

Bobbing Parish Council

Bobbing Reporter

Spring 2025



- Women's Institute
- Village Hall
- Freedom of the Parish
- St Bartholomew's Church
- VE Day 2025
- Family Funday
- Stolen Christmas Tree
- Councillors reports



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contact: newsletter@bobbing-pc.gov.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/BobbingPC>

YES!

GOOD!

A limited number of Silver and Bronze sponsorship packages still available

We can use our gardens to help reverse the decline in bees and other essential pollinating insects. The Parish Council has voted to take part in the 'Grow More' campaign and has voted to take part in the 'Grow More' campaign and has voted to take part in the 'Grow More' campaign.

www.bobbing-pc.gov.uk

Bobbing Parish Council Sponsors CDS Family Fun Day! 🎉🚗

Get ready for a day of fun, community spirit, and family-friendly activities at the CDS Family Fun Day, proudly sponsored by Bobbing Parish Council!

Event Details, 📅 **Date:** 3rd August 2025, ⌚ **Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

📍 **Location:** Gore Cricket Club, Sittingbourne, ME10 1YT

This exciting event is hosted by TeeJay, Director of Community Driving School (CDS), whose mission supports families and individuals facing challenges.

What's in Store?

- Fun activities for all ages!
- Information about CDS's life-changing programs, including “sponsored” lessons and employability training for individuals in need.
- Learn about CDS's “Earn to Learn” initiative, helping people gain valuable work experience while earning their driving lessons.
- Please get in touch for the chance to sponsor a pupil.
kentoffice@thecds.org.uk

About Community Driving School (CDS):

- Empowering Communities: Offers sponsored lessons for those facing hardships, including ex-offenders, homeless individuals, and low-waged workers.
- Tailored Support: Specialises in teaching individuals with anxiety, autism, or other mental health challenges.
- Enhanced Safeguarding: KCC-approved policy ensures a safe, respectful learning environment.

Join us on 3rd August 2025 for a fantastic day celebrating community strength and unity. Let's make a difference together!

📞 To book a place to showcase your business on 3rd August, please email events@thecds.org.uk

www.thecds.org.uk

Highlights of 2024 🌟

As we look back on 2024, it has been a year of milestones and community progress. Here are some key moments that shaped our year:

Freedom of the Parish

We had the honour of granting Freedom of the Parish to two long-serving Parish Council members Robert Ball and Graham Herbert in recognition of their outstanding service. We wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement.

Bobbing in Bloom Returns

The much-loved Bobbing in Bloom was reinstated this year thanks to the efforts of Clerk Sarah Poole and Cllr Ann Cavanagh. The event saw remarkable participation and added vibrant beauty to our parish, and look forward to 2025.

Welcome to New Councillors

We were pleased to welcome two new Parish Councillors to our team:

- Cllr Mariusz Bencych
- Cllr Lewis Blake-Knowles

Their fresh perspectives are already making an impact on our ongoing projects.

Recognising Our Heritage

To mark 80 years since D-Day, commemorative plaques were placed around the parish, honouring the historical significance of the event.

Remembrance Day

Cllr Ross Richardson attended the parish's Remembrance Day ceremony, representing the Parish Council in honouring those who served.

Working Groups and Initiatives

Various working groups have been actively meeting this year to address important matters:

- Planning for the VE Day 80th Anniversary commemorations (more details to follow in the newsletter, save the 8th May & 8th June 2025).
- Developing a heritage map of the parish.
- Addressing planning developments and shaping policies.
- Discussing highways improvement plans to enhance safety and accessibility.

Festive Spirit and Challenges

As the year came to a close, we lit up the parish with beautiful Christmas tree lights, spreading holiday cheer. Sadly, one of the trees was stolen on 5th December, a disappointing moment for our community.

More information later in the newsletter.



Looking Ahead

2024 has been a year of growth and reflection, and we are excited for the opportunities and projects that lie ahead in 2025. Thank you to all our residents, Councillors, and community members for their support and dedication. Together, we continue to make Bobbing a wonderful place to live and grow.

What is Freedom of the Parish?

Freedom of the Parish is a ceremonial honour awarded by a parish council to individuals or organisations in recognition of exceptional service or contributions to the local community. It is one of the highest accolades a parish can bestow, symbolizing deep gratitude and respect for the recipient's dedication, achievements, or leadership.

Key Aspects of Freedom of the Parish:

•Significance:

- It acknowledges those who have gone above and beyond to support and enhance the parish, often through long-standing service, voluntary work, or outstanding achievements.

•Historical Roots:

- The concept dates back centuries to when "freemen" of towns were granted special privileges. Today, it is a symbolic gesture rather than a legal status.

•Recipients:

- Individuals who have served on a parish council for many years, contributed to community projects, or demonstrated exceptional leadership may be considered for the honour.

•Recognition:

- The award is usually presented in a formal ceremony, often accompanied by a certificate or plaque, and is recorded in parish records.

Receiving the Freedom of the Parish is a prestigious moment that highlights the recipient's invaluable impact on their community. It serves as both a celebration of their efforts and an inspiration for others to contribute to the parish's success.

Freedom of the Parish Awards

In 2024, we proudly celebrated two exceptional individuals who have dedicated many years of service to Bobbing Parish Council.

- On 5th June, Cllr Gareth Randall presented Robert Ball with the prestigious Freedom of the Parish award.



- On 4th December, Cllr Gareth Randall honoured Graham Herbert with the same recognition.



Both recipients have served as longstanding members of the Parish Council and have held the position of Chair during their tenure, providing invaluable leadership and dedication to the community.

These awards acknowledge their significant contributions and lasting impact on the parish. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Robert Ball and Graham Herbert for their unwavering commitment and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Bobbing in Bloom 2025 🌸🌿

Get ready for another year of celebrating the beautiful gardens in our community with Bobbing in Bloom 2025!

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a budding enthusiast, we encourage you to join in and showcase your hard work and creativity.

Award Categories:

Front Garden Award, Wildlife Garden Award, Hanging Basket/Window Box Award, Small Garden Award (New for 2025)

Key Dates: Judging: Beginning of June 2025

Presentation Ceremony: At the Parish Council Meeting on 2nd July 2025

How to Enter:

Nominate your favourite garden (with the owner's consent).

Enter your own garden to compete for one of the awards.

Let's make Bobbing bloom brighter than ever! For more details or to submit your entry, email bobbinginbloom@bobbing-pc.gov.uk . 🌸



*Bobbing in
Bloom 2025*



Hanging
Basket/Window
Box Award (Top)
Front Garden
Award (Middle)
Wildlife Garden
Award (Bottom)



Celebrating Bobbing in Bloom 2024 🌸

This year, we proudly presented 18 awards in recognition of the incredible efforts of our residents who contribute to making our parish beautiful. From hanging baskets and window boxes to front gardens and wildlife gardens, these awards highlight the dedication of individuals who help maintain and enhance our shared spaces.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time and care to create such stunning displays. Your efforts bring vibrancy and pride to our community.

Looking Ahead to 2025 🌟

As we plan for Bobbing in Bloom 2025, we're excited to expand the awards with a brand-new category: Small Gardens! We understand that not everyone has a large garden space, and this category allows more residents to participate and be celebrated for their creativity and hard work.

Let's aim to make 2025 even bigger and better. Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping Bobbing beautiful! 🌸

Cllr Gareth Randall - Chair

Join us at Bobbing Parish Council meetings!

Members of the public are always welcome to attend our meetings, usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. (Please check the website for information on venue)

By coming along, you might discover how we can support your community group or initiative with a community grant. We're always looking to help projects that enrich our local area!

Take a look through this newsletter to see some of the many things we're doing to support the Bobbing community.

A Big Thank You to Sarah Poole

We'd like to express our gratitude to Sarah Poole, our Parish Clerk, Proper Officer, and Responsible Financial Officer. Sarah's tireless efforts include:

- Organising and managing parish business
- Writing letters
- Overseeing financial accounts
- Preparing meeting minutes
- And even putting together this newsletter!
- Plus much more

Sarah's work is invaluable to our parish, and her dedication ensures our community thrives.

Cllr Peter French

I moved to Sittingbourne in 2002 and started going to the Parish Council meetings soon after. I have always had an interest in the environment and politics and as a community the Parish Council is there to serve and over see the environment.

I live on The Meads which is only part parished and I believe it would be better if it was all in the parish alas our monthly meetings do not attract members of the parish who I think that we are politically motivated which we are not and I urge all the community to come to one of our meetings.

Cllr Ross Richardson - Vice Chair

Since our last newsletter, I have been involved with the planning of a number of exciting community projects coming up this year that the Parish Council are involved with, including our VE Day Celebration of peace in June, for which we are always welcoming of volunteers and ideas to our working groups.

It has been pleasing to greet members of the Church to our Parish meetings along with past members of the Parish Council and awarding a freedom of the Parish to Graham Herbert.

We continue our long relationship with the village hall, whose improvements continue to take shape, and who have welcomed many new Trustees and new social and activity groups as regular users of the venue as well as an increased use for family parties etc.

As always, we welcome new faces to both Parish and Village Hall meetings and hope to welcome more in the coming months.

Interested in Becoming a Parish Clerk, Proper Officer, or Responsible Financial Officer?

Did you know there's a nationwide shortage of Parish Clerks, Proper Officers, and Responsible Financial Officers? These roles are ideal for individuals who enjoy community-oriented administrative work or have an interest in financial management.

Why Consider This Role?

- Part-time options available – Flexible working hours
- Paid position – A rewarding career that contributes to your local community
- Qualifications available – Gain recognized credentials like the ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) and CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration).
- Mentorship opportunities – Learn from experienced professionals like Mrs. Poole, who has mentored clerks in the past.

Make a Difference Locally

- Being a parish clerk offers a chance to be at the heart of your community, ensuring local councils run smoothly and effectively

- If you'd like to learn more about the role, why not attend one of our meetings? You'll see first-hand how rewarding it is to support your local area. We'd love to welcome you!

Cllr Ann Cavanagh Bobbing Parish Councillor and Swale Borough Councillor for Borden and Grove Park

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and will have a good 2025.

So what has changed with me the last few months? Well firstly, once I knew more people within the local community were willing to stand as Trustees for Bobbing Village Hall, I stood back and then resigned from being Trustee, leaving me being able to commit more time to being a Councillor, both for Bobbing Parish and also for wider Swale. Now the Village Hall has a healthy number of Trustees, both from the Parish Council and also from groups using the Village Hall.

You may have seen that in December last year there has been a White Paper published about devolution of local councils. What exactly this will mean for local residents is not at the moment totally clear. However I can reassure you that there is a lot of work taking part behind the scenes to ensure that Swale can get the best possible outcome.

Bins, and the fairly new contract with Suez has kept me very busy, trying to ensure that missed bins are collected. Finally things seemed to have settled down and if your bin happens to have been missed reporting online tends to get a fairly swift response.

I enjoy working with other Councillors, both at Swale and at Bobbing, believing that we are far stronger together than working individually. I get on well with the other Councillors at Bobbing, and I thoroughly recommend anyone thinking of joining us to apply for the single vacancy we currently have.

Cllr Mike Baldock

The Friends of Rose Hill is a group set up to promote and enhance the Rose Hill woods - the woodland behind the Grove Park playing fields.

We meet monthly and arrange litter picks, bird walks and bat evenings etc, as well as helping to implement the Swale Borough Council Management Plan for the area.

We liaise with the Borough Council on a regular basis to get dumped rubbish removed from the woods or to get dangerous fallen trees made safe.

Last year we planted over 100 new trees and worked on reducing the predominance of sycamores in the woods to enable a wider variety of trees to become established.

Currently we are putting the finishing touches to an information board that will be set up in the eastern corner of the woods where the path leaves the playing field and enters the woodland area.

Our Facebook Group is Friends of Rose Hill where we let people know about upcoming events and encourage the sharing of photos of the woods throughout the year.

One of the roles we carry out is to conduct surveys of the flora and fauna in the woods, and we have established the presence of rare species including both gold crests and fire crests - as well as regular bat surveys and reports on the Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) across the woods.



Christmas Craft Fair Success!



We are delighted to share the wonderful news from our Christmas Craft Fair, held in collaboration with St. Bartholomew's Church. The event was a fantastic success, raising £315.50 to support both the church and Bobbing Village Hall.

A big thank you to all the stallholders who showcased their amazing crafts and gifts, and to the over 150 visitors who came to support the fair. Your participation and generosity made this event truly special and helped bring the community together in the festive spirit.

We look forward to hosting more events like this in the future. Thank you for helping make the season bright! 🧑🏻‍🎅🏻📺

Christmas Tree Stolen from Archers Park roundabout:

Appeal for Information 🎄

We are saddened to report that one of Bobbing Parish's beloved Christmas Light trees was stolen between the evening of 4th December 2024 and the morning of 5th December 2024.

This tree, adorned was purchased by the Parish Council in 2022, has brought joy to children, parents, and parishioners for the past three years. The tree, which cost over £2,250 plus VAT, was funded through the parish precept—contributions from every resident of Bobbing.

This theft has cast a shadow over our community's festive spirit, and we are determined to seek justice. A reward is being offered for information leading to a successful prosecution of those responsible.

If you have any information, please contact:

✉ Clerk: clerk@bobbing-pc.gov.uk

☎ Police: Provide the Crime Reference Number
46/208333/24.

Let's work together to restore the spirit of the season and prevent such incidents in the future. Thank you for your support.

Community Poll: Help Us Decide if to buy more Christmas Lights for 2025! 🎄⭐

The Parish Council is seeking your input on how to replace the Christmas Light Tree after its unfortunate theft in 2024. We want to make sure the decision reflects what our parishioners want for the festive season, for 2025 and future years.

Please share your preference by voting in the poll on our Facebook page or by responding to this poll clerk@bobbing-pc.gov.uk

Your options are:

1 A New Christmas Light Tree

- A replacement for the one we've had for the past few years.

2 Streetlight Column Decorations

- Festive lights installed higher up on the street columns for added visibility.

3 A Real Christmas Tree (pending approval from Kent County Council)

- A natural tree decorated for the holiday season.

We value your opinion and want to create a display that brings joy to everyone in our community. Cast your vote and let your voice be heard! 🎅⭐




Join Bobbing Women's Institute (East Kent Federation) 🌸


The Bobbing Women's Institute (WI) is a vibrant group where women of all ages come together to learn, laugh, and make lasting friendships. If you're looking for a way to connect with others, explore new activities, and be part of a supportive community, this is the place for you!


Why Become a Member?

- Meet amazing women in your area.
- Participate in a variety of fun and educational activities.
- Enjoy guest speakers, hands-on workshops, and exciting events.
- Be part of a supportive group that values friendship, creativity, and personal growth.

Monthly Meetings:

 17 Second Wednesday of every month

 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

 Small Hall, Bobbing Village Hall

Upcoming Federation Events in 2025:

- Monday, 31 March: Federation Holiday
- Monday, 14 April: EKFWI AGM, Great Hall, Kent College, Canterbury
- Tuesday, 29 April: Circular Walk from Chilham
- Wednesday, 28 May: Summer Garden Day
- Saturday, 7 June: Archery Taster Day, The Archbishop's School, Canterbury

Why Wait? Join Today!

Discover new hobbies, explore your interests, and make friends for life at the Bobbing Women's Institute. Whether you're attending a meeting, trying your hand at archery, or enjoying a circular walk in the countryside, there's something for everyone.

Come along to our next meeting or contact us for more information.

We can't wait to welcome you! 🌟

2025 could be a busy year for councillors, as the Government looks set to move forward their Devolution Priority Programme.

What is the DPP? The Government say that it's the framework of how they will hand down powers, functions, and funding to local government. It's likely that all council's will be made to do this, but councils can apply now for additional funding and a fast-track programme. Kent County and Medway Councils have submitted a bid to be included in this.

Swale Council, and other district councils have had no say in this, but the decision, if accepted by government, will mean the end of Swale Borough Council. In basic terms, the KCC elections this year could be scrapped, an election in 2026 will see a Mayor for Kent elected, and in 2027 it will be all out elections for the new councils. No more KCC or Swale Borough Council.

There is a lot of work to be done, and of course, it isn't guaranteed that Kent will be accepted, but what this could look like is three or four councils across Kent, with Swale joining with Medway (or/and other areas) to create a North Kent Council.

There are a lot of questions that need to be answered, and my first was what impact will this have on residents - at this stage nobody knows.

My personal view, at this time, is that this could be a good idea. Too often I come across issues that I am unable to deal with because it is down to KCC, and explaining the different tiers of local government isn't easy. It is difficult for residents to understand which council does what, and who they need to go to. Having just one council for an area fixes this.

The downside is there will be less councillors, looking after a bigger area, meaning less visibility and accessibility of councillors. I think it will also be seen as a more permanent role, with daytime meetings, excluding a lot of current councillors who work or have families - limiting the diversity of the representation of communities.

I think that things will move quickly on this, and we may know an outcome by the time you read this article. I will always update residents via my Facebook page, Cllr James Hunt, as soon as I have the latest information.

Cllr James Hunt

Member serving The Meads | Swale Borough Council

jameshunt@swale.gov.uk | 01795 417803

Friends of the Meads Woodland Community Group

The Meads Woodlands is a treasured community space that blends nature with a rich historical connection. Among its highlights is the re-creation, of an ancient henge site, positioned close to its original location.

These reconstructions honour the heritage of the area, with the poles carefully aligned and arranged to reflect their historical configurations.

The Woodland was planted in the 1990s and left to mature. As time went by it became an important stopover for migrating birds as well as home for the resident birds which include woodpeckers, jays, sparrowhawks, buzzards and finches, to name but a few.

This site is extremely important to our community but has been neglected over time, so Cllr James Hunt has set up this group to assist in the management of the community woodland.

We are a small friendly group and would welcome more volunteers to give a couple of hours a month to litter pick etc. We also meet once a month at the Jenny Wren to discuss and plan going forward. All our details are on facebook [Friends of The Meads Community Woodland](#)
Email: meadswoodland@gmail.com





St Bartholomew's Church



What's On at St. Bartholomew's Church, Bobbing.

We have plenty of exciting events and opportunities to get involved with our wonderful community at St. Bartholomew's Church. Whether you're looking to attend services, join in community activities, or support charity causes, there's something for everyone. Here's a look at what's happening:

Weekly Sunday Services

Every Sunday at 11 AM

3rd Sunday of each month 11am Sunday Service with Communion

Join us for our weekly Sunday services, followed by a time for fellowship with refreshments afterward. It's a great opportunity to connect with others in the community and enjoy a peaceful moment of worship. Please bring your mugs to save using disposables!

23rd Feb Youth Study Group during 11am Sunday Service in the small hall at Bobbing Village Hall.



23rd March Youth Study Group during 11am Sunday Service in the small hall at Bobbing Village Hall.

30th March Sunday Service and Mother's Day Service

20th April Easter Sunrise Service

20th April Easter Sunday Service 11am

27th April Youth Study Group during 11am Sunday Service in the small hall at Bobbing Village Hall.





St Bartholomew's Church



Upcoming Events and How to Get Involved:

Railway Club

17th February at 7:30 PM (next meeting)

Whether you're a train enthusiast or just curious, join us for a relaxed evening of railway-related discussions and activities at the church.

It's a fun way to meet others who share a passion for railways!

Community litter pick for The Big British Spring Clean outside Bobbing Church, litter picking the local area from 10am to 12pm with refreshments after. Please bring gloves!

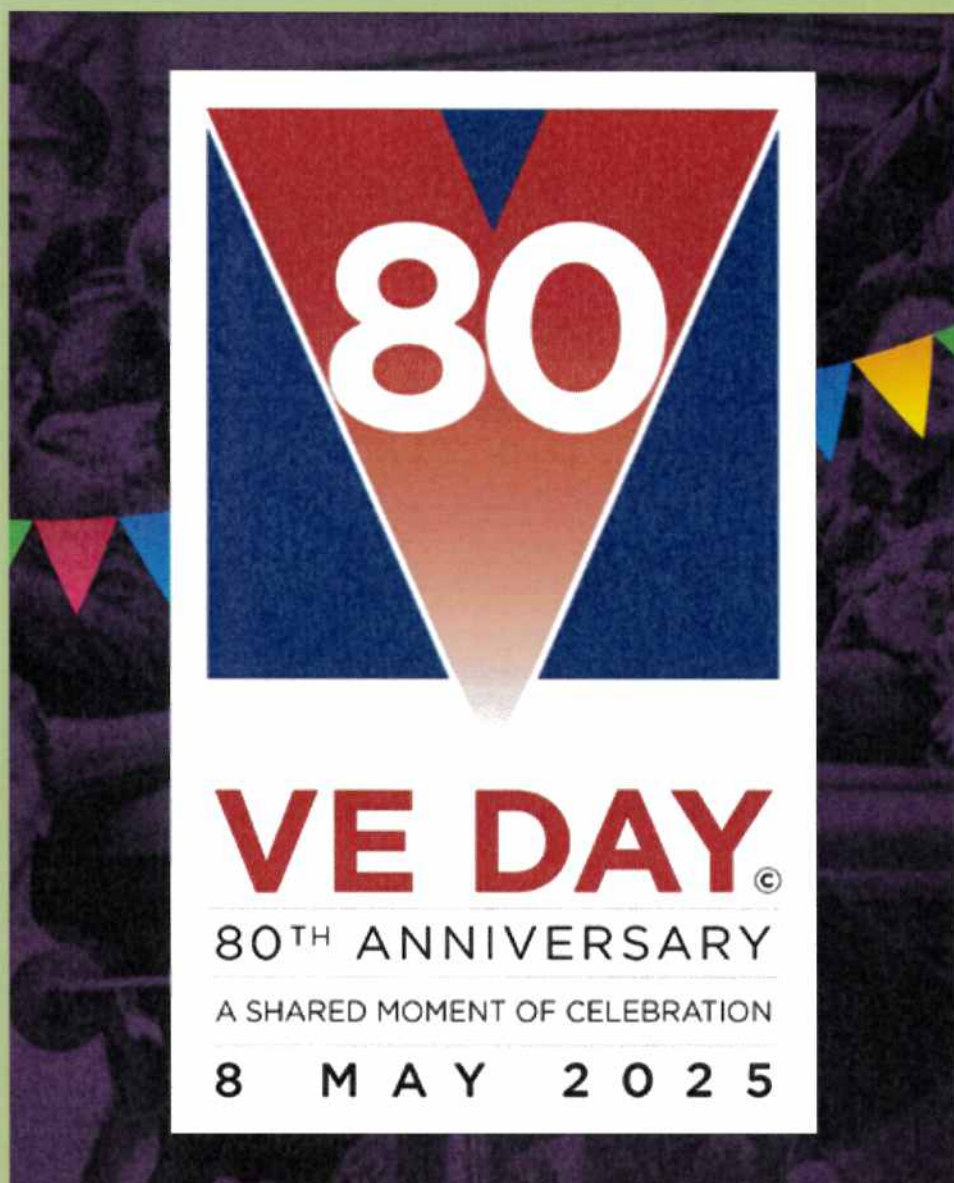
12th April Board Games Night at Bobbing Village Hall £3pp 7pm - 9pm variety of board games, card games. Bring your own refreshments

26th April Litter pick. (Same details above but not for the British Spring clean)

Info@bobbingchurch.org for Service and enquiries

Events@bobbingchurch.org for all event queries





IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2025

*RAISING OF THE VE DAY FLAG AT 09.00 AT
BOBBING VILLAGE HALL*

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025

*COMMUNITY EVENT AT BOBBING VILLAGE HALL
"A CELEBRATION OF PEACE"*

*Stay Tuned
8th June 2025*

The 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) in 2025 is a profoundly significant moment. This milestone marks eight decades since the end of World War II in Europe on May 8, 1945, a day that brought immense relief and joy to millions as it symbolized the defeat of Nazi Germany and the end of nearly six years of brutal conflict. Celebrating this anniversary honours the sacrifices made by the servicemen, women, and civilians who fought for freedom, while also reminding us of the importance of peace, unity, and resilience in the face of adversity.

Why is the 80th Anniversary Important?

- **Honouring the Past:** It's a vital opportunity to pay tribute to those who served in World War II, including veterans, civilians, and the countless individuals who contributed to the war effort at home.
- **Education for Future Generations:** As fewer veterans remain with us, this anniversary serves as a crucial way to educate younger generations about the war's impact and the importance of preserving peace.
- **Community Unity:** Celebrating VE Day reminds us of the strength and unity that communities showed during difficult times, a spirit that remains relevant today.

How to Get Involved with Bobbing Parish Council's Event on 8th June 2025.

The Bobbing Parish Council is planning a special event to commemorate this historic occasion, and there are plenty of ways to get involved and make the day memorable for everyone in the community.

Attend the Event: The Parish Council will be organizing a community-wide celebration on Sunday 8th June 2025. This will likely include a remembrance service, a parade, historical displays, music, and more. Mark the date in your calendar and bring your friends and family to take part.

Volunteer: The council will need volunteers to help with planning, setting up, and managing the event. Whether you can contribute a few hours or the whole day, your involvement will help ensure the success of the celebration.

Share Stories and Memorabilia: If you or your family have personal stories or artifacts from World War II, consider sharing them with the Parish Council for display. This could include photographs, letters, or items from the era, helping to bring history to life for younger attendees.

Join the Planning Committee: If you have ideas or want to play a more active role in organizing, reach out to the Parish Council and join the planning committee. This is a great way to be part of shaping the event and contributing to the community.

Participate in Historical Re-enactments or Performances: If you enjoy acting or have an interest in history, you could join or organise re-enactments or performances that highlight important moments from VE Day or the war era.

Stay tuned for more details from the Bobbing Parish Council about specific ways to participate.

Confirmed so far:

- Annie Love Singing Classic of War Time Music
- Funday_Kent
- Local Schools
- Plus much more

If you are interested in getting involved please email: VEDay2025@bobbing-pc.gov.uk

★ THANK YOU ★
for
Protecting
Us ★

VE DAY 2025

08.05.2025

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL INVITES YOU:

09.00 Raising the flag by the Children of Bobbing School
with the Mayor of Swale

18.30 Ring of the bells "Ring out for peace"

19.15-20.00 Church service at All Saints Church with the Deputy
Mayor of Swale

20.00 Food to be served

20.30 Cadets/Scouts parade
with Lamp of Light Parade

21.30 Finish

Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent


Bobbing Village Hall

Let's Tackle Loneliness Together 🍷

The Parish Council is proud to sponsor a monthly coffee morning aimed at bringing the community together, combating loneliness, and helping residents make new friends.

Join us for a warm cup of coffee, delicious treats, and friendly conversation in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Whether you're looking to meet new people, reconnect with your neighbours, or simply enjoy a change of scenery, this is the perfect opportunity to come together as a community.

Details:

 **Once a month – Starting Saturday 22nd February**

 **Time: 10.00-12.00**

 **Location: Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way**

No registration is needed—just come along and bring a smile! Let's work together to build a stronger, more connected community.

We look forward to seeing you there! 🌞



Bobbing Repair Cafe:

Exciting Opportunity: Join the Bobbing Repair Cafe Team!

Bobbing Parish Council is thrilled to announce plans for launching a Bobbing Repair Cafe this summer. This free monthly event will provide a welcoming space for community members to bring items that are broken or damaged to be repaired—helping reduce waste and keeping valuable items out of landfills.

To make this initiative a success, we're seeking volunteers with expert knowledge and practical skills, including:

- Woodworking
- Needlework
- Electrical repairs
- Other crafts or trades

We understand the challenges in finding such valuable expertise in today's world, which is why we need your help! Your talent and generosity can make a real difference by helping people restore their cherished items and reducing waste in our community.

If you have skills or talents that you believe could help, we'd love to hear from you!



How to Get Involved:

Please email us at bobbingrepaircafe@bobbing-pc.gov.uk to express your interest or ask any questions.

Let's come together to make a positive impact and foster a culture of repair and sustainability in Bobbing!

Would you like any adjustments or additional details added?

Annual General Meeting Recap

 Wednesday, 27th November 2024  19:30

We are excited to share the highlights of this year's Annual General Meeting and updates from Bobbing Village Hall:

Election of Officers:

Chair: Ross Richardson

Vice Chair: Gareth Randall

Treasurer & Secretary: Sarah Poole (continuing)

Caretakers: Peter French and Lewis Blake-Knowles

Representatives from Local Groups:

Parish Council: Various representatives

St. Bartholomew's Church: Mr. and Mrs. Kitney

Women's Institute: Yvonne Herbert and Pauline Walker

Invicta Arachnid Club: Allan Smedley

New Groups in 2024:

We welcomed several new groups this year:

Kickstart Football

Bourne Gymnastics

Infiniti School

These join our regular clubs, which include:

Sittingbourne Yoga: Every Thursday

Invicta Arachnid Club: Every 4th Wednesday

Women's Institute: Every 2nd Wednesday

If you would like more information about hiring the hall for a club please go to www.bobbingvillagehall.org.uk

Hall Improvements and Facilities:

The small hall has been equipped for conferences and meetings, complete with WiFi.

In 2025, we will be installing a large screen to support presentations.

A brand-new heating system was installed this year, enhancing comfort for all users.

Exciting News for 2025:

We look forward to welcoming new groups, including:
Royal Christian Ministries
CDM Community Sport Ltd

We have made bookings easy:

You can now book your events directly through our website at
www.bobbingvillagehall.org.uk

The site shows real-time availability and costs, making planning your event more convenient than ever!

Thank you to everyone who contributes to making Bobbing Village Hall a thriving community space. We're excited for the year ahead! 🌟



← VILLAGE HALL

Our new website is now live please visit
www.bobbingvillagehall.org.uk

Here you can look at what is
happening at the hall, book
your function, and find out the
prices all at a click of a button.



GYMNASTICS



<https://www.facebook.com/bobbingvillagehall>





Join the Invicta Arachnid Club! 🕷️

Established in September 1996, the Invicta Arachnid Club is Kent's premier group for tarantula enthusiasts. If you're passionate about these fascinating creatures or curious to learn more, our club is the perfect place for you.

Why Join Us?

- Meetings: Held on the last Wednesday of every month, 8:00 PM – 10:30 PM at Bobbing Village Hall (Sheppey Way, off A249, Sittingbourne).
- Education: Learn the correct care and husbandry for tarantulas from expert keepers.
- Community: Connect with like-minded people in a friendly and welcoming environment.
- Events: Enjoy guest speakers, raffles, auctions, competitions, and more!


Membership Benefits:


- Discounts: 10% off at select pet stores in Kent.
- Exclusive Events: Free Christmas dinner, summer fun days, BBQs, and day trips.
- Expert Advice: Access to experienced keepers and breeding programs.

Affordable Membership: Individual: £10/year

Family: £15/year

Whether you're an experienced keeper or just starting out, the Invicta Arachnid Club has something for everyone.

 Next Meeting: 26th February 2025

 Location: Bobbing Village Hall

For more information, come along to our next meeting or contact us directly. Join the community and explore the world of tarantulas with us!





WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE PART OF BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

Bobbing Parish Council plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our local community. By joining the council, you have a direct impact on the decisions that affect day-to-day life in Bobbing and its surrounding wards. Whether it's improving local services, addressing community concerns, or planning for future growth, being part of the Parish Council means being an active voice in your community's future.

Key Reasons to Get Involved:

- 1. Influence Local Decisions:** From road maintenance to planning applications, the Parish Council is responsible for many local decisions. As a member, you can help ensure these decisions reflect the needs and interests of the people living in Bobbing.
- 2. Community Advocacy:** Councillors serve as a bridge between residents and local government, ensuring that community voices are heard. This means raising concerns, securing funding for local projects, and advocating for improvements to services.
- 3. Shape the Future:** Whether it's preserving green spaces, planning new facilities, or promoting sustainability, being part of the council gives you the power to contribute to long-term development plans.



Parish Wards in Bobbing:

Bobbing Parish consists of several wards, each with unique needs and characteristics. There are 9 Councillors in total, with the three main areas being:

Grove Park (4 seats) Cllr. Randall, Cllr Baldock,
Cllr. Cavanagh, Cllr Blake-Knowles

Bobbing (3 seats) Cllr Gladwin, Cllr French **VACANCY**

The Meads (2 seats) Cllr Richardson, Cllr Bencych

These wards represent the diverse voices of the parish, and by being involved, you ensure every corner of Bobbing is well-represented.

How to Get Involved:

Meetings: The Parish Council meets **once a month** on the **first Wednesday at 19:00**. This is your opportunity to engage directly with council business, contribute to the discussion, and see how decisions are made.

Agendas: Agendas are posted on noticeboards and the council's website prior to meetings, so you can review the topics and get a sense of what will be discussed.

Contact the Clerk, If you're interested in joining or learning more, simply email the clerk at clerk@bobbing-pc.gov.uk for additional details on how you can help make a difference.

Your parish needs you! By joining Bobbing Parish Council, you can help ensure that the community continues to thrive and address the issues that matter most. Whether you're passionate about local facilities, environmental concerns, or community services, your contribution can make a significant impact.



Join the Big Garden Birdwatch 2025! 🐦

What is the Big Garden Birdwatch?

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey, and it's your chance to help track how garden birds are faring across the UK. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, contributing valuable data to protect and support our feathered friends.

How to Take Part:

- 1. Choose an Hour: Pick any hour between 24th and 26th January 2025.**
- 2. Watch and Record: Spend the hour watching the birds that land in your garden, balcony, or local green space.**
 - Only record the birds that land.
 - Note the highest number of each bird species you see at one time.
- 3. Submit Your Results: Share your findings online or by post, even if you don't see any birds—it's all helpful data!**

Get Started Today:

- Register: Get your free guide and resources at the RSPB website: **<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/register>**
- Stock Up on Supplies: Enjoy 20% off food and feeders with free delivery from the RSPB shop.

Let's come together to make a difference for our garden birds. Happy birdwatching! 🐦🌿

Explore Bobbing Parish's Public Rights of Way 🌿🚶

Walking the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in Bobbing is essential to keeping them open and accessible for everyone. Regular use prevents overgrowth, discourages illegal obstructions, and ensures these vital paths remain visible and passable.

Why Walk the PRoWs?

- **Preservation:** Prevent neglect and ensure pathways remain on public access maps for future generations.
- **Health & Well-being:** Enjoy outdoor exercise, social interactions, and the beauty of Bobbing's countryside.
- **Support Nature:** Maintain green corridors that benefit local wildlife.

Plan Your Walk

You can view the map of all PRoWs within Bobbing Parish here and plan your next adventure.

Report Issues

If you encounter a blocked or overgrown path, report it via Kent County Council's problem reporting system:

[https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/login.aspx?](https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fcountrysideaccesscams%2fstandardmap.aspx)

[ReturnUrl=%2fcountrysideaccesscams%2fstandardmap.aspx](https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fcountrysideaccesscams%2fstandardmap.aspx)

Heritage Walks

Our Heritage Working Group is actively planning walking routes that explore Bobbing's historical sites. Stay tuned for more details on these exciting heritage trails!

Let's work together to keep our parish paths open, accessible, and thriving. Lace up your walking shoes and explore Bobbing today! 🌳👣

Bobbing Parish Council invites you to:

★ **CELEBRATION OF PEACE** ★
★ **TO CELEBRATE 80 YEARS SINCE VE DAY** ★

**SUNDAY 8TH
JUNE 2025**

There will be a schedule of show items which will be judged by the Mayor.

- Lace work, Knitting work, Crochet Work
- Cakes, Jams, Savoury Items
- Paintings
- Flowers 3 buds, basket of Flowers
- Vegetables of the season
- Wood work of your choice

**ALL ITEMS WILL NEED TO BE IN PLACE
BY 11.30AM, FOR JUDGING AT 12.45,
WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED 14.00**

**Bobbing Village Hall
Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent**