

THE VOICE

February 2021



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No Job Too Small

Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd

February 2021

The key to happiness?

In the Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year's message, Justin Welby said "God rejoices in these small acts of love - because they reveal who we truly are: human beings made in God's image, deeply connected to one another. Such gestures speak to me of Jesus - the one who shows us what God's love looks like. And for this reason, we can have hope for each and every month ahead".

In the face of the huge troubles of this present age, we can feel very powerless. Yet, a small act of love can make a massive difference. Perhaps only for one or two people, but if anyone made a positive difference for a few people each the world would be a better place.

The [Action for Happiness](#) project is a charity established to help people achieve happiness, wellbeing and have good mental health. They have devised 'Ten Keys to Happiness'. These are not quick-fix ways to gratify desires, which give an instant shot of happiness that fades just as fast. They are about a whole life approach to living fulfilled. The first of their keys to being happy is 'Giving - Do things for others'.

Action for Happiness is a non-religious organisation. However, it must be more than coincidence that they, and Archbishop Welby, seem to be saying is that the key to happiness and what makes God rejoice, are one and the same!

Perhaps this should not surprise us, for we are, the Bible tells us, made in God's image. So, God's rejoicing and our happiness must be interwoven.

As 2021 begins very much in the same way that 2020 ended, and at first glance there seem little to find happiness in, perhaps we can work at the 'Keys to Happiness' and maybe we might hear God rejoicing as we do.

God Bless

Rev. Chris





Stay Home and Stay Safe

With the latest national lockdown, the Church of the Good Shepherd will **not** be open as normal.

Our worship will be online using Zoom. Details of the services and how to join us can be found on

A Church Near You:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16920/>

Donations for our Foodbank can be left in the porch of the Vicarage (24 Maidstone Road)

Prayer requests can be made using our virtual prayer wall:

https://padlet.com/cogs_and_platt/CoGS_Platt_Prayers

And prayer candles can be 'lit' :

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

There is also a free national telephone line, Daily Hope, which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England:

0800 804 8044

Praying for Borough Green

Did you know that each day the Church of the Good Shepherd prays for various streets in Borough Green, covering the whole village each week?

If you would like prayers said for issues concerning you or your street on that day, then prayer requests can be made online [here](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Abbott Road	Annetts Hall	Ascot Close	The Avenue
Black Horse Mews	Borough Green Road	Brockway	Cloke Mews
Crouch Lane	Crow Hill	Crow Hill Road	Crowhurst Road
Eaglestone Close	Fairfield Road	Four Wents Close	Foxlea
High Street	Hill View	Hill View Close	Hunts Farm Close
Lingfield Road	Maidstone Road	Modermott Road	Minters Orchard
Nisbett Drive	Novello Close	Quarry Hill Road	Red Lion Square
School Approach	Sevenoaks Road	Staleys Acre	Staleys Road
Stone Court	Tavern Close	Thong Lane	Tillmans
Westbank	Western Road	Wrotham Road	Wyatt Close

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bangays Way	Basted Lane	Bellows Lane
The Close	Conyerd Road	The Crescent
Dark Hill Road	Dene Lodge Close	Dryland Road
Griggs Way	Harrison Road	Hazelbourne Avenue
Isles Quarry Road	The Landway	Lendon Road
Monckton Road	Mountfield	Normanhurst Road
Rock Road	Roman Court	Sandy Ridge
Station Approach	Station Court	Station Road
Tilton Road	Tollgate Mews	Tolsey Mead
Wye Road		

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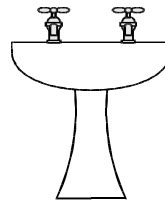
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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm online via Zoom. Matters discussed and reports received included:

Monday 7 December 2020

The Parish Council agreed to co-opt Mr Mark Ramsden who will take office at the January meeting. There was some discussion about diversity. Now we are up to the right level of members again, and we have a good range of ages, but we are not getting requests from female applicants - email or call the Clerk.

KCC Cllr Rayner updated the Council on KCC's Brexit and Covid plans.

Cllr James Crawley was welcomed as a new co-opted Member.

Highway Issues - The Council has hired its own Traffic Engineer and are awaiting Kent Highway's response to those reports on A25 Speed, Darkhill 40mph, Quarry Hill 7.5t, Rec Crossing timing and various 20mph schemes.

Sewage - SW will be investigating the Rec car park with ground penetrating radar, and their Board has allocated £60,000 to upgrade the Maidstone Rd Pumping Station.

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 will be discussing the transfer of the ownership of the Village Hall toilets to the Parish Council and the Land Transfer of Crowhill Knob.

Local Plan - The inspectors have offered TMBC the opportunity to withdraw the existing plan and produce a new one, or they will consider refusing to allow its adoption. A really good Christmas present for the villages.

Monday 4 January 2021

Cllr Rayner reported that he would be funding the Quarry Hill 7.5t limit with his Member's Grant.

Cllr Mark Ramsden was welcomed as a new co-opted Member.

Young people celebrated the New Year by setting fire to bins in the Rec - where were your kids that night?

Platt PC will be contributing £370 towards the Joint Gateway at Minters Orchard.

Members discussed a possible donation of computers to BG Primary School, to enable children from less affluent homes to access lessons during the lockdown.

There was a robust discussion of the impact of the noise, dust and HGV traffic generated by the H+H Celcon operation on residents. Residents are urged to report problems by email to the below addresses.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held online at 7.30pm on **Monday 1 February 2021**. The agenda will include a period for public consultation by email or letter. Residents can email the Clerk for a link allowing access to the Zoom meeting

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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Magazine News

This February edition is not being printed because it would be inappropriate to ask our volunteers to deliver copies given ongoing social restrictions. It is available to read on the COGS, BG Community and Parish Council websites, the COGS Facebook page, the Borough Green Pinboard and it being emailed round by some village bodies. Anyone with access to online media (websites etc) is invited to place a link to the magazine to widen its availability. Decisions about future editions will be taken in due course.

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. 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.

Articles for the next magazine

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Wednesday 17 February** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover March so if you have any events planned for that month and you would like them to appear in the diary section please send to :-

m-jeffery@talktalk.net
01732 883978

Margaret Jeffery
7 Lendon Road
Borough Green
TN15 8SE

Kent Resilience Forum working hard to stem growth of COVID-19

(Press release issued on 9 January)



As the threat from COVID-19 continues and the country enters a third lockdown, Kent Resilience Forum partners are working hard to stem the growth of the disease.

This week an additional 12 **symptom-free testing** sites launched for people who do not have symptoms but may be unknowingly spreading the virus. In addition to the two symptom-free testing sites in Swale and Thanet – in operation since 17 December – sites have now opened in Gravesend, Swanley, Folkestone, Ashford, Birchington, Dover, Canterbury, **Larkfield**, Detling, Kemsley, Dartford and Tunbridge Wells (*Editor's note: more sites have opened since*). Residents attending this testing will undergo a lateral flow swab test and will receive their result within a couple of hours of attending the test. To book a test visit www.kent.gov.uk/symptomfreetest

A 24-hour helpline is available to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline – called Kent Together – provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people. It is also the place to report your concerns about the welfare of someone else. If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, you can contact the Kent Together helpline at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether> or by calling 03000 419292.

KCC Leader Roger Gough said: “There are four crucial actions that will help us identify and contain the virus across the county – following the guidelines; symptom free testing; contact tracing and enforcement. We have launched 14 symptom free testing sites already and there are more planned over the coming weeks, we have bolstered resources in contact tracing and our Trading Standards team play a key part in advising businesses on Covid regulations, taking enforcement action where necessary. We also need the county residents to play their part, adhering to the new restrictions to reduce infections, protect the NHS and save lives. As an authority we will do everything we can to support this.”

As pressures increase, The Kent Resilience Forum was required to set up a temporary place of rest in Aylesford to ensure sufficient capacity is available. Mr Gough added: “To have had to set this facility up is a stark reminder of the terrible cost of COVID-19. We know this is a difficult time for all our communities and especially for those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Throughout all our planning our priority has been to ensure that there is dignity and respect for those who have lost their lives and consideration for the bereaved.”

Assistant Chief Constable Claire Nix of Kent Police, Chair of the Kent Resilience Forum, warned that people not following the lockdown rules will have

action taken against them. She said: "The vast majority of Kent residents have done the right thing and followed the rules throughout this pandemic, helping to protect the NHS and ultimately save lives. Unfortunately, there are some people who still think it is acceptable to throw parties, go outside in large numbers or commit other serious breaches of Covid-19 regulation, which has contributed to us all having to once again stay at home and stay away from our friends, relatives and colleagues. Kent Police officers are continuing to police the national restrictions in a proportionate manner, using enforcement as a last resort. But anyone who flagrantly or repeatedly breaks the rules at a time when there is so much pressure on Kent's health services should be left in no doubt that action will be taken against them. As Chair of the Kent Resilience Forum, it is my firm belief that the work we are all carrying out will lead to a brighter future for everyone in our county who has been so severely affected by this terrible disease."

Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

Holly at Christmas is a reminder that spring is coming. The evergreen leaves are winter's promise of new life and a reminder that better times are ahead. The restrictions we're now living through make winter tougher for all of us, but the vaccine now beginning to be shared to so many is a hope of spring to come.

I hate the restrictions we're now under. Families across our country are separated and suffering from the stress of enclosure, loss of work and education and fear for the future. But the situation we have seen in our county is worrying. Hospitals and clinics are seeing the incidence of infection rise to levels that put healthcare for everyone at risk. As a community, and as a country, we needed to act.

For many of us the uncertainty has been adding to the stress so I welcome the assurances that we've got that, although the government has decided the review to this decision will come in mid-February, we already know that the support from the Treasury will continue into April. Along with the new Oxford developed AstraZeneca vaccine now being rolled out we do at least have some hope on the horizon and can see the path to the other side. A target of 2 million doses per week will get us there. I've spoken to our doctors and have been assured that they're on top of this programme and will deliver for all of us.

Kent County Council have also been hard at work. Our County Councillor Harry Rayner has worked with the borough and the Government to bring non-symptomatic testing for all of us in Kent. Please get tested and isolate if you need to. We can help keep each other safe. If you can, please go further and help. You can volunteer to support the NHS at this time of emergency by going here: <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer/volunteer-roles>

In Kent, we're among the first in the world to get the vaccine and that's fantastic, but we need to do more than just share protection, we need to share hope. The restrictions will end, and we will come back together, but in the meantime, let's remember what makes our villages and parishes - it's not the buildings but the people. We can look out for each other, help each other and protect each other. I will do my best to help everyone and I know many other will too.

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

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THE LOCAL COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The practice has commenced its programme for delivering Covid vaccinations. All vaccinations will be delivered at **Sevenoaks Medical Centre, Beadle House, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 2JD**. There will be home visits for housebound patients and care home patients and staff.

We have started inviting patients based on the national priority list. Please be patient and wait to be contacted about when the vaccine is available for you. We are inviting our patients eldest first.

The first deliveries of vaccines will be rolled out in keeping with national recommendations for Priority Groups 1 and 2.

The priority groups 1 and 2 are:

- * Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- * All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers

Patients aged over 80 do not need to contact the surgery and will receive a letter, text or phone call about getting the Covid-19 vaccines. Due to short notice notification of deliveries this is most likely to be a phone call.

Frontline health and social care workers should send us an email from their work email address stating their name, job title and employer addressed to gp.G82120@nhs.net.

We appreciate our patients concerns about when they are likely to be vaccinated but we ask that you do not call us to enquire but keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for updates. Our phone lines and staff are very busy and we need your support to keep phone lines open for people needing to make appointments for other health matters and for our staff to work on the programme.

The vaccination programme will take several months to work through everyone, so it could be some time before you are contacted. We hope to hold clinics to support the national targets but we have no control over the scheduling of the vaccine deliveries so it is impossible to put a timescale on when we will be inviting subsequent groups of patients.

Borough Green Helpers

We are a team of 20+ volunteers from the local community who are happy to help you. This might be with:

Shopping/supplies

Collecting prescriptions

Posting letters/parcels

A friendly phone call

Please feel free to contact:

Sue Holcroft 07732 363 968

Lily Duffield 07534 044 813

Siobhan Hurlll 07595 622 993



We can then put you in touch with one of our helpers. You are not alone and as a community let's all help each other at this time.



Tuesday Ladies' Club members continue to keep safe and hopefully you all keep in touch with each other now we are in yet another lockdown.

Our "Virtual Christmas Party" on 1 December was a great success with members fulfilling the brief which was to wear a festive hat, have a cracker, a drink and a mince pie. There were two prizes - one for the best Christmas hat and one for having the four items mentioned.

Ightham, Platt & Plaxtol Wls. Festive messages were received from our local friends and returned.

Chosen Charity 2021. A vote was required from members for a new charity: the suggestions were Alzheimer's Research UK, Cancer Research, Heart of Kent Hospice, Kent Association for the Blind and Porchlight (Homeless in Kent). The winning charity will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Kent Air Ambulance have thanked us for our donation of £175 raised last year. Well done to everybody.

T.L.C.'s Christmas Shopping. Many thanks to those who made items for the Craft & Produce Stall which was cancelled. With Xmas gifts in mind, the items were sold online and raised an amazing £118. Thanks to those of you who supported the sale - a terrific start to 2021. Committee suggested this amount be shared between the chosen charity, BG Christmas Lights and TLC funds. We hope you agree.

Programme 2021. We have suspended the printing for now and the Planning Programmers who had volunteered to plan the 2021 programme were not able to meet owing to COVID. Bookings of speakers were cancelled and rebooked for 2021. If you still have your 2020 Programme it will remind you of what we can hopefully look forward to.

Covid Vaccine. Hopefully we will soon all receive our messages to get our Covid vaccine. Here's hoping the light at the end of the tunnel is a little brighter and life may return to normal again soon. Until then continue to take care, stay safe and keep well.



Happy New Year from Borough Green Primary School where we are beginning 2021, like everyone else, facing challenges, learning new skills and remaining positive and hopeful for a return to normal soon. We

are sincerely grateful for our local community - families whose children come to our school, but also the wider community – which has been so supportive during these strange times. Support has included the morale boosting support of parents thanking us for our efforts to make home learning as accessible and effective as possible but also the creative thinking of people who have offered resources and practical help.

Last term Bishops Office products ran a competition where customers could put forward the name of their children's school in the hope of winning a prize. We were therefore delighted to hear that Mrs Kitto had nominated Borough Green Primary and that we had won. The generous gift of £400 enabled us to purchase IT equipment, which resulted in us being able to support families with home learning.

Due to being in our part of Kent, we were fortunate to have a little more notice of school closures than some schools and so staff were busy in the last 4 days of the Christmas break ensuring home learning was up and running for the beginning of term. Since then we have been honing, improving and expanding what we can offer our pupils. This has involved our teachers and teaching assistants quickly learning a range of new skills as we endeavour to provide an engaging, relevant and supportive curriculum for all our pupils regardless of age. Live online sessions are taking place and our pupils are loving their daily check-ins with their teachers; these meetings enable classes to still operate like a class would in school – a mixture of socialising (including many pets being paraded in front of cameras!), explanations of learning and questions to check understanding. We have also experimented with ways of recording lessons and story times as another way to give our pupils as much support and contact as we can.

This, of course, is a new challenge for all and we are enormously proud of our pupils who have embraced all learning opportunities and become experts with technology. Daily they email us work ranging from videos of them presenting a 'How to Make a Pizza' demonstrations (we have some future TV presenters who already know how to build rapport with a virtual audience!) to photographs of ice sculptures made with balloons to travel writing about an imagined visit to California. We certainly know how to elevate ourselves above the rather dreary weather and bleak news!

As we raised a glass or set off a firework to welcome in 2021 we were not expecting to still be in lockdown for the start of the school term. However, there will be a time, when we look back on this period in our lives, reflecting that, despite social distancing, we became closer, closer as a community and closer as families.

Mrs K Sandberg
Headteacher, Borough Green Primary



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Keep well & Stay safe

Lisa, Jayne,
Karen & Tracy

We look forward
to seeing you
very soon!



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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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Rosina Petrucci
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Grant Howie

We offer our condolences to all those recently bereaved.



Thanks

DENNIS FINCH

Myself and my immediate family wish to thank, most sincerely, neighbours and friends who sent many good wishes of condolence. Also for the tribute made to Dennis, by them, on the day of his funeral (16 December). Thank you

Mollie Finch

MICK MARTIN

Michael 'Mick' Martin sadly passed away suddenly on 18 December aged 86 years. He had lived in the village for over 57 years. Mick's family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support.



POPPY APPEAL 2020

In spite of having no street or house collections Borough Green actually raised £2092.11 with a further £140 for wreaths.

I would like to thank everyone for taking part in this appeal and for being so generous.

Margaret Vick

Thank you to the **Borough Green Lights Committee** and all their helpers for their time and hard work. Another spectacular display.



Involve Christmas - Hamper Appeal for Elderly

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to my Christmas hamper appeal for the elderly. In total, an incredible 184 hampers went out to the elderly this Christmas. People were so generous that an extra 170 gifts were wrapped up and delivered to various care homes around our area for their residents to open on Christmas Day. We made many peoples' Christmas that bit brighter this year. Thank you all so much.

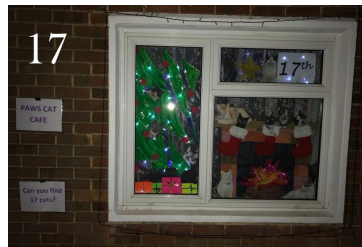
Emillie Hobden



All the displays from our village Advent Calendar.
Thank you to all those who helped brighten our streets
throughout December







Other Church Services in February

All subject to what is allowed under Covid restrictions.



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Masses at 9.30 am on Sundays and 10am on Thursdays
plus Mass at 6pm on Ash Wednesday 17 February
For updates see www.sevrpcparish.org.uk

Borough Green Baptist Church

Services every Sunday at 10.30 at the Chapel
Zoom Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
every Thursday at 7.30.

Those attending Sunday services will have to wear masks
and will be seated 2 metres apart; and hand sanitizers
will be used.

For updates please see our website www.bgbc.org.uk



TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL EXAMINATION OF LOCAL PLAN

Following the cancellation of the hearing sessions arranged for November, the Planning Inspectors wrote to the Council in December to advise that they have concluded that the TMBC local plan preparation has failed to meet the legal requirements of "Duty to Co-operate". The failure was specifically in respect of the strategic cross boundary issue of unmet housing need in Sevenoaks District Council's local plan. The Inspectors' letter can be seen in full at doc ED68 via the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk/lpexamcontents. Any reply from the Council will be made available on the website.

KCC Libraries

During the national lockdown, a limited number of KCC libraries are offering a [Select and Collect](#) pick up service (bookshelf browsing and use of computers and WiFi are currently unavailable until further notice). Borough Green library will be opening from 18 January for this purpose.

Bash the Trash BG Village Litter Pick

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WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

The results of the responses to Mike Taylor's initiative to assemble an archive list of our street names can be seen on the website www.boroughgreen.gov.uk . Here is the first batch for those who prefer a printed version.



BOROUGH GREEN - STREET NAMES AND THEIR HISTORY & ORIGINS

HIGH ST Plaxtol Rd became the High St as far as Rock Rd, where it became Thong Lane. Renamed Quarry Hill Road as far as (now) Darkhill Rd, where Thong Lane remains

THONG LANE Very old name, used to run to the Crossroads, renamed Quarry Hill Rd

WOODLANDS ESTATE (Whiffens Farm)

ABBOTT RD UNKNOWN

CROWHURST RD Named after the Crowhurst family who ran Crowhurst Farm on, you guessed it, Crowhurst Lane

DRYLAND RD Named after Les Dryland, mainstay of village life, Parish Council and Fire Brigade

HARRISON RD Local archaeologist, Benjamin Harrison of Ightham, fossils at Isles Quarry West and Roman Burial at Roman Court

LONDON RD Possibly Lendon-Smith owners of Basted Paper Mill, lived in Basted House

MCDERMOTT RD First BGPC Chairman 1934 farmers and landowners in the area

MONCKTON RD Early owners of Basted Paper Mill in 1871, donated Rec Woodland Walk

VALLEY VIEW ESTATE

CONYERD RD Possibly from "coney" (conie) old English for rabbit, local warrens 1501 "Conyerd-field east of the Shode (Bourne) " 1505 "Conyngerd", 1637 "Great Coney Earth"

STALEYS RD/ACRE 1504-1606 Staley Brothers Borough Green Farm, now Borough Green House (Early spelling Stayley)

TILTON RD UNKNOWN

WYATT CLOSE Possibly Refers to the rebel (& poet) Sir Thomas Wyatt who passed through Borough Green on the way to the Battle of Wrotham in 1554 at Battlefields; he was later hung, drawn and quartered for treason at the Tower of London Also commemorated in Wrotham "Thomas Wyatt Way" and Allington "Sir Thomas Wyatt" PH

BELLOWS LANE Named to commemorate the old Iron Works , bellows were used to run the forge, smelting local ironstone. Historic back to at least 1501, used to run to Rock Rd, its "ghosts" are the two footpaths

FAIRSEAT ESTATE

BROCKWAY After Brock Cottage, farm labourer

MOUNTFIELD After Mount House, owned by Mr Maclintock, who used to own the land

NORMANHURST RD Estate builder Norman Estates

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“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”.

On the evening of Monday 28 December 2020 reports began circulating that there were a number of fires within the Wrotham Allotments and, later, that three fire appliances had attended the blazes.

To quote from Charles Dickens’ ‘Tale of Two Cities’ “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” because, on inspection the following morning five sheds had been totally burnt to the ground, others suffered fire damage and over twenty sheds had been broken into with electrical tools, amongst others, stolen. Alongside the financial value it was the sentimental cost that was hardest to bear. One of the burnt out sheds, with accompanying bench, had been a 60th birthday present whilst another allotmentee had lost all of her father’s tools only a year after he had passed away.



Whilst these might be considered the worst of times, the best of times were illustrated by local people like Charlie Ivy who, after initially raising the alarm on Monday evening, then set up a Crowd Funding page which amassed £1255 in less than a week to help fund the replacement of sheds and locks. Alongside the financial donations a number of local people have offered tools, wood and services. It was particularly gratifying to note that it was not only Wrotham residents that offered items but contributions also came in from the neighbouring villages of Borough Green, Fairseat and Ightham. Social media in the forms of Wrotham Grapevine, Borough Green pinboard, Sevenoaks Women’s forum and Sevenoaks Mums net also got involved.

Kieron Denton, allotmentee and Wrotham Parish Councillor, is liaising with the Council to get a new, more secure, gate fitted and, with St Clere’s Estate, better perimeter fencing. The possibility of CCTV is also being investigated.

Reports were given to Kent Police, via 101, so PCSO Mark Thomas is now aware of the crimes and will be increasing his patrols to the allotments. More reports would still be welcome so that a fuller picture might emerge - if it is local offenders then let’s work together to identify and conduct restorative community justice.

Alongside Charlie Ivy, WAGS (Wrotham Allotment and Garden Society) would like to thank the following:

Shaun Burbridge - SDB Garden Services & Kev Holt - KH Tree & Kandscape who have both offered their labour to clear and rebuild sheds destroyed;

Kieron Denton, Dave Roots, Adrian Lee, Jenny Hill, Simon Greenstreet and Rosie Child who have all offered spare tools;

Eliza Ecclestone, who has offered pots of honey and

Carrie Marlow & Dave Royce who have offered ‘old’ sheds.

Now, all we have to do is catch the culprits! Any information can be given to Kent Police on 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers.

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Help for businesses through lockdown



Grants are available for local businesses that have been affected by Covid-19 restrictions. For details on eligibility see the Council's website at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information for Businesses - Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council \(tmbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

The Local Covid-19 Business Helpline (part-funded by TMBC) can be accessed via 03333 602300 (open 8:30am-5:00pm Monday to Friday). Since it opened, the helpline has helped to answer to over 1,000 enquiries from Tonbridge & Malling businesses. If you need to talk over any aspect of your business, including the availability of financial support, they will be able to help.

Voice advertisers

Some services advertised in the Voice may not be fully available during the lockdown but please support our advertisers as much as you can. Advertisers are welcome to let us know what action they are taking along the lines of the following.

Action taken by some advertisers during lockdown

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

Fourways Engineering Ltd

It is with huge regret that Fourways Engineering Ltd would like to inform the community that it will no longer be in a position to operate its Classic Car Service and Restoration business from its premises on Maidstone Road in the centre of Borough Green. Fourways have operated on the premises for approaching 50 years and whilst we have explored all avenues with the current owner of the land to either lease or purchase the site in order to continue operating there; we have been met with refusal to either, which of course is their prerogative. Fourways has enjoyed being in the heart of the community during this time and will endeavour to do so from its brand new premises at Units 12/13, Platt Industrial Estate. We will continue to welcome anyone who wishes to drop by just to look around and see the restoration work we undertake or to consider the services we provide.

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Funding available for residents to benefit from warmer homes

Private rented tenants and home owners in Tonbridge and Malling can apply for funding to improve the warmth of their homes.

Borough residents can have warmer homes this winter thanks to a new scheme that fully funds (subject to survey, funding allocation and eligibility criteria) the installation of gas connection and gas central heating. The scheme will pay for installation of first-time gas connection and gas central heating systems, and other insulation measures. To be eligible, the homeowner or private rented tenant must be in receipt of certain benefits, or on a low income living with someone who is suffering from a health condition that is impacted by living in a cold home. Homes heated by storage heaters, electric radiators, or solid fuel fires are encouraged to apply. Eligible homes will be checked to ensure they are in close proximity to the mains gas network.

Where vulnerable people are living in cold homes, it is hoped that friends or carers will help them to find out about this funding.

For further information see [Warm Homes funding](#)

Energy Deal

TMBC offers residents support in accessing cheaper energy tariffs by working with iChoosr who run The Big Community Switch collective energy switching scheme.

Collective energy switching is when consumers get together to negotiate a group deal with gas and electricity suppliers. Energy suppliers are invited to compete with their best offer at an energy auction. Residents registered with the scheme are sent a personalised offer showing how much they could save with the winning tariff, which they can decide whether they want to accept.

Registration is free and there is no obligation to accept the winning offer.

The Big Community Switch groups together participating council area schemes countrywide at energy auctions held three times a year in October, February and May. Register for the energy auction that most closely aligns to the end of your current fixed tariff. Registration is now open until **8 February**. To register you will need details of your supplier, current tariff and annual energy consumption (see your latest energy bill). For more information and to register on line follow the link to the [iChoosr collective switching scheme](#).

Due to restrictions on the scheme the Council is not allowed to send out reminders to residents who have switched through the scheme in the last 2 years. Therefore please keep a note of your current energy tariff expiry date, and register for the auction that coincides with that date.

You can help people without internet access to register with you online (maximum of five households per email address) or alternatively they can call **0800 048 8439** (Mon – Fri 8.00am to 5.30pm) for assistance.

**SOME HELPLINES FOR ISSUES OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING
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Anxiety UK Charity providing support if you have been diagnosed with an anxiety condition. 03444 775 774 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm)

www.anxietyuk.org.uk

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably. A charity providing a mental health helpline and webchat. 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)

www.thecalmzone.net

Men's Health Forum 24/7 stress support for men by text, chat and email.

www.menshealthforum.org.uk

Mental Health Foundation provides information and support for anyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Mind promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems. 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

www.mind.org.uk

PAPYRUS Young suicide prevention society. HOPElineUK 0800 068 4141 (9am to midnight, every day of the year)

www.papyrus-uk.org

Rethink Mental Illness support and advice for people living with mental illness. 0300 5000 927 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)

www.rethink.org

Samaritans Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair. 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

www.samaritans.org.uk

SANE Emotional support, information and guidance for people affected by mental illness, their families and carers. Textcare: comfort and care via text message, sent when the person needs it most

www.sane.org.uk/textcare

Peer support forum: www.sane.org.uk/supportforum

www.sane.org.uk/support

YoungMinds Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals. Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)

www.youngminds.org.uk

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ABUSE (CHILD, SEXUAL, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

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0800 1111 for Childline for children (24-hour helpline)
0808 800 5000 for adults concerned about a child (24-hour helpline)
www.nspcc.org.uk

Refuge Advice on dealing with domestic violence. 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline)
www.refuge.org.uk

ALCOHOL MISUSE

Alcoholics Anonymous A free self-help group. Its "12 step" programme involves getting sober with the help of regular face-to-face and online support groups.
0800 917 7650 (24-hour helpline)
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Drinkline A free confidential helpline for people worried about their own or someone else's drinking. 0300 123 1110 (weekdays 9am to 8pm, weekends 11am to 4pm)

National Association for Children of Alcoholics offers free confidential advice and information to everyone affected by a parent's drinking including children, adults and professionals. 0800 358 3456 (Friday, Saturday and Monday 12pm to 7pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 12pm to 9pm)
<https://www.nacoa.org.uk/>

DRUG MISUSE

FRANK Free, confidential information and advice about drugs, their effects and the law. FRANK's live chat service runs daily from 2pm to 6pm.
0300 1236600 (24-hour helpline), Text a question to: 82111
<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Narcotics Anonymous A free self-help group. Its "12 step" programme involves stopping using drugs with the help of regular face-to-face and online support groups. 0300 999 1212 (daily, 10am to midnight)
www.ukna.org

GAMBLING

Gamblers Anonymous A free self-help group. Its "12 step" programme involves stopping gambling with the help of regular face-to-face and online support groups. 0330 094 0322 (24-hour)
<https://www.gamblersanonymous.org.uk/>

National Gambling Helpline 0808 8020 133 (daily, 8am to midnight)
www.begambleaware.org



Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. In normal times, we offer a variety of group 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 due to Tier 4 restrictions. We will be restarting as soon as we can, dependent upon government guidelines and Ramblers national guidelines. Meanwhile, you can find out more about our group at:

<http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk>.

One of our activities is to ensure that public footpaths within the Tonbridge and Malling area are readily accessible to all walkers. We have footpath observers in each parish to check paths and report issues such as broken stiles and gates; broken or missing footpath signs; fallen trees and other obstructions. We always welcome help with this so, if you are out walking and encounter a problem, please do raise an alert. You can do this by logging the fault yourself on the Kent Country Council (search for 'KCC public rights of way') or by emailing details (with photo and path number/location) to info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

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2020, the strangest of years.

In January, we found that we had won the best (national) Farmers Market, awarded by the Farm Retail Association.

In March it became obvious that the market would have to close under the Covid lockdown regulations, even though Farmers Markets are classified as a retail food outlets. However, following a 'brain storming session' with the Parish Council we developed a SAFE SHOPPING approach by combining online ordering with a 'Drive Thru' pick up.

By the first week of April we had the first market up and running, which meant we did not close at all !

In June we were included in the Government's list of 'Great Innovations' in the Covid crisis.

In October we planned to revert back to the Church but with the onset of more Covid outbreaks in Kent we decided that we already had a very safe solution. The lack of space in the Church and the Church Approach would have also made it difficult to introduce social distancing.

Although the numbers attending the online market declined during the summer months, we experienced a rapid increase by December. We have also found that those who do attend spend far more as many customers make it their main shop, combined with the fact that there is no need to carry any heavy produce (as all purchases are placed into the boot of your car!).

In December we learnt that we had won the Kent Life award for the 'most innovative food and drink initiative'. Two of our producers, Greensand Distillery and The Bakehouse at 124, also won awards for their category.

In January we are once again back in lock down and we intend to continue with the present solution as we still see it as SAFER, more comfortable (sitting in your car) and much more efficient than shopping in a supermarket.

The market re-opened on 7 January, a week earlier than planned, to enable shoppers stock up their larders and freezers following the latest lock down....

What's available at the Market in February

Colder seas attract lemon sole, halibut, skate, turbot and monkfish close to our shores, and shellfish fans should order clams, mussels, oysters and cockles. Scallops come into season later this month. Try them wrapped in streaky bacon. They are also delicious pan-fried and served on a creamy purée of seasonal cauliflower.

For meat eaters, game is again an excellent choice for seasonal healthy eating. It is full of flavour and is best enjoyed griddled, quickly stir-fried or in a meaty stew. Venison, guinea fowl and wood pigeon are all good in February, while the comfort eaters amongst you might try mutton for its rich taste.

Serve your meat with cabbages and brassicas, you'll find them at their freshest and crunchiest at this time of year. Savoy cabbage, cauliflower, kale, sprouts, sprout tops and purple sprouting broccoli all work perfectly in stir fries and curries, or perhaps serve them simply shredded and steamed tossed with a little seasoning and a dash of cold pressed rapeseed oil. Main crop potatoes, parsnips and turnips provide the starch that keeps us going in the cold so mash them together with a little seasoning and butter as a side to your game dishes.

For more information about shopping online and our producers, go to

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