

THE VOICE

August 2024



A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR BOROUGH GREEN
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Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd

August 2024

The 4 Degrees....

Perhaps because of the number of weddings we have at the church this summer, I've been thinking about love.

Back in the 12th century, Bernard of Clairvaux wrote about the four degrees of love. The first is "Loving Yourself For Your Own Sake (Selfish Love)". This is not about self-indulgence but knowing that you are loveable and deserving of love. From that, love of others can grow.

The second degree is "Loving God for Your Own Blessing (Dependence on God)". We love God because of what God does for us. I think this is where many people get stuck. How many friendships end because people didn't give us what we wanted? If things don't seem to be going well, we give up on God, because clearly we are not loved. Bernard would say that when things are going badly is the time we should turn to God even more.

The third degree is "Loving God for God's Own Sake (Intimacy with God)". By turning to God, even in times of trouble, we discover the delight of knowing Him. We learn to enjoy God for God's sake and also to love what God loves. This is the end point for most people most of the time, with a few only occasionally reaching the fourth degree.

"Self-Love for God's Sake (Being United with God's Love)". The idea here is that we lose ourselves so completely in our love of God that we find our true selves, unfiltered by the world. As Jesus said, those who lose their life will find it. For Bernard, "In heaven the fourth degree of love is attained forever".

Though Bernard was writing about our love of God, these degrees could also be applied to our love for other people who love us.

Where we might go wrong is trying to jump ahead without spending time in lower orders. After all, many of us have been taught to avoid any idea of being selfish, so let's skip one and two. On the other hand, people who have suffered abuse often find it hard to ever learn to properly love themselves because they were taught that they are unloveable.

Perhaps during this summer, we could reflect on our relationships. Our love for others and maybe our love for God. Which degree are we on? Perhaps we might ask to grow deeper in love for the other and work towards gaining a higher degree.

God bless
Rev. Chris

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.

An Autumn Supper Quiz

A super night out!

Saturday 28 September
7.00pm start



£15 per head – supper included
Licensed Bar

To book a table or a place to join others & for dietary requirements

Call Julie on 01732 885437

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

Ride and Stride for Kent Churches

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Saturday 14 September 10am - 6pm

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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.

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The Church of the Good Shepherd

COGS website www.cogsonline.co.uk

Facebook - [COGSBG](https://www.facebook.com/COGSBG)

Email - vicar.cogs@gmail.com

01732 882447



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - 2023-24 REPORT

The children attend Children's Church every 2 weeks and on the odd 5th Sunday, with an expanding group of children meeting with 6 regulars and 3-4 others joining every so often. The children are continuing to enjoy the stories, crafts and games that reflect the theme of the week. We have written our own commandments, made cards for the congregation and learnt about trust and following God's word with Jonah and the Whale.

The children worked very hard in the summer of 2023 for their presentation service which they presented on 9 July. The theme was prayer where the children demonstrated all the different ways you can pray, such as using candles, prayer cushions and even paper aeroplanes.

In the Autumn term we explored our faith through crafts and stories. We made jam tarts with homemade jam to celebrate harvest and prepared for the nativity play by colouring in figures from the Christmas story and making a beautiful star to carry.

The children put on a brilliant nativity play, which was narrated by our oldest member, and supported by the congregation singing hymns and bringing up the figures for the nativity scene. The children all played very angelic angels, welcoming and proclaiming the arrival of Jesus.

The Spring term has seen a variety of fun games and crafts. We made our own Wilderness from sand, rocks and twigs found outside and did an Easter Story Medley - making palms for Palm Sunday, wooden lolly stick crosses for Good Friday and delicious Easter Egg biscuits for Easter Sunday. We shared our love for our mothers on Mothering Sunday making garlands of thanks, made birds to mark the Big Garden Birdwatch, learnt how to listen for God by listening to the sound of the wind, the ocean, storms, birdsong and bees buzzing and most recently learnt about Jesus as the vine and made our own fruit salad from the good deeds we can do to be more like Jesus.

Isabel Slade

Children's Church normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 10am starting in the Church but will be taking a break in August, beginning again on 8 September.

Church of the Good Shepherd Foodbank



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 Foodbank please contact
Ian Simpson on **07801 135 460** or foodbank.cogs@gmail.com

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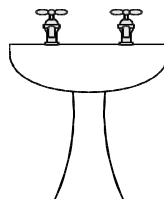
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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



ESTABLISHED
APRIL 1934

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 1st July 2024.

Matters discussed and reports received included:

- **BG Scouts Group** moved to their new home at Potters Mede on 15 June, a move made urgent by their eviction from their home for the past 40 years by Reynolds Retreat. The Scouts will be welcome at Potters Mede either as a permanent home or as a shorter term venue whilst they find new land and funding. Initially it will just be the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, but there is also space for the Guides and Explorers if they need it. The PC have provided two 20' shipping containers to store their equipment.
- **TMBC Local Plan** seeks to build 16,000 houses across the Borough to satisfy increasingly impossible housing targets set by Government (whatever colour ties they wear). It seems that the threat of Borough Green Garden City 3000 houses has receded, but TMBC still plans significant development amongst our rural villages. It became apparent when the new Government took office that they had urgent plans to reform and reset the planning system to enable housing. It made no sense to continue spending public money developing a Local Plan which may be scrapped, so it was decided at an Emergency Cabinet meeting to suspend the Plan until we have a clear idea what our targets will be. This could allow a valuable breathing space to allow evidence still being assembled to be completed and to look carefully at the distribution of housing across the Borough - a more measured approach to ensure fairness.
- **A new High Speed Fibre** internet connection is being installed at Potters Mede. As well as giving hirers full access, it will also allow the power company real time monitoring of the solar power being fed back into the National Grid.
- **The Ladies section of the Public Toilets** in the Village Hall car park will be shut for a few days to allow a new door to be installed, opening onto the car park instead of the current dark and unsafe side access.
- **Basted Mill** residents have become increasingly concerned about families of ducks "sun-bathing" on Basted Lane, a very real hazard to them now that we have so much rat-running through traffic. Locals have already installed two "Caution-Ducks" signs (thank you) and Borough Green and Platt Parish Councils are installing two more advance warning signs.
- We have significant concerns about new rules being introduced by the Village Hall Management Committee and we have asked the Charity Commission to intervene. The village hall is owned by the people of Borough Green and is supposed to be run by three Trustees who are elected by public vote at the Annual General Meeting. They intend installing a permanent committee chosen by them with no public involvement at all. As we have discovered in the past from an incident arising with a previous committee, you also have the right to call an Extraordinary General Meeting and hold the committee to account.
- **Surgery Parking** has eased dramatically since the section of Basted House Drive has had a porous parking area installed, allowing medical staff to park outside releasing more parking spaces in the surgery for patients, and we have had grateful comments already. One of the reasons the PC purchased the Harrison Rd land was to allow any future surgery expansion. By default we also ended up with that section of drive, so we can help the surgery without losing any of that little gem of wild land.

(Continued on page 9)

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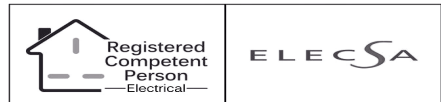
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- We said goodbye at that meeting to Cllr Angelique Rawsthorne, a very active and vocal member who will be much missed, so we have another vacancy (see website).



The next Parish Council meeting will be held at **7.30pm** on **Monday 5 August**, at **BG Village Hall**. 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.

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The magazine 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 13 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. At the moment there is a particular need to cover :

Crowhurst Road
Normanhurst Road
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Brockway
Hunts Farm Close



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

Council to assess impact of planning changes announced by new government

(Press release issued on 15 July)



Government plans to make significant changes to national planning policy have prompted Tonbridge and Malling to wait for more details before proceeding to the next stage of developing its Local Plan.

The Chancellor Rachel Reeves set out the government's intentions in a speech on 8 July. She said her intention was "to agree the urgent action needed to fix our planning system" and to set out changes to the National Planning Policy Framework by the end of July 2024 which will have a direct impact on the shape of Local Plans going forward.

The Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan is mid-way through its development. The plan will serve as a blueprint for how the borough develops between now and the 2040s. It will identify locations where new homes can be built, along with a range of policies on environmental protections and safeguards for areas and assets of historic importance. Given the significance of the changes being proposed, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council says it will assess the implications of these changes once published before moving forward with the next stage in its Local Plan process.

Leader of the council, Matt Boughton, said: "The government has very clearly indicated its intention to make a raft of significant changes to planning across the country. As this will involve new national rules that all councils will be expected to follow, it seems inevitable that there will be a significant impact across a range of policy areas which could meaningfully alter the requirements for developing Local Plans. Given we are in the process of developing our own Local Plan for Tonbridge and Malling, we need to know more about what the government is proposing before moving forward to the next stage. While this is not ideal, it will be better to have certainty so we can move forward with a robust plan which both complies with national policy and delivers for the people of our borough."

Borough Green Medical Practice

August 2024

This is produced for the benefit of all patients for sharing information and updates on a regular basis.



Health and Wellbeing Coaches (HWBC) support people aged 18 and over to increase their ability to self-manage, motivation levels and commitment to change their lifestyle. They are experts in behaviour change and focus on improving health related outcomes by working with people to set personalised goals and change their behaviours. They work with people with physical and/or mental health conditions and those at risk of developing them in a one-one-one or group setting.

The Health and Wellbeing Coach service can support people to improve their physical activity levels, diet and eating habits, sleep hygiene, long term condition management and general wellbeing. We are unable to support patients' whose main concern is alcohol consumption, smoking cessation or higher level mental health. Patients have access to up to 6 sessions of coaching support during this time.



HWBCs can be an effective intervention for people experiencing a range of conditions. Working with an HWBC allows you to have a voice in the development of your support, it places you in the driving seat to take control of your health/issue. Using techniques such as motivational interviewing, the HWBC will facilitate an environment where the patient is able to build resilience and accountability, and feel comfortable to think and speak freely. Information is given rather than advice where appropriate, with the aim of placing the task of problem solving on the patient, rather than the HWBC.

Referrals to our service can be made via your GP or by visiting our website www.sevenoakspcn.gpweb.org.uk/services where you may self-refer. If you have any questions about our service, please contact us via kmicb.7oakspcnhwb@nhs.net.

Borough Green Medical Practice Inhaler Recycling Scheme

We are now participating in a local inhaler recycling scheme and invite you to drop off your inhalers once used (all parts) to reception at any time for these to be recycled.

Please ensure these do not contain any of your details or confidential information.



Parents supporting Parents Support groups for parents and carers of young people in West Kent

Is your young person struggling with their mental health? Is it impacting their life and relationships?

We are running a number of support groups that offer a safe space for parents and carers to share experiences, whilst being supported by a West Kent Mind wellbeing worker. Alongside peer support, the programme will explore how to have difficult conversations with young people. Participants will gain increased confidence to talk about mental health, support young people engaging in behaviours including self-harm and learn where to reach out for support at times of crisis. We have a number of groups running across Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, starting in September.

For more details or to register email cyp@westkentmid.org.uk, call 01732 744950 or go to www.westkentmind.org.uk/parents-supporting-parents/.

Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

Meetings are held every second Monday of the month at 2pm in Borough Green village hall with tea, coffee and biscuits. Parking is available as is disabled access.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 12 August - British Sign Language.

BSL will provide a very interesting talk about how this is used with demonstrations and a short lesson. You will be able to leave the meeting signing 'Goodbye' to fellow members!

We have over 20 active interest groups running now, from wine appreciation to vegan cookery to Italian language skills. We have arranged a social event to thank group leaders in early August. If you want to join a group or even start a new one, please let us know.

We are open to all ages so please do come along and try us out. Please contact membershipsec.bgwu3a@gmail.com for more information.

Annual fee is only £20. Non-member guest fee is £3.

We look forward to seeing you on 12 August.

Phil Williams, Communications Secretary

IGHTHAM & DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

Ightham Village Hall

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The Church of the Good Shepherd

VICAR	Chris Turner	882447
READER	Chris Almond, 5 Stone Court	886440
CHURCHWARDENS	Carole Simpson	883073
	Julie Sweeting, 3 High Street	885437
PCC SEC	Thea Cason	
PCC TREASURER	Mark Sweeting, 3, High Street	885437
PARISH CHURCH HALL		
CHAIRMAN	Alan Williams, 4 Rock Road	886557
BOOKING SEC	Alan Williams, 4 Rock Road	886557

Other Borough Green Contacts

BAPTIST CHURCH (BG)	Pastor - Mr B Roberts	882624
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs A Heren	883305
BADMINTON CLUB (BG)	Mr P Sales	884405
LADIES	Mrs Pauline Deards	884755
BADMINTON CLUB (Ightham)	Mr N Dennis	882078
BOWLS (BG)	boroughgreenbowlsclub@hotmail.com	
BOROGRADS SEC	Lucilla Mackay, 65 Crouch Lane	882045
CAMPAIGN TO		
PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND	Mr M Taylor	882880
CAROLINE CLARE DANCE	Caroline Madden	07944 332 275
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (BG)		
ORGANISER	Mrs M Vick	884101
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		440488
COMMUNITY WARDEN (TEMP)	Sandra Edmonds	07969 584 183
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	NHS (helpline)	111
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IGHTHAM & DISTRICT	Dee Samways	07799 002 129
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PARISH COUNCIL (BG)		
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VICE CHAIR	Mr M Ramsden	01732 885779
CLERK	Mr B Galopin	clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk
	PO Box 635 Sevenoaks TN13 9UX	
POLICE CONTACT NUMBER	Non-emergency calls only	101
POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER	PC Lisa Whitehead	07811 986 051
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	Mrs M Vick	884101

Events in the Village for the month of August

- 1 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 2 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 3 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 4 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - All-Age Communion
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
- 5 BG Parish Council - BGVH - 7.30
- 6 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 8 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 9 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
Friday 2 Book Club - BG Library - 2.00
- 10 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 11 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 12 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
- 13 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 14 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 15 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 16 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 17 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 18 **COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**
SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.30
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 20 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 22 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 23 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45



- 24 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
25 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
COGS - Tea-Time Church - 4.30
27 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
29 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
30 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
31 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00



Abbreviations

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



To book contact:
secretary@thealexandrasalestrust.co.uk

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time



Borough Green Library
Fridays
10.15 - 10.45

No booking required

SCHOOL PA (BG)	Borough Green School	883459
SCOUT GROUP		bgscoutmembers@gmail.com
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC		
CHURCH CONTACT	Margaret Briggs	885295
T&MBC COUNCILLORS	Mrs W Palmer	07748 633 200
	Mr M Taylor	882880
u3a (BG & W)	Christine Ward	V.Chair.bgandwu3a@gmail.com
VILLAGE HALL BOOKING	www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk	646040
VOICE MAGAZINE ARTICLES	Margaret Jeffery, 7 Lendon Road	883978
ADVERTISING	Chris Atkins	366615
WROTHAM SCHOOL	office@wrotham.kent.sch.uk	884207

For any new entries, or changes to existing entries, in the directory please contact Margaret Jeffery



Free events in August and September are

Every Friday evening to 23 August

- **River Walk Music** inviting people to gather along the river banks to enjoy free live music. Genres ranging from jazz and blues to pop and funk, 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.

Sunday 3 August

- **Tonbridge Pride** starting with a march through the high street at midday, leading up to the castle. A variety of family friendly entertainment will take place on the main stage at Tonbridge Castle throughout the day and night (1.00 to 11.00pm) from DJs to choirs, singers, bands, dance troupes and a drag show. There will also be a huge range of stalls placed around the event including food, drink, arts, crafts, glitter makeup, kids activities, LGBTQIA+ merchandise, education and charity information.

Sunday 18 August from 3.00 to 5.00

- **East Sussex Concert Band** at Tonbridge Castle

Sunday 25 August from 3.00 to 5.00

- **Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band** at Tonbridge Castle

Sunday 1 September

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

For more information on these and ticketed events (outdoor theatre and inflatable obstacle courses) go to www.tmbc.gov.uk/events

St Joseph's Catholic Church Catholics who are sick, housebound or in a care home



If you are a Catholic and are sick, housebound or resident in a care home and would like to receive Holy Communion, St Joseph's Catholic Church in Western Road has a team of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who can visit. If you would like us to visit, please contact the clergy on 01732 454177 or sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk, or telephone Margaret on 01732 885295.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

St Joseph's Catholic Church in Western Road would like to invite any adults who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church to join in the next programme which begins in October on Monday evenings. The sessions will be held at the main church, St. Thomas of Canterbury, Granville Road, Sevenoaks. For further information, please contact the RCIA Coordinator, Andrew Wilkinson, on 07487 652846 or email sevenoaksrcaia@rcaos.org.uk.

KCC's Fostering Service joins forces with other South East Local Authorities to recruit more foster carers



(Extracts from press release issued on 8 July)

Councils from across the South East have come together to create the country's largest local authority fostering partnership, in a bid to increase the number of foster carers across the region. With over 11,000 children in care across the South East, and fewer than 3,000 local authority approved foster carers, there is an urgent need to recruit more people to provide safe, loving, and local homes for vulnerable children.

Local Authority Fostering South East is a new virtual fostering hub bringing together the expertise of 20 councils, of which Kent is one, from across the region. The new hub will ensure prospective foster carers have access to a centralised platform for their initial enquiries about fostering and will see local authorities work collaboratively to provide the best support, right from the start of a carer's fostering journey.

More information on becoming a foster carer can be found on the new regional website (LAfosteringSE.org.uk) and by following Local Authority Fostering South East on Facebook, Instagram and X. Those interested in fostering can also contact the regional hub directly to speak to a member of the recruitment team by calling 0300 131 2797. Visit www.kentfostering.co.uk for more information about Kent Fostering.



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Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

On Thursday 4 July I was honoured to be re-elected to serve as your MP. It is humbling to have your support in Borough Green. The area I represent is now no longer Tonbridge and Malling after boundary changes. The new seat of Tonbridge goes from Cowden and Edenbridge in the west, to the town of Tonbridge and then north to include Hartley and New Ash Green, as well as many of the communities in between.

There is so much to do across Tonbridge, Edenbridge and our North Downs villages and it is a real privilege to be elected. We have such an opportunity to do even better together. Whether it is connecting to Gatwick by rail, delivering the investment in the old Beales store in Tonbridge, improving broadband and mobile signal across our rural villages such as Borough Green or getting better train connections from all of our stations, I know we can make our towns and villages so much better by working together.

At the time of writing I have just returned to Parliament after the General Election and I will continue to act for everyone who lives and works in our communities. This is why it is important that you let me know if there is anything that you think I can do to help you.

I am also looking forward to being back out and about across the community. It was fantastic getting to meet so many people across Borough Green throughout the campaign and I cannot wait to meet as many of you as possible over the coming months.

As I mentioned, my work on behalf of you must be guided by you and what your priorities are, so please, if you think I can help with an issue, or you want to share with me any thoughts you may have, be in touch via the information below.

130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP
01732 441 563

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk



Join us at Mote Park, Maidstone on **Saturday 7 September** and share an incredible day with others who understand how it feels to be affected by dementia.

To make sure everyone's included there are two routes to choose from on the day. A shorter **2.5km route** is a gentle stroll around the park and lake, which is wheelchair accessible and suitable for all ages and abilities. The longer **5km route** is a little more challenging, and will take you around the park and lake, as well as through woodland. This route is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs due to the nature of the pathways. You can arrive from 10am and the first walk starts at 11am.

The aim is to raise **£160**, or as much as you can, so you can support more people affected by dementia now and in the future. Lots of tips and tricks are included in the fundraising pack you receive through the post. For more information go to

www.alzheimers.org.uk/memory-walk/find-a-walk/maidstone



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**Have your say on the
KCC budget**
(Extracts from press release
issued on 13 June)

Services residents want to see prioritised, ideas for cost savings and income generation, and future increases in Council Tax are the basis of questions in an eight-week budget consultation launched by Kent County Council (KCC).

The setting of the annual KCC budget is once again a challenging process for 2025-26. The estimated budget gap is £81 million and with some of the authority's reserves having been used to bolster recent years' budgets, further tough choices will need to be considered.

Significant spending demands and cost increases, largely for the most vulnerable residents in the areas of adult and children's social care and home to school transport, continue to squeeze the budget. Complex needs, population growth and people living longer are all factors that are contributing to the financial pressures of authorities across the UK as well recent high levels of inflation and significant increases in National Living Wage in recent years adding pressure on budgets. The Government requires local authorities to deliver a balanced budget, which means planned spending must be managed within funding resources available.

KCC is also closely reviewing all of its operations year-on-year to identify opportunities to save money wherever it can. That has included accelerating the use of digital technology and looking at its premises estate to ensure the right buildings are in the right places to achieve its net zero ambitions.

In this year's budget consultation, residents will be asked their views on an increase in their Council Tax, along with suggestions as to how and where KCC can make cuts in services which are necessary to ensure the financial sustainability of the Council.

The budget consultation closes on 7 August.

Further information:

To get involved visit: www.kent.gov.uk/budget

If you are unable to take part online, a hard copy of the questionnaire can be requested via our Alternative Formats team.

Email: alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421 553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421 553).



**Kent
Police**

Anti-Social Behaviour Updates



We are having constant issues with nuisance bikes. If any vehicle registrations are identified, please let us know so that we can take targeted action. Please also remain vigilant regarding suspicious vehicles and individuals. Use Kent Police online reporting www.kent.police.uk/ro/report or go to www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/ to report these issues and the reports will find their way back to the relevant officer.

Oliver Evans
(PC14525, Tonbridge & Malling Neighbourhood Officer)

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

By Telephone: 01732 885172



Wrotham (St George's) Cricket Club

After 2 weeks off Wrotham returned to play an away match at Watlington on 30 June. This was a classic Sunday village fixture - a competitive game played in a good spirit, with fathers, sons, a daughter and grandsons all taking part and excelling. Watlington won the toss and decided to bat first in a game of 30 overs a side (with consideration to the early kickoff of the England football game). Wrotham's early bowling was tight, aided by keen fielding, with Arthur Ives particularly economic conceding only 14 runs off his 6 overs. Unfortunately, and despite the slow outfield, the opposition then got into their stride and accelerated the score to 193 off their overs. Although this was a challenging total Wrotham set about their task sensibly, and a half century from Matt Crisp with some stylish driving, together with a good knock from Neil Pickford, and a quick 31 from Dougie at the end brought Wrotham up to a respectable 171 at close.

Next home matches on 28 July, 25 August, 1 and 8 September. Do come and watch the excitement! Or follow us on Facebook.

John Humphreys

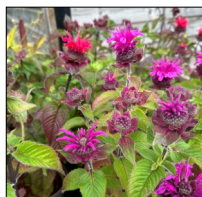


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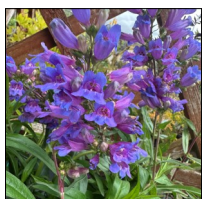
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BOROUGH GREEN LIBRARY

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.

Ancestry - Monday 10.15 - 12.15 need to book an appointment



Scrabble - Tuesday 2.15 - 4.15

Coffee & Chat - Thursday 10.15 - 12.15

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time - Friday 10.15 - 10.45

Friday 2 Book Club (second Friday of each month) 2.00



This year's Summer Reading Challenge is called Marvellous Makers and it's all about creativity!
From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone.

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.



is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next events are on Fridays 2 August and 6 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 23 August 2.00 - 3.30.



Drink tea, raise money, change lives

Will you be a life-changer this August? Hold an Afternoon Tea and raise money to help power life-saving breast cancer research and vital support. We'd love to have your amazing support!

To sign up go to <http://www.breastcancernow.org/afternoon-tea> fill out a quick and easy form, we'll then send you out one of our fantastic fundraising kits. If you'd prefer to register over the phone, you can always call us on: 0333 20 70 300.

SMALL NOTICES



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Village Hall

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

01732 646040

Potters Mede

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

Defibrillator Locations

a) **24 hours a day**

The Village Hall

Potters Mede

The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

b) **When premises are open**

The Medical Centre

BG Primary School

Fourways Dentists



What's on at Borough Green Village Hall

For information on forthcoming events see

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

and for a list of events on a weekly basis see

www.facebook.com/groups/bgvillagehall

and on boards at the village hall.



Shaun the Sheep in the Heart of Kent is an exciting free art trail that will see over 50 individually decorated large Shaun the Sheep sculptures placed around the parks, town centre and river walks in Maidstone and the surrounding areas until **30 August**. Each Shaun the Sheep sculpture is designed and painted by local and national artists. The trail also includes 55 little Shaun sculptures, each designed and painted by local schools, community organisations, charities and care homes from Maidstone and the surrounding areas. One special Shaun has been created by children who are supported by the Hospice. Little Shauns will be located in flocks around the trail.

It's easy for everyone to take part in the trail, as the location of each Shaun is shown on the Shaun the Heart of Kent map. To download the map go to <https://shaunheartofkent.co.uk/map/> or to get the free trail app go to <https://shaunheartofkent.co.uk/app/>. Maps can also be picked up from the two Shaun Shops in Maidstone town centre - Shaun's HQ (Fremlin Walk) and Shaun's Baa-rn (The Mall Shopping Centre). They are also available to pick up in locations throughout the town centre businesses, the Kent History and Library centre and Maidstone Museum or at the Heart of Kent Hospice charity shops.



Farewell Weekend 13 - 15 September at Lockmeadow, Maidstone - book tickets at <https://shaunheartofkent.co.uk/events/> website to see all the Shauns together, buy trail merchandise, take selfies etc.

Auction 26 September at Clive Emson Conference centre, Kent Showground, Detling - all the large Shaun sculptures and a few of the little ones will be auctioned off for charity. You can register interest and book tickets at above website.



Not only will the trail raise money for Heart of Kent Hospice, but it will also help raise awareness about how we are there for those who need our care, comfort and support.

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 27 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.



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.



Dates in August	Route	Distance in miles
Sunday 4th	Plaxtol Circular: a gently rising climb from Plaxtol through Yopps Green with views over the Bourne valley before returning via Dunks Green. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Thursday 8th	Gentle and leisurely circular walk from Dunks Green to West Peckham.	5.5
Sunday 11th	Circular walk from the green at Sevenoaks Weald to the 500-acre historic estate at Bore Place incorporating organic farming and regenerative land management.	5.6
Wednesday 21st	Circular walk from Wrotham to build your appetite for a fish supper. Likely to be two walks available - one along the Pilgrims Way at the bottom of the Downs towards St Clere estate; the other a more strenuous exercise, which may be a 'labour-in-vain', to get good views south. Moderate difficulty.	3.5
Saturday 24th	Borough Green circular all-day walk via the Bourne Valley, Basted Mill, Old Soars Manor and Dunks Green. Picnic lunch at Shipbourne Common with a drinks stop at the Chaser Inn. The return is through the Fairlawne Estate and orchards. Footpaths and some quiet lane walking. Good views. Moderate pace.	12
Wednesday 28th	Gentle circular walk from Offham through the woods to Mereworth. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
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).		



Offham's Quintain – 28 August walk

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