



Malherbe Monthly

Number 40
November 2007



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Yvonne Celder	630607
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. 4.45 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
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The views expressed in “Malherbe Monthly” are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the December edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th November

Front cover: Autumn has set in on Grafty Village Green – all those leaves to rake up!!!

News from St. Nicholas Church

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival Service was taken by Tony Old assisted by Joan Drury. The Sunday school presented their gifts at the beginning of the Service, which included some rather scummy cakes. We had a very successful auction after the Service and the £170 raised from this will be sent to Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper held in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th October was supported by some seventy people, who were entertained by Jack Grace with songs old and new. The Raffle raised £149.00 and the whole evening raised £680.00 after expenses were taken.

Thank you to all the people who helped with this evening whether making apple pies; preparing beetroot; giving raffle prizes, cobnuts, eating apples; preparing the hall on Saturday morning; preparing and giving the salads; providing egg mayonnaise; giving and cooking the baked potatoes and helping with the washing-up, running the bar and tidying the hall on Sunday morning and, most of all, thank you to all of you who supported this successful event. If I've forgotten anything that you helped with, I'm sorry and thank you very much. As a very small token of our appreciation we presented Jack Grace with a bottle of Port Wine. Jack does not charge us for his time when he plays and sings for us - he sings for his Supper - it is his contribution to the Funds. Many, many thanks Jack - we will be forever in your debt.

PS:

Two bottles of wine won in the Harvest supper Raffle were left behind in the village hall. If they are yours they can be claimed from Grafty Green Post Office.

Ordination

Anne Price (nee Alexander) is soon to be ordained in New Zealand and her parents, Sally and Kenneth will be going over to be with her on this momentous occasion. We wish them a safe journey and we send our best wishes to Anne as she takes this huge step in her life. Our Prayers will be with them during this time especially with Anne and her husband Charlie.

Dates for your Diary

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service will be held on **Sunday 9th December** at 3.00pm. This is a lovely Service for Children

Carol Service

The Carol Service will be **on 16th December** this year at 3.00pm. Mince pies and mulled wine after the Service.

Blessing the Crib Service

The Crib Service to bless the Crib will be held **on Christmas Eve** at 3.00pm. This Service is also for families. At this service, we give money to Winston's Wish Charity, which is a Charity run for bereaved Children. We give by buying a star shape on which we write the name of a loved one we have lost either during the year or at some time and popping a donation into a collection box. The star is then stuck onto a poster with a starry sky background.

Joan Davidson

Malherbe Monthly Magazine

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

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

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Sudoku Quiz

5	8		3	7	9	
9			4		1	
		9	5	2		3
				1	7	9
	2	8		7	4	
4	1	5				
8	4		1	9		
	5		7			8
	7	3	2		9	6

Last appeal - Advertising in Malherbe Monthly

The publication of this magazine is only made possible with the kind support of its advertisers. Since the commencement of the magazine, advertising was undertaken by Christine King but she has now moved overseas. This does leave a space (or opportunity) for a new person to come forward and assist the editor in managing the advertising side of the magazine.

This would involve contacting current and new advertisers, preparing the adverts and managing the invoicing side of things. For all this effort you will be paid the princely sum of £0.00 per year. Not a lot I grant you, but you will have the satisfaction of keeping a local magazine on its feet and my grateful thanks.

I can be contacted on 01622 858937 or by e-mail: mf.hitchins@virgin.net

Mike Hitchins - Editor

Grafty Garden Cuttings - November

I am drooling over this year's seed and plant catalogues and as ever I am tempted to send for packets and packets of interesting flowers and vegetables. Best to keep to the essentials with just one or two interesting or rare items or be faced in the spring with hundreds of plants to deal with and no time to give them the attention they deserve. Place orders early to obtain the varieties really coveted.

Forging ahead with the composting, I whipped the lid off one of the 'daleks' (kept mainly for kitchen waste), the other day to add to the brew, when out dashed a large fly, straight into my ear. Much droning and hopping about - by me - (the fly wasn't too impressed either) before it eventually backed out and disappeared on its own.

I have had to wire round the open heaps, to keep the rabbits out but said heaps are rotting down nicely and will be spread in the spring. The leaf bin has been cleared and the contents laid as a mulch on the flower borders and the bin is being refilled now. We do try to mow up as many of the leaves as possible, to help them rot down faster.

All things pumpkin this month. I do hope that lovely orange flesh from the Halloween lanterns has been put to good use. Pie, bread, scones, soup and chutney are just some of the tasty ways of cooking with it, as well as roasting or mashing with sweet potatoes.

Any tender exotic plants will need covering with fleece, straw or bracken and for some even a covering of plastic to keep out the rain, i.e. Bananas, others will need lifting, potting up and moving under cover. Watering should be kept to a minimum to lessen the danger of freezing or rotting.

May I add a note, re: dog fouling, which does occasionally occur on the village green? Michael and I mow and keep the green tidy and dog mess wrapped around the mower is smelly and unpleasant and even more so amongst the grass cuttings that I have to hand empty from the barrows. If dog owners could kindly clear up after their pets, it would be much appreciated as well as safer for the youngsters who gather to socialise on the grass. Many thanks.

Rosemary Smith



PROGRAMME FOR 2007

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

Grafty Garden Club meets on Tuesday the 6th November, at 7.30, when the excellent Ian Currie will talk on the History of Weather Forecasting. He is an interesting, informative and entertaining speaker, so do come along.

Tickets for our Port and Stilton Social, on the 4th December will be on sale price £3-50. Members only please but you may bring 1 guest.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	59	59
Maidstone, Pudding Lane, Stop R2	1225	1400	1552	1612
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	1227	1402	1555	1615
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1229	1404	1557	1617
Wheatshaf	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
Warmlake Corner	1258	1433	1626	1626
Kingswood, Village Hall		1438		
Kingswood, Asford Drive	1306	1523	1634	1646
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	1530	1641	1653
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	1537	1648	1700
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle		1535		
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by		1544		

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	59	59
Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Road, Upper Stone Road, Mill Street, High Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0836	1241	1525	1755
Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green	0840	1243	1527	1757
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0847	1250	1534	1804
Linton Corner		1254	1538	
New Line Learning — Cornwalls		1258	1542	
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion		1303	1547	1817
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn		1305	1550	1820
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head		1309	1553	1823
Warmlake Corner		1312	1556	1826
Kingswood, Village Hall		1604		
Kingswood, Asford Drive	0907	1320	1834	1848
Ulcombe, Post Office	0914	1327	1841	1848
Grafty Green, King's Head	0921	1334	1848	1848

Service 59: Maidstone, Pudding Lane, High Street, King Street, Chequers Bus Station, Romney Place, Lower Stone Road, Upper Stone Road, Mill Street, High Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Mill Street, High Street, King Street, Loose, Linton Road, Linton Cross Road, Heath Road, Church Street, Boughton Monchelsea, Green Lane, Heath Road, Four Wents, Bishing Road, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Warmlake Road, Warmlake Cross Roads, Charway Street, Broomfield Road, Kingswood, Asford Drive, Charlesford Avenue, Caysar Drive, Gravelly Bottom Road, Lenham Road, Ulcombe Hill, Ulcombe, The Street, Pye Corner, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green.

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

Buses terminating at Kingswood run as normal from Maidstone to Kingswood, Charway Street, then Gravelly Bottom Road (Village Hall), Caysar Drive, returning via the Warmlake Cross Roads, then as normal route to Grafty Green.

Service 56: New Line Learning — Cornwalls, Heath Road, Four Wents, then same route as Bus 59 to Pye Corner, Lenham Road, King's Road, Headcorn.

Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by		0723		
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle		0723		
Ulcombe, Post Office	0730	0730	0922	1332
Kingswood, Village Hall	0735	0735	0927	1337
Kingswood, Asford Drive	0738	0737	0929	1339
Warmlake Corner	0746	0808	0935	1345
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746	0809	0936	1346
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0742	0750	0941	1351
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0745	0753	0944	1354
New Line Learning — Cornwalls		0750		
Linton Corner		0758		
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	0949	1359
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0756	0806	0953	1403
Maidstone, King Street	0806	0806	0953	1403
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	0810	1005	1415
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817			
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826			

Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Net School Days	
	Only	59	59	59
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by		0736		
Grafty Green, King's Head		0745		
Ulcombe, Post Office	0723	0723	0915	1325
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730	0730	0922	1332
Kingswood, Asford Drive	0735	0735	0927	1337
Warmlake Corner	0738	0737	0929	1339
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0746	0808	0935	1345
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0746	0809	0936	1346
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742	0750	0941	1351
New Line Learning — Cornwalls		0745		
Linton Corner		0750		
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0750	0758	0949	1359
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0756	0802	0953	1403
Maidstone, King Street	0756	0806	0953	1403
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	0810	1005	1415
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817			
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826			

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 contact the appropriate 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.

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 13th January 2008. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 10th Nov: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Saturday 12th Jan: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Sunday 16th Dec: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Lodge Gardens

Platts Heath

Sunday 9th Dec: 14:15 – 15:30 -: Green Lane

Lenham

Saturday 10th Nov: 09:00 – 10:15 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

Saturday 12th Jan: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Junction Boughton Rd

The November Night Sky

After the last article you will all know how to get your bearings, so I will go straight to my first subject, the moon.

Last month the moon was Full on the 26th, so it is at Last Quarter at the beginning of this month. It rises later every night, and sets in the middle of the following afternoon. New Moon occurs on the 9th and Full Moon on the 24th. It rises in the northeast at sunset and sets in the northwest at dawn.

You may recall from last month that Mercury could not be seen. However, this month it is at maximum elongation from the sun on November 8th, so we can see this small planet just before sunrise between 4th and 10th of November. If you look to the southeast around 6.30am, you will clearly see Venus. Mercury, which will be much fainter, can be seen lower down on the left.

Venus can be seen at dawn well up in the southeast. It will be the brightest object in the sky and could easily be mistaken for a UFO or even an aircraft with landing lights on.

This month Mars will be an excellent planet to view with a telescope in the evening sky. At the beginning of the month it rises in the northeast and is clearly visible for the rest of the night. With its reddish orange colour it will appear much brighter the twin stars Caster and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini.

It is not the best month to view Jupiter, as it is still a little way to the west of the Sun. It should be visible low in the southwest just after sunset.

Saturn rises in the east at around midnight, and is well up in the southeast at dawn. Its creamy-white light should be seen lower left of the much brighter Venus.

Every year in mid-November, the Earth passes close to an area of the debris trails left from the passing periodic comet, Tempel-Tuttle. This is known as the Leonid Meteor Shower, so named, as they seem to radiate from the constellation, Leo. The debris trails consist of small sand grain particles and dust, which burn up as they hit the Earth's atmosphere. The showers will peak in the early hours of Sunday, November 18th, and should last for about 2 hours. The constellation of Leo lies about 15 degrees above the planet, Saturn, which rises in the east about midnight. Let us hope for some clear skies!

John Maunder

PLATTS HEATH SCHOOL: TERMENDOUS

By the time you read this Platts Heath School will have completed the first term of the academic year, and what an eventful term it has been!

We returned to a freshly painted, spruced up school courtesy of Richard Gare of Barclays Bank, who, had a team of bank managers looking for a project to keep them out of trouble for one week in the summer holidays and we reaped the rewards. Thank you chaps, it's very much appreciated. We've had new gates and a new fence fitted too, making the school so much more secure for the children, safety is paramount.

As we all know first days are always a wee bit scary no matter how old you are, and the start of this term was the first day for many at our school. With a healthy Reception intake (those cute little faces always bring a smile, anxious and excited all at the same time, the older ones are there to help them through, this is one of the benefits of mixed year groups). We also welcomed older children whose families have recently moved to the area. With so many new people to get to know it's a wonder the children settle down to work at all but we know they definitely do, the glowing OfSTED report is evidence of that. There is someone else who has made us smile; joining our team of lovely teachers is Mrs Wendy Thomas who has enthusiastically taken charge of our Infants from Yr R to Yr2. Wendy comes to us from a school in South East London with over 400 students so quite a contrast to our village school with its 68 students! Wendy first encountered our school when she attended our Summer Fair in June, she knew it was the type of school she wanted to be involved with and couldn't believe her luck when a position arose, and we couldn't believe our luck when she accepted our offer. Wendy came to teaching late and has only been teaching for three years but in only 7 weeks she seems to have mastered teaching a three year mixed group. Welcome to you all, we hope you are enjoying our school.

So, what else have we been up to other than making new friends?

- Four of our year six students represented our school when they took part in the Maths Challenge Quiz at Oakwood Park alongside 37 other schools. Designed for year six students a team of four had to complete puzzles, solve written problems, tables, sudoku and a team Raleigh game. By all accounts it was hard work but a lot of fun. Well done to all those who participated.
- We had a two day book fair to celebrate National Book Week. This event raised funds for the school to purchase a variety of new books. A fantastic £267 was raised for books and if that wasn't enough all students and staff dressed up for the day as their favourite book characters. With princesses and

pirates a plenty, witches, wizards and superheroes, cats in hats, Cruella De Ville, Pippi Longstockings, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, and Violet Baudelaire to name but a few, it certainly was a fortunate event!

- We had a visit from sports people New Shootz who showed the children training techniques and multi skills for sports.
- Harvest Festival, where we celebrate being part of the farming community.
- Our Yr 3 and Yr 4 students visit to the Museum of Kent Life for a Victorian Day. The children are transported back in time to a Victorian classroom setting dressed in Victorian Costume.
- Our annual photo session, what a keepsake these are.
- The PTFA have been busy gearing up for our Christmas Fair which is on the 1st December.

So, after a well earned break it's all go again in the first week of the new term as we kick off with the PFTA Halloween Disco on 31st October. There are many other events organised and we will endeavour to keep you updated. If you would like to know more about our school or arrange a visit, please contact us on 01622 850316

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School

GET WELL SOON SANDY

The children, parents and staff of Platts Heath School would like to send their best wishes to Lord Sandy Bruce Lockhart as he is recovering from a major operation.

Sandy is a great supporter of rural schools and their communities and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Angie McElvanney
On behalf of Platts Heath School

St Edmunds Centre – Platts Heath

October has been a successful month first there was a very enjoyable quiz night with John and Helen Nye our village quiz masters. The hall was full and all were in fine form, once again Eve was on the winning team. Strange **that**, Eve is **always** on the winning team, it maybe only three strong or a full number but the team she is in always wins. So next time you enter a quiz and want to win ask Eve to join you. This time she was part of the Taylor group, I must try to book her for the next quiz night.

Then last Friday we had a fish and chip supper, fresh from the chequers fish shop and very nice they were too. It is good to see our little hall being used for social functions, it accommodates around 40 - 50 people comfortably, but 30 are not lost in a hall space either.

Two families held a birthday party for 40 children the first of many we hope. Lots of space to let their hair down. I understand from Sarah and Helen (the mums) it was a roaring success. So come on you mums give it a try you know my number for booking.

The school used St Edmunds for quite a good book sale in September which raised funds for new books. They also used it for harvest festival this month.

The committee is hoping to start a film club as Harrietsham club have offered to lend us the films and equipment for a small fee, so watch this space.

Our group of Morris Dancers is now back and the table tennis club has also returned for the winter.

Line Dancing is Thursday evening 8pm-9pm £2.50 beginners welcome.

Anyone wishing to hire the hall can ring Tricia on 858891.

Patricia Dibley Secretary



*Get into the Christmas Spirit
at*

*Platts Heath School Christmas Fair
Saturday 1st December
3pm until 6pm*

*Tea & Cakes, Secret Room, Tombola, Grand Prize Raffle,
Craft Stalls, Mulled Wine, Hot Food and of course Santa.*

You will find us on Headcorn Road, Platts Heath

Missing Word Puzzle

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Sir _____ John, Singer.
2	Catherine _____, Hollywood Legend starred in On Golden Pond.
3	_____ Murdoch, Owner of Sky and The Times.
4	Sue _____, BBC Sports Presenter.
5	Ginger _____, Dance Partner of Fred Astaire.
6	Christopher _____, Architect of St Paul's.
7	The _____ of Venice, Shakespeare Play.
8	_____ Lloyd Pack, Actor who played Trigger
9	Kelly _____, Model turned Hostess of Celebrity Love Island
10	Cold _____, TV Drama.

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	Citizens	House	Under	Arrest
2	Head	Poison	Root	
3	Agent	Air	Bug	
4	Driving	Flying	Gym	
5	Cottage	Tail	Turtle	
6	Cast	Face	Writer	
7	Sheet	Watch	Wave	
8	Bell	Space	Tow	
9	Comic	Glasses	House	
10	Ice	Jaw	Rule	
11	House	Parrot	Statement	
12	Daily	Down	Stone	
13	High	Lark	Line	
14	Court	Skirt	Super	
15	Eleven	Hind	Sea	
16	Bat	Collar	Nut	

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

The Desmond Tutu Community Build – Part 1 of 2

As many of you know, because you kindly sponsored me, I went on the Desmond Tutu Build for a week in May/June. It was a most wonderful experience and I would do it again if I could afford it and was not too old.

I first read about the Desmond Tutu Community Build when an advertisement was inserted in my United Christian Broadcasting Bible Reading notes. “There’s still time to join the Desmond Tutu Community Build and make a lasting difference to families living in extreme poverty in the urban townships of South Africa”. The idea appealed to me and I joined a hundred and twenty volunteers plus the organisers who went to Cape Town in May/June to build twelve houses. Sixty volunteers came from America and sixty from the UK.

The build was under the auspices of a charity called **Habitat for Humanity**. When I read the advert I thought at my age and with a bad back I would not be wanted. But I was told that Habitat had had 82 year olds on builds, and that my bad back would not be a problem because there were plenty of things I could do such as keeping an eye on the children, building bridges with the local population, making tea, keeping the site clean, and all sorts of other very useful odd jobs. I decided to go. The next day information arrived: an outline of what was ahead and essential items I had to purchase like steel-toed boots, a mask, work gloves and goggles while a hard hat would be provided on the site.

Our build was to be in a township called Mfuleni, just outside Cape Town. The whole project was very carefully thought out. Each volunteer had to find £1,230 to cover the air fair and hotel accommodation, and a further £560 to cover the cost of the building materials for the house we were to build. With ten volunteers to each house build, the cost of the material, £5600, was covered.

As you know we were asked to try and raise more funds so that more houses could be built, and with sponsorship, a successful coffee morning, plus the pledged gift aid, I was able to raise £1,700. People were exceedingly generous and I was very grateful.

The Desmond Tutu Community Build was under the auspices of **Habitat** – a Christian organisation, but it was not until I got to South Africa that I learnt about this most excellent charity. Though I’ve been much involved in the charity world, I had not heard about it before. I discovered that it was a huge organisation that originated in the USA in 1974 when Millard Fuller, who had been bought up on an Alabama farm, became a millionaire. He and his wife Linda decided to start a crusade to eliminate sub-standard housing.

Early on it had the support of President Jimmy Carter and his wife who spend one week every year to help with the house building. **Habitat** now has offices all over the world and has built in 93 different countries.

The statistics are amazing. Habitat builds a house every twenty-one minutes somewhere in the world, and its aim is to build one every five minutes! In just over 30 years Habitat has worked in 93 countries and has built more than 200,000 dwellings for a million people. These include South America, India, Egypt, Africa, the middle east, and in many other countries. Last year, several teams went out to help the victims of the tsunami.

Habitat is a Christian organisation and an act of worship took place every morning, and again at the site before we started work. What I really liked about Habitat, which I learnt about as I got more involved, was that it was not a charity that just doled out houses. Anyone who wanted to have a Habitat house had to do 500 hours of community service (called sweat equity) before being eligible. They could earn this 'sweat equity' by helping to build a house for a relative or a friend. Then they had to help with the building of their own house. And that was not the end. As they found employment, the new owners of the house had to pay a mortgage – assessed according to their ability to pay. This, to me, seemed a most excellent system. It encouraged voluntary service, but even more important, it enabled the new owner to retain a sense of dignity and value.

There were a hundred-and-twenty people on the build – sixty from the USA and sixty from the UK. Several of the volunteers had been on a build the previous year when they went to build houses after the tsunami.

We arrived very early in the morning at Cape Town Airport on a gloriously sunny day. I had some idea of what the townships were like, having seen television programmes about Soweto, but I had no idea of the scale of this appalling housing. As we drove from the airport, we passed, on either side of the main road, what seemed like miles of tin shacks receding into the distance. The magnitude of the problem hit us all and conversation on the coach ceased as we took in what we were about to be involved in.

The hotel where we were to stay during the build had once been a prison, but it had been well converted and was very comfortable. There must have been very many changes to make it into both a starred hotel, as well as home to the Business Studies Department of the University of Cape Town.

It was great to have a lovely shower after so many hours of travelling. But each time we returned to the hotel from the building site, it made us feel a little guilty that we were staying in comfort while the people we were helping were living without electricity or indoor water in the most awful shacks.

On the first evening, a Sunday, we were taken by coach to Mfuleni, a township about twenty minutes outside Cape Town. The coach stopped outside a brick community hall on the edge of the township. There we received a rapturous greeting from around two-hundred black South Africans who were waiting for us. They were cheering, stamping their feet, clapping, and waving white flags bearing the words *Habitat for Humanity South Africa* and a number. It was such an incredible welcome I couldn't stop the tears rolling down my cheek and I'm sure I was not the only one.

Tables had been set up round the hall – twelve with numbers on them. Mine was number 8. I found my table and met my fellow builders for the first time a little while into the ceremonies we were joined by the lady whose house we were to build. We were welcomed Stuart Henry, the South African leader of the build who told us a little of the background and what we would be doing. Then he introduced the housing minister for Cape Town who thanked us for what we were about to do, and said the government was hoping to build up to 220,000 houses in the next ten year.

After the preliminaries were over, we were introduced to our first authentic African meal. It was prepared by black South African ladies who were all doing their 'sweat equity'. The meat, mainly chicken and lamb and occasionally fish, was cooked in various sauces, which were delicious. There were a number of vegetables and all sorts of pulses and beans – most of them unknown to me - which were very tasty. There were drinks in a tall glass which was a mixture of mango and or orange. There was no pudding. This meal was to be the pattern of all our lunches for the duration of the Build. The evening ended with an act of worship, and we then went back to the hotel.

Habitat gave each of us a little booklet which had all sorts of detailed advice about health, the sun and water, and the way to lift and carry. It emphasised the need for good hygiene. There was a lot about site safety, keeping it clear, marking out any holes which were a potential danger. Children were to be kept off the site but it was hoped the volunteers would interact with them off the site. It also told us how we should interact with the locals. Remember 'you are a guest working at the invitation of the people of the host country and Habitat for Humanity'. If 'your bare arms, shirtless back or exposed legs offend your hosts' you'll cover them.' If they offer you goat meat stew' you'll try it.' We were to respect the host's view of religion, and to refrain from criticism. Similarly with politics and the way things were done.

It also talked about relationships. 'Remember not to be exclusive in your relationships.....Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest towards a local..... certain activities that seem innocuous in our own culture may seem as inappropriate in others.' We were asked not to give presents to individuals because this could cause jealousy and friction. Instead we were asked to give to the organisers anything we wanted to donate, and they who would distribute them for us to those most in need.

The second part of this article will appear next month -

Molly Poulter

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

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

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

Keith Anderson

Books, Books, Books!!!

Just a final reminder that The Great Leeds Second-hand Book Fair takes place again on **Saturday 10th November, from 10.00am until 2.30pm**, in St. Nicholas' Church, Leeds. This really is the local once-a-year opportunity to stock up on your reading – hard back, paper back, fiction and non-fiction, hobbies, children's books, travel, history, study-guides- also a selection of music on sheets, and on records, tapes and discs. Thousands of books – really!

Refreshments will be available to keep you going while you examine the books.

All profits go to church funds. Further details call 01622 842915.

Brian Hardy

Policing your neighbourhood



Your community is served by the Maidstone Rural Neighbourhood Team

They are based at Maidstone police station and you can contact them by:

Telephone: 01622 604392

Email: maidstonerural.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

For further information visit the Kent Police website:

www.kent.police.uk

Please find below a list issued by the Chief Constable of Kent as to the powers of the Community support officers.

Kent Police Community Support Officers Designated Powers

- Kent Police Community Support Officers, having passed an accredited training course, are hereby designated, under Part 4 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to exercise the following powers when on duty by the Chief Constable of Kent.
- To issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling, littering and cycling on the footpath
- Power to stop a pedal cyclist riding on a footpath
- To issue Penalty Notices for Graffiti and Fly Posting
- To request the name and address of a person acting in an anti-social manner

- To request a person to stop drinking in a designated public area and to surrender open containers of alcohol
- To confiscate alcohol from young persons
- To confiscate cigarettes and tobacco products from young people
- To enter premises to save life or limb, or to prevent serious damage to property
- To seize vehicles used to cause alarm and distress under section 59 Police Reform Act
- To require removal of abandoned vehicles
- To stop vehicles for the purpose of a road check where the road check is authorised by Police Superintendent under Section 4 Police & Criminal Evidence Act.
- To maintain and enforce a cordoned area under Section 36 Terrorism Act 2000
- To stop and search vehicles and things carried by driver, passengers and items carried by persons in authorized area under Section 44 and 45 Terrorism Act 2000

Music Notes, November

I hope some readers managed to get to the bi-annual ‘Voices for Hospices’ concert last month – it was a really enjoyable and well performed theatrical and musical event. This month the key local musical events are again choral:

- Saturday 3rd November, 7.30pm – Kent Chamber Choir present a Concert for St. Cecilia at Kent Music (Astley House), Hastings Rd., Maidstone. Proceeds in aid of Kent Music Bursary Fund. Tickets – tel 01622 737916.
- Saturday 10th November, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone – **Choice of the month!** - Maidstone Choral Union present Mozart’s *Requiem* plus a first performance of the newly-commissioned work *Fables*, by Simon Proctor. Local Schools will join MCU in this work, which has as its theme ‘Trust & Betrayal’, linking five of Aesop’s fables. Tickets 01622 726193.
- Sunday 18th November, 7.30pm at All Saints’ Church, Maidstone – Sutton Valence Choral Society perform Brahms *Requiem* and Vaughan Williams’ *Five Mystical Songs*. Tickets tel 01622 8537981

Brian Hardy

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor Brian Wright, will perform on Saturday 1st December 2007 commencing at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone. The programme consists of two works:

- Brahms Piano Concerto No.2 - Soloist Freddy Kempf
- Bruckner - Symphony No.6

Freddy Kempf now acclaimed as one of the finest young pianist on the world stage returns to MSO to play Brahms' great 2nd concerto. The other work in this concert is Bruckner's powerful 6th Symphony.

Concert tickets £10, £16 and £20, seats for children or students with a student Card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Maidstone Leisure Centre on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

This concert is sponsored by Annabel Luzzatto.

Many thanks for your continued cooperation and support to the MSO.

David Bramley
Maidstone Orchestral Society

Sudoku Quiz Solution

5	2	8	1	6	3	7	9	4
9	3	6	7	4	2	8	1	5
7	4	1	9	5	8	2	6	3
3	8	5	4	2	1	6	7	9
6	9	2	8	3	7	4	5	1
4	1	7	5	9	6	3	8	2
8	6	4	3	1	9	5	2	7
2	5	9	6	7	4	1	3	8
1	7	3	2	8	5	9	4	6

Harrietsham Cricket Club Christmas Quiz – Change of Date

Harrietsham Village Hall

**Saturday 1st December 2007
7pm for 7.30pm start**

Pete Jones returns as quizmaster to bring you his yuletide cheer.
Food (Ploughman's) and light refreshments provided.

Please BYO for anything stronger to warm you up!
Tables up to 8, tickets £7.50 per person.

Book now to avoid disappointment.
Call either Alex Hubble on 07734058571
or Rod Martenstyn on 07958956938

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 3	Word 2	Word 1	
Citizens	Under	House	House	1
Head	Root	Poison	Poison	2
Agent	Bug	Air	Air	3
Driving	Gym	Flying	Flying	4
Cottage	Turtle	Tail	Tail	5
Cast	Writer	Face	Face	6
Sheet	Wave	Watch	Watch	7
Bell	Tow	Space	Space	8
Comic	House	Glasses	Glasses	9
Ice	Rule	Jaw	Jaw	10
House	Statement	Parrot	Parrot	11
Daily	Stone	Down	Down	12
High	Line	Lark	Lark	13
Court	Super	Skirt	Skirt	14
Eleven	Sea	Hind	Hind	15
Bat	Nut	Collar	Collar	16

Find the missing word?	
1	Sir Elton John, Singer.
2	Catherine Hepburn, Hollywood Legend starred in On Golden Pond.
3	Rupert Murdoch, Owner of Sky and The Times.
4	Sue Barker, BBC Sports Presenter.
5	Ginger Rogers, Dance Partner of Fred Astaire.
6	Christopher Wren, Architect of St Paul's.
7	The Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare Play.
8	Roger Lloyd Pack, Actor who played Trigger
9	Kelly Brook, Model turned Hostess of Celebrity Love Island
10	Cold Feet, TV Drama.

From the Registers

Friday 31st August, Rochester Crematorium, Funeral of the late Joyce Chaponell of Harrietsham

Monday 10th September, Charing Crematorium, Funeral of the late Sylvia Briggs of Lenham

Sunday 16th September, at Lenham, St. Mary, Baptism of Lacie Ella Naomi Warden

Monday 17th September, Charing Crematorium, Funeral of the late Marie Kendall of Harrietsham

Saturday 22nd September, at Lenham, St. Mary, wedding of David Vincent Brogan and Jessica Kate McMullen

Sunday 30th September, at Lenham, St. Mary, Baptism of Benjamin Thomas Finch

Tuesday 2nd October, at Harrietsham, St. John the Baptist, Funeral of the late Caroline Goodwin

Saturday 6th October, at Harrietsham, St. John the Baptist, Wedding of Timothy Daniel Lyle Cathcart and Hayley Zandra Louis Reader

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

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 4 th November 4 th Sunday before Advent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 19.00 Holy Cross Bearsted	BCP HC CW 1 Family Service CW 1 Family Service Taize Service
Sun 11 th November Remembrance Sunday 3 rd Sunday before Advent	08.00 L 10.15 BM 10.15 H 10.15 U 10.45 L	BCP HC Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service
Sun 18 th November 2 nd Sunday before Advent	08.00 L 09.30 BM 09.30 H 11.00 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 CW 1 BCP EP
Sun 25 th November Christ the King Sunday before Advent	08.00 L 10.30 L 18.30 H	BCP HC CW 1 - Benefice Service in Lenham, St Mary Informal

Key

Parishes / Churches

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

Services

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

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

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

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email mf.hitchins@virgin.net