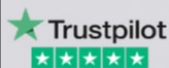


# THE VOICE

September 2025



**A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR BOROUGH GREEN  
PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.  
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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**

September 2025

Yesterday I found myself thinking about the pressures we experience in everyday life: everyday things like washing, cooking, cleaning that keep the home going smoothly - if they get done that is! And then the outside ones: work – for me church ministry and painting or the admin that goes with it! For others, it might be having work versus can't get a job or being unsatisfied in some way about the current one. Or family needs and expectations - that's a difficult one, as they may be different to mine, financial pressures and uncertainties about the future, health issues and just finding time to be with friends and chill out... It will all spring back into focus as we go into September. Holiday over, for those of us privileged to have one, children at school, and back to our everyday life as we generally know it.

How do we deal with all that? How do we manage other people's expectations when they differ from ours? How do we cope with the pressures we feel? It's easy to think when we feel under the cosh that nobody understands. In fact Jesus took time out of a busy ministry, went off with his disciples to pray and teach them, but the crowds followed. He hopped on a boat and crossed the Sea of Galilee with the twelve disciples to escape the crowds - ever felt like that? – and exhausted, he fell asleep on the way. There was a storm too on that crossing, which he calmed, and that terrified the disciples even more. What sort of person can do that?

So, Jesus knows what it is to be weary, under pressure, in need of comfort and rest. All because he often experienced opposition, misunderstanding, and eventually died at the hands of those who did not accept his ministry and teaching. There is much that we can do for ourselves, but this same Jesus invites us to come to Him and lay down our concerns at His feet. 'Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ... Learn from Me', he says in St Matthew's Gospel (Ch 12), 'and you will find rest for your souls'.

We need rest and peace for our minds, bodies and spirits in this unpredictable world. So, as the autumn speeds up again, I invite you to take a few minutes whenever you can, to stop, breathe deeply and commit the next hour, your day, your way to Christ and ask for His peace and guidance. He will be there for you and, if we can help in some way at the Good Shepherd, do get in touch.

*Elaine*  
Elaine Almond  
Licensed Lay Minister



## Contacting the Church of the Good Shepherd



In the absence of a Vicar:

The email [vicar.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.cogs@gmail.com) will still work but it may take a few days to get a response.

The telephone number 01732 882447 will now go to an answer machine, and the message may not be picked up immediately.

If you need to speak to someone from the church then contact one of the churchwardens – Julie (885437) or Carole (07542 442 140).

If you have an enquiry about a wedding, a baptism or a funeral contact the Area Dean, Chris Noble (01732 822494) or [rev.stmarysstansted@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stmarysstansted@gmail.com).

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

COGS website [www.cogsonline.co.uk](http://www.cogsonline.co.uk)

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### BURIAL OF ASHES

Vivian Muir

*We offer our condolences to all those recently bereaved.*

---

## Games, Tea & Chat



On alternative **Mondays** (for dates see diary section) at 2 - 4pm in the annexe to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Come and enjoy board games, tea and a chat. Plenty of room for new folk so, if you are wondering whether it's for you, do get in touch and ask for more information or just turn up at 2.00.

Contact Elaine Almond on 886440 or [etalmond@aol.com](mailto:etalmond@aol.com)

## Monday Minis Toddler Time

Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups. **Mondays 8 and 22 September** 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.



## Cinema at COGS



**Wednesday 17 September** 2pm in the Church of the Good Shepherd. Please check the Church's noticeboard for this month's presentation. All are welcome so come for an afternoon of free entertainment. Refreshments available during the interval.

# An Autumn Supper Quiz

A super night out!



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**Church of the Good Shepherd, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green**



**Ride and Stride for Kent Churches**  
**The Friends of Kent Churches**  
**Saturday 13 September 10am - 6pm**

The Kent Ride 'n' Stride is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year and so are hoping that 2025 will be a bumper year of fundraising for the Friends of Kent Churches. Help to raise funds for Kent churches in need of help with maintenance costs, whilst keeping fit and enjoying the local countryside! All cyclists and walkers welcome.

Sponsorship forms available from:

[www.kentrideandstride.co.uk](http://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk) or Church of the Good Shepherd or  
Julie Sweeting 01732 885437



**Saturday 18 October**

**u3a and Good Shepherd Craft Fair**

To be held in Church of the Good Shepherd 11 - 2pm.

Any interested stall holders please contact Carole on **01732 883073**



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# Notes from Borough Green Parish Council

The Council met at 7.00pm Tuesday 4th August 2025 at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:



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- **Recreation Ground Pavilion.** Our new Cllr Nikki Proto has been appointed as Project Manager because of her extensive construction industry background, in particular Building Regulations. She will be assisted by Chair Mike Taylor who has experience at the bricks and mortar level in local projects. Nikki's first recommendation was that we need a Disability Audit which has been contracted and will happen in the next couple of weeks. Whilst, as a culturally important existing building, we don't have to comply with DDA legislation, the PC felt it was important to make the building as accessible as possible for all residents. A new ramp will be constructed to the south of the Pavilion, the new doors planned will allow some disabled access right into the building, and modifications made to the toilets. Honeycomb Construction will commence a major refurbishment of the roof this year with a view to getting the building weather tight by winter. We will also be installing new matching handrails to ensure the whole veranda is as safe as possible.  
Bernie the Clerk is using his well honed skills seeking grant aid from various quarters, including local businesses, to support the cost of the refurbishment, including the internal work that will start next year.  
It is hoped that the renewed building will provide a venue for PC meetings, a space that is useable by the community voluntary enterprises and perhaps a chance for someone to set up a tea and ice cream café during the summer months to deal with the ever-growing number of families using the Recreation Ground.
- **Isles Quarry East.** Unbeknownst to us all, an enterprising group of youngsters have constructed an amazing mountain bike track in an inaccessible area of IQE. We have been extremely impressed with the quality of their work and the clean and tidy state of the area. Mr Tony Byrne has approached the PC with a view to regularising this enterprise and also providing a similar but less testing area for younger cyclists in another inaccessible area on a lower level. Both groups will be run as an informal club, the sole requirement being registration of a contact number for a parent in case of accidents. There will be a secure first aid box installed on site and a system put in place to dispose of the rubbish the users have been collecting. A licence will be signed formally this month. The PC was unanimous in praising the efforts of the young people and to Tony for the hard work he has already put in making access paths safe and clear. It will also give young people fresh air, exercise and adventure.
- **Conyerd Road** residents and the Parish Council have been working together to clear some of the undergrowth and ivy blocking pavements and sightlines at the Conyerd Rd junction with Quarry Hill Rd. There are a couple of trees that look in a precarious state, a danger to pedestrians and traffic. We have contacted Treeability, our arboreal consultants, to assess these trees and a decision will

*(Continued on page 11)*

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## Delivering the Voice



We are looking for some help to deliver this magazine each month in the village as a number of our current volunteers, who have been doing this for many years, are looking to wind down.



If you are willing to put your name forward to help with this, please contact Chris Atkins **01732 366615**.

### Advertising

Any commercial bodies or people offering services who wish to advertise should contact **Chris Atkins** email [chris.atkins1952@gmail.com](mailto:chris.atkins1952@gmail.com) or phone **01732 366615** about rates and availability of spaces.

If you have something you want to sell, a caravan or cottage you want to let for holidays etc then contact Margaret Jeffery. The cost of such personal notices are just £2 per issue.

The views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team cannot accept responsibility for wrong information received, or mistakes that occur in publication. The Editorial Team cannot accept responsibility for any delay in distribution. Publication of advertisements does not imply any form of recommendation. All articles in this magazine are covered by copyright and permission must be obtained before reproducing them in any format.

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

### Thanks

Thank you to the Borough Green Parish 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 village.

### 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 to the village.

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Tuesday 16 September** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **October** so if you have any events planned for that month and you would like them to appear in the diary section please send to :-

[m-jeffery@talktalk.net](mailto:m-jeffery@talktalk.net)  
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then be taken if they need to be made safe, and we are considering invoking our powers as an authorised agent of Kent Highways to tackle works on KCC or private land adjacent to the highway. The relevant landowners have been tracked down through Land Registry and will be notified.

- **Resilience Planning.** Cllr Sue Butterfill will be heading up the Parish Council's Resilience Planning, so we will have plans in place for civil emergencies such as flooding and snow, but also when we have water and power outages. There are always public spirited people who will step up when needed but we need a scheme in place to co-ordinate these efforts and a register of those essential volunteers.
- **Civil Enforcement Officers** have been very visible in the village in past weeks since we committed funds and joined this TMBC scheme. The CEOs have been visiting the High St, the village hall area, the station and the Recreation Ground and, as the system beds in, we will be getting monthly reports.
- **Skatepark.** A major refurbishment of the flatbank complex is nearing completion, part of our rolling upgrade. KAS Welding is the Joint Parishes contractor, and we are converting the worn and rotting ply surfaces to galvanised steel. It was heartening to see how well the steelwork on the internal frames has survived 20 years of hard use, the only maintenance needed was a quick wire brush in places and a lick of paint. What was particularly heartening to see was that James, working with Barry Cox of KAS Welding, was one of the Drop-in teenagers who back in 2004 helped plan, build and install the skatepark - now a grown-up family man in his own right.

It is worth recalling that we built a £120,000 skatepark for just £40,000 including the concrete base and fencing because of the voluntary work and generosity of young people and local tradesmen, a real triumph for our "DIY Village".

**The next Parish Council meeting** will be held on **Monday 1st September 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](mailto:mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk) 01732 882880

Clerk [clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk) 07568 536405

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

The **TMBC Community Development Grant scheme** offers grants of up to £2,500 to help community groups and charities deliver projects that improve the lives of our residents and enhance our borough. The scheme is part-funded through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

For more information go to

[www.tmbc.gov.uk/community-development-grant-scheme](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/community-development-grant-scheme)

or if you have any questions about the scheme

email [communitygrant@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrant@tmbc.gov.uk).

The closing dates for applications is **15 September.**





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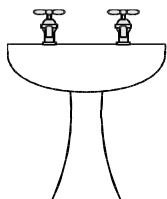


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We, like many businesses in the village, were victims of mindless graffiti last month. Initially unsure how to tackle the cleanup and expecting each property owner would bear their own costs, we were delighted to receive expert help from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. They provided both professional knowledge and equipment for which we are truly grateful. However even they acknowledged the job required specialist expertise and we were overwhelmed by the generosity of local company GB Ltd who removed the graffiti at the Village Hall free of charge as a goodwill gesture.

This incident gave us the perfect opportunity to repaint external doors and walls that were already due for refurbishment. We'd like to thank local decorator, Steve Wilson, who did an excellent job making the hall neat and tidy again.

Following our article in the Voice last month, we've been approached by several people offering services and advice on our ongoing temperature control and sound system challenges. It's wonderful to see such engagement from local businesses in our community.

We welcome anyone who would like to get involved with projects at the Village Hall or volunteer to support our day-to-day management. Whether you have specific skills to offer or simply want to help keep this vital community resource thriving, we'd love to hear from you.

Bryan Rawlins, Chairman

Email: [boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com) Phone: 01732 646040

Website: [www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk)



## Your Poppy Appeal Needs You!

After several years as Organiser I am now standing down and need someone to take up the reins. If any kind soul is interested please could you call me on **07973 520542** and I can explain what it entails.

Thank you, whoever you are. Margaret Vick



## Are you looking to volunteer

### as part of your Duke of Edinburgh award?

If you play a musical instrument and would like to volunteer with playing hymns at the 9.30am Mass on Sundays at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Western Road, please contact Margaret on

**01732 885295.** We would love to hear from you.



**1st Borough Green Guides** meet at Platt Scout Hut. The groups for younger girls are **1st St. Mary's Platt Rainbows** and **Brownies**. For more information and contact details go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)



**1st Borough Green Scout Group** meet at Potters Mede with a new Squirrels Group for 4 - 5 year olds starting. For more information and contact details go to <https://bgscouts.co.uk/>



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# The New Foodbank Store

The Church of the Good Shepherd is celebrating the completion of its new foodbank store - a project driven by compassion, collaboration and the urgent needs of our community. Built by a local builder and sited behind the church, we now have a fully functional resource offering support to individuals and families facing food insecurity. New lighting, power and stacks of useful shelving have made life a great deal easier to store, prepare and distribute supplies to those in our area that need a helping hand.

The project was a major undertaking made possible by the dedication of church members, volunteers and local supporters. Now that the doors are open, the benefits are already clear not just for those receiving help but also for the volunteers who keep the foodbank running.

If you would like to support our vital community work then any food contributions would be gratefully received; they can be left inside the porch of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Quarry Hill Road which is open during daylight hours. A regularly updated list of much needed or urgent items can also be found there.

Donations can be paid to: The Church of the Good Shepherd,

A/c: 81189883, Sort Code: 40-02-39 Ref: Foodbankstore

or a cheque made payable to 'Church of the Good Shepherd' (please write 'Food Bank Store' on the back of the cheque). All donations go into a Reserved Fund dedicated to the Food Bank. For any further information please email: [foodbank.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:foodbank.cogs@gmail.com)

In a time of rising need, this new foodbank stands as a beacon of hope, proof that when a community comes together, remarkable things can happen. Through small acts of giving we continue to build a stronger more caring community for all. Thank you for your support.



## **Saturday Open House**

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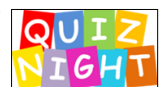
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Hello Weekend!

# Events in the Village for the month of September

- 1 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**  
BG Parish Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- 2 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15  
Ightham Gardeners' Club - Autumn Show - Ightham Village Hall
- 4 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
- 5 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 6 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 7 SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
**COGS - All-Age Worship - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30  
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
- 8 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**  
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00  
BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30
- 9 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 10 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 11 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
- 12 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
- 13 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**  
**Ride and Stride - COGS**
- 14 SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 15 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
- 16 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 17 **COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00**
- 18 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
- 19 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 20 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**  
**COGS - Autumn Supper Quiz - 7.00**



- 21 COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**  
 SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
 BGBC - Service - 10.30  
 Platt Church - Organ Recital - 4.30
- 22 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00**  
**Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 23 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**
- 25 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  
 Macmillan Coffee Morning - Stephen Gay, 9 Western Road - 10.30 to 1.00  
 BGVH - Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Sale - 2.00 to 4.00
- 26 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00**  
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 27 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**  
 Wrotham Music Festival - St George's Church - see page 18
- 28 SJCC - Mass - 9.30**  
**COGS - Worship and Children's Church - 10.00**  
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 29 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00**  
**Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
- 30 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**



**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

## **IGHTHAM & DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB**

Ightham Village Hall

### ***AUTUMN EVENING SHOW***

FLOWERS, FRUIT & VEGETABLES

DOMESTIC & FLORAL CLASSES

**TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER**

**Staging for Exhibitors from 6 to 7pm**

**Judging commences at 7pm**

**Doors open for viewing classes at 8.15pm**

*(VARIETY OF CLASSES, ALL OPEN to NON MEMBERS)*

**COME ALONG AND HAVE A GO AND HAVE SOME FUN**

**For further information or a show schedule contact**

**Pippa Coulthard – 0776 198 3800 or Dee Samways – 0779 900 2129**

## BOROUGH GREEN LIBRARY

The library is open – with a wide range of services, from free access to books, computers, WiFi and information on the hire of music, audio books and films.

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 10.00 - 12.00 need to book an appointment

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

**We look forward to seeing you.**



**DIGITAL  
KENT**

is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities.

The next events are on **Fridays 5 September** and **3 October** at  
11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit

[www.digitalkent.uk](http://www.digitalkent.uk) or call 0300 0410950.

The next clinic for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing  
people is on **Friday 26 September** 2.30 to 3.30.



**Hi Kent**

No appointment needed. Drop in and wait your turn.



### Events – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

For details of all forthcoming events go to

[www.tmbc.gov.uk/events](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/events).

#### **Saturday 7 September - Dragon boat race**

All proceeds from Tonbridge Lion's dragon boat race will be donated to local charities and good causes. The event will take place at the Watergate (Big Bridge) Tonbridge High Street with teams of up to 16 people competing in the heats over distances of around 250m from 9.30am to 3.00pm followed by the grand final.



### **Wrotham Music Festival**

Details, including on tickets, can be found at

[www.wrothammusicfestival.com](http://www.wrothammusicfestival.com)

**Saturday 27 September 7pm** St George's Church

**Dan Clews** - California Dreams (Music from the 60s and 70s)



## YOUR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Your Village Hall is packed with activities throughout the week offering something for every age and interest to the community.

### Weekly Schedule

**Monday: Badminton, Pilates**

**Tuesday: Mother and Toddler Fitness, Boxercise, Jazz**

**Wednesday: Badminton, Slimming World, Children's Art School**

**Thursday: Pilates, Zumba, Lunch Club, Musical Theatre, Adult Ballet**

**Friday: Lunch Club, Adult and Child Tap**

**Saturday: Children's Ballet and Tap**

### Get Involved

From fitness and dance to social groups and creative classes, the Village Hall brings our community together. Whether you're looking to stay active, learn something new, meet neighbours or celebrate special occasions, we have the perfect space and activity for you.

### Additional Benefits:

**FREE PARKING FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

Your hall is available for hire, book your perfect celebration space today!

Contact David

Tel: **01732 646040** Email [booking@boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:booking@boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk) or see our website or notice boards for more information  
[www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk)

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## Wrotham Historical Society

**Friday 12 September**

**The History of the Wrotham Radio Mast**  
A talk by Paul Mellers

7.45pm Wrotham Village Hall

All visitors welcome - £5



# ORGANISING A GET TOGETHER OR CELEBRATION?

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## Kent County Council Consultations



**KCC Budget Consultation 2026-27.** Over 80% of the Council's day-to-day spending is on six service areas: care and support for vulnerable adults, care and preventative services for vulnerable and disabled children, older persons social care, public transport services, waste recycling and disposal, management and maintenance of Kent's highways. Faced with a projected funding gap of £50m (on annual spending of £2.6billion) KCC are seeking views on how comfortable residents would be with reductions in spending across different service areas, their suggestions for how to make further savings and increase income, and their views on Council Tax options. To take part in the consultation go to

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2026-27>

The consultation closes on **29 September**.

### **Kent and Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy for 2026 – 2030.**

The vision for reducing local suicide and self-harm rates has been developed by Kent and Medway's Suicide Prevention Programme working together with over 250 partners from suicide and self-harm networks. To take part in the consultation go to [www.kent.gov.uk/suicideprevention](http://www.kent.gov.uk/suicideprevention).

The consultation closes on **6 October**.

If you require information or material on either of the consultations in an alternative format or language please email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or phone 03000 421553.

## **Borough Green & Wrotham u3a**



This is just a reminder that Borough Green and Wrotham u3a monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2pm in Borough Green Village Hall, with tea, coffee, and biscuits. Parking/disabled access available.

On Monday **8 September** at 2 pm we will be holding our (very short) AGM, followed by a talk by Jane Scotchmer, gardener and historian, "The Curious Tale of the Surrealist Gentleman". Jane's talk will take us through the lens of Edward James, an eccentric English aristocrat, writer and artist. He inherited a huge estate in Sussex and used his wealth to support famous artists and joined in a shocking society (to be revealed)? He also created a magical surrealist garden (now a worldwide famous UNESCO site). Join us to learn of his hilarious antics in creating it all. A most informative and interesting talk, so don't miss it.

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

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



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## Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

As we approach the start of the next academic year in September I, like every other parent, am preparing to send my children back to school after the long summer holidays. The next long break won't be until Christmas, of course. It will be here before we know it.

It means we are at the time of year in which I start accepting nominations for my annual Christmas card competition. Each year I meet thousands of people across Tonbridge, Edenbridge and North Downs villages, as well as people in Parliament and abroad too. I always try and send as many Christmas cards as I possibly can. Given the creativity and imagination I see from children in our area every time I visit a school, each year I invite entries to design the front cover of my Christmas card from children in our area. If you have any children, grandchildren, friends or relatives who have a talent for art and would like to apply, I would like to hear from you.

Drawings must be A4, portrait or landscape. It would be great to have a Christmas theme. The winning design and three highly commended entries will also receive 100 blank copies of their own card and I will invite them to meet me and have a tour of the Houses of Parliament with their parents.

The deadline for entries is the end of October, so the cards can be printed, signed and posted to arrive before 25 December. Please do post entries to my office at 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP. If you have any questions please call 01732 441563 or e-mail me on [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk).

## St Mary's Platt Scarecrow Trail

**Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> – Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> September**

People in the village have been working hard on their scarecrows and welcome you to come and spot as many as you can and vote for your favourite!

Hunters will find a voting box in the Platt church, where you'll find a prize for your hard work!

The scarecrows with the most votes will be winning prizes, kindly donated by local businesses.

Why not stop at The Blue Anchor for refreshments on your way round?

Head to Reuthe's, on the A25 to see their Scarecrows!

Maps will be available to purchase from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September from **The Blue Anchor Pub, Reuthe's and Shakti News** for only £2.

All proceeds go to St Mary the Virgin Church, Platt.



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## Hello Organ!

St Mary's Platt Church  
**21st September 2025 16:30**



Come and enjoy organ and piano  
performance and musical talk given by  
the Director of Music of Lingfield parish  
church St Peter and St Paul, Sara  
Skyrme, formerly the organist of St  
Mary's Platt,

Whether you know anything about church  
organs or not, come and find out!  
All welcome. Free of charge but there will  
be a voluntary retiring collection towards  
the church funds

## It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Place: Stephen P. Gay, 9 Western Road

Date: Thursday 25th September 2025

Time: 10.30am - 1.00pm

Contact: Sharon at the branch

01732 780222  
[b.green@stephenpgay.co.uk](mailto:b.green@stephenpgay.co.uk)

I look forward to greeting  
you with a cuppa and cake.

**MACMILLAN**  
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## Submission to Kent Friends of Trees Quarry Hill Planter



The original Coronation Oak was planted in 1911 to (belatedly) commemorate the Coronation of King George V. Because the tree was on the brow of the hill, on sandy soil and surrounded by tarmac, it dried out and eventually died in 2015, and KCC were forced to fell the tree as a



*Coronation Oak 2005*

*Coronation Oak 1965* was severely damaged in places. A section of the Oak trunk was sawn into planks and has been used for commemorative benches around the village. Acorns had been potted up so the Oak lives on at Potters Mede.

The Parish Council sought advice from KMOTT, KCC and our own tree specialist about species that were more tolerant to water shortage. A shortlist of 10 species were given to us, we consulted the village and the resulting choice was an Acer Palmatum and its red foliage really stands out.

A new planter was built using local Kent Ragstone, incorporating a historic AA marker sign from the old planter, and a piece of ragstone commemorating the Rock public house. The Rock PH (1841 - 1992) was famous because when it was built there was a lump of ragstone too big to remove, so they just built the front wall up and over it, and it became a feature both outside and inside in the public bar.

Mike Taylor  
Borough Green Parish Council



*The Rock PH Commemorative  
Plaque & Stone*



*Historic AA Badge*



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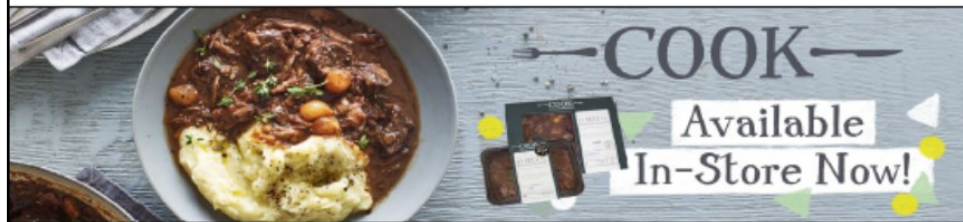
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Dear Residents

### **Trackers**

Officers were able to locate property that was stolen during a recent burglary by utilising a tracker that the owner had strategically placed within. This allowed us to find and return their possession. The discovery was made when the owner of the property, which was an expensive set of golf clubs on this occasion, guided officers whilst tracking them on his mobile phone.

Here is a breakdown of why trackers are so popular and valuable:

#### **1. Finding Lost Items**

- Track your essentials such as keys, wallets, bags, or even slip them into luggage. If you misplace something, the tracker helps you locate it quickly.
- Using a Phone App: Both AirTag and Tile have companion apps that show the last known location of the item on a map.

#### **2. Preventing Loss**

- Separation Alerts: Some models (like Tile Pro or Apple AirTag with certain iOS settings) notify you if you leave an item behind, like your backpack at a coffee shop.

#### **3. Community Finding Networks**

- Apple AirTag: Uses the massive Find My network of Apple devices around the world. If someone else's iPhone is near your AirTag, it can update its location anonymously and securely.
- Tile Network: Works similarly, but with a smaller network unless you are in a densely populated area.

#### **4. Travel Convenience**

- Luggage Tracking: You can check if your bag made it onto the plane or is stuck at the airport.
- Peace of Mind: Especially useful in crowded places or during international travel.

#### **5. Pet and Kid Safety (With Caveats)**

- Pets: Attach to a pet's collar to help find them if they wander off.
- Kids: Some parents use them to keep tabs on young children in public spaces (though they're not substitutes for GPS trackers with real-time updates).

#### **6. Anti-Theft Use**

- You can hide a tracker in valuable items (like bikes or cars) to help recover them if stolen.

I encourage residents to consider placing trackers in belongings such as wallets, vehicles and other high value items.

Dylan McElligott  
(Kent Police, Police Constable, Tonbridge Neighbourhood Beat PC)

# SMALL NOTICES



## Slimming World Group

Wednesdays 3 and 10 September  
only

5.30pm and 7pm

at Borough Green Village Hall.

Phone Anita on **07725 484 361**



## Clock Kent

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## Hall bookings

### Parish Hall - Quarry Hill

Alan Williams 07436 115 425

### Village Hall

David Peirce

[www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk)

01732 646040

### Potters Mede

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

## Defibrillator Locations

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



## 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 26 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.



## SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER at THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD PRIORY

From 10am choose a 3 mile (£10 per adult and £8 per child) or 7.5 mile (£15 per adult and £10 per child) Heli Hike route raising vital funds to keep your local air ambulance flying.



From 11am meet our crew and see our helicopters up close, lifesaving demos, live music, delicious street food, funfair rides and our Mini Medic Mission for young adventurers (at extra charge). Tickets £2.50 each and under twos go free.

For more information and to book tickets go to  
[www.aakss.org.uk/get-involved/events/our-events/](http://www.aakss.org.uk/get-involved/events/our-events/)



## Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Shop in Borough Green High Street

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

Look out for flash sales at the village hall.

The next one will be on **Thursday 25 September** from 2.00 to 4.00 with most items for sale at just £1.



Wrotham Cricket Ground  
**Saturday 25 October 5.30 to 9pm**  
Bonfire: 6.30pm Fireworks: 7.15pm

This is a charity event with all proceeds donated to local causes.  
Information on tickets will be at [www.wrothamfireworks.com](http://www.wrothamfireworks.com).

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingeramblers)  
or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk).

September	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 4th	Penshurst Loop winding through the tranquil valleys of the Medway and Eden rivers, via the village of Penshurst and classic Kentish scenery. Gentle terrain; one stile; moderate difficulty.	5
Sunday 7th	Markbeech meander - an undulating walk through woods and fields with views across the Weald. About six stiles; moderate difficulty.	4.5
Thursday 11th	Circular walk from West Peckham to Plaxtol across farmland, ancient walkways, orchards and woods. Good tracks and quiet lanes. No stiles. One steep, gradual incline; moderate difficulty.	5.2
Thursday 18th	Hosts of Oasts around Hunton - a leisurely flat walk on fields, tracks and quiet roads, with hill views. A few stiles. Features include orchards, rivers, lakes, pond, oast houses and a waterwheel. A lovely Kent countryside walk.	5 or 3.5
Sunday 21st	Camer Park and Luddesdown - circular walk into the vineyards of the Silverhand Estate conservation area and on to Luddesdown Church. Return through fields and woodland. Some steep ascents and descents; moderate difficulty.	6.2
Sunday 28th	Westerham wander - circular walk over the hills from Westerham to Chartwell with good views of the North Downs on the return. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
<p>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).</p>		



Luddesdown vineyards, 21 September walk

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