

THE VOICE

July 2025

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green

SUMMER

FETE

5th July

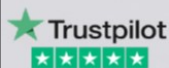
12 noon - 3 pm

Summertime refreshments

stalls, raffle and games

on the Church lawn

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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

July 2025

Well, the last time I wrote an editorial for the Voice magazine was in March 2017 when we were eagerly anticipating the arrival of Reverend Chris. Can it really be 8 years since then? But of course it is and on reflection what a lot has happened worldwide, nationally and locally. During his time with us, Rev Chris has helped to steer our church through some rocky times but has also managed to bring us into the 21st century with adaptations to our church building and grounds as well as the introduction of new worship opportunities.

In 2017 I used this quote from Ecclesiastes 3:

'To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven...'

We all have different seasons within our lives and times with different purposes, some uplifting and enjoyable but others more challenging and difficult. As Christians though, we believe that we don't go through them alone and hopefully we learn new lessons from our experiences. Whatever season you find yourself in, know that Christ will walk with you if you invite Him to.

As a church we now enter a season of interregnum – the time between vicars - but we will continue to be here for the people of our community. There will be regular Sunday morning worship catering for all ages as well as our programme of weekday events and activities. Details of all of these can be found in the middle page diary section of The Voice magazine and, as always, all are welcome. Why not come along, meet new people and join in the community spirit of Borough Green.

If you need to get in touch, our updated contact details can be found over the page.

Julie Sweeting
Churchwarden





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).

Games, Tea & Chat



On **Mondays 14 and 28 July** 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. There will be no sessions during August - back on 1 September.

Contact Elaine Almond on 886440 or etalmond@aol.com

Monday Minis Toddler Time



Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups. **Monday 7 July** 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.

No sessions in August.

DELIVERING THE VOICE



We are looking for some help to deliver this magazine each month in the village. At the moment there is a particular need to cover :

The Avenue

If you are able to help with this or willing to put your name forward for any future vacancies, please contact Chris Atkins **01732 366615**.



NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - FOODBANK 2024-25 REPORT

Our local foodbank provides a support service to struggling families in the four parishes of Borough Green, Wrotham, Platt and Ightham.

The last year has seen a continuation of the higher numbers of families/households needing our support with a small increase to 33 on our books at the end of April 25. Over the year we have helped 50 households to varying degrees from one off emergency support to regular food bags all year with a small number needing some cash support.

For those clients who collect their bags, we are delighted to offer a warm welcome and ensure we make enough time to have a chat and provide a listening ear to hear their news. This is something we try to replicate on the doorsteps of those clients requiring deliveries.

We receive generous food donations directly into COGS but also via the other churches in the parishes. In addition we are very blessed to have a level of cash reserve from regular donations and local government support. Over the year we have spent about £1000 each month on additional food items in order to provide for all of our families. We have also been able to provide butchers' vouchers to our families and, on occasion, to provide support towards increased electricity and gas bills. Whilst we remain in a good position with cash our reserve is some £1000 less than this time a year ago.

Thanks again to particular seasonal generosity, we were able to provide bags of Christmas goodies and Easter eggs to all our families.

Olio is a mobile app designed to connect people locally to share surplus food and other household items for free, aiming to reduce waste. By using this, Irene Gudrups has recently sourced regular donations of fresh food that can be included in the food bags on Monday mornings. Thank you!

A huge "thank you" to Alan Cant, a long term and valuable member of the team who moved away from the area last year, for all his years of service to the foodbank. The team continues to flourish with Steve Talmage leading on the vast majority of the administration and overseeing tasks. We have maintained the 'safer recruiting' process for new volunteers and have seen a number of non COGS people join the team. In order to ensure that we have a wider input into the direction of the foodbank we have a small 'steering group' that has met several times through the year. A big thank you to all the regular volunteers and others that help on a regular or occasional basis, in particular Betty Attlesley, Joanne Brooks, Chris Cowley, Elizabeth Procter, John Radclyffe, Amy Scouler and Karen Stephens.

The church has launched an appeal for funds to support the building of a store room off the kitchen. Planning permission has been gained and work on the store started late April 25 (*Update: completion expected in June*).

Thank you to everyone including schools, local businesses, churches, local government and individuals for all the very generous food and cash donations. We couldn't operate without your continuing support.

Ian Simpson, Foodbank Leader

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

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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



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The Council met at 7.00pm Tuesday 2 June 2025 at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:-

- **Trees in the Village (1)** Residents may have noticed our contractor Treeability working on trees all over the parish. This is the result of a detailed survey of trees carried out earlier in the year. Whilst we have an annual survey to ensure our trees remain safe and healthy, every 5 years or so we carry out a wider and much more detailed survey. Some of the work will involve removing branches that have died or that have grown to be unsafe, other work will be the removal of trees that have died or are suffering from ash dieback, a disease that has already caused problems at Basted Mill.
- **Trees in the Village (2)** In years gone by we have always entered the Kent Men of the Trees annual competition and have won commendations and even prizes. This year the competition does not involve showing KMOTT Judges around the parish. We have been asked to submit pictures of significant trees or those with an important historical link. We have so much I was torn and eventually submitted five: Potters Mede and the Rec Woodland Walks, Harrison Road land and the fir trees, Basted House Drive avenue of limes and the Quarry Hill Planter. Fingers crossed! (KMOTT have now changed their title to Kent Friends of Trees).
- **The Skatepark** is jointly owned and managed by Wrotham, Platt and Borough Green PCs and is going through a major refurbishment that has been planned for a couple of years. The original park was constructed and installed in 2005 by volunteers and turned out to be particularly robust, apart from some surface wear and tear, and the odd (rare) vandal damage. That means our maintenance budget has been hardly touched over the past twenty years so we can absorb this cost. The costs are apportioned to parishes based on population figures, but we are grateful to Wrotham PC who take the lead organising contractors and managing the finances.
- **Borough Green Scouts** have now settled comfortably in their new (temporary) home at Potters Mede, but plans are afoot to build a new dedicated hut. This is all still in the early discussion stages, but BGPC have the space at Potters Mede. TMBC planners advise that the proposal would be acceptable Recreation and Education use within a Greenbelt and National Landscape area, but that part of the site has some previously developed land that could be reused - older residents will recall that the old PM building was L-shaped and the new hall has only taken two thirds of that footprint.
- **Annual Accounts** Many of you will know that our financial accounts are all public, every penny of your money spent is recorded in our minutes every month, but we also have to undergo an annual internal and external audit. That means our accounts are first checked by an accountant we appoint and he gives a report, not just on the finances but on the way the Parish Council is run and governed. Again Bernie's accounts have scored a 100% clear pass and we are really grateful for his hard work. The next step is to submit those accounts to a Government Appointed Auditor, Mazards, with our Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR). This is all posted on the website and noticeboard in the High Street, and the public are invited to view these accounts and reports

(Continued on page 9)

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until 15 July, just contact Bernie or me. (That date is part of the AGAR process, but our accounts are always open to scrutiny by residents).

- **30mph stickers** for our wheelie bins proved very successful and the Parish Council has ordered a new supply - contact the Clerk or your nearest Parish Councillor, particularly if you live on a main road.
- The Chairman and Clerk can still be contacted on the email addresses and numbers below, and in person meetings can still be arranged, and we still have vacancies for two Councillors.



The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th July 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)

Advertising

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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 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 15 July** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **August** 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
01732 883978

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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



Library Fete! Saturday 12 July 10.30am to midday

Free event. No booking required.

Join in our summer celebrations with fun family games, gardening exhibition, teas and coffees, plus a book sale! All ages welcome. Some activities will be held in our recently replanted library garden, weather permitting!

Unearthed: The Power of Gardening display

Saturday 12 July to Saturday 26 July

This free display explores the transformative power of gardening. Twelve panels celebrate gardening as a force for creativity, resilience and connection. From the people who have fought for the right and space to garden to the stories of the plants we use for food and medicine, discover how gardening has shaped our lives, our communities, and our planet.

Summer Reading Challenge



Looking for FREE summer fun that helps children's love of reading grow? The Summer Reading Challenge launches on Saturday 5 July and will run 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.

The next **Digital Kent** events are on **Fridays 4 July** and **1 August** at 11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please call 0300 0410950 or go to **www.digitalkent.uk**. The next **Hi Kent** clinic is on **Friday 25 July** 2.30 to 3.30. No appointment needed. Drop in and wait your turn.



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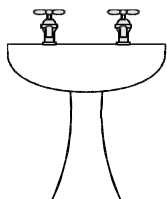


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Borough Green Medical Practice

This update is produced for the benefit of all patients for sharing information on a regular basis



- We are now using a new online triage system called AccuRx, which is accessible via our website and replaces eConsults.
- Chronic kidney disease - we are in the process of ensuring that patients are correctly diagnosed with this where appropriate and suitably informed. Chronic kidney disease is not as scary as it sounds and is a common part of ageing. For many people an annual blood test and urine sample is all that is required to monitor this and, if further measures such as medication are needed, then we will advise the patients accordingly.
- Medicines waste - a patient recently returned old and excess stock medication worth over £1000 - please ensure medication is only ordered when needed and excess stocks are not kept to minimise wastage for the NHS.
- Covid/Flu Vaccinations - We will be running clinics at the end of September/October for all eligible patients. We will advertise and let patients know as soon as we have set dates in place for these clinics.
- As the holiday season is approaching don't forget to order your medication a week before you go away.

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Submission to Kent Friends of Trees Basted House Drive Avenue of Limes

This is one of the submissions made - others will appear in future editions when space is available.



As far as we can establish Basted House was built around 1906 and the Avenue of Limes planted shortly thereafter. Normally lime trees like this have a life span of 60-80 years but in this case the local geology means that below a few feet of meagre topsoil is fractured Kentish Ragstone. This meant these trees have had to fight to survive, getting roots down into cracks in the stone for moisture and nourishment. They are therefore far tougher than a normal lime tree, which is why they are still thriving today, 120 years after they were planted.

At the lower end adjacent to the surgery, they have had an even tougher struggle when in the 1950s ARC turned the area where the surgery now stands into a lorry park for their fleet of tipper. They laid a foot or more of type one sub-base made from local stone across the car park and between the trees, right up to the edge of the tarmac of the drive. But over the years these trees have extended adventitious roots up into that layer of stone to ensure not one drop of moisture escaped them.

We recently upgraded the sides of the drive here to give some overflow parking to the surgery, but we did little more than scrape up the accumulated leaf mould and mud on the old ARC base and lay a new layer of sub-base so we maintained the porous nature of the ground, so rainwater still penetrates to the roots.

The Avenue of Limes had a Group Tree Preservation Order imposed in 1970 at the same time as the Rec Woodland Walk.

Mike Taylor
Borough Green Parish Council

Events in the Village for the month of July

- 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
Wrotham Music Festival (see page 23)
- 5 BG Library - Children's Craft Club - 10.00 to 11.00
COGS Summer Fete - 12.00 to 3.00
Wrotham Music Festival (see page 23)
- 6 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 (see page 23)
- 7 **Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
BG Parish Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- 8 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 9 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 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
- 12 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
BG Library Fete - 10.30 to 12.00
Ightham & District Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall -
Summer Show - 12.00
- 13 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Worship and Children's Church - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 14 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30
- 15 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 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
BGVH - Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Sale - 2.00 to 4.00



- 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
- 22 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 23 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
Ightham Church - King's Men Concert - 7.00
- 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**
Platt Memorial Hall - Borough Green and Platt Players - 7.30
(See page 13)
- 27 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Worship and Children's Church - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 28 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
- 29 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 31 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



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

LOVE TO MOVE

**Free sessions on Tuesday mornings 11.00 to 12.00
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11.30 - 12.30

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Village Hall Annual Report

Our Annual General Meeting provided an excellent opportunity to share the progress made over the past year, celebrating our accomplishments while addressing challenges and outlining future goals.

We published our financial statement for the year which has been audited by Precision Accountants in Wrotham and is now being submitted to the Charity Commission. The accounts show a significant increase in the income to the hall along with serious investments into the structure and appearance of the hall.

The management committee has reviewed and updated all policies and procedures, ensuring full compliance with all commitments. We have improved our operational systems to enhance safety, cleanliness and cost efficiencies and have implemented a continuing programme for next year.

Our primary focus remains ensuring financial sustainability, while processing planned maintenance and improvements to the building. We wish to build on our engagements with hirers and the wider community to ensure that the hall is always fit for purpose in the modern world and the future it faces.

We have welcomed several new groups to our hall along with the welcome return of the Borough Green and Platt Players. We were sorry to see some departures due to relocation and financial reasons. We are keen to work with the wider community, including the parish council, and to support local events and charities including supporting the Christmas Lights Committee again this year.

This year's major projects include upgrading the main entrance and refurbishing the toilets. We welcome any assistance with these improvements.

Our appreciation goes to all hirers, trustees, committee members, and volunteers who support and promote the hall, ensuring a positive outlook for the future.

Bryan Rawlins
Chairman



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.



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What's New @ 1st Borough Green Scout Group

The summer time is perhaps the most exciting period of the year to be involved in scouting, with the increased potential to be outside and the seemingly infinite increase in possible activities that follow!

And these last few weeks have been no different for 1st Borough Green Scout Group. In many ways, camping encapsulates all that is great about being a scout. It offers the chance to learn new things, to develop bonds and friendships that last a lifetime and, most importantly, to have fun! This opportunity has been on offer to our Cubs and Scouts in recent weeks as they have embarked on their own respective camps where they have been able to try their hand at caving, fire building and survival skills, amongst many other things.

Our Scouts have also had great fun in recent weeks making egg racing machines (homemade carts for carrying and protecting eggs I am told!!) and making their own pasta. They also had a visit from the local police to talk about the importance of knife safety.

Meanwhile, our Beaver Scouts have had the chance to go horse riding and learn more about looking after animals. They also organised their own VE Day street party – making food for the occasion and learning more about the history of the day in the process. All of this whilst the Beavers have expanded in number, alongside a very welcome increase in adult volunteers to enable this growth. We are, of course, always, on the lookout for more volunteers for roles small and large. If you want to get involved please get in touch with us anytime at join@bgscouts.co.uk.



On the subject of which, we are delighted to be opening a new section of our Group from the Autumn. Squirrels is brand new to the Borough Green area and will be open for 4-5 year olds. I am really pleased we already have adult volunteers in place for this so please do get in touch if you would like your child to join.

Away from the fun and games of our weekly activities, we are delighted to say that we have welcomed a new Chair of Trustees, Charles Copping, who takes over from Tim Coppard who we thank for an amazing period of service to the Group. We also continue to engage with Mike and his team at Borough Green Parish Council to establish our new home at Potters Mede. The Parish Council have been fabulously supportive in this endeavour and we are currently considering with them how the location can be made to work as well as possible for the Group in the long term. Watch this space for more!

In the meantime, we'll look forward to the excitement of the summer of scouting which is ahead of us!

Matt Paramor
Acting Group Lead Volunteer
1st Borough Green Scout Group



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Wrotham Music Festival
 Details on all the events, including on
 tickets, can be found at
www.wrothammusicfestival.com

Friday 4 July from 8.00pm **Hot Rats Barn Dance** at the Rose and Crown

Friday 4 July from 8.30pm **Baggy Boys** at the George and Dragon (free)

Saturday 5 July 7 to 9.30pm **The Daisy Chains** at St George's Church

Sunday 6 July 1 to 3pm **Kent Police Band** at Bandstand Picnic in the Park
 (free)

Sunday 6 July from 3pm **Peter Azzopardi** at the George and Dragon
 (free)

Sunday 6 July from 4pm **Michael Bubl  Tribute Act** with Sunday Roast at The
 Bull Hotel

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



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

13 July Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band

27 July East Grinstead Concert Band

3 August Invicta Jazz Orchestra

Every Friday evening from 18 July 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.

18 July Tom Carradine

25 July Jonah's Wail

1 August Loose Change

St Peter's Church, Ightham
The King's Men Cambridge
Wednesday 23 July 7.00 for 7.30

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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.  [learn, laugh, live](#)
Parking/disabled access available.

Our speaker on **Monday 14 July** is Jack Deans who served a 35 year career at New Scotland Yard as a Fingerprint Expert and Crime Scene Examiner. In this time he examined 120 scenes of murder and dealt with all levels of crime including terrorism.

This fascinating talk is free for members and guests are very welcome with a £5 charge. Parking is free in the car park for hall users – just register your car in the hall entrance.

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



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.

Retail volunteers urgently needed to keep your local shop open. Could you give the gift of your time to Heart of Kent Hospice, and be part of an extraordinary team?



Visit www.hokh.org/volunteering/ to register your interest.

Look out for flash sales at the village hall. The next one will be on **Thursday 17 July** from 2.00-4.00 with most items for sale at just £1.



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council - Updates



Revamped recycling essentials online now. We've made it even easier to access essential information about waste and recycling on the website (www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste). These are some of our most visited pages, so we want to ensure the information is simple to find. Finding what you want is now no more than a click away with easy navigation and an A to Z of how to dispose of your rubbish in the most environmentally friendly way. In 2024 almost 25,000 tonnes of waste was recycled in Tonbridge and Malling - that's one of the best in Kent.

Powering ahead with places to charge up. We're working hard to deliver more electric vehicle charging points across the borough. This summer will see 27 additional chargers go live at car parks in Tonbridge, **Borough Green (Western Road)**, West Malling and Larkfield. Both 7kw and 22kw charging points will be available at a rate of 41 pence per kWh.



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THE GREAT COMP MUSIC FESTIVAL



Did you know that world-class classical musicians play at the Great Comp Music Festival in **July and August** every year? In the atmospheric setting of the converted stable, some of the world's finest musical ensembles bring the music that you hear on Radio 3 or Classic FM to your neighbourhood.

Rather than travel up to London to hear quality classical music, you can enjoy it in the beautiful surroundings of Great Comp. As an added bonus, concert goers have exclusive access to the wonderful gardens between 5.30pm and the start of the performance at 7.30pm. You can even bring your own picnic to enjoy a mini-Glyndebourne experience.

The artists often comment on the charm and intimacy of the 75 seat venue, which feels much more personal than a large auditorium. They almost always stay on after the concert and chat to the concert goers. If you want to ask any questions about musical interpretation, or simply tell them that you've enjoyed the concert, it is always a pleasure to talk to the musicians.

The full programme is available on the Great Comp Music Festival website, which gives details of the performers and the pieces they will play. If you are unsure which concerts to choose, most of the artists have websites with examples of their performances, or you can usually find them on YouTube.

For over 50 years the Great Comp Music Trust, a registered charity, has been inviting some of the finest musicians in the world to perform in this part of Kent, and this year is continuing to bring us more of the very best music.

Tickets are available from www.greatcompmusic.org



Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

This summer many of us will visit parts of the world we don't know. Sitting on the beach, walking in the hills, admiring a city, will be a chance to learn about something new – in a book or in person. I will be doing the same but I will do one more thing too.

In May I was appointed by HM The King to be a member of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the organisation set up after the First World War to care for the resting place of those who fought for our freedom. As a Commissioner I am responsible for making sure the graves and parks are cared for – wherever they are in the world. I will be using my time on travels to enjoy time with the family and to take a moment to go and see the cemeteries. It will be a chance to say thank you and to do my duty and check that they are being cared for.

I will also be in Kent and look forward to seeing you. As Parliament goes into recess at the end of July I get a bit more time at home to help anyone who needs it. Please let me know if I can help you, do get in touch on tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk.

SMALL NOTICES



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Hall bookings

Parish Hall - Quarry Hill

Alan Williams 07436 115 425

Village Hall

David Peirce

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

01732 646040

Potters Mede

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

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The Village Hall

Potters Mede

The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

b) **When premises are open**

The Medical Centre

BG Primary School

Fourways Dentists



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS



Adult Social Care Prevention Framework. The aim of the Framework is to help people to maintain healthy, fulfilled and independent lives for as long as possible, so delaying escalating care needs. To take part in the consultation and view the proposed Framework go to www.kent.gov.uk/preventionframework. If you have any questions about this consultation or to request a hard copy contact preventionframework@kent.gov.uk or telephone 0300 417 421.

The consultation closes on **14 July**.

Kent Pharmaceutical Services. Views are sought on the latest draft assessment of pharmaceutical services to inform the final Assessment for the county in 2025 – 2028. Such assessments are used by the NHS, councils and integrated Care Boards to decide whether to approve new pharmacies and make commissioning decisions about other services that could be delivered by pharmaceutical providers. To take part in the consultation and view the assessment go to www.kent.gov.uk/pharmacyneeds. If you have any questions about the consultation or to request a hard copy contact pna@kent.gov.uk.

The consultation closes on **4 August**.



WROTHAM (ST. GEORGE'S) CRICKET CLUB

A frustrating start to the season with either ourselves or the opposition proving unable to raise a team, despite the prospect of playing in a rain-free environment.

AT LAST! We managed to get another game under our belts, this time a first visit to Locksbottom whose electronic scoring and video system were the envy of our resources. This proved to be an excellent Sunday cricket match - played competitively and participated by fathers and sons and a good mix of age groups. Wrotham batted first and, despite losing their first 3 wickets for only 8 runs, recovered well to post a very creditable 156. After the disastrous start Dom Humphrey (41) and Sajeev Dhoni (31) brought stability to the innings at a run a ball and set a reasonable target in this 35 over game. Dom later went on to take a spectacular diving catch in the deep.

With only 10 players Wrotham were 1 short in bowlers which limited the options available to skipper Will Booth, although keen fielding helped keep the home side in check. Locksbottom had an opening stand of 64 but were then pegged back by tight bowling, with Ant Woolfe the pick of the bowlers with 4-40. Mention must also be made of 14 year old Fraser Bloc who made his first appearance and bowled creditably to return 1-23. An exciting tight finish went the home side's way after some big legside hitting and they came home with 8 balls to spare.

Next home fixtures for your attention are

6 July - 2 pm start

20 July - 1 pm start

John Humphreys

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.



July	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 3rd	Matfield and Kent College circular walk with stunning views. Gentle inclines and occasional fallen trees and stiles. Moderate difficulty.	7.4
Sunday 6th	Plaxtol circular a gently rising climb from Plaxtol through Yopps Green with views over the Bourne valley. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Thursday 10th	Leisurely early evening walk from Laddingford followed by sausage supper at The Chequers Inn, where Hartley Morris and Kits Coty Morris will be performing.	4.3
Sunday 13th	Wateringbury to East Farleigh leisurely walk along the Medway via Tutsham Farm and back via Teston Country Park.	5.5
Thursday 17th	Circular walk from Brenchley around farmland and quiet lanes, through the grounds of Sprivers (National Trust property) and onto a part of the High Weald Landscape Trail. Moderate difficulty.	6.2
Sunday 20th	Shoreham to Lullingstone a climb up and along the Darent Valley for great views going towards Lullingstone. Moderate difficulty.	7
Thursday 24th	Fish and Chip Supper Walk from Kemsing with a choice of 'moderate difficulty' route up to the North Downs or leisurely route along the valley to the St Clare estate.	3
Sunday 27th	Offham Round: a gentle walk from Offham through the woods to Mereworth. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Thursday 31st	Circular walk from Yalding along the River Medway to Teston Country Park. Return over Teston Bridge, through farmland and along the river bank. Moderate difficulty.	6
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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