Geeks - Computer Tip of the Month

e-bay – 7 Steps to Buying & Selling (incl. Tips)

Step 1	Get an Account – there is a validation process to ensure the site is run properly – go to www.ebay.co.uk and select Register , which you will find on the home page. You will need to go through a validation process.	
Step 2	Once registration has been completed: Log-in by going to www.ebay.co.uk , then type your username and password in the boxes provided. You will know you have successfully logged in because you will see your name in the top left-hand side of the page. Tip: If you go to ebay.com you will get an international flavour, so log into "co.uk" to make it more local.	
	BUYING	SELLING
Step 3	<p>Just type an item you wish to buy in the search bar from the Home page, or go to the Buy tab and then perform a search using the search bar – remember to use advanced search if you want something specialised</p> <p>Tips:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remember to use the categories to narrow the results Change the way the results are displayed using View options Change the order in which the items are displayed by using Sort by Also you can use the All Items, Auction Only and Buy it Now tabs to narrow the results 	<p>Create a Sellers Account – you will need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a valid credit card, debit card or bank account Let e-Bay know how you would like to pay your sellers fees Select the payment methods you'll accept Make sure your Feedback profile is public <p>Tip – set up a Q&A for your item as buyers often have questions and it's a quick way to get the responses to them</p>

<p>Step 4</p>	<p>Click onto the item you would like to buy and place a bid. You will need to increase the highest bid that has already been made. You can put a maximum bid on, so you will become the highest bidder until someone else bids higher. You can increase your highest bid which is available in the Bid selection box.</p>	<p>Research your item and the rules of selling</p> <p>Select the correct category</p> <p>Consider the selling format</p> <p>Calculate the postage costs</p> <p>Get your pictures ready</p>
<p>Step 5</p>	<p>If you are the highest bidder you will win the item – you will then need to Pay for the item – you can arrange payment with the seller and contact them directly.</p> <p>Tip: If you decide to use eBay a lot it might be worth considering PayPal. You can find instructions on PayPal on My e-Bay tab, in the shortcuts menu at the left-hand side of the screen, near the bottom of the page.</p>	<p>Create your listing</p> <p>Write a good description</p> <p>Provide item specifics and condition</p> <p>Add pictures</p> <p>Choose a starting price</p> <p>Select the duration and payment method</p> <p>Specify Delivery Services</p> <p>Tips:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You can specify a returns policy which makes buyers more comfortable 2. You can chose to send a percentage of your sale to a charity through e-bay
<p>Step 6</p>	<p>You should receive your item in line with the terms outlined in the auction.</p>	<p>Manage your listing</p> <p>Check your listing is correct – you can change your listing if you notice any errors or you want to change anything at all</p> <p>Keep an eye on your item regularly</p> <p>Answer questions promptly</p> <p>There are ways of setting up automatic notifications into your email</p>
<p>Step 7</p>	<p>Go to My e-Bay and leave feedback for your item</p>	<p>Wrap up with your buyer</p> <p>Communicate with your buyer</p> <p>Receive payment</p> <p>Post the item to the buyer</p> <p>Leave the buyer feedback</p>
<p>Notes</p>	<p>You don't have to log-in to e-Bay to search for items, but you will need to log in if you want to bid or watch any items.</p>	<p>Important</p> <p>Contact your buyer directly if you haven't heard from them within three days of your listing's end</p>

To get more information about how to do things in e-Bay go to the **Customer Service** menu and select **Customer Support** – in the left-hand menu you can [Browse help](#) e.g.: **buying, selling and bidding**

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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Short	Breaker	Training	Circuit
2	Meeting	Silent	Book	
3	Dining	Tennis	Bird	
4	Shave	Taste	Here	
5	Jacket	Story	Still	
6	Estate	Secret	News	
7	Mountain	Port	Bus	
8	Sector	School	Investigator	
9	Morning	Instant	Pot	
10	Collectors	Revised	Limited	
11	Hearted	Sea	Cub	
12	Station	Slow	Work	
13	Duke	Angel	Enemy	
14	Ground	Stand	Lay	
15	Bubble	Shield	Tree	
16	Hand	Class	Cut	

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council have issued the timetable for the Weekend 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 6th August 09:25 - 09.55 -: Lodge Gardens

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 16th August at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to the public and there will be time set aside for public representations to be made.

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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

Why join Lenham Valley Business Association?

- Proven business success among businesses that network regularly.
- Business directory to every home and business in the area from Harrietsham to Lenham Heath and Ulcombe (for this point alone the membership fee is a good purchase).
- An online Business Directory right now!
- The opportunity for members to be listed up to 5 times on the website.
- The opportunity for members to advertise vacancies (and items for sale) free of charge on the LVBA website.
- An open door to real expertise from professionals who are happy to share their knowledge for free.
- A professional image, a good reputation and professional presenters.
- An organising committee of enthusiastic experienced professionals.
- The LVBA website which is easy to find and high on search engines.
- Monthly posters/handouts sent to the member and non member mailing list to help promote the association.
- 12 free monthly network meetings in 2011 on the first Tuesday of every month, providing a chance to see local venues.
- An elected committee who know how to organise the association.
- Offer schemes aimed at increasing business for all members by encouraging their staff to buy from other members.
- Links for the association from Facebook, LinkedIn, Free Index and others (and links from others too, members or not).
- Ideas to promote the whole Lenham area to tourists from UK as well as Europe.
- Regular support from KM, Lenham Focus, Networker, Malherbe Monthly, Wealden Ad and other publications too.
- You get the chance to hear about and see (before others do) lots of information that could help or effect you.
- Scam warnings every time we see a new one!
- Chance to help develop the area.
- Chance to work with others to put on events locally.

The association is owned by its members and run by an elected committee. The association has been designed for successful local rural networking, it is not a franchise from another country, it is not designed to make money for an 'owner', it is not run by people too busy to give their time for detail, it is run by a professional with understanding and current hands on experience of marketing, presenting and successful organising. Other networking forums can only follow.

For more information on the LVBA enter www.lenhambusiness.co.uk and see openly visible member lists, business articles, local news, photos, online joining applications and further information or call 01622 820841. The next meetings for LVBA are 2nd August The Harrow Hotel; 6th September The Dog and Bear.

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Alan Reading

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Grafty Green Gardening Club

Grafty Green Gardening Club programme for 2011. Membership is £5 for the year. Visitors are welcome at any of the meetings. Further information from Sue Burch 850381

Date	Topic	Speaker
August 2	Outing Knowle Hill Farm, Elizabeth Cairns	6.30 pm
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	

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Grafty Green Gardening Club

A coach outing to Sandwich in July enabled members to enjoy the Salutation Garden which was delightful, many interesting features, a great restaurant and brilliant atmosphere; highly recommended.

August outing is within walking distance! Elizabeth and Andrew Cairns of Knowle Hill Farm are hosting our visit on

Tuesday 2nd at 6.30; a garden with stunning views all the way to Rye, it is an inspiration to gardeners or, maybe, a tranquil spot for those needing a little moment to just enjoy a fabulous garden. Further details from Sue Burch on 850381

Fly tipping at Grafty Green Village Hall. There have been bags of rubbish left to the side of the village hall which are not from Village Hall users. It is very difficult to find out who is leaving their rubbish here and when the rubbish has been cleared more appear. Anyone solve this mystery?

Sue Burch

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As a partner of Kent Police, Kent KeyLink would like to offer all Neighbourhood Watch members one year's residential membership to the Kent KeyLink key holder scheme for **only £10 for one year**, half the standard price (usually £20). For more details and to register visit Kent KeyLink at

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The August Night Sky

The **Sun** is in the constellation of Cancer at beginning of August, and moves into Leo on the 11th August.

Full Moon occurs on Saturday 13th August when in Capricornus, and **New Moon** is on Monday 29th August.

Mercury is at inferior conjunction (almost directly in front of the Sun) on 17th August, and by the end of the month it will just be emerging into the dawn sky. We will get much better views next month.

Venus is at superior conjunction (almost directly behind the Sun) on 16th August, so again we will not be able to see the "Evening Star" this month.

Mars is rising in the northeast shortly after midnight, and is well up in the east at dawn. Mars is moving eastwards, leaving the constellation of Taurus, and into Gemini.

Jupiter rises in the east a couple of hours after sunset, and by dawn it is high in the south-eastern sky. It is easy to recognise as it outshines all the night-time stars. Through a telescope it may be possible to see its dark and light bands, together with the Great Red Spot near the centre. Some of Jupiter's four major moons may also be visible.

Saturn is low in the western sky at sunset, and sets earlier every evening as the month progresses. Relative to the stars it is moving very slowly south-eastwards in the constellation of Virgo. It is not well placed for viewing as it is so low in the evening sky.

August is the month for the famous **Perseid** meteor shower. They will appear to radiate from a point in the constellation of Perseus, which is high in the northeast in the evening. It is expected that the showers will peak in the early hours of 13th August.

Although we are still in late July, I thought I could not let the opportunity pass without mentioning the return of the space shuttle Atlantis. The shuttle Atlantis has touched down at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida for the last time, bringing to an end one of the most eventful eras in America's long history of human spaceflight. This was the 135th and final mission of the 30-year space shuttle programme. The International Space Station will now have to be serviced by Russian spacecraft following the retirement of the three-strong shuttle fleet.

John Maunder

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Outings

There are two interesting outings being organised by Ulcombe village organisations for which there may be a few vacancies.

The first is to **the British Legion factory in Richmond** on Tuesday 6th September. The coach will be leaving Ulcombe at 9.30 am. With a coffee stop en route, we will be at the factory in time for lunch. Then there will be a guided tour of the factory. The cost of this will be £31 inclusive of lunch.

The second is a weekend outing **to Warwickshire** where we will be leaving Ulcombe on Saturday the 10th of September **at 8.00 am** and will spend the day at Warwick Castle, one of the most complete and beautiful castles in England. We will then be going to the Peacock Hotel at Kenilworth where we will stay for the night (dinner included). The next morning we visit Kenilworth Castle, and then go on to Baddesley Clinton (an interesting 15th century which has been in the Ferrers family for 500 years. There we can obtain lunch. We expect to be back in Ulcombe about 8.30pm.

The cost of this outing, to include coach, entrance to Warwick Castle, overnight stay and dinner at the Peacock Hotel, is £122 for those sharing a double room and £132 for a single room. Entrance to Kenilworth and Baddesley Clinton is not included as they are owned respectively by the national Trust and English heritage – of which many people are members.

If you are interested, please contact for more details either John Moore on 01622 850384 or Molly Poulter on 01622 842988. We will need a deposit of £20 per person.

Molly Poulter



This picture is of Joe, son of Louise Neaves eating (sort of) an Ice Cream at his Uncle Peter Neaves wedding to Jane.

I suspect we all have seen similar attempts at eating Ice Cream like this before !!!

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Christian Message August 2011

Change

We often think of August as a holiday month, but it is also, for many, a time of preparation for change. Young children, leaving the security of primary school, have to face up to going to -the very different environment of the secondary school where, instead of having one teacher throughout most of the day, they will be changing every forty-five or fifty minutes from one classroom to another, one teacher to another and one subject to another. And for many they will be travelling each day on public transport for the first time.

Then there are the school leavers going on to college or university or employment, where they will, again for the first time, have to manage their own finances. And for many, it will also mean leaving the security of home.

Then there is the change that a holiday brings – new places, new food, new people. And in today's difficult economic environment, there is, for many, the change in their financial situation, with some losing jobs, and even their homes.

Change affects everyone in one way or another. But there is one change that affects us all – and that is our death. It's something most of us don't like to think about, but it's been much in the news since the Terry Pratchett television show about assisted dying. For many it was a deeply disturbing programme – not because the man's death was anything other than peaceful, but that someone, in full control of his faculties, still able to walk and get about, with a loving wife ready to support him, should decide to end his life prematurely.

There was little discussion of hospices which many in this village have supported generously over the years. They provide such wonderful care of the terminally ill – controlling their pain, and caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs – helping them to enjoy life to the end despite all their suffering. Hospices also care for patient's families with support services which continue for as long as needed. Sadly, there seemed to be little on-going support at the assisted dying clinic in Switzerland. Then there is the whole religious question of the sanctity of life, and our right to take our own lives.

Our death is inevitable. It is something Jesus preached about when he told a story about a very rich man whose land yielded a good harvest. He debated with himself what he should do, and decided he would pull down his barns and build bigger ones. 'I will collect all my grain and other goods, and I will say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid by, enough for many years to come: take life easy, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him, 'You fool. This very night you must surrender your life; and the money you have made, who will get it now? That is how it is with the man who piles up treasure for himself and remains a pauper in the sight of God.'

It is a parable with a double lesson. We must all die sometime though we don't know the day or the hour. But equally, while we live we need to be generous with our possessions (and our time) because we can't take anything with us. It's a sobering thought.

So, though many don't like to think about their deaths, Christians believe that death is not the end but the beginning. Jesus said, 'In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.' In John's gospel, we read the words 'God so loved the world that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.' That is an offer that is open to all of us. A wonderful thought.

Molly Poulter

Changes at St John the Baptist Church, Harrietsham

You may have heard we are making some changes at St John's. Through the generosity of the Friends of St John's and a bequest from Marian Bond's mother, we are putting in a mini kitchen to enable us to serve snacks, teas and coffees more easily. We are also installing new fully-glazed entrance doors to make the church more welcoming and light.

At our recent PCC meeting, we unanimously agreed to make further changes to the interior of the church. We want to do this mainly to make the church more comfortable and more useable. So we have decided to remove all the pews and replace them with comfortable chairs. These changes will enable us to serve the community around us much more effectively. For example, we will be able to run Messy Church regularly, have more concerts, and offer the flexibility of a large and welcoming space for all kinds of activities.

If anyone has any comments, please do let us know your thoughts, and if you can support us by helping practically or financially, we would be very grateful. Please do get in touch via the Church Office – 850604.

Rev Dick Venn

Sharp Darts

Keen darts players may like to know that Graham Howland of Tools with a Mission is offering to sharpen three darts for £3. He will be at Headcorn Farmers Market in the village hall on Saturday August 13th Between 9.30 and noon.

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Music Notes - August

Music is slowing down in August, presumably musicians take their holidays this month like many other people. I have found a few local events for you to consider, and of course there are the London Promenade Concerts every day; if you cannot get to the Albert Hall they are all on radio 3. And here is my local selection:

- Every Thursday, 1.05 pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone, free lunchtime concerts, with retiring collection in aid of a charity nominated by the performers. Those attending are invited to bring their lunch-time sandwiches!. Drinks available.
- Sunday 21st August, 7.00pm at Leeds Castle, Concert by the Royal Marines Association Band. Details 01622 880008
- Saturday 27th August, 7.30pm at Mote Hall Maidstone, the Kent County Youth Orchestra Summer concert. Tickets 0845 1552277
- And finally, if you fancy a day at the seaside, how about the Broadstairs Festival? On 12th August the Sounds Fresh Youth Folk Group will be performing in the Concert marquee at 2.30pm as part of the festival.

Brian Hardy

Quote of the month

Weight Watchers will meet at 7.00pm on Wednesdays in the Presbyterian chapel. Please use the large double door at the side entrance. .

From the events diary in a parish magazine.

YOGA – a practice that enhances life; releases stress and brings increased mobility and strength to the body -

Try a session to experience yoga in Grafty Green Village Hall

Classes for August will be on Wednesday evenings 7 - 8.30 on 3rd, 10th and 17th or Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11 on 4th, 11th and 18th

For further information call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga Teacher) on 850381 or email: griftyyoga@gmail.com

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

7th August – 7th 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

14th August – 8th 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

21st August – 9th 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

28th August – 10th 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

Planning a Christening?

Parents considering the baptism of a child are invited to an information meeting in Lenham Community Centre on Monday September 5th at 7.30pm. It would be helpful if those planning to attend would notify Michelle in the church office on 01622 850604.

More Mess!

Feedback from the series of Messy Church events organised by the Len Valley Benefice has been positive. Parents and children alike have appreciated the activities, teaching, getting to know others and eating together.

The planning team has given serious thought to venues. Some, however convenient in terms of location, have proved difficult as furniture and equipment has to be transported from other churches involving volunteers in extra hard work. Present thinking is that Lenham church and Harrietsham school are the most suitable for Messy Church.

'God's Family – Our Family', is the title of the theme for the next series which will begin on Saturday September 17th in Lenham church at the earlier time of 4 to 6pm. Future dates are October 15th ((Harrietsham) and November 19th (Lenham).

There will be a reunion of Messy Churchers in the field behind Harrietsham church on Saturday September 3rd. A picnic is planned! Bring your own food and messy fun will be provided.

Contact for Messy Church is Helen Venn on 01622 858195.

Coffee Morning

Please come along to a 'Free on the inside' coffee morning and bring and buy sale at Deans Hill Lodge on Saturday 27th August at 11am

Please bring any items which you might sell (unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or that old Stradivarius that's been lying in the loft doing nothing and getting dusty).

Donations of cakes and biscuits very welcome too please.

Proceeds to go to the Next 'Freedom 4' weekend in September.

Free on the Inside is all about sharing God's love with people who are ready to accept guidance and advice in order to lead fulfilling lives. The organisation is aimed mostly at people on the "inside" or who are on re-rehabilitation programs but likes to include all of God's family on their courses. For more information about FOTI please visit

<http://www.foti.org.uk/>

For enquiries about the coffee morning please ring 859442

Pamela Cuerden

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Short	Breaker	Training	Circuit
2	Meeting	Silent	Book	Prayer
3	Dining	Tennis	Bird	Table
4	Shave	Taste	Here	After
5	Jacket	Story	Still	Life
6	Estate	Secret	News	Agent
7	Mountain	Port	Bus	Pass
8	Sector	School	Investigator	Private
9	Morning	Instant	Pot	Coffee
10	Collectors	Revised	Limited	Edition
11	Hearted	Sea	Cub	Leon
12	Station	Slow	Work	Coach
13	Duke	Angel	Enemy	Arch
14	Ground	Sand	Lay	Under
15	Bubble	Shield	Tree	Gum
16	Hand	Class	Cut	Tipper

	Find the missing word?
1	Save the last dance for me, A 1960 hit for the Four Tops
2	Pretty Flamingo, A No 1 song in 1966 for Manfred Mann
3	Hole in the ground, A Bernard Cribbins song from 1962
4	Exile on main street, Acclaimed Rolling Stones LP of 1972
5	The Sound of Silence, A 1966 hit for Simon and Garfunkel
6	Humphrey Bogart, A star in the 1951 box office smash The African Queen
7	The 39 Steps, 1935 Alfred Hitchcock thriller
8	Easter Parade, 1948 musical with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland
9	Betty Grable, WWII pin-up whose legs were insured for a million dollars
10	Huckleberry Hound, A cartoon dog whose first screen appearance was in 1958

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