

THE VOICE

May 2024



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May 2024

Red pill or blue pill....

There are several films in which characters are given a choice of either seeing the truth or remaining in the illusion they are currently living in. In the Matrix it's the choice between a blue pill or a red one; Barbie has the pretty pink stilettos or brown Birkenstocks and Free Guy has putting on the sunglasses. Choose one and the truth will be revealed. Choose the other and continue living in the lie.

Sunday, 19 May, is Pentecost. The day when Christians across the world celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus tells the disciples about the Spirit coming, he says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth".

The Holy Spirit guides us to the truth. Perhaps that is why, in many churches, there is less emphasis on the Spirit. We think about Jesus a lot, and God the Father is key, but the Holy Spirit is often an afterthought. Could it be because we aren't sure whether we want to be led to the truth? The illusion, the lie, can seem very comforting; even if it's an ugly lie; because it's familiar; because we've thought it was real; because it's what we've been told our whole life; because it fits with what we think we want; because it's all we know it can be hard to let go. Those films I mentioned all have characters who choose the lie over the truth, even knowing it is a lie, even to the point of betraying people to try and get back to the lie.

The truth can seem like a scary thing. But, Jesus also says, "I am the truth!". So, knowing Jesus is the truth, should we be scared? Jesus who came to bring forgiveness, healing, and love. Jesus who spoke peace to those who were afraid and spent time with the outcasts of the world, telling them they were blessed. If the Holy Spirit leads us to that truth, then maybe we should say – Come, Holy Spirit, come! Lead us to the truth!

The Holy Spirit does not force us to see the truth, to take the blue pill, but offers to gently lead us there. Perhaps this Pentecost we might ask to be shown what is the truth.

God bless
Rev. Chris

FOODBANK – HELPING PEOPLE IN FOOD CRISIS

Church of the Good Shepherd, Borough Green



We are looking for volunteers to join our team on Monday mornings between 8.30am and 11am for picking and packing (aged 18 and over) and/or delivering groceries (aged 18 and over and a car driver). If you are interested, please contact Steve on **07879 491688** for further details.



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).

For any enquiries regarding our Foodbank please contact

Ian Simpson on **07801135 460** or

foodbank.cogs@gmail.com

Thank you

During the public holidays in May, the Foodbank will be closed on the Mondays 6 and 27 May. Instead we will be open to accept donations and to make deliveries on the Tuesdays 7 and 28 May.

Games, Tea & Chat

On **Monday 13 May** at 2 - 4pm in the annexe to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Come and enjoy board games, tea and a chat. Plenty of room for new folk so, if you are wondering whether it's for you, do get in touch and ask for more information or just turn up at 2.00.

Contact Elaine Almond on 886440 or etalmond@aol.com



Monday Minis Toddler Time

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



Film Afternoons

The last one of the season was in April - will start again in September.

May Bank Holiday Quiz

Saturday 25 May

7.00pm Start

Tickets £15.00

Supper Included
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For booking and dietary requirements
Please contact Julie 885437

**Church of the Good Shepherd
Quarry Hill Road, BG TN15 8RF**



NOTHING FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS THIS MONTH



The Church of the Good Shepherd

COGS website www.cogsonline.co.uk

Facebook - [COGSBG](https://www.facebook.com/COGSBG)

Email - vicar.cogs@gmail.com

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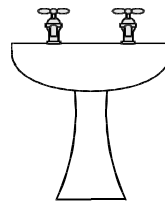
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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



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APRIL 1934

The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 8th April 2024.

Matters discussed and reports received included:

- **Solar Project.** Potters Mede new solar panel array with battery storage will be installed towards the end of the month and we have been working with the Bowls Club to sign up for their own installation shortly. The village hall has been a little more difficult to get set up. It is hoped that this clear demonstration of local people tackling climate change will influence the way the TMBC Local Plan develops, incorporating a clear commitment to sustainable building practice for our new homes.
- **Village Hall.** The Parish Council wants to confirm its longstanding commitment to our village hall, as shown by the ongoing guarantee of the contribution made by our leasing the Parish Office and rental for the Lunch Club, together with grant support for major projects like resurfacing the car park and the installation of the lift. We wish the new committee the best and are happy to offer our support, as they learn their new roles, and guidance in interpreting the very stringent rules with which they have to comply as a transparent and accountable public body in order to satisfy the rules contained in the Trust Deed lodged with the Charity Commission.
The Parish Council organised the land purchase and building of the village hall in the early sixties but set it up as a Charitable Trust to enable a far wider range of outside grants that a Parish Council cannot access. The people of Borough Green can be justly proud of their hall, built by volunteers, and maintained and managed by volunteers ever since.
- **Speed Indicator Devices.** A perennial problem on the A25 and A227 through the village is speeding traffic, and we have worked tirelessly for many years to combat it - in fact Tim Shaw and I first got involved with the Parish Council on this very issue. KCC/Police (KMSCP) refuse to allow us another camera anywhere and, despite having significant funding offered by H+H Celcon and Robert Body, KCC also refused to allow any more speed indicator devices. However we have all noticed an Ightham resident has installed his own device on Borough Green Road and we have decided to explore the option of three devices installed on land we manage or own at our gateways and are now seeking prices.
- **The Recreation Ground.** In the next few months there may be minor restrictions as piling takes place to shore up a garden backing onto the Rec and as Barry continues the work that will contain the meanderings of the stream.
- **Fly Infestations at Basted Mill.** TMBC Environmental Health have engaged their own investigator and so have Southern Water whose sewage breaches over the past 6-7 years could well be a source. There has been a lot of ill-informed comment on social media of late but we wanted to assure residents that an intensive investigation has at last begun and we will rigorously follow the evidence and take decisive action when the culprit has been discovered but we will not act on speculation.
- **MOTO.** We still expect Moto to launch an appeal against the recent planning refusal and our team are ready to act on our behalf.
- **Council Vacancy.** There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council, apply to the Clerk.



(Continued on page 9)

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- **Borough Green.** Flags have been flown at the village hall and the War Memorial commemorating our inauguration in April 1934 as an individual Parish in its own right. It is the 90th Anniversary of a parish born from the "offcuts" of our larger neighbours. And what was once the tiny neighbour of Wrotham, Ightham, Plaxtol and St Mary's Platt is now the largest of the Parishes, and the hub village to them all.
- **Dorothy "Doff" Holmes.** In 2015 resident Richard Holmes bequeathed £10,000 to the Parish Council in memory of his late wife. That money was applied to the Foot Clinic and, when that closed at the onset of Covid, the balance was used to support the Lunch Club. Because it was an "In Memoriam" gift to the elderly of the Parish, I thought it important that we spend a moment in remembering the generosity of Richard and Doff Holmes and give our thanks for those years of support.

The **next** Parish Council meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 13th May 2024, at BG Village Hall, and will incorporate our Parish Annual Meeting** when community groups have the opportunity to update us about their activities. The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions.

Council Contacts

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

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

Full minutes are posted at [MINUTES](#) | [mysite \(boroughgreen.gov.uk\)](http://mysite(boroughgreen.gov.uk))

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.

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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 14 May** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover June 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 PARISH COUNCIL REMEMBERS

D DAY 80

Thursday 6th June 2024 6pm – until 10pm
Borough Green Recreation Ground

Borough Green Parish Council will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings. In 2024 the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France.

Programme 6.30pm

Opening ceremony led by the Chairman - Councillor Mike Talyor
with the Rochester Pipes & Drums marching band.

Entertainment with face painting, Signing Choir,
music, food wagon, marching band.

9.30pm the lighting of the Beacon.

10pm end



For further information please contact Councillor Sue Butterfill on
sue.butterfill@boroughgreen.gov.uk

Election for Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Thursday 2 May

Polling Station: Borough Green Village Hall 7am - 10pm

Candidates:

COLLEY, Graham David
ROLLES, Lenny
SCOTT, Matthew Richard

Liberal Democrats
Labour and Co-operative Party
Conservative Party



Borough wide parking changes agreed

(Extracts from press release issued on 3 April - will impact on Western Road car park)



A raft of changes to parking arrangements and charges across Tonbridge and Malling have been agreed by the borough council's cabinet. It was agreed to extend the end of the charging period from 6pm to 8pm and to include Sundays and bank holidays. Parking on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and overnight parking will remain free. Approval was also given to an increase in parking tariffs and permit fees across the borough, expected to be implemented this summer - the first rise in two years.

A report to councillors last year highlighted the sharp increases in overheads for operating car parks and the need to generate more income. Costs include car park maintenance and business rates of £320,000 and £295,000 per year respectively. A public consultation on the proposals followed which prompted more than 4,000 responses.



KCC Children's Centres *(Extract from message posted on Facebook by Tonbridge and Malling Children's Centres on 12 April.)*

Here in Kent, we are adapting our services for children, young people, and families by transforming Children Centres and Youth Hubs into Family Hubs. This transformation means we must make changes to what we have been delivering. We will be creating new groups and content for those who need them most, and digital services for those who prefer to receive support online or can't access a building easily. We will be speaking with our communities to create and tailor support to meet local need, working in partnership with other professionals, including the voluntary sector, to provide advice and guidance.

In order to do this, we must also end or change some of our current groups. As our Family Hubs continue to evolve, we hope you will speak with us about what you need, and what worked for you. Together we can ensure that the right advice and services are accessible to the people who need them most, and when they most need them.

(Editor's note: The schedule no longer includes Messy Play on Tuesdays at BG village hall.)



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BOROUGH GREEN AND DISTRICT ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

As stated in the February Voice Borodara had its final meeting that month. In March 25 of our members went to the Royal Albert Hall on a last trip to see the "Mountbatten Festival of Music" presented by His Majesty's Royal Marines for the Royal Navy Charity. It was a brilliant performance for a function we have supported for many years. Our thanks go to Brookline Coaches who gave us a priority of seats and picked up our members in various local villages.

The "Short Mat Bowls" equipment facilities will no longer be available for use. Should you know of anyone who would be interested in them please contact me. However the Memorial Hall at Platt has welcomed anyone in the community to come and join in for a social afternoon on **Wednesdays from 2 to 4pm**. It is a very social group and they invite you to come along and join them. You will be very welcome. Please call **Gloria Bastin** who will advise you of the full details – **01732 824026**.

I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of our group the various committees who, over the years, did the most important work to ensure we ran like clockwork to organise the tea and biscuits, Christmas lunches, strawberries and cream, raffles, monthly lunch club, speakers, entertainers, day breaks and holidays, not forgetting treasurers and secretaries or indeed your membership secretary Tony Hurl who also managed our "Short Mat Bowls". Special thanks go to the late Chairman Frank Whitehead who was a great success and put us on the map. When he stood down Helen Ellis took over and carried on the responsible good work for which we thank her. Sadly we have had to close as we have had no volunteers to carry on as chairperson, treasurer and secretary for the future.

The good news, however, is that we have been invited to join West Malling ARA. I have been to 2 meetings with several of our own members and made very welcome. I have listed below what is available to you and should you want any further details please contact their membership secretary **Jacqui Evans 01732 840699**.

Ron Leonard 01732 885223

We are West MARA : West Malling Active Retirement Association

Our active retirement club will give you the opportunity to make new friends. We have monthly meetings with a guest speaker. Our activities include Petanque, Short Mat Bowling, a Lunch Club held on the Wednesday following our monthly meeting, Coach Holidays and Day Trips throughout the year and much more.

Are you over 55 and either retired or semi-retired? Yes? Then give us a try.

Our meetings are held at West Malling village hall at 2pm on the second Friday of each month and we have recently started a social afternoon held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. You will be made very welcome.

Events in the Village for the month of May



- 1 Potters Mede - Youth Club - 3.00 to 5.00
- 2 BGVH - Polling station - 7.00am to 10.00pm
SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 3 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 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
- 7 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 8 Sticky Fingers - BGBC - 10.00 to 11.15
Potters Mede - Youth Club - 3.00 to 5.00
- 9 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 10 Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
Wrotham Arts Festival - 10.00 to 5.00
BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
Friday 2 Book Club - BG Library - 2.00
Wrotham Historical Society - 8.00 - Wrotham Village Hall
- 11 **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
Wrotham Arts Festival - 10.00 to 5.00
BG Primary School - Summer Fair - 12.00 to 3.00
Platt Church - Organ Concert - 6.00
- 12 SJCC - Mass - 9.30
COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00
BGBC - Service - 10.30
Wrotham Arts Festival - 11.00 to 4.00
- 13 **Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00**
BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
BG Parish Council Annual Meeting - BGVH - 7.30
- 14 BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 15 BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00
Potters Mede - Youth Club - 3.00 to 5.00
- 16 SJCC - Mass - 10.00
BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15



- 17** Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 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
- 20** **Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00**
- 21** BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
- 22** Potters Mede - Youth Club - 3.00 to 5.00
- 23** SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 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
- 24** Potters Tots Playgroup - Potters Mede - 9.30 to 11.00
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45
- 25** **Saturday Open House - COGS - 10.00 to 12.00**
COGS May Bank Holiday Quiz - 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
- 28** BG Library - Scrabble Club - 2.15 to 4.15
 Ightham Gardeners' Club - Ightham Village Hall - 7.15
- 29** BGBC - Women's Fellowship - 2.00
- 30** SJCC - Mass - 10.00
 BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Coffee & Chat - 10.15 to 12.15
- 31** BG Lunch Club - BGVH - 10.00 to 1.00
 BG Library - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 10.15 to 10.45



Abbreviations

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



Wrotham ARTS Festival

10-12 May 2024

A celebration of art the whole family will enjoy!



Come and join us

Friday and Saturday 10am to 5pm,

Sunday 11am to 4pm.

St George's Church will be exhibiting and selling amazing work from over 50 local artists.

Craft and great food will be available in the village hall.



As a new initiative we are asking shopkeepers in the village if they would like to write (at no charge) about the services they offer and/or any community projects they take part in. The following item and that on page 19 are such articles and we look forward to hearing from others.



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Body Magic is our unique physical activity programme helping you to build an active lifestyle and get fit for life and Image Therapy is our empowering group support to help you make lasting behaviour and mindset changes.

We meet every Wednesday in Borough Green village hall at 8am, 9.30am, 5.30pm or 7pm.

Anita Chapman



Claire Granger moved to Borough Green in January 1986. She went to Wrotham School and, from there, trained in beauty at West Kent College. In 1994, aged just 20, she opened **Body & Soul beauty salon** in Borough

Green High Street. The salon is to celebrate its 30th year on May 24th.

Within this period there have been many changes in the village with the different shops coming and going - Manklows, Cloke's, Kent Aluminium and Kenny's Pop In to name but a few and of course our most recent sad loss of the Secret Garden. Children who once came with their parents now visit themselves as customers/clients with their own families.

Body & Soul specialises in CACI and Katherine Daniels facial and body treatments, waxing, electrolysis, The Gel Bottle manicures, Elim luxury pedicures, brow lamination, LVL lash lifts & tints & microblading. Claire is particularly known for her obsession with eyebrows, leading locals to nickname her the 'eyebrow queen'.

The salon also houses Wendy Randall 'The Body Fixer' who is an expert in muscular injuries and trauma, with dry needling and cupping being recently added to her treatment methods. Simon Boyd of Borough Green Osteopaths joined the team a couple of years ago and works his popular clinic on Tuesdays. Jessica Stupple also provides a much-needed pop-up clothes stall on the last Tuesday of every month.

Claire not only works in the village but freely volunteers, working to improve the local community. She regularly provides help, support and prizes to schools, groups and projects. She is one of the founders of the TN15 Business Group, has been involved in promoting Potters Mede with the PMSG team, organised two successful fun-days for local charities with her fellow childhood friend Rachel Davies Buss and helped to promote the campaigns for J5 slips and importantly BGGC (Borough Green Garden City) online.



Her biggest village achievement is the Facebook group '[Borough Green Pinboard](#)', which she set up seven years ago. It grew very quickly and now has a staggering 8.8k members. Rachel has since come on board as an admin to help manage the group. Borough Green Pinboard helps to share information and recommendations, voicing ideas and opinions and is great for connections. It was particularly useful in lockdown, bringing the community together as one, which it now proudly continues to do so.



Gift Voucher

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Bronze Age Borough Green

When looking at an old Ordnance Survey map of Borough Green on Exploring Kent's Past, I was intrigued to see a tumulus or Bronze Age barrow on the high ground immediately to the south of the church in Quarry Hill Road. It's described as a large tumulus and has been dated to 2350 BC to 701 BC.

Barrow Field is mentioned on the history page of the Parish Council as the land belonging to Mr Biggs where some urns were found and subsequently lost. Edward Biggs, who lived in Borough Green House from 1826, was the grandfather of Benjamin Harrison of Ightham (1837-1921) - an enthusiastic amateur archaeologist. His mother, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Biggs, was keenly interested and had a collection of fossils from her mother. Both Elizabeth and her parents came from Kilmersdon, Somerset, an area where many ancient artefacts have been found.

The Romans made a Military Way through Borough Green, going from Comp to Oldbury and then Stone Street, and Roman artefacts have been found in the village north of Borough Green Station. Maybe there were people living here before then, possibly with links to the Neolithic tomb at Coldrum near Trottscliffe. Is it possible that the name Borough Green comes from the fact there was a barrow here, as suggested by Exploring Kent's Past. Imagine people three thousand years ago walking along the old trackway from the east, now the Pillgrims Way, then turning south, perhaps following a stream and settling here to grow crops and look after their animals.

Sarah Ingle

Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary's Platt, TN15 8NE

presents an

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By **DAVID POULTER**

formerly Director of Music at Coventry, Chester and Liverpool Anglican Cathedrals

Saturday 11 May at 18.00

Tickets £12 under 18s entry free
(to include refreshments during the interval).



For more information about David or to make a booking please use the link on our website smarysplattchurch.org.uk.

For any queries please contact Jane Sankey on 01732 883212

This fundraising concert is sponsored by The Friends of Kent Churches

In memory of John Briggs, who left a legacy to help support events such as this.
St Mary's is very grateful.



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Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

Meetings are held every second Monday of the month at 2pm in Borough Green village hall.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 13 May "Missionary Ships around the World"
- 10 June "Folly Wildlife Rescue"
- 8 July "Air Ambulance"

The March meeting with guest speaker Bob Ogley on Doodlebugs and Rockets proved very popular and, as requested by many members, we have asked him for a return visit. Feedback from members was extremely encouraging. As previously mentioned, we would welcome any suggestions from you as to what you would like from your u3a.

We still have a long list of groups awaiting a contact person to notify their group of date, time and venue. If you feel you could help us get more groups off the ground please contact lorrainegroupsliaisonbgwu3a@gmail.com.

Membership all ages are welcome - please contact Irene Gudrups on membershipsec.bgwu3a@gmail.com.

Annual fee of £20. Non members guest fee of £3

We look forward to seeing you on 13 May.

Best wishes Christine Ward V.Chair

WINE TASTING EVENING

Join us for a fun filled wine tasting evening where you will taste, listen and learn in a fun and relaxed way, including blind tastings and a quiz to test your knowledge!

SATURDAY
1ST JUNE 2024
7:00 PM FOR 7:30 START

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TICKETS £30 PER PERSON

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To book contact Gaynor on:
secretary@thealexandrasalestrust.co.uk
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POTTERS MEDE
Wednesdays 3 to 5pm

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Health and wellbeing in Sevenoaks



Sevenoaks Primary Care Network (PCN) brings together health and care professionals and organisations to work together to improve your health and wellbeing. The Network includes GP practices (including **Borough Green**), voluntary and community organisations and the local councils. To learn more about Sevenoaks PCN, you can visit their website at <https://sevenoakspcn.gpweb.org.uk/>.

The PCN want to know how best they can help you and your family improve your health and wellbeing. Please help them by completing this survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SevPCNHW/> so they can plan their work and improve health and care for the people of Sevenoaks.

The survey is for people who live or work in the Sevenoaks area and will close on **Friday 31 May**. If you have any questions about accessing the survey, please contact Katie on kmicb.engage@nhs.net.

Help us improve support for youngest children

(Extracts from press release issued on 20 March)



KCC is consulting on proposals designed to improve the educational support for children up to the age of five. This includes young children who are being looked after by childminders. Our aim is to ensure children have their learning and education needs identified and assessed in a more effective way so they receive the right support at the right time. We have been listening to what people think works well and what needs to be changed or done differently. We now want to see what you think about the changes we are suggesting.

The proposals include ways to reduce waiting times for support and to simplify processes for children and families as well as early years providers and other professionals. Early and timely intervention enables children to get the best start in life. This is especially true for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and for children who may have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The consultation ends on **5 May**.

To take part in either consultation online go to <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/>
If you require any of the documents in an alternative format or language please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553).



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BOROUGH GREEN LIBRARY

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

Opening hours are

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

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.

We look forward to seeing you.



**DIGITAL
KENT**

is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next events are on Fridays 3 May and 7 June at 11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit www.digitalkent.uk or call 0300 0410950.

The next clinic for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing people is on Friday 24 May 2.00 - 3.30.



**IGHTHAM
GARDENERS' CLUB**

INVITE YOU TO OUR MAY MEETING
WE HAVE A TALK ON

"ALL ABOUT GROWING FERNS"
OUR SPEAKER IS JULIAN REED

TUESDAY 28 MAY

IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL 7.15pm

Visitors very welcome
For further information contact
Pippa Coulthard - 01732 883041
Dee Samways - 07799 002129



**Wrotham Historical
Society**

Friday 10 May

Upnor Castle
- a small little known castle
immensely important to the
Royal Navy in Chatham
a talk by David Burton

8.00pm Wrotham Village Hall
All visitors welcome - £4
www.wrothamhistorical.org.uk

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www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

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The Village Hall

Potters Mede

The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

b) **When premises are open**

The Medical Centre

BG Primary School

Fourways Dentists



What's on at Borough Green Village Hall

For information on forthcoming events see

www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

and for a full list of events in the next month see

www.facebook.com/groups/bgvillagehall

and on boards at the village hall.



Bluebell Walk 5 May

Enjoy a six-mile charity Bluebell Walk in aid of Heart of Kent Hospice on **Sunday 5 May**. Tickets are now on sale so please sign up for the annual Bluebell Walk and help Heart of Kent Hospice raise vital funds to meet the cost of providing free, compassionate, end-of-life care to people living with a terminal illness and their loved ones.

Last year's Bluebell Walk was enjoyed by 1,226 enthusiastic walkers and the Hospice team hopes even more people will sign up for this event. Walkers will take a route through the picturesque Kent countryside with the opportunity to enjoy some breath-taking bluebell vistas. The route starts from Harrietsham Village Hall, Church Rd, Harrietsham, Maidstone, ME17 1AP.



Cold drinks will be available at various stops along the route including at the 'Field of Remembrance' where walkers can remember a loved one. For anyone who has packed a picnic there will be a special picnic stop along the way with hot or cold drinks available.

All ages are welcome to take part in the walk but buggies and wheelchairs are not recommended due to uneven terrain and some stiles. Dogs on leads are welcome but please note that larger dogs may find it difficult to cross some of the stiles and may therefore need to be carried over. Heart of Kent Hospice dog bandanas are available to purchase when booking online at

<https://www.hokh.org/event/bluebellwalk2024/>

£15 for adults, £10 a child, £40 a family (2 adults and 2 children)



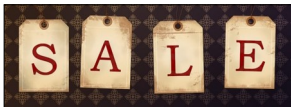
New for this year is Shaun the Sheep's Family Walk! Take a 1 mile stroll through the countryside, whilst looking out for Shaun and his friends along the way! Please note, there are no bluebells on the 1 mile walk.

£10 for adults, £5 for a child and £25 for a family.

Walkers will set off in 30 minutes waves which can be selected when booking. Waves run from 8:00am until 10:00am.

Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Shop in BG 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 23 May** from 2.00 to 4.00 with everything £1.

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders, see our Facebook page [at www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingeramblers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingeramblers) or visit www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.



Dates in May	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 2nd	A leisurely, flat and rural circular walk from Hadlow towards the River Medway and East Lock, going through Barnes Street and Golden Green. Good views of Hadlow Tower and two pillar boxes near the Medway. Three stiles. Mainly field paths, very little road walking, good paths and tracks. May be muddy after rain.	4.5
Thursday 9th	Trosley Trot: a fairly flat circular walk along the bottom of the Downs with good views to the south. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Sunday 12th	A varied circular walk from Groombridge through the woods to Harrison's Rocks, across the Spa Valley railway (Toot! Toot!) and returning via Motts Mill. Moderate difficulty.	5.5
Thursday 16th	West Peckham wander: pleasant circular walk past the church across the village cricket field and around back to The Swan on the Green. Moderate difficulty.	5
Thursday 23rd	Darent Valley circular walk from Shoreham village. Moderate difficulty.	5
Wednesday 29th	Circular walk from Mereworth through an attractive part of the Wealdway, climbing through Hurst Wood and returning via West Peckham. We then climb to the top of the Wealden ridge before the return to Mereworth. 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).		



Every Thursday 9-11am

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Did you realise that every year the Farmers' Market gives any surplus we make to food related charities? This means that when you shop at the Farmers' Market not only are you purchasing quality local produce and supporting local producers but you are helping various charities. This financial year, because of the extra money raised via the Michel Roux dinner held in May last year, we are able to give much more than normal. The recipients include Chatham and Nourish Food Banks, Practical Action (providing agricultural solutions to smallholders around the world) and Growing Hope (which trains and equips churches, families and individuals in Mozambique to produce food for their own survival) - it is run by Janet Pythian of Plaxtol so has a very local connection.

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