THE VOICE

December 2024 and January 2025



A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR BOROUGH GREEN PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD. DELIVERED FREE TO ALL HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE. WITH THANKS TO ALL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (see page 9).





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Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd

December 2024

Have a 'good' Christmas....

Often we hear people say that Christmas has become too commercial. We certainly spend a lot more at Christmas than the rest of the year. On average nearly $$\pm 800$ more! If we are liable to splurge a little at this time of year, we might like to think about what we spend our money on and the companies we give it to.

I was recently introduced to the website of Ethical Consumer. This is an organisation that looks at companies and rates them according to certain ethical criteria, asking questions like: How well do they protect the environment? Are they above board with the tax they pay? Do they seek to make the world a better place or just say so in their adverts? Are their workers paid fairly and do they have rights? Is their supply chain fully checked?

Looking at the website it's surprising to see some well-known brands, with household names, which portray themselves as good and wholesome, in fact, have poor employment practices in other countries or encourage deforestation or at least don't stop it among their suppliers.

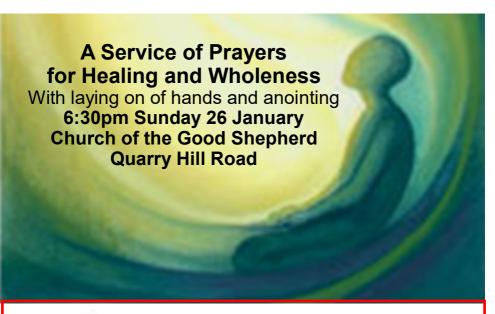
The Ethical Consumer site doesn't say what we should or shouldn't buy – or comment on how well products work – but it does inform about the brands and companies behind them. Then it's up to us to decide what's important. Is the price of something the main driver or that it has a particular designer label? Or is the fact that all the workers involved in its production earn a living wage and work in a safe, healthy environment?

If at Christmas you want to celebrate the birth of Jesus and part of your celebration tradition is to buy presents and some extra items for gatherings of family and friends, then perhaps you might like to just pause and reflect on what you are buying, where it comes from and who made it. At Jesus' birth, the angels proclaimed, "Peace and goodwill among people". So perhaps our purchases at Christmas should promote goodwill and peace and not the destruction of the rainforest or child slavery.

Much of the news is focused on big world events that we as individuals can have very little influence over. One area where we can 'have a say' is how we spend our money. It might not affect a large multinational company much if we choose to buy things from a small ethical brand, but it might make a big difference to the people that the small company employ and bring them some Christmas joy.

However you celebrate Christmas, may it be for you a time of joy, love and peace.

God bless Revd. Chris





Saturday 14 December

Supper served at 6.30pm followed by quiz





Tickets £15.00 including meal Booking essential Julie 01732 885437



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(Please notify of any dietary requirements)

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

Cinema at COGS



Wednesdays 18 December and 15 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.

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 19th 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 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 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 (page 33)!

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 and 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

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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 4th November 2024 and will meet on **2nd December** and **6th January** at the Bowls Club. The report in the next edition will cover both December 2024 and January 2025.



- 4X4 SANTA. Cllr Sue Butterfill has again arranged for South East 4x4 Response
 to meet Santa and take him around to visit children in Platt and Borough Green on
 13 December. The timetable is elsewhere in this edition and we will be posting
 details on lighting columns, on our website www.boroughgreen.gov.uk and our
 Facebook page nearer the day. If it is anything like the last two years it will be a
 wonderful evening.
- MOTO Truckstop. Thanks to the hard work by Cllr Pete Gillin of Wrotham Parish
 Council, the Planning Inspectorate may now be requiring KCC to explain why they
 withdrew their objections despite no changes being made to highway proposals. The
 Parish Alliance will have our own planning team at the appeal hearing to put our
 case to the Inspector.
- Clir Rayner (KCC) advised that the EU had deferred the start of the new Border Control Entry/Exit Biometric System, so the danger of gridlock in Kent has receded for now.
- **Groundsman.** Our Barry is retiring next summer and we want to recruit his replacement as soon as possible to allow "on-the-job" training and a smooth handover. We need someone who is practical, has some knowledge of gardening, good with people and who can drive the parish van. We would prefer the person to live in Borough Green or the immediate area. We hope the job will be a full-time post at Standard Local Government rates with a pension, but will require some occasional weekend tasks. We are happy to consider a part-time request.
- **Recreation Ground Pavilion.** Cllr Sam Thrush will be running a working group to refurbish the Pavilion so it can be used for meetings and events in the future. He is currently assessing quotes for roofing and damp proofing.
- Remembrance Sunday. We held our normal informal wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday 10 November at 10am and it was well attended as usual; we have started a new village tradition. The Exhortation this year was delivered by Roger Slade.
- Tree Survey of the Parish is being carried out by Treeability to ensure our woodlands remain safe. We are also looking forward to the annual competition run by Kent Men of Trees. From the main roads Borough Green may look urban but step back away from those roads and we have a surprising wealth of trees and regularly get commendations from KMOTT.
- Parish Office. On 31 October we vacated the office in the village hall lobby, the end of an association started in the 1950s when the Parish Council took up the demand from villagers to provide a facility once built it was set up as a Charitable Trust managed by Elected Trustees. We will continue to fund various activities in the hall like the Lunch Club and remind residents that the Parish Council can often provide grant funding to community groups.
- Christmas Lights will again be supported financially by the Parish Council. Current economic circumstances may see the loss of the TMBC grant in the future, but the Parish will pick that up. The christmas lights are an integral part of village life. We extend our thanks to the committee and volunteers who do such a splendid job every year and to all those who have been part of it over nearly 40 years.
- Borough Green Scouts have now settled into their new home at Potters Mede and the Clerk read out a lovely letter of thanks from them (appended to the minutes online). (Continued on page 11)

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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 $\pounds 2$ 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 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 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

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Borough Green Christmas Lights - 30th November Proud to be the official transport for Father Christmas!

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SOUTH EAST 4X4 RESPONSE CHRISTMAS SANTA RUN 13 DECEMBER 5pm

13 DECEMBER 5pm
PLATT & BOROUGH GREEN
SANTA WANTS TO MEET THE CHILDREN

AND HAND OUT SWEETS

LOCATION	APPROX TIME
PINE VIEW	17.10
BLUE ANCHOR CAR PARK	17.20
PLATT MEMORIAL HALL	17.30
JNCT CROW HILL / CROW HILL ROAD	17.40
JNCT NORMANHURST ROAD / BROCKWAY	17.50
MORGAN GARAGE	18.00
HIGH STREET CAR PARK	18.10
JNCT McDERMOTT ROAD / HARRISON ROAD	18.20
JNCT ISLES QUARRY ROAD / NISBETT DRIVE	18.30
JNCT WYATT CLOSE / STALEYS ROAD	18.40
WESTERN ROAD CAR PARK	18.50
FAIRFIELD ROAD LOOP	19.00
JNCT THE AVENUE / THE CRESCENT	19.10
JNCT WYE ROAD / ANNETTS HALL	19.20

Please note we will stop for <u>any</u> groups of children we see along the route so all timings are approximate. There will be advance vehicles ahead of Santa's convoy, ensuring children are aware of Santa's location. We look forward to seeing you.

For more details please contact Sue Butterfill on suebutterfill556@gmail.com or 07757 494621

(Continued from page 7)

- Public Toilets in the village hall car park have now been completely refurbished
 and fences and barriers painted. Barry has built a flower planter at the front and
 a new cleaner has been appointed.
- The King's Official Portrait arrived during the month and will be hung proudly in the Potters Mede hall, flanked by pictures of two past heroes of the village, Frank Bangay and Col Frank Griggs.
- The Parish Finances remain strong despite some big projects over the past year and we have ongoing plans again this year more to follow.
- The Chairman and Clerk can still be contacted on the email addresses and numbers below and in person meetings can still be arranged.
- The next Parish Council meetings will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 2nd December 2024 and 6th January 2025, at the Bowls Club. The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions. Parking at the Bowls Club is via Drylands Rd (but take a torch) or pedestrian access via Harrison Rd Recentrance.

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)



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



Christmas donations before 22 December will be very welcome - thank you



Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

Meetings are held every second Monday of each month at 2pm in Borough Green village hall with tea, coffee and biscuits. learn, laugh, live Parking/disabled access is available.

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday 9 December**. Pupils from Borough Green Primary School will entertain us with Christmas songs. This will be followed by a talk by actress Linda Regan - "Acting can be Murder" - with entertaining anecdotes from her long career on stage, in TV and film, including parts in Hi-De-Hi, Minder and Quadrophenia. Linda is now also a successful crime novelist. The talk is free for members, with a £3 charge for guests. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon.

Another date for your new diary – our first meeting of 2025 will be held on **Monday 13 January**.

For further information, or to join your local u3a, please contact: info@bgwu3a.org.uk

St Joseph's Catholic Church Services over Christmas period

Christmas Eve 10pm Midnight Mass with Carols from 9.30pm
Christmas Day 9:30am Mass
Boxing Day 10.00am Mass





Borough Green Baptist Church Services over Christmas period

Sunday 22 December 10:30am Carol Service
Christmas Eve 5.15pm Carols round the Christmas Tree
Christmas Day 10:30am Morning Service





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Borough Green Medical Practice - December 2024



This is produced for the benefit of all patients for sharing information and updates on a regular basis

The Practice will be closed on Christmas Day 25 December, Boxing Day 26 December and New Year's Day 1 January.

New texting facility available - We have introduced a new feature to our phone lines which means, when you call the practice, you can now request a callback and ask for a text update to show where you are in the queuing system. This will show your position and also give you the option to cancel the callback should you not require the need to speak to a receptionist.

We held our Covid and Flu Clinics in October and have so far vaccinated 2,020 patients. We still have flu vaccinations available and our reception team are on hand to arrange this for you.

BGMP raised £85 for 'Wear Pink Day' for Breast Cancer. Thank you to those patients who have donated. Christmas Jumper day is 12 December, raising money for Save the Children Charity.

Please see below regarding the Borough Green pharmacy: Dear residents of Borough Green,

It has been over a year since the pharmacy changed hands and we are all grateful for the support shown by the community during that time. One of our priorities after the transition was to ensure that medication supply to the pharmacy improved so patients were not left without their regular medications. In the majority of cases we have been successful in this goal with a number of wholesalers supplying the pharmacy. In cases where this is not happening there are national shortages which is unfortunately fairly common at the moment. The pharmacy has a good relationship with the surgery and we communicate to minimise impact on patients in these situations.

The first year was about stabilising the pharmacy business and we are now focusing on increasing our provision to the community. Remember that our pharmacist is qualified for the Pharmacy First scheme which will allow any patients with relevant conditions to receive treatment, if appropriate, from the pharmacy without the requirement for a GP appointment. We have also begun rolling out travel vaccinations and weight management as additional non-NHS services. These are challenging times for pharmacies with 8 pharmacies closing weekly across England in 2023 with this trend worryingly continuing in 2024. The pharmacy exists as a resource for, and in service to, the community of Borough Green and, in return, we rely on your support. I know that the team is committed to providing the best service and we continue to strive to provide the best advice and care.

We will be hosting a patient consultation in the next few months to keep the dialogue open with residents so please look out for details regarding that.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM Reggie Humphries

> FUNERAL Peter Evans

We offer our condolences to all those recently bereaved.



Monday Minis Toddler Time

Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups. **Mondays 2 December, 6 and 20 January** 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.

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

Burns Night

Burns Night Supper &
Light Entertainments with a Scottish Theme
Saturday 25 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, Lunch Club and Potters Tots - see page 22)

November

COGS Christmas Fayre - 10.00 to 1.00 30 BG CHRISTMAS MARKET and LIGHTS SWITCH ON - 2.00 onwards



December

- 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
- 2 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00 BG Parish Council - Bowls Club - 7.30
- 5 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 - COGS Wreath making 7.30 (Bookings only)
- Saturday Open House COGS 10.00 to 12.00 7
- 8 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
 - COGS Holy Communion and Children's Church 10.00
 - BGBC Service 10.30
- 9 Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
- 11 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15 BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00
- 12 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
- 13 Santa 4x4 - 5.00 onwards - (see page 11) Wrotham Historical Society - 8.00 - Wrotham Village Hall
- Saturday Open House COGS 10.00 to 12.00 14
 - COGS Christmas Supper Quiz 6.30
- COGS Breakfast Church 9.00 15
 - SJCC Mass 9.30

 - COGS Holy Communion 10.30
 - BGBC Service 10.30
- 18 COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00
- 19 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 - COGS Carol Service 6.30
- 20 COGS - Quiet Christmas - 8.00
- 21 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00
- 22 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
 - COGS Holy Communion and Children's Church 10.00
 - BGBC Carol Service 10.30
 - COGS Tea -Time Church 4.30
- 24 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

26 SJCC - Mass - 10.00

28 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.

29 SJCC - Mass - 9.30

COGS - Holy Communion - 10.00

BGBC - Service - 10.30

January

2 SJCC - Mass - 10.00

4 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00

5 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

6 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00
Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
BG Parish Council - Bowls Club - 7.30

9 SJCC - Mass - 10.00

11 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00

12 SJCC - Mass - 9.30

COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00

BGBC - Service - 10.30

13 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00

15 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15 COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00

16 SJCC - Mass - 10.00

18 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00

19 COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00

SJCC - Mass - 9.30

COGS - Holy Communion - 10.30 BGBC - Service - 10.30

BGBC - Service - 10.30

20 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00 Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00

23 SJCC - Mass - 10.00

25 Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00

COGS - Burns Night Supper - 7.00

26 SJCC - Mass - 9.30

COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00

BGBC - Service - 10.30

COGS - Tea-Time Church - 4.30

COGS - Service of Prayers for Healing and Wholeness - 6.30

29 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15

30 SJCC - Mass - 10.00

COGS - Community Event - 7.00 to 8.30 (see page 15)







Abbreviations

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





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In late 2023 there were invites to form a 'new' village hall committee with the mission to build on the resource that is the village hall and to attempt to turn it into an:

"Inclusive, vibrant, accessible, welcoming and safe space available for the enjoyment of a range of users".

The newly formed committee threw itself into the challenge from day 1 and, over the past 12 months, despite some obstacles, under the stewardship of the Chair it has gone from strength to strength. The committee has overhauled the website, online booking, use of social media, policies and procedures to support good governance, and worked closely with the Charity Commission to install new Trustees and ensure good transparent financial acumen.

To reflect on all the changes affecting users over the past 12 months would take more than the space available in the Voice but to name a few key ones (some of which are ongoing!) it includes introducing wifi, improving security and installation of CCTV, updating of terms and conditions, enhancements to facilities including improvements in cleaning, notices, signage, and building maintenance (leaks and moulds). The use of social media, and consultation, has widened and raised the public profile of the hall bringing new and diverse events to the community.

We can reassure you that the work is continuing at a pace including enhancing and replacing entranceway, charges for parking to improve hall usage, finance and procurement controls, and introduction of a 'Community Social Responsibility' strategy to help payback and support local community groups where possible. The committee are also working on a key building enhancement programme which includes rewiring, baby changing, dryers, noticeboards, windows and decoration amongst many others on a list.

As a committee can we sincerely thank all our hall users, especially hirers, and the local community for working closely with us and who continue to support the hall as a local resource and look forward to it continuing into the New Year.

Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!

Follow Up - Village Hall Parking:

Further to the previous notifications the Village Hall Committee have completed their review of all the comments and feedback from the consultation carried out in August/September. Again, the committee wishes to thank all those local people and hall users that participated in the consultation.

The committee have listened to all the many comments and feedback regarding blocking of spaces, footfall, short term demands, effects on business, charging proposals etc and have taken on board all the relevant information and can now confirm that, as shown in the Final Report, the parking details are very likely to be as shown in the tables below. We can also confirm and reassure respondents that the committee are still fully engaged with KCC Library to facilitate their future requirements over the parking. (Continued on page 23)

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

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

<u>Scrabble</u> - Tuesday 2.15 - 4.15

Coffee & Chat - Thursday 10.15 - 12.15

<u>Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time</u> - Friday 10.15 - 10.45 <u>Friday 2 Book Club (second Friday of each month) 2.00</u>



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

We look forward to seeing you.



is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next event is on **Friday 6 December** at 11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit www.digitalkent.uk or call 0300 0410950.

Clinics for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing people - no clinic in December and January date yet to be confirmed





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. Spaces available. We are able to provide transport if mobility is a problem.

For further information contact Pauline on 07503 156 713.



The committee will now be working to finalise timelines and implement the changes to be completed early January 2025, at which point the plan is to run a trial period after which there will be an additional review carried out by the committee to understand any relevant issues, concerns or affects.

In line with our continued collaborative approach to this issue there is still the intention of full and early notification by the committee locally around the high street, hall and car park **before** any such implementation of charges and following our confirmations with the parking provider. Please be reassured that notification of the final details will be through a range of methods, including physical leaflet drops and social media, to ensure everyone is fully aware of any details well in advance of implementation.

Car Park Charge Periods

The following are the latest proposed charge periods (subject to final confirmation)

Charging Period	Mon-Sat 07.00 — 18.00	To allow school drop off and pick up, early visits to bakery and café etc but encourage short stay at busy hall times and allow evenings at food outlets etc.
Maximum Stay	3 Hours	Though 2 hours was the preferred consultation option it has been recognised that some library or local appointments can overrun. Therefore a third chargeable hour will be allowed for trial period. We wish to encourage movement and minimise block parking. Hall users are exempt for events.
Minimum Return	2 Hours	This is felt sufficient to 'short stay' and allow return over 2 hours to collect children or prescriptions after first stop.
Overnight Parking	Free after 18.00	To allow car park use by local food outlets, visitors and amenities etc after 18.00.
Weekend Parking	Sunday Free	To accommodate churchgoers or remedial activity such as walkers.
Hall Users	Free	As recognised stakeholders, hall users can park free for activities.

Car Park Charges

The current proposed structure for charges is outlined below (subject to final confirmation) which will be by card, QR code or App (no cash):

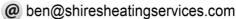
1 hour	Free	To accommodate 'pop in' activity and increase footfall while minimising block parking.
1-2 Hours	£1.20	To encourage movement but deter parking preference over Western Rd or public parking.
2-3 Hours	£2.00	Trial period option but subject to review.
Over 3 hours	Not permitted	Over 3 hours should be public parking with exception of hall users or overnight.







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- · Boiler servicing
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- · 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



















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Dear residents.

Community Campaigns Update 2024 - 2025

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the constant support received from so many of you who share my views on protecting, nurturing and improving our community of parishes and especially here in Borough Green.

But this year it's been extra special with the amazing support received during the General Election on 4 July and the message we have now been able to send to Westminster. It is not always about winning but about taking part and taking the opportunity to fly our flag on the big local issues that need resolution in London.

Our standing in the General Election has already achieved progress with our County Council, our Kent area local councils and our MP refocused for 2025 on the missing slip roads to connect the M26/A21 in the vicinity of M25 Junction 5 Sevenoaks. Without doubt the biggest opportunity we have of improving safety, health, environment, climate and quality of life for our people and their families here and across the wider West Kent. A scheme to take all passing through traffic out of our villages and force it onto the strategic highways network of M26/A21.

Additionally, as per my parliamentary manifesto, you all have my continued support to ensuring TMBC deliver a sustainable local housing plan in 2025 that does not decimate our greenbelt countryside and turn our local villages into one huge faceless new town. We have already ensured that the original local plan that proposed a 3,500-mass housing estate known as Borough Green Garden City has found its way to the rubbish bin. But realising local people do need local affordable homes, we will continue to fight for a sustainable housing local plan that is fair and just for all the TMBC parishes and not dumping circa 50% of all housing here on our 4 parishes.

Similarly, my support to fighting any MOTO proposals for a 200 HGV truck stop near Wrotham Heath will continue as it always has. The Planning Hearing commences 9 January 2025 and we are ready to do all we can as a Parish Alliance to stop this horrendous proposal and its impact on our Greenbelt - National Landscape AONB and our community of villages.

My continued championing of UK Government in providing proper and adequate funding for our Kent County Council to deliver basic public services in buses, libraries, repairing potholes and keeping household waste recycling sites open continues strongly as my manifesto said it would. With a new government installed we shall have to wait and see. But my voice for sensible funding will not stop.

Finally, thank you to every one of you for the support you continue to give to me as without this I have no voice to represent you in local and national government issues.

Wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2025.

Tim

Tim Shaw, Local Councillor and Independent Parliamentary Candidate



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Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

As I write my final column of the year, I wanted to reflect on how momentous 2024 has been, both in Borough Green and across the country too.

My year has hardly been quiet - a General Election in which I am honoured to have had so much support, and a leadership election that was, well, less successful!

We have also seen a change of Government and some unexpected outcomes from elections around the world, including most recently in the US. Many of these results have happened for similar reasons - economic outlooks are challenging - and we need to support those building a future. That's why the Budget was so disappointing. We all want better public services and the reforms that deliver them, but we also know that you can't tax your way to growth any more than you can use the brakes to accelerate.

Now that I am no longer in Government, I am looking forward to bringing even more attention to the communities that we share and the needs that we have in our corner of Kent. Our future, our security and our prosperity are all dependent on the choices that we make. I look forward to continuing to play my part.

I hope everyone across the village enjoys a restful Christmas and New Year period. After an intense few years, I am looking forward to spending some time with my family. As always, I will remain available to help anyone in need throughout Christmas and into the New Year. My contact details are as follows:

E-mail — tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
Phone — 01732 441563
Social Media - @TomTugendhat
tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

Household Support Fund

(Based on press release issued on 31 October)

With the change in rules for winter fuel payment eligibility everyone who is entitled to claim Pension Credit has been encouraged to apply (as covered in last month's Voice).



However with many pensioners in Kent set to miss out on this year's winter fuel payment, KCC will be using £1 million from the Household Support Fund, issued by the Department of Work and Pensions, to provide targeted support to older people who are struggling financially, but who just miss out on qualifying to receive Pension Credit and the fuel allowance.

The support scheme will offer a public and professional referral pathway, allowing Kent residents to apply themselves, or a professional, friend or family member to apply on their behalf. The support will be provided in vouchers for either food or energy, depending on the most pressing need of each person. More details about the new scheme will be announced soon on KCC's Kent Together page.



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Recognition of Volunteer Service



Local resident, Kev Nolan, has just recently received recognition from The Duke of Edinburgh Award and Kent County Council, for his 25 years of volunteer service as a Leader, Assessor and Supervisor to 'The Award'.

Supporting hundreds of children to train and achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, working closely with a wide range of educational establishments (State, Grammar, Special, PRUs and

Independent), he has shared his skills, knowledge and expertise in navigation, map reading and outdoor techniques to support them in experiencing and developing rich and meaningful skills. In addition to the 'Youth' aspects, Kev has also trained many aspiring leaders across Kent in Lowland Leader, Navigation and Campcraft skills. His wider contributions have included writing and delivering leadership programmes and qualifications to ensure standards of knowledge and assessment are maintained for the Award.

Although KCC has now ceased to supply DofE to schools itself Kev continues to provide expertise to schools and leaders through other outdoor providers into 2025.

Short Mat Bowls Club in Platt

The club meets every Wednesday from 1.45 to 4.00pm at the village hall in Platt. It is $\pounds 2$ every time you come to play and we are very friendly and play the game but have a laugh at the same time. We would welcome anyone who would like to have a go to come and join us for a really pleasant afternoon.



Gloria Bastin, Club Chairperson (01732 824066)

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Catholics who are sick, housebound or in a care home

If you are a Catholic and are sick, housebound or resident in a care home and would like to receive Holy Communion, St Joseph's Catholic Church in Western Road has a team of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who can visit. If you would like us to visit, please contact the clergy on 01732 454177 or sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk, or telephone Margaret on 01732 885295.

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22 February - 7.30 pm start

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Western Road, Borough Green. Maximum of 6 persons per table. Either make up your own team or join with others on the night.

Tickets £10 (to include a Ploughman's Supper) available from

Jenny 07591 301 186

Margaret 01732 885 295

Bring own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

Net profit to St Joseph's Church Funds





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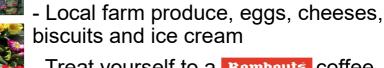
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Are you planning on getting a real Christmas tree this year? Once the New Year arrives, you'll have to dispose of your tree, but don't worry — we can help you recycle it! Our dedicated volunteers will collect your real spruce, fir or pine trees on Friday 3, Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 January, right from your front gate or driveway! This convenient service means you won't have to endure the cold, and we only ask for a suggested donation of £15 per tree.

Book now at www.hokh.org/event/christmas-tree-recycling-2025/ Help the environment by recycling your tree with Heart of Kent Hospice, a community initiative.

Christmas at Shipbourne Farmers Market



The market will be open every Thursday as usual up to and including Thursday 19 December. A special "pick up" market will take place on Monday 23 December from 8.30am to 10.30am, mainly for preorders of meat and vegetables but other stallholders may also attend. The market will re-open on 16 January.

We are delighted to be welcoming an array of carol singers to the market in December. Shipbourne Primary School will sing on Thursday 12 December and the Tonbridge Community Choir will sing on 19 December.

Borough Green Ladies Football Club

Borough Green Ladies lost for the first time in the League, 1-4, to table-topping Larkfield. However they have won two cup games, 4-3 on penalties after a 4-4 draw and 4-0. Home games at Wrotham School are scheduled for 8 December, 5 and 26 January.



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.





Wrotham Historical Society Friday 13 December

The Beatles in Kent
- a talk by Ian Hooper

8.00pm Wrotham Village Hall All visitors welcome - £5

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



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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**

Fourways Dentists





Name:

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.

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

Tonbridge and Malling Kamblers

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three conditions. '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, including our January walks, see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingramblers or visit www.tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk.



Ramblers

December	Route	Distance in miles
Sunday 1st	A gentle walk through Mereworth Woods and Swanton Valley before the Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers AGM. Non-members welcome on the walk.	3.5
Thursday 5th	Fairly flat walk from Shipbourne Common via Point Wood, The Hoad, Cataract Cottage and Coldharbour. Returning via Tinley Wood and Shipbourne Church. Moderate difficulty.	5.4
Sunday 8th	Circular walk from West Peckham along the Greensand Way and descending through the Oxon Hoath estate with fine views of Hadlow Tower. Return via farmland, orchards and woodland. The second half of the walk is a steady incline. Approximately five stiles. Moderate difficulty.	5.3
Thursday 12th	Circular walk from Camer Park through vineyards, fields, woods and quiet country lanes. Views across the North Downs towards the Thames. There are some steep descents and ascents. Moderate difficulty; six stiles.	6
Sunday 15th	Circular walk from Shoreham to Lullingstone. Climb up the side and along the Darent Valley for great views going towards Lullingstone. Moderate difficulty.	7
Sunday 22nd	Circular walk in the High Weald from Penshurst up to Smart's Hill. Moderate difficulty.	6
Friday 27th	Work off the turkey with a circular walk from Wateringbury following the Medway river towards Yalding via Nettlestead Green. Then through the deer park, past Royden Hall and the watermill. Mix of footpaths and lane walking. 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).



Leaving Shipbourne - 5 December walk

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