



DITTON

Spring/
Summer 2026

GAZETTE



SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026
12:00 MIDDAY - 8.00PM
KILNBARN ROAD RECREATION GROUND



YOUR COUNCIL

Ditton Parish Council	
Clerk to the Council - Nicola Greenaway	clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ditton Parish Council Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road Ditton, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6AH Tel: 01732 844749	Website: www.dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/dittonparishcouncil www.facebook.com/thekilnbarn
Business Administrator - Sally Craig	finance@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Community Centre Admin - Selena Gardener	admin@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Open Spaces & Amenities - Lynn Fitchett	osa@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Chairman – Nigel Newman nigel@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Your Parish Councillors — David Adlington	
[all can be contacted	James Cox
via parish office]	Lisa Cox
	Adam Laidouci
	Tony Mulcuck
	Maria Newman
	Anne Throssell
	Mike Porter
	Adrian Waters
	Richard White
	Vacancies x 2
Your Borough Councillors	
Rob Cannon	Robert.cannon@tmbc.gov.uk
Steve Hammond	Steve.hammond@tmbc.gov.uk
Colin Williams	Colin.williams@tmbc.gov.uk
Your County Councillor	
Andrew Kennedy	Andrew.Kennedy@kent.gov.uk
Your MP	
Helen Grant	helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk
To report highways matters e.g. salt bins, potholes, lights, road signs, abandoned road signs, call 03000419191 or report online at: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem .	
For recycling collections, fly-tipping, council tax and other local services, contact Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522 or visit www.tmbc.gov.uk	

Chairman's Message

A warm welcome to our latest Parish Gazette.

It already feels so much has happened recently. We seemed in February to be under mountains of traffic cones around Ditton Corner - and still cannot see any apparent benefits from all this work to allow more houses to be built in the area. In fact the pot holes seem to be a new feature!

The council also finally had its say with the large housing proposal affecting Barming, Aylesford, Ditton and East Malling. At present this decision has been deferred by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council due to the lack of Potable water for any new developments in the area. This has now become a major issue and the parish council have attended a range of public meetings to hear how it will affect the local area.

Council meetings take place across the month and details of the meetings can be found on our website or notice boards around the village. A final decision on whether to repair/replace the damaged noticeboards has not yet been taken.

The annual parish meeting took place in April, with committee chairs reporting about what took place last year and the plans for the upcoming year ahead. Summaries of these reports can be found in this edition. We also enjoyed a presentation by Andrew Kennedy, our KCC council member about the changes that will affect the borough and county council with the planned local government reorganisation.

The annual community music event is also upcoming on 6th June. I hope many of you can come and enjoy an afternoon and evening of free music and entertainment.

Nigel Newman

Anti-Social Behaviour / Motorbikes on Recreation Grounds and Quarry Local Nature Reserve

Residents have increasingly raised concerns about anti-social behaviour involving motorbikes, electric bikes and e-scooters being ridden illegally across recreation grounds and through the Quarry Local Nature Reserve. While these open spaces are intended for walking, recreation, wildlife and family activities, they are being put at risk by the misuse of both petrol-powered and electrically powered vehicles.

The issue is not limited to large off-road motorcycles. Smaller motorbikes [ridden by children] , modified electric bikes and privately owned e-scooters are also contributing to the problem. Many of these vehicles are being ridden at speed across footpaths, grassed areas and sensitive wildlife habitats, creating danger for pedestrians, children, dog walkers and other legitimate users of the space.

Local residents have reported intimidation, excessive noise, damaged pathways, torn-up grass areas and disturbance to wildlife. In some cases, riders have ignored warning signs, mounted pavements or narrowly avoided collisions with members of the public. These incidents have understandably caused frustration and concern within the community. Under current regulations, motorbikes and other motorised vehicles are prohibited from being ridden across public recreation grounds, footpaths and the nature reserve . The Council is looking at suitable barriers and signs to discourage this behaviour. We also report all incidents we witness or are made aware of to the local police providing CCTV where possible. Anyone experiencing antisocial behaviour is encouraged to **report it to Kent Police** either by calling **101** or through the **Kent Police website**.



REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2025



Chairman's report for 2025 / 26

This year saw celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the twinning between Ditton and Rang Du Fliers.

Council

As I come to the end of my third council term as Chair, the council has seen some departures during the year. Committee chairs changed with Jackie Dearden stepping down as Community Centre chair and saw Mike Porter becoming chair of the committee. During this council year Kim Nash and Jackie Dearden left the council - I thank them both for their service. I would like to thank Jackie who was chair of several committees and worked incredibly hard on the community centre committee and oversaw important changes to the Kilnbarn which overturned previous poor performances before Covid.

This means we now have 11 members and at present there are two vacancies on the council. Being a member of the council is a voluntary position – we receive no payments. We simply work to try to make a difference to our community. Our meetings are open to the public, so if interested, please come along and see what we do. Members of the Council have not only attended meetings in regards to Ditton but have attended meetings in the borough and the county on a variety of issues. The councillors have also been doing a range of training to build their own knowledge on a range of issues. I thank all the council members for their hard work in the past year.

Committees

I know we have heard the committee chairs and their reports for the year. I would like to thank the chairs and the vice chairs of the committees for the hard work during the year. A lot of time and effort goes in outside the meetings and we have worked hard to develop the council facilities in the year. The community centre has seen more works including the redecoration of the Carman Room. The Kilnbarn Bar continues to do well and has seen the last of the planned renovations taking place including the welcome installation of air conditioning.

The parish rate

We have continued to keep our costs as low as possible despite the increases in costs that we face, in particular staff costs with the increases to the minimum wage and national insurance. **The precept increase was 2.0% or £3.25 per year on a Band D property.**

Staff

As Chair, I am grateful to all members of staff working for the council. Both on a full and part time capacity, they have helped keep the centre running smoothly, the bar being as popular as ever and the village looking clean and tidy as well as the smooth administration of the council and its functions.

Twinning

This year, on the special anniversary members of the council attended bastille celebrations with Rang du Fliers, our twinned town. We congratulate Claude Coin who has recently won the local elections for a third term. We look forward to seeing him and his new cabinet later this year.

Events

The Picnic in the park music event took place again in early June, a great event that shows the best of the local community with lots of great acts taking part. This year the event takes place on Saturday, 6th June. I would like to thank Sally and Ian Riches for bringing this great community event together each year. The Remembrance Service took place at the church this year. This was a great occasion with the church full and more joining at the war memorial. The service will continue at the church this year and I hope to see as many attend again.

Political update

The elections for the final county council of Kent saw Andrew Kennedy return as our local representative. We have heard tonight how the potential changes of the removal of existing borough / county councils will be replaced in the future. At present this has meant the council has found itself in limbo with planning in particular. I would like to thank Andrew for all his hard work on behalf of local people along with our TMBC Cllrs Rob Cannon, Colin Williams and Steve Hammond.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing what happens over the 2026/ 27 year.

Nigel Newman, Chair of the Council

Community Centre Committee Chair's report for 2025 / 26

Community Centre

The Community Centre continues to be well used for a wide range of activities with both commercial and private hirers. Much of this is repeat business and from recommendations, with bookings already into 2027.

We continue to work on our 5 year plan for the upkeep and safety of the building. This year's focus has been the upgrade of the fire alarm system and the electrical installation. Other work includes the redecoration of the Don Carman Hall, Oaken Hall Stage lighting and the resurfacing of the Car Park.

Bar

The Kilnbarn continues to do well and is a popular destination for locals to meet. The Oaken Hall and Don Carman Hall bars are popular for private events and are a great selling point for function bookings.

This year the Kilnbarn has benefited from new air conditioning units and a refurbished disabled toilet.

Music in the Park

With gale force winds and torrential rain forecast all day we were unsure whether to cancel. We decided to go ahead and were pleased when so many turned up to support the event. The rain held off until about 5.00pm with the last act setting up in the Oaken Hall and playing for the rest of the evening.

I would like to thank Sally for her support this year and in organising Music in the Park; Selena the Community Centre Administrator for her dedication in providing such great customer service to hirers; Gina and the Caretaking team for keeping the centre running smoothly; Sam and the Bar team for providing a friendly and welcoming environment.

Mike Porter, Chair of the Community Centre Committee

Planning, Highways & Transportation Committee

This year saw the planning application of East Malling Research be presented to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The Parish Council spoke at the meeting, summarising our extensive objection. In the event, the planned has been deferred due to the now apparent issues that South East Water cannot guarantee to supply all the planned new homes in the area. The decision therefore will be decided in the new council year.

My special thanks goes to Cllr Adrian Waters who went above and beyond reviewing the thousands of pages of text and highlighting the matters that I didn't and attending the meetings with me.

We also saw some challenging applications including the development of land at Cobdown by the London Lionesses. This has seen the protection of sport facilities and allow a UK leading facility. This application also included an application to reroute the Public Right of Way through the site.

All applications received are carefully read by the chair and vice chair of planning and the whole council meet twice a month to discuss plans and consider consistency with other applications, the impact on the area and the environment impact. We have some times disagreed with the borough's decisions but are satisfied we are looking objectively at each application.

The council considers all public views, recorded on the TMBC planning portal, sent in to us or from those that attend our meetings. We would always prefer to hear from neighbours to make sure we can support their views on matters that will directly affect them.

I would like to thank Nicola and Lynn who worked on planning matters this year.

Cllr Nigel Newman
Chair, Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee

Open Spaces and Amenities Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2026

I am Adrian Waters; and this is my second year as Chair of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee.

Richard Bartlett the Grounds Supervisor and I further expanded the biannual tree surveys into a catalogue of the over 300 mature trees, for which Ditton Parish Council is responsible, to uniquely identify all trees outside the Quarry LNR with an aluminium disc that corresponds to the tree catalogue and maps held by the Parish Office. These discs are fixed to the southern side of each tree and will allow the council to manage arborists by giving them not only tree species, and approximate location but a tag number.

As a result of the tree surveys, a number of diseased trees have had to be felled for safety reasons; a number have been pollarded; and some have been coppiced to encourage scrubby growth. Also, the future management of trees has been clarified. For example, the trees in the “Ransom Strip” on Bradbourne Lane had grown into, and become entangled with, telephone lines. The trees have now been coppiced and, to prevent future problems will be maintained in future as a 2m hedge.

Ditton Court Quarry Local Nature Reserve contains a number of important native and some non-native plants and trees. The “Bee Cliff” that is identified as a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) is also ecologically important as a habitat for mining bees. The RIGS is recognised by the council as being a high priority for maintenance due to its ecological and geological importance; and recent work has included cutting back vegetation to allow the sun to warm the rock, further encouraging mining insects; and to reveal the cliff face for the benefit of geologists.

Regular inspections have revealed that most allotments have been maintained to high standard. As they become vacant, full plots are split into half-plots. As a result of this initiative, there is currently a short waiting list for empty plots. Lynn Fitchett, the OSA Administrator, manages the allotment administration; and I would like to thank her for her efforts.

Many of us have noticed continuing positive changes that are anticipated to continue in the coming year, for which I thank Richard and his team. In particular, the council moved to proactive stance such that the estate can be managed by routine maintenance. While problems will occur in future, this approach will allow effort to be scheduled to address areas of concern; and thereby enhance the amenity of our open spaces.

In summary, I would like to thank Nicola, and her team; and Richard, the Grounds Supervisor and his team Louis and Amy; for all their efforts in maintaining and enhancing Ditton’s Open Spaces and Amenities over the last year.

Cllr Adrian Waters, Chair Open Spaces and Amenities Committee

Personnel Committee Chair's report for 2025 / 26

This year the committee was formed with Jackie Dearden as chair until her resignation earlier this year. As the vice chair of the committee, I have been acting as interim chair until the end of the council year.

Office Staff

This year we have been stable and had no changes. Lynn, who has been with us for 1½ years has continued providing the admin for the Open Spaces and Planning Committees. Selena continues to look after the regular bookings and securing new hirers for the centre and has been with us for just over 3 years now. Sally has been with us for 10 years later this year and looks after the accounts/finance, building/equipment maintenance and the bar administration. Sally also covers for Nicola when she is on leave. Nicola our Parish Clerk will have been with us 24 years in October. Nicola oversees the day to day running of the parish, all operations and all staff. They are a lovely team and work very hard.

Grounds Staff

The team of Richard, Lewis and Amy have been the same this year. They have worked hard on the outdoor spaces through out the village including the church and Ditton Infant school.

Caretaking Staff

We have Gina as Supervisor and she has completed 22 years of service in August. Robin has been with us for 5 years, Lauren 3 years, Fran and Jamie for 2 years. Plus we have Jane who helps out when she is needed - Jane has worked for the council on and off for many years. They are a good team and keep the centre clean and tidy and support the many hirers of the Centre.

Bar Staff

Sam continues to do a great job as the Bar Supervisor and has been in this role for 5 years now. She organises regular entertainment and promotions. The bar takings are the best they have been for many years. The Kilnbarn is thriving and enjoyed by many local people. Sam has a great team of staff to support her and they are always cheerful and happy to welcome new customers.

Training

Staff undertook refresher training in first aid and fire safety this year. Two members of the grounds team also undertook a Basic Tree Inspection Course. Appraisals and reviews will take place during the year and any other training needs will be identified during this process.

I would take this opportunity to thank every single staff member for their continued hard work over this last year.

Cllr Nigel Newman



Ditton Infant School

Parents joined us in school during March for Parent Consultations and a Yr1 production of 'The Enormous Turnip'.

Our PTFA organised some wonderful activities for the children which included an Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Raffle and 'breakfast in a bag' gifts for mother figures on Mothering Sunday.

We continue to add a selection of photos to our school gallery which can be found at <https://www.ditton-inf.kent.sch.uk/News/Galleries/> and this showcases some of our other Spring Term events such as a cricket workshop, Chinese New Year celebrations and the ever-popular 'dress up day' to celebrate World Book Day. I also took a group of Yr2 children to a local infant agility competition at and they were delighted to bring 'gold' medals back to school.

We had some lovely comments following our annual parent questionnaire, the results of which can also be found on our website.

The following two terms will be just as busy with each year group going on a coach trip, the whole school taking part in Sports Week and we also begin to plan the transition of children leaving our school and those who will join in September.

This will be my last contribution as Headteacher of Ditton Infant School as I step down from the role which I have held for the past 10 years. I am very proud of what we have achieved together as a community, including a successful Ofsted inspection, development of the wildlife garden, installation of the daily mile track, new wellbeing facilities and care suite, but most importantly an inclusive school where children feel safe and happy.

Over the coming months, I will continue to work closely with the governing board and staff to ensure that there is a smooth transition ready for September 2026 when Mrs Kreiselmeyer, my current Assistant Headteacher, will take on the Acting Headship role.

I would like to thank community members and the families of Ditton for the trust and support they have shown me during my time as Headteacher. I will always remain deeply appreciative of the community of Ditton, and I wish the school every success in the future.

Mrs C Lewer
Headteacher



Ditton Bowls Club

Kilnbarn Recreation Ground

Kiln Barn Road

Ditton

ME20 6QR

Ditton Bowls Club is a friendly club who welcomes new members. Outdoor lawn bowls takes place between April and September. Short mat is played indoors over the remaining months. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact the club secretary Marilyn Allen, email dittonbowls@gmail.com or phone 01622 434817

We are celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year and would welcome any new members to come an experience outside lawn bowls. We also have coaching facilities, a welcoming club house and bar, plus kitchen and parking. We hope to see you there soon.

Ditton Pétanque Club

In 1994, when Ditton was first twinned with Rang-du-Fliers in France, members of Ditton Parish Council were introduced to the game of pétanque by the Rangoise. With the help of a lottery grant, a pétanque terrain was laid next to the children's play area at Ditton Community Centre recreation ground. (The club still plays against Rang-du-Fliers on an annual basis, whilst we haven't beaten them yet, the gap is closing.)

By 1999, a Ditton Pétanque Club had been formed, and the first team (the Kilnbarners) was entered in the Kent Pétanque League. In 2000, another team (the Streamliners) joined the League. Some of the early players are still members of the club.

The club provides for both recreational and competitive players. The club meets on Monday afternoons for recreational players throughout the year and the club runs a number of social events throughout the year with a club competition for all members – The President's Cup.

The club still plays in the Kent Pétanque League for which there are now five divisions with over forty teams. The team has made steady progress in recent years. In 2023 the team was promoted to Division Five, the following year, the team narrowly missed out on promotion to Division Three by one point on the last day of the season. This provided the necessary motivation for the best season in recent years and in 2025, the team won promotion to Division Three and also won a Kent Pétanque League knockout competition – The Plate, with tense nail-biting finishes, long into the evening against higher ranked teams in the semi finals and finals.

Pétanque is truly a game for all ages, and we would welcome new members to our friendly club. During the summer months, the club also meets on Saturdays, so if you would like to come along and try out the sport, please contact the Club secretary.

John Lambert - 97jlambert@gmail.com - 07512 091720

We will be there on the day of the Mystery Trail 14th June, so if you would like to try the game please pop round to the piste.





DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Although Christmas seems a long time ago, we must thank everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre. There was an interesting variety of stalls, and it was lovely to see so many children waiting to see Father Christmas. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a success.

Since Christmas we have been talking about previous twinning events. We have decided to create a "Book of Memories" about twinning. If you have ever been involved in any of our exchange visits or events and would like your memories included, please contact us on the email address at the bottom.

Our next event is a Mystery Trail around Ditton on Sunday 14th June 2026. It will start and finish at the Ditton Heritage Centre, but there are a few mysteries to solve during the trail. Look out for further details.

We are also planning another quiz night on Saturday 10th October 2026. Please come and join us for an enjoyable evening.

If you want to know more about twinning events, please contact us on 01732 844292 or email stanleycol@aol.com.



News from St Peter's Church



Ross Terranova - Rector of Ditton

Living Wisely Online

As the speed of life seems to increase year on year (true in Ditton as anywhere!) so does our reliance on digital screens. In the work I do I often hear concerns about the downsides of this - we are I think all too familiar with some of these. The internet is a marvellous tool, connecting us with family, providing quick information, and making life in so many ways more efficient. Yet we all feel the creeping anxiety, the hours lost, and the digital fatigue. From a Christian perspective. We are stewards, not just of money, but of our time and attention. How do we ensure the internet serves us, rather than masters us.

The first challenge is *mindful* usage. Technology is designed for engagement, often leading to involuntary "scrolling" rather than intentional searching. How easy it is to find ourselves in a digital "rat race"? We seek validation through likes or compare what we may think that other people are having a great time compared to what is going on in my life. When we allow ourselves to be tied to a digital image we lose our inner peace. The antidote is intentionality - using the internet to do what we need to do, then stepping away, rather than letting it become a default state of boredom-busting.

Secondly, the digital world can sometimes damage local community. While we connect with a cousin in the USA, we can easily forget the neighbour next door. The internet is a fantastic supplement to real life, but a poor replacement for it. True community demands physical presence - speaking to people, coming to local meetings, sharing a cup of coffee.

Lastly consider *grace* - a great New Testament word meaning undeserved kindness - unconditional acceptance - the sort of thing you see modelled in the life of Jesus. Online discourse is often harsh, quick and divisive. As a community we can decide to be different. We can choose to be builders of connection rather than consumers of outrage. That means stepping away when a conversation turns ugly and resisting to the urge to spread negative chatter.

We are not going to throw our devices away! They are here to stay. But perhaps we need to be in words of James who wrote one of the letters in the New Testament '*quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry*'. If we did that maybe our homes, our workplaces and our country might become better places to live in.

Ross



News from St Peter's Church



COME AND JOIN US FOR
THIS YEARS OPEN AIR
SERVICE

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE AT 11AM

ALL WELCOME



ST PETER'S CHURCH

The parish church of St. Peter's, Ditton is a thriving centre of Christian life and activity and we are here to proclaim that God's love is the greatest love in the universe and that it reaches out to everyone. That may sometimes be hard to believe when you are bowed down by the state of our world or when hard personal times come our way. But the church exists to help us lift our heads, open our eyes and look into the fact of Jesus Christ who gives us life and hope.



CONTACT INFO

Church Office, Church Centre, New Road, Ditton, Aylesford, Kent. ME20 6AE
Phone: 01732 873798
Email: dittonchurch@btconnect.com
Web: www.dittonchurch.org.uk

Ditton Short Mat Indoor Bowls Club

After the enforced break during Covid, we are gradually rebuilding the Club and, thanks to our Competitions Secretary, Diana, taking part in some competitions again. These have mostly been 'friendlies' against other local clubs. There are no prizes or medals for winning, but we gain valuable experience playing against people who's games we are not familiar with. Earlier in the year (on the only day it snowed!) we managed to send a team to Ashford Bowls Club to take part in an inter club Domestic 2 knockout competition. Unfortunately we were soon 'knocked out', but we had a great time. More recently we were represented at a similar competition hosted by Snodland club.



While some of us are enjoying some competition, other members do not want to take their bowling that seriously, especially when they first join us. Whilst we would certainly love to meet players who might help us win occasionally, we are also very pleased to welcome people who would just like to spend a pleasant afternoon engaging in some gentle exercise, punctuated by a cup of tea and a biscuit. We also go out for regular pub lunches, have a summer picnic and a Christmas party. It's not all serious stuff!

So, whether you would like a challenge or just to spend your Monday and Friday afternoons in good company, why not pay us a visit? We meet in the Oaken Hall at Ditton Community Centre, 1.00 to 3.30pm. Your first 3 'taster' sessions are free and we can provide you with all the equipment you need to get started.

For further information ring Moira on 07939 975533. You can also see what we are up to by visiting our Facebook page.



Finally the weather is finally warming up and our children are enjoying lots of outdoor play, bug hunts and planting in our Pre School allotment. They have recently enjoyed a visit from Reverend Ross Terranova to read the story of Easter to them prior to their Easter service in the church and they enjoyed a visit to the Ditton Book Exchange.

We currently have a very creative group of children who have worked their way through a mountain of craft resources so we would be very grateful to any local families or companies who may be able to donate any paper, pencils, crayons ,pompoms, pipe cleaners, glue sticks etc ! It is great to see their little imaginations grow, last week I was greeted by a 'robot dinosaur', which was not only created from the child's own imagination but then added a lot of fun to his role play! The following day I was greeted by a staff member wrapped in strips of white paper as the children wanted her to be a 'mummy'! There is never a dull moment in Early Years!

As we move into the summer term we are already busy with visitors viewing for places to join us in September and places are filling up much quicker than usual. We are also preparing our oldest children for their transition to Infant school next year and look forward to welcoming their reception class teachers to Pre School to meet the children and talk to staff to help ensure a smooth transition.

We are currently recruiting for a Senco to join our crazy, hardworking, friendly team for 13 hours per week from September. If you have experience in this area and are interested in joining our team please call me on 07845 921621 or email info@dittonchurchpreschool.org.

Wendy Caldicott
Pre School Manager



Scouts

1st Ditton

Get involved

Squirells ages 4 to 6

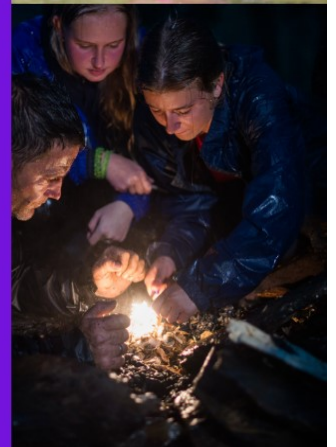
Beavers ages 6 to 8

Cubs ages 8 to 10 1/2

Scouts ages 10 1/2 to 14

To join the fun, make new friends and gain real life skills email

joining@dittonscouts.org.uk





ROYAL AIR FORCE
AIR CADETS
 the next generation

JOIN US!

2374 (Ditton) Sqn ATC

Do you want something worthwhile to do in your free time?

Social Nights

Flying/Gliding

Parades



Activities

Camping

New Friends

Join us for an evening, to find out more email the contact details below.
 Army Reserve Centre, LondonRd, Aylesford ME20 6DB

CONTACT US

oc.2374@rafac.mod.gov.uk



07519

850070

MUST be aged between 12 (in school year 8) and 17

Parade nights Tuesdays and Thursdays 19:00-21:30

DITTON & MALLING ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Back in December, we had our Christmas party with music provided, IT WAS a very nice afternoon with the music, food and drink to pass the time away with a bit of Disco dancing added. We also made a visit to the Priory at Aylesford for a lovely Christmas Dinner, - a wonderful place to visit and a great atmosphere.

Damara had their Annual General Meeting in February and as expected all the committee were elected back onto the committee. There does seem to be a general reluctance of members to come forward and take part in running local and county wide clubs.

Outings have continued, but we now make use of Brookline coaches instead of arranging the coaches ourselves, much easier to do. Outings have included a visit to Blue Town, Sheerness, We are all looking forward to Spring arriving so those heavy coats can be put away for many months. That's all we have to report this time, next issue we hope to have photo's of our members frolicking around in The Spring air....

At our Easter meeting in April we held an Easter Bonnet contest and here is a picture of the first three winners.

Lft - Rt: Molly 3rd - Margaret Winner - Jill 2nd.



KentARA our Parent Executive body were awarded the Kings Award for voluntary services to the community and one of our members Tony Mulcuck received the award as he was a member of this executive. Tony and his wife Maralyn are invited to a meeting at the Sessions House, Maidstone of all the people in Kent who were awarded this Kings Award, meet the Lord Lieutenant of Kent. Congratulations Tony.

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

We receive many complaints about inconsiderate parking. Unfortunately the Parish Council has no powers to enforce parking restrictions. We would however ask that residents and visitors to the village and its facilities park considerately. Please use the Community Centre car park if using the Centre, Kilnbarn Bar, recreation grounds or quarry. Parents dropping children at school are also encouraged to park safely in the car park.

If you need to park on the public highway, please do so considerately - do not park on double yellow or zigzag lines and please do not block driveways.



OPEN DAY

Saturday 20th June 11am-2pm



Visit our Sustainable Food Education Charity and Community Garden in East Malling

LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL:

TOURS | DEMONSTRATIONS | AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS | GAMES | PLANT SALE | LOCAL PRODUCE | SUSTAINABLY GROWN VEG | HOMEMADE CAKES | REFRESHMENTS | plus lots more!

Our Open Day is kindly sponsored by:  MORE THAN JUST A TOWEL

Suggested donation
£1 entry
Under 16s FREE



COMMUNIGROW, Park Farm,
East Malling/Ditton, ME20 6PE
Charity No. 1159534
info@communigrow.org.uk

 FIND US  www.communigrow.org.uk

LINE DANCING

Every Thursday

at Ditton Community Centre



Beginners 12.00 to 1.00

Improvers 1.00 to 2.00

£6.00 for one hour. £8.00 for two hours

Come and Learn Something New

Ditton Community Centre

Kilnbarn Road, Ditton ME20 6AH

For more information phone or text Stephen 07476 749797

Contacting Kent Police

Report a crime:

-  To report a non urgent crime visit www.kent.police.uk/report
-  Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7: www.kent.police.uk/contact
-  In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**
-  If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
-  For news and advice visit www.kent.police.uk

News, information and advice:

-  Find your answer online. Browse the national Ask the Police question finder www.askthe.police.uk
-  Email your local policing team. Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea
-  Follow us on Twitter @kent_police or find your local account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea
-  Find us on **Facebook**
-  Follow us on Instagram @kentpoliceuk

Mums of Ditton!

Pre- and postnatal exercise classes are coming!

Bring your baby or toddler!

Coming August 2026



Thursdays

9.30am - 10.15am

Ditton Community Centre

Join the waitlist



07356 214478

@fitmumsquaduk

jade@fitmumsquad.co.uk

www.fitmumsquad.co.uk



Stephen P. Gay

Funeral Service

Proudly the only local independent funeral director with many generations of experience, providing a professional service with compassion to all our families.

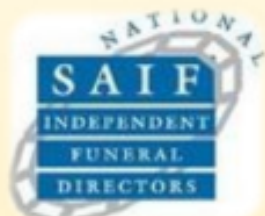
39 - 41 High Street,
West Malling
ME19 6QH

01732 780333

w.malling@stephenpgay.co.uk

We put you and your loved-one first.

Personalised funerals * Sincere prices * Home visits
Memorials * Pre-paid funeral plans * Repatriation
All faiths and religions,
as well as non-religious



West Malling Companions Group

A local group where we can all support each other, help alleviate loneliness and social isolation following the loss of a loved one.

Together, we will share stories, memories and feelings, offer guidance, and help others through their grief and the difficult times ahead.

Everyone within our group has experienced loss and maybe needs someone else to understand the life changes that a bereavement brings to them.

Don't be alone,
become part of West Malling Companions Group!

On the second Wednesday of each month
between 10am and 12 noon

with tea and coffee available at:

Stephen P. Gay

39-41 High Street, West Malling, ME19 6QH



DITTON HERITAGE CENTRE

It has been a busy winter with our members and volunteers undertaking various tasks such as categorising the many donations we have received of letters, photographs etc plus so we required more shelving to cope with this amount and we have now purchased additional shelving and folders etc. We are now looking towards Spring & Summer when we have our Open Days when we have the premises open on a Sunday from 10.am until 3pm with an additional attraction of a theme for the day.

To help pay for all the additional storage we were given a grant of £250 from The Members Grant of our County Councillor Andrew Kennedy - thank you!

Photo shows. Andrew with Tony Mulcuck (Chair) on Rt and David Stevens (Vice Chair Lft



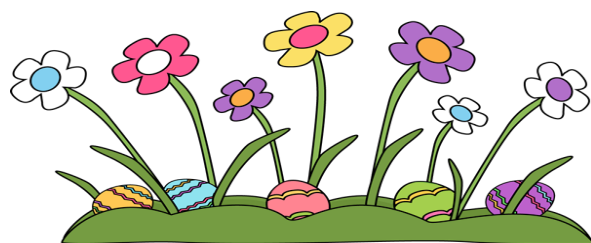
We held a very successful Flash Jumble Sale at the Methodist Church in Larkfield and wish to

thank all those who assisted on the day. In early April we held our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Ditton, once again a great success with 81 children taking part (with their parents) who all seemed to have enjoyed the event. Many thanks to all those who donated towards the cost of the Easter Eggs.

One of our main fund raising events is a Summer Raffle, which was very successful last year. This will start in May and the Draw will take place at our October Open Day.

The dates for our Open Days are:

May 10th. June 14th. July 19th. Aug 16th. Sept 13th & 20th (This is the National Heritage Week) and October 18th when the Draw for our Summer Raffle will take place. We look forward to welcoming you.





The Kiln Barn

Situated at the rear of Ditton Community Centre facing onto to recreation ground.

 THE KILNBARN

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
3:30PM - 8:30PM

FRIDAY
2PM - 11PM

SATURDAY
12PM - 11PM

SUNDAY
12PM - 8:30PM





Saturday 6th June 2026

Kilnarn Recreation Ground

Kilnarn Road, Ditton ME20 6AH

12.00 - 8.00pm

Live Music from 12.00(midday) featuring:



Licensed Bar, Food & Ice Cream