



## **RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **April Parish Council Meeting**

- The Notice Board on Birling Road by the Play Area is in a poor state of repair and Councillors have agreed to replace it. One side will be locked for Parish Council notices and the other will be unlocked for residents to use.
- The Parish Council has agreed to purchase a new bench to be installed near the play area in Ryarsh Park. Trinity have kindly agreed to install the bench.
- Councillors would like to hold another Crime Prevention Event and the Clerk will contact the Police to make arrangements.
- It was noted that CCTV and Ring Doorbell Footage can be extremely valuable to the police after an incident. Residents are encouraged to look at any footage after an event, and contact the police with details.
- The public footpath behind Ryarsh Oast House has been widened and some rubbish, including manure, has been dumped. This will be reported to the Kent Public Rights of Way Office.
- The Parish Council's contractor has installed a new lantern to replace a damaged one on Birling Road. It was noted that this is working well. There are 4 lanterns on the traffic calming islands. If the Parish Council has enough money it will replace the other lanterns in the row so they match.
- The Parish Council has signed a contract to change electricity supplier, for a cheaper rate that was found using Utility Aid. The new supply was due to start 1<sup>st</sup> February but unfortunately there has been a delay.

### **Dogs**

Residents are reminded that dogs are still not allowed in the enclosed Play Area. Residents and visitors are welcome to walk their dogs on the Recreation Ground now.



### **Kent County Council**

County Councillor Hohler has kindly offered a contribution from her Members Fund toward a project in Ryarsh. The Parish Council has applied for this contribution towards the new Notice Board for Birling Road.



### **TMBC**

Borough Councillor Banks reported:

- He attended the TMBC Cabinet meeting and spoke about proposed parking charges. He was able to raise 10 issues, but there was nothing that could be done to stop parking charges from being brought in. TMBC say they will have to cut a service if they do not charge for parking. In the end, it was agreed that West Malling will retain its one hour free on street parking. That was made as a concession. He hopes that free parking in

Martin Square will be increased from half an hour to one hour. Parking charges in the Aylesford car park were approved.

Survey responses showed that 90% of those responding were against parking charges and results of a Statutory Survey should be listened to more closely.

Cllr Banks noted that TMBC is one of only 3 Councils in the Kent that are not in debt.

This is good news, but does mean that when money is distributed by Government, TMBC may not be given anything. TMBC Officers should be prudent on finances, but there is a balance.

- Cllr Mike Taylor gave the Cabinet an update on Regulation 18b Local Plan. TMBC are having real problems getting enough time to get the work done. The Regulation 18b consultation was due to be published in the Spring, but it could be pushed back to Summer or Autumn. Cllr Banks is keen that the proposals are published sooner and Cllr McKinlay agreed.

## **Fault Reports**

Public Rights of Way - via the KCC website - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

Highways - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Fault reports to TMBC about litter bins, dog waste bins or missed bin collections can be made to <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste>

Fly Tipping can be reported :

- Online through the TMBC website at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/report-fly-tipping>
- Or using the Country Eye App

If fly tipped waste is blocking the public highway and may cause an accident, it should be reported urgently to Kent Highways on 03000 418181 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or on 03000 419191 at all other times.

## **Next Parish Council meeting**

The date of the **Annual Parish Meeting** is **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**, 7.30pm, at Ryarsh Church Hall. The Kent Association of Local Councils Award and the Ryarsh Village Award will be presented.

This will be followed by the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** and the **Monthly Meeting**.

You can contact the Clerk by email at [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk) or by writing to Box 503, West Malling, ME6 9NN. For more information, please go to our website [www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk). The Parish Council Clerk works 12 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, and aims to respond to emails and phone calls within 5 working days



## Guided group walks – May 2024



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.

*Mereworth Church – 29 May walk*

**For details of all upcoming walks and walk leaders, see Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers [Facebook page](#) or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk).**

Thursday 2 May	A leisurely, flat and rural circular walk from Hadlow towards the River Medway and East Lock, going through Barnes Street and Golden Green. Good views of Hadlow Tower and two pillar boxes near the Medway. Three stiles. Mainly field paths, very little road walking, good paths and tracks. May be muddy after rain.	4.5 mile s
Thursday 9 May	Trosley Trot: a fairly flat circular walk along the bottom of the Downs with good views to the south. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 mile s
Sunday 12 May	A varied circular walk from Groombridge through the woods to Harrison's Rocks, across the Spa Valley railway (Toot! Toot!) and returning via Motts Mill. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 mile s
Thursday 16 May	West Peckham wander: pleasant circular walk past the church across the village cricket field and around back to The Swan on the Green. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 23 May	Darent Valley circular walk from Shoreham village. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles

Wednesday 29 May	Circular walk from Mereworth through an attractive part of the Wealdway, climbing through Hurst Wood and returning via West Peckham. We then climb to the top of the Wealden ridge before the return to Mereworth. 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).		



## Snodland Library

16-17 High Street, Snodland. ME8 5DA

**Get Digital!** Whether you need support with using your tablet, the NHS app or just getting online. **We're here to help.**

Third Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12pm on:

- 16<sup>th</sup> April
- 21<sup>st</sup> May
- 18<sup>th</sup> June
- 16<sup>th</sup> July
- 20<sup>th</sup> August
- 17<sup>th</sup> September
- 15<sup>th</sup> October
- 19<sup>th</sup> November
- 17<sup>th</sup> December

To book onto a session and find out more, please visit [digtalkent.uk](http://digtalkent.uk) or call 03000 410 950.



**Bus times - services 58 and 70** *From 29 August 2023*

*Minor changes to bus 58 times from 29 August - now serves PLATT*

**Nu-Venture bus 58 - WROTHAM/BOROUGH GREEN ↔ MAIDSTONE**

Fridays (not Good Friday and not Bank, National or Public Holidays, nor 27 to 31 December)

<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>58</i>
Wrotham Square	0930	MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE <i>King St (Boots)</i>	1300
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0937	Maidstone High St <i>Town Hall</i>	1302
Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	0942	Maidstone West Station	1305
Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	0945	A20 Somerfield Hospital	1311
Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	0950	Aylesford (A20) <i>Sainsbury's</i>	1320
Trottscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	0959	A20 Ditton Corner	1323
Wrotham Heath <i>adj The Vineyard</i>	1004	Larkfield <i>Wealden Hall</i>	1324
Addington <i>opp Jungle Café</i>	1008	East Malling <i>opp King and Queen</i>	1328
Ryarsh <i>opp Duke of Wellington</i>	1013	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1335
Birling <i>opp Nevill Bull</i>	1016	Leybourne <i>adj The Old Rectory</i>	1341
Leybourne <i>Baywell</i>	1021	Birling <i>adj Nevill Bull</i>	1349
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1028	Ryarsh <i>adj Duke of Wellington</i>	1351
East Malling <i>King and Queen</i>	1036	A20 Addington <i>Jungle Café</i>	1355
Larkfield <i>opp Wealden Hall</i>	1040	Addington <i>opp The Green</i>	1357
A20 <i>Hall Road opp Sainsbury's</i>	1044	Trottscliffe <i>opp The George</i>	1401
A20 <i>opp Somerfield Hospital</i>	1052	Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	R
MAIDSTONE TOWN CENTRE <i>King St</i>	1100	BOROUGH GREEN STATION	R
		Wrotham Square	R

Explanation of Codes R = Sets down on request beyond Wrotham Heath

**Nu-Venture bus 70 - WROTHAM/BOROUGH GREEN ↔ EAST/WEST MALLING**

Mondays (not Bank, National or Public Holidays, nor 27 to 31 December)

<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Nu-Venture bus service number</i>	<i>70</i>
Wrotham Square	0930	West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	1145
BOROUGH GREEN STATION	0937	East Malling <i>King &amp; Queen</i>	1153
Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	0942	TESCO LUNSFORD PK <i>Chaucer Way</i>	1200
Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	0945	Leybourne Chase <i>Costcutter</i>	1210
Offham Green	0950	West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1220
West Malling High St <i>opp Tesco</i>	0956	Offham Green	1225
Leybourne Chase <i>opp Costcutter</i>	1006	Wrotham Heath <i>Royal Oak</i>	1230
TESCO LUNSFORD PK <i>Chaucer Way</i>	1016	Platt, A25 Long Mill Lane	1233
East Malling <i>opp King &amp; Queen</i>	1024	BOROUGH GREEN STATION	1238
West Malling High St <i>Tesco</i>	1032	Wrotham Square	1243

Nu-Venture buses 58 and 70 serve all fixed bus stops on line of route, and on request at any safe point in rural areas and villages. As the bus approaches, please give a clear hand-signal to the bus driver.

Pay on the bus with cash or card. Single and return fares are available for all journeys for adults and for children aged 5th to 16th birthday.

We welcome the English National Concessionary Travel Pass and Kent Travel Saver

Buy or use a DISCOVERY day ticket for unlimited travel on these services and on buses throughout Kent/Sussex.

*Nu-Venture (01622 882288 - www.nu-venture.co.uk) operate buses 58 and 70 with Community Transport funding from Kent County Council, in conjunction with financial support from local Parish Councils.  
This is gratefully acknowledged.*

11 April 2024

To whom this may concern

**National Emergency Area Retrofit - work is set to begin on the M25 and surrounding motorways in the next few weeks.**

We are delivering a government commitment to add more than 150 more emergency areas to motorways across the country including several sections of the M25 and surrounding motorways.

Work to install additional emergency areas is already taking place along the M1 corridor from junction 16 up to junction 35a.

The programme of work in the south will start from 25 April 2024 and all sections are expected to be open by the end of March 2025. I am writing to give you an overview of what this means for the strategic road network.

In the South East over the coming months work will start on:

- M25 between junctions 5 (Sevenoaks) and 7 (Redhill), due to start from 25 April 2024.
- M25 between junctions 23 (South Mimms) and 27 (Epping), due to start from 25 April 2024.
- M3 between junctions 2 (Thorpe) and 4a (Farnborough), due to start from 29 April 2024.
- M4 between junctions 10 (Wokingham) and 12 (Theale), due to start from 7 May 2024.
- M20 between junctions 3 (West Malling) and 5 (Aylesford), due to start from 22 May 2024.
- M27 between junctions 4 (Southampton) and 11 (Fareham), due to start during summer 2024.

Please be aware we do our utmost to maintain these dates, however dates are subject to change, and it may take a few weeks before the roadworks appear as preparatory work is completed. We will regularly publish information about the upgrade and the roadworks on our website at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/emergency-areas>.

There are major upgrades already underway at junctions 10 and 28 of the M25, as well as regular roadworks for maintenance and renewals. We know just how busy this section of the motorway network is and are working tirelessly to coordinate all this work closely and keep disruption to an absolute minimum. You can find out more about these projects, including a series of planned weekend closures on the M25 junction 10 project on their webpages: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/m25-junction-10/> <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/m25-junction-28-improvements/>

We are in close contact with local authorities through coordinated collaborative meetings to minimise the impact of roadworks as much as possible.

To carry out the work safely, lane one (the left lane) on the four-lane motorways listed, will be closed throughout construction. Lanes two, three and four will remain open with a 50mph speed limit in place. Existing emergency areas through roadworks will remain open and a free recovery service will be in place throughout the roadworks.



The traffic management for the working areas will be installed overnight when the traffic flows are quieter. We always do our best to minimise disruption and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause.

The new emergency area work will mainly be carried out Mondays to Fridays from 7am to 7pm. There will be occasions when we need to close lanes, slip roads or the carriageway between junctions for construction activities and deliveries to the work sites, but this will be overnight and at weekends when traffic flows are at their lowest. Should there be a need to close overnight there will be clearly signed diversion routes in place.

Please do plan your journeys and check before you travel via: [Road closure report - National Highways](#)

Emergency areas provide a place to stop in an emergency if drivers cannot exit the motorway or stop at a motorway service area. They are clearly signed at regular intervals along the motorway and have bright orange road surfaces to help identify them. At 100 metres long, they have plenty of space for even the largest lorry plus a recovery vehicle and they are equipped with emergency telephones linking directly to our control rooms to get help on the way quickly.

You can find out more about what to do if your vehicle breaks down on the motorway here: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/breakdowns>.

This investment in extra emergency areas, along with technology like stopped vehicle detection, more signs, and clear advice about all lane running motorways online and an updated Highway Code, will help road users feel safe and be safer on our roads.

Through all the work we are doing we are determined to further improve public confidence in driving on our motorways, and to continue to build and operate one of the safest and best performing road networks in the world.

For more information you can follow National Highways [@highwaysseast](#) and <https://www.facebook.com/HighwaysSEast>.

Please re-share our posts and information on your channels, to help increase awareness about the work with your audiences.

You can visit [Driving on the motorways - National Highways](#) for more details on what to do in the event of an emergency, and how to use an emergency area.

I hope you find this update useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or the project team directly on [EAretrofit@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:EAretrofit@nationalhighways.co.uk) or by calling: National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FClayton".

Felicity Clayton  
National emergency area project sponsor