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GOUDHURST PARISH & PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - May 2024

Issue 40

Chairman's Report



With the local elections now over, within the new Borough Council boundaries, Goudhurst shares three borough councillors with our neighbours (Lamberhurst, Horsmonden, Brenchley and Matfield). Congratulations to David Knight on his re-election to the Borough Council; we look forward to meeting our other elected borough councillors, Lynne Darrah and Thomas Mobbs, in due course.

Our Parish Annual Meeting will be held in the Social Club at 7pm on Monday 20th May. This is a community event, where as many as possible of our clubs, societies, associations and other organisations present themselves to our community. They join the Parish Council to explain to the community what they are doing and answer questions. The Parish Council will be introducing the Chairmen of our various committees for the coming year and their priorities. We will also be presenting a first outline of the results of our recent public consultation survey.

So please join us for refreshments and listen to all the amazing things that are available in our community. We will be holding a second meeting in Kilndown, early September.



Goudhurst in Bloom will be judged during the last week of June with entries accepted until mid-June. Gill Wallis-Hoskin has confirmed that the awards will be made as follows:

- **The Veronica Knight** cup will be for the best village garden visible (mostly) from the road.
- **The Dench cup** will be for the best cottage garden, not visible from the road.
- **The Hugo cup** will be chosen from the best non-commercial display; such as schools, preschools, war memorial, the Social Club etc.

If in doubt, just please enter your garden and we can pop you into a suitable group. Applications please to the Parish Office with your name, address, post code, category chosen and contact details. A parish events calendar, coordinated by Cllr Edward Hodgskin, is now available on the parish website and noticeboards, outlining both regular and other events that have been notified to us in sufficient time. The Summer Fete will be on Saturday 8th of June, organised this year by Goudhurst and Kilndown School PTFA and Classic Car events will resume at Lower Ladysden Farm on the second Sunday of the month until September; commencing on the morning of Sunday 12th May.

Following the departure of our former Clerk, our Parish Office will be run by our Deputy Clerk, Katrina Hoyle, supported by our Financial Officer, Panetta Horn. Over the next few months Council will be evaluating the permanent staffing needs for the office.

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 a Councillor using:- first.surname@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Office: 01580 212552 or 07494 117313 / 0753438 4712
clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Meetings in May

Unless otherwise stated, 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 14th May at 6.30 pm**

Parish Council Annual Meeting - Tuesday 14 May at 7.00 pm

Planning - **Tuesday 28 May at 6.30 pm**

Amenities - **Tuesday 28 May at 7.30 pm**

Parish Annual Meeting - Monday 20 May at 7.00 pm at the Social Club.

Agendas can be found on our website: [here](#)*

*Agendas are published the Wednesday before the meeting is scheduled.

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.



80th Anniversary of D-Day

Thursday 6 June 2024 is the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

We will be commemorating the momentous history by raising flags in Goudhurst, Kilndown, and Curtisden Green, and by ringing bells.

On 6 June 1944, many first learned the liberation of Europe had begun from church bells, which had been silent for most of the preceding five years.

A flag-raising ceremony will be held at the Goudhurst war memorial at 9:30am on 6 June.

You can buy your own official commemorative D-Day Flag of Peace from Newton Flags by [clicking here](#). **Please note orders will not be possible after 17 May.**

The school is also planning to include commemorative artwork in the fete on Saturday 8 June. More information, including timings, will be published on Facebook once confirmed.

Cllr Edward Hodgskin

Goudhurst's Plan Bee



‘Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘Let’s party!’ – Robin Williams.

St Mary’s Churchyard & Victorian Cemetery

A project that’s been in the making for a while now is how to manage the grassland around the church and our burial grounds in a gentler, more traditional way as would have been in done in centuries past to encourage our wildflowers and pollinators. Our churchyards are probably the most ancient and enclosed pieces of land in the parish.



Apart from grave-digging, the grassland will have been relatively undisturbed re-seeding naturally for hundreds of years.

It will also probably have been both



mown for hay and grazed by animals during its time as a burial ground.

The consequence of all this is a diversity of beautiful grasses and associated flowers, some of which may now be uncommon in Britain, just waiting for the chance to flower.

Sensitive management can enhance the sanctuary that a churchyard provides encouraging a diversity of plants and animals from magnificent yew trees and minute colourful lichen to animals such as slow worms, bumblebees and swifts.

Grassland Management Plan

Put simply we're going to mow less – remember it's No Mow May this month – and we'll see what comes up naturally. Of course we can't do this everywhere so we'll still cut the grass as now in the main areas around the front of church so it will still look neat and tidy.

However, we will be managing other areas to a medium length of up to 10cm by cutting just once a month. This will encourage low-flowering plants such as clover, bird's-foot trefoil and self-heal. In turn, the flowers will attract insects (bees in particular if clovers are present) and other invertebrates and small mammals.

We plan to have several areas of long grass which will allow more plants to flower and set seed so if the site really does contain unimproved old grassland then the range of flowers could be rather wonderful. Bees and butterflies will be attracted whilst beetles, grasshoppers and bumblebees will use the long grass for cover. However, this may take some time to happen so it might not look spectacular from day one. Remember – wildlife doesn't like neat and manicured but there will be plenty of interesting and wonderful plants if you look closely.

We have ordered signs from our friends



at Caring for God's Acre which will explain to everyone exactly what we're doing and why and we've briefed our contractors on what we're trying to achieve.

In particular, they will need to remove any grass cuttings as they can smother delicate plants and increase fertility at the expense of wildflowers. Plus it looks unsightly!

There are plans for a display at the entrance to the church too which will explain and show what we're doing – watch this space!

Yellow Rattle

This plant is really useful in creating and enhancing wildflower meadows. It is a semi-parasitic meadow annual which attached itself to neighbouring grasses through the root system and reduces the vigour of the grass. Wildflowers like less grass and impoverished soil. Where yellow rattle is present you can see that the grass is shorter and less dense. If you're doing this at home, sow yellow rattle seed in early autumn so that it over-winters in the soil. Sometimes it doesn't germinate well so keep trying for several years, we had a yellow rattle breakthrough last year and it's now exciting to see it spreading which will help our meadow no end

Beware of Hedgehogs and Strimmers!

We were overjoyed to see hedgehogs are out and about last month and we've captured several on our trail camera having a good feed at our hedgehog feeding station. The better weather means everyone is out gardening but please beware of hedgehogs when using a strimmer

because they like to hide in long grass and foliage. All it takes is to have a rustle around and make some noise so they move on before you cut. Or perhaps even better, don't cut the area at all!



Remember the Parish Council Office have a supply of hedgehog highway surrounds available for a small voluntary donation. And if you find a hedgehog out and about during the day, it needs to be taken to a rescue centre as being a nocturnal animal it is likely to be unwell. Our friends at Folly Wildlife Rescue will be able to help.

If you'd like to get involved with our wildlife projects around the village and join our **Wild About Goudhurst & Kilndown Working Party**, do drop me a line, I'd love to hear from you. Give our Facebook page a follow too.

For the bees

Geoff Mason

geoff.mason@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk

Sources and Credits:

Caring for God's Acre – Churchyard & Burial Ground Action Pack
 The British Hedgehog Preservation Society
 Photo Credits – Caring for God's Acre

What's on?

Please use our website for the full list of all events. [Click here](#). It is also available to view on the village notice boards.

Friends of
St Mary's Church
Goudhurst

Persuasion by Jane Austen

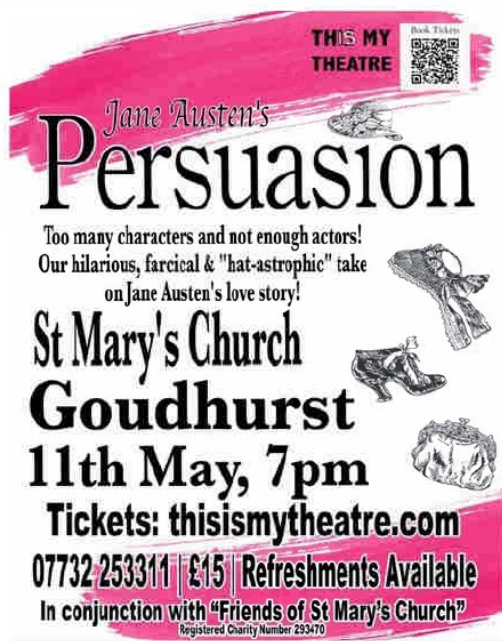
- a fundraising event to raise funds for the new UV windows to protect our rare Culpeper Figures

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



Art Classes
at Goudhurst Village Hall

10am - 1pm
Fridays
(2nd & 4th of each month)
Term Time Only
£15 per session

Starting
26th January
:2024

For enquiries and bookings email:
gphbookings@outlook.com



20
24

Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival Programme

Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 May

More details at twLitFest.co.uk
Box office **01892 554441**







Forestry England

Forest Yoga

25 April - 27 June 2024
Thursdays 11.30-12.30

Funded by the Social Prescribing Project*
Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest are offering a free 8-week Forest Yoga course for people experiencing long term physical and mental health conditions.

Forest Yoga is gentle and focuses on gradually improving overall wellbeing by developing flexibility, strength and reducing stress levels.

Led by Lisa Whitehouse, qualified Yoga and Mindfulness teacher, classes take place under the canopy of the stunning trees. This is a small and friendly group where no experience is required, and everyone is welcome.

*Social Prescribing Project is part of Active Forests Removing Barriers Programme, a partnership between Forestry England and Sport England.

Please note that Bedgebury is not accessible via public transport, and a reduced vehicle admission fee of £3.80 applies per session.

**For more information and to book contact:
lisa@lisawhitehouse.co.uk**

Help, Advice and Reporting

Planned Road Closures

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

Report a problem on a road or pavement

You can report non-urgent issues quickly and easily to Kent Highways via their [online reporting tool](#).

Welcome Booklet

If you have a new neighbour please contact one of the team to discuss the welcome pack.
Chris 07952 545472;
Linda 07485 727656;
Sue 07905 791627



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

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Use the The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free UK wide service which provides extra advice and support, including when there's an interruption to your electricity, gas or water supply. e block's Settings tab to change the caption position and set other styles. [Please click here for more information](#)



West Kent Grants

Support for rural businesses and communities

Up to £24,999
Capital only grants



www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/westkentruralgrants
ruralgrants@sevenoaks.gov.uk

This is a joint scheme which covers Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, and Tunbridge Wells boroughs and is administered by Sevenoaks District Council.

Funded by Government through the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

*Project match funding required; terms and conditions apply.



Funded by
UK Government



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



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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