

# THE VOICE

July 2024



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

July 2024

### Build each other up....

As I write this we are about halfway through the election campaigning. Perhaps by the time you read this, it will all be over!

One thing I have noticed in the campaigns of all the parties is that not only do they say, “A vote for *us* will be good because....” but just as often they seem to say, “A vote for *them* will be bad because....”.

Pulling others down is nothing new, nor limited only to elections. The Bible mentions gossip several times (and never in a good way). Tabloids and paparazzi love to bring people down. Social media is full of negative comments – often ones that are misogynistic, racist, trans or homophobic.

Does pulling others down make us feel better? Does it allow us an excuse for our own bad behaviour – look what they’re doing, I’m not so bad? Perhaps it’s a way to lay the blame somewhere else – it’s all their fault – without looking for the real root causes?

The Bible has many verses telling us not to speak ill of others; to not pull them down. And just as many telling us that when we speak we should do so in a way that builds others up. Why? Well perhaps because we are made in God’s image. Is it right to try and pull down God’s image or to build it up? To insult it or to praise it?

Of course, it may be that we pull others down because that’s what we’ve been taught, that’s what has been done to us all our lives? Perhaps our own self-image has been severely tarnished by others? If that’s the case, we need to remember that we too are made in God’s image, and also, as the Psalms tells us, we are, “fearfully and wonderfully made”. And despite what others may have told us, we are so lovely and so loved by God that He gave his Son for us. Why do we need to pull others down when God’s love is always lifting us up?

What if we only said things, wrote or posted comments that built others up? If that happened I think the internet would be a much nicer place – if not a whole lot quieter.

God bless  
Rev. Chris



## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

RIP  
Margaret Webb  
Stan Richford  
Victor Hughes

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



# COGS Summer Fayre 2024

**Saturday 29 June, 12 pm - 3 pm**

**Now at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Quarry Hill Road**

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**Competitions and Games**

**Refreshments:** Barbecue, cream teas, beer tent and more

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### The Church of the Good Shepherd

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

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

Email - [vicar.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.cogs@gmail.com)

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## CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - SOME 2023-24 REPORTS

### Toddler Time

Toddler Time continues to operate successfully. We meet from 10am to 12 noon on first and third Mondays of the month during term time. This arrangement has fitted in well with the various other toddler groups that take place in the local area. There is an average of eight children per session.



There is no charge for admission, we ask for a donation towards the tea, coffee and biscuits. The donations received cover the cost of supplies, contribute to heating costs, replace toys and provide gifts at Christmas and Easter.

We offer a relaxed atmosphere and an opportunity for pre-school children to meet and learn new social skills, where parents and carers can meet, share experiences and information.

As ever I would like to say a big thank you to the support team of Rosemary Dryland and Joan Carter, who keeps us topped up with tea, coffee and endless supplies of biscuits. The group would not happen without your loyal support.

Linda Bryce

**Mondays 1 and 15 July 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe.**

### Games, Tea & Chat



Games afternoons have continued on alternate Monday afternoons, bank holidays excepted, throughout the year. We have a team of 6 helpers and average attendance of 15 -18 over the past few months. Last year we lost a number through death or increasing frailty, but the group continues to attract new members who enjoy the informality and time to socialise together over a cuppa and some board games. New folk are always welcome – of any age – and helpers too.

Elaine Almond

**Mondays 8 and 22 July at 2 to 4pm in COGS annexe.**

### Open House

One of the projects we began last year as part of our programme of inclusion has changed since it began. Our Place of Welcome and Warm Space offers, for anyone who wants to come, a warm welcome, some refreshments and someone to chat with. Initially meeting on Fridays, with minimal success, this has now moved to Saturday mornings, and will usually have 10-20 people sharing community life together.



Chris Turner

**Every Saturday at 10 to 12 in COGS annexe.**

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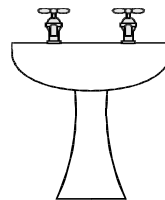
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## Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



ESTABLISHED  
APRIL 1934

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 3rd June 2024.

Matters discussed and reports received included:

- **BG Scouts Group** have now signed an agreement with BGPC and will be moving to their new home at Potters Mede on 15 June, a move made urgent by their imminent brutal 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.
- **Storage.** BGPC have installed three temporary containers at Potters Mede to provide storage for the Scouts and the expanding Junior Football Club. Once everything has settled down we will look at all options up to and including a possible extension to the existing hall.
- **Reynolds Retreat.** We understand Reynolds Retreat hope to develop the land between Crowhurst Rd and the Basted House Drive and the Scouts stood in the way of those plans. There will not be a planning application anytime soon, and the Parish Council obviously cannot take a position until there is, but this is greenbelt land and the protected avenue of limes, the historic drive to what was our manor house until successive commercial organisations got their hands on it. Apart from any physical risk to these historic trees, the grassed and open area is a part of the setting of this important local visual public amenity.
- **Solar Project.** Potters Mede's new solar panel array with battery storage has been installed and commissioned, and will shortly be connected to the grid allowing us to offset power costs by selling electricity back to the power company.
- **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. A public consultation will start towards the end of July and the Parish Council urges everyone to respond in the same huge numbers as last time. There is no doubt the 4000 responses (largely from this area) went a long way to changing greenbelt use. But we cannot relax and will be circulating bullet points of local sites, ideas for responses and highlighting the dangers we face. If residents want it, we will be happy to arrange a public meeting as we did last time, or exhibitions of plans and housing numbers.
- In the **Recreation Ground** installation will start next week on a new 6ft high RoSPA approved safety fence at the rear of the play area to remove even the slightest risk of children getting into the stream.

*(Continued on page 9)*



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- **58 & 70 Shopper Buses.** Due to continuous problems with bus routes being blocked by parking in West Malling, Nu-Venture are altering their bus routes and will no longer call at Tesco Larkfield. However both routes will now go all the way to Maidstone Town Centre Tesco and Sainsbury's at Quarry Wood, and we will have an extra bus to Tesco Larkfield on a Thursday.
- The **next** Parish Council meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 1st July 2024 at BG Village Hall.** The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions.

### Council Contacts

Chairman [mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk) **01732 882880**

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

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

### Advertising

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

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

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

The magazine is also available to read on the COGS, BG Community and Parish Council websites.

### Articles for the next magazine

The Voice is your community magazine and it relies on the people of Borough Green to make it as interesting as possible. Organisations, clubs and individuals are welcome to submit articles on their activities and subjects likely to be of interest to the village.

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Tuesday 16 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](mailto:m-jeffery@talktalk.net)

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# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - FOODBANK 2023 - 24 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 that was reported this time last year. The numbers dropped from 27 in March '23 to 21 families on August '23 but has increased again to 31 in April '24. We have supported an additional 24 families in the last year sometimes for a short period but often for several months or longer.

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 last 6 months we have spent over £5000 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 £3000 less than this time a year ago.

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

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.

Over the year the foodbank team has grown to about 12 regular volunteers with Steve Talmage taking on the vast majority of the administration and overseeing tasks. A big thank you to Steve and to all the regular volunteers and others that help on an occasional basis.



We are always on the look out for additional volunteers to help us out. With a couple of our regular drivers expecting to move away from Borough Green soon **we are particularly keen**

**to hear from anyone who would be happy to use their own car to help us deliver to our clients.** We deliver between 10 and 11:30 on a Monday morning. Please contact me on 07801 135460 or [foodbank.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:foodbank.cogs@gmail.com). Thank you.

Ian Simpson, Foodbank Leader



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.



## D-DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY 6 JUNE BOROUGH GREEN'S TRIBUTES

Cllrs Sue Butterfill and Sam Thrush, ably assisted by Bernie the Clerk, have been planning and booking ready for this event for many months.

The first element was a D-Day Lunch served by Pauline Nlx and her volunteers. The Parish Council decorated the village hall the night before with bunting and flags, and Pauline supplied Union Jack tablecloths and table decorations. The PC also supplied three large picture boards with D-Day pictures and Borough Green during that wartime era. Scott Millener laid on a collection of sounds, Vera Lynn and Glenn Miller to name but two.

The second element was to move the whole display to the Memorial Pavilion in the Rec, ready for the evening Commemoration Ceremony. To make the event more family oriented there was Sizzles food van, ice cream van and facepainting. Lee provided a great blend of music alternating between modern sing-along pop mixed with all the wartime classics. There were two sets by the City of Rochester Pipe Band (and drums) with a performance by our own Signing Choir in between. This culminated in the beacon lighting at 9pm (across the country), with ours being lit by our local celebrity, Dorothy Fissenden MBE, and the Chairman closed with a reading of the Exhortation.

"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,  
We Will Remember Them.  
We **WILL** Remember Them."

Mike Taylor







## General Election - Tonbridge Constituency - Thursday 4 July

Polling Station: Borough Green Village Hall 7am - 10pm

Candidates:

BAILEY, Lewis William John	Labour Party
COPE, Anna Victoria	Green Party
GRATTIDGE, Ian	Social Democratic Party
HANSFORD, Teresa Susan	Reform UK
SHAW, Tim	Independent Alliance (Kent)
TUGENDHAT, Tom	Conservative Party
WOOLLCOMBE, John	Liberal Democrat

The main deadlines leading up to this election (some of which will have passed before this magazine is delivered) are -

- 18 June receiving applications for registration
- 19 June receiving applications for postal votes
- 26 June receiving applications for proxy votes
- 26 June receiving applications for Voter Authority Certificates

Photo ID is needed to vote at a polling station (to see what is acceptable go to the TMBC website below). For those who do not have suitable photo ID applications can be made for a Voter Authority Certificate.



For more information contact the voting and elections team at TMBC.

[www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting)  
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## PARISH ALLIANCE SHOPPER BUSES

The Parish Alliance Shopper Buses have been increased from 2 to 3 and there are also some route and time changes.

### MONDAYS ROUTE 70

This will now extend to/from Maidstone providing an additional facility and there is also a route change in West Malling because of problems caused there by parking, especially in Swan Street. Outward times from Wrotham/Borough Green are slightly revised.

9.36 Wrotham Square, 9.41 Borough Green Station, 9.47 Platt, Wrotham Heath, Offham, West Malling, Leybourne Chase, East Malling to Larkfield and Maidstone. Returning from Maidstone Chequers Bus Station at 1.00.

### THURSDAYS ROUTE 70

The Shopper Bus 70 to/from Tesco Lunsford Park will now operate on Thursdays at these times.

11.25 Wrotham Square, 11.30 Borough Green Station, 11.36 Platt, Wrotham Heath, Offham, West Malling, Leybourne Chase, Tesco Lunsford Park. Returning from Tesco 2.05.

### FRIDAYS ROUTE 58

Outward times from Wrotham/Borough Green are slightly revised. The return bus from Maidstone will now pick up from Maidstone Chequers Bus Station as well as from Kings Street outside Boots.

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



## RECYCLING CLOTHES AND TEXTILES

**CLOTHES** Following the removal of the recycling bring site (“bottle bank”) at BG Station Approach a reminder that a clothes and textiles recycling bank remains at Ightham (lower) car park. The use of this bank benefits Ightham Scouts financially. Please do not leave items outside the bank as that would bring a risk of the bank being removed.





## Events in the Village for the month of July

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | <p><b>Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00</b><br/>BG Parish Council - BGVH - 7.30</p>   |  |
| 2  | <p>BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15</p>  |  |
| 4  | <p>BGVH - Polling Station - 7am to 10pm<br/>SJCC - Mass - 10.00<br/>BG Library - Coffee &amp; Chat - 10.15 to 12.15</p>   |    |
| 5  | <p>Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00<br/>BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00<br/>BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45</p>  |  |
| 6  | <p><b>Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00</b></p>   |  |
| 7  | <p><b>COGS - Holy Communion said - 8.30</b><br/>SJCC - Mass - 9.30<br/><b>COGS - All-Age Communion - 10.00</b><br/>BGBC - Service - 10.30<br/>Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30</p>                      |  |
| 8  | <p><b>Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00</b><br/>BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00</p>  |    |
| 9  | <p>BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15</p>  |  |
| 10 | <p>Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15<br/>BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00 - Searchword Sun</p>   |  |
| 11 | <p>SJCC - Mass - 10.00<br/>BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00<br/>BG Library - Coffee &amp; Chat - 10.15 to 12.15</p>   |  |
| 12 | <p>Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00<br/>BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00<br/>BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45<br/>Friday 2 Book Club - BG Library - 2.00</p> |  |
| 13 | <p><b>Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00</b><br/>Ightham Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall - Summer Show - 12.00</p>  |  |
| 14 | <p>SJCC - Mass - 9.30<br/><b>COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00</b><br/>BGBC - Service - 10.30</p>   |  |
| 15 | <p><b>Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00</b></p>   |  |
| 16 | <p>BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15</p>  |  |
| 18 | <p>SJCC - Mass - 10.00<br/>BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00<br/>BG Library - Coffee &amp; Chat - 10.15 to 12.15</p>   |  |
| 19 | <p>Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00<br/>BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00<br/>BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45</p>  |  |
| 20 | <p><b>Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00</b></p>   |  |

- 21 COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**  
 SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion - 10.30**  
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 22 Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
- 23 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**
- 24 BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00 - Garden Party**
- 25 SJCC - Mass - 10.00**  
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 26 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00**  
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 27 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 28 SJCC - Mass - 9.30**  
**COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00**  
 BGBC - Service - 10.30  
**COGS - Tea-Time Church - 4.30**
- 30 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15**



### Abbreviations

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

## IGHTHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

### ANNUAL SUMMER SHOW

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# SUMMER in Tonbridge

Free events in July and August are

Sunday 7 July from 3.00 to 5.00

- **West Kent Concert Band** at Tonbridge Castle

Every Friday evening from 19 July (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 25 August from 3.00 to 5.00

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

For more information on these and ticketed events (music weekend, outdoor theatre and inflatable obstacle courses) go to [www.tmbc.gov.uk/events](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/events)



**FRIENDS OF  
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**The King's Men return  
to St. Peter's Church  
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The King's Men are excited to present an evening of close harmony from Byrd to the Beatles, in support of the Friend's of St Peter's Ightham,

Formed of the Choral Scholars of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, their skills combine to provide sell out performances that include madrigals, folk, blue, jazz and pop. There really is something for everyone in this concert!

Tickets are £20 and can be purchased from the Hutch Deli,  
Sevenoaks Road, TN15 9AD. 01732 781134

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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. The Challenge starts on 6 July, join free at your local library.

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

**We look forward to seeing you.**



is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next events are on Fridays 5 July and 2 August at 11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit [www.digitalkent.uk](http://www.digitalkent.uk) or call 0300 0410950.

The next clinic for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing people is on Friday 23 July 2.00 - 3.30.





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## Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

Meetings are normally 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 8 July:** Kent Air Ambulance Services - more details to follow.


The May event 'Mercy Ships' was a great success with very positive feedback from members. Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform lives and serve nations. The floating hospital, the 'Africa Mercy', is staffed almost entirely by volunteers who give their expertise for free to help treat dental and eye problems, cleft lips and palates, tumours, club feet, childbirth injuries, burns and various other conditions. Since 1978 they have visited 55 countries and directly helped more than 2.5 million people.

U3A welcomes members of all ages. Please contact Irene at [membershipsec.bgwu3a@gmail.com](mailto: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 8 July.

Phil Williams, Communications Secretary



**SPACE 2 BE ME** work across west Kent (mainly Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) with disabled children and young people with additional needs and their families.

The Longmead Family Hub (based at Waveney Road, Tonbridge) has already held a couple of sessions at Potters Mede and is planning more for the summer holidays.

For more information and to book places go to [www.space2beme.org.uk](http://www.space2beme.org.uk) email [info@space2beme.org.uk](mailto:info@space2beme.org.uk) or call 01622 764566.



Delivery of containers at Potters Mede arranged by the Parish Council to provide storage for the Scouts' equipment.

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## Community Health Services

### Reimagining community health services

NHS Kent and Medway wants to hear your views on community healthcare. When most people think about NHS services they might think of hospitals, or their local general practice, but thousands of specialist healthcare professionals are helping the people of Kent and Medway every day, embedded in our communities, helping us all stay well.

These services are nurse and therapist-led, helping people to regain or find their independence and get back on their feet after illness or injury. They also include therapists and nurses working with children with disabilities or long-term illness, supporting people with long-term conditions and giving dignity to people at the end of their life and their families.

Community health services help adults and children get well and stay well, either in their own home or other out-of-hospital settings close to home. They are a critical part of health and care, working closely with general practice and alongside hospitals. We know people recover faster at home and those who need longer term care need support to live their lives the best way they can.

NHS Kent and Medway wants to improve community health services, making sure people can access the same quality and type of services no matter where they live, reducing waiting times, improving care and people's experience. NHS Kent and Medway wants to do better and make sure people are cared for in the right place, at the right time and by the right person. Community services are central to our future plans for high performing health and care.

To help determine how we can improve community health services, for adults and children, we want to hear from you about your experiences of them and what matters most to you to guide our improvements. We will use your feedback to direct improvements across all of the services we are looking at. We want to hear from you if you have used adults' or children's community health services or if you care for someone who has.

For a full list of services we are looking at, visit our list of children's services at [www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/childrens-service-descriptions](http://www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/childrens-service-descriptions) or the list of adult services at [www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/adults-service-descriptions](http://www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/adults-service-descriptions). We also want to hear from staff working in the services and those who work alongside, as well as from community and voluntary organisations which supply key support. You can get involved by completing one of our surveys below.

The surveys will close at **9am Friday, 12 July**.

Children's Community Health Services

[www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/children](http://www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/children)

Adults' Community Health Services

[www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/adults](http://www.haveyoursayinkentandmedway.co.uk/adults)



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## **Kent Police** Scam alerts recently circulated by Kent police

**McAfee Scam Emails.** Watch out for FAKE McAfee emails. These have been reported to Action Fraud over 4,500 times.

The emails ask you to click on a link that will take you to suspicious looking websites where they will steal your financial data. You can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Your reports enable them to remove emails and websites used to perpetrate fraud.

**Courier Fraud.** This is a type of fraud where fraudsters contact victims by telephone, pretending to be a police officer or bank official. The caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address to substantiate their claim. The criminals trick victims into thinking they are dealing with genuine officials. When impersonating police, they will often ask you to withdraw cash from your Bank to assist with an investigation. They will arrange for the money to be collected for fingerprinting etc. but is all a scam. They may state that they have arrested someone with your Bank card. They will then request financial details and arrange collection of your cards as part of their evidence. They have also directed victims to purchase high value items, such as gold to help with an investigation. However, all these scenarios are a scam.

Our basic advice is –

If you are ever asked to withdraw cash by the police or handover your bank cards or assist with an investigation by buying and handing over valuable items, in particular, Gold – STOP IT'S A SCAM and report to Police.

**WhatsApp Scam.** WhatsApp group chat members are being warned they could be targeted by criminals, as Action Fraud reveals it has received 636 reports from victims of the messaging app this year. The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending or claiming to be another member of the group. This is done to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and/or display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group. The fraudster will tell the victim they are sending them a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The criminal then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call. In reality, the criminal is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device so they can take over their account. Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to regain access their account. Other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, will then be messaged asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

How to secure your WhatsApp account:

- Set up two-step verification (2SV) to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- CALL. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person outside of WhatsApp to confirm their identity.
- Report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

.....

If you think that you may have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

Steve Kelly,  
Kent Police Fraud Prevent and Protect Officer



# SMALL NOTICES



Slimming World  
Group on  
Wednesdays  
8.00am, 9.30am, 5.30pm and 7pm  
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## Hall bookings

**Parish Hall - Quarry Hill**

Alan Williams 01732 886557

**Village Hall**

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

01732 646040

**Potters Mede**

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

## Defibrillator Locations

a) 24 hours a day

The Village Hall

Potters Mede

The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

b) When premises are open

The Medical Centre

BG Primary School

Fourways Dentists



## What's on at Borough Green Village Hall

For information on forthcoming events see  
[www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk)  
and for a list of events on a weekly basis see  
[www.facebook.com/groups/bgvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bgvillagehall)  
and on boards at the village hall.

## Wrotham (St George's) Cricket Club

### May Report

At last the sunshine came out with a vengeance so that Wrotham's first game of the season could get under way, against Foxbury Exiles who decided to bat first. A tight start to the bowling and keen fielding restricted them to 37-1 from 13 overs when the game was abandoned due to a severe injury to one of our players. After the dust had settled and the ambulance left it was decided to start a 20/20 game. Wrotham batted first and posted 159/5 with Dan Bragg hitting a classy 55 not out with contributions from Neil Pickford, Callum Evans, Dave Jones and skipper Will Booth. Foxbury started well and at the early stages looked as if they would see Wrotham off but, despite energy levels starting to drop off in the heat, good bowling from Neil, Dan and Dave slowed and controlled the run rate so that at the end Wrotham won by 25 runs. An encouraging start to the season with a close game against good opposition.

### June Report

A beautiful June Sunday saw a competitive and entertaining game when Wrotham played Blue Star at home in front of an appreciative crowd. Blue Star opted to bat first and reached an impressive 198-8 off their 40 overs. A tidy and economic opening spell from Will Booth was followed by main performer Neil Pickford who had excellent figures of 4-43. Unusually none of the wickets to fall was caught. Although this was a challenging target, Wrotham came up just 3 runs short. An exciting finish was achieved by the last wicket pair of Will Coffin and Jem Block (in his new shirt!) who put on over 35 runs at the end. Honourable mention also to earlier batters MJ and Dougie.

Next home games for you to watch are 14 and 28 July.

For those interested nets are on Wednesdays from 6 pm and also follow us on facebook.

John Humphreys



Please note the Wrotham Music Festival is moving to every other year with the next event taking place on the Bank Holiday weekend in August 2025. This will be alternate years to the Wrotham Arts Festival (which took place in May this year).

This decision will allow the committee to take a little break and source some new acts for 2025. This volunteer run event is fun to be part of and we are always looking for new members.

Feel you can spare some time? Please email [wrothammusic@gmail.com](mailto:wrothammusic@gmail.com)





## Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders, see our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingeramblers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingeramblers) or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk).



Dates in July	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 4th	Circular walk through the Medway and Eden river valleys and Penshurst with its fine manor house. Moderate difficulty with one stile; could be muddy depending on the weather.	5
Sunday 7th	A scenic walk from Shoreham through the woodland and chalk grassland of the peaceful Austin Lodge Valley. Moderate difficulty with two steep climbs and one long steady incline. Approximately five stiles.	5
Thursday 11th	Knockholt Chevening circular: explore the meadows and woods of the North Downs escarpment with grand views of Chevening House. Moderate difficulty with one steep climb.	5
Wednesday 17th	Linear walk from Wrotham following Stage 10 of the Pilgrims Way to Halling. Lovely views towards Trottscliffe and Ryarsh. Moderate difficulty. Return by train to Borough Green before walking back to Wrotham (approximately one mile).	8
Sunday 21st	Leisurely, fairly flat walk from Tonbridge Castle to Leigh and back, following the Wealdway to Haysden, and the Eden Valley Walk to Leigh. Rivers, lakes and typical Kent countryside make this a lovely walk.	7
Wednesday 24th	Circular walk from Meopham Green towards New Ash Green before heading down to Ridley and Culverstone Green. Moderate difficulty.	7.5
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).		



*Tonbridge Castle – 21 July walk*

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