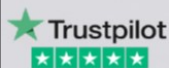


THE VOICE

August 2026



A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR BOROUGH GREEN
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WITH THANKS TO ALL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (see page 9).



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Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd

August 2026

Recently at church we read the Parable of the Sower, a story of a farmer sowing seeds to grow a crop of plants. Now every local gardener knows that the secret to a thriving crop or beautiful garden lies not just in the quality of the seed but also in the condition of the soil.

This simple truth is at the heart of this story, but it's not just about growing plants, Jesus compares the Word of God to a seed and the human heart to different types of ground and how open we are to hearing God's word. However, I realised that the story's messages can also be applied to how we take care of our minds and hearts in our daily lives, as well as our local community.

In the story, a farmer scatters seeds across four different types of ground with very different results:

- Some seeds fall on a hard, well-trodden footpath. The seeds cannot sink in and birds quickly eat them. This might be compared to a mind that is completely closed off to new ideas or help from others.
- Other seeds fall into shallow, rocky dirt. They sprout fast but wither under the hot sun because their roots cannot go deep. This might represent starting a new project or relationship with lots of excitement but giving up the moment things get tough.
- Some seeds land among prickly weeds. As the plants grow the thorns choke them out. This might compare to a life that is too busy, crowded by daily worries, stress and the constant rush of modern life.
- Finally, some seeds fall on rich, healthy soil. They take deep root, grow strong and produce an abundant harvest that can feed many people. The kind of life many of us might wish for.

Reflecting on our lives, do we need to tend to our personal soil? It is easy to look at this list and feel like our lives are a bit rocky or full of thorns right now. The good news is that soil can always be changed. If we feel hardened by stress, we can pause and look for moments of peace. If our roots feel shallow, we can strengthen them by spending time with family, learning new things or resting. If we are overwhelmed by the "thorns" of a packed schedule, we can choose to weed out a few distractions to protect our mental health.

There is another message in this story though which we can relate to our town. The farmer in the story is incredibly generous. He does not just carefully plant seeds where it is safe; he scatters them everywhere, hoping for the best.

As a community, we can do the same. Every day, we have the chance to scatter "seeds" of kindness, helpfulness and a warm smile to our neighbours. We never truly know what someone else is going through or what kind of "soil" their heart is facing today, and a simple act of neighbourly care might be exactly what helps someone else grow through a difficult season.

Julie Sweeting, Churchwarden

NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH



Toddler Time, Games Afternoons and Children's Church will be taking a break in August but will be back in September along with a new season of Film Afternoons.

Saturday Open House

10-12 every Saturday at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Fancy a cuppa, cake and some conversation? Pop in. Everyone welcome. No agenda - just community. No charge.



Breakfast Church



9am on 3rd Sunday of the month at the Church of the Good Shepherd. It's a chance to share some good food, chat and worship. All the family and friends are welcome. No charge.

Save the date for our next Supper Quiz



Saturday 12 September

Church of the Good Shepherd, Quarry Hill Road



is an opportunity to raise money for Kent Churches by cycling or walking and takes place on **12 September** this year. More details next month.

Contacting the Church of the Good Shepherd

In the absence of a Vicar:

If you need to speak to someone from the church (including any enquiry about a wedding, a baptism or a funeral) contact one of the churchwardens –

Julie (885437) or Carole (07542 442 140).

If you have an enquiry about burial of ashes contact Elaine (886440).

COGS website www.cogsonline.co.uk





CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - FOODBANK 2025-26 REPORT

Our local foodbank continues to provide vital support to individuals and families experiencing hardship across the parishes of Borough Green, Wrotham, Platt and Igtham. The most significant development this year has been the planning and construction of our new foodbank store. We began using the store in June 2025 and it has already transformed the way we operate. It was a great encouragement to have the store formally dedicated by Bishop Simon during his visit on 12 October.

A huge thank you is due to Mark Sweeting for his tireless work throughout the project, both in fundraising and in managing the build. We were very grateful for the many generous donations received from local residents and from the parish councils which together funded over 40% of the project costs. The remaining funding was provided by CoGS, primarily through a legacy fund designated for community projects.

The number of families and individuals supported by the foodbank has remained relatively steady over the year. While we are pleased to celebrate success stories where people are able to reduce or end their reliance on our support, we continue to see new referrals as others encounter difficult and unexpected circumstances. We are thankful to be able to respond to these needs.

We continue to receive generous food donations directly through CoGS, as well as from other churches, schools across the parishes and from individuals who give exceptionally generously - often organising and collecting donations from others. In addition, we are fortunate to have maintained healthy cash reserves through regular giving and local government support. Over the year we have typically spent around £1,000 per month on supplementary food items, as well as providing limited financial support towards energy costs and other urgent needs.

Thanks to particular seasonal generosity, we were again able to provide Christmas goodie bags and Easter eggs to all the families we support.

The foodbank team continues to flourish. Special thanks go to Steve Talmage who undertakes the majority of the administration and oversight of day to day tasks. We have maintained our safer recruitment processes for new volunteers and are pleased to have a number of volunteers who are not members of CoGS. Heartfelt thanks to all who give their time regularly or occasionally, and in particular to Betty Attlesey, Joanne Brooks, Chris Cowley, Elizabeth Procter, John Radclyffe, Amy Scouler and Karen Stephens.

Finally, thank you to everyone - including schools, local businesses, churches, parish councils, local government and individual donors - for the very generous food, financial and project specific donations received throughout the year. The foodbank simply could not operate without your continuing support.

Ian Simpson, Foodbank Leader

Donations of non-perishable food may be left in the Church's porch on any day. The Church is usually open 10am to 5pm. For any enquiries regarding our foodbank please contact Ian Simpson on 07801135460 or foodbank.cogs@gmail.com.

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Notes from Borough Green Town Council



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The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 6th July 2026 at the COGS Annexe.
Matters raised included:

- **Work Experience.** Chairman welcomed Ben Jones and Ben Bejarano who will be working with Bernie and Rob for a week, seeing how the Council works. It is the first time we have done this, but it gives young people a feel of a workplace and also an insight into local government.
- **Road Resurfacing.** By the time you read this KCC contractors will have completed a major resurfacing of the A227 and A25. We have been very impressed with the expertise shown and the excellent new surface. The only black mark concerns an error made by the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership, who laid rumble strips at the speed camera instead of the correct calibration markings. Instead of just admitting their mistake and rectifying it they are trying to tell us they are right, so Cllr Heselden has lodged a formal complaint with KCC. It will eventually be put right but residents will have to suffer excess noise until then.
- **A planning application** has been lodged to convert Bridge House offices at Basted into six residential flats. We have no objection to the application but have raised our concerns about flooding, recalling the 1968 floods which were lapping the ground floor windows. Whilst major flood mitigation was carried out when Basted Mill was developed, this did not extend as far south as the Basted Lane Bridge.
- **Basted Mill PROW** has a fallen tree partly blocking the footpath to Borough Green. This has been reported on multiple occasions but to date KCC have not acted. The issue is being escalated.
- **TMBC Local Plan.** Despite a clear unanimous instruction by the TM Housing and Planning Committee, TMBC planning officers are still trying to reduce the role of the Relief Road by trying to make it an "aspiration" rather than an approved policy. This is an attempt to "salami slice" the housing delivery programme allowing developers to build housing on level parts of the site whilst other landfill and contamination remediation areas remain untouched, with the Relief Road delivered afterwards. Can you imagine what local traffic would be like with the current volume doubled by construction, sandpit, landfill and new homes traffic. We have set a red line that the Relief Road must be built in its entirety prior to a brick being laid.
- **Local Plan Traffic Study.** Long promised and has finally landed. The consultant's view is that the 19000 houses proposed in the Local Plan will have minimal highway impact because of what they call "modal shift". It means everyone will have to give up driving cars, dust off their bikes or walk everywhere - REALLY! There is also an expected shift to bus travel - let me know if you see one about.
- **Oldbury Woods.** Cllr Palmer reported on a meeting at Ightham Village Hall where a large and vociferous crowd of residents had the opportunity to challenge the National Trust about the devastation caused to trees and paths. It appears that contractors appointed to carry out thinning were paid by selling the wood they cut, moved in heavy machinery and clear cut some areas, machinery churning up the footpaths and the understory - it will take a hundred or more years to recover. Remember that Oldbury Wood is protected Ancient Woodland and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Iron Age Hill Fort is a protected Ancient Monument.

[Oldbury Hill](#) | [Kent](#) | [National Trust](#)

(Continued on page 9)

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The next Borough Green Council meeting will be held on **Monday 3rd August 2026 at 19.30 in the COGS Annexe**. The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions.

Council Contacts

Chairman mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk 01732 882880

Clerk clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk 07568 536405

Full minutes are posted at [MINUTES](#) | [mysite \(boroughgreen.gov.uk\)](#)

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The total print run of the magazine is over 2000 copies and it is also available to read on the COGS, BG Community and Council websites.

Thanks

Thank you to the Borough Green Council for their generous grant and to all our advertisers for their financial support which makes the production of this magazine possible. Also thank you to all our distributors who get the Voice to every house in the community.

Articles for the next magazine

The Voice is your community magazine and it relies on the people of Borough Green to make it as interesting as possible. Organisations, clubs and individuals are welcome to submit articles on their activities and subjects likely to be of interest.

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Tuesday 11 August** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **September** so if you have any events planned for that month and you would like them to appear in the diary section please send to :-

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Opening hours are

10 - 1 and 2 - 5 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
and 9 - 1 on Saturday.

Events for which no booking is required see diary section

Ancestry - Monday 10 - 12 need to book an appointment

Summer Reading Challenge



The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge is **Read to the Beat**, delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music Group UK. The theme inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

Come to Borough Green Library to find out more and start borrowing books for the Challenge!

Children's Craft Session Friday 7 August 11.30 - 12.30

Create a musical shaker from simple craft materials!

Drop-in session. No booking required



For more advice please call the library on 03000 413 131 or email boroughgreenlibrary@kent.gov.uk where staff will be able to help.

We look forward to seeing you.

Borough Green & Wrotham u3a



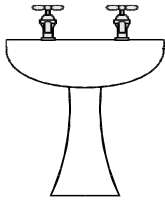
The next meeting of Borough Green & Wrotham u3a will be held on **Monday 10 August** at 2 pm in Borough Green Village Hall.

Our speaker will be Neil Nixon with what promises to be a most fascinating talk - The World of the Strange Workshop. The talk features ten stories detailing some of the strangest events in a life of paranormal interest and investigation.

We look forward to welcoming existing and new members (free), and guests (£5). Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. Parking is free for village hall users, so please remember to register your car in the hall lobby when you arrive.

For further information, or to join your local u3a, please contact:
info@bgwu3a.org.uk or visit our website <https://bgw.u3asite.uk>

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It has been a busy time in the village hall and last month's AGM gave us the chance to look back at everything we have managed to get done and to look forward to what's coming next.

Our financial statement is now published and submitted to the Charity Commission and we have completed a review of all our policies to ensure the hall is safe, clean and well run.

We are delighted that the committee have all agreed to stay on for another year bringing their energy and enthusiasm for further improvements. Our next major project is to install a new heat pump system keeping the hall cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Everything has been agreed and ordered and we expect installation next month.

We have plans to give our entrance a facelift bringing a warmer, brighter and more welcoming first impression to the hall. We plan to have a new advertising screen showing what is happening in the hall week by week and promoting our regular hirers. Our plans include upgrading the staircase, fresh flooring and new doors.

In October we are starting a full review of the car park: better pathways, clearer parking spaces and a layout that simply works better. The funding is already set aside because investing in the hall - and the people who use it - is exactly what we're here for.

It's been wonderful to welcome so many new groups through our doors this year, and we're proud to keep working hand in hand with them, and also supporting the Christmas Lights Committee once again this festive season.

A huge thank you to all our hirers, trustees, committee members and volunteers. Your hard work and enthusiasm make the hall the heart of Borough Green and give us plenty to look forward to in the year ahead.

Bryan Rawlins – Chairman

Email: boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com

Website: www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

We're now recruiting on-call firefighters at your local fire station! If you want to make a real difference in your neighbourhood, and live or work within five minutes of Borough Green fire station, this could be the perfect role for you! As an on-call firefighter, you'll be on standby and respond to emergencies when your pager sounds. The role is flexible, meaning you can fit it around your lifestyle, family, and other work commitments, with a mix of daytime, evening, and weekend shifts.

To find out more about the role of an on-call firefighter and apply go to www.kent.fire-uk.org/oncall-firefighter. Applications close on **Thursday 30 July**.

A Message from the Headteacher of Borough Green Primary School

As we reach the end of another busy and successful school year at Borough Green Primary School, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved and celebrated across our school community.

This term has been filled with memorable moments, not least our fantastic Sports Day. It was a truly well-contested event, with pupils demonstrating great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. The day was rounded off in style with a highly competitive teachers' race - featuring some impressive moves in inflatable suits - and, of course, the ever-popular and fiercely contested mums' and dads' races, which brought plenty of laughter and community spirit to the occasion.

As we say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils, we do so with immense pride. They have been excellent role models within the school and have contributed so much during their time with us. We wish each and every one of them the very best of luck as they move on to the next stage of their education - they leave us well prepared and ready to flourish.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff, whose hard work and commitment ensure that our children are supported, challenged and inspired every day. My thanks also go to our wonderful PTA, volunteers and Governors, whose time, energy and support make such a valuable difference to our school community.

We are delighted to have already welcomed our new Reception children for their transition sessions and we very much look forward to them joining us officially in September 2026. It has been a pleasure to see their excitement and confidence growing as they begin their journey with us.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting new parent school tours from late September through to late November. Further details will be shared in due course and we warmly encourage prospective families to come and see our school in action.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support throughout the year. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new academic year.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Karen Jackson
Headteacher, Borough Green Primary School



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Borough Green Primary School is seeking a **co-opted and partnership governor** to join our friendly, dedicated and forward-thinking Governing Body. We warmly welcome applications from members of the local community, including current or former parents, carers and grandparents.

What's involved?

- Supporting the strategic direction of the school
- Working alongside school leaders to ensure the best outcomes for pupils
- Being part of a committed and supportive team

Do I need experience?

No formal qualifications are required—full training and support are provided. What matters most is:

- Enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute
- An interest in education and your local community
- The time to attend meetings and play an active role

Interested?

If you'd like to give something back to your community and help shape the future of local children, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information, please contact **Vashti Reid, Clerk to the Governing Body**.

If you know someone who would be a great fit for this role, please encourage them to apply.

E-mail: clerk@bgpschool.kent.sch.uk



Events in the community for the month of August

- 1 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 2 SJCC - Mass - 9.30**
COGS - All-Age Worship - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
 Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
- 3 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00**
 BG Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- 4 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**
- 6 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration**
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 7 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00**
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
 BG Library - Children's Craft Session - 11.30 to 12.30 (see page 11)
- 8 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 9 SJCC - Mass - 9.30**
COGS - Morning Worship - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 10 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00**
 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
 BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30
- 11 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**
- 13 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration**
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 14 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00**
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
 BG Library - Friday 2 Book Club - 2.15 to 4.15
 Wrotham Historical Society - 7.45 - Wrotham Village Hall
- 15 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 16 COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**
 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 17 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 18 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**
- 20 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration**
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
 BGBC - Talk - 7.30 (see page opposite)
- 21 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00**
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45



- 22 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
23 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion with Canon Brian Stevenson - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
24 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
25 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
 Ightham Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall - 7.00
27 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
28 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
29 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00
30 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
COGS - Holy Communion with Rev. Jane Winter - 11.00
 Wrotham Park - Bandstand Picnic - 1.00 (see page 21)



Note: COGS Services maybe be subject to change in the interregnum

Abbreviations

COGS Church of the Good Shepherd
 BGBC Borough Green Baptist Church
 SJCC St Joseph's Catholic Church
 BGVH Borough Green Village Hall



Borough Green Baptist Church

We have a talk at Borough Green Baptist Church on Thursday 20 August 7:30 pm titled "If God exists, why is there evil and suffering in the world?". All welcome.

Sticky Fingers is taking a longer break than usual this year but it will back on Wednesday 23 September. We hope to see you then from 10am at Borough Green Baptist Church. Have a very lovely Summer.



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*IGHTHAM & DISTRICT
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We have a talk on

***"PLANTS FOR ALL YEAR
PLANTING"***

By Paul Grimmer

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST

***IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL
for 7.00pm***

Visitors very welcome

For further information contact

-
Dee Samways – 0779 900 2129
or IghthamDGC@hotmail.com



Could You Help Shape the Future of Local Children?

Grange Park School in Wrotham is seeking a new School Governor to join our dedicated governing body.

Grange Park is a specialist school for children and young people with autism. We are proud to provide a nurturing, ambitious and supportive environment where every pupil is encouraged to achieve their full potential and develop the skills they need for life.

As a governor, you will help support the school's strategic direction, ensuring that pupils continue to receive the highest quality education and care. The role involves attending meetings, asking questions, sharing your experience and helping to shape the future of the school.

No previous governor experience is required. We welcome people from all backgrounds and professions who are interested in supporting local children and making a positive contribution to their community. Full training and ongoing support are provided.

If you would like to find out more about this rewarding voluntary role, please contact caroline.kirkpatrick@grangepark.kent.sch.uk for an informal conversation.





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**Fri. 11th Sept. 19.00: Church of the Good Shepherd,
Borough Green**

Sat. 12th Sept. 19.00: St Mary's Platt Church

**Tickets £10, will be available in Shakti News, High St, Borough
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12 noon - 8pm on Saturday 5th September
Wrotham Cricket Ground, TN15 7AH

This year we are hosting a one day festival-vibe music event for the whole family to enjoy. For more details and to book tickets go to www.wrothammusicfestival.com

Acts performing at the festival include The TrolleyBoys, The Daisy Chains, Steve and Paulfunkle, Jamie Foreman, The Proxies, Show of Hands Choir and St George's School Choir.

We are being supported by amazing local businesses to bring you bouncy castles and rides for the kids (or young at heart!), ice cream and delicious food trucks, face painting and refreshing drinks.

This is a charity event with proceeds donated to local causes.

In addition to our one day festival, on **Sunday 30 August** (weekend before main event) from 1pm we will be hosting our much-loved, free event **Bandstand Picnic in the Park** with the amazing Kent Police Band.

Back for 2026!

Scarecrow Competition

Bigger, brighter and better than before

Get your thinking caps on and be ready to create your own scarecrow for this year's competition.

Display it outside your home or business by Monday 7th September, until Sunday 27th September.

Trail maps and voting to take place throughout September.

If you're not based in the village and you'd like to take part, please get in touch and we will try and allocate you a display space.

Winners announced during the Harvest Festival service on Sunday 27th September at St Mary's Platt church.

£10 entry fee (all proceeds go to St Mary the Virgin Church, Platt).

To enter/further details, please email: stmarysplattevents@gmail.com

Or collect a form from the Church from July onwards.





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Free Summer Music in Tonbridge and Sevenoaks



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

For details of all forthcoming events go to
www.tmbc.gov.uk/events



Sunday afternoon (2-4) band concerts at Tonbridge Castle

2 August Invicta Jazz Orchestra

16 August East Sussex Concert Band

Every **Friday** evening (6 to 10pm) **Riverwalk Music** with a mix of live music (details on Facebook), food and drink stalls. Free but donations welcome.

Main acts:

31 July Wasted

7 August The Beard Conspiracy

14 August The Patinas

21 August Gem

28 August Loose Change

Sevenoaks Town Council



For details of all forthcoming events go to

<https://sevenoakstown.gov.uk/free-summer-events-programme/>

All of the following are at The Vine Gardens

Sunday 26 July (3-5)

Kent Police Band

Thursday 30 July (6-8)

Soul Train Choir

Thursday 6 August (6-8)

Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band

Sunday 9 August (3-5)

Sevenoaks Saxes

Thursday 13 August (6-8)

Ian Fox

Sunday 16 August (3-5)

Sevenoaks Rock Choir

Thursday 20 August (6-8)

Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra

Saturday 22 August (3-5)

Oxted Band

Thursday 27 August (6-8)

White Light Band

Free children's activities at the Thursday concerts



ORGANISING A GET TOGETHER OR CELEBRATION?

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Please **contact us online** or call the dedicated events team directly on
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- Cooker and gas fire servicing
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Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Updates



South East Water's Priority Services Register

The risk of water supply interruptions can increase due to warmer weather. If you or someone in your household may need extra support, you can sign up to South East Water's Priority Services Register at www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/priority-services/ or call their customer care team on 0800 952 4000. This free service provides additional help to residents with vulnerabilities or specific needs if their water supply is affected.

TMBC Weekly Newsletter

Our free weekly newsletter brings together council news, events, consultations, service updates and upcoming meetings in one convenient email. Signing up at www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/newsletter takes less than a minute and all you need is an email address. Join thousands of local residents already keeping up to date :



Help Us Build a Stronger Community!



**Kent
Police**

My Community Voice (MCV) helps us keep you updated with local policing news, crime prevention advice, appeals and community events - straight from your neighbourhood officers. The more people who join, the more effectively we can share important information and listen to local concerns.

Anyone living or working in Kent or can join for free and choose exactly what updates they receive. Your details are kept secure and never shared with commercial organisations.

To sign up for MCV emails go to www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk.

Remember: MCV isn't for reporting crime - please use 999 for emergencies and 101/online reporting for non-emergencies.

Kent Police, Strategic Prevention Command



KCC 2027/28 Budget Consultation

This is a chance to have a say in how over £2.8 billion is spent on important services for more than 1.6 million residents in 2027-28. These include social care for children and adults, support for education such as home to school transport, waste recycling and disposal, public health, libraries and roads. The consultation asks residents for their views on a) priorities for making savings across different service areas, b) how money could be saved and income increased and c) Council Tax options. The consultation runs until **7 September 2026**.

To take part and find out more at: www.kent.gov.uk/budget. If you cannot complete the questionnaire online, you can request a paper copy by contacting the Alternative Formats team at alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421 553 (text relay: 18001 03000 421 553). This number goes to an answering machine which is monitored during office hours.



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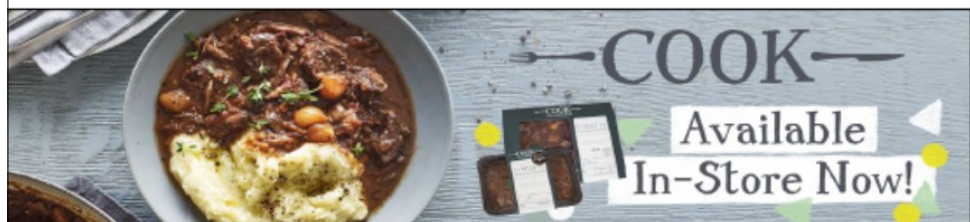
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WROTHAM (ST. GEORGE'S) CRICKET CLUB



Continuing the pattern of close, exciting finishes the away game at Yalding went to the wire with the home team running out winners with just the one wicket to spare. Batting first Wrotham got to 148 off their 30 overs losing just 6 wickets in the process, the main scorers being Neil Pickford who carried his bat for 43 valuable runs, well supported by a brisk 31 from Dom Humphrey. Yalding's openers were the difference, contributing 85 of the runs needed for their team to get home with just the one wicket in hand. Once again tight fielding kept a rein on things and stand out bowling figures of 3-17 from Ant Woolfe and Matt Crisp 3-16 (who took a blinding catch off his own bowling) made Yalding fight every inch of the way.

Next up was a trip to Watlington who batted first and amassed a daunting total of 211 off their 30 overs, with 4 of their batsmen making decent scores. Of the 4 wickets to fall Wrotham's stand out bowler was Jacob Boulton who conceded only 40 runs off his 7 overs, taking 2 of the wickets. Wrotham's innings got off to a disappointing start but an aggressive fightback by Chris Harvey with 54 and skipper Will Booth with 35 looked at one time as if it might carry the team through. Paul Harrison's 31 furthered the cause but in the end Wrotham finished on a creditable 186 from their overs.

On to another away match with this season's regular pattern of exciting finishes continuing, this time Wrotham coming out on top against a strong Hildenborough side. Winning the toss the home side batted first and reached 169 from 35 overs, just losing 5 wickets into the bargain. Wrotham's bowlers toiled in the sun with Sanjeev Dhoni conceding only 16 runs off 5 overs and Will Booth again bowling a tight length to take 2 wickets for 22. Wrotham's batsmen paced the innings with most getting into double figures and getting home with 3 wickets and 3 balls to go. A great result!

Next home fixtures for your diaries are:

2 August (1.30) Kings Hill 9 August (1.30) Hildenborough 16 August (1.00) Ash
6 Sept (1.00) Yalding 13 Sept(1.00) Chevening

John Humphreys

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Wrotham Historical Society



Friday 14 August 7.45pm

Wrotham Village Hall

Breaking the Myths of the French Army in 1940

By Lee Perry

All visitors welcome - £5



Hall bookings

Parish Hall - Quarry Hill

Alan Williams 07436 115 425

Village Hall

David Peirce

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

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Potters Mede

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

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a) **24 hours a day**

The Village Hall

Potters Mede

The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

b) **When premises are open**

The Medical Centre

BG Primary School

Fourways Dentists



Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Shop in the High Street

The opening hours are from 9.00-4.00 Monday to Friday and 9.00-1.00 on Saturday.



Afternoon Tea for Breast Cancer Research and Support



This August, thousands of people will hold a Breast Cancer Now Afternoon Tea for their friends and family. They'll bake, buy and brew. Raise money to get us close to the day when no one dies of breast cancer.

All you need to do is sign up on the "Hold An Afternoon Tea This August|Breast Cancer Now" website for your free fundraising kit. Invite your guests. And start changing the future.

Get Together at a Macmillan Coffee Morning

Each year the Macmillan Coffee Morning brings people from across the UK together to share delicious food and drink and to raise money to support people living with cancer. The official date is Friday 25 September, but you can host one at anytime that suits you.

For more information or to get a fundraising kit go to

<http://www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee-morning/>

or phone the Coffee Morning Team on 0330 102 7810.



Disasters Emergency Committee VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

DEC is made up of 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialise in different areas of disaster response. They come together to speak in one voice and make fundraising more efficient when an appeal is launched.



Two catastrophic earthquakes have hit Venezuela. Buildings were reduced to rubble in minutes. Now survivors urgently need support. DEC charities are responding and are appealing for donations which can be made:

Online : www.dec.org.uk

Phone : **0370 60 60 900**

Standard geographic charges from landlines and mobiles will apply.

Post : **DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal,
PO Box 999, London, EC3A 3AA.**

Cheques payable to

DEC VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you. For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingeramblers or visit www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.



August	Route	Distance in miles
Sunday 2nd	Shoreham to Lullingstone - a scenic climb along the ridge of the Darent Valley with far-reaching views as you head towards historic Lullingstone. Moderate difficulty.	7
Thursday 6th	Circular walk from Birling Church: climb up past Birling Place to the North Downs Way and walk on through Holly Hill Woods. Return via the North Downs Way with beautiful and extensive countryside views. Some steep slopes and one set of steep downhill steps. Moderate difficulty.	5.3
Sunday 16th	Gentle and leisurely circular walk along both sides of the Medway from Wateringbury via Tutsham Farm to East Farleigh and then back via Teston Country Park. One stile and a number of gates; mostly flat with a couple of inclines towards Tutsham Farm.	5.5
Wednesday 19th	Early evening circular walk from Wrotham followed by fish & chip supper at The Rose and Crown.	3.5 or 1.5
Sunday 23rd	Circular walk following the Wealdway from Camer Park towards Luddesdown Church through the vineyards of the Silverhand Estate and surrounding conservation area. Some slopes and a set of steep steps in the woodland. Moderate difficulty; six stiles.	6.2
Saturday 29th	Bourne Valley Circular Walk from Shipbourne Common, across the Fairlawne Estate and onto Borough Green via Yopps Green and Basted. Picnic lunch stop at Old Soars Manor. Return through orchards and via Dunks Green. A few stiles; moderate difficulty. No dogs please on this walk.	10
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).		



Medway Valley 16 August Walk

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