



DETLING PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winner of the Children's Christmas Card Design

Merry Christmas



Christmas Card Competition Winner Nkoyo aged 9



DETLING PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Sherrie Babington

The November meeting was Sherrie's last meeting as our Parish Clerk.

She leaves Detling after 23 years and with her we lose a wealth of knowledge, experience and a safe pair of hands.

Before the start of the meeting Councillors presented Sherrie with flowers and leaving gifts. We also commissioned a commemorative plaque, which was beautifully prepared by David Humfrey. Many thanks to those Cllrs and members of the public who contributed towards Sherrie's leaving gifts.

Several speeches were given and Sherrie expressed her sorrow at leaving. Councillor Bowie expressed her regret that Sherrie felt she had no option but to resign and Councillor Clayton told her that she was 'irreplaceable'.

The vast majority of Cllrs have tried desperately over a considerable period of time to persuade Sherrie not to take this action. However, due to the actions of a very small minority of Cllrs this has not been possible.

We take this opportunity to wish Sherrie every happiness for her future and we know we will see her again as she remains the Clerk for our neighbouring parishes of Stockbury and Thurnham.



Sherrie Babington's Final Meeting as Detling Parish Clerk

Summary Arising from Detling Parish Council meeting 2nd November 2021 (not covered elsewhere in the Newsletter)

- It was RESOLVED that both the Open Spaces and Finance Committees would be reconstituted as Working Groups.
- It was AGREED that when appropriate meetings of the Working Groups may be open to the public.
- A follow up letter is to be sent to Rochester Bridge Trust to enquire about land next to Old School Playing Field for additional parking in the village.
- It was AGREED that should there be another sewage leak at Monks Meadow, or the affected section, would be temporarily closed to protect the public.
- It was AGREED that the new benches would be installed in the Old School Playing Field
- It was RESOLVED that a Post Office Box address would be set up for the parish council.
- It was RESOLVED to adopt a Covid Contingency Plan
- It was RESOLVED to set up a staffing committee to recruit a temporary Locum Clerk and also a permanent replacement for Sherrie.
- It was RESOLVED that the members of the staffing/recruitment committee would be Cllrs Bowie, Clayton and Coles.
- The Villager of the Year Award was decided. Villager of Year 2021. Nominations for this award are received from residents. We are delighted to announce that **Sally Howells has been voted as the Villager of the Year.**
- The award will be made to Sally Howells at the January 2022 parish council meeting.

Throughout local government, there are growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment and intimidation is having on our councils, councillors and staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils.

*In response, the **Civility and Respect Project** has been founded by the **Civility and Respect Working Group** and is supported by representatives from across our sector including Councils, County Associations, NALC, SLCC and One Voice Wales.*

*The **Civility and Respect Project** aims and objectives will be included for debate and hopefully adoption at the January 11th 2022 meeting of the parish council.*

Please note that the parish office will be closed for Christmas from 5pm on Friday 17th December and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2022

As of the 17th December the parish council will no longer have a telephone number. A PO Box is being set up. Details will be on the website and noticeboard in January 2022. The parish emails: clerk@detlingparishcouncil.co.uk will be monitored from the 4th January 2022.

Apology:

The parish council formally apologises to Mr Tony Taylor for the appalling manner in which he was addressed by a parish councillor at the November meeting.

Cllrs Bowie, Bryant, Clayton and Coles

Newsletters

Compiled by Cllrs. Irene Bowie, Gary Bryant, John Clayton and Julia Coles.

No. 3 October edition was overwhelmingly very well received. Once again, with lots of verbal and written feedback. Residents continually express the view that they really appreciate these communications and the informative content on a variety of aspects of village life.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee -Events Committee.

The Parish Council has established a Committee for arranging celebratory events during next year 2022 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Invites to express an interest in joining the committee have been issued to all village organisations and societies. There has been a very positive response already !

Cllr. Coles will arrange a meeting with interested parties, with a timetable of proposed official events.

A tree and plaque is being ordered for the village in order to be part of **The Queen's Green Canopy**.

Defibrillators There are currently three in Detling. 1 in the village telephone box and 2 in Scragged Oak Road. A list of key personnel list has been increased and revised. Further training for volunteers will be arranged and conducted in the New Year.

GDPR

All communication from members of the public to councillors should be via the clerk as per policy.

'Meet and Greet Event' for Newcomers to Detling Village- November 6th

Councillors Bowie, Clayton and Coles met with recent newcomers to the village from 12.15 p.m. until 5 p.m. (scheduled end 2.00 p.m.) on the afternoon of Saturday November 6th.

It was a super afternoon from start to finish with many useful introductions and new friendships having been forged.

Feedback has been excellent ; everyone commented that it was a successful, fun event. This is just the start of future similar events.

Our youngest attendee, Ava, was only 20 months old, but was enthralled by the discussions of the latest (and historical) news in the village.

We also heard from a longstanding resident who has great historical evidence.

A fabulous event - with over 40 attendees ! Thank you once again to Kim and Tony of the Cock Horse Detling who provided a wonderful buffet for this function. (The firework cupcakes disappeared quickly !)



Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against Women and Girls Day was November 25th - White Ribbon Day.

Kent Police held a number of presentation events across the county to highlight to communities what they are doing to improve the safety in public spaces for women and girls. Councillors Clayton and Coles attended, on November 10th, as part of an audience with a cross section of the local community invited by Kent Police Chief Officers and the Senior Leadership Team to hear their views.

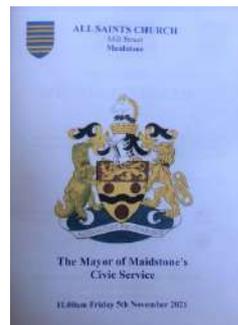
Nationally there was a rise in Domestic Abuse figures during the Pandemic, the victims of which were overwhelmingly female. In Kent there was a 9.3% increase last year, or 3233 more incidents reported to the police.

The Kent Police Commissioner Matthew Scott launched a Call for Evidence to understand the true figures in Kent and a report with recommendations is due to be published in the new year. The Commissioner has been awarded £741,548 to help make streets in some parts of Kent (Ashford, Rochester and Chatham) safer for women and girls.

This is part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Project and is in addition to the £870,000 provided for projects in Gillingham, Canterbury and Ramsgate. The money will be spent on personal safety equipment, drink testing kits and personal alarms as well as providing safe havens and installing more CCTV and improved street lighting.

The parish council is looking at the personal safety devices that the police are proposing with a view that we can get hold of sufficient numbers of these devices to enable them to be distributed in Detling

Any incidents of verbal or physical intimidation or assault in any capacity should always be reported to the Police.



The Mayor of Maidstone, Councillor Fay Gooch, invited Detling Parish Council to attend her Civic ceremony which was held at All Saint's Church in Maidstone on Friday 5th November.

Councillor Coles attended this special occasion on behalf of Detling Parish Council.



Ava enjoying the parish council newsletter.





HORISH WOOD WREATH MAKING DAY

14 December 2021

Wreath Making Workshop



Medway Valley Countryside Partnership manages Horish Wood for Detling Parish Council and encourages community use of the site. As part of this service, we delivered a Christmas Wreath making workshop for local residents on Saturday 11 December.

The aim was to create wreaths, using only natural materials, making them completely sustainable. It's surprising how many natural materials are available for arts and crafts at this time of year. We cut and collected hazel whips for the wreath base, and holly, ivy, conifer, rosehips and teasels for decoration. (When making natural decorations, please remember to leave plenty of berries as food for wildlife and ensure you have the landowner's permission.) To get into the Christmas spirit we had hot drinks and mince pies warmed on the fire.

Kate, who attended the workshop with her family said, 'Thank you so much for Saturday's wreath making workshop, we all enjoyed ourselves and are very pleased with our creations. The children's wreath looks great by our front door. Look forward to hopefully coming to more workshops in the future.'

This beautiful ancient woodland site is an ideal base for a wide range of nature-based walks and workshops and MVCP is planning a programme of workshops for Detling residents for 2022. We are also running walks and activities for people over 55 as part of Involve Kent's Universal Wellbeing project.

MVCP wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For more information, please contact:
Kathryn Barton | Forest School Development Officer
Medway Valley Countryside partnership
Email: Kathryn.barton@kent.gov.uk





PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES



Open Spaces Group:

Cllrs Coles, Clayton, Baker-Anderson and Mr T Taylor (non Cllr)

Open spaces members decided unanimously to change their structure from a committee to a working group. This was ratified at the full council meeting on November 2nd 2021.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Crocuses have been planted in various sites in the village in anticipation that these will flower in February. The Accession of Queen Elizabeth II was on 6th February 1952.

Queen's Garden Canopy

Official documentation was circulated to all members and Councillors agreed unanimously for the Parish Council to participate in this scheme. Cllr Coles has ordered a Rowan tree, together with a commemorative plaque. MVCP are happy to facilitate all works. (The date of a tree planting ceremony tba via a newsletter once arranged and dignitaries will be invited.)

New Volunteers

We are very pleased to report that several applications have been received by the Parish Council from residents interested in volunteering. These are in the process of being cleared to enable residents to commence work with MVCP.

Horish Wood

MVCP Report- Derek Whitehead B.Sc. (Hons) Landscape Management Countryside

Most ancient woodlands in the UK are classified as semi-natural habitats, meaning that they have mostly been managed by humans for timber and other industries. There is very little 'wild woodland' left in Britain. Ancient woodland also indicates that that particular wood has been a woodland for at least 400 hundred years, before this period the accuracy of maps is less certain.

Horish Wood is one of many wet woodland sites that are situated along the bottom of the North Downs escarpment. Traditionally, woodlands were harvested, and every species of tree had its usage. One of the most prominent species of tree within Horish wood is Hornbeam, known colloquially as 'hardbeam', which was used for charcoal and may have fired the pre-industrial iron ore trade.

The current management of Horish Wood is following a Forestry Commission plan for the site. The overarching aim of management within Horish Wood is to enhance the biodiversity by opening up areas of woodland to allow sunlight to hit the forest floor. One of the prescriptions is to clear between 0.4 and 1.1 hectares each year and different compartments will have anywhere from a five to thirty-year rotation cycle.

The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership have been organising volunteer task days since 2019 and for more information on getting involved please contact:

Derek Whitehead

E-mail: derek.whitehead@kent.gov.uk

Partnership Officer / Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
3 Lock Cottages, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3AU
Tel: 03000 414 842/03000 422997 /
www.medwayvalley.org / www.kentcountryside.org.uk
Working days: Monday to Friday
Part of the Kent Countryside and Coastal Management Service.

Hazel tree coppicing

The hazel from this recent activity has been reused by MVCP on an urban open space locally, to create a low protective fence around 2 flower gardens built over the top of a natural flood drainage system.

Saplings

These were ordered from The Woodland Trust earlier this year by Cllr. Richard Finn for planting in Horish Wood and scheduled for delivery early November to Cllr. Coles. Unfortunately these arrived late, but MVCP kindly arranged a prompt collection and organised an extra volunteering day in late November to plant these in Horish Wood on the bund of the railway line. Thank you.

Grove Green Beavers

We are pleased to report that this community group are making use of the woods for scouting activities.

An **Oak tree in Horish Wood** was identified as diseased and dangerous as its bark is deeply split- and therefore it will be felled together with a branch overhanging a pathway.

Thank you to **Connor Carey (Director of Maidstone Tree Surgeons)** for providing chippings in Horish Wood once again (free of charge) for MVCP's use.

The Larches

KCC are the landowners of The Larches, Detling and the Kent Wildlife Trust are contracted to be responsible for its management plan, with consent from Natural England.

Kent Wildlife Trust have asked the Parish Council for comments on their Management Plan update of this area, to be submitted by January 2022. Cllr Coles has visited the site with Grahame Godding and read his draft summaries.

KWT are working hard on particular focussed projects and more news on this will follow. It is recognised that this extensive area has many different users and that it is important that each group respects the activities of others. Notwithstanding this, any nuisance elements should be reported to the Police.

ASH die back

This sign has recently been placed at the Eastern entrance to the Larches. Thank you to Grahame Godding for this notification and all of his helpful communications.

Southern Water- draft 25 year plan for the Environment

https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/25YP?utm_source=customers&utm_medium=council+magazine&utm_campaign=25YP+consultation&utm_id=25+Year+Plan

**Please note:

Residents are reminded to please report any unusual activity or incidents in Parish Council Open Spaces to the Parish Council clerk and the Police if necessary. Any incidents of abuse should be reported directly to the Police.



Open Spaces Group:

Cllrs Coles, Clayton, Baker-Anderson and Mr T Taylor (non Cllr)

The Old School Playing Field

Cllr Coles met with a resident in the Autumn regarding the siting of a new memorial bench.

The New Memorial Benches arrived on 2nd November 2021.

The parish council provided the replacement benches and their original commemorative plaques were installed on Remembrance weekend by Tony Taylor and Derek Lawrence. With many thanks to both Tony and Derek for their kind and sensitive work on behalf of these families..



New Bins in the Old School Playing Field



Pauline Senior and Candy



Forest School Horish Wood Clearance

Village Memorial

Jacqui Summerfield (who provides a variety of village garden maintenance) planted up our war memorial in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. Thank you

Forest school

Cllr. Coles met with Kathryn Barton (Forest School Development Officer) and toured the 2 sites in Horish Wood. Kathryn explained that MVCP now have a contract with Involve Kent.

Forest schools Report- Kathryn Barton

MVCP have been contracted by Involve Kent to deliver health walks and activities for the Universal Wellbeing programme (Wellbeing Walks and Activities). This is aimed at over 55 year olds and people with long term health conditions. MVCP propose to deliver activities at Horish Wood, using the Forest School site. These would be seasonal and, at most, 2-3 sessions per month, lasting for 1.5 - 2 hours. Walks and activities are free to participants with funding provided by Involve.

The Parish Council have unanimously agreed for Kathryn to proceed with this work.

****The theft of Hornbeam seating from the Forest School site has been reported to the Police.**



Coppicing in Horish Wood

Sewage Spills in Monks Meadow - Southern Water have acknowledged the official complaint submitted and their stated response date is now overdue . Therefore, this complaint has been escalated to The Ombudsman.

In the event of any further sewage spillages in Open Spaces owned by the Parish Council, the relevant open space will be closed to the public until such time that the Parish Council receives an official written response confirming that remedial works have occurred and that the environment is declared safe for members of the public to use.



PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillors : Bryant, Bowie and Coles



The planning sub-committee continues to consider a **number of planning applications**. The details of all of these, together with any new applications, can be found on the Detling Parish Council website.

Total number of new applications in October and November – 2
Total number of decisions by MBC – 8 (All permitted, none refused)

Appeals pending -3

- 1.Ref. No: 21/500063/REF Hall At Former Detling Church Of England Primary School The Street Detling
- 2.Ref. No: 21/500059/REF Land Rear Of 7 The Street Detling Kent ME14 3JU
- 3.Ref. No: 21/500050/REF Lynch Bank Farm Barn Detling Hill Detling Kent ME14 3EX

Maidstone Local Plan Review- Regulation 19 Consultation

MBC issued their latest update to the Maidstone Plan in October. The document contained a number of policies, but POLICY LPRSP8 – SMALLER VILLAGES is the only one that directly relates to Detling.

This relevant portion of the policy states that Smaller Villages offer a limited opportunity for new development which can support the continued sustainability of the settlement. This is estimated to come forward as a broad location development, in the last 10 years of the Plan period.

The quantities envisaged are:

- 35 new units each at Ulcombe, Laddingford, Kingswood, and Teston
 - 25 new units at each of Boxley, Chart Sutton, Detling, Grafty Green, Hunton, Platt's Heath, and Stockbury
- There are a number of other policies that relate to Detling that equally apply to many other parts of the borough.

As far as the planning group can ascertain, the call for sites has been used to help draft the discussion document only, and can see no evidence that any of the Detling sites in the call for sites document are preferred.

With respect to the call for sites document, DPC planning group had a meeting with MBC at the MBC offices on the 11th December 2019. At this meeting all of the Detling sites in the call for sites meeting were discussed and we put forward objections for rejecting most of them.

Our preferred site, as it had the least effect on the village, was the proposed development on the field which is between the A249 and church Lane.

Members of the Planning Committee are always happy to meet with applicants to discuss their planning applications.



PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS GROUP

Councillors : Clayton ,Bowie and Coles



Highways Improvement Plan.

The new format for the H.I.P. was received in October from Kent Highways and is now being trialled

Community Speedwatch Scheme

10 Volunteers are required to enable the Parish Council to contact the Police and organise related training, then implement this scheme. We are pleased to say that we now have 3 volunteers, which is very encouraging - only 7 more required! Please contact the clerk for further details.

We are currently exploring the feasibility and cost of employing a **Police officer from 7.00 a.m.-9.30 a.m.** to enforce the restricted access to our village regulation to prevent rat running.

Lorries- Hockers Lane

KCC have been contacted regarding this as there is a concern about damage to pavements, whilst the lorries are attempting to manoeuvre around parked cars.

A resident has raised the issue of the **Water Company lorries** driving up/down Hockers Lane 12 hours /day (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) The clerk has previously written to this company regarding village routes and hours of use and has now written to escalate the matter.

Car parking - Pilgrims Way.

This issue continues to be monitored regularly with Kent Highways. Quotes for Traffic Regulation Orders for this stretch of highway have been received. A possible funding source may be available in the New Year.

The Pavement by the Bus Stop in The Street

Works have been completed here but have not been cleared up properly this has been escalated by Cllr Coles.

The Light in the Bus shelter in The Street

This is in the process of being reconnected.

Church Lane

The central white lining has been renewed and the crash barrier repaired by Kent Highways.

Fire hydrant monitoring

Tony Taylor includes this job in his weekly maintenance walks in the village. Thank you.

School pedestrian access to Bearsted Primary Academy

Cllr Coles escalated this matter and has now received a response that this is being raised with the Leigh Academies Trust, the landowner and the Local Authority.

Bearsted Road -Roadworks(update from the project manager.)

The reptile exclusion fencing has been erected in the Crematorium grounds and the northern end of Vinters Valley Nature Reserve, around the area of the proposed works.

Reptiles have been trapped and relocated prior to their hibernation.

A Ground Penetration Survey (GPR) has been undertaken around the site to locate underground cables and pipes, marked on the surface by paint of a variety of colours. The next step was to excavate some trial holes at key points to verify this survey – this work was started mid November, to be completed within two weeks. The locations currently planned are in areas of verge and footway, so some will require pedestrian management, but no actual restriction of traffic. The aim is to complete holes each day and clear sites, so there are no holes left open or unprotected overnight.

There may be two additional trial holes required on the north footway – if so, pedestrians will need to be diverted into the road, with appropriate barriers etc, which will need temporary traffic control. (It is hoped to avoid the need for these, depending on what is found at the other locations.)

Further updates will follow in due course.

Residents are advised to read Parish Council noticeboards and the Parish Council website for information regarding road closures / road works in the local area



Bluebells Short Break Unit for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Councillor Julia Coles has links with this unit and has been liaising recently with the new manager as well as the unit staff.

Staff from the unit were invited to, and attended, the Parish Council 'Meet and Greet Event' where they were able to share information about the service.

As a result of all of these liaisons, staff from the unit have been able to engage with Councillors and the young people are beginning to be involved in community projects.

They have already been part of a Crocus Planting project in the village. We hope to see the fruits of their labours when the crocuses appear in the Spring of 2022, about the time of the Queen's Platinum Anniversary of her Accession to the Throne on February 6th 1952.

Feedback :

"We have just spent a wonderful time planting crocuses in the verge by the village hall.

Bradley and Jack were truly absolute stars ! They were very polite and courteous- a real credit to you and your staff at Bluebells.

The boys worked really hard and followed the instructions for planting the bulbs carefully. They have a few spare bulbs for you all to plant up in the grassy areas at the unit .

Bradley and Jack posed patiently for some more photos at the end of the sessions too - and their parents kindly gave their permission for publication in the newsletter.

Thank you to Bradley, Jack, Bev and Vicky for sparing the time to work on this project . The crocuses will look beautiful in February at the start of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year and be a wonderful reminder each year of our community liaison and activities with the young people and staff from the Bluebells Unit ."

The Manager of Bluebells writes:

"Bluebells is a Short Break Unit for Children with Learning Disabilities. We support children from the age of 5 to 18 who come to stay for 2 or 3 nights a month. All the children who come are from the local area but Kent County Council operate this service across the County and we are 1 of 5 Units. Bluebells seeks to give Children experiences that they may not be able to do elsewhere including being part of a friendship group. The Staff at Bluebells are a super bunch and have many years' experience of working with children between them and really want to support them to thrive and reach their full potential in an informal setting.

Our focus is on inclusion and developing confidence and a sense of belonging through shared activities and small goals that support independence skills and doing things for your self. Bluebells has been at its current location since 2011, I am a new Manager having joined in July but I have worked for the service for many years and previously managed the unit in Herne Bay. I am very excited to join a new Team and work with new Children.

I am a strong believer in making links with the local community and I would love to grow our connections with other residents of Detling. There may be things that the children can support and participate in around the Village, or may be you would be interested in doing some volunteering with us? We are always looking for people to come and join us to spend some time with the children, maybe to read a story, help in the garden or do a specific project."

Please note :

Volunteers will be required to have background checks completed to comply with current Safeguarding legislation.

Wish-List

Whilst the unit is funded by Kent County Council, the Parish Council are aware that the staff are currently refurbishing certain areas by changing the decor and improving or replacing the soft furnishings .

With this in mind, we have asked the unit staff to compile a 'wish- list' of smaller soft furnishing items they would like to purchase to enhance the environment, namely :

- Coloured bean bags or giant cushions for the playroom
- Picture frames for the lounge
- Some canvasses for children to do artwork (various sizes)
- Plants for the sensory garden (herbs etc) and climbers to grow up the perimeter fences
- Solar lights for the garden to hang around the canopy
- Garden toys
- A large garden bean bag type chair
- Rag or cloth dolls and soft toys

If anyone considers that they would like to either volunteer within the unit / gardens or contribute to providing these items on their wish-list please contact Matt for details

by email : Matthew.Grice@kent.gov.uk /bluebells@kent.gov.uk

by phone : 01622 631795

**Thank you.
Councillor Julia Coles.**





HELEN WHATELY'S PARISH UPDATE – DECEMBER 2021

Parish Update – Christmas 2021

Countdown to Christmas

Earlier this month I called into Faversham to mark Small Business Saturday.

The Christmas tree and lights were up in the Market Place and the whole town was wonderfully festive.

It's that time of year when the clock starts to speed up and we begin to wonder how we can get everything done in time.

While this Christmas can only be better than last year, the spread of the new Omicron variant is a reminder that we are not yet out of the pandemic. The measures announced by the Prime Minister recently are a reflection of that reality.

And while I know that a return to face coverings and working from home will be frustrating for many, these are crucial steps to slow the spread of this new variant and get booster jabs into arms.

December saw the launch of our 10-year plan for social care - giving carers and the people they look after a clear plan for the future. It was a huge privilege to lead this work when I was Care Minister and I'm delighted to see the plan published.

We're also giving greater protection to nature through our Environment Act, which will see new duties on water companies to clean up their act. And we're delivering on our commitment to level up communities across the country, including more money for communities in Kent.

These next few weeks will be challenging. Everyone can help to keep our recovery on track by taking up the offer of getting a booster jab and following the latest guidance.

I wish everyone in Faversham and Mid Kent a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Get your booster jab

As our battle with the virus enters a new phase, it's vital everyone takes up the offer of getting a booster jab.

I got my booster in early December – joining over 600,000 people across Kent in getting a third jab. If you have not yet had your booster, you can book an appointment or find details for walk-in clinics on the Kent and Medway CCG website.

Since our vaccination programme started in December last year, over 3 million jabs have been given out across Kent. Huge thank you to everyone involved in this colossal task.

Supporting our High Streets

While the pandemic has been tough for many businesses, the shop owners and traders I've spoken to recently are optimistic about the future

Across the country, we're helping high streets back on their feet after the pandemic with business rates halved for 90 per cent of retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses; training and professional advice through our Help to Grow scheme; and support for employers with our Plan for Jobs.

In Kent alone nearly 3,000 young people have been given work placements through the Kickstart Scheme and the number of people on job seekers support across the county continues to fall.

Cleaning up local water quality

Like many people, I've been shocked by stories of sewage ending up in our local rivers and coastline, and flooding caused by our creaking wastewater network. I put these concerns directly to the CEO of Southern Water, Ian McAulay, in a meeting I arranged at Faversham's Wastewater Treatment Works in November.

Having secured a £2 million investment in the treatment works, I was keen to see how this money will be used to clean up our water locally - including plans to increase capacity at the site. I've called for similar investment at the Harrietsham Wastewater Treatment Works.

Southern Water also committed to working with Kent County Council and local councillors to tackle the repeat local flooding incidents. I'll be keeping a close eye to make sure these commitments turn into action.

Crunch time for Maidstone Local Plan

While I support the main objectives of Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan, I remain concerned about the proposed developments at Lidsing and Heathlands - which are strongly opposed by local residents.

I've had several recent conversations with Housing Secretary, Michael Gove, about the need to look again at overall housing numbers. We do need new homes, but Kent mustn't be expected to take more than our fair share.

Meanwhile... Covid cases meant that the Meadows Inquiry in Headcorn, which I was due to speak at earlier this month, was postponed until March next year. I share residents' concerns about the delay, and I've written to Housing Minister Chris Pincher to ask how we can make sure the Inquiry goes ahead.



Making our streets safer

There are now record numbers of police in Kent, and the new Maidstone Task Force is making fantastic progress in tackling drugs and violence in Shepway – with 50 vehicles seized and 175 arrests made in the last 12 months.

We're also giving police new powers to tackle drug gangs, and our new 10-year drugs plan will prevent more people from falling into addiction in the first place.

In the New Year, I'll be chairing another meeting in Headcorn for an update on work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the village.

**Helen Whately MP 0207 219
6472**

helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

**House of Commons, London,
SW1A 0AA**



Shout OUT CORNER



CROCUS planting in our village.

A huge thank you to the staff and young people from Bluebells for all of their hard work with this project. Also to **Tony Taylor** and **Tikki Gulland** for their support in this venture !

Thanks to **Rochester Rotary Club** and **David Howells**

for kindly agreeing to donate their surplus bulbs to add to those purchased by a resident for our project.



Detling Players -Pressure by David Haig

(an amateur production performed by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.)

The 4 performances were all incredible ! Special mention must be made of the stunning performances by Daren O'Connor (as the dour Dr. James Stagg), Colin Leggat (as the aloof Colonel Irving P Krick), and Steve Page (as the brash General Eisenhower.) Clare Pearce (as Lieutenant Kay Summersby) was a joy to watch- a truly enthralling performance !

The other members of the cast were excellent in their supporting roles, contributing to the overall success of this production.

The superb set was built by Derek Lawrence and Tony Taylor with everything working to perfection. Their support team of painters also did a wonderful job. The well-timed lighting and sound effects were provided by Chris Hall and John Farrell.

Congratulations to the Director Richard Finn and all of his back stage crew, who worked so hard to support the performances.

Jan Kennard (edited)

Neil Woods for starting the 'joke a day' until Christmas on Simply Detling Facebook Page

Sally Howells

Congratulations to Sally for being elected as Villager of the Year

Sally's award will be presented at the 11th January 2022 Parish Council Meeting.

New volunteers-

Thank you so much for offering up your time to help with Open Spaces and Highways matters. This is very much appreciated.

We hope to introduce new and existing volunteers in due course so that all can learn from each others' experiences !

A farewell to our PCSO Matt Adlington, who has resigned after serving our area for over 7 years. Matt is starting up his own business "That Pond Guy"

To the children who entered the Christmas Card Competition and gave us such beautiful entries to choose from





Christmas Tree - Emily aged 4

Detling Community Shop - Antonio Aged 10

Ho Ho Ho Phoebe - Aged 8

Robin - Zach aged 12

Merry Christmas - Edward aged 7

Santa's Workshop - Marco aged 10

Christmas Stars - Nkoyo aged 9





DETLING VILLAGE HALL

Monday

10am Detling Watercolour Group Contact Brian Howe at Valerie Howe valeriejanehowe@gmail.com
10.30am Medau Fitness Class with Sue Tapp. Contact at suemedau@aol.com; Home: 01795 410525, M: 07731777114
6pm Yoga for Beginners with Rachael Webb. Contact rachaelwebb7@hotmail.co.uk
7.30pm Detling Short Mat Bowls Contact Olive Monk 01622 736903

Tuesday

10am Footy for Tots: Contact Coach Tom:
Website: <https://footyfortots.com/>
Phone: 07540462571
10am Baby Massage: Contact Becky on 07540075797
email: babybe223@gmail.com
6pm Yoga Contact Julie Dodd at julie@dodddhome.com or 01795 559777
7.30pm Ju Jitsu Contact Simon Long at [simon <simon@admsl.uk.com>](mailto:simon@admsl.uk.com)

Wednesday

9.30am Hilary's Pilates Contact Hilary at Hilary's Pilates [<hilaryspilates@gmail.com>](mailto:hilaryspilates@gmail.com)
4pm Amelia Appleby School of Performing Arts Contact Debbie at aamaidstone@gmail.com
7pm 3rd Wednesday of the month: WI – Contact Ann Spain on 01622 676773
7.30pm 2nd Wednesday of the month: Marmite Ukulele Club – Contact Anna at marmiteukuleleclub@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday

10am Footy for Tots: Contact Coach Tom:
Website: <https://footyfortots.com/>
Phone: 07540462571
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/footyfortots/>
12pm 1st Thursday of the month Making Miracles Knitting/Craft contact Sally Howells at sally@makingmiracles.org.uk or on 01622735230
1pm 2nd Thursday of the month: U3A – Contact Wendy at wendy-west@sky.com
7pm Invicta Photographic Club: Contact Tony Bentley at [tony- Bentley@btconnect.com](mailto:tony-Bentley@btconnect.com)
7.30pm Ju Jitsu Contact Simon Long at [simon <simon@admsl.uk.com>](mailto:simon@admsl.uk.com)

Friday

9.30am Creative Cooks: Contact Carly at: creativecooks enquiries@gmail.com
10am Footy for Tots: Contact Coach Tom:
Website: <https://footyfortots.com/>
Phone: 07540462571
5.30pm Badminton Contact Aaron at TMAJM1 [<TMAJMSOLUTIONS@yahoo.co.uk>](mailto:TMAJMSOLUTIONS@yahoo.co.uk)
8pm Ringcraft Contact Jacquetta Brown brownfjord38@outlook.com
Or email: detlingcs@gmail.com

Saturday

9am Kidz Kung Fu Contact Lorraine or Kim at kidzkungfu@gmail.com
9am Spangles Spanish Contact Jimena Shafto on 01622 735292 or info@spangles.org. Website: www.spangles.org
1pm Amelia Appleby School of Performing Arts Contact Debbie at aamaidstone@gmail.com

Sunday

9am (dates on request) Medway Towns Rabbit Fanciers contact Bob Bushell on 01622745314
9am (dates on request) Remote Control Trucking Club contact Noel Dollimore at endee2013@gmail.com
2.30pm (1st Sunday of the month variable) Boxer Dog Club. Contact Sandra Galloway on 01843 867100 or email: CASBAHSANDI@aol.com
7pm (Last Sunday of the month) Ballroom Dancing contact Steven Porter at steven@best-ballroom.co.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police Information

PCSO 61210 Anna Hick

Eastern Sector Maidstone Neighbourhood Team
To report a crime in progress call 999
To report any other incident call 101

To make a general enquiry call 01622 604390, or email at maidstone.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

Reverend Rob Tugwell Pilgrims Way Vicar
01622 630598
roberttugwell@hotmail.com

Kent County Council:

To report any emergency issues outside of normal office hours (Monday - Friday, 9am till 5pm), please telephone 03000 41 91 91.

Report a problem on a road or pavement:

- You can report non-urgent issues online including:
 - street light faults
 - potholes
 - drainage
 - traffic signal faults
 - overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass).

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/>

Maidstone Borough Council for:

- bus shelters
- fly tipping,
- litter,
- parking
- street cleaning.

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/>

Highways England for motorways and major A road problems

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/>

Kent County Councillor :

Shellina Prendergast shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk

Maidstone BC Councillor :

Councillor Nick de Wiggondene-Sheppard
07788 923495

nickdewiggondene-sheppard@maidstone.gov.uk

Village Hall:

To contact the booking clerk,

<https://www.detlingvillagehall.co.uk/booking-enquiries/>

call 07950 290 589 after 6pm

or email penny@detlingvillagehall.co.uk

Community Shop:

<https://www.detlingcommunitystore.co.uk/contact-us>

01622 631305

Environment Agency Incident Hotline: 0800 807060

Electricity Problems:

0800 7838866

Fly Tipping and Waste Collection:

Including bulky items 01622 602162

To report a problem on a PROW (Public Right of Way –

Footpath) please contact KCC on 03000 41 41 41

or report online: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/>

Parish Council Emails:

All Councillors and the Clerk now have a dedicated Parish Council email address. All Parish Council email communication is conducted via these dedicated email addresses.

Councillors will no longer use their personal email addresses.

In the first instance please contact clerk@detlingparishcouncil.org.uk and it will be directed to the relevant Councillor.

email: clerk@detlingparishcouncil.org.uk

All emails sent to the clerk (clerk@detlingparishcouncil.org.uk) will continue to be monitored. Please be patient as we hope to have a locum clerk in place for January 2022

We do not have a postal address at the moment, please do not send written correspondence to the old address.

We do not have a telephone number at the moment. All communication has to be via email.



Detling Business Directory

Glebe Fencing Ltd
 Domestic & Commercial Fencing Specialist
www.glebe-fencing.co.uk
david@glebe-fencing.co.uk
 108 Hockers Lane Detling ME14 3JJ
 t: 01622 220054





Roseacre Garden Nursery



Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, bedding plants, Handmade hanging Baskets, Fresh Eggs, Local Honey, Homemade Jam.

Roseacre Nursery
 Scragged Oak Road, Detling, Maidstone ME14 3HL
 07592 891070

Find us on facebook & roseacrenursery.co.uk

Carlaquins Florist (by Carla)
Facebook
Tel: 07964022380

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Weald Building Services



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 Carpentry Contractors and General Builders
 All aspects undertaken including-

- 1st and 2nd fixing
- Cut and pitch roofing
- Refurbishments
- Timber framed structures
- Cladding

Contact Maxine on 07507 571295 or email office@wealdbuildingservices.co.uk

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- 2 bags - £100
- 3 bags - £145

Free local delivery
 Dry seasoned hardwood logs

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If you live in Detling or your business is in Detling and you would like to be added to the directory please email:
info@detlingparishcouncil.org.uk

Photographic Competition for All Ages



Detling Winter Wonderland

Photographic Competition for all ages!

Please submit your entry by email to the info@detlingparishcouncil.org.uk or hand your print to the Detling Community Store staff.

Closing date: Saturday 15th January 2022