

WOULDHAM PARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS DELIVERING IN THE AREA

YEAR 2025/6





Wouldham Parish Council Chairman's Report for year 2025/6

This year has seen the retirement of Eddy Bell as Chair after being a Councillor for around 8 years and we wish him well enjoying, his bowls and holidays! It is also sad that Jenny Head and Richard Stone passed away during the year, both Councillors and great advocates for all things Wouldham.

TRAFFIC

Throughout the past year, the Parish Speedwatch group has carried out sessions. Although, there is still no representation from Peters Village, my very sincere thanks go to the small but dedicated Speedwatch team, led by Rose and Caroline (one of our Parish Councillors) for their efforts to bring safety to our village. They have also conducted surveys of people going through the No Entry which has been passed to KCC for them to review enforcement options.

Unfortunately, we were advised to accept the change of signage from No Entry to No Motorised Vehicles due to complaints from the horse fraternity. In hindsight, we should not have agreed to this as people who don't understand 'No Entry' were never going to take notice of the No Motorised Vehicles sign. It does make me wonder how they passed their driving test! But Police now regularly park discretely in the area and have issued quite a few tickets to those breaking the law.

However, the system still has had a massive improvement on the flow of traffic around the village. And we continue to lobby KCC to make improvements along Pilgrims Way, School Lane and Knowle Road.

Parking problems seem to be increasing, especially on Worrall Drive and Oldfield Drive at school times. There have been numerous requests for All Saints School to either redo their Travel Plan or re-instate the current one. This has been escalated to KCC and TMBC Planning as it was a condition when the school was built. Whilst we understand the frustrations of the school when dealing with irresponsible drivers, closing drop-off and pick-up points without an alternative is not acceptable.

The problems in Oldfield Drive seem to be exacerbated by people preferring to park right outside their house rather than in the allocated car parks. This creates a real safety issue as emergency vehicles may not be able to get through.

ROADS

As part of our Highways Improvement Plan, KCC have re-aligned the dropped curbs on Knowle Road, making it easier for people to cross without having to walk up or down the road to get to the other side. After many years of flooding along Pilgrims Way, drainage works have now been completed, which should help reduce the erosion of the road surface.

OPEN SPACES

Our Open Spaces around the Parish are a constant fight to keep cut, tidy and usable. The money put aside for this work comes from KCC and your precept payment. The Common has been repeatedly vandalised and whilst we are working with the Police and Borough Council to tackle the problem, any solution will need to be paid from your Council Tax.

The ROSPA safety report on play equipment was done in July and, although there were no red flags, some of the yellow and green issues have been remedied, such as a new cargo net, new 5-a-side goals, new swing seats and repairs to surfacing. We also purchased a new 'accessible' bench enabling those in wheelchairs or requiring their own chair can sit at the bench. An additional notice board has been placed in Peters Village to ensure information is accessible to the whole parish. And the local landscaping company is continuing to maintain the area around the electric substation. Our thanks go to a local resident who reused fencing from the Hall to stop people walking across the area.

The Allotment Association seems to be going from strength to strength with a healthy waiting list, events and activities being regularly undertaken. We arranged with TMBC for a large amount of compost to be delivered which was able to be shared with the local school and council as well as plot holders. Well done to Ashley, Chairperson and team for their continued success.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Charity has now closed and the responsibility returned to the Council, although the majority of the “ladies of the committee” will still be in charge. Our Village Hall has become a hub for the Parish offering coffee mornings, Craft Group, Youth Club, Chair Exercise, PT Sessions, Girl Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows to name just a few users.

We have been successful in obtaining 18k of funding to re-vamp the frontage of the Hall making it more accessible and usable for outside events. This now means that allocated funding can be used to make a start on the back garden.

APPOINTMENTS

The Council has co-opted a new Councillor during the year and welcome Nick Timothy to the team. However, we still have no representation from Peters Village!

Our Parish Councillors take on various duties and my thanks go to all of them for their diligence and application.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Cllr Andy Marr for completing 14 years on the Parish Council, his knowledge and dry wit are invaluable!

Awards: As a thankyou for exemplary voluntary work in the community, we nominated Ashley Crowdey for a Borough Community Award, and Rose Bell for a Kent Community Award. We are very pleased that both received recognition and awards for their contributions.



V E Day 80



Our major event for the year was for VE Day 80 celebrations. A fantastic team of volunteers worked tirelessly to create a very successful event. My thanks go to each one of them together with the Gore family for supporting the event and allowing us to use their barn which created a great atmosphere for a Hanger Dance. We had fantastic feedback from the 100+ attendees, including: “Fantastic evening – thank you to all involved – such a wonderful village we live in” “Had a fab night - great to see such a great community spirit”

Although the Council set aside 1k for the event, ticket sales and the raffle (arranged by the wonderful Rose!) meant that we did not need to use the budget and were able to donate £450 to Royal British Legion.

The **Little Litter Pickers** are still running in Peters Village once a month and my thanks go to Ashley and the Co-Op for continuing this group activity.

A few weeks ago, we took part in the **Big Spring Clean**. This also proved to be successful with 8 villagers collecting over 12 bags of rubbish in just a couple of hours. It was great to see a few new faces but would be nice to see more! Thank you to Ann-Marie for organising it and to those who took part.



The over **60's Club** meet every Tuesday afternoon between 2.00~4.00 in the Watermans pub. High Street. The Club have 3 outings each year (these could be to the coast, theatre, gardens zoo etc), plus a Christmas Lunch all paid for from the Clubs weekly subs of £2.50 per week. Sadly we have lost 3 members this year and, in remembrance, the club agreed to give donations to their favourite charity. We welcome new members from the village and neighbouring villages.

A more physical activity running on Sunday mornings is the **Mammoth Rugby** group.

All our meetings are advertised on our website, and on the notice boards around the Parish and minutes, reports etc are published on our website

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, Tina, our Clerk, Ann-Marie, our Youth and Community Worker and Liz and Russell, who help keep our Village litter free, for their superb diligence and hard work this year. Also, a special thank you to a growing group of people in the Parish who get themselves involved in setting up various activities for their fellow residents, giving their time and effort freely without seeking for reward or favour.

Jane Miles - Chair
Wouldham Parish Council



Speedwatch Group Report **FROM 17th APRIL 2025 - 17th APRIL 2026**

During the year we have only deployed 9 times, due to health reasons, resulting in standing by the roadside for 10 hrs. Most of these sessions were on Knowle Road in the 20mph section. Only 1 session took place on the High Street, again a 20mph limit.

Out of 2069 vehicles who passed the team in the year, 362 were shown to be speeding. The highest was 44mph which, when taken to the proximity to the school crossing guard, is totally unacceptable.

This amounts to 6 cars every 10 minutes exceeding the speed limit. It should be noted, although the speed limit is 20mph, we only record vehicles at 25+ mph, but the average speeder was 27mph.

95 letters were sent out by police

2 had cases filed
3 were Superseded

It was also found that:
3 vehicles had no MOT
1 vehicle had no TAX

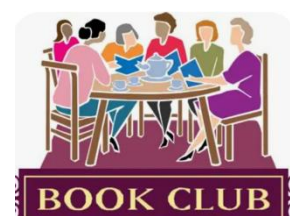
Obviously, these offences would result in more serious action being taken.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team members for giving up their time and trying to help our village to become a safer place for all.

Rose Bell – Speedwatch Volunteer

Wouldham Book Club

Wouldham book club started in 2024 and is a friendly group open to anyone to join. Each month the group votes on a book to read from various options suggested by members and then meet to discuss it. We currently have about 20 members and have also arranged a Christmas curry night, various literary festival outings and have our first trial film night coming up in May which we hope to expand and continue if successful.



Youth Club and Community Activities Report: September 2025 – April 2026

Youth Club

(Tuesdays, 5.30–7.15pm Village Hall / Thursdays, 5.45–7.30pm, All Saints Primary School)

Junior Session (8–11 years): Maintains strong and consistent attendance, with high levels of participation across sessions.

Senior Session (12–16 years): Attendance continues to vary week to week, with a smaller but engaged core group.



Activities Delivered

A broad and varied programme has been delivered, encouraging creativity, wellbeing, and social engagement:

- **Safety & Awareness:** Online safety focus, including the creation of informative posters displayed on community noticeboards.

- **Creative Arts & Crafts:** Coasters, picture frame, Door plaque, Wind chime making and magnet making; Decorative paper houses and seasonal crafts, including paper pumpkins, Beaded bracelets and keychains, Crochet sessions and weaving activities, Rock painting, Dragon puppet crafts, Biscuit & Cake decorating sessions, “This Is Me” creative work for Children’s Mental Health Week

- **Environmental Activities:** Bottle bird feeder creation as part of RSPB-related activities Seed planting sessions to promote environmental awareness

- **Seasonal & Celebration Activities:** Christmas card and Christmas cracker making Mother’s Day crafts: cardboard flower bouquets and personalised cards, Easter games and celebration, including distribution of Easter eggs, End-of-term science show

- **Physical & Group Activities:** Introduction to line dancing sessions, Group-based activities (chess/pool competitions, 99-1 style games for easter session) promoting teamwork and confidence

- **Special Events:** Christmas party featuring games and inflatable bouncy castles, providing a well-attended seasonal celebration



Holiday Activities

October half term: Cinema Halloween drop in - well attended however, children did not engage or want to watch movie, and instead were excited to see friends and socialise.

February Half Term: Craft drop-in afternoon which was well attended by both youth club members and the wider community, Games-based drop-in session, which had low attendance

Easter Half Term: Craft afternoon with strong attendance from both youth club members and children from the wider community



Wins (based on feedback from parents and participants)

Personal Development: Continued growth in confidence, creativity, and independence

Social Interaction: Positive opportunities for young people to form friendships and build connections

Engagement: High levels of interest in creative and hands-on activities

Community Impact: Ongoing recognition of the youth club as a valuable local provision

Challenges

Attendance Variability (Senior Group): Fluctuating numbers continue to present planning challenges

Budget & Resources: Managing activity costs while maintaining affordability remains an ongoing consideration

Volunteers: Additional volunteer support would enhance delivery, particularly at the younger session. Same parents most weeks volunteering.

Craft & Chatter Club – Alternative Mondays 10am - 12

Continues to run successfully with regular attendance and a strong sense of community.

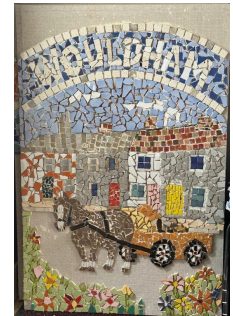
Ongoing Project: Further development of the poppy display, including additional and purple poppies for Remembrance Day

Projects Completed: Pin cushions and full-sized cushions, Christmas decorations,

Pumpkin floral arrangements, Christmas wreaths and

Community Wall hanging

Current Project: A three-panel mosaic wall mural, planned for installation outside the Village Hall



Community Events

● **Wouldham Summer Fair 2025:** Despite poor weather conditions, the event was well supported and raised funds for the youth club

● **Scarecrow trail (September):** Fantastic effort by local residents from across the whole of Wouldham in collaboration with the allotment team. Well supported and enjoyed by many.

● **Rocky Horror Movie Night (October):** A successful and enjoyable community event

● **Great British Spring Clean (March):** Eight local residents participated, collecting a significant volume of litter



Future Events

● **Eden Project Community Picnic:** Planned expansion following last year's success, with additional vendors while maintaining a relaxed, community-focused atmosphere

● **Community Cinema Club:** Proposal for regular screenings at the Village Hall, currently under discussion with the Over 60s group

● **Women's Monthly Group (Pilot from September):** Monthly sessions focused on crafts and learning new skills

● **Youth Club Summer Activities:** Plans to deliver a summer programme of activities and trips, responding to parent feedback and requests. Initial discussions have taken place with a bushcraft provider to deliver a summer evening session

Overall Progress

Good progress has been made in sustaining a varied and engaging youth programme, with a continued focus on creativity, wellbeing, and inclusion. Participation remains strong, particularly within the junior group, and feedback highlights the value of the provision to local families.

The Craft & Chatter club continues to play an important role in community engagement, while events and future plans are aimed at expanding opportunities for others to engage and strengthening community connection

Ann-Marie Church, Youth & Community Worker

Coffee Club - Wouldham Village Hall



Coffee Club runs on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and provides an opportunity to get together for a chat over a 'cupper' and home-made cake. Whilst numbers vary, there are usually between 15 and 20 people coming regularly. It has been really nice this year to see more men come along. It has also been great to see more users supporting each other with information on a huge variety of subjects.

Anne Marr – Volunteer

Chair Exercise – Agile & Active

The class has been going just over 2 years now and it has grown to have over 21 people with at least 17-18 people at each session

Everyone seems to enjoy the class, and they laugh and interact together. Some live alone so it helps them to meet others and laugh together.

They have all improved in some way, whether it is better posture or knowing how to get up after a fall and some could not get up from the chair and now can do it easily.

Better leg strength, arm mobility and creating new friendships has all lead to a noticeable growth in confidence

It's so lovely to see them each fortnight and they are like a small family supporting and encouraging each other. One user says " The classes are great. We have a good laugh and exercise too. Highly recommended."

Unfortunately, Kent Rivers, Age UK are no longer able to deliver, but luckily Sue (tutor) has started her own company to be able to continue, with support from the Parish Council

Sue Larken - Agile & Active



PERRINS CHARITY – 2025

This Charity was set up soon after the death of Lily Blanche Perrin from Hastings, who died on 15.12.1920 leaving a legacy of £200 for the people of Wouldham.

For many years the folk of Wouldham responded to an advert in the Parish Magazine, completing an application form.

Sadly, those who really needed the money often did not complete a form, being too proud to accept charity. Today we rely on the knowledge of locals to help us compile a list of the elderly who we feel need support, and we would welcome any support in helping identify any worthy new recipients.

The criteria being that they must:

- ★ have lived in Wouldham for over 10 years
- ★ are 70 years of age or older
- ★ at the discretion of the Trustees who are known to be in need of financial assistance.



The funds for the charity are held in Investments with the CCLA . There is a very limited amount of money coming into the charity from the legacy now, but we continue to issue vouchers for the Co-op on an annual basis to Wouldham parishioners who are over 70 years of age, of good character and in financial need.

We are very grateful to Mark at the Peters Village Co-op for his support and annual donation that is matched by the dividend funds from the Charity's stocks and share portfolio.

The sole Trustees are now Catherine Gore and Marie Rayner.

WE would welcome any further sources of funds and if anyone would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact us.

Catherine Gore – Trustee

Kent Police - Annual Report 25/6

I have collated the investigations created between 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 for the Wouldham ward, map image is below with a blue border. I have kept Burham separate to keep things simple. There were 403 investigations logged on the system during that time period. From looking at the results, the most prevalent categories of investigation are as follows:



- Theft from Motor Vehicle
- Theft from Shops and Stalls (Shoplifting)
- Theft of Motor vehicle
- Burglary – Including residential
- Harassment without violence
- Criminal Damage
- Assault ABH
- Common Assault

It seems very much like the reports we are receiving are similar from last year when Georgia was your beat officer. Some of the work we have conducted this year does include but is not limited to:

1. Visible presence and proactive patrolling in hotspot locations linked to vehicle crimes and burglaries
2. I have conducted speed checks on KNOWLE ROAD alongside The Community Speed watch team and issued out several tickets for speeding
3. Enforcement of the no entry sign and the issuing of tickets where offenders were caught contravening the sign

I continue to show a visible presence in the problem locations and I have taken into account new information that you have provided surrounding fly tipping, potential drink drivers and drug use taking place in the car park behind The Medway pub. Fly tipping isn't routinely dealt with by Police, however concerns around drink driving and drug use/ASB in the car park would be of interest to us.

Cole BROWN | Police Constable 15611

Girlguiding - 2025

Wouldham Girlguiding is thriving with an ongoing high number of members and some young leaders starting their young leader training.

We have had support from our local Coop to purchase new equipment.



The hedgehog homes are placed at allotment and the Wouldham Church, last year's grant from the Coop.

The TMBC grant to purchase a greenhouse for the Girlguiding plot is now being used by the girls.

We recently held a community easter fun day, well supported by the community and Trenport in donating chocolate eggs for the children. The local businesses got involved in our easter trail and helping us raise funds for our units.

Thank you to the continued support of the Village Hall and the WPC for our unit meetings and help at the Remembrance Parade.

Ashley (Sparrow) - Wouldham Girlguiding unit Leader

Friends of Wouldham PTA - 2025



The Friends of Wouldham School PTA are now a registered charity (1217734).

We have held a lot of open events for the community to attend, fireworks night, Christmas Fayre and soon to come Colour Run on Saturday 16th May 2026.

All these events have helped raise funds so far towards 8 new wall games, panto, ks1 art supplies, reading scheme, nativity program, dog training.

The next project that we are working towards is an outdoor library for all the children. This will be a safe space during lunch times, and a way for the children to develop their reading skills.

We have loved holding smaller events like discos, cake sales, easter trail, quiz night, sports day sale and nativity baubles/ photos for KS1.

We have started a new breakfast social once a term for teachers, parents and the community to attend. Our next social is on Friday 12th June 9:30 till 11:30, in the Wasps Room. Thank you to Wouldham Coop for the donation towards the start-up of the Breakfast Social, this has gone towards a new Kettle/urn and is definitely making life easier.

Thank you to everyone that has helped or attended our events and there will be lots more events to come.

Ashley

The Friends PTA

Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School

Wouldham Allotment Association - Chair's Report 2026

Introduction

It's been another busy year on the allotment, completing the entrance car park, starting up the well-being garden, building a compost toilet and hosting a successful open day and being advertised on the NAS website.



Thank You

The smooth running of the Association, the organisation of events and workdays, the management of projects and general maintenance of the site is dependent upon Committee members and plot holders giving up their time to arrange them and take part, so it is only right to start by thanking those who do so for their efforts, which I am sure are appreciated by all members. Trish Ingham (Plot P1) our committee treasurer has been doing a fantastic job of the site accounts, not only that she has also helped improve the site by attending all events throughout the year, she has taken on extra site jobs, orders for king's seeds and attended all the work parties. Thank you, Trish for all your hard work. Dawn Helmore (Plot 2B) site manager, thank you for taking on the role this year and joining the committee, your help at events and decision making at meetings. Lin Simmonds (Plot 6A) committee officer, thank you for taking on joining the committee, helping doing the minutes for committee meetings, helping with events and on the site. Stephen Bromley (Plot 01) committee officer,

thank you for all your help with decision making, support and commitment to improving the allotments.

Thank you to Wouldham Parish Council and the continued support of Tina Miles, who has supported the committee, the site and auditing the account.

Please consider joining the Committee, or offering help if you feel that you can. The more volunteers we have, the more we can achieve. And several members of the Committee, including myself as Chair, are taking on many roles and responsibilities.

Plot Lettings

Last year we welcomed 6 new plot holders. Meanwhile the waiting list continues to grow and now stands at 9. Several people were removed from the waiting list as they could either not be contacted or because they told us they have moved away from the area. The site currently has 47 plot holders, these are all different sizes, with 2 tenants maintaining 2 full plots.

Events and Fundraising

Last year we held our second open day event for was well attended. To have the launch of the community well-being garden advertised by the NAS on their website and magazine, the radio and social media was another level of support. It was fantastic to be a part of the NAS new partnership with Take Five. The site hosted a few other events, seed swap, plant sale and a get together bonfire night. Thanks are due to all the plot holders who worked hard to organise and manage these events.

Site Maintenance

Firstly, I want to thank the plot holders that come together and just help with keeping the site well maintained by cutting the grass and looking after communal maintenance. The communal shed had a new sink fitted to help a few plot holders having to cut across the car park. Thank you to Tony, Mark and Steve for fitting the sink. Thank you, Tony for the handmade new additions to the site, 6 bat boxes, we can't wait to see them be monitored over the next coming year.

The community well-being garden had a lot of hard work put in to get it ready for the launch. A massive thank you to Trish, Lou, Mark, Steve and everyone that helped make this possible. The garden is now being used by a handful of the community coming together to learn to grow and socialise with nature.

The KCC helped fund the new compost toilet that will very soon be operational to all the plot holders and for community events.

Thank you, to James for sourcing regular wood chip for the site. Thank you to TMBC, Roger Dalton on organising and the WPC for paying for a load of compost for the site plot holders, this has massively helped the site to a new growing year!

Plans for the coming year...

- Organise an annual summer BBQ event.
- All plot to have plot number signs.
- To sort the entrance track.

In addition, we have ongoing maintenance of the communal structures, keeping trees and shrubs under control, and odd jobs that pop up from time to time – so there's always something you can help out with!



Ashley Crowdey, Chair, Allotment Committee

March, 2026

Wouldham Wellbeing Walk



The Wednesday Wellbeing Walk has been running for almost 2 years now. The walks are well attended & there hasn't been a week when the walk was running that no one turned up. Even on horrible wet & windy days we've still had three hardcore walkers braving the weather.

There are lots of regulars from Wouldham & the surrounding villages & it's always good when someone new comes along & then becomes a regular themselves.

It would be good to get more men to come along as we only have 3 at the moment.

Gillian Streeter - Organiser

Kent County Council - Councillor Report



HOUSING ASYLUM SEEKERS Recent my activity has been dominated by the news (leaked to me by a friend inside the Home Office) of two properties in Walderslade being purchased by Clearsprings Ready Homes Ltd to house asylum seekers displaced by the closure of Asylum Hotels. Across my investigations into this, it appears that every council in the Home Counties is being allocated a number of asylum seekers for local housing. The figure in T&MBC being 221 (this figure has never been confirmed, but I am confident it is accurate). Given the maximum an HMO can accommodate legally is six, this will require thirty-five houses in T&M alone. Since exposing the story, two more houses have been purchased, in other villages.

Since exposing this story, I have been interviewed by BBC, GB News, Daily Mail, Daily Express and the Kent Messenger. 2,000 residents have signed my petition, which I will be presenting to parliament in May.

For clarity, T&MBC have no power to stop this, they are not even informed that houses are being purchased for this purpose and no planning consent or consultation is permitted. In all my communications on this issue I have been very careful not to inflame or promote prejudicial comments. I have made clear that there is no evidence that those moving in will commit crime or have criminal intent. Official figures show that asylum seekers living in asylum hotels are only marginally more likely to commit crime than the UK population. But housing six young men in a property with no nearby shop, no GP access, poor transport links and in a community which will not speak their language or be particularly welcoming, is probably not going to end well for either residents or those seeking asylum.

WALK-OUT AT KENT COUNTY COUNCIL At the full meeting of Kent County Council on 19th March I joined Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, Independent and Restore councillors in walking out of the last hour of the Council meeting. The decision to walk out was prompted by the insistence on Reform UK presenting a motion on declaring a Kent Migration Emergency. While I agree that small boats and migration is a major issue for Kent, it is not a matter for Kent County Council. The government sets immigration policy, and KCC is reimbursed in full for any costs association with asylum seekers or immigration.

Under the rules of "purdah" which prevents local councils debating issues or voting on motions which might affect the outcome of an election, the Reform-UK debate was ruled out of order by legal counsel. Reform-UK insisted on going ahead but were told by the Council's Monitoring Officer that to do so, there could be no criticism of the motion and no criticism of Reform-UK's motives or policies. These rules (unique in KCCs 139 history) were imposed all day, resulting in Conservative, Labour, LibDem, Green councillors being silenced and the microphones turned off.

To say to democratically elected councillors that we could not speak, criticise or challenge council policy was both undemocratic and absurd. Opposition parties met over the lunch break, and we collectively decided to take no part in this. The Reform-UK motion was clearly intended to influence the Cliftonville KCC by-election (taking place to weeks later) and we refused to bit players in this charade. We therefore walked out. I would like to reassure readers that the formal business of the council had concluded before lunch and we only walked out for Reform-UKs debate, nothing else.

GRANTS TO GOOD CAUSES My 2026 Grant Allocation will open in May, and as always, I will welcome applications from Parish Councils and local community groups and voluntary organisations. I will be allocating the funding pro-rata to population (or as close as possible) so a village with 20% of residents will receive 20% of my grant allocation. I attach (below) how my grant was allocated in 2025/2026.

Aylesford: Grotto for Father Christmas at Christmas Market (£300), Dementia Cafe (£250), St Peter & St Paul's Food Bank (£250), New play equipment for St Peter's Primary School (£300)

Blue Bell Hill: Village Hall Security Improvements (£300)

Burham: Christmas and Easter Celebrations hosted by Thursday Club (£300), improvements to War Memorial (£500)

Ditton: New campaign supplies for Ditton Scouts (£300), secure storage for Heritage Centre (£300), information boards at Ditton Nature Reserve (£300)

Eccles: Christmas Gifts for Children visiting Santa's Grotto (£300)

Wouldham: Women's Institute Bystanders can be Lifesavers Campaign (£250), Wouldham Senior Citizens Christmas Party (£300)

Walderslade: New picnic bench for Tunbury Rec (£500)

Out of Area: Kent Search & Rescue (£300)

KCC BUDGET

As you might be aware, KCC set a budget with a 3.99% increase, 1% below the maximum 4.99% allowed by the government. While this was superficially well received by some, there is evidence that the shortfall is having an increasingly detrimental effect of service provision.

KCC now has a predicted budget shortfall of close to £100 million (to put this in perspective, this is the equivalent to the entire budgets of T&MBC, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Councils combined). Adult Social Care is £40 million in debt. Kent Highways have now been told there can be no new capital projects (KCC is now just maintaining what is already there and managing decline). The decision not to sell County Hall for development has lost £9m in capital receipts and has lumbered taxpayers with a white elephant HQ with a leaking roof, broken lifts, poor heating and no DDA compliance – which costs £2 million a year to maintain. When Reform-UKs KCC Cabinet Member for Local Government Efficiency said, "KCC had been well run and there were no savings to be found" he was promptly sacked.

IN OTHER NEWS

- After three years of 'nagging' I finally secured funding to repaint the road markings at the M2 / Taddington interchange.
- I have been consulting with Costco over their planned new store at Coldharbour. I am supportive of this (250 new jobs and a Costco at this site is better than more housing) but I have concerns about traffic management and landscaping.
- I will soon re-open discussions with Royal British Veterans' Enterprise to close the small piece of land which connects Admiral Moore Drive with the 'new' estate at Preston Hall. This strip of land outside Queen Elizabeth Court is not highway; it is privately owned by RBL. It was opened to allow access for construction traffic and should have been closed upon completion. This now provides a rat-run for thousands of cars each day through the Retirement Village posing a danger to the elderly community as car and HGV drivers avoid the Hall Road / A20 traffic lights.

- I am pushing Highways to rescind an overnight work permit for Southern Water to excavate Aylesford High Street. Houses here front directly onto the road with no gardens or protection. Overnight work is a real nuisance to workers and school children. There is no reason this routine maintenance cannot happen during daytime during school holidays.

Andrew Kennedy - Kent County Councillor

Tonbridge & Malling - Councillor Report
Aylesford North and North Downs Ward



A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1. This has been another very busy year at TMBC.
2. Throughout the year ,we have worked closely with Wouldham Parish Council. There have been no clashes between TMBC and Wouldham PC meetings. Therefore there has been a TMBC member at every PC meeting.
3. The major event last year was the **Regulation 18 Consultation**. We congratulate your Council on getting 110 or more people to respond which was a very high rate. That hopefully will mean that Wouldham will go from being a Teir 3 Settlement to a Tier 4 Settlement. Within a working Local Plan that will reduce the pressure to build in Wouldham. Although Wouldham only had 40 new houses planned in the next 16 years even those might be reduced because of the high response from Wouldham pointing out why there are better places to build than Wouldham. We must wait for the Regulation 19 consultation to see what changes the planners come up with.

THE YEAR AHEAD

4. **Local Plan**. This year there will be another major public consultation on the emerging Local Plan in the early summer of 2026. This is the **Regulation 19 Consultation** . It is the final chance for all residents to comment on the emerging Local Plan. However, TMBC planners will not make any changes to the plan submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for central government approval. . All public responses will be forwarded to the Planning inspectorate for them to consider. They will only change things for sound planning reasons. Once the Local Plan is approved and in place, it will be the Local Plan going forward until 2042 or until the new unitary authority produces a new plan which will take many years. The new Local Plan will prevent all but the smallest of speculative building not in the plan. We can be a lot more certain of things in the future.
5. **Local Government Reform..** Central Government are now deciding which of the 5 submitted options are going forward to determine how local government works in Kent. We very much hope that they go with the overwhelming logic of the 3a option but fear that 4b will be selected with all its flaws for party political reasons.

Borough Councillors: Dave Davis, Alex McDermott and Roger Dalton

Peters Village Community Centre/Village Hall

We are having a large turn over at the moment of classes and so the timetable is being changed all the time with a lot still unconfirmed. This is the best I can provide with some still to change:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10-11.30 Halinells 4.15 - 6.30 Halinells 7-8 - Fran Yoga	10.30-11.30 Baby Pilates 4-5 Karate 5.15 -7.15 - Halinells	Halinells 4.15 - 6.45 7-8pm - Yoga	4.15 - 7.15 - Halinells 7.30-8.30 - Line Dancing	9.30 - 11.30 - Footy for Tots Art Group 11.30 - 1.30	9am - 1pm - Halinells

We now have Yoga twice a week Monday and Wednesday due to increased popularity. Halinells is our mixed children's dance school. Every other Sunday is still Craft Fayre/Indoor Bootfair Last Friday of the month we have an Auction. Our small meeting space is still available for any meetings or small gatherings/classes - please get in touch for more info.

One further point to add, after reports of rubbish being left at the back of the car park by members of the public, we have now secured this area off and it is only for the usage of intermittent storage for the landscapers, we hope we acted upon this quickly and to everyone's satisfactory. If there are ever any issues please get in touch and I will always endeavour to do my best to remedy any issues as quickly as possible.

PVFC

The Ladies team are now league winners for 25/26 which is fantastic news!



Holly Schofield
 Manager at Peters Village Hall
 Please note my working hours are 9am - 2pm - Tuesday to Thursday.

*Organisations/Groups active but not responded to information request:
 Medway Green/All Saints School, All Saints Church, Mammoths,*