

# THE VOICE

April 2025



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



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## Five years....

There has been much talk on the TV and radio recently looking back and reflecting on the fact that the COVID pandemic hit the UK five years ago. The first lockdown began; we entered a time of unknowing and there was fear for the future. There was also a lot of grief for lost loved ones, lost jobs, lost opportunities and for simply being unable to connect with friends and family.

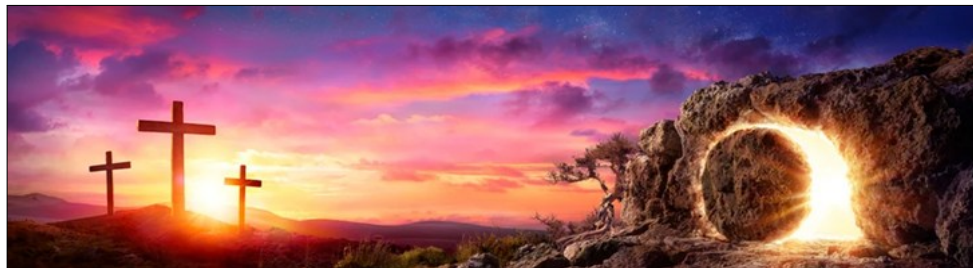
Holy Saturday is the day between Good Friday, when we remember Jesus dying on the cross, and Easter Sunday, when we celebrate His rising to new life. For us, on this side of Easter, who know the story, it might be a day for getting things prepared for Sunday, perhaps making sure you've enough Easter eggs, checking everything's ready for the family gathering or, in my case, writing an Easter sermon. But, for those first disciples who witnessed Jesus' brutal death or who ran away and hid, "Holy Saturday" was a time of fear, grief and unknowing, with many of them locked away in hiding. Jesus had told them on several occasions that He would rise on the third day, but they had no understanding of what that meant. When the women went to the tomb they were expecting to find a body to anoint, not angels sharing the resurrection news. And even when that news spread and the risen Jesus began to appear to people, there was confusion, uncertainty and fear.

We don't know the future. Each Saturday we don't know what Sunday will bring – though we might have a good idea. Most of the time it doesn't bother us but, during times of stress, when the challenges mount up and when fears build, our unknowing about tomorrow can weigh very heavily on us. Jesus told his disciples "Do not worry about tomorrow". Perhaps he was trying to prepare them for Holy Saturday when they would be filled with worries about the future.

The Easter story reminds us that no matter how bleak today seems and what worries we might have for tomorrow, the ultimate victory belongs to God. When Jesus says, "Do not worry about tomorrow" it is not a command, but a promise – God is in control so you've nothing to worry about.

So, this Holy Saturday, (19th April), perhaps take a moment to ask God to ease your worries, to show you that He is in control and to say with confidence – Alleluia, Christ Is Risen!

Happy Easter  
Rev. Chris



## **Easter services at the Church of the Good Shepherd**

### **18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday**

10am - Family Worship - a chance for us all to think about why this day is Good

2pm - The Final Hour - a reflective service focusing on the last hour of Jesus' life

### **20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday**

8:30am - First Light Service - welcoming the resurrection light with fire and candles

9am - Breakfast Church - enjoy food, faith and friendship as we celebrate Easter

10:30am - Holy Communion for Easter Day

### **A Service of Prayers for Healing and Wholeness**

With laying on of hands and anointing

**6:00pm Sunday 6 April**

**Church of the Good Shepherd  
Quarry Hill Road**

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM  
Leo Setters

FUNERAL  
Julie Hart

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



### Cinema at COGS

**Wednesday 16 April** 2pm in the Church of the Good Shepherd. Please check the Church's noticeboard for this month's presentation. All are welcome so come for an afternoon of free entertainment. Refreshments available during the interval. This is the last one of the season - will start again in September.



### Games, Tea & Chat



On alternative **Mondays** (for dates see diary section) at 2 - 4pm in the annexe to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Come and enjoy board games, tea and a chat. Plenty of room for new folk so, if you are wondering whether it's for you, do get in touch and ask for more information or just turn up at 2.00.

Contact Elaine Almond on 886440 or [etalmond@aol.com](mailto:etalmond@aol.com)

**Monday Minis Toddler Time** - no meetings in April.



### SAVE THE DATE

Join us for an enjoyable evening of **BINGO with "FUN-PRIZES"**  
Friday 9 May 7.30pm  
Bar and nibbles available

Further information from  
Julie Sweeting 01732 885437



### 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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# Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



ESTABLISHED  
APRIL 1934

The Council met at 7.00pm Monday **10th March 2025** at the Bowls Club.

Matters raised included:

- **Recreation Ground Pavilion.** Cllr Sam Thrush reported completion of the first phase - the excavations at the rear to resolve an ongoing damp problem in the Pavilion rear wall, retaining walls have been installed, the ground excavated down to damp course level and new damp proofing and drainage installed. As I write this the build-up of mud on the footpath is being power washed. The next phases will be a full asbestos survey and installation of a new roof with modern insulation.
- **VE Day 80** planning is progressing well with a full programme elsewhere in this issue.
- **Allotments** have always been in short supply in Borough Green and the three at the Parish Church Hall have a long waiting list. But we have been contacted by Brian Saunders, Chair of Wrotham Allotments, that as many as three will be coming free shortly. Contact us for details.
- **SPEEDWATCH** There was an excellent presentation about Speedwatch by Alan Watson from Kent Police and the Parish Council will be looking for volunteers to give a few hours each month to try and reduce speed through the Village. Councillors were very impressed with the improvements in the Speedwatch process which ensures persistent offenders are dealt with robustly, and we are talking to our neighbours in Platt, Wrotham and Ightham about a joint initiative. Contact [tim.shaw@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:tim.shaw@boroughgreen.gov.uk). 
- **West Kent Mind** have responded to a discussion at the COGS Discover Your Community event and will be starting a new men's group at Potters Mede on 9 April 10.30 - 12.30. (For details see page 21.)
- **Criminal Damage and ASB.** Kent Police report that one of the catapult vandals has been arrested. This is a result of closer liaison and communication between community groups and businesses. It is still most important that any incident is reported to Police either by calling 101 or on the Kent Police website [www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](http://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/) but also email the details of that crime to [clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk) including Police incident number, street, date and time, damage and any other notes like registration numbers.
- **Barry Glew**, our long serving groundsman, well known to many of you, is retiring in June but his replacement Ken will be starting in April alongside Barry to learn the job and meet the residents of Borough Green.
- **Borough Green Scouts** are settling into their new home at Potters Mede but, for the future, they want a more permanent and dedicated venue. We have had very early discussions about the feasibility of building a new venue at Potters Mede which would keep them close to home and retain that vital access to open space and woodland.
- **Devolution** has generated a lot of discussion and Cllr Rayner advised that the joint KCC and Medway proposal to Government did not make the priority list, so KCC Elections will still go ahead in May 2025, and no-one knows what happens after that. (Continued on page 11)

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## Election for Kent County Council : 1 May

The main deadlines leading up to this election are :-

11 April receiving applications for registration

14 April receiving applications for postal votes

23 April receiving applications for Voter Authority Certificates



Photo ID is needed to vote at a polling station. 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-elections](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting-elections)

01732 876022

[voting@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:voting@tmbc.gov.uk)

In the light of this election, and in keeping with our longstanding practice, there will be no items in the May Voice regarded as party political.

### 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 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 April** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **May** 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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- **MOTO Truckstop.** Residents of all our parishes were justifiably angry at the Planning Inspector's support of this twice refused application on pristine greenbelt farmland within the setting of the North Downs National Landscape (AONB). The Parish Alliance advisors are examining the decision closely to see if it is legally sound.
- **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. We still have vacancies for two Councillors.



The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th April 2025 venue TBC. 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 \(boroughgreen.gov.uk\)](http://mysite.boroughgreen.gov.uk)

**Church of the Good Shepherd Food Bank**



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

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

**Breakfast**

- Cereals
- Breakfast bars

**Lunch box**

- Cartons of fruit juice
- Packets of snacks

**Tinned**

- Sweetcorn
- Chopped tomatoes
- Baked Beans
- Ham
- Tuna

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- UHT semi-skimmed milk

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- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Deodorant
- Soap

**Household**

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- Laundry detergent
- Multi-surface cleaner
- Washing-up liquid
- Toilet rolls

**Donations of Easter Eggs before 13 April will be very welcome.**

**Thank you**



For any enquiries regarding our food bank please contact Ian Simpson on **07801 135 460** or [foodbank.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:foodbank.cogs@gmail.com)



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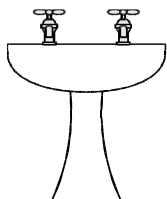
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## DELIVERING THE VOICE




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 :

### 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**.

## Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

Borough Green and Wrotham u3a meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2pm in Borough Green Village Hall, with tea, coffee and biscuits. Parking/disabled access available. 

The next monthly meeting will be on **Monday 14 April, 2pm**. Our speaker will be Fred Lemont from Paddock Wood u3a who will talk to us about Nursery Rhymes and their origins from poverty, persecution and historical events. This event is free for members and guests are welcome with a £3 charge. We look forward to seeing you at this very interesting talk.

Please be aware that charges are now payable for the car park at Borough Green Village Hall. Full instructions are given on the signs at the car park, including instructions for free parking for Hall users, who are exempt from charges when they sign in with their car registration inside the Hall.

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

## St Joseph's Catholic Church Services over Easter period

Stations of the Cross

Fridays 4 and 11 April - 6.00pm



18 April Good Friday Solemn Liturgy - 3.00

20 April Easter Sunday Mass - 9.30

## Borough Green Baptist Church Services over Easter period



18 April Good Friday 10.30

20 April Easter Sunday 10.30



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**1800 - 1815 - LONE PIPER**

**1815 - 1845 - SIGNING CHOIR**

**1845 - 1900 - LONE PIPER PLAYS  
"FLOWERS OF THE FOREST"**

**1900 BEACON LIT**

**1900 - 1930 DJ LEE MUSIC UNTIL 1930**

**1930 - CLOSE**

TIMINGS AND EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



BOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



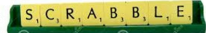
# Events in the Village for the month of April

- 1 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15  
Ightham Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall - Spring Show
- 2 SJCC - Lenten talk in the Parish Centre - 7.00 for 7.30
- 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  
SJCC - Stations of the Cross - 6.00
- 5 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 6 **COGS - Holy Communion said - 8.30**  
SJCC - Mass - 9.30 followed by refreshments  
**COGS - All-Age Communion - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30  
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30  
**COGS - Service of Prayers for Healing and Wholeness - 6.00**
- 7 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
BG Parish Council - TBC - 7.30
- 8 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 9 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15  
SJCC - Lenten talk in the Parish Centre - 7.00 for 7.30
- 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  
Friday 2 Book Club - BG Library - 2.00  
SJCC - Stations of the Cross - 6.00  
Wrotham Historical Society - 7.45 - Wrotham Village Hall
- 12 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 13 SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion 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
- 15 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 16 **COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00**  
SJCC - Lenten talk in the Parish Centre - 7.00 for 7.30
- 17 SJCC - NO Mass  
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 18 **GOOD FRIDAY**  
**COGS - Family Worship - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30  
**COGS - The Final Hour - 2.00**  
SJCC - Solemn Liturgy - 3.00





- 19 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**  
**20 EASTER SUNDAY**  
**COGS - First Light Service - 8.30**  
**COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**  
 SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion for Easter Day - 10.30**  
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 22** BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15  
 Ightham Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall - 7.00
- 23** Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 24** SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration  
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15  
 BGVH - Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Sale - 2.00 to 4.00
- 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**  
**27** SJCC - Mass - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00**  
 BGBC - Service - 10.30  
**COGS - Tea-Time Church - 4.30**
- 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



### Abbreviations

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



## IGHTHAM & DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB SPRING SHOW

**Tuesday 1 April** Ightham Village Hall

Staging for Exhibitors from 6.00 -7.00pm Judging at 7.15pm  
 Doors open for viewing at 8.15pm

**VISITORS WELCOME and ALL CLASSES OPEN to NON-MEMBERS**  
 (contact us for show schedule)

**Tuesday 22 April** 7.00pm Ightham Village Hall

A talk by Bryan Everest

“All you need to know about growing sweet peas”

(Sweet pea plants will be on sale.)

Visitors very welcome

For further information contact Pippa Coulthard - 01732 883041  
 or Dee Samways – 0779 900 2129

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## Working for the Community!


Longer days are here at last and we've even had some much welcomed Vitamin D absorption courtesy of some long missed sunshine as we move steadily on and building up



towards Easter activities.

### Busy, Busy, Busy!

The hall remains in a busy patch (seems to be a common theme now) with not just the activities but ongoing maintenance. A maintenance review was conducted in February by the committee with an extensive list of things needing to be done to 'upgrade' facilities and now we are prioritising and seeking trades to complete work. Any local trades people willing to assist the committee and competitively quote for potential work?

Some successful big events have been held recently with the Country and Western night, a large weekend wedding and the rehearsals for Borograds much anticipated 'Rapunzel' which, judging by the hilarity in rehearsal, will be one to watch. 

The hall remains interested in any charitable organisations seeking venues for fundraising activities. Please feel free to make contact at

[bookings@boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk).

### Your Hall is a Vital Local Charity!

The village hall is a key community venue for events like dance classes and wedding receptions, and aiming to support recreational, educational and social activities. As a registered charity, it relies on its own income to operate smoothly, benefiting from tax perks, but adhering to strict financial rules. Independent from the parish council, it has its own trustees and finances, seeking council support when needed.

Revenue primarily comes from venue hire fees which are kept affordable yet essential for covering costs like heating, lighting, insurance and maintenance. Recently the hall incorporated paid parking options for non-hall users to bring in extra funding. This income will hopefully help cover rising maintenance costs and fund the improvements that aren't possible with hire fees alone.

A local benefactor donated generously to aid essential renovations of the hall showing the community's value and commitment to its future. The hall faces ongoing financial challenges like rising utility bills, maintenance costs and insurance premiums. The volunteer committee works hard to balance generating income while keeping the hall accessible to all.

### Car Parking Information

There have been some recent messages on social media regarding car parking. Guidance on use of tablets for hall users will be published to remind users once they put the registration number in and click the **'ADD VEHICLE'**, they should wait for the screen to confirm with message **'THANK YOU FOR ADDING YOUR VEHICLE'** then push **'RETURN HOME'** to ensure the number is stored! Failure to register your number correctly may result in a PCN being issued.

For non-hall users parking, if the pay machine is **not** working, you can still pay online using a parking app such as 'Ringo', calling 'Ringo' direct on 020 3046 0010 quoting location **'1528'**, or by contacting Gemini (phone 0208 418 0948 email [info@geminiparkingsolutions.com](mailto:info@geminiparkingsolutions.com)). Contacting the Hall committee (who are all volunteers), or publishing questions on social media about pay machine not working, may not prevent a PCN being issued. A reminder there is a list of 'Parking Questions and Answers' available on the Village Hall Facebook page and the hall website.

### Hall Maintenance Work

The committee are constantly attempting to juggle any current maintenance work and dates around the hall activities in an attempt to minimise any disruption and will keep users informed via local 'Pinboard' and media of any potential known disruptions as the work progresses.

Thank you as always for your continued and wholly positive support!





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<https://westkentmind.org.uk/i-want-help/creative-minds/building-in-watercolour/>

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## Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

On Thursday 1 May we will all have the opportunity to head out and vote in the Kent County Council (KCC) elections. It is important we all have our say. KCC are responsible for spending more than 70% of our council tax and are responsible for key services including our roads, our schools and social care.

But voting matters regardless of which Council delivers our services. It is our chance to have our say on how we want services delivered in our community. We are lucky to have County Councillors, of all parties, who have worked hard for their communities over many years. It won't be a surprise who I will be voting for, but I didn't want to use this column to persuade you to vote for one candidate or another. I wanted to make sure everyone has the chance to vote.

You need to be on the Electoral Register to do so. To sign up visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or call Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522. You must do this by Friday 11 April to vote on Thursday 1 May.

If you are not able to vote in person on Thursday 1 May, then you can apply for a Postal Vote. The deadline for this is Monday 14 April. You can do this by visiting [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) or calling the Council on the number above.

Our ancestors fought hard for the right to vote for every adult in our community. Please make sure you use it. Councillors have their own mandate to deliver in our village, but they can only represent our views if we have our say at elections.

[tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)

## Devolution derailed in Kent but plans for major council shake up to go ahead

*(Extracts from press release issued on 10 February)*

A day after Kent was told it would not get a fast-track devolution deal, the Government told the county's council leaders that they must press ahead with their proposals for local government reorganisation as all two-tier authorities should now make plans to merge to create single authorities, and make structures simpler and more efficient.

The leaders of Kent County Council, Medway Council and all 12 district and borough councils in the county now have until 21 March to come up with an interim proposal as to how Kent and Medway could be divided into unitary authorities, with full proposals expected by 28 November.

Now that Kent will not be preparing for a mayoral election in 2026, the local elections on 1 May will go ahead as planned.



## 80th Anniversary VE Day Celebration at Tonbridge Castle

**Sunday 4 May 10am to 4pm**

The 1940s brought to life with a street-party at the castle with food, drinks, music and dancing. Free entry.



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We are working hard behind the scenes to bring our fabulous music festival to you again this year.

Please note - we have decided to move the music festival to the **4-6 July** weekend

- in the hope we have better weather and not clashing with those who previously liked to go away over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

We are pleased to announce the return of the fantastic Kent Police Band at our much-loved Bandstand Picnic in the Park on Sunday 6 July 1- 3pm. This is a FREE event for the whole family to enjoy - bring chairs, rugs and a sumptuous picnic.

Further events will be confirmed on [www.wrothammusicfestival.com](http://www.wrothammusicfestival.com)

## Wrotham Historical Society



**Friday 11 April**

British Women in Aviation  
- The Pioneers

A talk by Gary Bartlett

7.45pm Wrotham Village Hall

All visitors welcome - £5

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  - Wednesday evening nets - from 6pm
- All abilities welcome - proper village cricket!**  
Interested? Just come along to the ground (TN15 7AP) on a Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening for a chat or you contact us via <https://wrotham.play-cricket.com/Aboutus>



**Platt Cricket Club** are offering ECB accredited softball cricket programmes All Stars and Dynamos for 5-11 year olds, starting **Saturday 3 May.**

For more information and to sign up go to

All Stars <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/plattjunior/Course/908d4b40-e81b-437d-a28f-8e63647befc8>

Dynamos <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/plattjunior/Course/12e1455b-17de-4245-9d2c-afdc7cae09ef>



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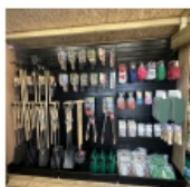
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Opening hours are

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 10.15 - 12.15 need to book an appointment

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.**



**DIGITAL KENT** is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next events are on **Fridays 4 April** and **2 May** 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 25 April** 2.30 to 3.30.



No appointment needed. Drop in and wait your turn.



### **Natty Stitches**

A new knitting and crochet group, the Natty Stitches, now meets every Monday from 10 - 12am at Borough Green Library. There will be lively chat, laughter and hopefully we will manage to get some projects made. There are a couple of charities we will be supporting so if you just wanted to make a small lap blanket or squares to be made into blankets that would be great or bring your own projects. Whatever you want to do. Bring a drink with you or there's always the local shops where you can buy something. We look forward to seeing you.

Jane Neave

**Almhouse Vacancy Plaxtol** The Betenson Trust invites applications for a licence to occupy a newly refurbished almshouse in School Lane, Plaxtol TN15 0QD, available in late May 2025. This small cottage has a lounge, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom with shower, and is ideally suited for single occupancy, although couples may be considered.

Applicants should be over 50 years of age and resident in the area or with other local connections. Priority will be given to those in housing need and with limited financial means. As a Christian foundation, the Trust may prioritise members of the Church of England where other criteria have been met. Applications received by 2 May and those currently on the waiting list will be considered. For further details and to register interest, please contact the Clerk, Sarah Allewell at: Rookery Dene, Long Mill Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks, TN15 8NA, 01732 885612 or email [sallewell@gmail.com](mailto:sallewell@gmail.com).

# 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](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





## Make a Will Month in April

Create or review your Will through a local partner solicitor and help fund our hospice's vital services. Make a Will Month in April offers you the chance to write a Will for an affordable donation. All partner solicitors are offering their professional Will writing services time for free (some may charge a small admin fee) in exchange for a donation to Heart of Kent Hospice. The donations represent a substantial discount on the normal commercial rates charged by each participating solicitor.

Complete the expression of interest form online at [www.hokh.org/event/make-a-will-month](http://www.hokh.org/event/make-a-will-month) and a member of our team will be in touch to help you set up your appointment.

### Concert of Favourite Music on 26 April

Join us for an evening of favourite music at 6:00pm at Invicta Grammar School, Huntsman Lane, Maidstone, ME14 5DS.

Treat yourself to timeless classics and crowd-pleasing favourites played by the Heart of Kent Orchestra, conducted by Derek Carden, and performances by the Invicta Grammar School Chamber Choir, the Numama Choir and solo pianists Oliver Poole and Simon Proctor.



To book tickets (adults - £15 and under 16 children - £5) go to <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ConcertofFavouriteMusic2025>

### Bluebell Walk on 4 May

The walks take place in the period 8:00am - 1:00pm starting from Harrietsham Village Hall, ME17 1AP.

The Bluebell Walk follows a picturesque leisurely six-mile ramble taking you amongst the stunning bluebells and through enchanting woodland on the North Downs. Walkers will be offered an additional route on the North Downs Way which bypasses the stiles at Lower Dean Farm. A decision on which route to take can be made whilst on the walk. There will be cold drinks at the two-mile mark, four-mile mark and picnic spot. The Field of Memories features at the picnic spot where you can remember a loved one.



The Bluebell Walk is perfect for all the family. Take on our 1 mile route - ideal for little legs! All our routes are dog friendly so why not bring them along too?

For more details including entry fees and sponsorship challenges go to <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/BluebellWalk2025>

The Heart of Kent Hospice can be contacted on 01622 792200 and [enquiries@hokh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hokh.co.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.

Look out for flash sales at the village hall. The next one will be on **Thursday 24 April** from 2.00 to 4.00 with most items for sale at just £1.



## 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).



April	Route	Distance in miles
Sunday 13th	Platt Woods, fields and lanes, starting with a climb to Platt Woods and sections of the Wealdway. Open farmland views of the North Downs and the 'Grey Ladies' oast houses. After Crouch and Claygate Cross, walk down Plough Hill to Basted Mill, returning via a steep bridleway. Moderate difficulty.	5
Wednesday 16th	Shipbourne, Ightham Mote and Plaxtol - a steady climb from Shipbourne Common up to Plaxtol via Ightham Mote taking in the views across The Weald and the bluebell woods. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Sunday 20th	Shoreham to Lullingstone: a climb up and along the Darent Valley for great views going towards Lullingstone. Moderate difficulty.	7
Thursday 24th	Circular walk from Otford across fields to Shoreham. Climb a steep hill and walk through Meenfield Woods where we hope to catch sight of some bluebells. Nibble break at the Shoreham Cross before returning via Darent Valley Golf Course and Shoreham Cricket Club. Moderate difficulty.	5.6
Sunday 27th	Leisurely, Kentish landscape walk from Five Oak Green to Spring Grove through hop fields, orchards and woodland. Climb to Amherst Bank, with views over Dislingbury, then down through Kent College woods, with plenty of spring flowers.	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).



Towards Platt Church – 13 April walk

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