



## **RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Ryarsh Village Community Award**

This year's Ryarsh Village Award was presented to Ba Storey. Ba has been involved in village life for decades, and given many hours of service for the community, currently being heavily involved with running Ryarsh Village Hall.



### **Long Service Award**

A presentation was made to Ivor Emson, who retired as Vice-Chairman in April. The salver was given in recognition of an incredible 33 years' service on the Parish Council



### **June Parish Council Meeting**

- Two new Parish Councillors were co-opted to fill the vacancies left after the uncontested elections. Cllrs Chris Bowyer and Eddie Dennis were welcomed onto the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council is still unable to circulate emails using its Village Distribution List. These will be resumed shortly using mailchimp
- Councillors agreed to fund a picnic bench for Ryarsh Park residents to use



### **Kent County Council**

County Councillor Hohler provided the following report:

- Visit Kent have 70 tourist attractions as part of the Kent Big weekend on the 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> June weekend. Bus transport is free that weekend thanks to a collaboration between KCC and the bus companies in Kent.

- The Leader of KCC has written to the Director General of the BBC about a proposed 40% cut in finance to radio Kent. The radio is widely used for travel etc and KCC and the Kent Resilience Forum have a good relationship with Radio Kent.
- The Prime minister visited Kent Scientific Services at Kings Hill and met with the KCC leader and Trading Standards. They are seizing vapes that are not legal at Ports and are trying to stop free samples being given to children.
- Due to the risk of fire from batteries there has been a ban on E-Scooters on rail services across the whole South East, including at station storage.
- Natural England has announced Shaun the sheep is the new mascot of the Kent Countryside Code. Cllr Hohler is Rural Champion for Kent.
- KCC have been told to cut the Annual Budget for Waste Disposal by £1.5m. 2 sites are already closed and another 2 are being looked at. Allington HWRC definitely won't close.
- There is a new campaign for Eurostar, asking for international trains to stop at Ashford and Ebbsfleet again.
- South East Water have said there is not enough drinking water so asked people not to water their plants.



### **TMBC**

Borough Councillor Banks reported that:

- He and Borough Councillor Paul Boxall work together, but won't both attend Parish meetings. They have three Parish Councils to cover and are treating Leybourne Chase Residents Association separately.
- He is attending the TMBC Parish Partnership Panel, which Cllr McKinlay has attended for years. Fly tipping might be on the agenda, and Cllr Banks is conscious that this is a concern for Ryarsh and Birling.
- He is interested in Emergency Planning and was involved with the plan for Leybourne.
- He is also interested in tree planting, and has involved schools in this
- In connection with planning, although he is new, he wants to keep green spaces between villages. He was involved in campaigning to buy Leybourne wood.

TMBC are the waste collection authority. The cost of clearing up fly tipping falls to the Borough Council, but the revenue from prosecuting offenders is collected by the Borough Council. Fly tipping can be reported to TMBC online [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk) or through the Country Eye App.



### **Community Speedwatch – Kent Police**

One way that the community can work together to improve speed is through Speedwatch - [Community Speedwatch | Kent Police](#)

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a road safety initiative that's coordinated by Kent Police and run by local communities. Trained volunteers monitor the speeds of vehicles using approved 'speed indication devices' (SIDs).

The aim of the initiative is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities

- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Speedwatch helps reduce speed. Kent Police collect the data about vehicle speeds and assess it. If problems with speeding and dangerous driving are shown, appropriate action is taken. This may include:

- raising the issues with Kent County Council Highways officers
- enforcing speed limits with help from the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership and their Special Constabulary
- enforcing road safety laws using local officers

If you are interested in taking part in the Speedwatch Initiative, please speak to one of the Councillors or contact the Parish Clerk – [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk). If there are enough volunteers the Parish Council will look into arranging training and purchasing the necessary equipment. Speedwatch encourages drivers to slow down but also provides us with evidence to use when asking Kent Highways or the Police to take action.



### **Police**

The new team have been in touch with the Parish Council. Terry Newman is the Inspector for the Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Unit, Nick Atkinson is the Beat Sergeant and Lisa Whitehead is the Beat Officer.

### **Next Parish Council meeting**

The next meeting which will be held in The Davison Room of Ryarsh Village Hall on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8pm.**

You can contact the Clerk by email at [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk). For more information, please go to our website [www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk)



## Rural crime meeting with Maidstone MPs and Farmers

This is a special “rural” edition of our newsletter. The PCC has recently been meeting with MPs, local councillors and farmers, to discuss rural crime around the county. He would like to update you about the work which is underway to try to alleviate some of the problems.

### Matthew Scott

Letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Sutton Road,  
Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ



9 June 2023

*Dear Resident*

Rural crime has always been a priority for me. Crime is important no matter where it takes place and this has always been a guiding principle of my Police and Crime Plan. I therefore wanted to update you on rural matters that have been raised with me in recent months that Kent Police and I have acted upon. First, I'm pleased to report that the Chief Constable has added Rural Crime to the Control Strategy. The control strategy is the document that sets out the operational priorities for crime prevention, intelligence and enforcement.



*contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk kent-pcc.gov.uk*

It provides the force with a framework to ensure officers and staff focus on the crime types and offenders causing most harm within our communities and presenting most risk to law-abiding residents. This was a key ask of the NFU and I'm pleased this has been listened to.

Secondly, the Neighbourhood Policing Model has started its transition this week. This means that every ward will have a named Officer, and as the Chief Constable has said at my

Performance and Delivery Board this week, this will effectively mean having rural beat Officers. These changes are already being seen across the county as the phased roll out of beat Officers begins. On top of this seven PCSOs will be added to the specialist Rural Crime Taskforce.

I have worked with MPs to lobby for greater penalties for flytipping. The Government has listened and will be bringing forward plans on this issue to put these in place. Additionally, the Government is consulting on legislation relating to equipment theft and prevention, so it would be great to see submissions from Kent. You can access the consultation at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/equipment-theft-prevention-bill-call-for-evidence/equipment-theft-prevention-bill-call-for-evidence-accessible-version>.

On crime reporting, 101 call waiting times have improved. Call attrition (the numbers who disconnect/hang up without answering) is regularly below 10% now, down from a peak of 55% in October. Average waiting times across the 24-hour period were down to less than three minutes. A long term plan is being put in place that will see resources focussed on the Force Control Room so that the improvements that we have seen so far continue in the months ahead. Please remember you can call 999 when life is in danger or when there is a crime in progress, regardless of how serious it is. You can find out more about all the options to report crime at [www.linktr.ee/victimvoice](http://www.linktr.ee/victimvoice).

Finally, response policing was an issue. The Chief Constable has added 300 Officers to Local Policing Teams to deal with emergency calls in the last year which will help with the initial response to crime and antisocial behaviour.

I hope that this update is helpful to you.

Yours faithfully



@kent\_opcc



@KentPCC



@PCCKent



Kent PCC's office

*contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk kent-pcc.gov.uk*

NU-VENTURE		Buses 58 and 70 from 13 February 2023	
Kent County Council financial support for buses 58 and 70 ends from 12 February 2023 and school-time buses 558/578 also cease to serve the Malling area. However, until July 2023, Nu-Venture will continue to operate a limited replacement daytime service on certain days of the week as shown below.			
Please - use it or lose it! Continuation beyond July 2023 will be dependent on usage in coming months.			
Fridays only - starts 17 February 2023		Nu-Venture Bus 58	
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0930	MAIDSTONE King St (Boots)	1300
Wrotham Square	0935	also stops at Town Hall and West Stn	
Addington opp The Green	0945	Aylesford (A20) Sainsbury's	1318
Trottiscliffe opp The George	0954	A20 Ditton Corner	1321
Wrotham Heath adj The Vineyard	0959	Larkfield Wealden Hall	1323
Addington opp Jungle Café	1003	East Malling opp King & Queen	1326
Ryarsh opp Duke of Wellington	1008	West Malling High St opp Tesco	1334
Birling opp Nevill Bull	1011	Leybourne adj The Old Rectory	1339
Leybourne Baywell	1016	Birling adj Nevill Bull	1345
West Malling High St opp Tesco	1023	Ryarsh adj Duke of Wellington	1348
East Malling King & Queen	1031	A20 Addington Jungle Café	1353
Larkfield opp Wealden Hall	1035	Addington opp The Green	1356
A20 Hall Road opp Sainsbury's	1039	Trottiscliffe opp The George	1401
MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE	1055	Wrotham Heath adj The Vineyard	1408
		Wrotham Square	1413
		BOROUGH GREEN STATION	1418
Mondays only - starts 13 February 2023		Nu-Venture Bus 70	
Wrotham Square	0930	West Malling High St opp Tesco	1145
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0937	East Malling King & Queen	1153
Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	0942	TESCO LUNSFORD PK Chaucer Way	1200
Wrotham Heath Royal Oak	0945	Leybourne Chase Costcutter	1210
Offham Green	0950	West Malling High St Tesco	1220
West Malling High St opp Tesco	0956	Offham Green	1225
Leybourne Chase opp Costcutter	1006	Wrotham Heath Royal Oak	1230
TESCO LUNSFORD PK Chaucer Way	1016	Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	1233
East Malling opp King & Queen	1024	BOROUGH GREEN STATION	1238
West Malling High St Tesco	1032	Wrotham Square	1243
Code M = Mondays only - No service on other days. NO service on Bank Holidays Code F = Fridays only - No service on other days. NO service on Bank Holidays			

Buses serve all bus stops on line of route.

When boarding, please give a clear hand-signal as the bus approaches.

Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares available for all journeys.

We welcome the English National Concessionary Travel Pass.

Published by Nu-Venture Coaches Ltd. 01622 882288. [www.nu-venture.co.uk](http://www.nu-venture.co.uk)



## Guided group walks – July 2023



Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation.

We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader beforehand to check that their walk will suit you. For details of all our mid-week and Sunday walks, and walk leaders see:

[www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk).

Sunday 2 July	Happy Valley, Harvel and Wood Hill: a loop south from Meopham Green with lovely views across the valleys. Moderate difficulty.	4.5 miles
Thursday 6 July	Circular walk 'Over the Hill' - from Dunk's Green to West Peckham. One long leisurely climb; wonderful scenery. Moderate difficulty.	5.2 miles
Sunday 16 July	Circular walk from Harrietsham including sections of the North Downs Way. Excellent views of the surrounding countryside. Moderate difficulty; 14 stiles.	5 miles
Thursday 20 July	Circular walk from Shorne Woods Country Park taking in Cobham Hall, Ranscombe Farm Reserve, the Darnley Mausoleum and Cobham village. Moderate difficulty.	6.2 miles
Sunday 23 July	Kemsing to St Clere circular walk. Steady climb up the North Downs for great views to the South Downs on a clear day. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Wednesday 26 July	A flat walk from The Bell at Golden Green to East Peckham and back along the Medway. Moderate difficulty.	7 miles
Sunday 30 July	Penshurst and the Eden Valley via fields, woodland and a vineyard, through the parkland of Penshurst estate and past Penshurst Church. Beautiful rural views. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short break half-way through the walk (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub.		