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GOUDHURST PARISH & PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - April 2024

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Chairman's Update



Many in our parish must wonder **why changes expected or hoped for seem to take so long** to happen or do not happen at all. Part of the answer is that many of the changes we would like and for which we lobby, are not within the power of a Parish Council to give. With Planning, we give our opinion to the Borough, but cannot force our view. Our Borough Councillors may try, but may not always succeed. Even when a Planning decision is made and conditions imposed, if they are ignored, as may happen, it is for Borough “enforcement” to act, which they may fail to do. Just as with Planning, so with Highways. We do our best lobbying KCC and National Highways and your council endeavours to never give up. What can you do? The answer is elect Borough and County Councillors and MP’s who, working with their parish, try to get the right Laws, decisions and actions, wherever power lies.

Speeding vehicles on rural lanes can be dangerous and frightening for walkers, cyclists and other motorists, especially on most of Goudhurst’s often single track roads. So we are asked why we are not doing something about it. Well, where we can we do, as with the changes and speed reduction on the A21 after seven years of local and council effort. However, the national legal limit is 60 outside the restricted roads within the built up area or where it may be deemed too dangerous because of the number of fatalities. But why do Council not restrict the speed “outside my house, it’s very dangerous” and so it may be. However, the same applies also to 90% of the minor roads in our parishes and probably across much of the country. So, unless decided nationally, a reduction from a 60 mph limit, isn’t likely to happen. But who is doing the speeding? Usually it is us, the residents of our own parish, some thinking 60 is the target, without recognising that in the rain, on a bend, 60 may

not be possible. Council will do its best, to get more safe cornering advisory signs. But the only realistic regulator of traffic speed remains, as always, ourselves.

New laws governing England's farm hedgerows, and the myriad life they support, are being introduced, including a **hedge cutting ban** from 1 March to 31 August. This may soon be extended and include buffer zones for dormice and many species providing natural pest management for farmers and be beneficial to pollinators and insects which feed on aphids damaging to crops. So why don't we all adopt this, not just farmers; council, schools and businesses, so our wonderful environment may flourish.

Our **Parish Annual Meeting** will be held in the **Goudhurst Club** at 7pm on Monday 20th May. We will also be joining the Kilndown Annual Meeting, date to be advised. These are community events where as many as possible of our clubs, societies, associations and other organisations join the Parish Council to explain to the community what they are doing and answer questions. So please come, have a cup of tea and listen to all the amazing things that are available in our community.

Goudhurst In Bloom. We are currently reviewing the categories: "The Cottage Garden Trophy" "Goudhurst in Bloom, "The Floral Cup", Hospitality and Business etc. and we expect judging to be during the last week of June. Details: application forms, etc. in May e-Newsletter. Meanwhile, let's get gardening.

Christ Church **Kilndown's organ** has now been updated; digitalised to the latest standards. No, it's not an electric organ but the real thing, with pipes, a lovely tone and wind to blow the sound. However, it also has the latest technology to record the tune and everything that the organist has played; so when required, it can play back the music, in real time and with a strong blow of the pipes, just as the organist originally played it.

In the early summer, GPC will hopefully be moving to **our new office** in the High Street. We have some minor upgrades and improvements to make to the premises, so if you are a local builder, plumber, etc and have availability May/June, do get in touch and contact Panetta on RFO @Goudhurst-pc.gov.uk.

Our **Parish Clerk**, Mrs Claire Read, who has been with us for nearly five years, will be moving on at the beginning of May to pursue her career as Clerk with another parish and with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Thank you Claire for everything you have done for us, and your hard work. We wish you well for the future.

The **Summer Fete** will be on Saturday 8th of June, organised this year by Goudhurst and Kilndown School PTFA.

Your Parish Councillors*: Craig Broom, Antony Harris (Chairman), Edward Hodgskin, Suzie Kember, Julia Kiggell, Phil Kirkby, David Knight, Geoff Mason, Ed Reed-Cutting, Caroline Richards, Paul Wareham, and Alison Webster.

*Contact Councillors using:- first.surname@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council: Claire Reed, 01580 212552 or 07494 117313

clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Deputy Clerk: Katrina Hoyle. 0753 438 4712

Meetings

Unless otherwise stated, during the winter months the meetings will be held in the Church Rooms (behind St Mary's by the entrance to the Vicarage and children's play area).

Planning	Tuesday	23 Apr at 6.30 pm
Youth and Housing	Tuesday	23 Apr at 7.30 pm
Parish Council	Tuesday	14 May at 7.00 pm
Parish Annual Meeting	Monday	20 May at 7.00 pm at the Social Club



Committee Meetings in April 2024

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Planning Committee Meeting [View the Agenda](#) (published 17th April 2024)

At 6.30pm

Youth and Housing Committee Meeting [View the Agenda](#) (published 16th April 2024)

At 7.00pm

Goudhurst Parish Council matters because many of the issues it deals with affect us personally, even when they are little things. Don't forget that you can have your say by joining your Parish Councillors for a **tea and chat** before our monthly Council Meetings, every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Guided Tour of Kilndown Woods

Following the April article in our local Parish Magazine, Scotney Castle National Trust updated us on the work being carried out in Kilndown Woods. There is a guided tour of Kilndown Woods by The National Trust on Monday 22nd April, **meeting at 10 a.m at the Village Hall in Kilndown.** The walk will be run by Senior Ranger Richard Newman who will also explain the National Trust Woodland Management plan.

All villagers are welcome

Friends of the Earth Community Litter Pick

Please join us for a Community Litter Pick on **Sunday 21st April, at 10am, meeting at Goudhurst Village Car Park,** hosted by Friends of the Earth. All are welcome and equipment will be provided.

For more information about the Friends of the Earth and the work they do, please visit their website: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Friends of
St Mary's Church
Goudhurst

Persuasion by Jane Austen

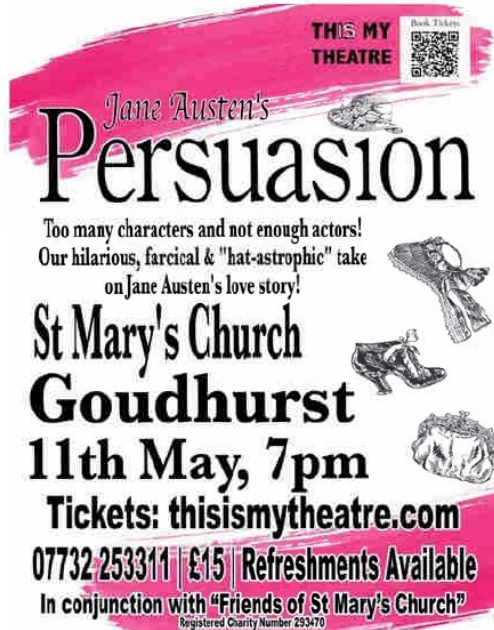
- a fundraising event to raise funds for the new UV windows to protect our rare Culpeper Figures

This is my Theatre is a touring theatre company specialising in classical adaptations and new commissions for historic buildings and venues across the UK.

For tickets, visit www.thisismytheatre.com/
Then click "**Persuasion**", click "**Complete full venue list**", and finally click "**St Mary's Church**".

A Bar will be available before the performance.

Please support us - we look forward to seeing you there!



fundraising to preserve the Church
for future generations



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Kilndown Village Hall

The hall is looking fresh and new once more having had the wooden floor completely sanded and re-finished over the summer. A light and

airy space, perfect for all kinds of activities and gatherings large and small.

If you are looking for somewhere to hold an event please contact Evie Banfield on 07872 348155 bookings.kilndown@gmail.com or for more information go to www.kilndownvillagehall.org



Update from Bewl Water Reservoir

Southern Water will soon be installing three large hydraulic siphons to reduce the water level more quickly, if needed.

The siphons might be used to reduce high water levels during exceptionally heavy rainfall or to carry out repairs to the dam.

They started work in 2023, with a view to completion in 2025. This work included keeping the water level low to temporarily remove part of the concrete wave wall at the northern end of the reservoir. Extreme weather conditions, such as Storm Ciaran, delayed the work.

With the summer season approaching, they have decided not to maintain the

lower water levels within the reservoir, as this could affect recreational users of Bewl Water, the businesses that rely on this trade and water supply in the region.

They aim to re-start the work in the reservoir after the summer, when they will once again temporarily reduce the level of water to finish the work on the wave wall and complete this vital project. They are still on course to finish in 2025.

Protecting and preserving the environment are always top of their list when they start a new project. The area given over for the build is just under 3,000 square metres. Southern Water will compensate by adding 6,500 square metres of wet woodland creation, boggy hollows, meadow creating and tree planting in other areas around Bewl Water.



What care services do local councils provide?

Kent County Council can help you stay in your own home if you have care needs. They provide meals, carers, transport, home modifications and equipment that helps with the tasks of daily living, although you'll usually still need to pay something towards your care costs. If you have savings above £23,250 or a high income, you'll probably have to meet the full cost yourself.

If you have a disability or complex medical condition that means you have healthcare needs rather than social care needs, you might qualify for NHS funding.

Getting a local council care needs assessment

Contact the social services department of KCC to ask for a care needs

assessment. It's free and it's your legal right to have one. You shouldn't be refused an assessment because the local council thinks your needs aren't great enough or that you won't qualify for financial help. There is an online form or you can call 03000 41 61 61.

KCC will identify your care needs and check that they meet a nationally agreed set of criteria. If you qualify for help, they have a legal duty to provide or arrange the services you need.

How to find out if you qualify for local council funding for care costs

Either at the same time as the needs assessment or soon after, KCC will carry out a financial assessment to see if you qualify for funding if they deem your needs as eligible when assessed against national criteria.

Deciding who manages your personal care budget

If you qualify for financial help, you can ask your local council to arrange the care services for you or receive direct payments from the local council and organise your care yourself. Alternatively, you can have a mixture of the two.

This information has been tailored from one of our trusted resources, Money Helper, a website run by HM Government www.moneyhelper.org.uk. More information is also available on KCC's website www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health

PWCAC is OPEN for face-to-face advice (appointments and drop-ins) Monday to Friday, 9:30 – 1:30. If you need advice about consumer issues, housing and homelessness, debt, relationship breakdown, welfare benefits or anything else, get in touch with us:

If the lights do go out... remember to check on neighbours who might need extra help.

PWCAC is OPEN for face-to-face advice (appointments and drop-

ins) Monday to Friday, 9:30 – 1:30. If you need advice about the above or about housing and homelessness, debt, relationship breakdown, welfare benefits or anything else, get in touch with us:

info@pwadvice.org | 01892 838619

94 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP

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1147816



Report a problem on a road or pavement

You can report non-urgent issues including:

- street light faults
- potholes
- drainage
- traffic signal faults
- overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass)

quickly and easily to Kent Highways via their [online reporting tool](#).



Planned Road Closures

Details of all road closures, including emergency closures, can be found at: <https://one.network/uk/kent>



Welcome Booklet – Have you got a new neighbour?

The Parish Council is delighted to support an initiative by some local residents who thought that it would be a good idea to put together a Welcome Booklet to give to people who move into Goudhurst, so that they feel part of the local community. It has details of health services, education, local shops, local societies etc. Also in the bag will be a leaflet with details of refuse collections, the church booklet and a gift of chocolate. This has kindly been provided by Goupie. (Goupie hand-make uniquely textured vegan friendly chocolate confectionery to an old family recipe in Goudhurst, Kent.)

If you have a new neighbour please contact one of the team below who will provide you with a bag to take round or they can deliver direct to your new neighbour if you prefer.

Chris 07952 545472; Linda 07485 727656; Sue 07905 791627



Help spread the word!

If you found this e-newsletter interesting and informative please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to sign up. They can do so on our website: <https://goudhurst-pc.gov.uk/e-newsletter-sign-up/> or by emailing the Clerk clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk



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