

THE VOICE

December 2023 & January 2024



A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOROUGH GREEN
SPONSORED AND PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
DELIVERED FREE TO OVER 1950 HOMES AND BUSINESSES
(ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE)

Central heating and gas boiler engineers

01732 - 885882

www.samsian.co.uk

G R SERVICING LTD

Now at Unit 16
Orchard Place Business Centre
Seven Mile Lane
Wrotham Heath



Servicing and repairing your vehicles.

MOTs can also be arranged.

PLEASE CALL
01732 882725 as before.

BOROUGH GREEN OPTICIANS

EST 1972
OPTOMETRISTS AND
CONTACT LENS CONSULTANTS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9.00 - 5.30
Wednesday Closed
Saturday
9.00 - 1.00

- Full eye examination
- Cataract referrals
- Glaucoma check
- Free trial on most types of contact lenses



QUALIFIED OPTICIAN

25, High Street
Borough Green
Kent
01732 884558

Email bgopticians@outlook.com

PLD GENERAL BUILDER

PETER 07769 736646

Borough Green 01732 382530 (answer machine)

Extensions
Refurbishments
Brickwork
Driveways
Fascia & Soffits
GRP Flat Roofing

Conversions
Plastering
Patios
Kitchens / Bathrooms
Fencing
Painting & Decorating

AND ALL GENERAL BUILDING

The Big Question....

As Christmas approaches there are lots of different questions that come up. Where shall we spend Christmas? Who should we invite? What should we buy? Can we afford it?

Perhaps one of the trickiest questions some people might face at this time of year is, "Is Santa real?"

If you're not sure what to say and would like to give an answer endorsed by the local vicar (for what it's worth) I can tell you the answer is, "Yes". Though I guess it depends on what we mean by Santa.

History tells us that there was a man named Nicholas who came from Myra (which was in what is now Turkey). He eventually became a bishop. It was said he faced persecution and imprisonment and performed several miracles before his death on 6 December 343. After his death he was eventually made a saint – Saint Nicholas which in Dutch is Sinterklaas and, when the early Dutch settlers went to America, we ended up with Santa Claus. So yes, Santa is real; a real historical figure. Though perhaps not *all* the stories told about him are real.

One story that probably has some basis in fact is that he was generous, giving gifts to people in need. He came from a wealthy family but gave all the family's money away to the poor. He is credited with giving three bags of gold to a poor man with three daughters. The money paid for the girls' dowries so that they could marry – a better prospect than any alternative for a woman at the time. Supposedly Nicholas gave the money secretly by throwing it through a window (or was it down the chimney?). He also reportedly left coins in people's shoes at night. Some countries that celebrate the feast of Saint Nicholas in December do so by giving presents and putting sweets in children's shoes at night – not much different to our tradition of leaving out stockings for Santa.

So Santa is real. He did live and lives on in the generosity people show at Christmas. He may not be the same as portrayed in the poem "The Night Before Christmas" or in the Coca-Cola adverts. But he is real.

Like the North Pole dwelling Santa, Saint Nicholas gave gifts to strangers, in particular those in need. As we think about our gift-giving this year, perhaps we might investigate how we can help a stranger in need. Why not take a look at The Money Saving Expert website guide to "How to do good at Christmas" and perhaps we can all help the spirit of Santa Claus live on.

God bless
Revd. Chris



Festive Supper Quiz



Saturday 2 December

**Supper served at 6.30pm
followed by quiz**



**Tickets £15.00 including meal
Booking essential
Julie 01732 885437**



Licensed Bar

(Please notify of any dietary requirements)

Church of the Good Shepherd, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green TN15 8RF



Calling all knitters

**Do you have some spare wool and some spare
time?**

Could you knit a sheep?

We would like to have a good flock of sheep for the Christmas Eve nativity service at the Church of the Good Shepherd. We want there to be something for anyone who wants to place around the crib.

So if you can get knitting and then bring your offering along to the service (or leave in the church beforehand) it would be great.

Any pattern, size, colour and quality of knitting will do.

Thank you.

This Christmas at The Church of the Good Shepherd

There are lots of ways to celebrate the festive season this year at the Church of the Good Shepherd – why not give one (or more) of them a try?

December 2nd – 6.30pm. Christmas Quiz Supper. A fun evening of food, friends and festive facts.

December 20th – 8pm. Quiet Christmas. Not everyone is in the party mood. Some need a break from partying and some need to recharge their batteries. This service is a time of quiet reflection.

December 21st – 6:30pm. Carol Service. A service of carols and readings, with the choir singing. A chance to sing and to hear the Christmas story.

December 24th – 4pm. Christingle Crib Service. A real family occasion. Come and hear and sing the Christmas story and join in the fun. And don't forget your colouring competition entry

11:30pm. Midnight Mass. See in the birth of the Christ child and gather at the table of His love.

December 25th – 10am. All Age Christmas Communion. The presents are open, the turkey's in the oven, the sprouts are peeled. Take some time out to worship the newborn King.

**Details of all these events and more can be found
on our website:**

www.cogsonline.co.uk

J & F ACCOUNTANCY LTD

Chartered Accountants
Self Assessment Tax Returns
Self-Employed Accounts
Limited Company Accounts
Payroll & CIS

Tel: 01732 885444

1 Station Court, Station Approach
Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AD
Email: info@jandfaccountancy.co.uk
Web: www.jandfaccountancy.co.uk



VEHICLE SERVICING AND REPAIRS

London House Works,
Station Road,
Borough Green

www.gsmechengineers.co.uk

email:
info@gsmechengineers.co.uk

Tel: 01732 885314

Handyman

All DIY work for reasonable rates

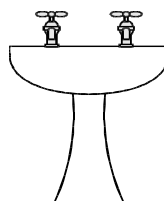
Painting and Decorating,
Kitchen Fitting,
Decking, Fencing,
Sheds and all Carpentry work,
Flat pack assembly,
Jet Washing.

General property maintenance
No job too small

John Ballantyne
Home: 01732 884387
Mobile: 07890 034846



Karl Burrluck Plumbing and Heating



01732 886984
07886 783 170

52 Western Road
Borough Green,
Sevenoaks
TN15 8AQ


Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



ESTABLISHED
APRIL 1934

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 6th November 2023.

Matters discussed and reports received included:

- **Borough Green Medical Practice** - future expansion. One of the reasons the Parish Council bought the Harrison Rd land, apart from preserving a much loved green space, was to ensure room for any future expansion of the surgery. We would have hated to then lose some of that green space but the area of the Old Basted House Drive that is now in our ownership could provide extra parking allowing the surgery's own land to accommodate an extension. If we did go down that route, any treatment would be sympathetic to the existing beautiful woodland setting and maintain access for the public and Borough Green Scouts. We are nowhere near any agreement but, as this is YOUR LAND managed by the Parish Council, it is only right we should solicit your views before we proceed further. Let us know your thoughts by email as at the end of these notes.
- **4X4 Santa Rides Again.** The South East 4x4 Response Group will again be bringing Santa around the villages of Platt and Borough Green on 15 December. We had a hugely successful trial last year and, despite (or because of) the snow, it was a truly magical evening. Details elsewhere in this issue.
- **Christmas Lights Switch On - 25 November.** BGPC will again be managing the road closures for our annual Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On. This is our 38th year and we should be proud of the achievement of our little village. The Village Hall car park will be closed from 10pm on Friday evening and the High St from 12 noon to 7pm on Saturday.
- **Loose Dogs.** Both the Rec and Potters Mede have signs asking for dogs to be kept on leads, but a hard core of owners refuse to comply. If an incident causes harm to a human or another animal, the owner has clearly ignored that rule and would be deemed negligent. They would be liable to prosecution under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, later amended by the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which states that if a dog, whether on private or public land, is dangerously out of control the owner or person in charge of the dog at that time commits an offence. This is a plea to dog owners to behave responsibly and control their dogs by keeping them on the lead in these public spaces. We live in the countryside, surrounded by thousands of acres of open country and miles of public footpaths, where you can let your dog run free. So please leave these two small public spaces safe for children, responsible dog owners and the many other users.
- **Council Vacancy.** There is a vacancy on the Parish Council - apply to the Clerk. 
- **TMBC Agile IT Project.** Chairman reported on the website upgrade. This has hit Planning Services hard but we are now receiving weekly application lists. Comments about local applications can be made on the new planning portal at <https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/tmbc/search-applications/link> on all websites.

(Continued on page 11)

The Birkbeck Chiropody & Podiatry Practice

Health Professions Council (HPC) Registered Podiatrists

Open Monday to Saturday
Day and Evening Appointments
Easy Car Parking

Telephone: 01732 883271



Woodlands, 172 Maidstone Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks TN15 8JD
T | 01732 883271 W | birkbeckpodiatry.com

Sevenoaks Tree Care

Robert Hill
07598870177

sevenoakstreecare@gmail.com

All aspects of tree surgery covering Sevenoaks and surrounding areas.

- Tree Removal.
- Tree Reduction.
- Veteran Tree Care.
- Dead Wooding.
- Site Clearance.
- Hedge Trimming.
- Shrub Pruning.
- Fruit Tree Pruning.
- Stump Grinding.
- Emergency Calls 24/7.
- Commercial and Domestic Work.

All our work is professionally undertaken at competitive rates.
Fully insured and nptc qualified with over 15 years' experience.
Free quotes & advice given.

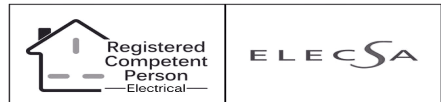
www.sevenoakstreecare.com



A PALMER COMPLETE ELECTRICAL SERVICES

01732 886 939 07774 201 154

ALL ELECTRICAL WORK
LARGE OR SMALL



FULL REWIRES, PARTIAL
REWIRES, FUSEBOARDS,
TEST CERTIFICATES,
SOCKETS, LIGHTING.
DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL
LOCAL AUTHORITY
RELIABLE FRIENDLY SERVICE.

PORTLAND BENTLEY

*Painting & Decorating
Contact Paul*

email: portlandbentley1989@gmail.com

07939 401467

01732 886801



The editorial committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our distributors, contributors, advertisers and readers a Happy Christmas and successful New Year. Thanks to everyone for their support during the year.



Advertising

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

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

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

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

Articles for the next magazine

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

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Tuesday 16 January** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover February 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



Professional Domestic Cleaning Services

Are you a busy mum?
Working long hours?
Just need extra help?

Give us a call for reliable DBS
checked staff and fully insured
service!

07545 455742
sophie@capablecleaners.co.uk
www.capablecleaners.co.uk

J. Lawrenson

Tree and Fencing Specialist

- Hedge cutting, reduction and removal
 - Tree pruning, felling and surgery
 - Stump and garden clearance
- All types of fencing supplied and erected,
including panel and close boarded

Fully Insured
All waste and cuttings recycled

Please call James on
07759 137817
01732 849295

Or email
j.lawrenson@hotmail.com



COTOR FLOORING



DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL FLOORING



TEL : 01732 885 849



www.cotorflooringltd.co.uk



07853 093 540



sales@cotorflooringltd.co.uk

CARPET

LAMINATE

VINYL

BRING SAMPLES TO YOU



- Carpet, Vinyl, Laminate
- Supply, Fitting, Removal
- Flooring Accessories

- Samples to your door
- FREE Quotation
- Over 20 years experience

70 Western Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 8AH

- **58 & 70 Shopper Buses**, run by Nu Venture and jointly funded by KCC and the participating parishes, have been running successfully since April. We have submitted another CTF grant application to KCC but are looking at other sources of funding to help ease the parish contributions. Next year will undoubtedly see a modest increase to cover increased costs caused by inflation.
- **Cllr Harry Rayner**, newly appointed Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance at KCC, reported on KCC's dire financial situation. He also reported that two troublesome local quarry operators are now a regular feature on the KCC Regulation Committee that monitors infringements and enforces against those operators who now will receive regular visits.
- **Assets of Community Value** - the **Black Horse PH**, the **Library**, the **Village Hall** and **Parish Church Hall** are now listed as Assets of Community Value. This will have no effect whatsoever on their current status but give us an opportunity to bid should that change in the future.
- **The Bowls Club** have approached the Parish Council for permission to let their hall for private functions. All our local venues are getting busier and this would allow the Bowls Club to augment their subscriptions and provide a better service to the community.
- **BGPC staff**. Our Clerk, Bernie, with our groundsmen, Barry and Rob, occupy their time during bad weather collecting second hand furniture which they then sell on earning funds for various charities. So far their running total is about £1600, with the latest donations of £450 going to Médecins Sans Frontières, UNICEF and the Red Cross, all operating on the ground in Gaza. I know you will all join me in thanking them profusely.
- **Kent Youth** and the Parish Council are funding a youth club at Potters Mede which will be open every **Wednesday from 3pm - 5pm**.
- **30mph wheelie bin stickers** are available free to interested residents living on the main roads in the hope that at least on bin days drivers might slow down a bit through our village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 11th December 2023, at BG Village Hall**. The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions.

Meet your Council

Contact the Chairman mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk **01732 882880**

Contact the Clerk clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk **07568 536405**

Full minutes are posted at www.boroughgreen.gov.uk



Saturday Open House

Fancy a cuppa, cake and some conversation?

Pop in. Everyone Welcome.

No Charge

No Agenda Just Community

10-12 Every Saturday @ COGS

Church of the Good Shepherd,
Quarry Hill Road

Hello Weekend!



LJ Travel

Dream - Explore - Discover

Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
From all at LJ Travel



Merry
Christmas



Tel:-01732 886968

email: info@ljtravel.co.uk

www.ljtravel.co.uk



"THE AERIAL MAN"

TV AERIAL AND SATELLITE ENGINEER

NO CALL OUT CHARGE
FREE ESTIMATES
LOCAL FRIENDLY FAMILY FIRM,
EST 40 YEARS
FREE VIEW - FREESAT - BT VISION
TALKTALK - SKY- FREE CHANNELS
FULLY INSURED
DISCOUNTED RATES FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS



Borough Green

01732 883542

07436 564 897



CAR WRIGHT

Auto Services

Sevenoaks Road, Ightham,
TN15 9AD

For All Auto Queries

01732 780591 07747535657

All makes and models
MoTs

Free courtesy car
Free local collection and delivery

Brakes Servicing
Repairs No. Plates

All mechanical and diagnostic
work carried out by
qualified automobile engineers



Church of the Good Shepherd Foodbank

Thanks to your continuing generosity we have been able to support many local families in need.

Donations of non-perishable goods may be left at the Church of the Good Shepherd at any time during the day (the Church is usually open 10am - 5pm each day).

Donations for Christmas Deliveries

We now have 28 families including 50/60 children needing our help. We are asking for donations of the items below by Thursday 21 December for Christmas deliveries:

Nuts	Tins/Boxes of Chocolates/ Sweets
Stollen cake	Christmas Pudding
Biscuits for Cheese	Mince Pies
Hot Chocolate	Selection Boxes
Chocolate Christmas Tree Decorations /Choc Gold Coins.	

Thank you

For any enquiries regarding our Foodbank please contact Ian Simpson on **07801 135 460** or foodbank.cogs@gmail.com

Borough Green & Wrotham u3a



Next meeting - **Monday 11 December** at 2pm

Our first Christmas together when we will celebrate with "Mr Piano Man" who will bring back memories of happy days with a "Sing Along". It is hoped that we find a lot of talent amongst our members. Please come and enjoy. There is a lift and assistance if required. Not signed up? There will be a table available for new members to sign up, membership of £20 by cash or cheque please.

Meeting - **Monday 8 January** at 2pm. A talk by the Woodland Trust.

At present we have numerous requests for groups. However these can only happen if each group has one person as a point of contact. This is to arrange a meet up point, date, time and frequency of how often you would like to meet. The Committee are here to help and advise anyone who would be happy to support us in getting groups off the ground. Without your support we are unable to form a group.

The Committee wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.
Christine Ward, Vice Chair



Digital Kent is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities in the county. They will be holding a Get Digital! event at Borough Green Library on Friday 1 December from 11.00 - 1.00. Go to page 18 for details on how to book a session.

THE WORKS

Roofing Leadwork Restoration



07947 741801 worksroofing.com



FREE advice & quotations • Call with confidence • Member of Confederation of Roofing Contractors



**Shires
Heating
Services**



07921 197780



ben@shiresheatingservices.com

- Boiler servicing
- Boiler breakdowns and repairs
- New boiler installations and system upgrades
- Power flushing / system cleaning
- Aga and Rayburn servicing and repairs
- Unvented cylinder service and repairs
- LPG, oil and leisure park homes / caravans
- Landlords gas safety records
- Cooker and gas fire servicing
- Radiator repairs and replacements



www.shiresheatingservices.com



NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH



Cinema at COGS



Wednesdays 20 December and 17 January 2pm in the Church of the Good Shepherd. Please check the Church's noticeboard for each month's presentation. All are welcome so come for an afternoon of free entertainment. Refreshments available during the interval.

Contact Pam on 886150

Monday Minis Toddler Time

Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups.

Mondays 4 December and 15 January 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.



Games, Tea & Chat



On alternative **Mondays** with a break for the festive period (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.

Contact Elaine Almond on 886440 or etalmond@aol.com



Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the 27 shoeboxes and 3 black bin liners of knitted articles. Pam Jones



Burns Night

Burns Night Supper & Light Entertainments with a Scottish Theme Saturday 27 January

7.00pm

£15 per head

Booking essential

Licensed Bar



Contact Julie 885437 for tickets & dietary requirements

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

Events in the Village for the months of December and January

(Plus Library events, Messy Play, Lunch Club and Youth Club - see page 18)

December

- 1 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
COGS Wreath Making - 7.30 (Bookings only)
- 2 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
COGS Festive Supper Quiz - 6.30
- 3 **COGS - Holy Communion said - 8.30**
SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - All-Age Communion - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
- 4 **Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 7 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
- 8 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00 - Christmas Party
BG Primary School - PTA Christmas Wreath Workshop - 7.30
Wrotham Historical Society - 8.00 - Wrotham Village Hall
- 9 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
Platt Church - Christmas Market - 11.00 to 2.00
- 10 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 11 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00- Christmas Party
BG Parish Council - BGVH - 7.30
- 13 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00 - Looking at Christmas with Anne
- 14 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BORODARA - BGVH - 2.00
- 15 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
Father Christmas tour of Borough Green and Platt
(South East 4x4 Response)
- 16 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 17 **COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**
SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.30
BGBC - Christmas Carol Service - 10.30
- 20 **COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00**
COGS - Quiet Christmas - 8.00
- 21 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
COGS - Carol Service - 6.30
- 23 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 24 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
COGS - Christingle Crib Service - 4.00
BGBC - Carols round the Christmas Tree - 5.15
SJCC - 10pm Midnight Mass with Carols from 9.30pm.
COGS - Midnight Mass - 11.30



- 25 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - All Age Christmas Communion - 10.00
 BGBC - Christmas Service - 10.30
 28 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 30 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
 31 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30



January

- 4 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 5 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
 6 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
 7 **COGS - Holy Communion said - 8..30**
 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - All-Age Communion - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
 Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30
 8 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
 BG Parish Council - BGVH - 7.30
 10 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
 BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00
 11 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 BORODARA - BGVH - 2.00
 12 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
 Wrotham Historical Society - 8.00 - Wrotham Village Hall
 13 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
 14 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
 15 **Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
 17 **COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00**
 18 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 19 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
 20 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
 21 **COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00**
 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion - 10.30
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
 22 **Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
 24 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
 BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00
 25 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 26 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
 27 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
COGS - Burns Night Supper - 7.00
 28 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00
 BGBC - Service - 10.30
COGS - Tea-Time Church - 4.30



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 LIBRARY

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

Opening hours are

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

Ancestry - Monday 10.15 - 12.15 need to book an appointment

Scrabble - Tuesday 2.15 - 4.15

Coffee & Chat - Thursday 10.15 - 12.15

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time - Friday 10.15 - 10.45

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

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



Get Digital! - Friday 1 December 11.00 -1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit www.digitalkent.uk or call 0300 0410950.

Wishing our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



(run by Tonbridge and Malling Children's Centres)

Borough Green Village Hall

Tuesdays 9.45 to 10.45

An opportunity for children to explore their senses through a range of messy activities such as gloop, painting, play dough. Suitable for 0-5 years. Free - no booking required.



Borough Green Lunch Club - Greensleeves

The club runs from **10.00 until 1.00** on both **Thursday and Friday** in the Village Hall, providing friendship, fun and food. We are able to provide transport if mobility is a problem. For further information contact Pauline on 01622 815647 or 07503 156 713.



POTTERS MEDE

Wednesdays 3 to 5pm

All secondary school ages welcome.

Snacks, hot drinks, activities and sports available, along with advice and support from Youth Workers.

For more information contact tonbridgeyouthhub@kent.gov.uk

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Services over Christmas period

Christmas Eve 9.30 am Mass -

10pm Midnight Mass with Carols from 9.30pm

Christmas Day 9:30am Mass



Borough Green Baptist Church

Services over Christmas period

Sunday 17 December 10:30am Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve 10.30am Morning Service and

5.15pm Carols round the Christmas Tree

Christmas Day 10:30am Morning Service



Borough Green Village Hall Website

We are pleased to advise you that a new website has been launched for the Village Hall - www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk - providing you with up to date information on what is available to hire along with the cost for each hall. All enquiries and bookings can be arranged by using our online form or by simply calling us on 01732 646040.

The Village Hall is managed by a team of volunteers and, whilst our telephone is not permanently manned, it is checked daily and we will get back to you within 48 hours or on the next working day.

Village Hall Management Committee



4X4 SANTA RIDES AGAIN Friday 15th December

South East 4x4 Response in partnership with Borough Green and Platt Parish Councils brings Father Christmas to Borough Green and Platt – look out for the 4X4 Responders in Hi Viz jackets.

Approximate timings:

6.10pm Pineview, Blue Anchor, Platt Memorial Hall

6.20pm Junction Crow Hill 6.30pm Junction Normanhurst Road

6.45pm Morgan Garage 6.55pm B.G. High Street Car Park

7.10pm Junction McDermott & Harrison Road

7.20pm Junction of Isles Quarry Road & Nisbett Drive

7.30pm Junction of Wyatt Close & Staleys Road

7.45pm Western Road Car Park

7.55pm Fairfield Road 8.10pm Fairfield Road

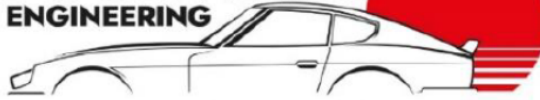
8.20pm Junction of The Avenue & The Crescent

8.30pm Junction of Wye Road & Annetts Hall



For more information please contact: Councillor Sue Butterfill
suebutterfill556@gmail.com 07757 494621

FOURWAYS
ENGINEERING



EST. 1973

**Specialists in all Classic and Sports Car Restoration
and all Vehicles General Servicing**

Unit 12 Platt Industrial Estate, Maidstone Road,

St Marys Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 8JL

Telephone: 01732 884 288

Email: info@fourwaysgroup.co.uk

Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan



Kent County Council is consulting on proposals for new and improved walking, wheeling and cycling routes as part of the county wide Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP). The public and interested parties are being asked to look at the proposals and provide comments by using the online mapping tool on the consultation page or by completing the questionnaire.



You can have your say by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/KCWIP before **Wednesday 10 January**. If you have any questions or require any of the consultation material in hard copy, please email activetravel@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 418181 using the reference 'KCWIP Consultation'.



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

Community Risk Survey

If you live in Kent or Medway you are invited to help shape the future of your fire and rescue service through our community risk survey.

You have until **1 February** to have your say and influence what we should focus on over the next four years. It is an opportunity to understand the risks that affect you, share your views and shape what we do. Take ten minutes to complete the survey at www.kent.fire-uk.org/saferfuture.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council items



Free home energy upgrades available now

(Extracts from Press Release issued on 8 November)

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is helping residents save on energy use and make their homes warmer with the Home Upgrade Grant Scheme – open now.

Residents who rely on oil, electricity, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), coal, or wood to heat their homes could dramatically improve their home's energy efficiency for free and save money in the long run. Under the scheme, measures including insulation, air source heat pumps and solar panels are all available to residents that meet certain criteria.

Home Upgrade checklist:

- Do you own your property or rent from a private sector landlord?
- Does your heating source include oil, electricity, LPG, coal, or wood?
- Is your household income below £31,000 annually? (Earning threshold varies in some postcode areas).
- Is your property's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating D, E, F, or G? (Help is available to find this out).

Funding for the Home Upgrade Grant scheme has been allocated to local authorities by central government. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has partnered with E.ON Energy Solutions Limited to deliver the scheme. To find out more about the scheme and apply, visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/housingupgrade or call E.ON on 0333 202 4820 (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday).

Funding for rural businesses and communities

Rural businesses and communities are again invited to apply to the West Kent Rural Grants scheme for funding to support jobs, communities and economic growth. Grants of £2k to £25k are available to eligible businesses for the 2024/25 financial year. To find out more about the scheme and make an application go to www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/westkentruralgrants.



Tonbridge's Winter Light Trail

Will run from Sunday 26 November until Saturday 30 December. Sessions start from 4:15pm until 9pm. We recommend allowing 35-45 minutes to take in the full trail.

For information and tickets go to www.illuminatetrails.co.uk

Taxis

Changes to policy for taxis in Tonbridge and Malling come into effect on 1 December. From that date taxis will have to take card payments and will be barred from refusing to take passengers on short journeys.



Painter and Decorator

33 years experience

Interior & Exterior

Free Estimates

Friendly and reliable

*Call Steve 07811 360269
www.jarvisdecorating.co.uk*



Extensions - Loft conversions
Internal & External Alterations
Full Planning &
Structural Engineers Service
References Always Available

www.honeycombconstruction.co.uk
(01732) 883443
07989 509 630

Jason Langstaff Electrician

- Design and Installation
- Fuse Board Upgrades
- Security Lighting
- Full or Part Rewires
- New Builds and Extensions
- Additional Sockets & Lighting Points
- Garden Power & Lighting
- System Upgrades
- Fault Finding
- CCTV
- PAT Testing



Professional - Reliable - Courteous - Insured
All Work Completed to BS7671

**Sevenoaks
based**

T: 01959 525 136

M: 07817 733 257

E: jmlimited@aol.com



“Help at an emotional time”

Borough Green,
Wrotham, St Mary's Platt, Ightham
& surrounding villages
01732 780600

43 Western Road, TN15 8AL
boroughgreen@welhamjones.co.uk

- ◆ Traditional & Contemporary funerals
- ◆ Eco-friendly funerals & woodland burials
- ◆ Private chapel of rest ◆ Home arrangements
- ◆ Memorials & keepsakes



www.welhamjones.co.uk



Dear residents

West Kent Bypass (J5 Slips) Campaign update

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the constant support I have received from so many of you who share my views on improving our highways network here in West Kent.

Our campaign is about reclaiming our villages by stopping the necessity for the increasing traffic to exit the M20 at Wrotham Heath onto our local 'A' roads. A campaign for improving lives in safety, environment, climate, health and quality of life.

The focus is on re-instating the long overdue missing slip roads in the vicinity of M25 J5 Sevenoaks, facilitating our West Kent Bypass to connect the M26/A21.

Whilst we have now managed to get our campaign onto the desks of Westminster there is still much work to do in having our voice heard and thorough representation to see the campaign through. With enough public support we intend to do just that in 2024. Together we can make the required changes to make a real difference for our community.

I will be releasing a series of podcasts in the new year hoping to provide confidence and encouragement to all our people in supporting my campaign.

Meantime wishing you and your family a very Happy Christmas.

Tim Shaw

The Borograds present the musical..

JACK THE RIPPER

Jack the Ripper
Book and Lyrics by Ron Pember
and Denis de Marne

Directed by Keith Neville and Musical Director John Pead

Auditions still open –
men needed!

Rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays in
Platt Church Garden Room
TN15 8NE
19:45– 22:00

Show dates Wed–Sat 14th–17th Feb plus
Sun 18th matinee in BG Village Hall
Contact Lucilla 07887 518855 if interested

This amateur production of Jack the Ripper is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Ightham Primary School PSA

Santa Sleigh



Saturday 9 December

Look out for Santa and his Elves collecting cash and card donations en route.

Timings and route subject to change but approx times for Borough Green are:

Hazelbourne 5.30 – 5.45

Doctors 5.50

Conyerd Road 6.00

Harrison Road 6.15



DB Home & Garden Maintenance

Carpentry † Painting † Decorating
Wooden Conservatory & Window Refurbs
Flooring † General Repairs

Hedge & Grass Cutting
Sheds † Summer Houses † Fencing
Decking † Patios

No job too small! Fully Insured!

Tel: 01622 206100 - Mob: 07545 086827

Email: dbhomeandgarden@gmail.com

THE SECRET GARDEN



**1000'S OF GREETINGS CARDS,
GIFTS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY,
TOYS, HELIUM BALLOONS.**

**WE ALSO SUPPLY AND FIT
WATCH BATTERIES.**

**29 HIGH STREET,
BOROUGH GREEN
TEL: 01732 883909**

P.W. Physiotherapy
Trottisccliffe Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic

Aaron Penna Victoria Penna
Chartered Physiotherapists

Highly Experienced and Skilled Therapists

**All Musculoskeletal, Rehabilitation and
Respiratory problems catered for**

Clinic appointments available

Home Physiotherapy Service

Check out our 5* rating on google

**Call today for an appointment or email
for further information**

01732 823189
admin@pwphysio.co.uk
www.pwphysio.co.uk

**BG Primary School
PTA presents**



Friday 8 December 7.30 - 9.30 pm

£25 payable on booking

Licensed bar

Limited Spaces

Contact Ali to book **07947 007683**

Please bring secateurs and any greenery you can contribute (holly, spruce, pine laurel, ivy, conifer). All other materials, nibbles, tutorial included

Registered charity 1014450

Christmas Market

Saturday 9th December

11.00 – 14.00

Platt Church

Stalls selling homemade goods

Jams Chutneys Sweets

Cakes, large and small

Also

Small Christmas Gifts

Potash Farm Kentish Cobnut Goods

Bottle Tombola Christmas Raffle

Deirdre's Crafts Children's Games

Refreshments

from 11.00: Tea, Coffee and Cake

From midday: Lunch

Proceeds to Platt Church Funds



**RUDOLPH
FUN RUN**

**Sunday 17 December
10am at Leybourne Lakes**

Join us for an unforgettable and festive event - the RBLI Rudolph Fun Run! Come along and celebrate the spirit of the season

while supporting a great cause. This exciting event aims to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of veterans and their families.

Choose from a 5k chip timed route or a 2.5k family route

£20 per adult, £5 per child

One of a kind Rudolph medal for all finishers

Option to pre-buy Antlers & Red Nose for £5

For more information and to register go to -

<https://rbli.co.uk/rbli-events/rudolphfunrun/>



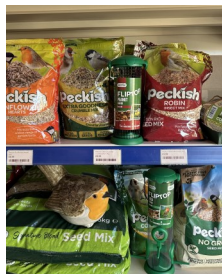


Greenacres

Borough Green Road, Ightham, TN15 9JA

01732 884726

Get ready for Spring!



- Compost, pots, fertilisers, bird feed, logs and coal
- Seed potatoes and onion sets
- Seeds and early Spring bulbs in pots
- Visit our farm shop for local grown vegetables, cheeses and organic eggs

Treat yourself to **Rombouts** a coffee/
hot chocolate available in the farm shop



Open every day: 9am-5pm

sales@greenacresgardencentre.co.uk



Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

A couple of months ago I wrote in the Voice magazine about the Mayor of London’s plans to scrap Day Travelcards which would make travel to London much less convenient for us all.

The importance of the Day Travelcard is shown every time we are at the station. I am sure we have all seen people at Borough Green and Wrotham Station who are not regular travellers, won’t have an Oyster card but need to get the tube when they reach London Charing Cross or London Victoria. The Day Travelcard is the easiest ticket to buy. Without this option I have no doubt that fewer people would travel which is not only bad for us but bad for the economy in London.

I received an overwhelming response to my request to hear from those affected and am very grateful to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts with me. Across our community I heard from hundreds of people. We received the wonderful news a few weeks ago that the Mayor of London has reversed his decision and the Day Travelcard is here to stay. This decision would have hit the poorest in our community the hardest and put off so many people from visiting London. Thank you to everyone who responded to my request.

In less positive news I also wanted to use my column to reflect on the terrible events we have seen in the Middle East over recent weeks. I have been working closely with communities here across the country who are affected by what is happening in Israel and Gaza and, through my role as Security Minister, I will continue to do what I can to ensure that the security of the UK, including every one of us in Tonbridge and Malling, is protected.

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

TMBC Review of Fees and Charges

At their meeting on 8 November TMBC’s Cabinet considered changes in fees and charges to come into effect in April 2024; papers and decisions can be seen on the Council’s website via the “Browse Meetings 2023” page. Amongst the proposed changes are increases in the charges for the Western Road car park which are to be part of a public consultation starting in November (arrangements unknown at time of writing).

Western Road Car Park	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
Up to 30 mins	20p	30p
30 minutes to 1 hour	50p	60p
1 to 2 hours	80p	£1
2 to 4 hours	£1.50	£1.80
4 to 6 hours	£2.20	£2.60
6 to 9 hours	£3.10	£3.50
All day	£5.30	£5.50
Residents Season Ticket	£350	£385



Last Christmas the Hospice helped local residents to recycle more than 600 trees which raised over £7,000 for the Hospice. This year a team of volunteers will collect your real spruce, fir or pine tree from your front gate or driveway between Friday 5 and Sunday 7 January within the boroughs of Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling with additional new postcodes in Borough Green and Wrotham.

The suggested donation for each tree collected is £15 and donations received from recycling your Christmas trees will help the Hospice to continue providing exceptional care to people living with a terminal illness within our community. Booking is available on our website at

www.hokh.org/support-us/events/christmas-tree-recycling-2024/

The Hospice team are also recruiting volunteers from the community but are also looking for volunteers from businesses to help with this event. This could be driving your van or getting involved in some other way. Businesses and corporate volunteers should email corporatefundraising@hokh.co.uk



Hi Kent

Sound support for deaf and hard of hearing people

The next clinic at Borough Green Library is on Friday **22 December** from 2.00 - 3.30.



BASH THE TRASH

**Love
where
you we
Live**

Borough Green Village Litter Pick

Every first Sunday of the month 11.30 - 12.30 from BG Village Hall.

All equipment supplied, just turn up and go at your own pace.



Hall bookings

Parish Hall - Quarry Hill

Alan Williams 01732 886557

Village Hall

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

01732 646040

Potters Mede

Bernard Galopin 07568 536 405

Defibrillator Locations

a) 24 hours a day

The Village Hall

Potters Mede

The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

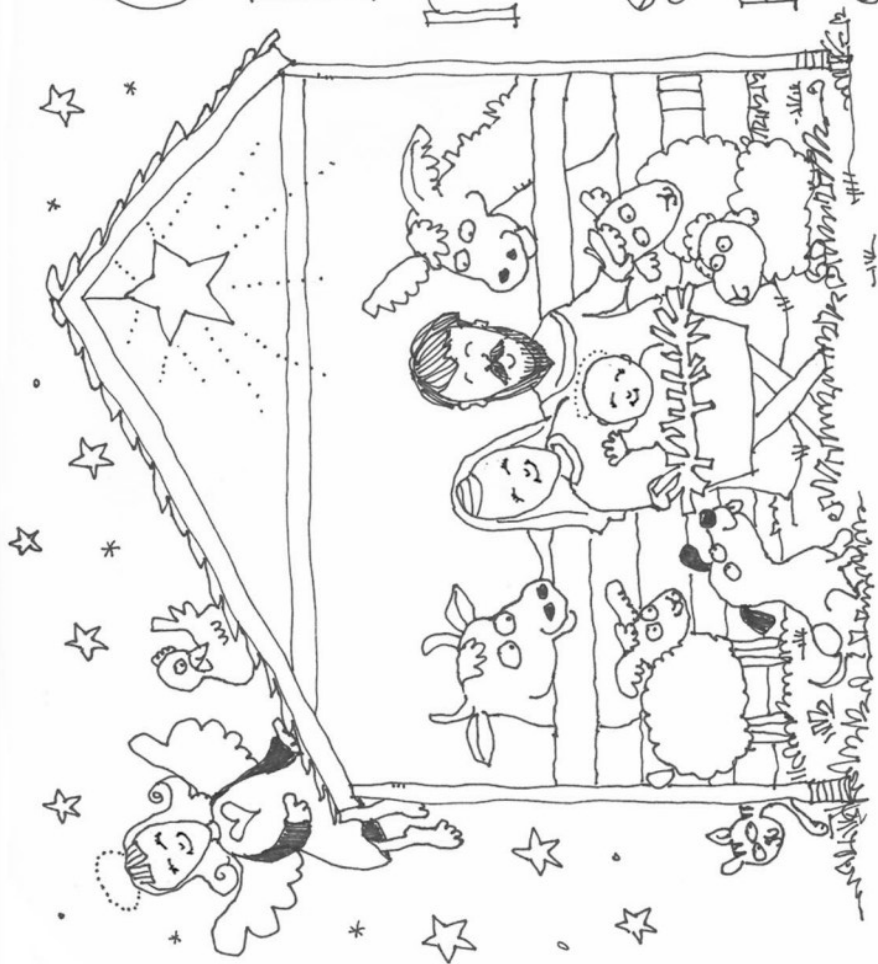
b) When premises are open

The Medical Centre

BG Primary School



Oh,
holy
night
the
stars
are
brightly
shining



Colouring Competition.

Bring your completed entry to the Church of the Good Shepherd
crib service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

A prize for the best entry – no upper age limit.

Name :



IGHTHAM & DISTRICT GARDENERS CLUB

**JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL EVENING & QUIZ
NIGHT ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY**

WE WELCOME BACK MEMBERS & VISITORS
TO OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2024.

WE HOLD A VARIETY OF TALKS & TITLES
FROM EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS
AND HAVE OUR THREE SHOWS THIS YEAR.

IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL FROM 7.00PM
EVERY FOURTH TUESDAY
(FEB TO NOV)

Visitors very welcome

For further information contact
Pippa Coulthard - 07761 983800 or
Dee Samways - 07799 002129



Wrotham Historical Society

Friday 8 December - Behind the scenes of TV's golden years - a talk by Wilf Lower (preceded by mulled wine and mince pies).

Friday 12 January - Fingerprints and murder part 2 - a talk by Jack Deans (who is a former Scotland Yard Head of Forensics and continues relating some of his experiences in famous murder investigations).

8.00pm Wrotham Village Hall

All visitors welcome - £4

www.wrothamhistorical.org.uk

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

Some of the December walks are detailed below. January walks will be added to the website in due course. www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk

Dates in December	Route	Distance in miles
Sunday 3th	A leisurely and gentle circular walk around Mereworth Woods.	3.5
Wednesday 6th	Leisurely walk from Dunk's Green to Ightham Mote (coffee break) and on to Shipbourne through orchards, fields and woods. 7 stiles and no hills.	5.5
Wednesday 13th	A leisurely and level circular walk from The Plough at Powder Mills to Leigh.	4.5
Sunday 17th	Walk from St Mary's Platt through woodland, farmland, apple orchards and quiet lanes with valley views to the hamlets of Claygate Cross and Basted. Moderate difficulty.	6.2
Wednesday 20th	A flat and leisurely circular walk from Haysden Country Park in Tonbridge, towards Haysden Water and on through the Eden Valley, returning via Lower Haysden.	4
Sunday 24th	Three churches walk from West Malling. Fairly flat; moderate difficulty.	5
Thursday 28th	Walk from Watlington Station along the Medway Valley then up over the hill past Roydon Hall and back down via Pizien Wells. Moderate difficulty.	6

WROTHAM COMPUTER CARE

Computer help
at your Home or Office

PCs and Apple Macs

We are a local company providing an affordable service to local families, professionals, businesses and schools.

For more details please contact us:

01732 780176 or 07795 552440

mwhite@wrothamcomputercare.com

www.wrothamcomputercare.com

LOCAL LOCKSMITH

NO CALL-OUT FEE! 24HR SERVICES

- ✓ uPVC / DOUBLE GLAZING / PATIO DOORS & WINDOW LOCK REPAIRS.
- ✓ JUST MOVED IN ? WHO HAS A KEY ? COMPLETE LOCK CHANGE SERVICE.
- ✓ LOCK-OUTS / LOST KEYS / BROKEN LOCKS.
- ✓ EMERGENCY LOCK & DOOR OPENING.
- ✓ DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL WORK.
- ✓ ALL TYPES OF LOCKS / HARDWARE SUPPLIED & FITTED.

Call Paul on:

07506 451405

graves972@btinternet.com

Paul Graves
Locksmith

Checkatrade
Ave Score 9.95 | Over 1200 Reviews
Checkatrade ID 311650

SMALL NOTICES



Slimming World
Group on
Wednesdays

8.00am, 9.30am, 5.30pm and 7pm
at Borough Green Village Hall.

Phone Anita on **07725 484 361**



Clock Kent



Clock & Watch repairs,
restoration & servicing
Collection & delivery available.

Call Paul on 01732 884363 / 07831 884789

Or email: paul@clockkent.com
www.clockkent.com

PHONE SOCKETS

25YRS BT ENGINEER

- New phone/broadband extensions
- Faults finding repairs/improve broadband speeds
- Cat 5 wiring
- Internal/ external re-routing/tidying of cables prior to double glazing

FULLY INSURED

G.NUGENT **07845705900**



Do you struggle out of bed?
Is walking difficult or painful?
Have you an injury that just
isn't getting better?

Contact Carole Simpson
Experienced and specialist
physiotherapist

01732 780909

**Stay active and start
enjoying Life**

Carole@boroughgreenphysio.co.uk
www.boroughgreenphysio.co.uk



The Studio at Windy Nob, Staleys
Road, Borough Green TN15 8RL



Residential Sales, Lettings & Valuations

**Independent Village
Estate Agent
Dedicated to helping you**

Our fee is only 1% + VAT

Call now for a free valuation

01732 884422

enquiries@hillier-reynolds.co.uk

3 Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green,
Kent, TN15 8AX



01732 885585
kings-estate-agents.co.uk

Rental Space Available

Treatment and meeting room
rental within our therapy centre.
Weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
Rooms available for one-to-one
therapies and small group sessions
or workshops.

2 Minutes walk from Borough Green train
station

Free on-site parking

Waiting room, toilets and kitchen
available

Air conditioning and heating fitted

Please contact us for more information:

phtc1@outlook.com

Positive Health Therapy Centre, Unit 1,
Bourne Enterprise Centre, Borough
Green, Kent, TN15 8DG