# THE VOICE

October 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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#### Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd

October 2025

October always seems to be a month where things change. At the beginning we often have bright summer weather but by the end of the month the clocks have gone back so the evenings get dark earlier and it sometimes feels like winter is coming. Those at college or university have either just returned to their studies or have recently started their courses, so for them it's a time of new challenges and opportunities.

For us at the Good Shepherd, along with many other churches, the month starts with our Harvest Thanksgiving service as we celebrate God's goodness in providing for our needs. The tradition of celebrating the harvest is a very old one; in fact it dates back to pagan times and the name derives from the Old English word 'Haerfest' meaning 'Autumn'. Church celebrations only began in earnest in Victorian times and it was in this period that some of the most famous harvest hymns which we still sing today were written, such as 'Come, ye thankful people, come'.

Another favourite harvest hymn, originally from Germany, contains the line 'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above'. This reminds us that we don't live in a world which just happened by chance but one created and sustained by a God who loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.

But it's worth asking the question 'is a Harvest celebration still relevant today, especially in our modern society, where the food we want to eat is usually available all year round and comes from all over the world, where it will be harvested and produced, not just at the traditional autumn harvest time but all year round?'

I think that Harvest is still relevant because it gives us an opportunity to show our gratitude to all those involved in the process of bringing us our food and to acknowledge that we live in a world created and sustained by God. And it's also a chance to reflect on all the benefits we enjoy and to be able to share what we have with others.

Our Harvest Festival service at the Church of the Good Shepherd will be an All-age Service on Sunday 5th October and all gifts of non-perishable food will be used to support our Foodbank, which provides practical help to those in our community who need it.

So let's be grateful that we can enjoy all the good gifts that we receive from God and in the words of one of the great harvest hymns let us 'thank the Lord, for all his love'.

Chris Almond

#### Bishop at Church of the Good Shepherd

On **Sunday 12 October** we welcome Bishop Simon of Tonbridge to our 10am service of Holy Communion at the Church of the Good Shepherd. He will also perform a short service of Holy Dedication to consecrate the new Foodbank store into God's service.

All are welcome to join us for this special service.

#### Church of the Good Shepherd Food Bank

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 Food Bank please contact lan Simpson on **07801 135 460** or **foodbank.cogs@gmail.com** 

#### **All Souls Service**

In memory of those we love but see no longer Sunday, 2nd November, at 4pm

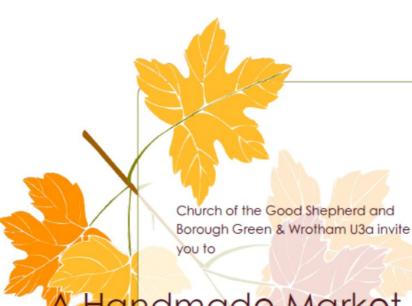
Church of the Good Shepherd, Borough Green TN15 8RF

This service will give some space to remember, give thanks and hold those who have died before God and in our hearts.

If you wish for someone to be remembered by name as part of the service, then please forward their name(s) to me, either by phone or preferably email. Elaine Almond (01732) 886440 etalmond@aol.com

Before the service, from 3:30pm, there will be an informal tea, giving a chance to gather, chat and share some memories. All are welcome.





Handmade Market

Saturday 18 October 11.00-2.00 Free Admission in The Church of The Good Shepherd

#### A range of handmade crafts including

Recycled household items, wax candles, soap, upcycled bags, gifts, jewelry, cards, vases, needle felt, seasonal wreaths, crochet, Christmas tree fairies

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Sandwiches, soup, cakes, tea and coffee

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#### Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



The Council met at 7.30pm **Monday 1st September 2025** at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:

- Recreation Ground Pavilion. We want to apologise for the haste of the recent
  consultation on the Pavilion renovation but want to thank everyone who took
  part. We had over 130 responses with a few still trickling in. The responses
  were overwhelmingly in favour of the project and included some from outside
  the village who use our facilities already. We were able to provide that
  indication of support in our various grant applications.
- Isles Quarry East. Tony Byrne has spent the last couple of weeks using the digger, provided by Travis Perkins, not just to open up the new bike trail but also to get our existing pedestrian routes back into full use and even open some overgrown areas. He has put a new path to the east along the undercliff and it is quite magical in there. We also want to thank Graham Taft for his unstinting help and advice, particularly with wildlife and habitat. TMBC have provided two black bins and youngsters have now set up a system so when one is full we can collect it for recycling whilst they use the second one. Tony has had the gang litter picking areas that are only now accessible, he has signed his licence agreement and has set up a non-profit community interest company. The Borough Green Scouts will be carrying out a mass litter pick across the whole area.
- Conyerd Road. The trees and scrub obscuring sightlines on this corner have now
  all been cut back by the Parish Council and local residents, with the more major
  tree works by Treeability who have also chipped all the arisings. Cooper
  Estates have our gratitude for picking up the bill for the work. Treeability will
  be delivering some of the chippings for the paths on the Harrison Rd land.
- TMBC's Draft Local Plan will go before a meeting of the Housing & Planning Committee on 21 October and a consultation launched to run through November/December. This draft will include the site lists and housing numbers the Government requires, 1109 houses per annum to be built in TMBC, so it is vitally important that as many people respond to that consultation as possible. You will recall that our group of villages generated 4000 responses on the last Plan opposing Green Belt development, and actually changed the Local Plan! Unfortunately the Government then changed the rules again to allow Green Belt development, introducing its new "Grey Belt" policy.

Borough Green and our neighbours have suffered nearly 200 years of continuous quarrying and landfill and, just as we approach the moment when we should have got our countryside back, the Government want to build housing on it. We accept there is a desperate shortage of housing and, if the Government pledged that housing would go to our local people who need it, we would be campaigning for it, not against it. But it will just be more open market housing making money for developers and urbanising our rural communities.

We will be running a leaflet drop to every house with some useful "bullet points" residents may want to use in any response to the Local Plan consultation, plus links to the online versions. This will also be publicised on our website and Facebook pages, and hopefully spread by other local social media.

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#### **Delivering the Voice**



We are looking for some help to deliver this magazine each month in the village as a number of our current volunteers, who have been doing this for many years, are looking to wind down.



If you are willing to put your name forward to help with this, please contact Chris Atkins 01732 366615.

#### **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  $\pounds 2$  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 14 October** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **November** so if you have any events planned for that month and you would like them to appear in the diary section please send to:-

m-jeffery@talktalk.net

01732 883978

Margaret Jeffery 7 Lendon Road Borough Green TN15 8SE

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• Hanging Baskets. We used to be so proud of our annual hanging basket floral display but KCC caused huge problems wanting to charge for permits, engineering and loading reports for each individual column. Many parishes gave up the ghost but we fought on. Unfortunately our contractor depended on multiple contracts and, as they disappeared, they went bust. Cllr Guy Heselden wants to investigate the possibility of getting them back again with an element of local volunteers and has our full support - watch this space.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th October 2025 at 19.30 in the COGS Annexe. The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions.

#### Council Contacts

Chairman mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk 01732 882880
Clerk clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk 07568 536405
Full minutes are posted at MINUTES | mysite (boroughgreen.gov.uk)



#### A Message from the Headteacher of Borough Green Primary School

It has been wonderful to welcome all of our children back to Borough Green Primary School after the summer break. The school is once again filled with energy, laughter and a real enthusiasm for learning.

Over the holidays, we were fortunate to complete a number of long-awaited upgrades across the school site. Our school hall has been fully refurbished, providing a bright and welcoming space for assemblies, performances and community events. Our youngest learners in Early Years are already enjoying their newly improved playground, designed to inspire active play and creativity. In addition, we now have enhanced outdoor learning spaces for all year groups, offering opportunities for exploration and hands-on learning beyond the classroom. Perhaps most welcome of all, our toilets have had a muchneeded refurbishment - something both pupils and staff have been very grateful for!

We are proud of the improvements that have been made and we look forward to seeing how they enrich the experiences of our children every day.

For families considering joining our school, we are holding Open Days on selected dates from the end of September 2025 until the end of November 2025 (please see separate advert on page 18), where you will have the chance to tour the school, meet staff and see our learning in action. We warmly encourage prospective parents and carers to come along and discover what makes Borough Green Primary such a special place to learn and grow.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank our school and wider community for their continued support, and I wish everyone a happy and successful year ahead.

Mrs Karen Jackson Headteacher, Borough Green Primary School



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We have been busy working on enhancements to the hall and are very pleased with the progress made thus far.

This month we updated our Health and Safety rules and conducted Water Risk and Fire Assessments, along with a Fire Door Survey, to ensure compliance.

The upgrade of the entrance hall remains our priority project and we anticipate appointing a contractor soon to commence work. Given the scale of this undertaking, it is crucial that we obtain expert advice to ensure that our investment in the facility delivers maximum value.

Offset Architects provided us with plans for improving the downstairs toilets, adding a separate disabled WC for better accessibility. We are now obtaining costings to achieve this.

The new term has brought a wonderful buzz back to our hall with activity levels higher than ever! We're thrilled to welcome families to our brand-new mother and baby fitness class which launches this month – perfect for new parents looking to stay active while bonding with their little ones.

Meanwhile the birthday party booking season is in full swing with weekends filling up fast as families celebrate their special occasions in our welcoming space. There's nothing quite like the sound of children's laughter echoing through the halls to remind us what community spaces are truly for.

We're also excited to announce that we're partnering once again with Kent Fire and Rescue to deliver another free defibrillator and health safety training session. Following the overwhelming response last time — where every single place was snapped up — we're expecting another full house. While our regular hirers have already shown keen interest, we'll be opening remaining spots to members of the public. Keep an eye on our Facebook group and notice boards at the village hall for full details and booking information.

It's wonderful to see our hall truly coming alive again, serving our community in so many different ways.

Thank you to the committee and volunteers for their continued support and we welcome further suggestions as we work to improve the hall for all.

Bryan Rawlins, Chairman

Email: boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com Phone: 01732 646040 Website: www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk



Kent Fire and Rescue are looking for on-call firefighters at fire stations across Kent including **Borough Green**. On-call firefighters carry a pager and respond to incidents from home or another workplace. To apply, you need to live or work

within five minutes of your local fire station.

If you want to find out more about the role (and to apply) go to

www.kent.fire-uk.org/oncall-firefighter

or you can visit Borough Green fire station on Monday evenings (7-9pm) when there is training.

Applications to become an on-call firefighter close on Friday 3 October.





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#### NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH



## Contacting the Church of the Good Shepherd



In the absence of a Vicar:

The email vicar.cogs@gmail.com will still work but it may take a few days to get a response.

The telephone number 01732 882447 will now go to an answer machine, and the message may not be picked up immediately.

If you need to speak to someone from the church then contact one of the churchwardens – Julie (885437) or Carole (07542 442 140).

If you have an enquiry about a wedding, a baptism or a funeral contact the Area Dean, Chris Noble (01732 822494) or rev.stmarysstansted@gmail.com.

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

COGS website www.cogsonline.co.uk

#### 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

#### **Monday Minis Toddler Time**

Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups. **Mondays 13 and 27 October**10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.



At the Church of the Good Shepherd
Christmas Fair

Saturday 29 November: 10 - 1pm Refreshments, bottle tombola,

Christmas raffle, cakes and bakes, crafts, cards, gifts, stocking fillers and much more...

A few tables left at £15 for interested stall holders.

Contact Julie 01732 885437 to book.

## Events in the Village for the month of October

- 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
- BG Primary School Open Day BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 4 BG Medical Practice Flu Jab Clinic Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00
- 5 SJCC Mass 9.30
  COGS Harvest Festival All-Age Worship 10.00
  BGBC Service 10.30
  Bash the Trash BGVH 11.30 to 12.30
- 6 BG Library Natty Stitchers 10.00 to 12.00 BG Parish Council COGS Annexe 7.30
- BG Primary School Open DayBG Library Scrabble Club 2.15 to 4.15
- 8 Sticky Fingers BGBC 10.00 to 11.15
- 9 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
- 10 BG Lunch Club BGVH 10.00 to 1.00 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45 BG Library - Friday 2 Book Club - 2.15 to 4.15 Wrotham Historical Society - 7.45 - Wrotham Village Hall
- 11 BG Medical Practice Flu Jab Clinic Saturday Open House COGS 10.00 to 12.00
- **12** SJCC Mass 9.30

COGS - Holy Communion with Bishop Simon and Dedication of the Foodbank Store - 10.00

BGBC - Service - 10.30

13 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00
BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30



- **14** BG Library Scrabble Club 2.15 to 4.15
- 15 COGS Film Afternoon 2.00
- 16 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
- 17 BG Lunch Club BGVH 10.00 to 1.00 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 18 COGS and u3a Handmade Market 11.00 to 2.00





S, C, R, A, B, B, L, E

19 COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00 SJCC - Mass - 9.30 BGBC - Service - 10.30



- 21 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- Sticky Fingers BGBC 10.00 to 11.15 22
- 23 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



24 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45

Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00 25 Wrotham Fireworks - see below

26 SJCC - Mass - 9.30 COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00 BGBC - Service - 10.30

27 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00 Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00

- 28 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 30 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



31 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45

Note: COGS Services maybe be subject to change in the interregnum.

#### **Abbreviations**

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



Wrotham Cricket Ground Saturday 25 October

Starts 5.30 Bonfire 6.30 Fireworks 7.15 Ends 9.00

This is a charity event with all proceeds donated to local causes. Information on tickets is at www.wrothamfireworks.com.

## November Some dates in November

Remembrance Sunday COGS Christmas Fair

29 BG Christmas Lights Switch on

# Are your children due to start school in September 2026?







Please join us at Borough Green Primary School for one of our new parent school tours. We welcome visits to our warm and friendly community school and look forward to sharing our learning with you. Introducing a brand new outdoor learning area for September 2025.

Tours with our headteacher, Mrs. Jackson, are taking place on:
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 9:30am and 1:30pm
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 9:30am and 1:30pm
Tuesday 7th October 2025 9:30am and 1:30pm
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 9:30am and 1:30pm
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 9:30am and 1:30pm
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am and 1:30pm



Go book your tickets go to: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-parent-school-tour-september-2026-tickets 1500101396659?aff=oddtdtcreator

#### **Borough Green Medical Practice**

www.boroughgreenmedicalpractice.co.uk

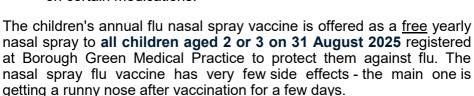


#### **Seasonal Flu Immunisations**

Flu Clinics for all patients of <u>Borough Green Medical Practice</u> who are eligible to receive the influenza vaccination will be run on **Saturday 4 October and Saturday 11 October**. Clinics are available to book now on 01732 883161.

#### \*Eligible patients are:

- aged 65 or over on 31/3/2025;
- Patients aged 18-64 patients who suffer with:
  - Asthma (and are on current repeat medications) or COPD,
  - Diabetes,
  - · Kidney disease,
  - Liver disease,
  - · Heart Disease,
  - Neurological/Stroke patients;
- a BMI of 40 or more;
- a compromised immune system; or
- on certain medications





Borough Green Baptist Church For ages 5 and under 10am - 11.15am

Alternative Wednesdays see diary section £2 per child to include play, refreshments and take home craft

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#### **Borough Green Medical Practice - Routine Testing Programmes**

**Bowel Cancer Screening** Men and women aged 60 to 69 every 2 years. People over 70 can request a screening kit by calling the Freephone helpline 0800 707 6060.

**Breast cancer screening** All women aged between 48 and 73 will be invited every 3 years. This is a rolling programme which means it invites women from GP Practices in turn, not every woman receives an invite as soon as she is 48 but she will be invited before her 53rd birthday.

**Cervical Screening** All women between the age of 25 and 64 are eligible for a free cervical screening test every 3 to 5 years. Frequency of screening as follows:

Age 25 first invitation Age 25-49 three yearly Age 50-64 five yearly Age 65+ Only screen those who have not been screened since age 50 or have had recent abnormal tests

**Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening** Men over 65 are more likely to have an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). The NHS AAA Screening Programme invites men for screening during the year (1 April to 31 March) that they turn 65. Men over 65 who have not previously been screened or diagnosed with an aneurysm can request a scan by contacting the Kent & Medway AAA Screening Programme on 01227 868775 or by emailing kent.aaascreening@nhs.net

Influenza Vaccination Annual 'Flu' jab for at risk groups and over 65s.

**Shingles Vaccination** Healthy individuals aged 70 to 79 are eligible, and those aged 60 - 70 will become eligible in stages over the next 5 years, becoming fully eligible at 70. Additionally, anyone aged 50 or over with a severely weakened immune system is eligible.

**Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)** RSV vaccination is offered to protect against RSV, a common virus that can cause serious illness in babies and older adults. The vaccine is recommended for pregnant women (at least 28 weeks pregnant) and for adults aged 75 to 79.

**Prostate Screening** The NHS doesn't offer routine screening for prostate cancer, but men aged 50 and over can discuss PSA testing with their GP. If a man has symptoms that suggest prostate cancer, a GP will likely perform a PSA test and potentially a digital rectal examination (DRE).

NHS Health Check The NHS Health Check programme aims to help prevent heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and certain types of dementia. Everyone between the ages of 40 and 74, who has not already been diagnosed with one of these conditions or have certain risk factors, will be invited (once every five years) to have a check to assess their risk of heart disease, stroke and kidney disease and will be given support and advice to help them reduce or manage that risk. If you're in the 40-74 age group without a pre-existing condition, you can expect to receive a letter from your GP or local authority inviting you for a free NHS Health Check. Don't worry if you haven't got your invitation yet, as you will be invited for one over the next few years.



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#### Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

I have a strong desire for more buses serving our community. One of the ways you can ensure our bus services are as good as they can be is by letting me know any issues or concerns you may have. I am always interested to hear the experiences of anyone who uses our local bus routes, including our children.

That's why I run a School Bus Survey each year. With the new academic year having now started I have opened my 2025 survey to find out which services are working well and which need improvement over the first few weeks of term. If you or someone you know has children of secondary school age, please ask them to complete my annual survey so they can have their say. I also would like to hear from anyone who has children of secondary school age who could get the bus to school, but choose not to. Why is that and what would make you consider getting a bus to school instead?

Autumn is always a tricky time for any parent, with our children going into a new school year and sometimes a new school entirely. This brings a change to the routine and our travel plans too. With this being the case it's more important than ever to let me know your thoughts so that I can raise these with the relevant operators and Kent County Council. I meet regularly with our local bus companies and I am able to raise these issues with them directly.

The 2025 School Bus Survey is available on my website or directly using this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025SchoolBusSurvey. Please do share this with any friends and neighbours who have children who get the bus to school, or who might wish to use one of our local bus services but hasn't yet. If you can't access the survey but would like to share your thoughts with me, please use the contact details below.

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

01732 441563 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP www.tomtugendhat.org Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - @tomtugendhat



#### **CATAPULTS - KNOW THE LAW**



Catapults can be classed as offensive weapons.

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Is it worth it?

Remember - a criminal record can change your life.

- You may not be offered a college or university place
- Getting a job will be more difficult
- It can even prevent you from travelling to some countries

Thomas Mead

(Kent Police, Tonbridge Neighbourhood Beat PC)



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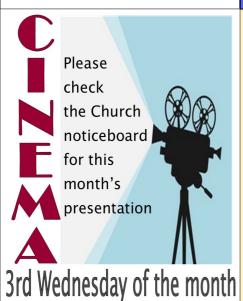
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## Wrotham Historical Society

Friday 10 October

A Spy for Love

The story of an honourable man who turned to espionage to win the heart of the woman he loved. Learn how his actions effect us today.

A talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton

7.45pm Wrotham Village Hall

All visitors welcome - £5

#### Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

This is just a reminder that Borough Green and Wrotham u3a monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2pm in Borough Green Village Hall, with tea, coffee, and biscuits. learn, laugh, live Parking/disabled access available.

On **Monday 13 October** at 2 pm our speaker will be Peter Griffiths who entertained us earlier in the year with his talk "Sextant to Satnav - 45 years in aviation (with a fear of heights!)". His earlier talk was so popular that we have invited him back to tell us more fascinating and amusing stories about his long career. We look forward to welcoming existing and new members, and guests (£5). Parking is free for village hall users, so please remember to register your car in the village hall lobby when you arrive.

An important date for your diary - **Saturday 18 October** 11 am - 2pm the BG&W u3a, in conjunction with the Church of the Good Shepherd (COGS), Borough Green, will be holding a crafts and gifts fair in the Church. On sale will be children's clothes, jewellery, recycled wooden household items, cards, gifts, Christmas fairies and much much more. BG&W u3a will be running a cake stall and also serving cakes as part of the refreshments. We hope you will come and say hello and support this craft fair, and please bring your friends, families and neighbours.

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

#### **Local Government Reorganisation**

In response to a Government initiative to merge councils to create unitary councils serving roughly 500,000 people each, Kent Council Leaders (representing KCC, Medway Council and the 12 district and borough councils) are in the process of working out the best way to organise themselves including how many unitary councils there should be and what areas they should cover.

At a meeting on 3 September Kent's councils asked their advisors KPMG to work up business plans for two options - one for three unitary councils and another for four. Under both options the unitary council for West Kent would consist of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. Papers "Your councils - change is coming" and "What happens next" can be accessed via their website <a href="https://kentcouncilleaders.org.uk">https://kentcouncilleaders.org.uk</a>.

Individual councils can choose to commission and submit business plans for other options too. In a press release issued on 11 September KCC say that they will be developing a business plan for their preferred option for a single unitary council for the whole of Kent. When business plans have been drawn up each council will go through its own decision-making process to decide which option it supports.

TMBC have announced a survey to ask residents what is important to them when thinking about setting up the new councils. The survey can be found at <a href="https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/local-government-reorganisation">www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/local-government-reorganisation</a> and closes on 6 October.

Business plans need to be submitted to Government by 28 November 2025. The final decision rests with Ministers.

Margaret and Richard Jeffery



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#### **BOROUGH GREEN LIBRARY**

The library is open – with a wide range of services, from free access to books, computers, WiFi and information on the hire of music, audio books and films. Opening hours are

10 - 1 and 2 - 5 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 - 1 on Saturday.

Events for which no booking is required see diary section

Ancestry - Monday 10.00 - 12.00 need to book an appointment

For more advice please call the library on 03000 413 131 or

email boroughgreenlibrary@kent.gov.uk where staff will be able to help.



Celebrating Railway 200, Borough Green Library is joining up with a selection of libraries across Maidstone, Ashford and Tonbridge area, in a fun activity to encourage children and families to visit libraries that are situated near a station. Come and visit Borough Green Library and pick up your 'passport' and collect a sticker.

These stickers can lead to small prizes if you collect some from different districts. Pop in and find out more about what we are doing.

#### We look forward to seeing you.



is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next events are on **Fridays 3 October and 7 November** 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 24 October** 2.30 to 3.30. No appointment needed. Drop in and wait your turn.



no appointment needed. Drop in and wall your furn

#### Platt Badminton Club - Monday Afternoons

Do you enjoy keeping fit while having fun? Our friendly badminton club has spaces for a few more players. We are mostly retired and play to enjoy ourselves and have a laugh as well as the serious business of winning!! Some of us had not played for many years before joining, some had not played badminton before but knew tennis. You would be most welcome, whatever your level of play. Please bring your own racket. We play in Platt Village Hall 2-4pm on a Monday afternoon. There's a small subscription to cover the cost of hiring the hall. Please contact Jane for more details jane.pover@gmail.com.

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#### **Borough Green Village Litter Pick**

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#### Hall bookings

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Alan Williams 07436 115 425

Village Hall

**David Peirce** 

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



#### WROTHAM (ST GEORGE'S) CRICKET CLUB

The home game against Wateringbury had to be called off due to a waterlogged pitch. And disappointingly what would have been a new fixture against Hadlow had to be called off by us due to a lack of players.

So next up was a home game against Hildenborough who opted to bat first and got 156 runs off their 35 overs. Standouts for Wrotham were Will Booth who took 1-12 off a measly 7 overs (and took a catch, which seemed unlikely after his performance in the pre-match practice!), Neil Pickford with 2-2, and James Barrigan 3-32. Wrotham only managed to bat for 26 of their possible overs and fell short by 30 runs after a batting collapse which saw 5 wickets fall for only a single run. James finishing off an all round performance with 22 and Ricky Hussain top scored with 41.

A familiar story of lack of players led to the game against Ash being cancelled and with only 9 available for the next away fixture it made the task against a strong Lordswood side too great a mountain to climb. The home side batted first and chalked up a massive 318 off their 35 overs. With one centurion and 2 getting 50s this was not a day for the bowlers despite manfully sticking to their task. When Wrotham's turn came, despite a solid start from the first 3 batsmen, we were unable to build a strong reply and were all out for 105.

This year the club has encountered a worrying lack of regular players so it would be great if any others who would want to play on Sundays could visit the club website <a href="https://wrotham.play-cricket.com/home">https://wrotham.play-cricket.com/home</a> to register their interest NOW please.

John Humphreys



The RSPCA is facing a crisis - several large-scale cruelty and neglect cases have left the animal welfare charity caring for a record number of dogs, pushing teams to breaking point just as they face the usual summer peak in reports of cruelty.

Many of the dogs rescued from heartbreaking situations require extensive care and rehabilitation. Some are also involved in ongoing legal cases which further delays their chance of finding a loving home. With RSPCA centres now full, the charity is being forced to rely on private boarding costing around £650,000 every month.

Every adoption makes a difference. Each time a dog finds a new home, it frees up vital space for another animal in urgent need. Please visit the RSPCA's Find a Pet and consider adopting a dog or speaking to friends and family about adopting: https://www.rspca.org.uk/findapet

You can also help by sharing any animals who have captured your heart but aren't right for your family on social media.



#### **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/tonbridgeandmallingramblers or visit www.tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk.

October	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 2nd	Smugglers, shipyards and gunpowder - a leisurely flat walk from Faversham along the Saxon Shore Way and the Swale Heritage Trail, passing Faversham Creek and Oare Creek. Mostly grass embankment with just over 1km on pavements and attractive town streets. Boat moorings and wildfowl on the creeks add interest to the walk.	5.5
Sunday 5th	Broadwater Warren to Harrison's Rocks - circular walk through the open heathland of Broadwater Warren nature reserve and the rocky outcrops of Harrison's and Eridge Rocks. Moderate difficulty.	6.2
Thursday 9th	Circular walk from Penshurst to the top of the ridge, then alongside the River Medway into Haysden Country Park and around Haysden Lake. Return via the ridge, with wonderful views of Penshurst Place and Penshurst Church. No stiles; a few inclines; moderate difficulty.	7
Sunday 12th	Ditton, Barming and East Malling: a leisurely countryside loop, including the ancient woodland of Oaken Wood, dense with oak, hazel and hornbeam and rich in wildlife. East Malling offers traditional Kentish architecture and we pass the East Malling Research Station, a historic hub for horticultural science.	6
Thursday 16th	Harrietsham and the North Downs Way - a scenic circular walk on field paths and rural tracks, with one relatively high slope to climb. Views include rolling fields, woodlands and chalk ridges. Some stiles; moderate difficulty.	6
Thursday 23rd	From Boxley village climb up to the North Downs Way and Boxley Warren Nature Reserve. After a break by the neolithic White Horse Stone, we'll take the Pilgrims Way, passing the vineyards of Boarley and Street Farms and the remains of Boxley Abbey. Moderate difficulty; three stiles; one long, steep ascent and one steep descent (stepped).	6
Sunday 26th	Circular walk from the Little Brown Jug at Chiddingstone Causeway to Bough Beech in search of LBJs - little brown jobs to the non-birders amongst us. Moderate difficulty.	6
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)		

and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).

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