

# THE VOICE

March 2026



A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR BOROUGH GREEN  
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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

March 2026

There's a perception that in this country we talk a lot about the weather, maybe because it's so unpredictable. In the English language there are various sayings about the weather, such as 'red sky at night, shepherds' delight' or 'a sunny shower won't last an hour'. Another one that's appropriate for this time of year is 'March comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb'. Whether this is the case every year is open to question but the thought behind the saying seems to be that March is traditionally a time of transition from winter to spring so the weather should be getting warmer. And on the last Sunday in the month we turn our clocks forward one hour and so start to enjoy an extra hour of daylight in the evenings.

But that last Sunday of March (29th) this year is also Palm Sunday when we remember that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey at the beginning of what we now call 'Holy Week' and that led up to his arrest, trial and death on Good Friday. So for Christians the saying about the weather in March 'going out like a lamb' reminds us of that. Because in the Bible Jesus is described as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' and so, along with Christians the world over, we shall be remembering these events at the end of the month.

Before that, however, we continue our journey through Lent. This period leading up to Easter can seem negative if we just see it as a time in which we must 'give something up', such as doing without our favourite bar of chocolate or spending less time watching TV. But it should be a positive time so we could think about doing one or more of those 'acts of kindness' that we read about in last month's Voice. Or we could decide we would like to find out more about what this season is all about by coming to a service at one of the churches in the village on any Sunday. We will always be pleased to see you and you can find details of times of services and all other activities in the diary section in this issue.

So, thinking about Lent, one writer described it in this way:- "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store".

Chris Almond  
Church of the Good Shepherd

**Easter Craft Workshop**  
**at the Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**Saturday 14 March**  
**10.30 – 12.30**



**Adult activities:**

Pottery Easter tree decorations  
Spring door decorations  
Easter cards

**Children activities:**

Easter cards  
Pompom chicks

Adults £15 for 2 activities  
Children £7 for 2 activities

Followed by colouring and outdoor treasure hunt  
There will also be a raffle and cake stall  
There are limited spaces so please book early

**Contact Carole 07542 442 140**

**Contacting the Church of the Good Shepherd**



In the absence of a Vicar:

If you need to speak to someone from the church (including any enquiry about a wedding, a baptism or a funeral) contact one of the churchwardens –

Julie (885437) or Carole (07542 442 140).

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

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

**Ightham and Wrotham**

We are very happy for our neighbours in the Benefice of Ightham and Wrotham who have announced the appointment of Rev Stewart Gibbs as their new Rector. He is likely to be installed in May. Please pray for them and Rev. Gibbs as they make preparations for his ministry with them.

NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH

## 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)

## Cinema at COGS

**Wednesday 18 March** 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.



Church of the Good Shepherd

Spring Supper Quiz

Saturday 11 April at 7pm



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We want to raise as much as possible to help with our continuing work in Borough Green, so please visit our *easyfundraising* page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cogsbg/> and click 'support us'.

Thank you!

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# Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



ESTABLISHED  
APRIL 1934

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 9th February 2026 at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:

- **Tony Woolven.** It was with great sadness that the Chairman reported the death of Tony Woolven and we send our sincere condolences to his family. Tony was one of the unsung heroes of the village. He planned and project managed Platt Scout hut and served as a Platt Councillor for many years. He designed and project managed the Drop-in Centre in the Village Hall, the Joint Skatepark at Whitegate Field, Potters Mede Sports Centre and, further afield, worked with the Chairman on the Burham Drop-in Centre and the Eccles Skatepark. His passing is a huge loss to all our villages.
- **THURSDAY & FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB.** Pauline Nix runs a very successful lunch club for our older residents, supported by the Parish Council. We will continue to ensure its survival despite a recent 20% increase in rent - it is such a valuable event for a hot meal and friendly company. If you know of any elderly neighbours who would benefit from the service, please let the Clerk know - transport can be arranged.
- **Adoption of Town Status** will take place on 1 April 2026 to coincide with our Financial Year End. The Clerk will change bank accounts to "Borough Green Council" so we can change back quickly if we wish and the decision will be reviewed every 6 months.
- **Recreation Ground Pavilion** roof replacement and clock tower are complete. Cllr Proto and the Clerk are putting together a business case for grant applications and have already obtained a TMBC Rural Grant of £4751. Building control, planning and disability access requirements have delayed the project - we had hoped to open in time for this spring and summer.
- **Isles Quarry bike club** plans have been put on hold temporarily whilst TMBC Planning Enforcement try to find ways to imply "Development in the Greenbelt".
- **Volunteer Wildlife Warden** for Isles Quarry, Harrison Rd and Crowhill is Cllr Lisa Reid. Her brief is based on the Kent Wildlife Survey. She will shortly be carrying out a survey into the rare orchids that exist in quantity here because of the poor topsoil and underlying limestone, including Bee and Man varieties.
- **Cllr Harry Rayner** reported on the recent failure of our Judicial Review to affirm the planning refusal for the Moto truckstop. This would have set a useful precedent to fight the Government's new "grey belt" rules. However the resulting increase in traffic and the new roundabout have severe implications for the traffic survey for Borough Green Garden City. Imagine the traffic the A20/A25/M26 with three major roundabouts all within a few hundred yards. Council sent their formal thanks to Cllr Pete Gillin (Wrotham PC) for all his hard work.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 2nd March 2026 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](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 \(boroughgreen.gov.uk\)](#)

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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](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 10 March** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **April** 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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For info contact Secretary Dee Samways – 0779 900 2129  
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## Wrotham Historical Society



Friday 13 March 7.45pm Wrotham Village Hall

**Capital Punishment and Maidstone Prison**

A talk by Daren Russell

All visitors welcome - £5



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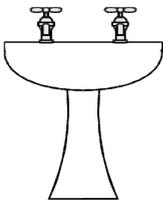


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## Church of the Good Shepherd Food Bank



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 porch is usually open 10am - 4pm.

**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
- Store cupboard** Fray Bentos pies, UHT semi-skimmed milk, biscuits
- Toiletries** toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, soap
- Household** carrier bags, laundry detergent, multi-surface cleaner, washing-up liquid, toilet rolls

**Donations of Easter Eggs before 29 March will be very welcome.**



**Thank you**

For any enquiries regarding our foodbank please contact Ian Simpson on 07801135460 or [foodbank.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:foodbank.cogs@gmail.com).

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

# Friday 6 March

*I will give you rest, come*

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

AT

ST PETER'S CHURCH,  
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TIME: 10 am



Nigeria 2026



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on  
Saturday 14 March  
Time: 7.30pm start



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# Have your say on the way councils in Kent and Medway are organised

(TMBC press release issued on 5 February)



Government ministers have launched a consultation on the future number of councils in Kent and Medway and the areas they should cover. They want to hear your views on the biggest proposed shake up of local government in 50 years. Ministers asked councils to come up with plans to create unitary councils in a process known as local government reorganisation (LGR).

Leader of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Matt Boughton said: *“This consultation is the best opportunity for residents, businesses and organisations across Kent and Medway to make their voices heard on how local services are delivered for decades to come.*

*Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has been clear in its cross-party support for a three unitary model which, based on independent evidence, will deliver the best combination of high-quality, cost-effective services that are aligned to the priorities of local people. This is why the three unitary model is now the preferred model for the greatest number of councils across Kent and Medway.*

*I would strongly encourage everyone to take part in the consultation so that ministers fully understand the views of our communities before any decisions are made.”*

Under the current system Kent County Council (KCC) delivers some services such as education, social services and roads, and district or borough councils deliver others like emptying your bins and providing housing services. Under the proposed system, a much smaller number of unitary councils would deliver all council services in one area. Medway Council operates in that way today.

Councils across Kent and Medway have worked together to draw up a series of options for the number of unitaries needed and what areas they should cover. In a joint statement, council leaders in Kent and Medway, said: *“Our councils are your councils and it is important you have your say on their future and how they deliver vital services. It’s now over to you and organisations throughout Kent and Medway to help ministers make an informed decision.”* (Editor’s note: more on this at <https://kentcouncilleaders.org.uk>.)

To take part in the government’s consultation, visit [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway)

The deadline for responses is 11.59pm on **Thursday 26 March 2026**. A decision on which option will be taken forward is likely to be announced by the government in the summer.



## Happy 80th Birthday Bryan

This month our Chairman Bryan Rawlins turns 80 and, honestly, you wouldn't know it. He has more energy and get up and go than the rest of the committee combined.

Bryan's been part of Borough Green since 1985. He raised his family here, ran his business from the village until 2015 and his daughter still has her business here. That's nearly 40 years of being properly embedded in this community, understanding what makes it work, what people need, what matters.

When he took on the Chair three years ago, the Village Hall struck gold. He's brought calm and stability when we've desperately needed it, kept the committee steady through some genuinely difficult times and led with a clarity and purpose that's been invaluable. His wit and charm are endless, he brings light to even the trickiest meetings. But it's his kind heart and passion that really sets him apart. That passion has never wavered, not once.

What makes Bryan special is his gentle approach. He listens properly to our hirers, understands their challenges, handles disagreements with patience and fairness, and always finds practical ways forward. He sees the big picture but never loses sight of the people we're here to serve. He genuinely cares about making the Village Hall work for everyone and he gives this role everything it deserves.

When he's not at the Village Hall, you'll find Bryan at u3A meetings or pursuing his other passion on the golf course because apparently 80 means nothing when you've got that much energy.

Bryan, we're grateful for you, thank you for everything you do for the village. Happy 80th birthday Bryan!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

*If anyone's interested in getting involved with the Village Hall, we'd love to hear from you.*

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**Borough Green Lunch Club**  
The club runs from 10.00 until 1.00 on both Thursday and Friday in the Village Hall, providing friendship, fun and food. New attendees very welcome. We are able to provide transport if mobility is a problem. For further information contact Pauline on 07503 156 713.

# Events in the Village for the month of March

- 1 SJCC - Mass and Stations of the Cross - 9.30  
**COGS - All Age Worship - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30  
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
- 2 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**  
BG Parish Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- 3 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 5 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
- 6 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
Ightham Church - World Day of Prayer -10.00  
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 7 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 8 SJCC - Mass and Stations of the Cross - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 9 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**  
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00  
BG Library - TLC Bookworms - 2.15 to 3.30
- 10 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 11 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 12 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
- 13 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
- 14 **COGS - Easter Craft Workshop - 10.30 to 12.30**  
SJCC - Quiz night - 7.30
- 15 **COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**  
SJCC - Mass and Stations of the Cross - 9.30  
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 16 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
- 17 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 18 **COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00**
- 19 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



- 20 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 21 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**  
Ightham Gardeners' Club - Spring Show - Ightham VH (see page 11)  
BGVH - Borough Green and Platt Players - Aladdin - 7.30
- 22 SJCC - Mass and Stations of the Cross - 9.30  
**COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00**  
BGBC - Service - 10.30  
BGVH - Borough Green and Platt Players - Aladdin - 2.30
- 23 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 24 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 25 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
- 26 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
- 27 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00  
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 28 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**  
BGVH - Borough Green and Platt Players - Aladdin - 2.30 and 7.30
- 29 SJCC - Mass and Stations of the Cross - 9.30  
**Platt Church - Holy Communion for Palm Sunday - 10.30 -**  
Bishop Simon of Tonbridge (COGS joining with other parishes - no 10.00 service at COGS)  
BGBC - Service - 10.30  
BGVH - Borough Green and Platt Players - Aladdin - 2.30
- 30 BG Library - Natty Stitchers - 10.00 to 12.00  
**Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
- 31 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15



*April*

- 2 SJCC - Evening Mass of the Last Supper

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

#### Abbreviations

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





## 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

Regular updates on [Facebook.com/StickyFingersCrafts](https://www.facebook.com/StickyFingersCrafts)

# TODDLER TIME



2nd and 4th  
Monday of  
Month  
in term time

9 & 23  
March

Play and socialising for pre school  
children and their grown ups

10am till 12 noon in the Annex of  
The Church Of The Good Shepherd  
Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, TN15 8RF  
No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please

## Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time



Borough Green Library  
Fridays  
10.15 - 10.45

No booking required



## Potters Tots Playgroup



Potters Mede, Borough Green, TN15 7RD.

W3W ///[fund.olive.loose](https://www.fund.olive.loose)

Fridays 9.30-11am. Term time only.  
£3 first child, 50p per sibling.

For any child before school age - babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. A different craft every week. Teas, coffees and snacks are included. Somewhere for mums/dads/grandparents/caregivers to come and meet, have adult conversation while the child socialises!

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**We meet Mondays 4.45-5.45pm**

Register online:

[girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child](http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child)

*Interested in volunteering? Please contact us via the website*



**AGE GROUP - U5**  
**(RECEPTION - SEPT 2025)**

**TRAINING - SATURDAY**  
**8:30AM - 9:15AM**

**WROTHAM SCHOOL 3G PITCH**  
**BOROUGH GREEN ROAD, TN15 7RD**

**BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL**  
**ABILITIES WELCOME!**

**CONTACT - JOE**  
**07860 472072**

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**AGE GROUP - U6**  
**(YEAR 1 - SEPT 2025)**

**TRAINING - SATURDAY**  
**8:30AM - 9:15AM**

**WROTHAM SCHOOL 3G PITCH**  
**BOROUGH GREEN ROAD, TN15 7RD**

**BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL**  
**ABILITIES WELCOME!**

**CONTACT - ROBBIE**  
**07807 858229**

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17<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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Or

pop in to see us:

34 High Street, BG TN158BF

£66.00

*Beaulieu*



## Borough Green & Wrotham u3a



This is to remind readers that Borough Green and Wrotham u3a monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm in Borough Green village hall, with tea, coffee and biscuits. Parking/disabled access available.

At our meeting on Monday 9 March we are delighted to welcome back the ever-popular Bob Ogle. Those who have heard Bob speak before will know what an entertaining and interesting speaker he is. The title of his talk in March is "Invicta", the motto of Kent, meaning unconquered. Bob will guide us through the highlights of the 20th century in Kent, including flying machines, two world wars, sporting victories and engineering and artistic triumphs. We will also hear of major scandals, disasters and the many changes of social and cultural life.

We look forward to welcoming existing and new members (free), 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.

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>

## MOTO Lorry Park

In December Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council joined with Wrotham Parish Council at the High Court to challenge the decision of the Planning Inspectorate to grant consent for an HGV lorry park at Junction 2a of the M26 in Wrotham Heath. The basis of the Judicial Review application was that the Planning Inspectorate had misrepresented the test of 'grey belt' in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The High Court's decision issued on 30 January was that the site was 'grey belt'. Planning permission is therefore granted for the development of a 24 hour truck stop for 197 HGVs and a new roundabout on to the A20.

## Modular homes scheme for homeless

Planning permission has been approved for a new modular housing scheme at Blue Bell Hill, delivering 12 two-bedroom, energy-efficient homes for local people in need of temporary accommodation. The £4m project will provide for local families who find themselves homeless and who the borough council has a duty to house. Tonbridge and Malling has seen increasing demand for help with homelessness with around 120 households at any one time needing accommodation.

While it owns or leases around 30 properties in the Tonbridge area, the authority has struggled to find suitable properties in the north of the borough. The annual cost of providing temporary accommodation is currently approximately £2.5m a year.

## Green Business Grants

TMBC are helping businesses in the borough to cut their carbon footprint and become more energy efficient. Green Business Grants offer up to £5,000 to support improvements to commercial premises, equipment or machinery that reduce carbon emissions. The scheme is open businesses operating from commercial premises in the borough. To find out more and to apply go to [www.tmbc.gov.uk/business/apply-green-business-grant](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/business/apply-green-business-grant). Applications close at 5pm on 2 April.

The Green Business Grant is part of our wider economic development and climate change work and is funded through the Shared Growth Fund.



Tonbridge and Malling health walks are free, fun and friendly, perfect to help you get active, meet new people and improve mental health and wellbeing.

The Platt walk leaves from St Mary's Church steps at 10am on Mondays. To attend a walk just come along 10 minutes before the starting time of the walk (no booking necessary). Outdoor clothing and footwear is advisable. The walk (may include hills) lasts for 60-90 minutes. Refreshments are served in the Church afterwards.





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# Cricket in Wrotham, Platt & Borough Green

Adult-only pre-season indoor nets at Wrotham School  
Saturdays 2.30pm - 4.15pm from 14 March - 25 April



## **Wrotham (St.George's) Cricket Club • Cricket Ground TN15 7AH**

Friendly local team with a beautiful ground and modern facilities

Adults of all ages and abilities welcome -

proper village cricket with beers after the game!

Fixtures from April - September

Matches on Sundays from 1.30pm

Nets on Wednesdays from 6.00pm

**Contact • [Wrothamcricketclub@outlook.com](mailto:Wrothamcricketclub@outlook.com)**

<https://wrotham.play-cricket.com/home>



## **Stonehouse Cricket Club • Stonehouse Field, Platt TN15 8LF**

Friendly local team with an active social calendar

Post-match drinks and end-of-season tour match

Recently promoted to Kent Village Cricket League Division 5

Full fixtures list from May - September

Matches on Saturdays from 1.00pm

**Contact Anthony Woolf [woolfpackers@gmail.com](mailto:woolfpackers@gmail.com) 07789 076856**

<https://stonehouse.play-cricket.com/home>



## **Platt Ladies Cricket Club • Stonehouse Field, Platt TN15 8LF**

Established soft-ball team for women aged 16 - 60+

All abilities welcome – no previous experience needed

Busy social calendar including a European tour

Matches on Sundays • Training on Wednesday evenings

Recruitment day on 6 May at Stonehouse Field 6pm

**Contact Anthony Woolf [woolfpackers@gmail.com](mailto:woolfpackers@gmail.com) 07789 076856**



## **Platt Juniors Cricket Club • Stonehouse Field, Platt TN15 8LF**

Wanted! Boys and girls aged 5–10 years for junior cricket

Softball and hardball training from DBS certified coaches

Matches on weekday evenings in the Invicta League

Training on Saturday mornings ECB accredited national

programmes – All Stars and Dynamos

**Contact Ruth Batchelor [ruthbatchelor@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthbatchelor@yahoo.com) • 07866 637598**

<https://plattjunior.play-cricket.com/home>





# ORGANISING A GET TOGETHER OR CELEBRATION?

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## Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

In 2021 I was sanctioned by the Chinese Communist Party for speaking in Parliament about the persecution of Uyghurs in north-western China. For more than a decade many have faced severe repression and I have continued to press the UK government to stand firmly against human rights abuses.

Since then we have also seen serious allegations of spying in Westminster, debated the proposed new Chinese embassy site in London and raised more serious questions about our national security and values. We are facing a hostile state that is trying to undermine us here in the UK.

That is why, when the Prime Minister travelled to China earlier this year, I hoped that the case of the British Citizen, Jimmy Lai, who remains imprisoned in Hong Kong, the hostile actions of the Chinese state online and the treatment of the Uyghur people would be central to those discussions. Instead I learned at the end of the visit that I and several other MPs had been removed from China's sanctions list. While that may sound like a positive step, it isn't. It's a distraction from far more important issues: the freedom and rights of those still suffering persecution.

These may seem like distant international matters but they reflect the kind of country we are and the principles we stand for, the goods and services we trade and the relationships that we rely on in times of global conflict. It is important that we remain clear about the challenges posed by authoritarian governments and that we do not compromise our values for short-term convenience.

If you would like to read more about my work on these issues you can find further updates online or you are always welcome to contact my office.

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

01732 441563 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

Social Media - @tomtugendhat

### **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](mailto:boroughgreenlibrary@kent.gov.uk) where staff will be able to help.

**We look forward to seeing you.**

The next clinic for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing  
people is on **Friday 27 March** 2.30 to 3.30.

No appointment needed. Drop in and wait your turn.





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# Kent Police

Kent Police have drawn attention to a press release issued on 20 January (extracts below) about the launch of Report Fraud, which has now officially replaced Action Fraud. To report cybercrime and fraud go to [www.reportfraud.police.uk](http://www.reportfraud.police.uk)



The City of London Police, the national lead force for fraud, today announces the full public launch of Report Fraud - a new national service designed to transform how victims and businesses across England, Wales and Northern Ireland report cyber crime and fraud, and how law enforcement and industry respond.

Cyber crime and fraud are now the most common crime in the UK, accounting for around 50 per cent of all offences and costing the economy billions of pounds each year. Cyber-enabled crime and fraud continues to grow in both scale and sophistication, targeting individuals, small businesses and major organisations alike. Report Fraud has been created to meet this challenge head-on, providing a single, modern national gateway for reporting and intelligence that will strengthen the collective response of policing, government and the private sector.

Report Fraud is the most significant evolution of our national capability. It provides, for the first time, a single, modern national reporting, triage and intelligence platform for both cyber crime and fraud, enabling the City of London Police to lead policing's 4Ps response – pursue, protect, prevent and prepare - at a national level. Through the new service, intelligence will be assessed and disseminated across forces, serious and complex cases will be identified for specialist investigation, and victims will be directed into a consistent national standard of care and support.

The service also reflects the City of London Police's position at the heart of the UK's financial centre, with unparalleled access to industry, regulators and international partners. This proximity enables real-time collaboration, faster disruption of criminal networks, and a stronger collective defence of the UK's economic security, supported by specialist capabilities and training delivered through the force's Economic and Cyber Crime Academy.

More than just technology, Report Fraud is the result of one of the largest transformation programmes ever undertaken by the City of London Police. Built from the ground up around the victim journey, it brings together the reporting of both cyber crime and fraud in one place for the first time, making it quicker, clearer and more supportive for people and businesses to come forward - and ensuring that every report counts, helping to protect others.

**Preventing fraud**

Together, let's stop scammers.

**Remember, ABC:**

- never Assume
- never Believe
- always Confirm

# SMALL NOTICES

## Pilates reformer studio

4 maximum to a class  
Classes Monday through to Saturday  
Bourne Enterprise Centre, Wrotham Road  
Free parking  
[Hello@phoenixpilates.co.uk](mailto:Hello@phoenixpilates.co.uk)



## Clock Kent

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**Matt Rose**

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Email: [info@protegopestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@protegopestcontrol.co.uk)

Website: [www.protegopestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.protegopestcontrol.co.uk)

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## Learn to Line Dance

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Fun, friendly classes with professional  
instructor of more than 20 years.

**Classes start**

7 January, 6.30 - 7.30pm  
Borough Green Village Hall  
TN15 8BJ

8 January, 1 - 2pm  
Platt Memorial Hall  
TN15 8FH

£7, membership discount available

Register with Gary 07961090233  
[candglinedance@outlook.com](mailto:candglinedance@outlook.com)



## 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





# CONCERT OF FAVOURITE MUSIC



Heart  
of Kent  
Hospice

**Saturday 25 April 6pm - 8:30pm** (doors open at 5:30pm)  
at Invicta Grammar School, 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.

The concert features the Queen Piano Concerto and the world premiere of the Coldplay Piano Concerto, as well as Star Wars, In The Hall of the Mountain King, Sabre Dance, Pink Panther, Jai Ho, Also Sprach Zarathusa and Waltzing Matilda.

Tickets: Adults £15, Children £5, Family £35

book at <https://register.enthouse.com/ps/event/ConcertofFavouriteMusic>

## Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Shop in the 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 26 March** from 2.00 to 4.00 with most items for sale at just £1.



Worries over money, housing, heating and food bills can affect mental wellbeing, causing stress, anxiety and depression.

If you're struggling, please don't suffer in silence. Help is available 24/7 with the Release the Pressure service.

*"I was in a really dark place. Talking helped me realise things would get better."*

**RELEASE the PRESSURE DON'T SUFFER in silence**

For free confidential 24hr support call 0800 107 0160

For more information visit [releasethepressure.uk](http://releasethepressure.uk)

Support is free and confidential, provided by an independent charity and funded by Kent and Medway health and social care partners.

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Kent County Council

## 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/tonbridgeandmallingsramblers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingsramblers)

or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk).



March	Route	Distance in miles
Sunday 1st	Trosley Trot: a fairly flat circular walk from Wrotham and along the bottom of the North Downs with good views to the south. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Thursday 12th	From Trosley Country Park walk along the North Downs Way and Pilgrims Way to visit Coldrum Long Barrow, an early Neolithic burial site from around 4000 BC. Woodland, farmland, bridle paths and footpaths. No stiles. Moderate difficulty.	6.2
Sunday 15th	Leisurely circular walk from Offham to West Malling and Ryarsh via St Leonard's Tower and Manor Park Country Park. Mainly flat across farmland and woodland. Extensive views, including the chalk ridge of the North Downs Way. Three stiles.	5.7
Thursday 19th	Knockholt to Chevening Circular: explore the meadows and woods of the North Downs escarpment with extensive views over Chevening House and the chance to see deer and red kite. Three stiles and three hills; moderate difficulty.	5
Sunday 22nd	Leisurely Spring stroll from Leigh into the Kent countryside around Cinder Hill, Charcott, and Coppings Brook. The walk is on woodland tracks, field paths and some quiet lanes. A few stiles.	5.5
Thursday 26th	Circular walk from Birling with a gentle ascent towards the North Downs and along the North Downs Way. Mix of footpaths and quiet lanes. Four stiles; moderate difficulty.	5.5

Walks usually start mid-morning.

There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).

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