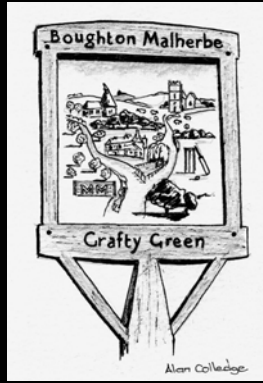


Malherbe Monthly

Free



Number 35

June 2007



1
Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Liz Watts	737321
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	To be announced	
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 3.30 by Post Office	
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Chris King	Advertising: Christine.kings@btinternet.com	850711
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts do not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit! Anything for the July edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th June

Front cover: Tea for two at the Plant Sale on 5th May – Picture courtesy of John Collins

News from St. Nicholas Church

Don Irvine's Farewell

On the evening of 28th April, the Benefice held a Farewell Party in the hall of the new Primary School at Harrietsham for Don. About 140 people were present and each Parish was asked to contribute towards the refreshments for the occasion, which they did in abundance. Alphatoo provided the musical entertainment. During the evening, Don was thanked for all he had done for us by moulding together the 4 Parishes to form a Benefice, which is now flourishing. He was presented with a farewell gift of a painting of all the four Churches of the Benefice plus the Cross on the Downs at Lenham. The artist was Pauline Appleton, of Lenham. He was also given a hot air balloon ride and a very handsome cheque. Don was well liked and we will miss him greatly. The following morning there was a Benefice Service held at All Saints Ulcombe. During the Service the joint Choirs sang an anthem 'Ave Verum', which sounded lovely.

Don had asked if it would be possible to get together the four antique chalices owned by each of the churches in the Benefice. We were able to do this, which involved collecting some of them from the Treasury at Canterbury Cathedral where they can be seen on display. They are kept at the Treasury for safety; each one being very valuable. They date back to 1600. So, we made our own little bit of history which it will probably never happen again.

Don has now been licensed to minister at St. John the Baptist, Swalecliffe, which is in the Whitstable Team Ministry. This took place on 9th May and 25 of us were able to go to this Service. St. John's only holds 100 people and it was full.

Coffee Morning

A coffee morning has been arranged to take place on 7th June 10.30-12.00 at the Old Rectory, Boughton Malherbe. It will be in aid of Sister Christabelle's Charity in India, part of Mother Teresa's Ministry. You may remember we had a coffee morning about 2 years ago to raise money to buy bicycles in Mumbai (Bombay). This time it's to help convert a large colonial building in Goa, which they have been given, into a Refuge for single mothers, children and the

destitute. Having just been to India I can appreciate the great need there is for this kind of Refuge. There will be a raffle and bring and buy. Please come along and support this event - our help really is needed. There is a wonderful view from the Rectory garden, which you can appreciate at your leisure. Do come along and bring your friends with you and let's try to raise a good amount to hand over to Sister Christabelle. We are hoping that Sr. Christabelle will be able to come and talk to us about her work, either at a Service or perhaps at the Coffee Morning. Look out for posters with more information.

Invicta Singers Ashford Concert at Ivy House Farm

Once again the Invicta Singers have agreed to come along and sing for us to help raise more funds for St. Nicholas. The date is 14th July 2007. The tickets will be £7.00, no concessions. Children free but they are expected to behave themselves. Bring a picnic at 5.00p.m or come in time for the Concert, which will start at 7.00p.m. There will be a raffle, which Mair Chantler is running for us this year. Tickets will be available from Joan Davidson. Bring your own chair or rug.

Cream Teas

Cream Teas will start on 8th July 2.00p.m.-5.00p.m. We look forward to seeing old friends and to making new ones. We hope the sun will shine but if it doesn't we will serve the teas in the nave of the Church. At £2.50 each our teas must be the cheapest in the area. For your £2.50, we serve a pot of tea and two homemade scones, fresh homemade strawberry jam and cream. For those who don't like tea we have coffee and for those with a savoury palate cheese scones.

Joan Davidson

Reduction of Speed Limit from 40 to 30mph in Grafty Green

Pat Anderson; the Parish Clerk; has been in discussion with Peter Rosevear of The Highways Department, and he states that the 30mph signs have been ordered and will be positioned in the first week of June. We await with anticipation!!!

Kings Head Party in the Garden
Saturday 21st July

Children's Party and Games from 4pm

BBQ Raffle Tombola
Morris Dancers

Live Music from 7.45pm to 11.45pm



June 5th is the visit to **Torry Hill**, Frinsted, the garden of Lord and Lady Kingsdown; we are expected at 6.30 p.m. entrance is £3.50 per person. This is an eight acre garden with large lawns, specimen trees, walled gardens, herbaceous borders, roses, shrubs, wild flower areas and vegetables. There are extensive views to Medway and Thames estuaries.

PROGRAMME FOR 2007

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

Grafty Garden Cuttings - June

The garden is again full of birds singing, nesting and generally bringing the place to life. The sparrow hawk makes almost daily forays and swoops in very close to the house after young blackbirds; and a crow seems set upon the daylight robbery of some of the smaller birds nests. A pair of chaffinches have built a tiny nest in the lilac tree, using pieces of plants from the top of the rockery regardless of whether they are dead or alive, anything they can pull off will do. Our tapping tom tit ceased operations as soon as his brood flew much to our relief as 3 weeks of day-long tapping was quite wearing to the nerves.

A friend has told us of a recent encounter with an owl - tawny, she thinks. She was walking her dogs around woodland on their farm, when a strange clicking noise alerted her to a young owl perched on a fence post. She rushed home for a camera, did not take the dogs back with her, and began snapping away. She got to within a meter or so of the bird, when she was struck so hard from behind that both she and the camera were knocked to the ground. She received a cut to her

head and although somewhat dazed, managed to escape without further injury. She did recover quite quickly. This was mother owl on the protective attack!

As I write, we are receiving a little, but welcome, rain but until a hosepipe ban comes in again, I shall try to keep emerging vegetables and newly planted trees and shrubs well watered for their first year. There is moisture lower down, much lower down, but everything else will have to take its chance.

Borders should be clear of spent plants like forget-me-not and foxgloves so that summer bedding can go in, although I like to leave a few of the former for the bullfinches and goldfinches to feed on. Dead-heading and watering of pots and containers should be a regular job, likewise of earlier flowering perennials, and tomatoes will need side shoots removed, weekly feeding once the first trusses have set, and again daily watering. Blossom-end rot can be a problem if tomatoes are watered irregularly; that is hard black patches forming on the fruit at the opposite end to the stalk, which at best spoils the look of the fruit and at worst makes for poor or no development.

Keep a lookout for pests; white green and Blackfly, lily beetle, vine weevil and if it rains, slugs and snails. The dry weather has kept the latter at bay so far, but the first three can be sprayed with chemicals like Bug Gun, washed away with water, sprayed with soapy water or rubbed off. The next two need picking off and squashing, while the latter, well, heaving them over the fence, especially snails, does not seem an option. I am positive they have a homing device on board.

Our garden club visit to Hole Park last month was very well attended, enjoyed by all and the garden, our hosts and their dogs a delight. The standard wisterias, in full bloom needed seeing to be believed and the bluebell woods were gorgeous. Our next visit, to Torry Hill, is on the 5th June, and they like Hole Park, are opening especially for us.

Rosemary Smith

Parish Council – Annual Meeting

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th May the following reports were presented from organisations that meet or who are involved in the local Parish:

Chairman's Report – Kenneth Alexander

The Parish Council met, as it has done for many years, quarterly. However, the routine was changed so that this Annual Parish Meeting was put back from March to May to comply with the law. The other meetings followed in September, January and March. Another compliance was met; never ever having had a vice-chairman, we eventually appointed, another long standing and willing councillor, Robert Turner to that elevated position.

There were 15 planning applications presented to the Council during the year; of these 6 were granted permission and 1, or 2, are still in the pipe line. Two were for dwellings and not granted permission. I am concerned that the Greensand Way has effectively put blight on conversions and new buildings within the Parish. I don't think the principal that a footpath ½ a mile, to a mile, away can stagnate the life of a village: That and the lack of a public service are now the reasons given for refusing permission. Declaration of Interest also prevents councillors from giving positive votes in such a small Parish where most people know everyone else. "Having no objection" is not the same as "would like the application approved".

I hesitate to say that all the problems associated with Liverton Hill have been resolved. The one spring, or water leak, seems to have been solved for the moment, but there will be others! Most of the hedges have been trimmed back, so that the new paintwork on a certain lorry isn't scratched. However, the 40 mph speed limit remains and no action has been taken to replace the signs on Church Road, so it is un-enforceable. It may just happen this year! The footpath beside the Kings Head was resurfaced during the summer, and the signpost on the green is now complete, so people can find their way to Headcorn without bothering JC. Potholes appear and are sometime later filled in, only to reappear again: There must be a way of filling them in which lasts longer. Stretches of Coach Road have been resurfaced, as has the length of the Green Lane from

Hazel Hill to Hazeldene Farm beside Pemples Cross with ballast and crushed concrete.

Crime in the village remains at a low level, although there have been a few concerns; particularly with the burning of the old cricket pavilion and the remains of molten wax being found in the church porch. I am not sure whether the Len Valley Car is still in operation, but that did provide some cover. Any cover from Headcorn has not been sited yet by me, on top of the hill.

The usual organizations, which support village life, have been supported by donations from the concurrent functions funds, and it is good to see the all prospering. The magazine, particularly the last one, goes from strength to strength, thanks to Mike Hitchins and those whose articles make it up – Thank you all.

I must not leave out this one occasion – the visitation by the Mayor, who thought he ought to visit this far flung Parish of his domain. He was shown Grafty Garden Centre, tasted the beer at The Whitstable Brewery, and feted with fish and chips at the local hostelry, the Kings Head.

Finally, where would I/we be, without Pat's efficiency and probing; to the highways, police, and to me particularly? Very many thanks, Pat.

Grafty Green Village Hall Report – Mike Hitchins

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

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

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

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

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

Refurbishment has continued this year and includes –:

1. **The border to the side of hall** has been dug over and planted with shrubs. This was undertaken by the Gardening Club and the Hall Committee are most grateful for their efforts and support.
2. **New Curtains** have been made up and fitted to all the windows in the Main Hall. They are a great improvement and we are thankful to Sandra Pilborough who spent many hours making up the curtains and to Richard Pilborough and Bernard Dodson who put up the new poles.

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

Lastly I would like to record a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for all the support that it has given to the Village Hall during the past year.

Gardening Club Report– Sue Burch

Robert Turner read out the following report on behalf of Sue Burch

It has been an excellent year with many interesting speakers with a summer social at Fermor Cottage, hosted by Rosemary and Michael Smith. The plant sale was successful once again. We bought in young plants, potted them up and Rosemary tended them in her greenhouse until the date of the sale and members provided cakes for the refreshment stall.

The visit to Norfolk was excellent; East Ruston Old Vicarage was a real highlight with the most enchanting and eye gladdening planting that enthralled us all. Carole and Sandra worked hard to make the trip go so smoothly. Lesley Feakes, our Show Secretary collected a variety of vegetables from members' gardens and entered them in at the County Show and for which we were honoured with third prize.

The sweet pea and rose show was not that well supported but the roses the displays were excellent; prizes were donated by Notcutts, Potted Garden, Oakover, Rumwood and Grafty Garden Centre. Our attempts to put on 'shows' have been a bit of a learning curve; what works and what doesn't. In the 2007 programme we intend to do an autumn show with a talk on Chrysanthemums.

Lastly, we had a working party to clear the weeds from the area to the side of the village hall, which we have planted up for the coming year.

St Nicholas Church Report – Joan Davidson

Silva Close read out the following report on behalf of Joan Davidson

Our big Project this last year was the installation of a new Lighting and Heating System and rewiring throughout the building, and a Hearing Loop and PA system. The interior of the Church has been re-decorated from top to bottom and plastering carried out where necessary. The effect of this has been startling.

Dark corners that were hidden in gloom can now be seen clearly and the Monuments and decorative parts of the interior are visible. The roof space, which has a wealth of Beams and King Posts, can now be fully appreciated. In spite of all these works going on we still have several Butterflies coming out of hibernation, so that means that our Bat population must still in residence and unharmed. This entire project was financed by our own Funds, saved over the last ten years or so; we had no help from outside Charities etc. The Chancel Roof on the South side has been repaired and will need further work carried out in the future but these repairs will keep that time at bay for a few more years. The plaster Panels between the Beams on the Porch front have also been renewed with traditional plaster. All these works were carried out in October and November. We are very grateful to everyone who helped with the clearing up and re-arranging, after the work was finished.

Church life continued throughout the year with the departure at the end of June, of the curate Fiona Naylor, because of ill Health and Don Irvine soldiered on with help from various Clergy both Retired and Non-Stipendiary Ministers and Clergy from the Deanery, who have been very supportive. But the strain of all this has taken its toll and at the end of April, Don retired to Swalecliffe, to a House for Duty, which means he will be resident in the Whitstable Team Ministry working just three days a week.

We had our usual round of 'Fund Raising' last year the Lent Lunches, which help us support Christian Aid Week, later in the year, a Barbeque at Godington Lake, Harrietsham, a Garden Safari which was enjoyed by many people, the Cream Teas, which excelled themselves in 2006, raising the most monies and of course the Harvest Supper, a good very evening enjoyed by everyone present. Carol Singing organised by Les Hulm raised money for Demelza House the Children's Hospice.

A group of young people left St. All Saints, Ulcombe on Easter morning to join the Youth Pilgrimage at the Cathedral walking to Chilham for an over night stop and then on to Canterbury. The Sunday school is very much alive run by Mair Chantler and Vanessa Goodwin, they enjoyed one or two extra activities last year, they organised a Sale of small items to raise money to support a Child that they have adopted in Lebanon. The St. Martin's Day Service and Procession followed by tea at the Rectory and an Easter Egg Hunt. The St. Nicholas Day

procession in Canterbury happened without us this year 2006, owing to illness and other commitments.

The Churchyard was mowed regularly about every six weeks under contract, throughout the summer and less often during the rest of the year.

Yoga Club Report – Liz Watts

Pat Anderson read out the following report on behalf of Liz Watts

The Group meets weekly in Grafty Green Village Hall on Thursdays from 9.30am until 11am during term time. I have a regular committed group of 8 students with others who drop in less frequently. We thoroughly enjoy our time together, covering all aspects of Yoga and we are aware of the huge benefits Yoga gives us in our everyday lives. I teach the group in such a way that the programme is suitable for all, both Beginners and those with greater experience. New students are warmly welcomed and indeed I need a minimum of 8 regular students to make the group financially worthwhile.

The hall is in a great location for Yoga, very peaceful and always clean, but the heating takes a long time to really get the hall warm enough in the winter, which I know has kept some students away. If there is ever money enough or a donation for a couple of ground level heaters, they would definitely be of benefit for our winter classes.

Lastly I would like to extend my thanks to Sue Burch who arrives at the hall before me each week and prepares it in readiness for the class.

PLATTS HEATH SCHOOL



May Day Celebrations at Platts Heath

The 1st of May got off to a wonderful start at Platts Heath Primary School. The children were joined for the morning by “Rabble”, a group of Morris Dancers who were in full costume and performed a whole array of traditional dances.

The children from J2 class gave a superb demonstration of Morris Dancing and the Juniors performed two lively and colourful May Pole dances.

Parents and friends helped to make it a great start to May.

Don't forget - Saturday 30th June 2007

1- 4pm

Platts Heath School

Grand Summer Fayre!

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 1st July 2007. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 16th Jun: 13:45 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Sunday 3rd Jun: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successfully run Oil Consortium, we now have over 130 members all benefiting from discounted heating Oil when ordered in Bulk. To keep the Consortium working all members need to order the minimum 500 Litres of Oil at least 3 times a year. I'm sure you'll all agree, Oil Tankers trundling through our villages 3 or 4 times a year is better than seeing them every week. The word is spreading, as well as Grafty Green and Boughton Malherbe, we now reach out to Ashford, Biddenden, , East Sutton, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Kingswood, Lenham, Lenham Heath, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway Stalisfield Green, and Ulcombe.

So if you would like to join, and benefit form cheaper Oil, please email europa.13@btinternet.com or phone 858350 for details.

Keith Anderson

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	59	58	59	58
Maldstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	1552	1612
Maldstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1615
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1617
Wheatshiel	1236	1411	1604	1624
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1240	1415	1608	1608
Linton Corner	1244	1419	1612	1612
New Line Learning — Cornwalls	1505	—	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1249	1424	1617	1617
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1620	1620
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1623	1623
Warmslake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626
Kingswood, Village Hall	1438	—	—	—
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	1523	1634	1646
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	1530	1641	1655
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	—	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	1535	—	—
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	1544	—	—

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	59	58	59	58
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	0736	—	—	—
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	0745	—	—
Ulcombe, King's Head	0723	—	0915	1325
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	0750	0922	1332
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	0755	0927	1337
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0738	0757	0929	1339
Warmslake Corner	0748	0744	0935	1345
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0749	0747	0939	1348
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	0750	0941	1351
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	0753	0944	1354
Linton Corner	0750	0758	0949	1359
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	0953	1403
Wheatshiel	0758	0800	0957	1407
Maldstone, King Street	0810	0814	1005	1415
Maldstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—

Service 59: Maldstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road (return Stone Street), Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Headcorn, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Farningham Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmslake Road, Warmslake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Warmslake Road, Warmslake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Bromfield Road, Kingswood, Ashford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravely Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill Drive, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

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

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

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

Sundays and Public Holidays*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

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

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

Saturdays

Service No.	See Note 1	
	59	58
0836	—	—
0838	1241	1525
0840	1243	1527
0847	1250	1534
0849	1254	1538
0859	1312	1556
0859	1312	1556
0907	1320	1604
0914	1327	1611
0921	1334	1618

Saturdays

Service No.	See Note 1	
	59	58
0733	0923	1336
0740	0930	1343
0745	0935	1348
0747	0937	1350
0753	0943	1356
0756	0946	1359
0759	0949	1402
0802	0952	1405
0807	0957	1410
0811	1001	1414
0815	1005	1418
0823	1013	1427

St Edmunds Centre Re-opening

Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart unveiled a Plaque on Saturday 28th April to commemorate the re-opening of St Edmunds as a community village hall. It was a super day with around 80 - 100 villagers turning out to hear the Invicta swing band play most of the afternoon (pupils of Invicta Grammar School and their teacher) all the audience agreed they were great and we look forward to them playing for our first dance in June. We thank them most sincerely for making the day a great success. Many thanks to Karen Day's dancers who despite a very packed room gave us a display of Latin dancing with a wow factor.

The pupils of Platts Heath Primary School entertained us with a musical recital. Mr Priddle outlined his plans for further use of the hall in future, including a drop in day, by the school nurse the first of which will be Wednesday 13th June 2007. This is an NHS School Health Service providing help and advice on Immunisation, Hearing tests, Home visits, Vision advice Dietary advice and much more.

The latter is of course just one of the services we hope will be available within walking distance of all the villagers.

Finally I have to thank so many people who worked so hard to get the hall and garden in such a beautiful condition. We had Jenny Mike and Val who turned an over grown wilderness into a beautiful garden, with donations from a variety of villagers of plants, rocks for walls and a rockery. Duffrey Robinson our hard working treasurer, who built the walls, laid paving slabs and repaired gutters etc. Donations of equipment for inside the hall too, it has shown that once started the project has already become a focal point for the village. So if you would like to book the hall my number is 858891.

The June coffee mornings are Thursday 14th June and Wednesday 27th June at 10am and Line dancing is each Thursday at 8pm.

We have arranged a rounders match and bar-b-que for Sunday 10th June in the school field at 2pm and of course the dance to the Invicta Swing Band Saturday 16th June at 8pm tickets £5.

Patricia Dibley Secretary.



**THE TRUSTEES OF ST EDMUNDS CENTRE
ARE HOLDING A**

DANCE

To

THE INVICTA SWING BAND

In

**ST EDMUNDS COMMUNITY HALL
SCHOOL LANE PLATTS HEATH**

SATURDAY 16th JUNE 2007

At 8 pm

TICKETS £5.00 PHONE

**DUFFREY 850463 TRICIA 858891 OR BRIAN 851538 PLEASE
BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS AND GLASSES**

A new website for walkers in Kent

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol and improve blood lipid profile
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being
- Increase bone density, hence helping to prevent osteoporosis
- Reduce the risk of cancer of the colon
- Reduce the risk of non insulin dependant diabetes
- Help to control body weight
- Help osteoarthritis
- Help flexibility and co-ordination hence reducing the risk of falls

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So www.walkinginkent.co.uk came into being.

www.walkinginkent.co.uk gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County:

Guided walks: Local groups who offer guided walks are listed together with links to their web-sites.

Books of walks: There are over 50 books of walks for the County. All the details are here.

Leaflets of walks: Over sixty leaflets are produced around the County, many of them difficult to find. Not any more! www.walkinginkent.co.uk list them all.

Walking groups: Every walking group in the County is listed.

There are also links so that you can check: the weather for your walk, links to other useful sites, how to get to your walk by public transport – and more is being added all the time.

So check out the website and get walking!

Missing Word Puzzle

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Jade _____, Disgraced Big Brother reality star
2	_____, Anderson, Baywatch Actress.
3	The _____, Whisperer, A Robert Redford Film
4	Jeremy _____, Car loving Top Gear presenter
5	The _____, Chef, Jamie Oliver TV Series
6	Steve _____, Creator of Alan Partridge
7	Life on _____, Time Travel TV Drama.
8	_____, Beckham, Ex Spice Girl
9	Dale _____, Supermarket Sweep Host
10	One Foot in the _____, Victor Meldrew Sitcom

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

I hope you enjoyed last months link word here is another
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Spirit	Headed	Sea	Level
2	Cottage	Board	Cake	
3	Fight	Bull	Hot	
4	Flying	False	Kick	
5	Bubble	Therapy	Free	
6	Case	Fight	Talk	
7	Mirror	Spitting	Public	
8	Level	Front	Lion	
9	Station	Clock	Active	
10	Handed	Song	Break	
11	Watering	Organ	Piece	
12	Roll	Oil	Ear	
13	Rhyme	Slopes	School	
14	Raiser	Rail	Call	
15	Tower	Remote	Birth	
16	Mature	Loan	Union	

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

Neighbourhood Watch

From: kcm.maidstone@kent.pnn.police.uk
To: europa.13@btinternet.com
Subject: Ringmaster email

Kent Horsewatch, who can be contacted on, kenthorsewatch@hotmail.co.uk would like to inform you that a Micro-chipping service is available for small animal, such as, dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets and guinea pigs.

They have been fully trained by Pet-Detect, are fully insured and references are available. The cost is £17.00 per animal and they cover Kent, Sussex, Surrey and south East London area. They are unable to do horses, pigs, sheep and goats, however they can microchip saddles.

If you are interested in this service, please contact them on the above E-mail or on 07936 459319.

Kent Police and Maidstone & District Neighbourhood Watch are unable to personally recommend this service.

Can I bring your attention to traders who are going door to door handing out leaflets headed Safeway Building & Roofing Co Ltd. Tel 01892 723045 or 07984 540383. They are offering building and gardening services. Please take caution when dealing with any trader you are unsure of.

Kent Trading Standards wish to warn consumers about a number of E-mails in circulation that purport to be from Ebay. The E-mail looks very convincing but is intending to gain personal financial information or to access your own Ebay account. Be very cautious. Do not click on any of the links on the E-mail and forward it to both your internet service provider and spoof@ebay.co.uk. If you do have an account with Ebay, you would only be getting messages from them in your own account folder, which you find when you log in.

YOGA

Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings

9.30 - 11.00

£5 a session

Yoga for stamina, suppleness,
strength and stress relief

Mixed Ability Class

Try a 'taster session' if you're not sure

For further details contact Liz Watts on

01622 737321

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

- BALANCING * ENERGISING * DE-STRESSING *
MAINTAINING FITNESS*

Don't Let Your 'Best Friend' Spoil your Village

A message from Maidstone Borough Council's Civic Wardens

The council is very concerned about our lanes and open spaces. We want to make sure your village is clean and free of dog mess, so as to give you a better quality of life.

We have received a number of requests from local residents asking the 'Hit Squad' to come and clean your village of dog mess, particularly Woodcock Lane. Dog mess is unsightly and a health risk, especially to children. If caught not cleaning up, the dog owner can face a fixed penalty fine on the spot for £50 or, if prosecuted, a hefty fine of up to £1000. It also wastes a great deal of our resources (and your Council Tax) clearing up all this mess.

We would like to work together with you in solving this problem. We ask that dog owners clean up after their dogs, by using old plastic bags and take it home for disposal.

If any dog mess needs cleaning up, please contact the Hit Squad on 01622 602162

If you see a dog owner who doesn't clean up after their dog, please report it – by phoning the Civic Wardens on 01622 602117. They will step up their patrols, put up signs and visit any owner who is breaching the law.

It is generally only a few dog owners who flout the law and don't clean up. If you're one of these think again, we intend to use every power open to us to clean up our environment for you, your children and your neighbours.

Calling All Dads and Kids!

Park Wood WADS!

("What About DadS" Group")!

"What about Dads" is a new group just for Dads and their kids running once a month at the Meadow Children's Centre, Furfield Close, Park Wood from 9.30am to 12pm.

Come and join Health Visitor Phil Thomas and Park Wood Community Development Worker David Smith for tea, coffee, 5-a-day fruit smoothies, cooked breakfast and a chat!

We're next meeting on the following dates:

Saturday 12th of May

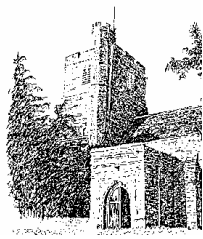
Saturday 9th of June 2007

Plus Day Out planned for Saturday 26th May!

Any questions? Just Ask! Ring/text David on 07770 700 872

Come and tell us what Dads and young men in the local area need and what they would like to see on offer for them.

We'd love to see loads of Dad's on the 12th and the 9th!



MUSIC

at

All Saints, Ulcombe

2007

Concerts at All Saints, Ulcombe

Members of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church have endeavoured to produce a varied programme of music in the hopes that at least one or two of the concerts will appeal.

All the concerts will start at 7.30 pm and during the interval refreshments will be served.

The price of each concert is £7 50

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

Joanne Louise Parker Concert Postponed ... but sign up for a free download in the meantime!

Please note the concert advertised in previous issues of the parish magazine by **Joanne Louise Parker** has had to be postponed. The concert was due to take place on the 9th June - a new date will be announced later in the year.

In the meantime, if you would like to sample some of Joanne's music with a view to attending the next concert – why not visit her website at www.joannelouiseparker.com.

You can also sign up to the mailing list and receive updates of any other forthcoming performances. All subscribers to the mailing list will receive a free MP3 of one her songs!

Saturday 20th October The Sutton Valence Choral Society

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

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

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

This magazine can now additionally be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition all back issues for 2006 and 2007 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

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

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” – an ambitious new production from Egerton Players

Situated on the greensand ridge, south-west of Charing and overlooking the Weald of Kent, the small village of Egerton has a remarkable theatrical group, “The Egerton Players”, and on the evenings of 21st, 22nd and 23rd June they will be performing their very first Shakespearian production, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”.

Egerton Players have a formidable reputation, and apart from traditional village pantomimes, have successfully produced the musicals “Oliver!” and “My Fair Lady”, Willy Russell’s “Blood Brothers” and AA Milne’s fantasy “Toad of Toad Hall”. “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is the first time they have undertaken a full-scale production out of doors, for the play is being performed in the delightful woodland garden of Egerton House (the first play ever to be performed there), by kind permission of Mr Bryan Gipps, who is also producing the music for the play.

Set in a Classical Athens that never was, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is a timeless fantasy of Lords and Ladies, mixed-up lovers, a quarrelling fairy King and Queen and their fairy attendants, and the famously comic rustic workmen doing their best to put on their terrible play as an entertainment for their Royal masters. The play also features some of Shakespeare’s best loved characters, including Bottom, Puck, Titania and Oberon.

The cast not only includes many Egerton Players stalwarts but also features many fresh new faces, including the quartet of young lovers, and other new village recruits.

This promises to be a spectacular entertainment, so put the date, Midsummer’s Night, in your diary! Tickets are now on sale, so for further information, and to obtain tickets, ‘phone 01233 756592.

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 3	Word 2	Word 1
Level	Sea	Headed	Spirit
Cheese	Cake	Board	Cottage
Dog	Hot	Bull	Fight
Start	Kick	False	Flying
Speech	Free	Therapy	Bubble
Pillow	Talk	Fight	Case
Image	Public	Spitting	Mirror
Sea	Lion	Front	Level
Radio	Active	Clock	Station
Even	Break	Song	Handed
Mouth	Piece	Organ	Watering
Drum	Ear	Oil	Roll
Nursery	School	Slopes	Rhyme
Curtain	Call	Rail	Raiser
Control	Birth	Remote	Tower
Student	Union	Loan	Mature

Find the missing word?	
1	Jade GOODY , Disgraced Big Brother reality star
2	PAMELA , Anderson, Baywatch Actress.
3	The HORSE , Whisperer, A Robert Redford Film
4	Jeremy CLARKSON , Car loving Top Gear presenter
5	The NAKED , Chef, Jamie Oliver TV Series
6	Steve COOGAN , Creator of Alan Partridge
7	Life on MARS , Time Travel TV Drama.
8	VICTORIA , Beckham, Ex Spice Girl
9	Dale WINTON , Supermarket Sweep Host
10	One Foot in the GRAVE , Victor Meldrew Sitcom

Len Valley Christian Union

Bible Study evenings

For those of you who are interested in digging deeper into your Bible, here are some evenings for you. Len Valley Christian Union have invited local man Pastor Derek Savage to lead a series of four Bible studies over 8 weeks beginning in May. Derek is very easy to listen to whilst at the same able to deliver studies that strengthen and cause one to think more deeply about what the Bible has to say. He has entitled his series 'Jesus- the facts'.

To be accessible to as many of you as possible the venue is Harrietsham Village Hall. The dates are the evenings of 22nd May, 5th June, 19th June and 3rd July, 2007 and are planned to last about an hour. So book them in your diary, grab your Bible and come along. More details contact Liz Holland 858081.

Wintershall plays

The Life of Christ will be shown at Wintershall in Surrey from 26th June until 1st July inclusive (adults £14, Children, £6.50) and The Acts of the Apostles will be performed from 11th until 13th October (adults £16, children £8). You can either book independently by visiting www.wintershall-estate.com or phoning 01483 832167 or ask the Len Valley Christian Union to book on your behalf. If enough people are interested in the Saturday performance for either event, we will arrange transport.

Prayer visiting

The committee is considering a new venture. Nearly everyone says a prayer at sometime: A thank you to God for something really good; a plea for help when desperate or in trouble. We would like to encourage more people to think about doing this in future.

How? By calling on a few people on Wednesday 20th June in a chosen residential area and asking them if they would like to have an anonymous prayer included in the next week's Church services. A letter would be delivered to the

chosen homes the week before the visit to let them know in advance. A briefing meeting will be held in the Church Room of Harrietsham Village and Community Hall on Thursday 7th June for anyone interested and willing to take part. Please contact Syd Alexander on 859218.

Note: For information about any of the events above, please phone Pamela Cuerden on 859442.

From the Registers

Monday 16th April, at Vinters Crematorium, funeral of the late Frederick Smart of Ulcombe.

Saturday 5th May, at Harrietsham, St. John the Baptist, wedding of John Anthony Miller and Lindsay Claire Goddard.

Tailpiece - Volunteers

Volunteers don't get paid: not because they're worthless, because they're priceless!

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart!

Those who can, do; those who can do more, volunteer!

Volunteers are love in motion!

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 3 rd June 07	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC CW 1 Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc
Trinity Sunday	19.00 U	Taize
Sun 10 th June 07	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC Fam Svc CW 1 Fam Svc Fam Svc
1 st Sunday after Trinity		
Sun 15 th June 07	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1
2 nd Sunday after Trinity		
Sun 24 th June 07	08.00 L 10.30 H 18.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 - all benefice service St John the Baptist Informal
Birth of St. John the Baptist		

Key

Parishes / Churches

L: Lenham
BM: Boughton Malherbe
H: Harrietsham
U: Ulcombe

Services

BCP HC = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion
BCP EP = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Evening Prayer
Fam Svc = Family Service (not Communion)
MS = Morning Service (not Communion)
CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One)
H = Holy Communion
Informal = Informal! (not communion)

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

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

The monthly costs are:

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

Phone 01622 850711 or Email -christine.kings@btinternet.com