

WOULDHAM PARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS DELIVERING IN THE AREA

YEAR - 2023/4



What is an Annual Parish Meeting?

All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6.00 pm.

The meeting enables the Parish Council and local groups to explain what they have been doing over the last year and provides an opportunity for the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

Who can attend the meeting?

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the Parish, which the public are entitled to attend and participate in.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?

Yes, any registered elector may ask questions of the Council, which will usually be answered by the Chair, the Clerk to the Council, or a designated Councillor.

An elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything relevant to the residents of Wouldham

Who will chair the meeting?

The Chair of the Parish Council will chair the meeting or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair.

Will Parish Councillors be there?

Yes, however, the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.

Will notes be taken of the meeting?

Yes, a written record of the meeting will be taken and presented at the next Annual Parish meeting for approval.

What else happens at the meeting?

The Parish Council may invite guest speakers from local clubs, societies and other voluntary and statutory organisations to talk about the work/activities of their group and/or present information

on topics of local interest.

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Council meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL

Wouldham Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2023/2024.

The first meeting in May saw 5 new faces, 1 returnee and 2 stalwarts. After the elections it was decided, to aid continuity, the writer was left in the "hot seat" and the other stalwart, in the Vice-Chair position. In this year we also had Georgia join us as a "local" Police Beat Officer, and Simon White stepped up as our KCC Community Warden, both have put in some sterling work over the year, but due to their large patches they have struggled to attend meetings.

Over this last year Wouldham has involved itself in the funeral of Queen Elizabeth 11, the crowning of King Charles 111, both were organised locally by our Parish Clerk Tina Miles. A Remembrance Day parade was once again re-instated. This was led by Ashley Crowdey and her Rainbows and Brownies, who proudly carried their flags. Our County Councillor Andrew Kennedy also attended, having provided the funds for the flags, and the poppies displayed in High Street and Village Road. We are hoping to obtain more poppies this year to enhance the Parish.

Whilst we have been fortunate in having the Brownies, Junior football, and little litter pickers to engage our younger persons, and our over 60's club, coffee mornings, and Mammoth rugby for the more mature, we have only just been able to engage a Youth & Community Worker to work across the whole community. It is hoped regular youth clubs will start shortly and volunteers will come forward to support these new groups.

The football pitches in Peters Village have now been made available for use by a local football club. The long overdue play equipment promised in Peters Village is now available for people to see but not use due to safety surfaces to be put in place. The Knowle Road recreation ground has had some work carried out on it, mainly the repairs to the Zip Line, but this has meant that monies held by TMBC for repairs to the equipment has been badly dented. The Life Buoys and defibrillators have been checked every month by Parish Councillors, and a third defibrillator is about to be installed.

The No Entry trial has now finished and we await the decision of KCC to report their findings and decision. Other issues with regard to the trial have arisen, i.e. drivers still driving through the No Entry. This has made it necessary for the Clerk, on behalf of the Council, to spend a lot of time in discussions with KCC and the Police regarding enforcement. The Council has also spent a very large amount of its time in conversations with Police and KCC regarding parking, especially around both areas of the schools. Whilst some headway has been made it is not entirely as the Council would like. The Medway Green School is in the process of building a car park in Oldfield Drive, hopefully resolving this problem, although TMBC Planning disregarded our and residents request for the entrance, which was felt to be a safety issue.

After discussions with All Saints School, we will be making funds available for a Crossing Patrol Attendant in Worrall Drive, we already finance the one in Knowle Road, and all our thanks should go to Stella for filling this essential post for another year.

We have been in touch with both the Developer for Peters Village and KCC regarding placing salt bins within this part of the Parish and have been told by both the Developer and KCC they are not necessary.

The Allotments have elected a new committee, and are now registered with The National Allotment Association. The Community Magazine is available online, and some hard copies can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk.

I would like to thank the small, but very committed band of volunteers who have helped activities in the parish over the last year. Many things would not happen without your support!

As usual, every January the Parish Council is asked to submit a financial figure to TMBC in order to run the Parish Council. This year we submitted a 10% decrease. This means that over the last 4 years we have decreased the Parish Precept by 20%. This has resulted in Wouldham asked for the lowest figure per household in the TMBC area.

The Parish Council meets most 1st Tuesdays of the month, (please check out website for details) and we are always pleased to hear your helpful views.

Eddy Bell - Wouldham Parish Council (Chairman)

Roads, Footpaths, and Lighting Report 2022/2023

The Councillors with responsibility for this working group regularly bring the same problems to the meetings, potholes, overhanging vegetation on pathways and better bollards in Hall Road and Wouldham Road. We have also been trying to get double yellow lines outside the School in Worrall Drive and along the entrance to Oldfield Drive.

Whilst the new road layout at the No Entry point of the High Street has caused frustration for residents with those who constantly break the law, there has been at least an 70% reduction in traffic travelling along the High Street from the Church. We continue to lobby the Police and KCC to install permanent enforcement measures. However, this will mean that regular offenders from Oldfield and Rectory will need to follow the rules. We have also put up our own signage at the junction of Oldfield and School Lane as some vehicles seem to have a problem understanding 'No Through Road' signs!

The Parish Council had agreed to provide salt bins for Peters Village, However, Trenport have not allowed us to put any on their land. Also, it is the responsibility of developers to make sure roads, which are not adopted, remain passable.

The 'Welcome to Wouldham' sign has been put on the round-a-bout at Peters Village and we are still trying to get one along New Court Road/Village Road

Roads, Footpaths & Lighting Team: Cllrs Britchfield, Hopper and Gray

Open Spaces Report 2022/2023

This year has seen the completion of the repairs to the Zip Line, which was paid by funding from the Oldfield S106 Agreement. Unfortunately, there is still a small minority who continue to abuse it with overloading and smashing it against the break. However, the majority enjoy it responsibly. We have therefore found a contractor who will replace the damaged items, so we will be able to claim the cost from the TMBC S106 fund.

We have monitored the grounds maintenance contractor over the year and they seem to have settled into a much better routine. However, we have continued to fill some gaps ourselves, such as cutting back the Tramway hedges and at the top of the rec.

Our thanks go to the small band of volunteers who have tended the fruit trees in the Rec. The constant summer watering and feeding has meant they have blossomed and look very healthy.

Replacement benches have been purchased for the park in Peters Village and will be installed shortly. Hopefully, these will not be vandalised. Additional benches for Hall Road and along Village Road are still being negotiated with KCC who require costly licences to place items on their property.

Lifebuoys and defibrillators continue to be checked monthly by the team to ensure they are fit for use in an emergency. The defibrillator at the Village Hall has been used once over the year and the one at the Community Centre has not been used. Also, fortunately the lifebuoys have also not needed to be used.

Finally, now that the Council have contracted a Handyman, some of the smaller jobs around the parish can be undertaken. **Open Spaces Team: Cllrs Bell, Miles and Yard**

[Crime in Wouldham - \(source: CrimeRate UK and Police Database\)](#)

Wouldham is among the top 20 most dangerous villages in Kent, and is the 34th most dangerous overall out of Kent's 331 towns, villages, and cities. The overall crime rate in Wouldham in 2023 was 123 crimes per 1,000 people. This compares poorly to Kent's overall crime rate, coming in 37% higher than the Kent rate of 90 per 1,000 daytime population.

Between 30/04/2023 and 31/3/2024 there were 374 crime reports across the Parishes of Burham and Wouldham.

With the increase of bike and motorcycle thefts, particularly from Peters Village over the past six months. There has been a co-ordinated police response to this:

- [Bike marking event in Peter's Village with the Kent County Council Community Wardens](#)
- [Neighbourhood Task Force in the area in evenings and early hours of the morning](#)
- [Beat Team shifts have been changed to cover the periods the thefts are happening as much as possible](#)
- [Increased foot and vehicle patrolling utilising marked and unmarked cars, stop searches conducted](#)
- [Rural Task Force are aware and dog section have been in the area too](#)

Unfortunately, the design of the open garages in Peters Village leave it vulnerable to bike thefts. This is something that the Design Out Crime Team are looking into. They will be able to advise planning departments on any possible changes, for Peters Village and future projects.

Op Japan (tackling nuisance motorbikes across the Mallings), including Burham and Wouldham was a success with vehicle seizures, traffic reports, searches, arrests and lots of vehicles stopped and riders engaged.

There has been a partner working with the Kent County Council Community Wardens and the Police at drop in events and community events at the Peters Village Community Centre.

The most common crimes in Wouldham are violence and sexual offences, with 68 offences during 2023. This is 26% lower than 2022's figure of 92 offences.

Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	*Increase on 2022
Anti-Social Behaviour	11	16	17	10	56	140%
Burglary	4.3	3.8	1.6	2.2	14	159%
Criminal Damage & Arson	5	7	11	15	21	35%
Drugs	1.1	4.3	1.1	1.6	4	63%
Other Crime	1.6	2.7	1.1	2.7	16	148%
Bicycle Theft					7	
Other Theft	7	3.2	9	9	20	56%
Possession of Weapons		1.6	0.54	0.54	4	185%
Public Order	3.2	8	3.2	7	15	54%
Robbery	2.2	1.6		0.54	1	46%
Shoplifting					16	
Theft from person					1	
Vehicle Crime	19	10	8	10	45	113%
Violence & Sexual Offences	41	45	44	50	104	52%

2019-2022 based on number of crimes per 1000 residents

* indicates all crimes reported, therefore percentage is based on assumed 4000 residents

It is worth noting the continued construction in Peter's Village, which comes under Wouldham for statistics (as does Burham). With the population increasing it's not unexpected that there will be more crimes reported.

Outcomes	Total	Percentage
Other	50	16%
Investigation complete; no suspect identified	110	35.1%
Unable to prosecute suspect	100	31.9%
Action to be taken by another organisation	11	3.5%
Status update unavailable	5	1.6%
Court result unavailable	8	2.6%
Local resolution	4	1.3%
Awaiting court outcome	5	1.6%
Offender given a caution	1	0.3%
Further investigation is not in the public interest	3	1%

Chairmans end of season report 2024 Wouldham Allotments

As we enter a new year on the allotments and begin a new season of seed sowing and planting, the hard work and time employed by many to see an improvement across Wouldham Allotments must not be forgotten.

The new committee took control of the allotments with the approval of Eddy Bell Chairman to Wouldham Parish Council, with the wish that the newly elected committee will move the management of the site in a direction that is more accustomed to a recognised way of operation.

The year that is to close started with the retirement of Sue Durrani and Mark Spear, who handed control to the new committee at the AGM on 12 May 2023, this started a long process that is still continuing to advance and will probably never conclude, it must be recognised that this new start should firstly thank the previous management for their services for many years.

It is my sincere gratitude towards the new committee. Ashley, Patricia and Karl, for their hard work over the year, this has seen many hours of their time invested in the necessary steps required to achieve the goal that was asked from them, I can only praise them for volunteering. Karl has now stepped down from the position of site manager with a noticeable loss.

Thank you to Wouldham Parish Council and the continued support of Tina Miles, who has been available to help the transitional process arrive at the desired destination, the allotments look forward to a continued professional relationship.

The association committee has been working hard in its first year, to present to the members the requirements that was put in place by Wouldham Parish Council and the previous allotment management, before paperwork and funds would be released, this was achieved by the preparation of the allotments constitution that was necessary to open a bank account, and more recently with much gratitude to the WPC who paid for the allotments public liability insurance.

A good start has been made across the site to advance in the right direction, this includes the necessary tidy up of some plots, continued work in the car park, and site management that has included the help from volunteers working from their own initiative. The year ahead should see more time invested in the site itself, now that the allotments association is operational, and the set-up process is completed.

Wouldham has hosted allotments for many decades at different locations around the village, and in present years it appears that the traditions of the allotments have been lost, it must be recognised that the site is provided on the understanding that they are used to cultivate edible produce, any recreational uses on the site should respect the long serving legacy that this service provides, the updated allotment tenancy agreement explains in more detail the site rules and conditions.

The main objective is to ensure that the fundamental purpose of the site is recognised first, the committee understand that the ability of the members vary but many plots have acquired a very relaxed style of limited enthusiasm, it may be in question to whether any individual plot is needed.

The committee will seek to respond to requests made by its members, to help direct the way forward over the years to follow, many good ideas have already come to light, and help to implement them along with the enthusiasm of the plot holders, should see many new projects get started. It is understood that some members prefer the quieter way of gardening myself included, but feel free to get involved to help model the site and

remember the allotments are for the wellbeing of us all, there will always be a need for non-executive members to help, thank you to Lin Simmonds for your services.

The new season will look to reinstate lost social events and competitions along with new ideas, but this will only be possible if it meets the members requirements, so positive feedback will be needed, the Chairmans challenge must be high on the list.

New ideas and events may need individual funding and it is recommended that the costs are raised by donations, this will minimise the need to increase the yearly rents, the recent rubbish skip was a good idea and could be repeated seasonally, this made a noticeable difference across the site,

There will soon be a rush in greenhouses and on window seals, thank you to all who placed an order with Kings Seeds through the National Allotment Society.

I look forward to seeing all the worthwhile hard work throughout the summer and remember to use the water responsibly, and if using a hose please ensure it is disconnected after use.

Finally, a thank you to all for your achievements across the entire site this past year, with a warm welcome to all new members who are starting a new venture on the allotments.

Tony Connor Chairman Wouldham Allotments

Bell Ringing Report 2023-2024



2024 will be the 30th anniversary of the band starting up again after 20 years of no ringing. Unfortunately, during these 30 years, 2 of our original members have passed away and the rest of us are getting to the end of our ringing days.

Currently there are only 5-7 committed ringers. This means that if anyone is unwell, has a holiday etc, we are unable to ring. This will eventually mean that future ringing for weddings is at risk.

Practice night continues to be from 8-9pm on Wednesdays, however, often this is cancelled due to lack of ringer availability. This also applies to Sunday services.

During the year, we have run taster sessions for the Rainbows and Brownies. The initial one came about due to their normal venue not being available and the leader had to adjust the activities she offered at the last minute. But when the Rainbows found out what they had done, also wanted to have a go. So, a second session was planned.

As these sessions were arranged by Girlguiding, Safeguarding was under their remit. However, as all Bell Ringers are now required to undertake Safeguarding training if there are children in the tower, the decision was taken to restrict any children from joining as no one is prepared to do the training.

We continue to ensure that we ring for national celebrations/commemorations. As part of the national 'Ring for the King' initiative, we did have a new member sign up. However, ongoing commitments has meant that he no longer rings. Along with towers across the country we rang for the Coronation, Midnight Mass, Easter Sunday, and Remembrance Sunday. We also plan to ring for the 80th Anniversary of D Day on 6th June, 2024.

Unfortunately, current ringing relies on very few ringers, particularly from one family. It would be great if we could get new, committed members.

Tina Miles – Captain, Wouldham Bell Ringers

Wouldham Book Club

The club commenced in January 2024 following a few locals' interacting via the Keep Wouldham Connected Facebook group. We wanted a Book Club that was within walking distance for Wouldham residents and for it to be a forum to make new friends, as a few of us were new to the village, and to expand our reading.

Once we were clear on what we wanted to achieve, we put a post on Facebook to invite more members. A WhatsApp group was set up to make communication nice and easy and to ensure all members have a say in how the group is run. Our 1st group session was an informal one, taking place at The Medway Inn, and enabling us to get to know each other and what we like to read, as well as drawing up a group agreement. Most importantly, we selected our 1st book, Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

We have continued to meet once a month, but moved to Wouldham Village Hall to enable everyone to interact without distraction. Each month we discuss the book we've all read as well as having a social chat. We use the Book Club app and WhatsApp to vote for our next book prior to the meeting to enable everyone plenty of time to source the next book.

We have 17 members on our WhatsApp group and have a regular attendance of approx. 10 members each month. We are a group of various ages but have found a common interest in reading. We have lots of fun at the group and on our WhatsApp group and are already talking about summer and Christmas social events.

We have expressed an interest in a local community grant to help cover the cost of hall hire and books so that nobody is excluded because of their financial situation.

Members contribute **£12** each to cover the cost of 6 months of hall hire. We meet on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month at **7.30pm** in **Wouldham Village Hall**. We welcome new members, anyone interested can contact **Sarah Taylor** on **07766074527**.

Mighty oaks grow from little acorns



Coffee Mornings

Parish Coffee Mornings run on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 10-12 in the Village Hall.

It's a great way for everyone to come together for a chat, find out what's going on and make friends.

Over the year, we have had between 18 and 30 people attending each session. As well as providing homemade cakes and filter coffee, we have had visits from NHS Health Advisors, an Energy Saving company, chair exercise tutor, crafting tutor and the Police Commissioner. We hope to continue to liaise with other organisations to provide information

Perrin's Charity

This small Charity is for residents of Wouldham who have lived in Wouldham for 10 years or more, are aged 70 years or over are known to be of good character. This year the Trustees have been able to provide vouchers to around 25 people with the support of the Co-op.

Wouldham Chess Club Report



Wouldham Chess Club begun on 5th April 2024 to offer a different activity to residents.

On our first meeting 11 people attended which was excellent. The next 2 meetings saw only 6 and 7 players respectively. However, our last meeting on 26th April saw 14 players.

On our books we now have a total of 17 players. These players vary in different skill levels of the game.

It is planned to run the club until the end of June 2024 and restart again in September (when the school holidays are finished).

It is held every Friday evening between 7-8pm in the Wouldham Village Hall, at a cost of £1 per person.

KCC Community Warden Report - 2023/2024



It has been a busy year and, with additional burden of covering extra areas (Snodland), there have been some time constraints on my role.

However, during the last 12 months I have been able to assist, help and engage with groups and individuals alike. Across Wouldham and Peters Village I have assisted 14 individuals on a detailed one to one basis with issues ranging from finances, housing, isolation, health and wellbeing and food bank support. I have also engaged with more than 20 others on a less detailed one to one basis with general signposting of services and advice.

I have engaged with members of the community through groups and via on area walkabouts where again I have been able to give support, advice and signpost to services. I have delivered safety talks in both Wouldham and Peters Village and have now set up a monthly open surgery at the Peters Village Community Centre.

Plans are also underway to create an additional food bank Hub at P V Community Centre which will look to provide a top service for residents in need.

I am in regular communication with the local PC beat officer and we share intel and information on any problem issues. I maintain regular contact with the Parish Council usually via the Parish Clerk and we also share information and plans.

Following a lengthy restructure the warden service is most definitely stretched at present, but I feel confident that those of us left in post will all continue to strive for excellence in our areas (where ever they may be) moving forward and I personally hope to be able to continue my work in the area.

Simon White

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KCC Community Warden

Wouldham Girlguiding Report 2024

Rainbows and Brownies have been running for over a year and we have a full pack of girls and lots of amazing volunteers. Guides have been running for 1 year and slowly growing in numbers.

We have our own allotment plot for the girls to grow and learn outdoor activities e.g. out back cooking.

We have also done lots of community fundraising and helping the area. Here are some of the events we have arranged and supported:

- ✓ Remembrance Parade.
- ✓ Litter Picking
- ✓ Donating to the food bank
- ✓ Maidstone library bus visit
- ✓ Raised money for Children in Need
- ✓ Raised money for Chester Rabbit Rescue with a visit.
- ✓ Painted the concrete planters at the rec.
- ✓ Raised money for the RNLI. Hosted Bingo Night for the community.



We have been lucky enough to be awarded grants to enable us to develop and deliver a wider range of activities. This year, we have received:

- ✓ A grant to purchase a Guides flag to use at parades and many other events from KCCllr Andrew Kennedy
- ✓ A grant towards the cost of equipment from the Co-op
- ✓ A grant to purchase materials to create lanterns as part of the D-Day commemoration event lantern parade from Wouldham Parish Council

Our thanks go to all those that have supported us to grow over the last year.

Wouldham Mammoths Touch Rugby

Touch Rugby is one of the easiest sports to play anywhere on the planet! All you need is a ball, a space to play in, and some people to play the sport with you!



As with any sport, Touch can get more complicated as you get more experienced and accustomed to tactics and positions. But the core skills and rules are easy to learn and remember, and because Touch is a minimal contact version of rugby, men and women of all ages can play on the same pitch as equals!

We continue to have a good number of members although they have been up and down over the year. The Club remains free for anyone to participate and all levels are still welcome to join.

We plan to compete in an organised match at some point in the future and could benefit from more female players attending

We still meet in the recreation ground on Sunday mornings at 10am.

Come along and have a go!

Matthew Clemens-Lary - Manager

VILLAGE HALL END OF YEAR REPORT – 2023/4

Since lockdown the Village Hall Committee have completed various projects. These include:



- ✓ Cladded and insulated the rear wall of the main hall
- ✓ Installed shelving for Jellybeans and tidied the rear storage area
- ✓ Replaced part of the hall ceiling (window end) with acoustic plasterboard, when it fell down. Then redecorated again. And, roof repaired.
- ✓ Painted the main hall on two separate occasions, moved notice boards and decluttered the main hall of posters etc.
- ✓ Refitted the kitchen and used half the space to make an accessible toilet with baby changing station.
- ✓ Moved the front gate outside to a safer position and removed spikes from railings
- ✓ Had a new front door made
- ✓ Sorted out the rat problem. Filled the holes where they were getting in
- ✓ Cleared out the cellar, this included a lot of Jellybeans belongings
- ✓ Painted the front of the hall, door and windows. Installed the new sign/bird box
- ✓ Front garden has been maintained and will be redesigned in the near future
- ✓ Looked after the accounts, daily running, bookings, and H & S as well as amending the rules of hire and appointing a fantastic cleaner.

We are pleased to report that there are now more regular user's mornings and evenings. However, there is still availability for afternoons and weekends.

We have supported the Parish Council and arranged our own community events. These include:

Old Wouldham Exhibition
Childrens Tea Party

Afternoon Teas
Coffee Mornings

Quiz Night
NHS Health Checks

We feel that we have looked after the hall to the best of our abilities and we hand it back to the Parish Council in a much better state that when we took it over.

Myself (Anne), Sarah, Sandra, Tina and Ashley are very happy to continue as a working group for the hall. However, I wish to no longer be a Trustee of a Charity. Nor does Martin Jukes or Donna Roome. We held two Extraordinary Meetings to see if anyone would take over the reins in line with Charity Commission rules. However, no one has come forward. Therefore, we are in the process of closing the Charity with the Charity Commission, all accounts have now been submitted to them.

Jobs Still to Do

- ☞ Front garden
- ☞ Gravel/pave the bin area
- ☞ Railings to be painted
- ☞ Move shed. Make rear exit at the bottom of the garden. (Fire escape has been blocked by neighbours) Letters were sent to residents, but ignored. Fire Officer has advised that one exit is acceptable, but two would be better.
- ☞ New windows for the front of the building
- ☞ Rear garden needs redesigning and clearing

Anne Marr – Chair

Peters Village Residents Association

We have managed to set up a resident association for Peters Village. This had been attempted previously and proved quite difficult to arrange, particularly starting a new bank account etc.

However, with the commitment of Shekhar Karande (Secretary), Robert Gallier (Treasurer) and Ellie Drake and myself as Co-Chairs, we have been able to become a recognised group to work on behalf of the residents.

Our first general meeting was largely taken up with service charge issues. This meeting was attended by the local press who reported on our concerns. There have been several other committee meetings and some steering group meetings around events and other actions. We continue to work on the service charges issue and Doctors surgery delivery as well as planning events to bring the community together.



We delivered our first event at Easter Sunday which included an Easter Trail around the village, colouring competition, face painting, raffle and arts and crafts. A great number of children (and adults!) had a fantastic time getting involved. Our thanks go to Ashley, Kelly, and Rachel for making it such a success against the odds!

Matthew Clemens-Lary – Co-Chair

General Contact – contact@pveresidents.co.uk

Pilgrims Reach Residents Association

Pilgrims Reach Residents Association is a limited company with Directors who are residents of Oldfield Drive. They manage the development, maintain the gardens and public spaces whilst keeping charges to a minimum. They monitor covenants on properties to ensure compliance and represent residents' views in planning applications which affect them.

However, with the current re-development of the Medway Green School, it is felt that neither the Association or individuals' views were taken into consideration by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. It was very disappointing that TMBC ignored safety and traffic flow concerns without even discussing it with the Association.

60+ Club

The ethos of the club is to enjoy ourselves. We meet socially every Tuesday afternoon in the Watermans Arms, from 2 – 4pm. We usually have a weekly quiz (brain training), two games of bingo and a raffle. On occasions, we have talks and guest visitors.

Currently, the cost is £2.50 per week (Subs), plus £1 for 2 games of bingo (cash prizes), and 50p for the raffle, (prizes are usually donated). During the afternoon, free, homemade cakes, tea and coffee are offered.

When finances permit, we spend it! This could be lunches, afternoon teas, Christmas lunch, theatre and other various trip out. Outings are decided by members agreed by a majority vote. On occasions when the cost per theatre ticket (free for members), is expensive we ask members to cover the cost of the coach. Two outings are planned for this year; one to Fenn Bell Zoo and one to the 'seaside'. Whilst there are only a few rules, we do make it clear that we are not care providers. Carers are welcome, but they are there to care and not to join in the activities.

Daphne Parris

