THE VOICE

December 2020 & January 2021

BOROUGH GREEN



ADVENT CALENDAR

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No Job Too Small

Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd December 2020

Unto us a child is born....

Our country has been invaded. Our daily life, the things we take for granted, has been completely disrupted. We have difficulty worshipping as we might. We are forced to be away from people we know and we are isolated from our family.

This maybe how we are feeling at the moment. But it may also have been how Mary and Joseph felt 2000 years ago. The Roman Empire had taken over their country, bringing new rules and regulations and taxes. A journey to Bethlehem was forced upon them and Mary's unexpected pregnancy, before they were married, would, in all likelihood, have cut them off from family and friends.

And into that situation Jesus is born. A new hope comes to the people. Not just Mary and Joseph, but to all the people.

Some 800 years before that, when the prophet Isaiah proclaimed "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given", Jerusalem was facing the Assyrian kingdom coming from the north and the Babylonian armies coming from the south. And to that situation a new hope was given voice.

However, the hope that God brings, the hope of Christmas, is not that hope that everything will turn out just like we might want. The Romans weren't suddenly driven out and the Babylonians did destroy Jerusalem. Instead the hope is the reassurance that God is with us, and ultimately everything will turn out as God wants. It is the hope that we are held in God's love, even through a Babylonian attack or a Roman invasion or a worldwide pandemic. Even through the personal difficulties we might be facing.

When Jesus was born, in the midst of the troubles of the time, He became living proof that God is with us through it all. When Jesus died on the cross and then rose at Easter, He showed that God is with us even through death and that the victory is His.

This year we might be having to celebrate Christmas in a very different way than we are used to, a different way than we might have hoped. Whatever December and January bring us, let us hold on to the knowledge that hope was born at Christmas and may you find the hope of the Christ-child with you and your loved ones.

God bless and a hopeful Christmas.

Revd. Chris

Jesus Rocks!

Taking inspiration from the beautiful painted pebbles that have appeared around the village why not show how much you think Jesus rocks?

- 1. Paint a pebble similar to the one shown above.
- 2. Take a photo of it (perhaps in an interesting location around Borough Green or in a its own manger).
- 3. Send the photo in to vicar.cogs@gmail.com
- 4. All the photos will be put on the Church of the Good Shepherd's Facebook page to show how much Jesus Rocks in Borough Green this Christmas.



Come join us for some Christmas shopping. Find us on Facebook at

COGS Virtual Christmas Market

Supporting local arts, crafts and small businesses in these hard times whilst raising money for the local church.



The Borough Green Advent Calendar

We have been identifying at least 24 households to help us celebrate the run-up to Christmas together. Each household will produce a Christmas related display in their front window or garden and keep it hidden until their day. Then when it's time to open their 'door' on the calendar the display is revealed for all to see. We'll produce a guide on the Facebook pages for COGSBG and Borough Green

Pinboard showing where each day's 'door' will be for those who want to tour the village and see them all.

This year's Christmas Colouring Competition is opposite (or you may still have a copy from last year's Crib Service)!

Slightly different this year. Complete your entry and send a photo of it to vicar.cogs@gmail.com or post the original through the door of the Vicarage (24 Maidstone Road) before 20 December. The competition winner will be announced on Christmas Eve.

Remember – there is not upper age limit, so get colouring!

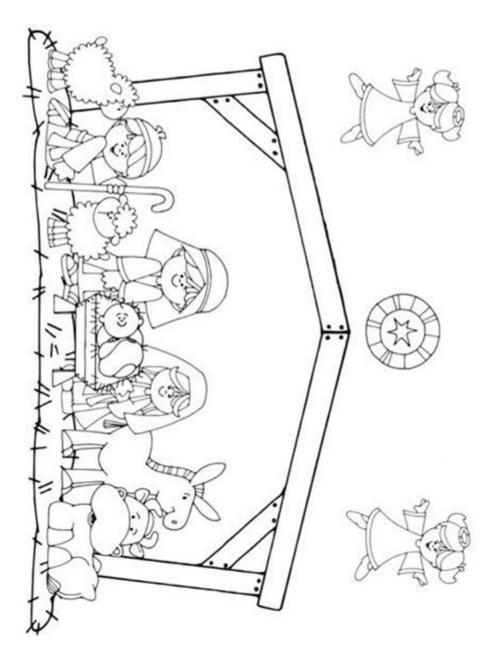






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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



The Parish Council met at 7.30pm on Monday 9th November 2020 online via Zoom software. Matters discussed and reports received included:

- The Parish Council have co-opted Mr James Crawley who will take office at the December meeting, but we are still seeking one more new councillor - email or call the Clerk.
- KCC Cllr Rayner updated the Council on the A25 Darkhill to the Red Lion resurfacing in the spring, and discussed the implications of the BG Sandpit and J Clubb applications on the timetable for the Local Plan and Borough Green Garden City.
- **Highway Issues** The Council is hiring its own Traffic Engineer to put our case to Kent Highways.
- Sewage The CEO of Southern Water has intervened in our ongoing dispute and SW will be investigating the Rec carpark, and their Board has allocated £60,000 to upgrade the Maidstone Rd Pumping Station. Lets hope it happens before the next failure.
- PROWs the Council wants to remind residents that there are miles of Public Rights of
 Way through beautiful countryside all around the village, and the PROW map with
 open spaces marked is posted on all the Parish websites. There are many new
 residents who may not know of the miles of rural footpaths around the village.
- Harrison Road Amenity Land A group of volunteers and councillors spent a morning cutting back ivy and removing branch prunings.
- Canham Homes have fenced and planted the culvert works through Isles Quarry East and we hope it can be fully opened to the public soon.
- Village Gateways- Platt and Borough Green Parish Councils combined Gateway at Minters Orchard will be installed in December, with KCC's blessing. The Askew Bridge sign is already in place.
- TMBC are still refusing to talk about the transfer of the ownership of the Village Hall Toilets to the Parish Council or the Land Transfer of Crowhill Knob.
- Local Plan Inquiry due to resume in November has been cancelled by the Inspectors
 due to failings in Legal Compliance by TMBC. Add to that the extension of the Clubb
 Nepicar sandpit excavations, and BGGC 3000 house gets more unlikely every day.
 And we have just heard that Sevenoaks Local Plan Judicial Review has been thrown
 out by the Judge, which bodes well for the doom of TMBC's Local Plan.
- Remembrance Sunday We had to cancel both the War Memorial and Rec services
 this year, but an informal wreath laying still happened on Remembrance Sunday
 (more elsewhere in this issue).
- The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th
 December 2020 and Monday 4th January 2021 online. The agendas will include a
 period for public consultation by email or letter. Residents can email the Clerk for a
 link allowing access to the Zoom meetings.

Meet your council

The Parish Office is located within Borough Green Village Hall, but will not be open the Saturday before our meetings. Appointments can be arranged to meet the Clerk, queries raised or ideas exchanged clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk or call **07568 536405**.

Contact the Chairman mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk 01732 882880 Full minutes are posted at www.boroughgreen.gov.uk

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The editorial committee, and indeed everyone involved in the production of the magazine, would like to take this opportunity to wish all our contributors, advertisers, readers and magazine deliverers (and,

when hard copies could not be delivered house to house, the local

shops who made space for boxes of magazines and those who helped with digital circulation) a Happy Christmas and Healthy 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. Cheques should be made payable to The Church of the Good Shepherd.

The views expressed in the 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, the COGS Facebook page and the Borough Green Pinboard.

Articles for the next magazine

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Wednesday 13 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 TN1.5 8SE

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL EXAMINATION OF LOCAL PLAN

The Planning Inspectors wrote to the Council on 22 October as follows:

- 1. The matter 1 hearing sessions were held between 6th and 8th October 2020. Over these three days we heard discussion on the Duty to Cooperate and other legal compliance issues. We need to reflect further on these issues before we write to you setting out our thoughts in more detail. We will not then reach a final position until you have had chance to consider and respond to that letter.
- 2. However, at this stage, we do have some serious concerns in relation to legal compliance. Because of this it would not be a good use of anyone's time for the next hearing sessions to go ahead at this stage. Accordingly, we have asked Louise St John Howe, the programme officer, to cancel the hearings in weeks commencing 2nd and 9th November and to notify those registered to attend.
- 3. We understand how important it is for the Council to be able to move forward to get an up to date local plan in place, and that you will be disappointed with what we are saying here. However, we have only come to this view following a great deal of thought and after hearing all the evidence from both the Council and representors. We will aim to provide our detailed letter as soon as possible.

For any updates see www.tmbc.gov.uk/lpexamcontents



BOROUGH GREEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The aim is to switch on the lights, without ceremony or gathering, from 5 December but here is a preview of one side of the High Street.





As mentioned in last month's Voice the Lights Committee have expressed their gratitude for Debbie Brown's fundraising and this has been further reflected in an attachment to one of the lights in her memory.

Photos by Nick Dennis



As you all know the appeal has been very different and difficult this year but, as usual, Borough Green has risen to the challenge. We managed to get poppy boxes in quite a lot of locations and, judging by the weight when I collected them, we have done very well. This year all the boxes are being emptied and counted at the British Legion HQ, and

they will let me know how much was in each box.

As soon as I can I will bring receipt round to everyone. Once again thank you all so much for supporting us.

Margaret Vick

NISA (High Street) are dressing up as elves for the day on Friday 4 December to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.



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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Thank you all for such a warm welcome to Borough Green Medical Practice! I am Dr Nick Jegard, who's taken over from Dr Dibble as a Partner at the surgery. I completed my medical training at King's College London, having previously gained a Master's degree in Engineering. After initially working in London, I moved to West Kent for my further training, mostly working at Maidstone/Tunbridge Wells Hospitals.

Beyond General Practice, I work in the Community ENT service and am currently on the Board of Trustees at Heart of Kent Hospice. Outside of work I have a lovely Partner and 6-month-old daughter; I also have a twin brother who is a Doctor at Southend Hospital.

As you are all too painfully aware, I write to you at a strange period in our lives, with Coronavirus heavily influencing our activities. We, at the Surgery, thank you all for sticking to the new rules and requirements surrounding this — it makes a massive difference to the spread of the virus in our community and helps safeguard our most vulnerable of patients. Please be assured that we will continue to provide a service to you all, regardless of how this pandemic progresses; nobody need fear running out of medicines or being unable to access their Doctor.

It has been a pleasure to get to know many of you already and I hope to get meet you all in person over the coming years.

Immunisations

We are in the process of administering flu vaccinations to our eligible patients. Thank you for being patient. We have invited all patients aged over 65 and have so far administered over 2500 vaccinations to this group of patients. If you are aged over 65 and have not yet been vaccinated please contact the surgery if you would like to book a vaccination. We have ordered additional supplies of vaccine for patients in an at-risk group. We have already vaccinated almost 800 of these patients and will send further invites shortly once the additional vaccines have been received.

If you're over 65, or in one of the known risk categories for pneumonia, you should have a vaccination if we've invited you. If you've been invited, but haven't made your appointment yet, please contact the surgery and we'll book an appointment for you.

If you're aged 70 or 78, or born on or after 2nd September 1942 and are under 80, you can have the shingles vaccination if you haven't had it already. If you'd like the shingles vaccination, please contact the surgery and we'll book you an appointment.

Online triage - e-consult

As you know our doctors are triaging all their appointments via telephone. We now have a new tool which allows patients to access online triage. A link to this can be found on our website in the appointments section on the online triage tab. You may find this useful if you are not sure of the best course of action. The tool will take you (Continued on page 15)



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Mental health and COVID

If you're finding 2020 challenging, you're not alone. The Mental Health Foundation has advice specially designed for individual situations so you can see information that's relevant to your situation: https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus

Sevenoaks Minor Injuries Unit

Sevenoaks MIU became an urgent treatment centre in line with the NHS Long Term Plan from 2 November and will continue to deliver high-quality care to the people of Sevenoaks and Edenbridge. While patients will be able to access the centre by phoning 111 and being given an appointment if they need one, we will continue to see walk-in patients if they go to the UTC.

Our opening hours at Sevenoaks MIU (including x-ray) will remain the same as they are now: 8am to 8pm - every day of the year, X-ray: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday**** closed bank holidays.

ONE YOU KENT - A healthy lifestyle is now achievable online

Free online help is available to people who would like to lose weight, move more, drink less and quit smoking. These lifestyle changes can help people to keep healthy and feel better, both physically and mentally - more important than ever in light of the current health crisis.

The programme on offer provides support through online groups meetings and one-to-one lifestyle support through video and telephone call. Patients can be referred into the programme by searching One You Kent via their GP patient management system or by completing the referral form on their website.

Older people

If you're an older person, or care for someone who is, the British Geriatrics Society has comprehensive information for older people about coronavirus. The impact of coronavirus on older people is markedly different from those in younger age groups, so tailored advice is really helpful. https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/resource-series/coronavirus-and-older-people

In 2020, we've all known the difficulties of isolation and loneliness. If you have an elderly neighbour, why not reach out a helping hand and check that they're OK? With current restrictions, their family might find it difficult to get to them, and a friendly face might make life a little more bearable. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/loneliness-in-the-elderly-how-to-help/

Diabetes

An incredible 463 million adults (1 in 11) are living with diabetes, and by 2030, we expect that figure to have increased by almost 25%. https://worlddiabetesday.org/about/facts-figures/

You might be surprised to discover that 3 in 4 people with diabetes are between 20 and 64, and 1 in 2 adults with diabetes remain undiagnosed. https://www.diabetesatlas.org/en/sections/demographic-and-geographic-outline.html



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Peter Castle David Pinnell Nancy Nutton Ron Heritage

We offer our condolences to all those recently bereaved.



Thanks

PETER CASTLE passed away on Tuesday 29 September, aged 86 years. Peter's family would like to thank everyone for all their kind words of comfort and support at this time.

On behalf of Blythswood Care I would like to thank everyone who filled and donated shoe boxes and knitted blankets and jumpers. A total of 63 boxes along with hand-knitted blankets and jumpers are now on their way to Eastern Europe to be given to those in need especially in these unsettled times.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, and hope that the New Year will bring better news. Stay safe and keep well.

Pam Jones



Find us on Facebook at - Borough Green Care and Share Space.

A safe space for anyone feeling detached, isolated or a little bit lonely that would like to connect with people who understand. Alternatively if you are not on Facebook please see the contact details of people who you can call for a chat.

The Revd Chris Turner. The Church of the Good Shepherd 01732 882447
Elaine, Licensed Lay Minister 01732 886440 (10-12am)
Ruth, Licensed Lay Minister 01732 884154
Luci, local resident 07747 360561

Events in the Village for the months of December and January

All subject to what is allowed under Covid restrictions.



Church of the Good Shepherd

Services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 10am.

For updates, including any additional services over the Christmas period, see www.cogsbg.org.uk

Facebook - COGSBG

Borough Green Baptist Church

Services every Sunday at 10.30

For updates, including any additional services over the Christmas period, see www.bgbc.org.uk
Subject to restrictions it is hoped to have a special service for the induction of our new Pastor - Bernard Roberts - preacher David Hircock (Hayes Lane, Bromley) on Sunday 6 December at 10.30am.

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Masses as normal (9.30 am on Sundays and 10am on Thursdays) with the following adjustments:

Thursday 24 December - No 10am Mass but Vigil Mass at 6pm. Carols and readings from 5.30pm

Friday 25 December - Mass at 9.30am Wednesday 6 January - Mass at 6pm Thursday 7 January - No 10am Mass

For any updates see www.sevrcparish.org.uk



CINEMA @ COGS

Subject to restrictions the film for December will be "Mary Poppins Returns" starring Emily Blunt. Date 16 December at 2pm, and on 20 January the film will be "Green Book" based on a true story inspired on a true friendship.

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From Your County Councillor

In late October 2020 the Inspectors of the Tonbridge & Malling Local Plan announced that they were cancelling the second and third weeks of the Examination in Public due to be held in the first and second weeks of November. The Inspectors Ms Louise Crosby and Mr Luke Fleming, announced that they have 'serious concerns in relation to legal



compliance' and have undertaken to follow up with more detailed correspondence 'as soon as possible'. Which letter I look forward to with great interest.

The draft Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan seeks to set out where built development should be built in the Borough over the next eleven years. At its heart is a proposal to build a huge residential housing estate, Borough Green Gardens, on Green Belt land between Wrotham, Borough Green, St Mary's Platt and Ightham. This represents 44% of all the proposed new building in Tonbridge and Malling over the next eleven years.

Five parish councils, the four named above and Stansted, have vehemently and vigorously opposed the Local Plan because of the hugely adverse impact that such a large development of some 3000 new houses would have on the whole local community. It is now clear that all local infrastructure, such as the doctors' surgery, local schools and in particular local roads, would be heavily overloaded. These are facilities that Kent County Council has either full, or a substantial, part in providing.

The Examination in Public commenced 'online' in early October with the Inspectors having decided in advance that they wished to hear 'high level' evidence on such matters as 'Duty to Co-operate' where T&MBC have to demonstrate that they have cooperated with their neighbouring authorities and Kent County Council as, amongst other matters, the Mineral and Waste Planning Authority. They also wished to hear evidence in connection with the overall sustainability of the Plan and how that area of Metropolitan Green Belt (MGB) proposed for built development, had been selected, by comparison with alternative non MGB sites. These issues are known as 'show stoppers'.

It was clear to me from the commencement that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Planning officers were having great difficulty in answering questions in a coherent manner both from the responders (mostly lawyers representing would be local developers, whose local sites had not been included in the draft local plan) as well as the legal and professional team representing the Five Parish Alliance and the Inspectors themselves. One of the influences that over recent years I have brought to bear as the local KCC Councillor, is to ensure that the KCC do not 'surrender' mineral extraction and waste sites, until all the available minerals have been fully extracted. That land identified in KCC's Mineral Plan for mineral extraction is not 'sterilised' by built development. In short making sure that land protected for mineral extraction is not sacrificed for inappropriate built development. It was clear that T&MBC were struggling to evidence that they had met their obligations in full in their 'Duty to Cooperate' with both Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council

As the first day ended it was becoming clear that the Draft Local Plan was in deep trouble. There were allegations of corners being cut and procedures that should have been followed scrupulously, not having been. The second day followed on but, commencing in the afternoon, with a further litany of decisions having been made without any clear or coherent understanding on the part of T&MBC about how decisions had been reached, in comparing which sites had been selected and against what criteria.

A further parish council that had decided not to join the Five Parish Alliance, because its objections were based primarily around different criteria, was Shipbourne. Represented by one of its Members, Cllr Mrs Jenny Bate, who is a qualified but now retired town planner. She joined the inquiry asking some really testing questions of behalf of both Shipbourne PC and Friends of the Earth. The third day of the public Inquiry looked (Continued on page 21)

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Throughout the three days of hearings I had kept in close touch with Cllr. Pete Gillin, the hardworking Chairman of Wrotham Parish Council, who leads the Five Parish Alliance. He had attended each day at the Five Parish Alliance 'headquarters' based at lawyers offices (they call them Chambers) in the Temple in London, with a team of lawyers, town planners, transport and landscape experts retained by the Five Parish Alliance. I speculated with Pete by telephone that I thought it possible, having heard all that we had, that the Inspectors may take the view that the later Inquiry dates in November might be cancelled and we both agreed that it seemed unlikely, given all the arrangements by then in hand.

Well, as it has now outturned, the Inspectors have some serious concerns, serious enough that they clearly feel that the chances of being able to have the Draft Local Plan rectified look sufficiently slim, that they consider that it would not be a good use of anyone's time allowing the next hearing sessions to proceed.

This is not the end of the Draft Local Plan by any means; the Inspectors next letter to T&MBC will set out their concerns and it is likely at that stage that we shall know how serious the issues the Inspectors have identified are and whether the Draft Local Plan proceeds further. My best guess at this stage is that that is unlikely. This is a bit of a hostage to fortune, but I consider it most likely that it will be 'back to the drawing board' and the plan process restarting again.

Such an outcome may turn out to be less joyful because the current plan making 'interim arrangements' mean that the total new housing calculations will increase from about 700 in the current draft plan to around 850 per annum in a future plan.

It is clear however that some of the many problems inherent in developing the Borough Green Garden City site, have now been exposed. In particular the cost of building a road through a site consisting of a series of deep pits and filled or partially filled waste sites, has been substantially underestimated by the would-be developers. The timeline taken to complete the extraction of minerals from the whole site has been shown to extend well into the 2030s which means that the new road, the justification for the whole project, cannot be built during the current plan period.

In early November, Sevenoaks District Council who are about 12 months in advance of T&MBC in their local plan process, were told that they had failed in their application for a Judicial Review against a decision by the Planning Inspectorate, who come to the view that they had failed in their duty to cooperate with T&MBC, amongst others. Cllr Pete Gillin, Chairman of Wrotham Parish Council, undertook a detailed examination of the judge's decision. In the light of his analysis, I am becoming increasingly convinced that T&MBC local plan will shortly be 'show stopped'.

Further mineral extraction planning applications have come forward in recent weeks for sites within the proposed Borough Green Garden City site, which complicate matters further.

Although the task is not yet complete, I would like to thank the Five Parish Alliance of Parish Councils, Borough Green, Ightham, Platt, Stansted and Wrotham as well as Shipbourne Parish Council, for their steadfast stand, their patience and tenacity in upholding their objections to the Draft Local Plan. It has been and continues to be hard going, but I believe that our protected open local countryside will now have a significantly better chance of being passed on to the next generation to enjoy.

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Over the last 5 years, thanks to the generosity of our community, I have had the privilege of handing out over 2,500 presents to charities and care homes who support our communities' elderly and most vulnerable people.

This coincides with Involve Kent's Christmas lunch which helps combat loneliness and gives them a day to remember. Unfortunately, this year many of these Christmas lunches are unable to go ahead meaning that sadly many of the elderly will go this season with no one to celebrate with which is incredibly sad.

We hope to create hampers for each person who would have been at the Involve lunch and these will be delivered in time for Christmas. If anyone could donate any items to put in the hampers by 18 December I would be so grateful. Any written Christmas cards would also be gratefully received.

Bean Rush Café, 46 King Street, West Malling ME19 6QT, have kindly agreed to be a drop off point. A box will be left there to drop any donations into. The box will be frequently sanitised as will all the donations.

Thank you so much for your support.

Please contact me for any further information emillie1@msn.com or 07730 438 824.

Emillie Hobden



Useful contact details for help

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Community HUB 01732 876152





Kent County Council

Kent Together helpline **03000 419 292** www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether

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Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

I try and make sure my columns are as topical as possible, knowing that by the time you read this it may be a week or two after I've written. In today's world, news and restrictions change so fast that I cannot be sure that everything I say here will still be the case when you read this!

As I write we are just a few days into our new national restrictions, limiting where we can go and who we can see. This is a tricky time for so many and I am grateful for all the hard work everyone is doing to help those in need.

The decision to ask us to follow these restrictions wasn't one the Government took lightly. In fact we had much fewer cases across Tonbridge and Malling than many other parts of the country. However, there was a worrying increase across our community in the past few weeks. In Tonbridge and Malling Borough, the rate of infection grew from 28.8 cases per 100,000 people at the start of October, to 91.6 at the end of the month. There was no evidence this was decreasing, so clearly something had to be done.

That's why I, very reluctantly, supported the measures in Parliament, though my concerns about the impact of further restrictions remain and I will be looking for any signs that we can bring this to a close sooner. The promise of a vaccine seems to be closer now than before but we must make sure we get this right.

While our hospitals can cope at the time of writing, there was a concern that if this trend continued, they would not be able to. But we need more information about the impact of further restrictions on those with existing illnesses. If the restrictions are to be extended, this information needs to be available for us all to see. It is a fine balance to get the restrictions right without causing so much damage to our wellbeing and economy.

I am here to help anyone affected by the current national restrictions. Whether it is support getting supplies, financial help or simply concerns about the way the virus is being handled, please be in touch. My phone number is 01732 441563 and e-mail address is tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk. I look forward to hearing back from you.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY







Photos by Mike Taylor

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Tuesday Ladies' Club members continue to keep safe and hopefully you all keep in touch with each other now we are in another lockdown. Our November craft sessions were cancelled but our two December craft sessions are still booked if guidelines change by then. Kent Air Ambulance — as the year draws to a close, the total amount raised for our chosen charity

is £175 and thank you to everybody who has helped raise the money during this very difficult year.

19 January 2021 – Party Time: As you can imagine we all have doubts as to whether the party will take place but you just never know so keep fingers and toes crossed. A party of volunteers are standing by. Emails will be sent out to everyone informing you of any changes.

Cards: A big thanks to our birthday card organiser who has been delivering Birthday Messages to members throughout COVID.

Programme Planning 2021: Throughout this year, our organiser has had the task of contacting and cancelling our speakers. She and her team continue to plan for next year. Already the draft programme is looking interesting. We look forward to normality returning, when we can meet together again and enjoy the social time that we know we are missing a great deal.

1 December Meeting: We are hoping you will be in the mood to join in a "Virtual Christmas Party" on Zoom @ 7.30pm. The idea is for us to wear a festive hat, bring a glass of your favourite tipple, a mince pie and a cracker and share some fun.

Post Op Heart Cushions for the Peggy Wood Clinic: Lovely to hear from members making these much needed cushions for the breast care unit in Maidstone. Two of our members who recently had treatment said they are very useful and soft and appreciate them. Keep up the good work in making more.

TLC Get Well Messages: Thank you to our organiser for delivering out best wishes to those of you who have been under the weather. We have been thinking of you and wish you a speedy recovery.

The ladies of **Tuesday Ladies' Club** would like to pass on good wishes to the **Borough Green Community**. May we all make the most of Christmas 2020 and look forward to a much brighter 2021.



Support grant applications are now open for local businesses that have had to close due to the national restrictions between 5 November and 2 December 2020. Two grants are available and you can find out which one your business is eligible for here on Tonbridge and Malling Council website - business support pages at https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/business/business-support-and-advice



BOROUGH GREEN LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB

The Ladies have maintained their unbeaten league record with draws against Woodcombe (1-1) and Anchorians Development (0-0). They are in second place in their leaaue.

Updates on Facebook and Instagram: @BoroughGreenLadies and Twitter: @boroughgreenLFC or email bgfc_ladies@outlook.com

POTTERS FC

Potters have played only one game since last month's report - a 3-3 draw with Nomads who now lead the league by one point although Potters are in second place with two games in hand. For the latest information for fixtures and results ao to

www.pottersfc.co.uk or on Facebook @pottersfcofficial.







Action taken be some advertisers during lockdown

Birkbeck Chiropody and Podiatry Practice are remaining open throughout lockdown 2 attending to treatments as normal following the usual strict hygiene and disinfection protocols as well advice from our Governing body.

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. offer a variety of walks, mostly on Sunday mornings with additional mid-week rambles each month. Our walks are usually circular and about 5-6 miles in duration. We explore the beautiful Kent



countryside from different starting points within the Tonbridge and Malling area and. occasionally, further afield. New members are welcome, as are those wishing to try us out before joining ramblers.

Group walks are currently paused until at least 2 December 2020. We will be restarting as soon as we can, dependent upon government guidelines and Ramblers national guidelines. Meanwhile, to find out more about our group please visit:

http://www.tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk or email info@tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk



CHRISTMAS AT SHIPBOURNE FARMERS MARKET

Shipbourne Farmers Market is a subset of St Giles' PCC and any profits are donated to Agricultural charities

Every Thursday 9-11am

STAY SAFE and **BUY LOCAL**. The online/Drive Thru Farmers market will continue through December.

If you haven't used the system yet go to www.shipbournefm.co.uk and click on 'SHOP NOW'. You can then start shopping either by 'Category' of items (eg bakery, cereals, cheese etc) or by 'Producer' (where you will find all the items sold by that Producer). There are 20 Producers, over 50 categories and over 300 items to choose from!! To help you make Christmas shopping decisions easier we have added 2 new categories CHRISTMAS PRODUCE and CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

If you have problems in finding your way round the system, or just don't like shopping online or prefer to pay by cash please call Bob on **07768643614**

Every Wednesday we will send you a Pick Up time schedule for Thursday morning (8:50 -10:00). Just drive up to the Village Hall (on the Green) at the appointed time slot. We open your boot and pop in your order! Easy.

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If you are self-isolating or simply cannot venture out in a car our volunteers will deliver locally (3 miles from Shipbourne).

HOWEVER, as all of our LOCAL Producers are small businesses and offer high quality produce, you need to make sure you order early. We have now added a PRE-ORDER facility in the system so you can reserve your choice and pick up on **WEDNESDAY 23rd**.

The online market has almost everything you need for Christmas and better still it's **LOCAL**.

Starting with Christmas cards and unique Christmas presents.

CHRISTMAS MORNING Healthy cereals and fruit followed by mince pies and coffee mid-morning moving on to smoked salmon on artisan bread together with superb sparkling wine or local gin.

CHRISTMAS MEAL Turkey, venison or goose plus ham or vegetarian options, plus all the vegetables. Followed by Christmas pudding, cheeses together with local apple brandy chocolates.

BOXING DAY and more. **Soups**, cold cuts with **chutneys**, **cheese** and **grazing food** (sausage rolls, olives, scotch eggs, patés, pies etc). Don't forget to add a few extra loaves of **artisan bread** in the freezer for sandwiches.

St Giles's Shipbourne is partnered with All Saints Chatham so we have added a facility in the system for **Christmas giving** enabling you to donate to **the MEDWAY FOOD BANK** to help others less fortunate.

HAVE A GOOD (LOCAL) CHRISTMAS

BEST WISHES FROM all the volunteers and Producers at Shipbourne Farmers Market

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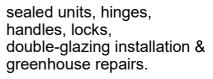


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