



RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL

December Parish Council Meetings

- The Parish Council met on Monday 13th December 2023.
- The January meeting has been postponed until Monday 15th January 2024.
- Cllr McKinlay laid a Wreath at the Remembrance Service at St Martin's Church on behalf of the Parish Council
- Cllrs McKinlay and Betts attended the Annual Play Area Inspection. Cllr Betts also carries out regular inspections during the month. The play area is owned by the Village Hall, but the Parish Council carries out inspections, repairs, maintenance and installs new equipment to help the Village Hall.
- The Lease of Ryarsh Village Hall to Ryarsh Village Hall Trust has at last been registered with the Land Registry. The Parish Council has paid all legal costs in connection with this new lease to help Ryarsh Village Hall Trust.
- Cllr McKinlay commented on the Parish Council's budget and expenditure this year. The unprecedented increase in Street light.

County Councillor Hohler

- KCC has been successful with its judicial review about the problems it has been facing concerning the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
- The government has allotted £4,296,000 to KCC for additional road repair funding for next year and at least £134,5 m over next decade. A well maintained road surface can save drivers up to £440 each in vehicle repairs.
- KCC has introduced a scheme offering Kent residents and businesses an opportunity to recycle their unwanted IT equipment and devices. Specialists will wipe 100% of data off devices to make sure they can be recycled which means there will be no waste in landfill. For details: www.kent.gov.uk/DeviceRecyclingScheme
- The KCC cabinet has made progress on Family Hubs and Kent Communities following extensive community consultations to which there were 1,700 replies, 78% of which were from residents.
- The Family Hubs are for families who need help with their children from ages 0 to 25. The buildings for the hubs will be sited where access is good and will be linked to public transport.
- Service delivery is in line with DFE guidelines. The open access offer is for children aged 0-19 (and from 0-25 for SEND) Including direct work, outreach support, and a digital offer for infants, children, young people and their parents and carers.
- Kent Community buildings will provide youth services, adult education, open access youth and children services, including public health, and for adults with learning disabilities.

Police

PC Dylan McElligott has taken over the area from PC Lisa Whitehead.

Report:

On 07/12/2023, in Trottiscliffe there were approximately 7 shed/garage breaks whereby suspects took items such as tools, strimmers and jet washers. Police attended and disturbed the suspect who unfortunately managed to evade officers by travelling over fields which caused difficulty when pursuing them. There have been shed breaks in various locations across the Malling side of Tonbridge/Malling however Trottiscliffe was particularly targeted on this occasion and it is not unusual for suspects to target one village before moving on to the next village nearby.

Advice offered to residents includes:

- Consider CCTV/Ring doorbells

- Shed alarm/motion sensors
- Secure locks that can't be cut
- Secure valuable items
- Dial 999 if there is a break in progress

Birling Road – Between 13:00 on Sunday 26th November and 08:00 on Monday 27th November, a White Ford Transit GF64 *** was stolen from the road.

The latest edition of My Community Voice is available at [ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-12/December Our News newsletter.pdf](http://ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-12/December%20Our%20News%20newsletter.pdf)

TMBC Christmas Refuse and Recycling Collections

Scheduled Christmas collection arrangements are available [online \(https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/christmas-waste-collections\)](https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/christmas-waste-collections).

Due to the way the Bank Holidays fall this year and the availability of disposal sites, TMBC will not be collecting on Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December or Monday 1 January.

As a result, collections will be pushed back, with catch up collections on Saturdays 30 December and 6 & 13 January, with the final day's catch up on the latter.

Collections will revert to the normal schedule from Monday 15 January.

The postcode search now reflects the changes of collection day over the holiday period, and they also have Christmas recycling advice on the website. This is all linked from the usual Waste Updates page (<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/check-waste-collection-updates/1>), as well as the home page of the website: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/>

Land West of Roughetts Road – potential application for a sand quarry

There is no progress to report and no planning application has been made yet.

Tommy Silhouette

The Parish Council has purchased a Tommy Silhouette which was put up by the Village Sign. Thanks are given to Dave P for putting up the Tommy and to Gallagher for giving permission to use their land. Councillors will consider purchasing another Tommy Silhouette for Ryarsh Park next year.

A Wreath was laid at the Remembrance Service by Cllr McKinlay. Lin Barton is thanked for preparing the wreath.

Christmas Tree and Lighting Ceremony

The Christmas Tree and lights are beautiful this year and much appreciated by the village. Donations were gratefully received from the Coronation Event and the Parish Council has donated £200 as it does every year. The balance is funded kindly by Deborah and Mark Nankivell.

As you will be aware, there was no lighting ceremony this year. The cost of a ceremony with fireworks is high and it requires a fair bit of organisation.

If you would like to see an annual event to light the Christmas Tree, perhaps with carols, mulled wine, mince pies etc, then please contact Mark to discuss - he is contactable at nanks@me.com. He is hoping to set up a small Committee to fund raise throughout the year and help plan the event. All ideas are welcome.

KALC Community Awards and Ryarsh Village Awards

Councillors are pleased to be taking part in the KALC Community Awards Scheme again and will also be running the Ryarsh Village Awards Scheme.

Do you know somebody in Ryarsh who deserves to be acknowledged and recognised for making a significant contribution over a considerable period of time to our local community?

The Parish Council is participating in the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Awards Scheme 2024 and is also running its own Ryarsh Village Awards Scheme.

All nominations must be received by **Friday 11th January 2024**. For more details please see www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk.

Previous KALC Community Awards have been presented to Ba Storey (2023) and Deborah Nankivell (2022).

Previous Community Awards have been given to Mary McKinlay (2023) and Gill Didino, Jon and Helen Sutton and David Storey (2022).

TMBC

The latest TMBC newsletter is available online - <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/newsletter/2>

Changes to parking restrictions in the Borough of Tonbridge & Malling.

Residents are being given a say on changes to car parking charges across the borough. A review of all council-owned car parks could see the charging period in most places extended to 8pm and include Sundays and bank holidays. The introduction of charges to three car parks and two on-street areas which are currently free in Aylesford, Larkfield and West Malling are also planned along with options for increased parking capacity.

Parish Councillors object to these proposals.

The two consultations (On Street Parking and Off Street Parking) are available at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/consultations> and run until 7th January 2024.

You can subscribe to receive a newsletter with updates from TMBC at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/newsletter>

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Ryarsh Village Hall hosted another defibrillator training course which was well attended and very interesting. Training was given by Lucia, with her own programme which was very hands on and covered new issues such as how to deal with a person choking including how to deal with similar problems in children.

They hope to run further training courses for younger people. If you are interested please contact David manager@ryarshvillagehall.org or Ba - bookings@ryarshvillagehall.org.

Next Parish Council meeting

The date of the January meeting has been changed to **Monday 15th January 2024** at 8pm.

You can contact the Clerk by email at clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk. For more information, please go to our website www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk



A consultation has recently opened to help identify public places in Tonbridge and Malling where women and girls feel unsafe.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has teamed up with neighbouring West Kent authorities and the police for the project which will use public feedback to develop initiatives to strengthen community safety.

Violence against women and girls includes, but is not limited to, harassment, stalking, rape, sexual assault, murder, honour-based abuse and coercive control. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women.

The online survey invites people to share their experiences of feeling unsafe in particular locations, such as outdoor public spaces, while commuting and socialising. It is being run in partnership with Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells borough councils and runs until Sunday 7 January 2024.

[Violence against women and girls consultation – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council \(tmbc.gov.uk\)](https://tmbc.gov.uk)



Guided group walks – December 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 up to three 'taster' walks with us.

If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

For details of these and other upcoming walks and walk leaders, see

www.tonbridgeandmallinghamblers.org.uk.

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers at Withyham

Sunday 3 December	A leisurely and gentle circular walk around Mereworth Woods.	3.5 miles
Wednesday 6 December	Leisurely walk from Dunk's Green to Ightham Mote (coffee break) and on to Shipbourne through orchards, fields and woods. 7 stiles and no hills.	5.5 miles
Wednesday 13 December	A leisurely and level circular walk from The Plough at Powder Mills to Leigh.	4.5 miles
Sunday 17 December	Circular walk from St Mary's Platt through woodland, farmland, apple orchards and quiet lanes with valley views towards Claygate Cross and Basted. Moderate difficulty.	6.2 miles
Wednesday 20 December	A flat and leisurely circular walk from Haysden Country Park in Tonbridge, towards Haysden Water and on through the Eden Valley, returning via Lower Haysden.	4 miles
Sunday 24 December	Three churches circular walk from West Malling. Fairly flat; moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 28 December	Circular walk from Watringbury Station along the Medway Valley then up over the hill past Roydon Hall and back down via Pizien Wells. Moderate difficulty.	6 miles

Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).



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Oxenhoath estate towards Hadlow

Thursday 4 January	Leisurely walk from Parker's Green through fields, woodland and alongside the River Bourne to Golden Green. Return through orchards and along farm tracks and quiet roads.	5.5 miles
Sunday 7 January	Leisurely circular walk below the North Downs from Wrotham to the St Clere estate.	4 miles
Thursday 11 January	Circular walk from Chiddingstone through woodland, fields and the grounds of Hever Castle. Some lane walking and good views. Moderate difficulty.	5.8 miles
Sunday 14 January	Leisurely circular walk from Matfield to Brenchley through orchards and fields, with some solid tracks and a little road walking. Lovely views, quiet and peaceful.	4.5 miles
Wednesday 17 January	From Trosley Country Park along the North Downs Way into Whitehorse Wood, past Coldrum Long Barrow into Ryarsh Wood. Return across fields. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Sunday 21 January	Gentle stroll around Knole Park. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Wednesday 24 January	Circular walk from Offham through the woods to Mereworth. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles

Sunday 28 January	Plaxtol Round: Undulating walk around Plaxtol. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).		

November 2023

A green outline of a Christmas tree with a yellow star on top, where the tree's shape is formed by a recycling symbol (three chasing arrows).

Christmas Tree RECYCLING

Make your Christmas celebrations a little more environmentally friendly this year – and recycle your tree with Heart of Kent Hospice

Christmas will soon be upon us and as many households in your Parish are likely to opt for a real Christmas tree, they will be looking for a way to dispose of it, come the New Year.

Worry not, we've got you covered.

Last Christmas we recycled more than 600 trees and raised over £7,000 for the Hospice. This year we want to double that!

Our team of volunteers will collect your real spruce, fir or pine trees over three days from **Friday 5, Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 January 2024**. The collection is from your front gate or driveway, meaning you don't have to venture out in the cold!

All we ask is for a suggested donation of **£15 per tree**, which will provide vital support to people living with a terminal illness or experiencing bereavement in your community.

Using a fleet of vans and volunteers, the Hospice will be picking up real Christmas trees, from residents within the boroughs of Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling.