

DUNTON GREEN NEWS

Dunton Green Parish Council

Issue 032 Summer 2024



Longford Spinney—Photo DGPC

**Sevenoaks District Local Plan & Green Belt
Development - UPDATE on next consultation!**
See pages 38 - 39 for the details



Dunton Green Parish Council
Working for a Better Community in Dunton Green

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DUNTON GREEN NEWS

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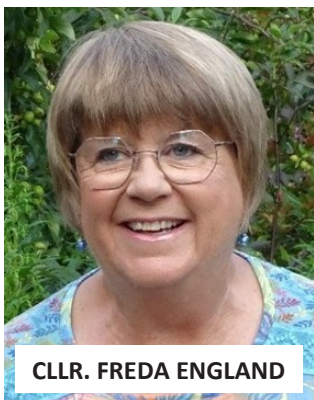


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CLLR. FREDA ENGLAND

Chairman's Update

ROADWORKS, ROADWORKS, ROADWORKS!

This cartoon from Facebook I think sums up how it felt during the weeks of temporary traffic lights, road closures and diversions. I've never been a fan of using Rye Lane. Diverted, lost HGVs



and vans certainly didn't help. The Parish Council did all it could to try and get the work finished asap but the unexpected gas leak and the Easter holiday weekend meant we could do little but keep residents informed through our social media.



KCC, our Kent and District Councillors and Laura Trott are all aware of just how frustrating and difficult it was for parishioners (although it is debatable what impact, if any, they have had in resolving the issues).

I know many of our local businesses suffered and I ask you to give them a little extra support over the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, our Portacabin on the recreation ground which is used to store sports equipment has been damaged. There was an attempt to break in, as well as wanton destruction of the window. This was reported to the Police and CCTV of the offenders has been supplied to them.



And a can of spilt paint made a right mess of our car park and the surrounding roads!



Cont...

...Chairman's Update

Now for some good news!

Our contractors were out early this spring and gave the Village Green hedge a hard trim back (with some extra local assistance). This has improved visibility coming out of Lusted Road.



It's not often Dunton Green gets a mention in the national press, but our most famous brothers, the Hartnolls (of Orbital fame), had a 2 page spread in The Guardian.

As always DGPC does all it can to keep our share of your Council Bill as low as possible, and were pleased to deliver a saving this year, in these times of cost of living rises.

Annual Charge Calculation:		
Kent County Council	£2296.35	Annual % change 3.0%
Kent County Council Adult Social Care Precept*	£388.35	2.0%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	£426.92	5.3%
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority	£149.85	3.0%
Sevenoaks District Council	£406.20	-0.2%
Dunton Green Parish Council	£171.42	-0.6%
Annual charge for your property		

At long last work has restarted on the McCarthy & Stone flats. The delay has been because measures have had to be put in place to protect the chalk stream that flows past.





Many joined us for this year's Annual Parish Meeting in March where we were entertained and educated about Pearly Kings by Chris Conlan, who is currently Bromley's Pearly King. We were also delighted to welcome PC Wilson, Governors from Dunton Green Primary School, many of the Lunch Club volunteers,

SDC councillors, representatives of both Donnington Hall and the Village Hall and residents.

Over the next few months, we will continue to monitor and comment, when possible, on the Local Plan. Key dates are 11th July when it goes to SDC's Advisory Committee and Cabinet on July 16th.



PLAN 2040

A NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT

Sevenoaks
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Have your say on the new Local Plan for the Sevenoaks District

I was disappointed that less than 40 Dunton Green residents took the trouble to respond to the last consultation. You cannot expect the Parish Council to fight to protect our Green Belt from development if you do not put your views forward. The village is under the threat of over 250 new homes, which could start construction within 3 years!!

Finally we are in the process of updating our IT which will include .gov.uk email and website addresses to improve our communication with all in the village.



DUNTON GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

It's been lovely seeing the village spring back to life and I wish you all some sunny warm days ahead.

Freda England
Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council
freda@duntongreenpc.org.uk / www.duntongreenpc.org.uk

Hi, I'm the newest member of your Parish Council!



My name is Guy.

I have lived in Dunton Green for pretty much my whole life and went to schools in Otford and Tunbridge Wells before moving to Canterbury for University.

Having graduated last summer I moved back to the area and secured a job in Sevenoaks. I joined the DGPC in October 2023 and have enjoyed getting to know

more about what goes on in our village community.

Throughout the latter stages of my education I have become familiar with the theory of how local government is structured. I achieved an A Level in 'Government & Politics' at sixth form and built on this knowledge through a module on 'British Public Affairs' at university.

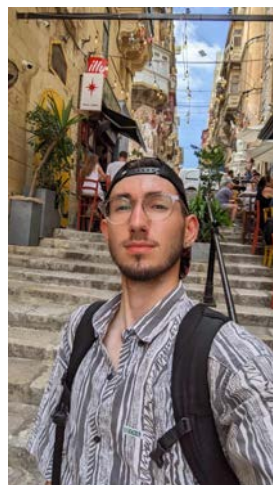
Wanting to witness first-hand how KCC, SDC and DGPC interact, I first attended a parish council meeting in the autumn and saw how impassioned my fellow councillors were. I wanted to contribute my voice and offer to help at their events. Each month thereafter, I have been able to do just that. At 23-years-old, I am the youngest parish councillor.

Key issues of late have included: formulating our response to SDC's Local Plan 2040 and traffic disruption hindering the village.

Moreover it has been energising to discuss potential future plans within the village with other members of the community, business owners and our District Cllrs; Kim Bayley & Graham Clack. Engaging with the community at our Christmas Carol Singing Event and the Annual Parish Meeting have been personal highlights of mine since joining.

You'll often find me at SDC public consultations critiquing their plans, such as the recent one regarding 'Land East of the High St.'. There I spoke with County Cllr, Richard Streatfield, on the importance of guaranteeing the same, if not more, public services, were a new library and leisure centre to be built on smaller sites than where the current ones are in town. As a young pupil, I remember relying on Kent Libraries for borrowing books and printing school supplies, and Sencio for teaching me how to swim. Even today I will still pop in to browse the Visual Arts Forum's Gallery on my lunch break, though for the gym, I do go elsewhere.

There is still a vacancy to join the Parish Council. If you are interested in what goes on in Dunton Green and the surrounding areas and want to have a say on the future direction of the village, do come along to our meetings and join in. I hope to see you there.



Cllr. Guy Forster-Pearce



DATES FOR THE DIARY START OF THE NEW BI-MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

13th July 2024

14th September 2024*

2nd November 2024

NO COLLECTIONS OVER WINTER

18th March 2025

NEW TIMINGS FOR 2024/25:

LUSTED ROAD 12.45PM TO 1.15PM

MILL ROAD 1.30PM TO 2.00PM

* STOP TIMES TBC

PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR EXCESS REFUSE AND TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THIS ADDITIONAL SERVICE

NON-RECYCLABLE REFUSE (EXCLUDING METAL)



FREIGHTER REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE



DUNTON GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

SATURDAY FREIGHTER GUIDANCE

The Freighter cannot accept white goods (excludes microwave ovens), washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, freezers, cookers, cast iron boilers, building materials, manure, large parts of engines or vehicles or hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste now includes items like fluorescent tubes, televisions & computer monitors, batteries, oil tins and filters, paint and paint tins and chemical containers. These items cannot be accepted on the Saturday Freighter service and must be taken to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Compostable garden waste cannot be accepted.



FREIGHTER REFUSE
COLLECTION SERVICE

People Power!

Anthony Close clubs together to resurface their road

By Cllr. Forster-Pearce

The crescent-shaped road may be built on top of a former junkyard but there were no hidden gems buried beneath the surface.



Fed-up with suspension-testing potholes, residents from this private road chiselled into their asphalt and patched it up with tarmac on 13th April.



One neighbour said of the close: "It feels like a completely new road!"

The close-knit community pitched in to clear weeds, moss, loose gravel and large stones from the road surface before maintenance works could begin.





Doing it for themselves, the novice road workers came together to cut square-ish holes around the largest potholes, apply sealant, pack in tarmac, flatten the surface and heat-seal the edges.

Despite sunburnt necks, the odd scrape and dirtied fingers, no one suffered serious injuries from the heavy machinery involved in the process.

Closing the day off with a couple of beers, all were feeling mighty proud of their handiwork.

A second weekend was earmarked to finish the other half of the road in May. Watch this space...



If you have any stories of how your part of Dunton Green has a great community spirit or any other stories and photos that you would like to share, please do let us know. We would love to hear from you!

You can contact the Clerk at clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN DUNTON GREEN

Dunton Green Recreation Ground is host to a number of outdoor fitness activities, several of which are funded by Dunton Green Parish Council.

Basketball

Funded by DGPC, Kent Panthers run FREE basketball sessions for 11—14 year olds on Monday evenings (April to November), 5.30-6.30pm in the MUGA. The club was founded by NBA draft pick Ryan Richards.

For more information about Kent Panthers have a look at their website: kentpanthers.com

No need to book - just turn up and play!



Dunton Green Project


Easy Netball

Everyone is welcome. Minimum age 14


Thursday 7pm to 8pm

MUGA, near the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Dunton Green, TN13 2UR

£2.00 pay as you go



For more information, please call 01732 227000 or email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

 **Sevenoaks**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Netball

With the support of the Parish Council, Sevenoaks District Council continue to run netball sessions in the MUGA on Thursday evenings 7-8pm.

For more information please call 01732 227000 or e-mail communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk for more information on how to get involved.

Sports Sessions

The Parish Council fully funds a number of sporting activities through the year for younger residents aged 4 to 9. Recently this has been some very popular mini tennis sessions for our budding tennis champs.

Over the summer we will see a free holiday programme of mixed sport mini sessions (tennis, cricket and football) on Friday afternoons., starting in July. Look out for more details about how to book on our website, social media and noticeboards in the coming weeks!



BackyardBootcamps



BackyardBootcamps offers fun, varied and inclusive outdoor fitness sessions. Using a variety of equipment as well as body weight exercises, the sessions can be as challenging as you want them to be, but will always be in the company of a supportive coach and crew. Classes take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and

Thursdays at 09.15 and on Saturdays at 08.00 and cost from as little as £8.50.

Please be advised, joining BackyardBootcamps may seriously improve your health; both physical and mental and may well result in meeting lifelong friends. We look forward to seeing you.

For further information please contact:

Jacqueline Bowen - E: Jacbow@live.com / M: 07803 050431

FACILITIES AT THE RECREATION GROUND

The recreation ground provides some great facilities for residents.

The gym equipment gives everyone a free way to exercise and improve both your physical and mental wellbeing.

You can play tennis whenever you like - the court is free to use and there is no booking system - just turn up and play! And the MUGA can be used to play football, netball or basketball. We will be adding some additional features to both of these areas over the summer - watch this space!

If you have ideas for potential activities please let us know, we would love to have your input.





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MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:
clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk / 01732 462966

Dunton Green Pavilion



Dunton Green Pavilion is a fantastic community facility owned and managed by Dunton Green Parish Council.

Located at the heart of the village on the Recreation Ground with excellent facilities — a modern and spacious Main Hall, plus a clean and well-equipped kitchen and a smaller room ideal for meetings.

If you are thinking of setting up a new class or activity, please do get in touch to see how we can help. The Pavilion is also available to hire for birthday parties and other private events.

For more information including pricing and availability, please contact Wendy Jackson, the Bookings and Facilities Assistant on bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk / 07305 814694

Or take a look at our website: www.duntongreenpc.org.uk

Dunton Green Parish Council

Working for a Better Community in Dunton Green



Celebrating 25 years of trade in the village, Freelands Tiles of Dunton Green owner, Peter Bale, speaks with our newest Parish Councillor.

By Cllr. Guy Forster-Pearce

First of all, congratulations! It's a big achievement to be celebrating 25 years of continuous trade. Can you tell me a little bit about how the shop came to be here in Dunton Green?

Congratulations

So basically we had a shop in Bromley. Which is where the name Freelands Tiles comes from. And that had been running for about 20 years. I knew the owner of that shop and we got together and felt there was a need for a shop in the Sevenoaks area. We came across this property that was available and opened up from there.

So put it together and yeah that was in 1999. I wasn't involved with the running of that Bromley shop, I used to sell tiles. I used to be a rep so I always used to call on the shop there and I said I was interested in opening up a shop myself, and so we had sort of been looking around for a property and found this one. We had some contacts down this way and we knew this one was going to come up.

Your shop front looks a little different these days. What drove you to update the branding and signage back in September?

There's a couple of reasons. A couple of years ago we split from the Bromley shop and we've always traded separately. And, in fact, the Bromley shop has unfortunately shut now. But we just felt it was time. You know, 25 years is a long time to have the same sign. We wanted to sort of modernise the image a little bit and look a bit more slick.

When did you split from Bromley?

Um, officially, unfortunately, my partner, who ran the Bromley shop, died in around 2020 so that was kind of when we split.

I'm sorry to hear that.

Yeah, so, yeah. But we've always tried to separate from them. We've just sort of been updating things like that.

Thinking over the 25 years and the gradual urbanisation of the area, do you reckon the addition of estates such as Ryewood have noticeably affected your trade?

No, because most of our customers tend to be refurbishing existing housing. I don't think Ryewood would have really had much of an effect on us from that point of view.

Obviously they're quite new so generally don't need modernising as yet but, hopefully in the future, it'll be a good area for us. Most of our business comes from people doing up their existing homes which tend to be properties which are a little bit older perhaps.

You know, because we've been here for 25 years now, we've got customers who did their bathroom say: 20 years ago from us and now they're coming back. So we are getting that repeat custom, it's taken a long time but it's good to see people back again.

There's a rich industrious heritage to the villages north of Sevenoaks. You'll be familiar with the brickworks on the site where the Ryewood estate now sits, Tesco replaced the Marley's Tiles plant, and we're not far from the Tarmac quarry over in Greatness. With this in mind; Are many of your tiles sourced locally?

They're not, if I'm honest. I mean we buy a lot of our tiles through distributors who, most of them, are based around the southeast. But in actual fact, there's only one manufacturer of tiles in the UK now. Which is Johnson's and they're based in Stoke. And they only



Freelands Tiles can be found on the Broadway Shopping Parade at 124-126 London Road

make smaller brick tiles and that sort of thing. There's not really anyone else making them in the UK anymore which is a shame. I think there's a number of reasons. Unfortunately manufacturing in this country is, you know, not what it was. It's very expensive to put the plants and things together. The other companies have generally all died out now.

Each year I go to Spain in February and Italy in September and they have a lot of big shows with all the manufacturers displaying their new ranges and things. It's a great opportunity to source new products and see what's trending. It's a very fashion-led industry nowadays and you can see what's coming through, the colours and styles, that sort of thing.

And a good chance to get some extra sun, I bet!

Most of it is indoors unfortunately.

Considering that Johnson's is your only tile manufacturer in the UK; what do you reckon are the biggest challenges facing tile retailers such as yourselves today?

It's the internet to be honest, particularly since Covid. When we were told to shut, we weren't allowed to open the showrooms. The internet took a lot of business away then which has been difficult to get back. We try and offer something a little bit different here. We need people to come and visit us and when they do they're often surprised by the choice that we have. The thing is if you order something on the internet and you get a problem with it, you haven't got anyone to go and talk to to sort it out. If you need another box quickly or you need to return a box, anything like that it's better to talk face to face and we can arrange that for you. You don't get that with the internet.

What are your thoughts regarding the further urbanisation of Sevenoaks. The 2040 Local Plan is a big topic in the district at the moment. SDC has tabled the idea of putting 250 homes up by the memorial hall. Do you have much of a perspective on this?

Not really, I mean, you know, I see the need for more housing and you feel like every area should be doing its bit to find areas to build more houses. My main concern is generally that there is the infrastructure to go with it, particularly this road [London Road]. I mean we've always got roadworks here, right? There's more starting next week. It's a constant battle. Getting customers to be able to come and visit you. That's a major worry

to be fair. Not just for me, but for all businesses, I think, in this area. But I would support the building of new homes in any area as long as they are affordable.

What has been most rewarding about being part of the Dunton Green community for 25 years?

Um, I think that the best part (and they're not necessarily in just Dunton Green) but it is when customers come back to you, to be honest. The pressures on us nowadays obviously come from the internet. So we've got to offer something a little bit different if we're going to still be here.

So we obviously work on customer service and offering more choices than you get in other places. I think it's just nice when people come back having used you before and things like that. Most of our business is locally based still.

Do you have any stand out stories from your time?

We had a customer whose daughter was doing an A level and she needed some little mosaic tile bits for an art project and we gave her some old bits and pieces that we had out the back. She came back recently and said that we'd helped to pass her Art A level.



Examples of tiles from Freeland's' website
www.freelands-tiles.co.uk



How do you see the tile industry evolving? Over the next 25 years? Beyond that?

The industry, as a whole, is obviously under quite a lot of pressure from suppliers from the Far East now. The Spanish and Italians are feeling the pinch from that side of things. And they're a bit like us in needing to offer something a bit different to compete with suppliers from further afield. The industry is still growing. We've seen a big growth in outdoor porcelain now and people are using the same tile running through from the kitchen into the patio.

What advice would you give to someone who's starting a home improvement project?

I think just to look around really and see what's out and about. I don't think you can just look at a few Pinterest pictures and get it all from there. It's good to go out and see what the choices are. The cheapest is not always best. Sometimes some offers are too good to be true for a reason. You know, don't always be led by that.

And what exciting things do you have planned for the future of Freelands Tiles of Dunton Green?

I think just more of the same, really. We've been quite busy lately and hopefully that will carry on. We'll keep giving good service to people and they'll keep coming in to buy tiles.



That's encouraging.



I think that tiles are a great choice for lots of reasons. It's something everyone should have. You put tiles down and they'll last for 20 - 25 years.

Is there anything else that you'd like to say to the people of Dunton Green?

Well I'd just like to thank them for all of their support over the years. We've had a lot of customers locally who keep supporting us. We'll still be here.




DGPC Comment:

Thank you to Peter for speaking with Guy. And congratulations on your 25 years of trading in the village - what a fantastic achievement! It is great to hear about a successful local Dunton Green business. If you can support local businesses, please do!

If you are thinking of revamping your home and want to look at tile options, please do consider Peter and the team at Freeland Tiles. They are on London Road and you can call them on 01732 459765 or take look at their website www.freelands-tiles.co.uk.



We would like to feature more articles about local businesses and organisations, so if you have a recommendation of who we should be contacting please do let us know. We have a few ideas on our list to follow up but suggestions from the community are very welcome!



DUNTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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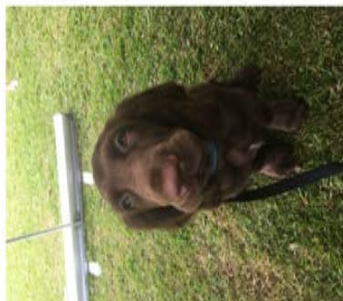
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Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



There have been several sites throughout the village where work has been done on the internet cables. I am hoping this improves the speed and coverage, especially on Ryewood which has been plagued with little or poor broadband and mobile signals since it was built.

Meanwhile the local press reminds us that the village is intersected by several motorways, with many drivers never realising they are actually going 'through' our village.



I love to see a new footpath in the village but there will be no dog walking along this one that has appeared between the railway bridge and Ryewood. It gives railway workers easier access for maintenance work.



Probably the
last delivery of
rubbish and
recycling bags...



No more free black sacks

COUNCIL: MOVE WILL SAVE £270,000 AND HELP ENVIRONMENT

WASTE sacks will no longer be provided by the council in a move which it says will help the environment while protecting its weekly collection service.

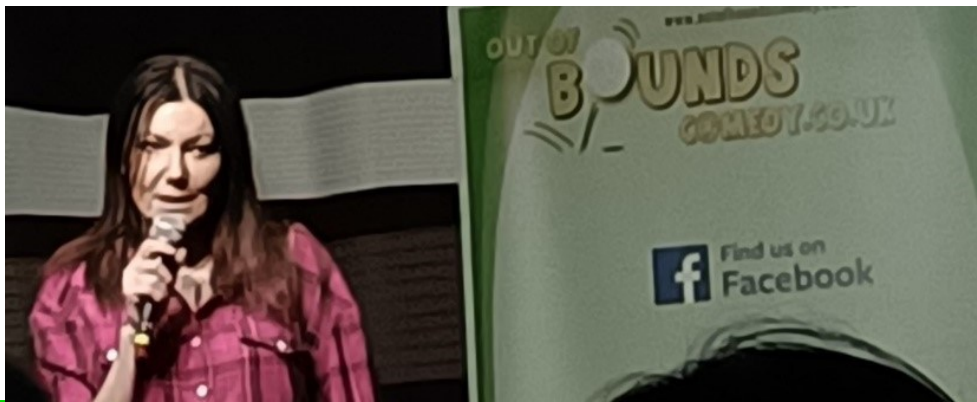
Sevenoaks District Council has confirmed the money-saving move, first proposed late last year as part of the 2024/25 budget, which was signed off last month.

As of April 1, no black waste sacks will be provided for residents, while the clear recycling sacks will be replaced with a 'bag for life' later this year. PAGE 5

Longford Spinney (the name of the small open space on Mill Road) is looking especially lovely at the moment. A nice tranquil place to sit quietly and contemplate.



This edition's famous face in DG. Fiona Allen who many will remember for Channel 4's Smack the Pony. The Out of Bounds Comedy nights at the Dunton Green Social Club are a great night out!



Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



Dunton Green's illuminations!!

Finally some of the deepest potholes in Rye Lane have been filled. The flooding from the wood and fields makes this a treacherous stretch of road in bad weather.



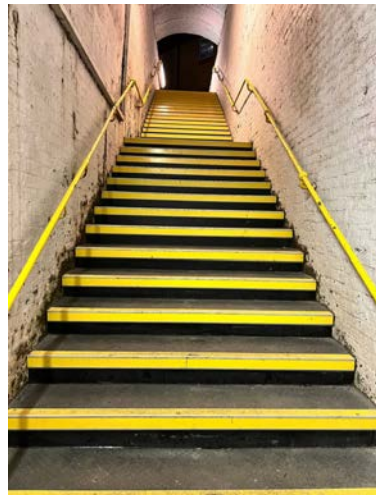
'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' - I think someone was searching for bears in the recreation ground!

Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



I loved Bojangles Easter Bunny... !!

And staying on the parade, our newest Indian takeaway restaurant now has tables!



The new grips and yellow markings on the steps at the railway bridge and the underpass tunnel are a big improvement.

Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



Looks like a new sign at The Duke's Head, and the roof is finished and the scaffolding gone from the flats being built on London Road.

Great new sign!!!



I wonder why the traffic is being counted on Station Road???

DGPC Comment: KCC conducted a traffic count and monitored speeds. Apparently in Station Road the average is around 25mph, which is great news.



And new double yellow lines in Mill Road.



Another road closure causing traffic chaos through the village! Traffic jams and inconvenience - never ending it seemed!



Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



WOW!! What lovely art work
on display in Bojangles window
—all ready for Summer!



**Men at Work (at last!) on the old
Vauxhall site. Bob the Builder, eat your
heart out!**



**Spectacular rare display of the Northern Lights over Dunton Green in
May—just FANTSTIC! If you have any photos you would like to share
please do send them in!**



Photos
DGPC or
Uncredited





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debbie@duntongreenpc.org.uk



Cllr James Copeland

james@duntongreenpc.org.uk



Cllr Guy Forster-Pearce

WE STILL HAVE ONE VACANCY!
Could you fill it & be involved?

Your other local representatives:



Sevenoaks District Council - 01732 227000

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Cllr Kim Bayley - cldr.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Cllr Graham Clack - cldr.clack@sevenoaks.gov.uk



Kent County Council - 03000 41 41 41

Cllr Nick Chard - 03000 41 10 09

nick.chard@kent.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS : DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday Jun 11th 2024 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Saturday 13th July 2024 - Bulk Freighter Collections (page 7)

Tuesday Jul 9th 2024 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Wednesday 31st July 2024 - SDC Family Fun Day **SAVE THE DATE!**

Tuesday Sep 10th 2024 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Saturday 14th September 2024 - Bulk Freighter Collections (page 7)

Saturday Sep 28th 2024 - Annual Fireworks Event

Tuesday Oct 8th 2024 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Saturday 2nd November 2024 - Bulk Freighter Collections (page 7)

Sunday Nov 10th 2024- Remembrance Sunday Service

Tuesday Nov 12th 2024 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Tuesday Dec 10th 2024 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Visit www.duntongreenpc.org.uk & sign up to Email Alerts to keep up to date/informed about all the latest news, meetings and events information as it is published. Meeting agendas are published in the week prior to the meeting and are available on the website.

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

1st August 2024

Please forward items, articles & photos for possible inclusion to

clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk

or to Dunton Green Pavilion (address on page 2)

The Parish Council is also on Facebook and X (Twitter)!



Dunton Green Parish Council Please follow us / give us a like!



@PcDunton [Dunton Green PC Clerk]



DUNTON GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

HARDY

TREE SERVICES

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

- TREE CARE
- HEDGE MAINTENANCE
- TREE PLANTING
- THINNING
- TREE FELLING
- SHAPING
- REDUCTIONS
- STUMP REMOVAL
- PLUS MUCH MORE

ALL WORK IS UNDERTAKEN, BY OUR FULLY INSURED, QUALIFIED (NPTC) AND FRIENDLY PROFESSIONALS.

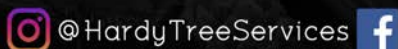
PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE NON-OBLIGATORY QUOTATION.

PLEASE BE AWARE ANY CANCELLATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE SCHEDULED JOB WILL RESULT IN A 50% CHARGE OF THE ACCEPTED QUOTE.

HARDY TREE SERVICES CONTACT:

James Hardy - Director
07923672345

James@hardytreeservices.com
www.hardytreeservices.com



PRIVATE DENTISTRY
AWARDS 2023
FINALIST



SEVENOAKS

DENTAL & WELLBEING

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New Patient Exam
Free small x-rays
1 hour

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Skin treatments
Acupuncture



Emergencies for quickest response email us at info@sdaw.co.uk



01732 464686



info@sdaw.co.uk



sdaw.co.uk



@SEVENOAKS_DENTAL_AND_WELLBEING

147A London Road
Dunton Green TN13 2UP



Local History

by Cllr. Andy Lapham

Wreford Update

In the last issue of Dunton Green News, I wrote about the Wreford family of Broughton House, which still overlooks the village today. While researching the Wrefords I started seeing references to another prominent local family, the Polhills (Also known as the Polleys). Before I start in on them, I thought I'd share a couple of pictures relating to the Wrefords, that I stumbled over in St Bartholomew's Church in Otford, while researching this article.

Sadly they show 2 memorial plaques commemorating two of the Wreford family who passed away tragically young, one reads:



To the Glory of God, in the blessed hope of a joyful resurrection and in the memory of Mary Ann, second daughter of the late John Wreford, of this parish, who died May 29th 1846, aged 22 years.

The other reads:

To the Glory of God, in the blessed hope of a joyful resurrection and in the memory of George Budd Wreford, who dies July 11th 1866 aged 19 years.



The Polhill Family in Otford, Chipstead and Dunton Green Part One:

I've lived here in Dunton Green for about 15 years, but I've known of the area for longer, and always assumed the area of Polhill was named after... well, I'm not sure what I thought it was named after, but it certainly wasn't a prestigious local family with links to Mary I and Oliver Cromwell!

The history of the Polhill (early spellings also include Polley) family can be traced back some 500 years to 1422, and with some conjecture another 300 to 1140. The first mention of the 'Polehill' family in Kent (they had previously appeared in Cornwall) is apparently 1241 in Detling, where Alice Polehill (widow of Edward) is mentioned in the Kent Assize as claiming some woodland and property there.

A bit closer to home, the story of the Otford branch of the Polhill family began in 1554 when David Polhill of Detling in East Kent purchased Broughtons (AKA Broughton Manor in Otford) from the Crown, (at this time Mary I, aka Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII, was on the throne). This added to the not inconsiderable acreage in the Darent valley already owned by his family. David was only 28 at the time and two years later married Ales (possibly a different spelling of Alice)



Detail from a sign showing the great site of the former Palace

Sandbach who was also from East Kent.

Even in those days there was concern about the state of repair of Otford Palace and, in 1573 a survey was initiated by Sir Henry Sidney, with David Polhill the chief juror of the commission along with his brother-in-law George Multon.

However, repairs were not agreed and by 1600 stone

and other material was being removed from the Palace for re-use elsewhere. A tiny amount of the once grand palace is still visible today.

David (1526-1577) and Ales (1530-1585) are commemorated by a simple floor slab by the vestry door in the church of St Bartholomew in Otford.

When David died in 1577, his son John (1558-1614) became the tenant of Broughton and by the end of Queen Elizabeth I's reign he owned 820 acres of farmland, including a third of Otford's good agricultural land and some in Shoreham.

Remember that until 1908, Dunton Green was part of Otford, and given that part of this estate became Dunton Hill House (then renamed Broughton House as we discovered last issue), so it's likely that John's land reached to what is now Dunton Green. John and his cousin Thomas were listed in 1580 as paying wool tithes,



Otford Palace today (aka the Archbishop's Palace)

suggesting they used the land to raise sheep; something that still happens locally today. John enlarged Broughton Manor by adding a pair of gables making the house more fitting to his improved status.

Now it's going to get a bit confusing, as all the male members of the family seem to be called David, John or Charles for quite some time...

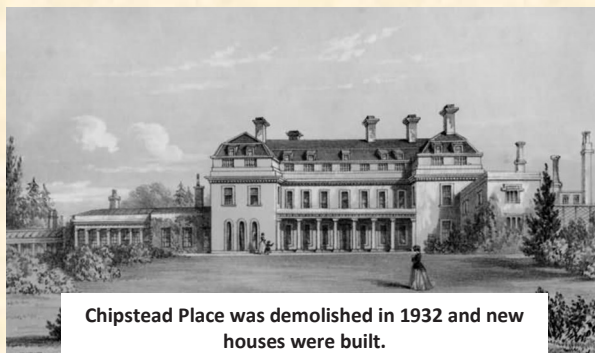
In 1614, John was succeeded by his son David (1577-1658), who became Sheriff of Kent. He was succeeded by his son John (1605-57); the estate passed to his eldest son (you guessed it...) David (1633-65) who bought Chipstead Place, where he preferred to live, as it was a more substantial house with 26 taxable hearths against the 6 of Broughton Manor. However, this David had no children so his brother Thomas (1636-83) inherited his property. Thomas wasn't as keen on Chipstead Place and returned to Otford. Their sister Ann married George Petty while their brother Robert (1641-99) was a Churchwarden in Otford village.

This generation of Polhills lived during the reign of Charles I, the oldest of them being a boy of sixteen when the King was beheaded in 1649 and Oliver Cromwell established his Protectorate. They all survived this dangerous period of upheaval, civil wars and austerity, and lived to see the monarchy restored with the coronation of Charles II.

Then is a surprising turn, Thomas married Oliver Cromwell's granddaughter Elizabeth Ireton of Shoreham in 1666, the year of the great fire of London.

Thomas' eldest son, another David, was a Justice of the Peace for Kent and went on to be an MP in 1708, one of only two MPs for Kent, a position he held for twenty-five years! This David was also Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London.

A more elegant residence was felt necessary and in 1711 Chipstead Place, which had recently been rebuilt, was re-purchased for the family. You can find a monument to this David Bartholomew's too. The largest Polhill monument in the church though, is for his brother Charles (1679-1755). Charles was a successful merchant in Smyrna (modern Izmir in Turkey) and later became Commissioner of Excise in England: a very a lucrative career.



Chipstead Place was demolished in 1932 and new houses were built.
Chipstead Place, near Chevening, erected by William Emerton. Image: The Weald.

in St

In his impressive monument, Charles is depicted, rather anachronistically, in a Roman toga! The two female figures are Faith, reading a Bible, and Hope who is holding an anchor and a posy.

Charles' wife, Martha (daughter of Thomas Streatfeild of Sevenoaks), is depicted in a profile bust placed under the top arch of the monument in what strikes me as somewhat of an afterthought!

Part Two will feature in the Autumn edition of Dunton Green News.



Sources

The Polhill's of Otford - St Bartholomews Otford:

<https://www.stbartholomews.co.uk/history/the-polhills-of-otford/>

Polhill – Family History: <https://polhill.info/>

**IF YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF DUNTON GREEN IN THE PAST
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Please contact the Clerk at clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk



Dunton Green

14 h · 🌐

Dunton Green Primary School was recently rated Good with Outstanding Leadership and Management by Ofsted!

Ofsted found that our school was a 'beacon of friendship' where 'pupils feel they enjoy a special partnership with staff'.

It's not too late to join us for September 2024, even if you have accepted another school!

Come along and enjoy this small, family-orientated primary full of laughter, joy and excitement in all that we do; including forest school and biking!

See our full report at:

files.ofsted.gov.uk
files.ofsted.gov.uk

...

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DUNTON
GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL!**

**A fantastic school at the heart of the
village and a real asset to the
community.**

**We hope to have an article from the
school for our next edition...**



Mobility, Balance and Strength Pop Up

Would you like help to improve your mobility,
balance and strength?

Have you had a fall or are you worried about your
balance?

Meet others in the same situation, get useful
health tips, learn exercises to keep yourself strong
and mobile and have a chat and cuppa

Dunton Green Pavilion, London Road,
Dunton Green TN13 2UR

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month
Next session June 12th!

1.30pm – 3.00pm

Classes are run by fully qualified instructors. For more
information, please contact office@ageukmst.org.uk
or 01732 454108

Would you, or someone that you know, like to attend the Dunton Green Lunch Club every month?

Are you not going because you can't get transport?

Call Judith on 07836 525 938

Dunton Green Lunch Club is a great place to meet friends, make new ones, enjoy a hearty lunch and have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon!

Dunton Green Parish Council has provided funding to Age UK so that arrangements can be made for Dunton Green residents to be brought to the Pavilion every month. All you need to do is contact Judith!



DATES FOR 2024

Wednesdays:

**3rd July, 7th August, 4th September,
2nd October, 6th November, 4th December**

Let's Lunch



Join us at the **Dunton Green Lunch Club** on the first Wednesday of each month (except August)

11.45am to 2pm

At Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, off London Road, TN13 2UR

To book transport please call Judith
07836 525 938

For more information, please see
www.ageuk.org.uk or
www.duntongreenc.org.uk

 Sevenoaks & Tonbridge
ageUK



In 2024 help an older person to remain safer in their home

Since 2019 Able Community Care, a Live-in Care Provider, has been offering older people a free door sticker to deter unwanted callers.

It is a fact that older people are targeted by fraudulent traders, workmen and fake 'professional' people such as conmen advising they are from the Water Board, Gas Board, NHS Covid Dept., etc.

As many people have told us, this sticker on a door does mean they walk back down the path.

To date we have given out nearly 70,000 door stickers and if you know of an older person who would like to have one, please call us on 01603 764567 telling us how many you would like and the address to send them to.

www.ablecommunitycare.com

Nationwide Live-in Care Provider since 1980





Help
Wanted

EiF

££££££££'s

Are you confident managing money, can you organise an Excel spreadsheet and run off a set of accounts, do you want to help local children and can you spare just 1-2 hours a month?

Then you could be just the person we are looking for!!!

Dunton Green Education in Full (EiF) Foundation is a small charity in the village providing grants for local children to enable them to fully participate in school activities.

We are looking for a treasurer. You would be a member of a small supportive trustee board and to be a trustee need to complete a simple selection process.

We meet in Dunton Green or remotely about 5 times a year. Between meetings we assess any grant applications that are made through our confidential computer system.

If you think this opportunity might be for you and you want to know more, do contact me – no obligation to commit at this stage.

Judy Collins, Chair Education in Full
07790 281462
Info@eifdg.org.uk

**Dunton Green
Education in Full Foundation**
Registered Charity no.: 1195704

NEXT STAGE OF SEVENOAKS LOCAL PLAN

There will be a consultation THIS SUMMER on the FINAL SUBMISSION version of Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan.

The recent version (consultation November 2023 - January 2024) had TWO GREEN BELT sites in Dunton Green allocated as 'baseline' sites.

Only 40 Dunton Green residents submitted responses to that consultation.

At time of going to press we do not have confirmed dates for the next (Regulation 19) stage of consultation but it is likely to be across August and September. Nor do we have any information as to whether the sites in Dunton Green will be included in the final version.

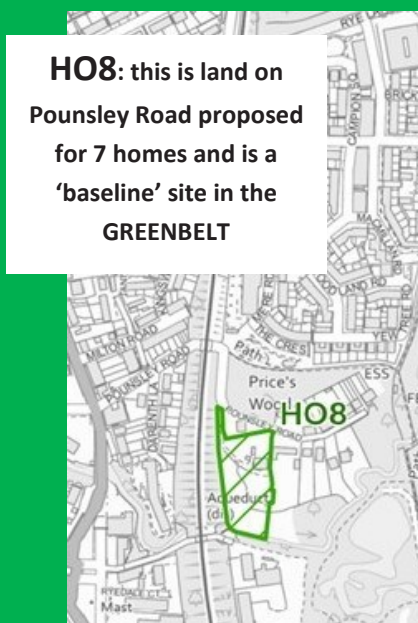
We will publish on social media , our website and noticeboards as soon as details are available. Sevenoaks District Council will also publicise details of how to make comments. PLEASE COMMENT ON THE CONSULTATION.

The sites that had previously been included are:



HO10: this is GREENBELT land behind the village hall and recreation ground.

It is a 'baseline' site for 230 homes in the Local Plan.



HO8: this is land on Pounsley Road proposed for 7 homes and is a 'baseline' site in the GREENBELT

WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN?

Planning Authorities (in this instance, Sevenoaks District Council) are required to prepare a Local Plan. The Local Plan guides decisions on future development proposals and addresses the needs and opportunities of the area.

WHAT DOES A LOCAL PLAN COVER?

Topics that Local Plans usually cover include housing, employment and shops and they also identify where development should take place and areas where development should be restricted. The Local Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and be consistent with the principles and policies in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In essence, the Local Plan should set out what the opportunities are for development in the area, and say what types of development will and will not be permitted and in which locations.

WHY IS A LOCAL PLAN IMPORTANT?

Local Plans are at the heart of the planning system and are the main consideration in deciding planning applications. They set the framework in which decisions on particular proposals are taken locally. The law makes it clear that decisions on planning applications should be made in accordance (in line) with the policies and proposals within the development plan (which includes the Local Plan) unless other strong planning reasons or 'material considerations' indicate.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

It is therefore very important that you get involved in the preparation of planning policies and proposals within the Local Plan at an early stage if you want to influence how your area will be developed in future. The sooner you get involved the greater the influence you can have on planning in your area. Contacting the planning department at Sevenoaks District Council and asking to be included in future consultations on the Local Plan will be the first step in getting more involved.

Information from Planning Aid England

The most recent version of the Local Plan for the Sevenoaks District had sites identified as 'baseline' sites. SDC describes these as 'sites which were found to be suitable through the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) process, and includes sites within settlements and in the Green Belt on the edge of the eight higher-tier settlements (towns and service settlements), which have the services, facilities and connections, to promote a sustainable pattern of development.'

And so, Dunton Green is considered part of Sevenoaks Urban Area and not as a village in its own right... This is something that the Parish Council continues to fight.



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

together

**Hook it
Don't
Cook it**
Keep your hob clear to
keep your family safe



Reduce the chance of a fire in your home – hook it, don't cook it

Lots of people admit that they've accidentally caught a tea towel (or another item) alight after leaving it too close to the hob. To protect your family and your home from fire and its devastating effects, we're encouraging you to follow this simple advice - hook or store your tea towels at least 50cm (about an arm's length) away from the hob.

On our website you can find out more about our kitchen safety campaign and tips on how to keep your family safe.

Hook it, don't cook it

**Have you tested
your smoke alarm?**

www.kent.fire-uk.org/smokealarms



Kent and Medway residents can request a free tea towel hook by emailing their full name and home address to info@kent.fire-uk.org or calling 01622 692121 (while stocks last).

If you don't have a hook you could keep your tea towel on the work surface or in a drawer or cupboard - just make sure it's safely kept at least 50cm away to avoid it catching fire.

Community Safety Unit

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) consists of Council Staff, Police, Community Wardens, Housing Associations and other partner agencies.

The CSU deals with all aspects of ASB and community safety.
If you have a problem that you would like the CSU to get involved with then please contact us.

Partners meet on a daily basis to discuss Community Safety Concerns, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls that have come in from residents and partner agencies including the Police.

The CSU is a great way for partners to address current concerns and have a speedy and effective response to residents of which all are updated. Please be assured that all information is treated in confidence and will never be disclosed to individuals identified as causing anti social behaviour. We will also keep your details anonymous if you prefer, when discussing with partner agencies.

The CSU also focuses on safety campaigns and we have great initiatives for residents in rural and urban areas to keep them safe and their belongings safe. The CSU has timer switches, shed alarms, personal alarms and card protectors to name but a few which are free to residents. To find out more e-mail community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk or phone 01732 227000.

We are unable to monitor all Social Media posts, we can only work on reports that are sent into us or partner agencies such as Police via calling 101 on online www.kent.police.uk.
PLEASE: REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!

If you have any community safety concerns please call us on 01732 227000 or e-mail community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk You can also follow us on twitter to see what work the partnership does @sdc_csp

Residents can also join Kent Police My Community Voice via www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/kent/my-community-voice/
This is a two way engagement tool that allows residents to inform Kent Police of their local issues.



If life is in danger or a crime is in progress, always call 999.



For non – urgent police matters call 101 or report online at www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/

PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights



- ♦ At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Freda England was re-elected as the Council's Chairman. Paul Lockey was re-elected as Vice Chairman. Both posts are for a term of one year.

There remains one vacancy on the Parish Council and anyone who might be interested in getting involved is asked to contact the Clerk (clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk).



- ♦ Is it too early to talk about Christmas?! The Parish Council is developing its Christmas Lighting Project. We're very excited about plans for some extra special lighting this Christmas and are already working with a contractor to ensure that this year there is a real 'wow' factor in the village. All will be revealed in December!

- ♦ This year's Annual Fireworks Event will take place on the last Saturday of September (this timing is quite deliberate as the first display was to commemorate the Battle of Polhill). There will be musical entertainment as well as lighting of the beacon and a fantastic display of fireworks. We appreciate that some of you may not welcome fireworks at any time of the year but we hope that with such advance notice you are able to take whatever steps you need to reduce any potential anxiety that might be caused.



PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights

- ◆ We're moving to a gov.uk domain this summer



so please look out for information on this. This will include a new website and email addresses.



- ◆ Youth activities this summer: once again, the Parish Council is funding some sporting activities for our younger residents with a mixed sports programme starting in July on Friday late afternoons for



Image by brgfx on Freepik

seven weeks over the summer. Look out for information about how to sign up on our website, noticeboards and social media. And basketball sessions on Mondays will

also run right through the summer until the end of November. All these activities are free and we hope this encourages many of our young people to get involved!



- ◆ A new village green noticeboard will be installed soon. It will be similar to the one that we have on London Road, nearer the Rose and Crown, and it will be installed on the opposite side of the road to the old one. We have taken the decision to introduce not just the noticeboard on the southern side of the



Image by brgfx on Freepik

village green but also to add in a couple of new flower beds so that both sides of the village green have some attractive features. This will all be done over the summer.



VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & LOCAL LISTINGS

Taking place in DUNTON GREEN PAVILION, Recreation Ground, London Road {Bookings: bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk 07305 814694}

Age UK Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month, 01732 454108
Age UK Pop In Café	2nd Wednesday each month, 01732 454108
Pilates (Bryony Tilley)	07973 345 321
Taekwondo (Oaks Martial Arts)	01732 759988: info@oaksmartialarts.com

Taking place in DUNTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND, London Road

Easy Netball	01732 227000; communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Community Basketball	Kent Panthers - just turn up Mondays 5.30pm
Mini Football	Text Keir 07815 039497 to book a place 07803 050 431 enquiries@backyardbootcamps.co.uk
Backyard Bootcamp	

DUNTON GREEN VENUES (Other)

Taking place in Donnington Hall, Barretts Road

{Bookings: Mrs J Field 01732 462429}

Darenth Table Tennis Club	David & Janet Field 01732 462429
Gauge One Model Railway Assoc	Jeff Brazier 01732 454890
DG School of Ballroom Dancing	David & Sandra Coppen, 07808 540 315
Dunton Green Badminton	Lilian Bowling 01959 522576
National Kick Boxing & Karate Assoc	Hilary King 07796 858 194
Sevenoaks Table Tennis League	Janet Field 01732 462429

Taking place in Village Hall, London Road

{Bookings: Mrs A Rodwell 01732 469610}

Coffee Morning	3rd Thursday of each month, 10.30am
Holy Communion	1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays (see St Mary's info)

Taking place in Dunton Green Primary School, London Road

{Bookings: School Office 01732 462221; office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk}

Kuk Sool Won Sevenoaks	07963 338 544; www.kswsevenoaks.com
Bujinkan Sevenoaks Dojo	bujinkansevenoaksdojo.org 16+ Thurs eve
The Gathering Church Service	Sundays 2.45-4pm

**PLEASE DO LET US KNOW IF WE CAN UPDATE THIS LIST WITH THE
DETAILS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE VILLAGE**

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & LOCAL LISTINGS

OTHER Organisations and activities

Bessels Green Baptist Church	01732 454921; info@bgbc.co.uk
St Mary's Church Riverhead & DG	Daphne Harrison on 07779 834195
Citizens Advice Bureau (Sevenoaks)	01732 440488; info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk
Dial-A-Ride (Compaid)	01892 832447
Dunton Green Primary School	01732 462221 office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk info@duntongreensocialclub.co.uk
Dunton Green Social Club	01732 462549
Gymboree	07827 910 978; sevenoaks@gymboree-uk.com
Kent County Council	03000 41 41 41; www.kent.gov.uk
Kent Fire & Rescue	01622 692121; 999 emergency; www.kent.fire-uk.org
Kent Police	101; 999 emergencies; www.kent.police.uk
Kent Sheds	www.shedsevenoaks.weebly.com
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000; information@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000; communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	01732 458931; www.sevenoaksvolunteertransport.com

Dunton Green Pavilion & Outside Space
RECREATION GROUND, LONDON ROAD
07305 814694
bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk



Dunton Green Village Hall
LONDON ROAD
01732 469610



**AFTER THE PANDEMIC THERE IS
CAPACITY AT ALL OF THESE
VENUES - IF YOU HAVE A GROUP,
CLASSES OR NEED A PARTY VENUE
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

Donnington Hall BARRETT'S ROAD
01732 462429





NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

**SUNDAY
16 JUNE
2024**

Chevening
nr Sevenoaks, TN14 6HG
2 - 5pm
Adults £10 Children £1
Homemade cakes & local ice cream

 ACCESSIBLE SITE
  DOGS WELCOME
  PLANTING SALE
  TEA
  PICNIC WARE

More information at ngs.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE

To book tickets: 

SCAN HERE

Chevening Open Gardens

in aid of the *National Garden Scheme* raising money for nursing and health charities. The core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

A chance to visit these spectacular gardens which offer a maze, parterre, woodland walks, cascade, and large lake.

Enjoy local ice cream, home-made cakes and an extensive plant sale.



Bring a picnic and relax in these splendid surroundings.

Dogs welcome.



Pre booking advisable: <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/918/chevening>

Dunton Green Social Club

**Need somewhere to hold
that special event?**

- 
- Christmas Party
 - Christening/Baptism
 - Anniversary
 - 40th/50th/60th/70th etc
 - Birthday Party
 - Family Celebration
 - Wedding Breakfast
 - Reception

With lower than average bar prices, our hall hire is perfect for any event that requires a venue. Function room can seat 70+ people

Booking is subject to terms and conditions and a deposit is required at the time of booking.



01732 462549

info@duntongreensocialclub.co.uk

159 London Rd, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TA



SUMMER FAIR

DUNTON GREEN PRIMARY

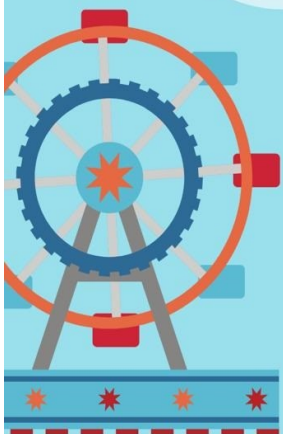
30TH JUNE
12-3PM

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Bouncy castle
 - BBQ
 - Tombola
 - Face painting
 - Entertainment
 - Market stalls
- and much more!

FREE ENTRY!

DONATIONS ON THE GATE



Follow us on Instagram @duntongreenprimarypta22