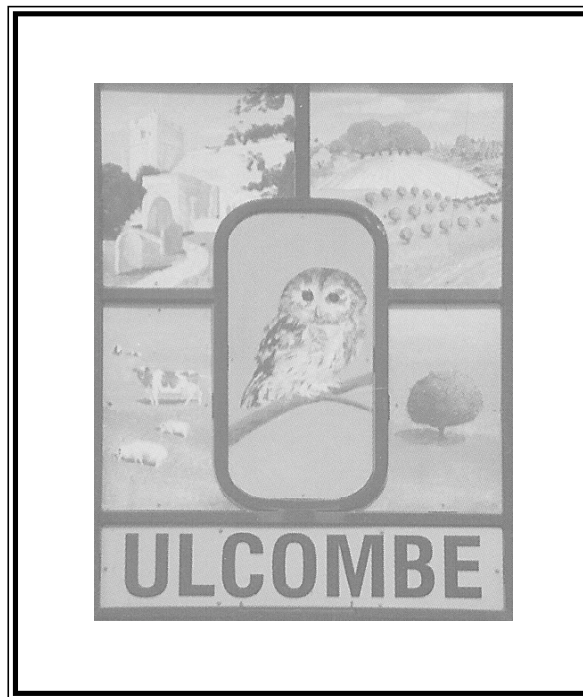


# Ulcombe Annual Parish Report 2009/10



*Produced by  
Ulcombe Parish Council*

# Ulcombe Annual Parish Report 2009/10

[www.ulcombepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.ulcombepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## *Parish Council useful information*

### **Members**

Geoff Beale (Chairman):  
telephone 842823  
Trevor Sharp (Vice Chairman)  
Joyce Braggs  
Peter Titchener  
John Watton  
Hazel Bingham  
Jim Noble  
Bridget Samuelson (Parish Clerk):  
telephone 890912, email:  
[bridget.sam@thurstonhelis.co.uk](mailto:bridget.sam@thurstonhelis.co.uk)

### **Meetings**

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 7.15pm. The public and press are welcome to attend but the meeting will be closed for the duration of any confidential items. Sometimes we have to hold additional meetings to discuss planning, finance or other urgent matters where a deadline needs to be met. Notice of all meetings and agendas is published in advance on the noticeboard and also on the parish website:  
[www.ulcombepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.ulcombepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

The parish council is consulted on all planning applications in Ulcombe which have been submitted to Maidstone Borough Council. Please check with the clerk when an application is going to be discussed by the parish council if you wish to be in attendance. Members of the parish council will usually visit the site beforehand to assess the plans and will contact the applicant if access to the site would be helpful.

### **Website**

Visit our website for details of:

- Minutes and agendas
- Reports and procedures
- Budgets
- Parish projects
- Village contacts
- Trading standards information
- MBC information for households (please access all of the above information via "Site Pages")

**W**elcome to the third Ulcombe Annual Parish Report which publishes the reports presented by our village organisations at the Annual Parish Meeting. This was held on 27 April 2010 at Ulcombe Village Hall.

We hope that this publication will provide a helpful insight as to what has been going on in Ulcombe throughout the last year – it seems remarkable that such a small village has so many active organisations. If you are new to the village or if you have been thinking that you might like to participate more in village life then this should be all the encouragement you will need!

We are very grateful to everyone who has taken the trouble to write a report and, indeed, would like to thank, on behalf of the parish, all those who work so hard to make Ulcombe a better place to live in.

If you do not know who to contact for information regarding any of the village groups please phone or email the parish clerk and you will be referred on. If you have other questions relating to any of the information contained in this Annual Report, again, please do not hesitate to ask the parish clerk. We very much hope that you will enjoy reading this publication!

## *Ulcombe Parish Council Finance Report 2009/10*

<b>Summary of receipts</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Summary of payments</b>	<b>£</b>
opening reserves (including £50,000 grant for broadband)	56,914	office and staff costs	4,239.00
precept	8,363.00	insurance	1,821.00
reserve account interest	3.00	audit	625.00
Parish Plan fund for youth projects	186.00	hire of hall for meetings	500.00
concurrent functions grant	6,450.00	association membership	324.00
VAT recovered for 2008/9	1,862.00	consultancy fees (KIG hearing contribution)	975.00
VAT recovered for 2009/10	3,776.00	training courses	120.00
		Annual Report	226.00
		recreation ground/car park pavilion	3,099.00
		grants to organisations	1,613.00
		speedwatch	885.00
		broadband costs/grants	270.00
		VAT paid in 2009/10	43,596.00
		less VAT c/f from 2008/9	4,050.00
			(2.00)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>77,554.00</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>62,341.00</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>15,213.00</b>		

### **Notes:**

- Figures for receipts and payments are net of VAT.
- For more detailed information please refer to the spreadsheet entitled *Ulcombe Parish Council Receipts and Payments 2009/10* which can be viewed on the parish council website or contact the clerk for a paper copy.
- Any queries about the accounts should be referred to the parish clerk.

# Ulcombe Parish Council

## Meetings

The council met on 22 occasions in the year since the annual parish meeting on the 28th of April 2009. These comprised the monthly sessions on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm plus another 10 meetings concerning urgent planning issues or finance. The total is 1 more than in 2008/9 and 4 more than in 2007/8. This upward trend reflects pressures from certain developments and the expedient use of our small income in a difficult period. Despite the extra calls upon our time the meetings have been quorate. All the meetings were advertised and open to the public although occasionally confidential matters necessitated exclusion. Generally attendance by the public has been rare. We are grateful for the use of the school when an unforeseen meeting has clashed with another event in the village hall.

## Training and Seminars

In addition to the full parish meetings, councillors have individually attended a variety of courses, conferences and information days principally run by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC). It is essential that the parish council can take an informed view on consultation documents received, and particularly matters of planning policy. In the past year individual members have represented the council at the quarterly Police Forum for Maidstone East Parishes, MBC's Gipsy Information Day, seminars on the Code of Conduct, Chairmanship, Enforcement Action, Affordable Housing, Electronic Mail, the South East Maidstone Rural Transport Group, and a very disappointing MBC Cabinet Roadshow. Bridget also gets together with clerks of other parish councils local to us, and these informal meetings provide a useful forum for discussion of issues and problems of common concern.

## Crime

At our monthly meetings we receive a report on any reported crimes in the parish during the previous month. Where possible one of the police officers looking after our patch, Constable Paul Kemsley or Support Officer Siobhan de Burca, presents the report, otherwise we receive it by e-mail from Maidstone Police Station. Siobhan

now holds regular police surgeries in the school which can provide a useful means of discussing any concerns confidentially.

With fingers crossed I can report that crime in the past year has continued to be at a very low rate, and consequently visible police presence is also low. It is essential that all crime is reported to ensure that we obtain appropriate police coverage.

## Highways

Everyone is aware of the appalling state of our roads. Having been up to Yorkshire recently and just over the Channel last week, I was surprised to see no trace of a pothole, when the same exceptionally cold winter must have been experienced, or even worse. What were cracks and small depressions in our old roads a month ago are now dangerous and damaging deep holes. The flurry of even temporary repairs seems to have dried up. The parish council reports defects each month and these are logged by Kent Highway Services with whom we have a good relationship, but what we need is urgent physical action.

We have been told that there is no hope of extending the 30mph speed limit up Ulcombe Hill to reduce the speed of vehicles before they enter the built up area. However we are optimistic about emphasising the 3 existing speed limit signs by erecting a pair of robust, white-painted posts at each location, forming 'gateways' to the village. Locally there are examples to be seen at Sandway, Chart Sutton, Frittenden and Headcorn. The speed limit will be further reinforced by a section of fawn-coloured non-skid road surface at each location.

Similarly the need for a safe pedestrian footway up to the church is acknowledged but funding is not available from the County Council. Our next move will be to try to have the existing ragstone burial path restored as some form of heritage project.

## Recreation Ground

New lighting has been installed for the car park, the potentially unsafe electricity intake box in the north east corner of the field has been rebuilt, and the parish footpaths map display board provided by the County Council is now installed at the car park entrance. Safety recommendations

from ROSPA and MBC in relation to the play equipment have been implemented such as the replacement of the basketball fixtures. Although it is not actually located at the recreation ground I wish to thank Jim Noble for his splendidly capable repairs to the notice board by the bus stop, saving us having to buy a new one for a few years. Also thanks to Trevor Sharp for mowing and looking after the cricket area of the recreation ground as it reduces the cost of the work by our gang mowing contractor.

## Planning

In the past year the Parish Council was consulted by Maidstone Borough on 22 applications compared with 29 last year and 37 the year before, again reflecting the state of the economy. Of the 22 the Parish Council's recommendation for approval or refusal differed from that of the Borough Council's planning officer on 3 occasions and the final decision was referred to the Borough Planning Committee.

Issues of major concern have been firstly the Kent International Gateway proposal (KIG) at junction 8 on the M20 on which a decision is anticipated soon after the General Election. A refusal will prompt an inevitable appeal. Secondly the increasing number of gipsy travellers setting up encampments without planning permission in Ulcombe and Headcorn and the inability to have them relocated to an appropriate site. Thirdly the number of retrospective planning applications submitted and approved. Fourthly the time taken to take enforcement action on breaches of planning permission conditions. However having attended some meetings at the Borough Planning Department and attended several public inquiries I do acknowledge the difficulty in providing a balanced view and the cost of losing at appeal.

## Appreciations

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to express our gratitude to our MP Hugh Robertson, County Councillor Jenny Whittle, and Borough Councillors Jenny Gibson and Richard Thick for their support, advice and funds when we feel we need them. And finally I must thank Bridget whose dedication, patience and common-sense keeps this show on the road.

GEOFF BEALE

CHAIRMAN ULCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## Maidstone Borough Council Member's Report

The Gypsy and Traveller Plan, which is seeking to establish lawful accommodation sites within the borough, has been out for consultation over the past year. Local councils have been trying to balance matters of human rights against local wishes and views in both this and the regulation of unlawful sites. The last year has seen further proliferation of the latter across the borough.

Contrary to some fears, the feighter service is not being withdrawn but there has been a change in policy which now requires much more of the refuse to be recycled rather than going to landfill as at present.

Budget scrutiny by the council will lead to some staff cuts and savings being made – where possible this will be on non-statutory items. Next year will be harder as the knock on effect of less economic activity within the borough filters through. An example is where income from planning fees has been

greatly reduced because of the downturn in the building industry.

The cabinet is determined to see through the High Street renovations in Maidstone and the capital for this is to be drawn from a ring fenced fund. The council feels that the work is necessary because the area is so obviously run down and it is important that such a key space in the county town should be attractive and able to draw in visitors.

A cross party view was that it would be more cost effective to transfer public toilet provision to shops rather than to try to improve and maintain the existing facilities. It is necessary that the public should, however, have a clear understanding of how the new system will operate.

Maidstone Housing Trust is now known as Golding Homes – the name change has caused some confusion amongst tenants.

JENNY GIBSON,  
HEADCORN WARD MEMBER

## Ulcombe Dramatic Amateurs Society (UDAS)

The production this year was 'Wyrd Sisters' by Terry Pratchett adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs. The play was further adapted by our Director, Pippa Guard, for the Ulcombe stage. It was divided into three acts instead of two in order to repeat the 'café theatre' that had been so successful last year with 'Allo Allo'.

There were performances on 18th, 19th and 20th February. These dates were chosen as this was the end of the half term week (so no play group at the hall) which gave us more time to erect the stage and scenery and to rehearse on the stage.

Tickets were £12 each including a meal. The net profit of £1,498.30 was shared equally between the Village Hall and UDAS. This money plus £1,022.11 profit from last year's production has enabled the purchase of lights by the village hall for any future productions and events.

There was a production team of five lead by Pippa, who also arranged the loan of the beautiful 'restoration' costumes from Greenwich University.

Once again the cast, crew and support team worked above and beyond the call of duty to learn all their lines, rehearse, make costumes and props, paint scenery, design programmes and tickets and sell them: design and erect a lighting bar, make, collect and erect a stage, sort out music and sound effects, decorate the hall, put out tables and chairs, cook the food and wash up!

So thank you to everyone involved and to our audience who supported us and hopefully had a good time.

UDAS PRODUCTION TEAM

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## Kent County Council Member's Report

The terrible state of the county's roads has proved to be the main concern for residents following the worst winter for 30 years. The weather severely exacerbated the existing poor condition which had arisen out of a lack of funding over many years. To speed up the progress being made in the repair work, KCC has brought in additional contractors to focus on the repair of all minor routes on a road-by-road basis.

Kent's roads also suffer enormous wear and tear from the huge (and growing) number of HGVs coming in from the ports. All roads are affected, including lanes where lorries have to access farms that have diversified or where they travel to reach other locations. Pressure is building again for the introduction of the Britdisc which would raise a levy from foreign lorries (which make up

75% of the HGV traffic). This revenue could then be put towards maintaining the county's highway network.

Jenny has a close working relationship with her primary schools, has provided funding to the village hall towards new toilets and will be financing 3 gateway entrances to the village to help with some of the speeding issues in Ulcombe. She will also campaign for KHS to move the speed limit further north on Ulcombe Hill – something the parish council has been requesting for years.

Jenny was heavily involved in the Stop KIG campaign. A decision further to the Inspector's report of the hearing is due to be made in July by the new Secretary of State.

JENNY WHITTLE  
MAIDSTONE RURAL EAST WARD MEMBER

# Ulcombe History Society

2009 was a busy year for the Ulcombe History Society. Membership is growing, and we had four interesting talks and three very successful outings.

By popular request, Imogen Corrigan made a return visit to give a fascinating talk about the Green Man in English Churches.

Graeme Cooper of Battlefield Tours came to talk about the Battle of Waterloo preparatory to our visit to Waterloo last September.

Mr Jarvis spoke about Windmills and Watermills and the work they do. This gave us an insight into the working of windmills before we made a visit to a working windmill in Ashford. This was thanks to John Moore whose friend had restored the windmill to working order and was now running it as a going concern.

Our last talk by Toni Mount – “They Dare to be Doctors” about the early struggles of women to be doctors was fascinating, and we were particularly intrigued by her revelation that one of the earliest male doctors was in fact a woman, parading as a man. Toni is someone we will definitely try to invite again in the future.

One of our three visits was a Guided

Tour of the City of London. We divided into two parties – one group visited St Paul’s and the London Museum in the morning and then did the Plague and Fire Walk from the Tower to the Monument in the afternoon, while the other group did The Riverside Walk from the Temple to the Tower in the morning and St. Paul’s and the London Museum in the afternoon. Our guide, Stewart Robinson, was excellent – and we will probably invite him down to give a talk in the future. It was an outing that was much enjoyed by all.

The two-day Waterloo Tour in September exceeded all expectations. Our guide, Graeme Cooper, was enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable. By the end of the tour I think we had visited all the sites and museums possible, and came away with a very much greater understanding of the battle, the size of the area covered, and the mistakes made which might have changed the outcome of the battle, and indeed of our nation’s history. It was a memorable visit.

The committee has produced what we hope will be an interesting programme for the coming year. Members of the

history society may remember that last year, when they were asked to choose between Ironbridge and Waterloo, nearly half expressed an interest in Ironbridge. So the committee has decided to go there this year. Members may be interested to know that the National Trust had articles about both Ironbridge and Stokesay Castle – something we discovered after we had already decided on a visit there. So we felt we were really in tune with the experts!

Details of our visits were made available at the March meeting of the history society also which fixed the date for our visit to the Kent Archives.

On behalf of members I would like to express our thanks to our Treasurer, John Moore, who is keeping our accounts happily in the black; to our Secretary, David Easton; to our Vice Chairman, Geoff Beale who does much of the hard work in sorting out and sticking up posters; to Joyce Braggs who organises the raffle each month which helps to keep us in credit; and to John Ware, a new member, who is helping with publicity.

We have enthusiastic and convivial committee meetings, and if anyone feels they would like to join, please contact me.

MOLLY POULTER  
CHAIRMAN ULCOMBE HISTORY SOCIETY

**T**he pre-school still operates four mornings a week at the village hall and we currently have sixteen children on the register with seven children off to Ulcombe primary school in September and one going to prep school next term.

We will start September with eight on the register but with high hopes of recruiting new children. We appreciate the ongoing support of all the residents in Ulcombe and the primary school in promoting the pre-school.

## Ulcombe Pre-School

Sadly two highly qualified staff are moving on over the course of this academic year but we are endeavouring to replace them with new recruits, hopefully from the village itself. Our financial position is stable and we are receipt of various KCC grants for equipment and training.

A good piece of news is that we have successfully

applied for charitable status. This means we will potentially have access to additional funds. We will bid for a Sure Start grant to improve the outdoor play facilities and signs advertising our whereabouts this year.

We are working hard to improve all aspects of the pre-school so that we can continue to attract more children and ensure this is an ongoing service for our village community.

CLAIRE FINLEY,  
CHAIRMAN ULCOMBE PRE-SCHOOL

# Ulcombe Church of England Primary School

## Recognition

The last twelve months have seen the school receive some recognition for its hard work. At the last AGM we had been given our feedback by Ofsted with the areas of Extra-Curricular provision and Healthy Lifestyles being given outstanding judgements. There was also praise for many other areas, though an acknowledgement that many changes made had not yet had time to bring about a rise in standards but they were expected to do so. Attendance was the only area identified as inadequate. We have taken steps as a staff and a governing body to address this, and to date this year the overall level of attendance is improved. We are also working with the Educational Welfare Officer. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools identified many strengths and judged us to be good as a church school. It was particularly pleasing that Collective Worship was adjudged to be outstanding.

Beyond the inspection processes we have also been awarded Extended School Status. This reflects our commitment and actions in providing the wrap-around care you may have heard about in the media. Another government scheme, which all schools have to work for, but many have not yet successfully completed is the Financial Management Standard in Schools, which we were awarded during 2009.

Academically the end of Key Stage 2 tests are the measure used by government to determine levels of school performance. We were delighted to have done very well in Mathematics and Science. English was a little more difficult, as the test situation affected the performance of children on the day. Their results then failed to truly reflect their level of attainment. Nevertheless progress for all of the pupils across Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – Year 6) was deemed to be above average, with progress in mathematics being particularly good. Of the children who sat the PESE (11+), two out of three were successful and will be moving on to grammar schools in September.

## Improvements

I hope you will all be aware of our Library project. We are still waiting for formal notification from the DCSF that KCC's application to sell the plot of land at the north of the site can proceed. We are confident that this will be received soon. If, as expected, this is received, we will proceed with our plans as quickly as possible.

In school the children have responded well to our changed weekly rewards. Instead of stickers to identify 'superstars' each Friday in assembly, teachers put forward children to receive Good Citizenship, Effort and Achievement or Homework certificates. Communication with parents is another area of improvement during the last year. We now strive to communicate by email or even text to reduce the amount of paper we use and to increase the chance of the message getting home!

In terms of the school building, the water tower has had a face lift, the steps from the playground to the field have been replaced, the outside toilets have been completely refurbished and the PTA and school combined to fund a new infant climbing and play area. We have plans in place for a multi-sensory garden, though no timescale has yet been set to start work on this. We do know that the playground will be resurfaced during the Whitsun holiday.

## Events

We have been pleased to continue our strong links with the church and hold services there during the course of the year. The Leavers' Service in the summer, Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services were all planned to be held at All Saints. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the Christmas Service had to be moved to the school. Snow has had a big influence on us this year. In total we had to be closed for two and a half days, which is less than some 'town' schools and says much about the commitment of staff to get in and do the best that we can for the children here at Ulcombe.

Many of you are fully aware of other events, so I have briefly listed them below.

If you would like to know more about any of them, please do not hesitate to ask.

- Productions at the end of the summer term (Britain is Poptastic) and at Christmas (The Wiggly Nativity)
- Our Sports Day and Summer Fayre raised over £1,000 for the Friends' of Ulcombe School (our PTA)
- The Summer Ball raised over £1,300 for FUS
- In school we held a Talent Show with the winners performing on stage at the Ulcombe Village Day
- We were part of the World Record Breaking Walking Bus
- Ulcombe School Friends' Dinners have continued to be popular and we hope will grow during the coming year
- Funky Footwear Friday raised money for the Kent Air Ambulance
- We took part National Schools' Film Week, including all of the children going to watch a film at the Odeon Cinema for free!
- Fireworks Night was another amazing evening despite the change of date and constant threat of showers
- Our Annual Remembrance Assembly was attended by members of the community as well as parents
- We raised money and had fun taking part in Children In Need
- Children were able to enter an Extreme Reading Competition – have you ever seen a chicken reading a book?!
- The FUS Christmas Fayre and Cake Raffle was another wonderfully successful evening
- The Starlight Tree helped children raise money for the Starlight Foundation which helps sick and terminally ill children
- Tawny Owls went carol singing in the centre of Maidstone, helping to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care
- We held a non-uniform day for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal
- World Book Day saw us all come in in our pyjamas and listen to bed-time stories with a cup of cocoa
- For National Science and Engineering Week we received Ian Dunne from 'Do Science' for a day of science workshops. We followed this up with a week of science

based activities.

- The Sport Relief Mile – I am still amazed at the response from the local community. I think it is amazing that this event included over eighty people and raised almost £950!
- FUS organised an Easter Egg Hunt for the children
- We took part in a special Film Club webcam interview with Tom Felton, who plays Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter films
- Volcanic Ash managed to disrupt the school slightly! Mrs Owens and I were both delayed returning from holidays during Easter. We are still awaiting her return.

### **Trips**

There have been various trips during the year. A select few won the chance to go along to the National Police Dog Trials at Leeds Castle last year.

During the summer Barn Owls went to Rye, Owlets went to the Rare Breeds Centre, Tawny Owls have been to All Saints Church on two separate occasions (for Artwork and to learn about Holy

Communion) and some of Tawny Owls went to PGL at Osmington Bay for a Residential Adventure. This was with pupils from two other local schools. The trip was such a success that we are running it again, with the same schools, but this May we will be going to Little Canada, a PGL centre on the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately there was not sufficient numbers for a proposed trip to Wembley last June, but we will try again if the opportunity comes up.

### **Thanks**

We must express many thanks to everyone who has been helping us to collect vouchers for both the Tesco and Sainsbury's schemes. We did extremely well again last year raising enough to get a video camera, new football goals and some other new PE equipment. Please pass on our thanks to anyone who you know have passed vouchers on. It is fantastic to receive so much support. It was also fantastic this year to receive so

much help from friends in the community when we turned our multi-sensory room into an Anderson Shelter.

### **Looking Forward**

Obviously the library project is now well under way, and we hope that there will be good progress in this direction in the coming months. You will be aware that numbers at the school are not as high as they have been at points in the past, continuing to hover between the mid-fifties and seventy. At present we have just under sixty pupils at the school, though we remain ever optimistic that numbers will increase during the coming year.

In an election year, even more so than normal, we are left to wonder how education generally will be affected by the outcome on 6th May. That said, we will continue striving to make sure that every child is given the opportunities, support and guidance to fulfil their potential.

VINCENT HAMPTON  
HEADTEACHER, ULCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Ulcombe Village Hall Committee*

### **Income**

#### *Hall Hire*

Despite the Credit Crunch the Management Committee decided to retain hall hire fees at the same level as last year. The hire pattern was much the same as the year before with seventeen private events (exactly the same number as in 2008) and all regular hirers continuing. A small increase in regular hirers has been seen with the Dance Group moving from fortnightly to weekly.

#### *Events*

In 2009 six events involved the Management Committee – two Quiz Nights, the Drama Group presentation, the Macmillan Coffee morning, an afternoon tea in support of Village Day and Village Day itself. Income from events was almost exactly the same as the previous year, and was 12% over target.

#### *Parish Council donation*

As always the Management Committee is tremendously grateful to the Parish Council for its financial support, in the form of a grant of £700 towards our

costs. Our total income from all sources was about 15% more than the previous year, and about 30% above target, mainly due to some very successful fund-raising events.

### **Expenditure**

Overall costs were some 30% more than the previous year but there were few real surprises. As far as meeting our projected budget, our expenditure exceeded it by 4%, so we consider that we have done pretty well.

### **People**

We have a very healthy situation with a committee of ten members in total, all of whom remain for the coming year. Our fund-raising for future hall projects is very successful and that would not be the case were it not for the time, energy and money that our members put in to the events we run. As Chairman I am enormously indebted to them for this and for their support and enthusiasm.

### **Future Projects**

I have already referred to our very successful fund-raising which has resulted

in a healthy bank balance at year end. However we don't have enough money to complete all the projects that we would like so we have been busy making applications to various grant-making bodies and I'm delighted to say that we have had some success.

At the very end of the financial year we heard that our application to KCC's Community Halls Fund was successful and we have been granted half of the money we need to refurbish the toilets and install a cubicle for wheelchair users. For this project we are also very grateful to our County Councillor, Jenny Whittle, and to Richard Thick and Jenny Gibson, our Borough Councillors, for donations from their devolved budgets. We are seeking the balance of the money from Awards for All and if successful the work will be carried out during the summer holidays. We also hope to proceed with work on a new heating system this summer, again subject to securing the necessary grants. So this time next year we hope that our hall will look and feel quite different.

JAN SUMMERS,  
CHAIRMAN, VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Ulcombe  
Friendship Club is  
flourishing with new

## Ulcombe Friendship Club

both older and younger  
members of the club.

Members on the Tea  
Rota are expected to arrive at 2 pm to set  
it all out. Those who can't cook are asked  
to bring a cake or a packet of biscuits.

The Club operates on a basis of self  
help. We have to pay £16 for the hire of  
the hall each month, we subsidise some  
of our outings, and we contribute to the  
expenses of our New Year Lunch. We  
charge a membership fee of £5 and each  
month have a £1 raffle to which everyone  
is expected to contribute. Prizes are  
donated by members. We also held two  
coffee mornings during the year to help  
with funds.

We have tried a Sales Table where peo-  
ple bring items to sell and donate 10% to the  
Club. To date, not many people have used  
the opportunity to get rid of surplus items.

MOLLY POULTER  
CHAIRMAN

the other about Batemans – a  
fascinating talk by Garry Enstone who told  
us about the elaborate cleaning programme  
that goes on before a National Trust  
property is put 'to bed' for the winter.

Our last talk of the year was a very pop-  
ular account of the work of The Dog's Trust.

We had our usual garden party at the  
home of our Treasurer, Dorothy Playford,  
and a Christmas party when we were  
entertained by Barry Barton.

During the year we had two outings –  
one to the Fish Farm at Hawkhurst and  
the second to Batemans, home of  
Rudyard Kipling.

Teas were provided on a rota basis,  
with a different group of people bringing  
cakes and sandwiches etc each month.  
Melanie Ford sorts out the Rota, trying to  
put together a group of people containing

## Ulcombe Village Newsletter

Although they had no major statement  
regarding the content or production of  
the Ulcombe News at present, the

editor (Leon Holmes) and production  
manager (Philip Easton) would,  
however, welcome any comments  
on the style or substance that  
parishioners might wish to make.

Although the accounts have not yet  
been completed, the financial situation

appears to be much the same as last  
year, ie about break-even!

If you are not yet a subscriber to this  
invaluable guide to what is happening in  
the village but would like to receive a  
copy of the village newsletter, please  
contact Philip on 01622 890345.

Speedwatch volunteers monitored  
the traffic in The Street on nine  
occasions in 2009 – about once a  
month from April. The results varied  
because on some days we picked up  
twenty or thirty cars exceeding the speed  
limit by more than 5mph whilst on others  
only a few. In total during the year we  
registered one hundred and eighteen cars  
exceeding the speed limit and notified the  
police that two of these were repeat  
offenders. The police then sent them a  
letter warning them about their speed  
through the village.

By contrast this year we have had  
one outing, registering twenty seven  
speeders and of these five were  
repeat offenders. From this we can  
conclude that we have now been  
operating long enough to be able to  
catch the same offenders twice even

## Ulcombe Speedwatch

though we only go out once a month.

Speedwatch has the same eleven  
volunteers as last year. In spite of an  
article in the Ulcombe Newsletter last  
September in which I reported progress  
and asked for more volunteers, none  
came forward. This does limit the  
number of outings we can do as many of  
the volunteers either work or are  
engaged in other voluntary activity in the  
village or elsewhere, and so have limited  
availability. Just one more volunteer  
would mean that we could have two  
teams of six people, making it possible  
to do two outings in a month without  
asking anyone to do it more than once.

The other development in the year

was the addition of a new site for  
Speedwatch just outside Chestnut Close.  
Unfortunately, the site is not ideal for  
actually catching the speeders as they  
are able to see us and slow down before  
the Speedwatch indicator picks up their  
speed.

The police did not approve our  
suggestion of a site near the bottom of  
Ulcombe Hill for southbound traffic,  
probably because it's too near the  
30mph entry into the village.

We are in discussion about a site  
further down which might be appropriate.  
We really are desperate to get a good  
site for spotting speeders coming into  
the village down Ulcombe Hill as our  
impression is that many of them pay the  
30mph sign absolutely no attention!

CHRISTINE CROSBIE,  
ULCOMBE SPEEDWATCH CO-ORDINATOR



# Ulcombe Parochial Church Council

As you know, our Rector, Dick Venn has been in post in the Len Valley for just over a year now. He is responsible for four parishes – Boughton Malherbe, Harrietsham, Lenham and Ulcombe. We now have an Associate priest in post – the Rev Marian Bond. She is a 'home grown' priest in that she was first Churchwarden at Harrietsham, then a Reader, then trained to be a priest and served her curacy at Marden before coming back to the Len Valley Benefice.

We are soon to have the addition of another priest, Millie Hart, also home grown, who is to be made Deacon in Canterbury Cathedral in July.

During the year we have also had the assistance of the Rev Yvonne Salmon from Boughton Monchelsea, and the Rev Tony Old, retired Chaplain to the deaf. In addition we have a Reader, Joan Drury.

The Ministry Leadership Team meets monthly at the Rectory, and we have eight Authorised Lay Ministers who have already done a year's training.

There is a service in each of the four churches every Sunday – two Eucharists and two Family or All Age worship. On the

four Fifth Sundays in the month, we have a Benefice Service, rotating between the four churches. At Ulcombe we also have a very special Taize service every two months at 7 o'clock.

Attendance at Ulcombe is rising. The Carol Service at Christmas was well attended – Easter less so which was disappointing. There was a Holy Week Service on Maundy Thursday at Ulcombe and a Good Friday meditation.

During the year we have had a number of Start Courses – one of which resulted in a Confirmation service led by the former Bishop of Maidstone, Graham Cray. We also had several Lent Courses across the Benefice and now have a Bible Study Group on a Thursday morning and two fortnightly House Groups on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We also have a half hour prayer meeting in Ulcombe Church on Tuesdays at 9.30 am.

The church maintains good contact with Ulcombe Primary School, and for a long time, ran a Kings Squad after school. This is temporarily in abeyance.

We are part of the North Downs Deanery Synod of which I am Lay Chair.

The Synod had a year of uncertainty when the possibility of re-aligning the Deanery was considered. In the end we remain as we are except for the loss of the 3 Sutton parishes which have now been joined with Headcorn.

The church building is in moderately good order, though there are still repairs outstanding. We need to find about £8,000. We are planning to re-order the church by turning the Vestry into a Sunday school area. It has two windows and access to the toilet in contrast to where it now meets under the tower without windows, and where the children have to troop through the church and open the heavy and noisy door to get to the toilet.

To this end we are seeking grants, and we are also running an Auction of Promises on Saturday the 5th of June this year. It will be held in Ulcombe Village Hall following a buffet supper. We hope as many parishioners as possible who love the church building will be generous in making promises and supporting the event.

We now have a Benefice website:  
[www.lvb.org.uk](http://www.lvb.org.uk)

MOLLY POULTER  
ULCOMBE PCC

## Village Day 2009

Ulcombe held its own outdoor music festival on Saturday the 11th July 2009.

During the afternoon there was a craft fair and an open cricket tournament run by Ulcombe Cricket Club to decide the winners of the Ulcombe Village Cup, previously awarded to winners of road races, pram races, wheelie bin races and the 2007 field gun event. There were then fine performances by the top 3 winners of Ulcombe School's recently held talent competition.

The evening entertainment started with Ant and Fe, Max Gilkes, The Violet Jive, Inside Edge and Joanne Louise Parker all performing on an improvised stage on the village field. The lack of good weather was more than compensated for by the enthusiasm of the performers and those attending the first event of this type in the village.

Fortunately enough shelter was available in the form of tents arranged around the stage for all to keep dry as the show went on.

Food was provided by the village catering crews with dishes from several countries.

A good number of families camped out on the village field so the 1am finish was no problem to them, especially as a substantial cooked breakfast was available in the village hall on Sunday morning.

Further good news is that the event made a profit of £1,570 which was distributed to Ulcombe School PTA, the Pre-school, UDAS, the Friendship Club, the Cricket Club, All Saints Church, the Village Hall and Ulcombe Newsletter.

Thanks go to all who helped to make this event such a success, including Maidstone Borough Council and Kent Police who monitored the preparations with interest!

SIMON ODAM  
VILLAGE DAY CO-ORDINATOR

## Neighbourhood Watch

Catriona Titchener officially retired from her post as co-ordinator last year but the vacancy still needs to be filled. If anyone feels they could take on this role then they should contact Catriona on [cet.ulcombe@fsmail.net](mailto:cet.ulcombe@fsmail.net)

Please note that it is essential to have access to e-mail in order to receive the messages sent from the main Maidstone Neighbourhood Watch office.

The crime rate in Ulcombe has generally been low over the past year but there has been an increase since April.

Ulcombe CC, 2009 season: played 23 matches – won 8 lost 16.

Ulcombe CC took on several new fixtures this year and played at some interesting grounds - the slope at Bilsington; Bodiam's lively pitch surrounded by a steam railway, a church and a pub; and the Option XI, a team of bankers, brokers and heart surgeons who proved to be extremely hospitable, paying for all the post match refreshments (even though we were the home team)...

Club membership increased in the year, with the arrival of several new players including the big hitting, fast bowling all rounder James "JP" Pallett staking his claim

## Ulcombe Cricket Club

### Leading Batsmen (more than 400 runs)

Rob Lee-Davey made history against Etchingam in September, becoming the first Ulcombe player to score a century since the club's re-formation. However, the Batting Award deservedly went to Mike Crawford, who scored 600+ runs at the impressive average of 36.59, often sending opposition fielders scattering to all parts of the outfield. Special mention also to Paul Brown, who passed 1,000 career runs for the club in 2009, still the only person to do

the competitive season, which summed up what makes Ulcombe such a great village cricket club. It was our third win in a row, we bowled and fielded well, keeping the opposition down to a low score on a lightning outfield; we reached our target fairly comfortably although we nearly threw it away with a bit of a late collapse; we had a legendary tea in a great setting with glorious weather; we had some great banter and a beer with the opposition, at the ground after the game and at the pub afterwards.... and of course, it was the day we won back the Ashes!

On the down side, Frittenden pulled out of our grudge match the following week,

Player	Matches Played	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average	Strike Rate	Econ
Paul Brown	24	93	11	395	31	12.74	18.00	4.25
Greg Bird	21	103	8	620	27	22.96	22.89	6.02
Vince Hampton	12	68	8	316	22	14.36	18.55	4.65
Jim Pallet	19	86	8	48.3	22	21.95	23.45	5.62
Dave Sharp	15	54	4	257	21	12.24	15.34	4.76
Jack Gracie	17	91	4	523	21	24.9	26.00	5.75

to be the Freddie Flintoff of the club. Youngsters Greg Bird and Jack Gracie played accomplished roles with bat and ball and look to be exciting future prospects, and the late season arrival in the village of father and son Austin and Seb Holmes bodes well for 2010.

### Leading Bowlers (more than 20 wickets)

Captain Paul Brown again led the way in the wickets column with 31, although old

so. Mike Crawford also ended the season with the most catches (12), although the Fielding Award went to Gary Barnes, who's continual willingness to put his body in the firing line surprisingly only resulted in one broken finger.

### Summary

It was a hugely enjoyable and memorable season, with the highlight possibly the inter-club "Heroes vs Villains" fancy dress

and when we were in such good form this was a particularly disappointing let down. It was a shame that in a summer where we did not lose a single match to the rain, not every club turned up for their fixture even though we were always able to field a full complement of players.

Leaving that aside, other great moments were of course the first defeat of local rivals Harrietsham in a hugely entertaining and tense game, the Option and

Player	Matches Played	Runs	COs	Not Out	Innings	Top Score	Average
Rob Lee-Davey	23	623	3		21	100	29.67
Mike Crawford	22	622	4	5	22	73	36.59
Paul Brown	24	610	2	6	24	81	33.89
Jim Pallett	19	408	1	2	17	54	27.20
Greg Bird	21	408	1	2	22	60	20.40

timer Dave Sharp proved how valuable experience and accuracy is at our level, with 21 wickets at a miserly 12.24. The Bowling Award went to Vince Hampton, the Ulcombe Express again proving too quick for most teams, with his match winning 5 for 14 against Harrietsham the highlight.

match in September, which featured Batman bowling to a Traffic Warden, who was subsequently run out by his batting partner Saddam Hussein following a direct hit from Superman.

Many of the players singled out the victory at Lord Raglan as the high point of

Sherwood weekend where we won both games and scored 200+ twice in two days, and seeing the youngsters play with so much maturity against Headcorn as we rescued victory from the jaws of defeat. The younger players in the side have all emerged and made excellent contributions,

and now have a year's more experience of playing at an adult level.

It is rewarding that so many new players comment on what a wonderful atmosphere there is within the club, and how it makes them want to return week in week out. We are proud of the greatly improved condition of our pitches, the standard of which was commented upon by every visiting team without exception, and we would also like to thank Sharon Brown in particular for contributing so much to making sure the teams were fed every week.

#### Post Season and 2010 Prospects

Behind the scenes, there has been a great

deal of hard work undertaken since the season ended in October to ensure the club continues to grow from strength to strength. The fixture list has swelled and we now potentially have 42 matches, including the fancy dress match in September and the Ulcombe tournament on 12 June, which will raise funds for Cancer Research. Additionally, the club's first tour to Eastbourne has now been confirmed.

There has been significant upgrades carried out in the pavilion during the winter, with the installation of showers, new work surfaces and additional shelving making the place look a little more modern. It is hoped

that problems with providing running water to the pavilion can be resolved in time for Saturday 1st May, when the first Ulcombe Villagers vs Rest of the World match is scheduled to take place.

#### Newsflash

Ulcombe won their first match of the season on Sunday 25 April. Responding to Sherwood's score of 195/7 off 40 overs (Seb Holmes taking an impressive 3 for 34), Ulcombe (198/2) won an exciting game with just four balls left, Rob Lee-Davey carrying his bat for an agonising 99 not out.

TREVOR SHARP

CHAIRMAN, ULCOMBE CRICKET CLUB

## Community Policing Report 2010

Visit our website:

<http://www.kent.police.uk/YourNeighbourhood/location.do?id=1045>

The past twelve months have seen a slight increase in crime levels compared to the previous year. Overall the levels of burglary, theft, vehicle crime, violence and ASB have remained at an average level when compared to the rest of the Mid Kent area.

#### Headcorn Ward

As you know your local officers are: PC Kemsley and PCSO de Búrca

We have dealt with a number of

community priorities throughout the year which have included the following:

- Inconsiderate parking
- ASB throughout Headcorn Ward
- Speeding
- Off road motorbikes

#### Local Area Results

One of the main priorities for last year was the issue of anti-social behaviour at various locations throughout Headcorn.

Please find below some of the results

from action taken:

- 6 youths have been nominated to the Maidstone Community Safety Unit for multi agency interventions.
- 2 cannabis warnings
- 1 PND for public order
- 1 arrest for ABH assault & 1 shoplifting
- Vehicles Seized
- 3 offensive weapons seized (catapults)
- Numerous stops & searches
- High visibility by the Neighbourhood Task Team to address ASB, the team is a dedicated team of a Sgt and 6 PCs.
- PCSO warning notice issued to a motorbike rider on Hogs Green for using his motorbike in an antisocial manner. It can be seized if this is witnessed again.

please see over for more...

### Headcorn Ward Crime Figures January 2009 to March 2010

Date	Burglary	Robbery	Vehicle crime	Violence	Anti-social behaviour	All crime**
April 09	1	0	3	1	8	22
May 09	5	0	6	4	13	30
June 09	2	0	2	4	8	18
July 09	1	0	0	0	13	16
Aug 09	1	0	3	2	20	19
Sept 09	3	0	3	1	8	16
Oct 09	2	0	1	3	12	16
Nov 09	3	1	1	2	16	20
Dec 09	3	0	1	0	23	13
Jan 10	3	0	2	2	18	19
Feb 10	9	0	5	1	14	24
March 10	6	0	3	2	17	21

\*\*All crime results include other crimes such as theft, criminal damage and assaults

The techniques we have used to tackle anti-social behaviour include the deployment of the Mobile Police Station which allows residents to talk with us about ASB in Headcorn. We have liaised with a variety of our partners and in the following year hope to reduce this further by engaging with more young people to help them into employment or youth clubs. From the perspective of the local Police Community Support Officer, more contact will be made with the parents of those involved in ASB as she has found that parents' support equals better results.

We are currently working closely with Trading Standards to manage the sale of alcohol to underage people and to effectively deal with those found drinking in public places, causing a nuisance.

#### **Street a week campaign**

Over the coming months we will be knocking on your doors to find out what your priorities are and to update you on what we having been doing in the parish. This is an opportunity to raise your concerns with us and for us to build better relationships with

you. We have had feedback from New Road, High Street, Oak Farm Gardens, Oak Lane and Forge Lane to date. We plan to visit other villages in the Headcorn Ward.

#### **Surgeries**

We are keen to attend the multi-agency surgeries at the Farmers Market each month at the village hall and you are welcome to attend and raise your concerns with ourselves, your Borough Councillor and Parish Councillors.

#### **Areas of concerns**

We have identified an increase in plant and/or tractor theft in the rural locations of Maidstone. We will be putting posters up all public locations, which gives advice on how to help prevent plant theft. We are working with the National Farmers Union to gather Intel from their members especially regarding all suspicious vehicles and people on their land. Local officer PC Kemsley also has a tracker scheme in place, which helps to find stolen property.

#### **Restorative Practice**

Restorative Practice is a scheme

increasingly adopted by patrol and neighbourhood officers across the force. The aim is to bring victims, offenders and communities together to tackle the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Restorative Practice enables victims to tell offenders the real impact of their crimes, get answers and receive an apology. It gives offenders the chance to understand what they've done and do something to repair the harm.

By bringing victims, offenders and communities together to decide on a response to a particular crime or incident it is hoped to reduce crime rates in the long term – evidence shows offenders who have to face up to their victims are unlikely to offend again.

Kent Police, with the support of the parish council and local community will continue to work to raise security awareness, which we believe is important in reducing the levels of crime. Thank you for your continued support in making Headcorn safe.

SIOBHAN DE BURCA  
HEADCORN WARD PCSO

### *Mobile Police Station and Surgeries*

Mobile Police Station	Saturday 8 May	9.00 – 12.00pm	Headcorn Farmers Market
Surgery	Tuesday 18 May	9.00 – 12.00pm	Grafty Green Post Office
Mobile Police Station	Saturday 12 June	9.00 – 12.00pm	Headcorn Farmers Market
Surgery	Thursday 24 June	2.30 – 4.00pm	Ulcombe Primary School
Surgery	Tuesday 6 July	2.30 – 4.00pm	Headcorn Primary School
Mobile Police Station	Saturday 10 July	9.00 – 12.00pm	Headcorn Farmers Market

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**TYPESETTING BY BRIDGET SAMUELSON**