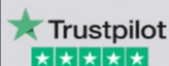


THE VOICE

September 2026



A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR BOROUGH GREEN
PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND
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WITH THANKS TO ALL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (see page 9).



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Do You Like to Read?

As a child, I visited our library every week to change my books. I looked forward to discovering new stories, visiting imaginary places and meeting new characters. I was introduced to fiction, biographies, motivational books, non-fiction and Christian writing. Books opened up a whole new world to me.

It has always surprised me that not everyone enjoys reading. Today, we are fortunate to have so many ways to access stories and information. We can listen to audiobooks and podcasts, or watch films and documentaries. Many people, young and old, choose these instead of reading.

I admit I am sad that my own children are not avid readers like me. Why? Perhaps because I feel they are missing out on something wonderful. We have inherited an extraordinary gift, through the written word and the invention of the printing press, which has enabled generations of creative and talented people to share stories, knowledge and ideas. But then I read my Bible and am reminded that Jesus told stories.

People travelled miles to sit and listen to Him. He used simple, familiar stories about farmers, shepherds, families and neighbours to help people understand God's message. His listeners remembered those stories and retold them to others. Eventually, many were written down for us to read today.

Perhaps storytelling is not a backward step for our younger generation. Perhaps it is a reminder of something very human and very valuable.

Listening, remembering and retelling require us to engage with one another. Stories can create connections between generations and pass wisdom from one person to another.

As the holidays end and September brings us back to our familiar routines, perhaps we could make time not only to read but to tell stories too. Tell a child about your childhood. Ask a grandparent to share a memory. Tell the stories of our faith.

Jesus knew the power of a story.

Perhaps we should rediscover it too.

Carole Simpson
Churchwarden



BACK FROM SEPTEMBER

Monday Minis Toddler Time

Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups. **Mondays 14 and 28 September** 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.



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

Children's Church

10am in the Church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month in term time. A chance for the younger members of our church family to learn of God's love and to explore bible stories through crafts, play and imagination.



Cinema at COGS



Wednesday 16 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.



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

The church will be open from 10am - 6pm for riders and striders to sign in. Sponsor forms are available in the church or by visiting the Ride&Stride website: www.kentrideandstride.co.uk

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.



An Autumn Supper Quiz

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Saturday 12 September
7.00pm start



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

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October 31st

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(5, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green)

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E: jmllimited@aol.com

Notes from Borough Green Town Council

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 3rd August 2026 at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:



ESTABLISHED
APRIL 1934

- **FIRE HAZARD - ONGOING DROUGHT.** If you see smoke call the Fire Brigade immediately, do not stop to check, do not stop and try to put it out yourself.
- **TMBC Local Plan.** TMBC Planning Officers are still trying to reduce the role of the Borough Green Garden City Relief Road by trying to make it an "aspiration" rather than an approved policy. The Relief Road **has** to be in place before any development or our villages will suffer 15 years of construction traffic on top of the current excessive traffic levels. This fight has only just started.
- **Democracy in Planning.** It has long been a right for you to ask local TMBC members to "call-in" a planning application to be heard by a committee and that gives local people a voice in the planning process. The Government has changed the rules completely and very few applications will go to a committee, and those that do will be allocated by officers. And in a final insult any application for more than 150 houses that is refused will automatically go to the Secretary of State for decision.
- **Planning Enforcement.** Our Council has had two spurious Enforcement Actions taken against us by TMBC officers - we believe an attempt to get us to toe the line. The second one has finally been dropped after two years when I sent them a birthday card - no, we do not take it seriously. But there is a serious side to Planning Enforcement that is being allowed to slip. You will recall the encroachment by a haulage company on to a greenbelt AONB field, a vast mansion built near Potters Mede without planning permission, the monstrosity that has been made of the Royal Oak pub at Wrotham Heath, the continuous breaches of planning conditions at a sandpit in Platt. These are issues where Enforcement is needed and has not happened.
- **Local Government Reorganisation.** We now know that we will become the West Kent Unitary Authority in combination with our neighbours in Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone (see page 13). This is trumpeted by Government as "localism" and giving us greater control over our local issues, but in fact will mean fewer local councillors covering much wider areas and even the best will struggle to develop the local knowledge we have of the patch we live in. But it is the timing of it all - global economic problems hitting us all hard, climate change starting to bite with catastrophic water shortages. And don't forget the vast cost of this exercise. The Government has more important things to do than shuffle the electoral deck chairs.
- **Recreation Ground.** Repairs are programmed for the kiddies' swings, the entry gate and the basketball backboards. We are also obtaining quotes to upgrade the tennis courts.
- **Village Hall Parking Fines.** The Council gets continuous complaints about parking fines in the VH car park. This venue and its parking have nothing to do with the Council. Please contact the village hall committee at bookings@boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk or call 01732 646040.

(Continued on page 11)

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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 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 15 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
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The next Borough Green Council meeting will be held on **Monday 14th September 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 \(boroughgreen.gov.uk\)](http://mysite.boroughgreen.gov.uk)



Borough Green Lunch Club

The club runs from 10.00 until 1.00 on both Thursday and Friday in the village hall, providing friendship, fun and food. New attendees very welcome. We are able to provide transport if mobility is a problem.

For further information contact Pauline on 07503 156 713.



The **tennis courts** in BG Recreation Ground are for hire with keys available from NISA at £4 per hour per court.



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Fri. 11th Sept. 19.00 for 19.30 start: Church of the Good Shepherd, Borough Green

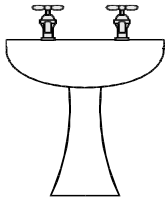
Sat. 12th Sept. 19.00 for 19.30 start: St Mary's Platt Church

Tickets £10, will be available in **Shakti News, High St, Borough Green** and on **TicketSource: www.ticketsource.com/bgpp2026**

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Local Government Reorganisation

(TMBC press release issued on 16 July)

Government ministers have decided Kent and Medway will be served by four councils from April 2028, in the biggest shake up of local authority arrangements in 50 years.

The Government is replacing Kent County Council, Medway Council and the 12 district, borough and city councils that currently deliver services in the county with four new unitary councils. Those councils will deliver all the services in their area, much like Medway Council does today, including education, social services, highways, libraries, emptying bins, leisure centres and housing services.

Following a Government consultation which attracted around 3,000 responses, the Secretary of State has opted for 4b:

- A unitary council covering the areas currently served by Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in the west.
- A unitary council covering Dartford, Gravesham and Medway in the north.
- A unitary council covering Swale, Ashford and Folkestone and Hythe in the centre of Kent.
- A unitary council covering Canterbury, Thanet and Dover in the east.

Leader of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Matt Boughton, says: "We welcome ministers' decision to move forward with a four unitary council model for Kent and Medway. Throughout this process, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has consistently supported an approach based on strong independent evidence that offers the best balance of high-quality, cost-effective services and alignment with local communities. We will now continue to work constructively with partners to ensure a smooth transition and the best possible outcomes for our residents."

In a statement, Kent and Medway's council leaders said: "We want to reassure our residents that not one of our services will change overnight – you will still be dealing with the same council staff tomorrow and the day after that. The new councils will come into effect from 1 April 2028. All of the councils in Kent and Medway have a long history of working closely together to do the very best for the people we serve and that will not change one bit. This is the start of the process of bringing our different teams together with the aim of designing then delivering the best possible services for the people we serve. Of course, this change affects the thousands of council staff across the county who work incredibly hard day in and day out. Our focus will be supporting them through this change while helping them to carry on delivering our business-as-usual services seamlessly. There is a lot of work to do but we will make sure we take every opportunity to make our services the very best they can be."



Traditionally August does tend to be a quieter month for the hall and it gives us an opportunity to push forward with our general maintenance and long-term projects.

We are pleased that the refurbishment of the ladies toilet facilities is completed with added benefit of having a separate disabled toilet fit for purpose for all our users. We are taking the opportunity of having all our floors deep cleaned and have authorised the work of installing the much-needed air conditioning units and heat pump system.

We recently commissioned a full asbestos report which, after removing one lagged pipe in the loft, will give us a certificate confirming that we are free of any asbestos.

The car park continues to be problematic and we consistently receive complaints from hirers and their attendees that they are unable to park when using it. The village hall is a private car park owned and maintained by the hirers and its trustees on their behalf. However, the lack of adequate alternative public car parking means that our car park is full. We fully appreciate the frustrations that our hirers face. We have tried to find a solution by charging for non-hirers while making it free for anyone using the hall.

We would like to point out that any money raised by the car parking charges goes into a fund for its maintenance and improvements, while any fines collected are taken by the operators to cover their costs in managing it. We receive no other income for looking after this facility either from the Council or from local businesses.

The problem is common to all car parks in that they were not designed for the number and size of the vehicles used today. We are therefore considering ways of improving things by recreating better footpaths, remarking fewer but wider spaces and restricting the size and height of commercial vehicles.

We do realise that car parking is an ongoing problem which can only be solved through more public car parking areas in the village.

We will continue to manage the hall and its car park in the best interest of the community who use it.

Bryan Rawlins – Chairman

Email: boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com

Website: www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

Church of the Good Shepherd Food Bank

Thanks to your continuing generosity we have been able to support many local families in need.

Donations of non-perishable goods may be left in the Church's porch
(where there is a list of the items we need most) on any day
- the Church is usually open 10am - 5pm.



Thank you

For any enquiries regarding our Food Bank please contact

Ian Simpson on **07801 135 460** or

foodbank.cogs@gmail.com

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Ruby Elizabeth Ellen Swaisland



Thanks

Martin Edwards, who was part of our Borough Green community for 60 years, sadly passed away on 3 July 2026 at the age of 89. Our thanks to all of his friends for their kind messages of condolence.

I would like to thank KCC and whoever prompted them to carry out repairs to footpath MR407 between Rock Road and Staleys Acre. This stretch of the footpath had been known in my family as "the rocky road to Dublin" and due to the tree roots has made it difficult to navigate if, like myself, you travel by buggy or are able bodied and have to negotiate the many trip factors involved! All is now smooth with tree roots dealt with and tarmac laid.

Thank you. Sue Murray

Our 120 Acts of Kindness Tree

**Celebrating 120 Years of God's Faithfulness
In the Church of the Good Shepherd**

UPDATE



The Kindness Tree in the Church Annexe is growing beautifully. It now carries 82 leaves, each one a small story of compassion shared within our church and neighbourhood. Seeing the Tree fill out like this is a real encouragement and we're steadily making our way toward our goal of 120 leaves.

You're warmly invited to help keep the Tree growing. Blank leaves are available in the Annexe and in the side porch. Whenever you've offered a moment of kindness - a listening ear, a helping hand, a word of encouragement - write it on a leaf and place it on the Tree. These simple acts, gathered together, show the quiet strength of our community.

Feel free to take extra leaves or flyers to share with neighbours, friends and family. If you come by when the Annexe is closed, completed leaves can be left in the basket in the side porch, and they'll be added during the week.

Let's continue tending this gentle, hopeful project - one leaf at a time. Thank you for helping our community grow in generosity and care.

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



Events in the community for the month of September

- 1 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 3 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
- 4 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 5 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
Wrotham Music Festival (see opposite page)
- 6 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - All-Age Worship - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
- 7 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
- 8 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 10 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
- 11 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
COGS - Borough Green and Platt Players - Murder Mystery Evening - 7.00
Wrotham Historical Society - 7.45 - Wrotham Village Hall
- 12 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
Ride and Stride - COGS - 10.00 to 6.00
Platt Church - Borough Green and Platt Players - Murder Mystery Evening - 7.00
COGS - Supper Quiz - 7.00
- 13 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion with Canon June Lawson and Children's Church - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 14 **Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30
BG Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- 15 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 16 **COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00**
- 17 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



- 18 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 19 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 20 **COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**
SJCC - Mass - 9.30
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 21 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
- 22 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 23 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 24 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
- 25 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 26 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
BG Primary School Community Day - 2.00 to 4.00
- 27 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Morning Worship and Children's Church - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 28 **Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
- 29 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



12noon - 8pm Saturday 5 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, Phunky Monkeyz, 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.

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Wrotham Historical Society



**Friday 11 September
7.45pm
Wrotham Village Hall**

Archaeology in Practice at
Wrotham School
by Fred Birkbeck



All visitors welcome - £5

Last year, Borough Green Primary School held a series of **Community Days**, bringing together parents, carers, teachers and school staff to lend a helping hand and make a difference around our school grounds.

Together, we cleared and refreshed the wildflower garden, carried out further work in our nature area, painted the entrance posts, jet-washed areas around the school and installed cabling. It was a great opportunity to work together, meet other members of the school community and take pride in our shared environment.

This year, we'd like to extend the invitation to the wider community!

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, neighbour, former pupil or simply someone who would like to lend a hand, we'd love for you to join us.

Our Community Days for the coming year are:

- **Saturday 26 September - 2 - 4pm** – Agenda to be confirmed
- **Friday 20 November - 4 - 6pm** – Christmas Fair tidy-up and preparation
- **Saturday 6 March - 2 - 4pm** – Planting and weeding
- **Saturday 8 May - 2 - 4pm** – Agenda to be confirmed
- **Saturday 3 July - 2 - 4pm** – Tidy-up and end-of-year preparations

You don't need to be an expert gardener or DIY enthusiast - just bring yourself, a willingness to help and, if you have them, any suitable gardening or DIY tools.

Tea, biscuits and a warm welcome will be provided!

We look forward to seeing members of our local community and working together to make Borough Green Primary School an even better place for our children.



Borough Green & Wrotham u3a invite you to

An audience with King Henry VIII



aka professional actor and raconteur Tony Harris - on **Monday**

14 September at 2 pm in Borough Green Village Hall. For two years Tony lived and worked at Hampton Court Palace and played Henry VIII every other day for the benefit of more than half a million tourists, and will present an engaging, humorous and historically accurate portrayal of the monarch.

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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Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Updates



Nominate your local borough heroes. The search is on for the borough's community champions as nominations open for this year's Tonbridge and Malling Community Awards Scheme. The Community Awards Scheme from TMBC returns to recognise individuals, groups and organisations who go above and beyond to make a positive impact in their local area. From tireless volunteers to inspiring young leaders, the awards will celebrate outstanding contributions to community life, volunteering, and local service. Whether it's a neighbour or young person who always lends a hand, or a group making a real impact. Residents are encouraged to nominate those who make a difference.

Award categories are a) individual volunteers of the year, b) young community champion (aged 17 and under), c) outstanding community group, d) environmental contribution award and e) community safety award. Nominations are open to all residents of the borough, closing **1 October**. To nominate someone complete the online nomination form at www.tmbc.gov.uk/communityawards.

Gold Award for support to Armed Forces community. TMBC has received the Gold Award under the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme, the highest level of recognition for organisations supporting the Armed Forces community. The gold award recognises employers who actively support armed forces communities, promote an armed forces-friendly workplace and value the skills of ex-service personnel. We are committed to building on this achievement.

Fridge and freezer collections. Following a decision by Kent County Council all Kent councils have been asked to temporarily stop collecting fridges and freezers because of a national shortage in specialist treatment capacity. As a result we are currently unable to accept bookings for these items as part of our bulky waste collection service.

Household Waste Recycling Centres remain open and continue to accept fridges and freezers, although residents are asked to delay disposal where safe and practical. If you are buying a replacement appliance, please also ask the supplier to take your old one away.

Green Business Grants. Independent businesses in Tonbridge and Malling can register interest now for our upcoming Green Business Grant Scheme launching in September which supports carbon-reducing improvements to commercial premises. Register by emailing - economic.regeneration@tmbc.gov.uk.



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Edenbridge Ageing Well Clinic

The Ageing Well Clinic, which is based at Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre and run by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, is a client centred service that enables people to age well through an innovative proactive approach, with a focus on prevention and what matters to you.

We offer a 'one stop' non urgent appointment lasting up to ninety minutes with holistic assessments from a team of specialist nurses, an occupational therapist or physiotherapist and therapy assistants, to support your health, mobility, independence and wellbeing.

The service is designed for people who are pre-frail or living with frailty, to manage, live well in their own homes and plan for their future.

If you are over the age of 65 and registered with a West Kent GP you can request a referral with your GP, contact us directly or follow a link on our website.

The Ageing Well Clinic also offers a series of talks during the year covering several topics, such as managing stress and falls prevention, a six-week strength & balance class and events which in September will include Digital Awareness on Tuesday 15 September between 2pm and 4pm. This event is ideal for anyone who may be finding it a challenge navigating NHS apps, accessing information such as appointments or documents, arranging GP appointments online, QR codes and car parking apps. There will be a presentation from Kent Police on how to avoid scamming, fraudulent activities and how to stay safe online, followed by information from Compaid who can support with one-to-one sessions locally and an update on the new changes from BT to digital in 2027. There will also be an opportunity to talk to the Edenbridge Citizens Advice Bureau team, Sevenoaks Libraries, the Sevenoaks Hero Service, Talking Therapies NHS and Ageing Well.

For further information on any of the above and to register your attendance at the Digital event please contact the Ageing Well Clinic, either by telephone or email.

Ageing Well Clinic

Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge, TN8 6FY.

Tel: 0300 013 2191 – please leave a message for a call back

Email: kentchft.ageingwellemhc@nhs.net

www.kentchft.nhs.uk/service/ageing-well/



Tonbridge and Malling health walks are free, fun and friendly, perfect to help you get active, meet new people and improve mental health and wellbeing.

The Platt walk leaves from St Mary's Church steps at 10am on Mondays. To attend a walk just come along 10 minutes before the starting time of the walk (no booking necessary). Outdoor clothing and footwear is advisable. The walk (may include hills) lasts for 60-90 minutes. Refreshments are served in the Church afterwards.



ORGANISING A GET TOGETHER OR CELEBRATION?

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Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

We have enjoyed some wonderful summer weather over the past month, but the prolonged dry conditions have also brought serious challenges for communities across Tonbridge and the surrounding villages.

Low water levels in reservoirs have contributed to supply problems with some residents experiencing shortages and, in the worst cases, losing their water supply altogether. I know how disruptive and worrying this has been for households affected.

During the outages, I spent weekends speaking with South East Water and SES Water, helping to organise bottled water stations and joining the fantastic teams distributing supplies to residents. I am enormously grateful to everyone who stepped up to help neighbours and vulnerable members of our community.

There is no quick fix. I have been in constant contact with South East Water Chief Executive, John Halsall, including meeting him in Parliament and recently at Beech Reservoir in Mereworth, to press for action. We need greater resilience in our water network so that periods of hot, dry weather do not cause the disruption we have experienced this summer.

This also highlights a much wider issue. Our local infrastructure is already struggling to cope. Asking communities to accommodate significant new housing without first ensuring we have the water, roads, schools and health services to support it is simply unsustainable. That is why I continue to oppose the Government's housing targets and campaign to Halt the Houses which you can become a part of at www.haltthehouses.com

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

01732 441563 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

Social Media - @tomtugendhat

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 - 12 need to book an appointment

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.



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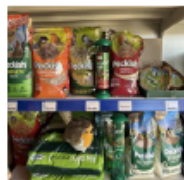
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Find Friends, Fitness and Fun Through Tennis

Trottiscliffe Tennis Club offers all the above in the beautiful Kent countryside in Trottiscliffe village, close to Borough Green.

A warm welcome awaits members and non-members of all ages and abilities. Relaxed social sessions make it easy to meet people, while LTA accredited coaches provide a supportive pathway, whether you are a complete beginner or a more experienced player. Courts are open until 9.30pm and the floodlights and all-weather surfaces means tennis can be enjoyed throughout the year.



So, as summer draws to a close, if you are looking for a new hobby, a healthier lifestyle or simply a friendly community to become part of, there has never been a better time to give tennis a try.

Please visit the website to find out more: www.trottiscliffetennis.org.uk

Friends of St George's Church

Wrotham Church 7.30 Saturday 10 October

THE BIG BAND CONCERT



TICKETS (in advance): £15

Online: <https://givealittle.co/bigbandconcert101026>

At the Church: Tuesday & Sunday mornings and on the door

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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Alan Williams 07436 115 425

Village Hall

David Peirce

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

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Potters Mede

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

Defibrillator Locations

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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.



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.



SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER at THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD PRIORY

From 9am choose a 3 mile, 7.5 mile or 10 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/



Scan to sign up or
find out more.



Do you enjoy crochet or knitting?

Would you like to support your local baby loss charity and meet new friends?

9 October (10 to 1) St Luke's Church, Sevenoaks TN13 1XT

Contact Sarah Rogers lukesevenoaks.office@gmail.com 07989 622 220

10 October (10 to 1) Rochester Cathedral, ME1 1SX

Contact Jody Deamer jody@makingmiracles.org.uk 07784 287 749

If you answered yes to the above then please join us at one of our knitting events, The Big Knit.

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.



September	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 3rd	Kent's Hidden Valleys - step back in time with a ramble from Penshurst through the secret valleys of the Medway and Eden rivers. Moderate difficulty; a few short inclines and a few stiles.	5.5
Sunday 6th	A leisurely walk from Tudeley Hale across fields to Hartlake Bridge where we join the River Medway towpath to Tonbridge, passing Porter's Lock and Eldridge's Lock. Return via The Postern along quiet lanes and through orchards. Mostly flat; no stiles.	6
Thursday 10th	Coldrum Trail from Trosley Country Park - circular walk along the North Downs Way and across the Pilgrims Way, passing Coldrum Long Barrow, an early Neolithic burial site from around 4000 BC. One steep climb; set of downward steep steps; moderate difficulty.	6.2
Sunday 13th	Godden Green circular walk from the Bucks Head pub through woods, fields and quiet lanes. Moderate difficulty; six stiles.	4
Thursday 17th	Circular walk from Kemsing up onto the North Downs with great views south across the Weald. Tackle a rewarding ridge climb before tucking away into shaded woods with early autumn colours. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Sunday 20th	Plaxtol Circular - gentle, steady climb up to Yopps Green for panoramic views across the Bourne Valley. The route then winds its way through quiet country lanes, rolling fields and the hamlet of Dunks Green. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Sunday 27th	Circular walk from West Peckham along the Greensand Way towards Roughway. We pass Old Soar Manor on the way to the Wealdway and Hurst Wood, and return via Peckham Hurst. Mix of bridleways, footpaths, orchards, woods and quiet lanes. Moderate difficulty.	5.4
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).		



Bourne Valley - 20 September walk

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