

# THE VOICE

June 2020

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## Magazine News

This June 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 and BG Community websites, the Borough Green Pinboard and is being emailed round by the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Catholic and Baptist Churches, the Primary School and members of the Parish Council. 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

Existing advertisers have been invited to say when, depending on them being open for business, they wish their adverts to reappear in “the digital Voice”. For the time being no new advertisers will be considered. Any queries on advertising please contact **Chris Atkins** on **01732 366615** or email [chris.atkins1952@gmail.com](mailto:chris.atkins1952@gmail.com).

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. 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 24 June** and these should be sent to the address below.

[m-jeffery@talktalk.net](mailto:m-jeffery@talktalk.net)  
**01732 883978**

Margaret Jeffery  
7 Lendon Road  
Borough Green  
TN15 8SE

## Church of the Good Shepherd Foodbank



If you are wanting to make a donation to the Foodbank, this can be left at the vicarage -  
24 Maidstone Road, TN15 8BD -  
there is a box in the porch.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the foodbank, either through donations of groceries or financial donations. Your support is very much appreciated.

For any enquiries regarding our Foodbank please contact Nigel Ralph **882408**.

### Teach us to pray...

A recent survey suggested that the COVID-19 crisis has led a lot of people to pray, many for the first time, as we all try to make sense of what is happening. An often asked question within church communities is, 'how should I pray?' There are lots of possible answers, with lots of different ways to pray and any way is better than not at all. But, when Jesus's disciples asked Him to, "teach us to pray" He gave them the words that we traditionally call the Lord's Prayer. That seems a good place to start a prayer journey.

Our Father. For some, that's a helpful, comforting place to begin. Father can bring images of provider, protector, someone who loves us. This is not true for everyone and it might not be how you see God at the moment. So maybe start with Mother or Friend, Sister or Brother, or perhaps for you God is currently Stranger or even Enemy. Prayer is often described as a conversation, so be honest about who you are talking to – God already knows how you feel, you won't hurt His feelings with your honesty.

Hallowed be your name. For a moment consider putting God at the centre. The focus of your love, your praise, your life, or maybe your anger, your pain, your fear – God is big enough to handle it all.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth. Imagine what the world would be like if God's kingdom, if heaven, was fully here! What needs to change for that to happen? That might be a very long list, so, what is the most immediate need, the one you're closest to? What needs to change in you for God's kingdom to rest with you? What is God inviting you to change in the world?

Give us today our daily bread. What do you need for today? Not for tomorrow, or next year. Do you have what you need for today? Ask God to help you be just in today, to see what you truly need and also to let go of worries for the future.

Forgive us, as we forgive. What are the things that separate us from God?, Although Jesus dealt with them on the cross, do we still hold on to them? What do we need to let go of from our past? And what separates us from other people that we need to let go of?

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Perhaps the most basic of prayers, 'Help me!' 'Save me!' 'When the world tempts me to walk away from you God, help me!' 'When the world is against me, save me!'

It's not necessary to say the whole prayer all together, perhaps stay with one of two lines for a while and see what they are saying to you. I've also seen a suggestion for reversing the order of the words, starting with 'Save me' and working backwards to discover at the end who it is we are praying to; are we led to 'Our Father'?

As human beings, created in God's image, I believe that prayer is as natural as breathing. Like breathing, however, sometimes we need a bit of help. If you have something you would like someone to pray for then prayer requests can be sent to [prayer.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:prayer.cogs@gmail.com) or by phone (01732) 882447.

God bless  
Rev Chris

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.



**Want to be kept up to date with the Church of the Good Shepherd news and events?**

We send out regular email updates. If you would like to be added to our mailing list then please send your email address to:

[vicar.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.cogs@gmail.com)



**Doing more shopping online? Ever heard of *easyfundraising*? Would you like to donate just by doing your normal shopping?**

We need your help! If you shop online, please could you sign up to *easyfundraising* to support The Church of the Good Shepherd?

It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the *easyfundraising* site to shop online with more than 3,500 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you!

We want to raise as much as possible to help with our continuing work in Borough Green, so please visit our *easyfundraising* page at

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cogsbg/> and click 'support us'.

Thank you!

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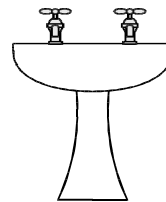
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## Notes from Borough Green Parish Council

The Parish Council met at 7.30pm on Monday 4th May 2020 online with the authority of The Local Authorities & Police & Crime Panels Regulations 2020 No.392. Matters discussed and reports received included:



- Bernie Galopin attended his first meeting in his role as Parish Clerk. Bernie can be contacted by email at [clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk) or call **07568 536405**.
- Whilst the Corona Virus lockdown continues, members of the public can email queries and comments to the Clerk, and they will be included in the public section of the meeting.
- The Playground Revamp Project is investigating 3 more tenders for a full revamp, and will be applying for Lottery Funding.
- The Council is investigating surfacing the footpath through the Recreation Ground, and possibly extending it on the East side to make a continuous surfaced path, so people can still exercise in wet weather.
- After almost a year we have finally managed to "regularise" our accounts with the Natwest Bank, which should allow us to return to some measure of online banking, and now have 5 signatories. We require two signatories for our cheques, and they are cross checked against the payments and invoices.
- We now have a PO Box mail address, which protects the Clerk's privacy, but most importantly allows us to divert mail in an instant without having to notify all our suppliers. The address is: **PO Box 635 Sevenoaks TN13 9UX**.
- We have just been notified that Tonbridge & Malling Council are withholding their Annual Contribution to the Basted Mill Open Space Committee, and so Borough Green and Platt PCs have both voted to withhold theirs.
- Many local charities who do important work in and for the village have had their funding cut, and so the Parish Council decided to award grants from its reserves to Heart of Kent Hospice, Red Cross, West Kent Mediation, The Lionesses Luncheon Club, the BG Village Hall, Home-Start, Spadework and Citizen's Advice.
- The Parish Council as a body wanted to formally thank Wrotham Parish Clerk, Lesley Cox, for her unstinting support and help over the past year, her work in preparing our annual accounts, her ongoing help in training our new Clerk.
- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held **online** 7.30pm on **Monday 1st June 2020**. The agenda will include a period for public comment, and residents are welcome to email or post comments and questions to the Clerk.
- The Annual Parish Council meeting that elects the Chairmen and appoints committees, has been deferred until our first physical meeting. Members will continue in post until that day.
- The Annual Parish Meeting, an opportunity for all village organisations and clubs to tell residents what their group does has been cancelled.

### Meet your council

The Parish Office is located within Borough Green Village Hall, but will not open for its monthly public session. Appointments can be arranged to meet the Clerk, queries raised or ideas exchanged using the contact details below.

Chairman [mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk) **01732 882880**

Clerk : [clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk)

Full minutes are posted at [www.boroughgreen.gov.uk](http://www.boroughgreen.gov.uk)

# Borough Green Medical Practice

[www.boroughgreenmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.boroughgreenmedicalpractice.co.uk)



## PATIENT NEWS CORONAVIRUS

*Newsletter issued 22 April*



**How we're working now:** To ensure that we can continue to deal with as many patients as possible, we've been advised by the government that general practice should move to telephone and online consultations where possible. This helps to minimise the number of people who are physically coming into the practice. Please do not come to the practice unless we have telephoned you and told you to come.

**The practice will continue to have processes to ensure childhood immunisation and other essential care continues.**

**If you are seen at the surgery your clinician may need to wear gloves, gown, eye protection mask so do not be alarmed. Our clinicians will also need to wear this protection on home visits. It does not indicate the person they are visiting has coronavirus it is just the precautions they must take.**

**Reception:** With the difficulties we're currently facing, telephone lines may be busier than normal, so to try to help, we've compiled a list of common queries. In addition, many mobile phone network providers have said they'll allow free access to NHS websites so that you can find the most up-to-date information about coronavirus while it's an issue for the UK.

**Sick notes for isolation:** Government guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

If you need an isolation note, you can find one here: <https://111.nhs.uk/isolation-note/>

**What if I need my regular medication?** In the first instance, we'd ask you to order repeat medication via our website or the NHS app. Please be aware that although we're processing requests as quickly as we can, the level of demand is placing the system under pressure and pharmacies may not be able to order medication quite as quickly as normal due to the volume of requests. You can order your repeat medication when you have 7 days remaining of your current prescription.

**Severely vulnerable patients: SHIELDING EXTREMELY VULNERABLE PATIENTS**

As you may be aware the government have sent over a million letters to patients advising them that they are in a 'severely vulnerable at risk' group and should isolate for the next 12 weeks. These letters were produced using hospital data and not data from GP Practices. As a result the government announced that the GP practices will be writing to additional patients. As you may have noticed, there has been a delay in this process centrally by NHS England / NHS Digital. We have been informed that we can now send the additional letters to those patients we have identified as meeting the criteria to be in the shielded group. These will



have been sent by 15 April at the latest. we have your mobile number we will text you to tell you the letter is on its way.

Following receipt of your letter you will receive a phone call from our social prescriber asking if you need any help during your isolation such as collecting shopping or prescriptions. You can also contact the NHS volunteer service to access help - 0808 196 3382.

## Prescriptions from Lloyds Pharmacy

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, and the staff of Lloyds Pharmacy, prescriptions continue to be delivered automatically to all who are aged 70 or over. For others who would like delivery because they are self-isolating or vulnerable, requests can be made by telephone to Lloyds (01732 884218) - details of exemptions need to be provided. If payment is required arrangements should be made for someone to collect prescriptions.



## Borough Green & Wrotham Netball Club

Our friendly club is looking for enthusiastic, committed players to join our netball family.

**U12** (Years 5 & 6) - High Fives

5.00-5.50pm Wednesdays at Wrotham Multicourt

**U13/U14** (Years 7, 8 & 9) - Sevens

6.00-6.50pm Wednesdays at Wrotham Multicourt

**Ladies** (16+) - Back to Netball

7.00-8.00pm Wednesdays at Wrotham Multicourt

Learn new skills, get fit and meet new friends!

For more information, please email

[jenibgwnc@gmail.com](mailto:jenibgwnc@gmail.com) or [lisabgwnc@gmail.com](mailto:lisabgwnc@gmail.com)

Call or text 07517259980



Visit our  
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**BGWC** is a back to netball club for ladies aged 16+. We train on a Wednesday evening at Wrotham Multicourt and have 2 teams in the local Tonbridge league. From September, we are expanding the club to include a junior section. This will be for girls in years 5-9, who will also train on a Wednesday. During the current situation, we are keeping our social media active (Facebook and Instagram) with training videos, games and competitions and our members are keeping in touch via weekly zoom calls. When restrictions allow, we will be back to training and hopefully the league will be ready to start again for the winter. Please do get in touch if you are interested either as an adult, or on a child's behalf. We'd love to hear from you.

The **tennis** courts in the Recreation Ground are open for hire with keys available from NISA at £4 per hour. It remains important to follow social distancing guidelines



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## Useful contact details

### Borough Green Helpers

Katherine Keen: 07533 794 431  
Jessica Stuppel: 07801 187 029  
Siobhan Hurl: 07595 622 993  
BGHELPERS



### Borough Green Pinboard



### Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Helpline for “shielded” residents 01732 876152  
TMBC Community HUB



### Kent County Council

Kent together helpline 03000 419292



[www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether)  
Mental Wellbeing Support Hub  
[www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing)

### NHS

Advice phone 111 <https://111.nhs.uk/>  
Coronavirus advice <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>  
Volunteers 0808 196 3382



### Borough Green Medical Practice

01732 885555 or 883161  
<http://www.boroughgreenmedicalpractice.co.uk>



Congratulations to the Isted family of Tolsey Mead, who have raised over £4,000 for the Platt based charity, the Alexandra Sales Trust. The Trust supports children and young people

aged one to 24 who have been diagnosed with cancer raising ‘Smile Money’, such as gifts or experiences that they will treasure.

The family rowed from the source of the Thames to Margate without leaving home. All four members of the family took turns on a rowing machine. They used an Ordnance Survey app to plot their course but the only thing they had to visualise on was the garden fence outside their conservatory. The journey started on 19 April and finished on 3 May. What an effort!

Anyone wanting to make a donation can find details of how to do so on the charity’s website <http://www.thealexandrasalestrust.co.uk/ways-to-donate/>

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## BOROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



The school is partially re-opening on 1 June and we will be facing new challenges with some year groups while still missing those pupils who are learning at home. Transitioning out of lockdown is a brand new journey for schools, unmapped, into uncharted territory, but the thought of being together again and of immersing ourselves once more in the wonder of learning and exploration is enough to fuel us for the adventure. Year 6, our oldest learners, will be once again roaming our corridors but this time with even more regulation and safety in mind. Of course, for this special year group there is more than one transition on their minds as they prepare for leaving primary school and embarking on the next part of their journeys at various secondary schools. These pupils may be visiting their new schools but if they do it will be in much smaller groups than usual.

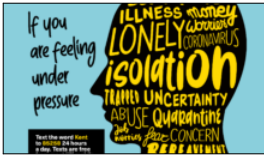
As well as our leavers being back in school, our youngest pupils will also be with us again – Reception and Year 1 pupils will be returning to school with lots of opportunities to stretch and grow their learning muscles in our outdoor spaces: the meadow, nature area, and playgrounds.

For teachers, the lockdown experience has required us to also stretch and grow our learning muscles as we teach in new ways and use technology to communicate from a distance. Our weekly phone calls to our pupils has eased the pain of separation and brought a new element to teacher-pupil relationships; an unexpected pleasure has been the way even young pupils have developed the art of the phone conversation. Another joy has been when pupils have sent us photographs or even videos of their work; the way each household interprets tasks differently and completes them with their own brand of creativity has been wonderful.

Of course we are all desperate to get back to normal, to have our corridors, classrooms and playgrounds busy again, to greet our classes every morning and send them home tired but happy every afternoon. Teachers miss the buzz of a room of 30 pupils all grappling with a task and applying their combined efforts and individual minds. Many even miss the sense of anticipation when opening a book to mark a pupil's work. We all miss the energy of a P.E. lesson, the spellbound atmosphere of a whole school assembly and the magic of 30 pupils temporarily visiting 30 different imaginative worlds when reading their books for 10 minutes after the frenetic joy of lunchtime play. One day all this will be ours again and no doubt we will treasure it more for having lost it for a while.

Stay safe.

Mrs Sandberg  
Headteacher, Borough Green Primary



## Launch of New Mental Wellbeing Support Info Hub

*(Press release issued on 30 April)*



Health partners and providers, local authorities and emergency services across Kent and Medway are working together to provide information on local support services to help people's mental wellbeing during the ongoing Coronavirus Covid-19) pandemic crisis.

Information is available at [www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing) for people experiencing bereavement and loss, debt and financial difficulties, pregnant women and new mums needing extra support, families looking for help with young children or teenagers.

There is support for those who might already have pre-existing mental health conditions, are victims of domestic abuse or are people in the shielded community. The site also offers help for people with learning disabilities, people who don't use English as a first language, carers and NHS staff, care staff and other key workers.

Kent County Council Director of Public Health, Andrew Scott-Clark said: "The challenging reality of lockdown is creating uncertainty and anxiety for many. The constant news can feel overwhelming and you may be adjusting to a different way of life, with children off school, many people not working or working from home, as well as not seeing family, friends and colleagues. This anxiety is natural, and we are all feeling it. Fortunately, there are things that we can do to protect our mental health and to support the wellbeing of our friends and family. At [www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing) you can find information, advice and signposting to other great sites which can help, whatever your situation and need. This is #kenttogether."

Thanks to all of those supplying content to [www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing](http://www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeing) including: Kent County Council; Medway Council; Public Health England; NHS England; Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group; Kent Community NHS Foundation Trust; Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust; Live Well Kent; Healthwatch Kent; Kent Community Foundation; Headstart Kent; Carers UK; Kent's Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Services; KCC Children's Centres; Citizen's Advice and Age Concern.

As part of the Release the Pressure campaign, a new text service is now available – by texting the word "Kent" or "Medway" to 85258, you will start a conversation with one of the many trained and experienced volunteers who can give support at any time, wherever you are. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Texts are free on all major mobile networks and the service is provided by SHOUT and the Crisis Text Line.

The service will run in addition to the current 24/7 freephone helpline and is funded by the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation

Partnership (STP) which is a collaboration between Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and all the NHS organisations across Kent and Medway.

Vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication are also reminded of the helpline – called **Kent Together** – which provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people.

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 [www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether) or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24-hour service.

## We are looking for volunteer Digital Befrienders

Do you have a few hours spare each week to help someone who is socially isolated to have more IT ability?

West Kent Mind is setting up a new Digital Befriending service to help clients within the Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells areas become more IT literate.

We live in a digital world. Whether it's keeping up with friends and family through FaceTime, setting up a Whatsapp group, or finding local services and activities, it's important to have the skills to keep in touch with our loved ones to reduce social isolation.

We are looking for volunteers who are IT savvy and able to share their knowledge/skills over the phone to help our clients use technology, particularly in these challenging times.

If you are interested in becoming part of our team and would like to find out more please call Angela Riley on 01732 744950 or visit:

[www.westkentmind.org.uk/what-we-offer/digital-befriending](http://www.westkentmind.org.uk/what-we-offer/digital-befriending)





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**Please stay home and stay safe**

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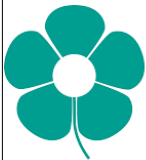


Tuesday Ladies' Club sadly were still unable to get together for their May meeting but the important thing is that we take care, stay safe and keep well. We sincerely hope that you, together with friends and family, are all doing OK. There does appear to be a glimmer of light at the end of this tunnel. Our committee have kept in touch with each other by having their committee meetings on Zoom and we are guessing that during "lock down" a great number of you have introduced yourself, or been dragged by family and friends, onto one of the video socialising sites such as WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom or Messenger to keep in touch with everybody.

The June Annual Walk and Supper is looking doubtful so we are wondering if any of you would like to join together on Zoom at 11.00 am on 2 June for a "Coffee and Chat". If this is of interest then please email us at [tuesdayladiesclub@gmail.com](mailto:tuesdayladiesclub@gmail.com). January Party on 19th 2021 is all booked at Platt Memorial Hall and we will be looking for volunteers at our October meeting to form a sub-committee and get planning for the January Party.

After the urgent request for Mask Extenders & PPE Laundry Bags many members sewed/knitted & crocheted items for the Westbank Care Home and these were delivered in April and were very much appreciated. Any cancelled speakers for missed meetings have been invited to join us next year and the programme planning sub-committee have this in hand. A TLC quiz was organised with 200 questions over four weeks and prizes were given to the first three winners. A "Halloween" Coffee Morning – 31 October is a way off but we would like to boost this event with a Nearly New clothes rail, Cake and Produce, and Bric-a-brac. Whilst going through your current long lock down list of "things to do" remember to pop things to one side in readiness for this event.

If you need to get in touch with us please email [tuesdayladiesclub@gmail.com](mailto:tuesdayladiesclub@gmail.com)



**Heart  
of Kent  
Hospice**

The Heart of Kent Hospice has had to cancel all fundraising activities and close their charity shops. Their services have always been very dependent on the support of the local community – so most of this income has vanished overnight. The charity is currently using its reserves to continue to support local terminally ill people through this difficult time, but these savings will run out later this year if it doesn't receive help soon.

The Hospice understands that times are hard for many at the moment, but ask you to please give what you can. Donations to support the care of local terminally ill people and their loved ones can be made at <https://www.hokh.org/donation-appeal/> or call Fundraising **01622 790195**. Postal donations can be sent to Heart of Kent Hospice, Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7PU.



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## Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

I hope that everyone is staying safe and well in these difficult times. I know how many in our parishes are supporting each other and the strength of the community this is showing. The Government has published its latest guidance on the next stage of our response to the virus. Because of the care people have taken in recent weeks, we are able to look at how we can all reach out more and try to get back to work. The social distancing measures that we have all been through in the past few weeks have brought down the infection rate and given us the ability to look for ways out. That's what we've all got to think about now - taking reasonable steps to get back to normal, but staying alert throughout.

The new restrictions give us greater freedom and flexibility about the steps we can take to protect ourselves and others. The message to Stay Alert is being used in France and elsewhere to ensure we all remain aware of the dangers but start to help people get back to work. We know the cost of the lockdown to individuals across our country. We need it to end, to re-open our economy as quickly as possible, and to do it in a way that doesn't risk the infection rising too high.

If you have any concerns about the guidance, or questions about what you may, or may not, be recommended to do then please get in touch. Though my office in Tonbridge is understandably closed to visitors and I am working at home, I can still answer e-mails on [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk) or pick up the phone, where the best number is **01732 441563**.

Over the past few weeks so many people have gone to extraordinary lengths to help protect our communities. I'd like to thank everyone, and especially our key workers. Whether it be doctors or nurses working in the NHS, the waste collectors who continue to empty our bins, or supermarket workers making sure we have all the food we need, thank you.

The past few weeks have seen our communities pull together like never before, and the street parties for VE Day showed just how united we can be. I hope this continues once the pandemic is over. But in the meantime please stay safe.

On another matter. It is great to see Highways England commit to ending the plans for use of the M26 as a part of Operation Brock. I am pleased they have finally listened to the calls that I have made with so many people for this to be dropped. The idea that the A25 through Platt and Borough Green could handle the M26 traffic levels on top of its own traffic during more normal times is totally unrealistic. It is right this plan is no longer under discussion and I will do all I can to ensure it never happens.

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## Action taken by some advertisers during Covid-19 pandemic

Birkbeck Chiropody & Podiatry are working as per the government and podiatry governing body guidelines have advised (urgent treatment).

Positive Health Therapy Centre are currently closed for face to face appointments but osteopathy advice is available online at [www.positivehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.positivehealthcentre.co.uk) also check there for up to date opening information.

Nigel Haley (Painter/Decorator/Handyman) is unable to work in people's houses but maybe able to do work outside weather permitting.

J & F Accountancy Ltd The office phone is currently on answerphone due to staff working from home, so please email us with any enquiries. A member of staff will then contact you.

## Defibrillator Locations:

- A) 24 hours a day:**  
The Village Hall  
Potters Mede  
The Recreation Ground  
The Fire Station
- B) When premises are open:**  
The Medical Centre  
BG Primary School



## From Your County Councillor

This month I will take the opportunity to address the subject of highways for which Kent County Council has responsibility throughout Kent, except in the Medway Council area and for Motorways, which are the responsibility of Highways England. There are particular trunk A Roads including the A21, which are also maintained by Highways England. Linked to highways, KCC has some responsibility in connection with public transport, which I shall touch on later in this column.



Over recent weeks the opportunity has been taken by many of the public and private utility companies to undertake such daytime work as would in normal circumstances lead to major road traffic delays. With so many private vehicles removed from the highway network KCC Highways has encouraged utilities and their roadwork contractors to undertake any works that can be scheduled to be undertaken during this time. This is a means to pro-actively manage the road network to the benefit of all.

I have sought to actively encourage highways work to be undertaken in my division, especially on the A20 London Road in Wrotham, where the water egress from the Spring Tavern site has now been undertaken by contractors to KCC Highways, arrangements for cost recovery from the landowner is in hand. Users of Common Road, Ightham will I hope be as pleased as residents, following the repairs to drainage. Further works to drainage issues to follow shortly in south west Hildenborough.

I sometimes receive correspondence from those seeking speed restrictions, road improvements, changes to on-street vehicle parking or more and occasionally less street furniture. Arrangements are now in hand for such matters to be considered when parish councils prepare their own local highway and transport plans. KCC highways will then try to use these where possible in order to bring about the types of improvements that residents seek.

### **Public Transport**

Three words that cause concern regarding the upcoming return to work are “avoiding public transport” if possible. This continues to put pressure on many commercial bus operators and must be balanced with the need for them in the long term, as part of the most efficient use of road space, again in the future. In the meantime, commercial and subsidised bus operations continue where possible. Clearly there are some significant challenges ahead in terms of social distancing, depending on circumstances, particularly once arrangements are put in hand to open secondary schools.

Further information is expected on how public transport will have to operate once the current restrictions are eased. At the same time school reopening and future transport needs remain unclear at the time of writing in mid-May.

Harry Rayner, Kent County Councillor  
03000 421606 [Harry.Rayner@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Harry.Rayner@kent.gov.uk)

# Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council



## Waste Services

TMBC have resumed garden waste collections because refuse collectors who had been sick or in isolation have now returned to work in sufficient numbers to begin collecting from the 27,000 homes with brown bins across the borough. TMBC have also resumed their bulky waste collection service - collecting up to 6 items from outside your property at a charge of £55. In order to protect the front line waste collection services and to adhere to Government guidance on social distancing measures, the Saturday bulky service continues to be suspended until further notice.

## Council Meetings

Meetings of TMBC have resumed after a two-month suspension caused by the coronavirus lockdown and now take place online via Microsoft Teams. The public and media are able to watch meetings via links on the [committee pages](#) of the council website.

## Haysden and Leybourne Lakes

Some good news. We're pleased to let you know that in light of the changes announced by government, the car parks at our country parks (Haysden and Leybourne Lakes) have re-opened. Please observe social distancing and note that tickets do need to be purchased.

## Poult Wood Golf Course

We are pleased to announce that Poult Wood Golf Course is open. There are a number of restrictions in place with regards to booking & playing - please read at [www.tmactive.co.uk/news/464-pw-1305](http://www.tmactive.co.uk/news/464-pw-1305)



Government advice about essential visits to HWRCs is that journeys must only be made if the waste cannot be stored without causing risk of injury, health or harm. People can now book a slot to use Kent's HWRCs either online at [www.kent.gov.uk/hwrcbook](http://www.kent.gov.uk/hwrcbook) or by phone on **03000 417373**.

Residents can only book one trip in any four-week period to allow all residents to have access and must follow social distancing guidelines. More details can be found on the website above, including the requirements to wear disposable gloves and take proof of booking with you.

## LOCAL PLAN HEARINGS

The Planning Inspectorate issued general guidance on Covid-19 and Local Plan Examinations on 13 May (including the following extract).

*The recent Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) sets out the Government's expectations for how the planning system should be operating under the Covid-19 restrictions. The WMS states that moving to digital events and processes will be critical to drive the planning process forward and that Government expects Inspectors to take decisions about whether and how virtual events should proceed and to consider the practical measures needed to ensure fair participation*

*We are currently working with two local authorities to trial holding local plan hearing sessions as digital events (by video/telephone conference). We will look at phasing this in for other local plan examinations, building on the experience from digital pilots across the organisation and elsewhere*

*We will be asking Inspectors to explore with local authorities and Programme Officers how each current examination can best move forward ensuring fair participation. For some examinations this may mean moving ahead with virtual hearings. For others, where the hearings are likely to be programmed for autumn, it may involve provisionally arranging hearing sessions and then reviewing how these would be best be run in the light of any forthcoming changes in Government guidance on Covid-19.*

We will have to wait to see what decisions are taken about the postponed hearing on TMBC's Local Plan (including the proposed extensive housing development for Borough Green Gardens). Updates should appear on the Council's website - [TMBC Local Plan examination Latest News and Updates](#)



TMBC has installed an Air Quality Monitor at the Western Road/Sevenoaks Road roundabout. It will be there for at least a year to collect data on the quality of air that we are breathing in - the level of Particulate Matter (PM 10) that can end up in our lungs.



So despite being on lockdown the Westbank Care Home would really like to support the Alzheimer's Society and join in with their Cupcake Day on Thursday 18 June from 2.30pm. We would like to invite anyone who would like to make a donation to come and join us for a socially distant cup cake and Pimm's in our grounds.

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