



Parish Newsletter August 2026

Parish Conference 2026

Invitations to the Parish Conference 2026 have now been sent to clerks by email.

Places are limited, but we would be delighted to welcome representatives from every parish council in Maidstone. Two places are available for each parish, and both clerks and councillors are warmly invited to attend.

This year's conference will include an interactive workshop on planning an event, as well as the lunchtime marketplace of services, which proved very popular last year.

Please look out for your email invitation and RSVP to parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk by 30 August. We hope to see you there.



Violence Against Women and Girls Report Outcomes

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) deliberative engagement and consultations.

Ideas proposed for a major new borough-wide action plan included free youth clubs, safer public spaces, more women in leadership roles, and lifelong education to challenge harmful behaviours.

For more information about the engagement process, findings and next steps, please visit

[Maidstone residents call for youth clubs, safer streets and more women leaders in bid to address Violence Against Women and Girls - MBC News Website](#)

Maidstone's Cool Zones

As periods of extreme heat become more frequent, Maidstone Borough Council is seeking to expand and promote our network of **Cool Zones** across the borough to support residents during severe heat events.

We are inviting organisations with publicly accessible, cool indoor spaces to take part in this initiative.

To participate, we ask that your organisation:

1. Registers to receive Met Office Heat Health Alerts via the following form: [Met Office Heat Health Alert Sign-Up](#)
2. Agrees that, during a **Red Heat Health Alert**, your premises will be available for members of the public to use as a free-of-charge Cool Zone during your normal opening hours.

If you choose to participate, we will add your organisation to a publicly available list of Cool Zones across Maidstone. This will help residents, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to extreme heat, to identify locations where they can access a cooler indoor environment and take respite from high temperatures.

Cool Zones can include a wide variety of spaces such as community centres, libraries, places of worship, charities, businesses, public buildings and other venues that provide a welcoming indoor environment.

There is no requirement to alter your normal operations beyond remaining open during your usual opening hours and allowing members of the public to access the space free of charge.

As climate-related heat risks continue to increase, local partnerships such as this can play an important role in protecting health and supporting community resilience. We would be grateful if you would consider joining the network.

If you would like to participate, please complete the Heat Health Alert registration form above, and reply to this email confirming:

- **Organisation name**
- **Venue address**
- **Usual opening days / hours**
- **Contact name and email address**
- **Confirm if dog / child friendly**
- **Confirm if air conditioned / non air conditioned**

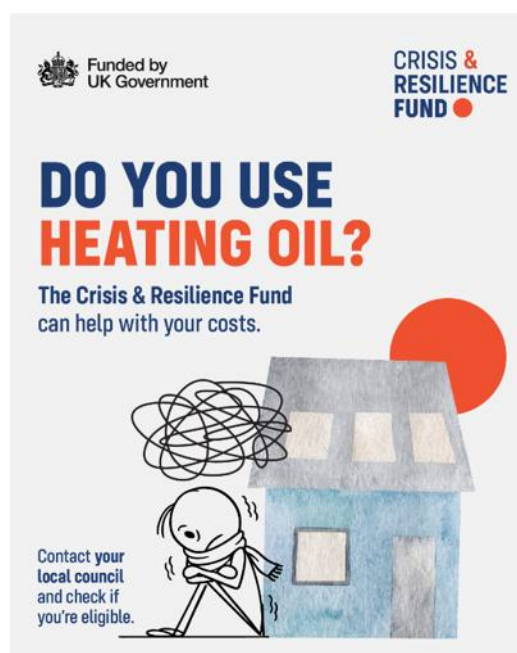
Thank you for helping to build a more resilient Maidstone.

Energy efficiency grant for low-income homeowners

If you are a homeowner in Maidstone, you may be eligible for a energy efficiency grant of up to £10,000 to help make your property more energy efficient. Eligible energy efficiency measures include boiler upgrade, solar panels and heat pump.

To be eligible for the grant, applicants must meet ALL the following criteria:

- Be owner occupier and lived in the property for at least 3 years
- Be in receipt of means-tested benefits
- Property have valid EPC rating of D, E, F or G



The grant consists of 50% non-repayable and 50% repayable grant which will be registered as a local land charge. It will be required to be repaid on sale or transfer of the property.

For more information email energy@maidstone.gov.uk.

Heating Oil Support

As part of the **Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)**, Maidstone Borough Council has received funding to support low-income households affected by rising heating oil cost.

If you rely on heating oil and are struggling with the recent price rise, you may be eligible for a one-off payment of £300 towards your heating oil purchase.

To be eligible for support, applicants must:

- Be in receipt of means-tested benefits **or** have a total household income of £33,000 or less per year
- Use heating oil as your main source of heating and/or hot water

For further information and to apply visit [Heating Oil Support](#).

Black Bin Reminders

If you are able to, please remind residents to put their house number on the black bin. This helps keep track of whose bin is whose.

Each property should only have **one** black bin.

If you have a spare or old black bin, please use the link below and we will arrange to collect it.

Disused black bins are taken apart and the materials are recycled.



https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/bins-and-recycling/new-or-replacement-bins#remove_a_bin_468093

Are You Using the Right Bin?

MBC recently analysed some black bin waste at our transfer station, and we found that:

- **20% was paper and card** that should have been recycled in a recycling bin.
- **11% was food waste** that should have been placed in a 23-litre food caddy.

Using a food caddy means your food waste is collected every week, helping to reduce smells in your black bin. The food waste is then processed into a liquid fertiliser for use at local farms. Recycling all your paper and card reduces the energy and trees used to make new paper products, check out how these materials are treated at the links below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJBKI0niS2o?>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssUYcXqjKQU?>

Still Time To Apply - Aldi Sports Fund Invites Applications

Aldi Sports Fund offers small grants to support grassroots sports clubs and organisations that promote participation in sport and physical activity in local communities across England and Wales.

The Sports Fund will make 39 awards across 13 regions in England and Wales, with a total of £65,000 available this year. Three levels of awards are available:

- 13 Gold Awards of £3,000
- 13 Silver Awards of £1250
- 13 Bronze Awards of £750

Support is intended to help community-based groups grow, welcome more participants, and increase their local impact. Eligible applicants must be based in England or Wales and fall into at least one of Aldi's listed categories, including local community-focused sports clubs, registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs, schools, colleges or educational organisations running sporting activities, charitable service funds of the Armed Forces or Community Interest Companies.

Applicants must be submitted by an individual aged 19 or over who is authorised to act on behalf of the organisation.

The grant can be used towards essential club costs. Eligible expenditure includes sports equipment, team kits and clothing, coaching, training activities, facility hire and other costs linked to increasing participation or improving the experience for members.

Aldi will assess eligible entries based on community impact, demonstrated need, participant numbers, and alignment with the Fund's objectives, with terms and conditions available on the Aldi UK Sports Fund webpage.

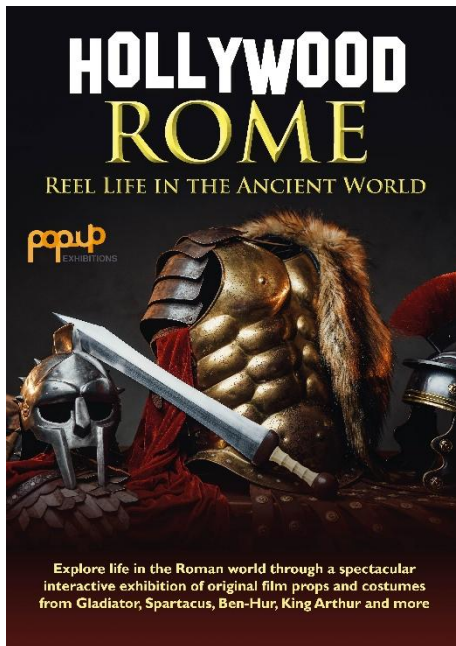
The deadline for applications is 31st August 2026 (23:59)

Go to: <https://www.aldi.co.uk/sportsfund>

Museum News

There is still time to visit the **Hollywood Rome** exhibition at the museum which runs up until 31 October

Step into the world of the ancient Romans as seen through the lens of film and popular culture. The museum's *Hollywood Rome* exhibition explores how Roman history has been portrayed on screen.



Coming In Septemeber as part of Local Heritage Week:

Witchcraft in Kent: The Archaeological Evidence with Wayne Perkins

Mon 7th Sep 2026 - 19:00 - 20:30

Witch bottles, protective charms, and a trial that took place in Maidstone in 1652 – what the archaeology tells us.

Join Wayne Perkins for an engaging exploration of Kent's witchcraft past through the objects archaeologists uncover: buried charms, ritual deposits, and the physical traces of beliefs that shaped everyday life for centuries. The talk includes an examination of the witch trial held right here in Maidstone in 1652.

When: Monday 7th September 2026

Timings: 7 to 8:30pm

Price: £10 per person

Age: 12+

See the full programme below.

[Monday 7th September – Witchcraft in Kent: The Archaeological Evidence with Wayne Perkins](#)

[Tuesday 8th September – Crime, Community & and 60s: Reflections from the Front Line with Mick Abbott](#)

[Wednesday 9th September – Accused of Witchcraft: Remembering Maidstone's Forgotten Victims with Cllr Claire Kehily](#)

[Thursday 10th September – Fortresses of Power: Exploring the Castles of Medieval Kent with Richard Eales](#)

[Friday 11th September – Tour of the Lives in our Landscape Gallery with Andy Ward](#)

Find out more about whats on at the museum and book tickets:

<https://museum.maidstone.gov.uk/whats-on/events/>

If you have news of events or other information you would like to share, please contact parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk
