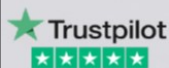


THE VOICE

August 2025



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 2025

Was it just my imagination or did summers seem endless when I was a child? They were long days filled with sunshine and laughter, friends and outdoor games. I remember building dens, swinging on rope swings, riding bikes and lying on the grass watching the clouds float by.

As an adult summers feel less appealing. We look forward to those longer days but, just as we realise they are upon us, they slip away in the blink of an eye. We are left wondering why we didn't spend more time enjoying the warm evenings and sunny days. Time marches on relentlessly; we can't save it, put it on hold or revisit it.

As we read the gospels and the stories Jesus told, it's easy to think that He was with His disciples, teaching about the kingdom of God, forever. In reality, from the first calling of His disciples to His death on the cross and resurrection was just three years - three short years. Yet, during this time, He managed to connect with people through conversation such as the woman at the well in the heat of the day. He shared stories about living life not through religion but through love for one another. He spent time with the sick, with lepers, who no one else wanted to be around, and with beggars that everyone else simply walked past, unnoticed. He transformed a group of twelve strangers into friends who experienced God in a profoundly different way.

Even though Jesus had just three busy years, He never seemed hurried or rushed. He taught us to be childlike, to see life through the eyes of children. So perhaps, as we rush around this summer, we can take a moment to pause and lie on the grass, watching the clouds drift by instead of focusing on the endless tasks still to be done.

Carole Simpson
Church Warden





Contacting the Church of the Good Shepherd



In the absence of a Vicar:

The email 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.

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

Breakfast Church

9am on 3rd Sunday of the month
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.



Saturday Open House

Fancy a cuppa, cake and some
conversation?

Pop in. Everyone Welcome.

No Charge

No Agenda Just Community

10-12 Every Saturday @ COGS

Church of the Good Shepherd,
Quarry Hill Road

Hello Weekend!

NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH



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



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 or Church of the Good Shepherd or
Julie Sweeting 01732 885437



Church of the Good Shepherd Food Bank

Thanks to your continuing generosity we have been able to support many local families in need. Donations may be left in the Church's porch on any day - the Church is usually open 10am - 5pm.

We welcome donations of any non-perishable food. In addition, these items are especially helpful right now:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Breakfast | cereals, breakfast bars |
| Lunch box | cartons of fruit juice, packets of snacks |
| Tinned | sweetcorn, chopped tomatoes, baked beans, ham, tuna |
| Store cupboard | Fray Bentos pies, UHT semi-skimmed milk, biscuits |
| Toiletries | toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, soap |
| Household | carrier bags, laundry detergent, multi-surface cleaner, washing-up liquid, toilet rolls |

Thank you

*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 Parish Council

The Council met at 7.00pm Tuesday 7th July 2025 at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:



ESTABLISHED
APRIL 1934

- **Retirement - Barry Glew.** After 15 years of exemplary service, our well known and much loved groundsman Barry is retiring, and he and his wife Jackie were invited to a short ceremony at the start of the Parish Council meeting. After receiving our thanks, Barry was presented with a plaque of the Borough Green Coat of Arms, but in West Ham colours, and a photo collage of memorable times during his years of service. His colleagues Rob and Ken were also in attendance.
- **Conyerd Road** residents voiced their concerns about the overgrowth at the junction with Quarry Hill. As well as obscuring sightlines, tree branches are catching passing traffic. The land ownership is unknown so the Parish Council has agreed that it will first establish ownership. We have already submitted a KCC Highway's complaint and have searches lodged with Land Registry.
- **Mountain Bikers.** It had been noticed that an informal group of mountain bikers are using a virtually inaccessible part of Isles Quarry. At the same time we have been approached by another group seeking just such a facility. We have put both groups together and asked them to return at the next meeting with a formal proposal. We are very aware for the need of such a facility and, with a cost free licence, we are happy to support this enterprise.
- **New Councillor.** We were pleased to co-opt Mrs Nikki Proto to the Council.
- **Recreation Ground Pavilion.** After some considerable discussion, the contract for the new roof and internal refurbishment has been awarded to local company Honeycomb Construction. Earlier in the year Honeycomb had carried out major damp proofing work behind the Pavilion and, despite appalling weather and conditions, carried out a very messy job with minimum impact on Rec users. We have various grant applications lodged to defray the costs.
- **Civil Enforcement Officers** have been very visible in the village in past weeks since we committed funds and joined this TMBC scheme. Whilst CEOs do not have the same powers as Police Officers, they can issue penalty notices, are a reassuring uniformed presence around the village and have been well briefed on the areas where trouble is likely to occur.
- **A new litterbin** has been installed on our Harrison Rd land at Quarry Hill and that will hopefully encourage the public to keep the area litter free.
- **30mph stickers** for our wheelie bins proved very successful and the Parish Council has a new supply - contact the Clerk or your nearest Parish Councillor, particularly if you live on a main road.
- **BGPC Van.** It does not seem possible that over 5 years have passed since we leased the BGPC electric van for the ground staff. The Clerk has used his well honed negotiating skills and a new e-Vivaro van will be delivered shortly, with a significantly higher spec than the old one and nearly £40 per month cheaper.

(Continued on page 9)

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The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th August 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 \(boroughgreen.gov.uk\)](#)

Advertising

Any commercial bodies or people offering services who wish to advertise should contact **Chris Atkins** email 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 12 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 :-

m-jeffery@talktalk.net

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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**.

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.

Our meeting on **Monday 11 August** will be a fun social afternoon, with plenty of chat and some games, including a few rounds of Beetle Drive. Guests are very welcome with a £5 charge, members free. Parking is free in the car park for hall users – just register your car in the hall entrance. Please follow our Facebook page for updates.

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



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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10.00 Wrotham Square, 10.05 Borough Green Station, 10.11 Platt, Wrotham Heath, Offham, West Malling, Leybourne Chase, East Malling to Larkfield. Returning from Tesco at 12.45.

FRIDAYS ROUTE 58

9.30 Wrotham Square, 9.35 Borough Green Station, 9.38 Platt, Wrotham Heath, Addington, Trottiscliffe, Ryarsh, Birling, Leybourne, West Malling, East Malling to Larkfield and Maidstone. Returning from Maidstone at 1.00.



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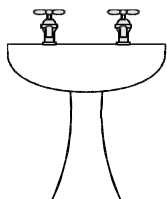


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Dear Residents,

Community Campaigns Update 2025

SPEED WATCH

Many of our folk have rightly raised their concerns over 'speeding vehicles' coming in and out of the village. Fortunately, most vehicles on the A25 and A227 abide by the road signs but we are all aware that some are continuously breaking the speed limits and, in some cases, doing ridiculous high speeds inches from the pavements where our children walk to school and our elderly walk to the shops.

Currently, we cannot provide passing through traffic with an alternative to bypassing our villages of West Kent but our campaign to see the slip roads re-instated in the vicinity of J5 M25 Sevenoaks continues with central government. These slip roads would connect the M26 and A21 enabling passing through freight and vehicles to reach Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Maidstone areas without having to come through our villages - a big improvement in quality of life, environment, health from air pollution and safety. But this traffic reduction campaign is with UK Government whilst we now focus on reducing the speed of the traffic through the village. Much of this traffic shouldn't be here and wouldn't be here if we had the thorough parliamentary representation and chase to see the slip roads home and dry.

So, our speed reduction campaign focuses on setting up a Community Speed Watch Group in liaison with Kent Police and their Kent Community Speed Watch team. Speed watch is a community-based scheme that helps volunteers make their local roads safer by reducing speeding without penalising passing drivers.

Borough Green Parish Council have expressed their support to see a Borough Green Community Speed Watch Group established and offering to provide 3 of their parish councillors on the Community Group as well as provide any supportive funding that might be required by Kent Police. But it will not be a sub-group of BGPC

Would you like to help improve the safety of our residents from speeding vehicles by joining the community speed watch team? A truly great initiative that is guided by Kent Police Speed Watch team who can provide all that is needed. The team would set up its own way of working guided by Kent Police and meet as necessary both in planning the speed watch events along the roads of the village and actually undertaking the speed watch checks.

Please let me know if you have any questions or interest in helping to set up the Speed Watch Group. A few residents have already shown that interest but due to personal family bereavements I have not had the capacity until now to properly take this forward for those and all our residents. Look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Tim Shaw

Borough Green Community Speed Watch Group (Proposed)

timshaw1@btinternet.com





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Borough Green Village Hall Exciting Plans for 2025/26

Following on from our AGM the committee has been busy formulating our ideas for the coming year. We are delighted to outline for you some of our plans which really focus on upgrades that will benefit all our users.

New Front Doors.

Our major objective is to replace the main front doors. The old doors, whilst having served us well, are not effective in keeping heat in and are tired. We are looking at some automated door options and hope to have these installed before the winter months.

Air Conditioning System.

Second on our priority list is to install some air conditioning. This has been requested specifically by various regular hirers, particularly by the more active groups, who have been struggling in the recent heatwaves.

Enhanced Sound System and Induction Loop.

Our third major project is to offer a sound system that is easily accessible for all our hirers, whether they are regular users or hosting parties and special events. As part of our commitment to accessibility, we have also decided to add a loop system ensuring that everyone in our community can participate fully in events and activities at the hall.

Bright New Reception Area.

Finally, we will be refurbishing the main reception and downstairs halls. Our vision is to create a bright, vibrant area that will provide a welcoming first impression for all visitors and a pleasant environment for events and gatherings.

Get Involved

If anyone in the community can help us with any of these projects, we are keen to hear from you. Your input and suggestions are valuable to us as we work to improve your village hall.

We are excited about these developments and look forward to sharing our progress with you throughout the year. For more information about the village hall or to share your ideas and recommendations. Please contact the committee.

Bryan Rawlins – Chairman
boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com
www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

Events in the Village for the month of August

- 1 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 2 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 3 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - All-Age Worship - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
Wrotham Music Festival
- 4 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
BG Parish Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- 5 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 7 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
- 8 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
- 9 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 10 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 11 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30
- 12 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 14 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
- 15 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
SJCC - Mass - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary -
6.00
- 16 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 17 **COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**
SJCC - Mass - 9.30
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 18 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
- 19 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 21 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



- 22 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 23 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 24 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Worship - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 25 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
- 26 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
Ightham Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall - 7.00
- 27 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 28 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
- 29 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 30 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 31 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
Wrotham Church - Holy Communion - 10.30
COGS joining with other parishes
BGBC - Service - 10.30



Note: COGS Services may 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



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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.





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Staying well in hot weather

(Extracts from KCC press release)

Many of us love the summer sun. But warmer weather also brings potential risks to health, particularly for our more vulnerable residents such as the elderly, sick and very young. It's because the human body has to work extra hard to keep cool. So when temperatures climb:

- **keep a close eye on older people, young children, and individuals with long term conditions such as Alzheimer's and dementia, who may not be aware they are overheating** – make sure they drink lots of water and aren't left to sit in strong sun.
- **keep cool at home** – by closing curtains on windows that face the sun and opening windows at night when it's cooler outside than in.
- **be sun-savvy when out and about** – travel with bottled water and use SPF30 or above sunscreen.

Should you or anyone you know become unwell in hot weather:

- if it's not an emergency, visit or call NHS 111.
- If you're not sure what health service to use, go to www.stopthinkchoose.co.uk.
- In an emergency, always ring 999.



KCC update

Leader of KCC Linden Kemkaran told Council Members on 10 July that her newly-installed Department for Local Government Efficiency has already identified millions of pounds worth of potential savings which can be redirected back into vital services. The Leader said that, seven weeks after the election, she had a number of “exciting propositions” that she and her team will take forward through the formal council governance process in the months to come that will see Kent taxpayers’ money spent in a more effective way.

For more details of the propositions go to the press release on the KCC website <https://news.kent.gov.uk/> but they include scrapping the Net Zero Renewal Energy Programme of property modifications, discarding the Net Zero plan to transition the KCC vehicle fleet to all electric, bringing children's care homes back in-house, streamlining the home to school service and reviewing plans to sell Sessions House in Maidstone (and refurbish Invicta House).

The Leader has also written to a number of Government Departments about the impact of policies on Kent and again details are on the above website.

Members have agreed to a 5% cut in allowances which will generate around £200 thousand to boost Members’ grants which can be donated to grassroots community projects.



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Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

We all know how potholes have become a persistent plague on our roads. Indeed, 95% of claims to local authorities from drivers are related to potholes. A third of Kent County Council's (KCC) highways and road maintenance expenditure is spent on pothole repairs. But we all know more needs to be done.

On average, 14,922 potholes were filled per authority in England over the past year. However, there were 24,217 potholes and road surface problems reported to KCC, which – although down from the year before – is unacceptable. According to the Department for Transport, 53% of Kent's roads have been flagged for maintenance. The Government - both Labour and Conservative - have given KCC more than £202 million over the last 5 years for highways and roads maintenance.

We now have a County Council who have pledged to fill in every single pothole. So, I want to help them do that. I have created a dedicated page on my website – www.tomtugendhat.org/potholes - where you can share with me any pothole you see, whether it be in your road, on your journey to work or simply as you're walking past.

Please share with me as much information as you can, including the location of the pothole and, if you can get one safely, a picture. I will then contact KCC directly, on your behalf, to ensure they are doing as promised – and repairing every single pothole across every single street in Borough Green.

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk.



Short Floatplane landing at Rochester Cathedral in August

How do you fit a plane in a medieval Cathedral? That's the challenge Rochester Bridge Trust took on when they proposed displaying a recently restored Short Scion Floatplane inside Rochester Cathedral. The newly restored Short Scion Floatplane G-AEZF has been rebuilt by Medway Aircraft Preservation Society Limited (MAPSL). The aircraft was built in the Short Brothers factory that was once located on Rochester Esplanade, a short walk from the Cathedral.

Constructed in 1937, the plane saw service in the Second World War before becoming a civilian aircraft. After years of disuse it had deteriorated significantly. Thanks to a grant from Rochester Bridge Trust, volunteers from MAPSL have painstakingly restored it.

Alongside the Floatplane will be a series of fun and educational activities for the whole family. An accompanying exhibition, **Pioneers of Flight: Made in Medway** will run alongside the activities. Curated by Allison Young, it will explore Medway's pivotal role in aviation history and the lasting impact of the Short Brothers. Featuring a rich collection of artefacts and archival materials, the exhibition includes contributions from many local partners. Open to the public from 1 August to 31 August. Admission during the day will be free although charges may apply for additional activities and evening events.



Part of a painting of the first flight of this short scion floatplane in 1937



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Events – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

For details of all forthcoming events go to

www.tmbc.gov.uk/events.

Free Events:

Sunday Afternoon Band Concerts at Tonbridge Castle

3 August Invicta Jazz Orchestra

17 August East Sussex Concert Band

24 August Roarin' 20s Band

Every Friday evening River Walk Music inviting people to gather along the river banks to enjoy free live music. With a mix of jazz, pop and more, plus a range of stalls offering food and drink. Stalls open from 6.00, radio DJ from 6.30 and live music from 7.30.

1 August Loose Change

15 August The Heart Beats

29 August The Bearded Conspiracy

8 August Chillbillies

22 August No Big Deal

1 September GEM

Saturday 9 August - Tonbridge Pride

The fourth annual Pride event celebrating the LGBTQ+ community starting at 1.00pm. A variety of family friendly entertainment will take place at Tonbridge Castle throughout the day and night. There will also be a huge range of stalls placed around the event including food, drink, arts, crafts, glitter makeup, kids activities, merchandise, education and charity information.

Saturday 7 September - Dragon boat race

Save the date for the Tonbridge Lions event for which all proceeds will be donated to local charities and good causes.



Wrotham Music Festival

Details, including on tickets, can be found at

www.wrothammusicfestival.com

Saturday 3 August from 2pm **Opera Gala in the Garden** (of West House)

Saturday 27 September 7pm **Dan Clews** - California Dreams - St George's Church

Music at the Mote

Saturday 16 August from 6pm at Ightham Mote.

The Dial Band performing rock, pop and soul classics. Picnics welcome. For more information and to book tickets go to

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/ightham-mote/events



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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

Do you have time to give? We offer enjoyable and worthwhile volunteering opportunities in our libraries, whatever your age or experience. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our **Saturday children's craft sessions, Friday Baby Rhyme Time** and to look after our **library garden!**

Please do apply if interested. More information and an application form are available at:

www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering/volunteer-in-libraries-and-archives



Summer Reading Challenge



Looking for FREE summer fun that helps children's love of reading grow? The Summer Reading Challenge runs until Saturday 6 September. This year's theme, Story Garden, invites young readers to grow their reading roots and lets their imagination blossom. All children aged 4 to 11 can sign up for

free at any library in Kent, and collect a joiner's pack. When they complete the Challenge, they will receive a medal and certificate!

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.



DIGITAL is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities.

KENT The next events are on **Fridays 1 August** and **5 September** at 11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit

www.digitalkent.uk or call 0300 0410950.

The next clinic for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing people is on **Friday 22 August** 2.30 to 3.30.

No appointment needed. Drop in and wait your turn.



Hi Kent



THE GREAT COMP MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Festival continues in August and tickets are available from www.greatcompmusic.org



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**Submission to Kent Friends of Trees
Potters Mede Sports Centre - Woodland Walk**



Potters Mede was established in the 1980s as a sports field. We inherited a one hectare patch of Ancient Woodland on the northwest of the field and have developed a magical Woodland Walk that seems to go on and on, but then you pop out a couple of hundred yards from where you started. The Woodland Walk is home to about 30 huge straight oaks all between 60 and 80ft high, probably planted in the days when straight oak was still needed for ship and house construction.

In 2015 the 1911 Coronation Oak commemorating King George V in Rock Road died, but local residents had already begun growing new trees in pots from acorns saved in the previous years. That same year a commendation from the Kent Men of The Trees won us a bundle of indigenous tree whips. There was a triangle of grass adjacent to the existing Woodland Walk that was planted up by volunteers that is now starting to develop into great little wood. There are also multiple self seeded oaks and hawthorns from our new trees.

In years to come our new patch will integrate into the existing woodland - we won't see that, but I wonder what Borough Green will be like then?



Mike Taylor
Borough Green Parish Council



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WROTHAM (ST. GEORGE'S) CRICKET CLUB

The portents were good for Wrotham as they won the toss at Watringbury and elected to bat first in the searing heat. On a good batting track Wrotham reached 217 in their 35 overs leaving the opposition an uphill struggle. Ultimately Watringbury fell 50 short on 166. Neil Pickford and Paul Harrison gave Wrotham a solid start with Neil falling just short of his half century. Matt Crisp and Sanjeev Dhoni then gave strong impetus to the innings with good boundary strokes - Sanjeev was left unbeaten on a powerful 44 not out. 3 new players made their debuts but, given the state of the game, didn't get the opportunity to shine with the bat. Watringbury played steadily but were unable to pick up the pace against a varied, tight bowling attack. Wickets were evenly spread amongst the 7 used highlighting another good all round team performance.

Again away on another blisteringly hot Sunday this time at Hildenborough where luck with the toss ran out. Hildenborough batted first and reached 147 off their 35 overs. Unusually, of the 7 wickets to fall 5 were clean bowled, and one of their batsmen contributed nearly half their runs. It didn't help the cause that 'extras' were the next top scorer with 27! Wickets were evenly spread, with Neil Pickford's 6 overs the most economical with only 21 runs conceded. On a slow wicket Wrotham came up short being all out for 104. Matt Crisp's 56 off 78 balls was the highlight of what was otherwise a disappointing chase, although yet again Wrotham could only muster 9 players for the game.



John Humphreys



Heart of Kent Hospice will be hosting one of its Compassionate Cafés at Matestone Coffee and Tea House, 12-13 Middle Row, Maidstone, ME14 1TG, (near the town hall) on **Thursday 21 August** from

10.30am to noon. Our Compassionate Café is a space for members of our community who are affected by any type of loss or loneliness and would like to meet others and make friends. The café will be a warm and welcoming venue, hosted by our trained Compassionate Neighbours, making this the ideal place to feel comfortable for a friendly chat with others. No need to book ahead - it will be lovely to meet you. If you would like more information, please contact our Compassionate Neighbours team by emailing cn@hokh.co.uk

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 3rd	Circular walk from the Little Brown Jug at Chiddingstone Causeway to Bough Beech in search of LBJs - little brown jobs to the non-birders amongst us. Moderate difficulty.	6
Thursday 7th	Loose Valley leisurely circular walk past Boughton Manor and through woodland towards Salt Farm. Return through orchards and the Loose Valley Conservation Area, following the path by river Loose and Hayle Park Nature Reserve.	6.2
Sunday 10th	Circular walk from Ide Hill to Bayley's Hill with great views south across the Weald, then down onto the Montreal estate. Some reasonably steep climbs back up to return along the Greensand Ridge. Fairly shaded for most of the route. Moderate difficulty.	5
Thursday 14th	Circular walk through some beautiful Kent countryside and woodland areas. The walk starts at the Oldbury Hill Iron Age fort site and continues towards Ightham Mote. Good views from the high point at Raspit Hill. Moderate difficulty; no stiles.	7
Sunday 17th	Scenic circular walk from Benenden to Rolvenden, along part of the High Weald Landscape Trail. The High Weald is noted for its extensive ancient woodlands, scattered farmsteads and oast houses. About 12 stiles; moderate difficulty.	7.3
Thursday 21st	West Malling Circular Walk - mainly flat with some gentle slopes following footpaths in the countryside around West Malling. Moderate difficulty.	5
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).		



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