Parish Council Newsletter November 2026

Local Government Reorganisation - Support for Parish Councils Webinar

The Local Government Association are running a number of webinars to support councils as they continue to navigate the evolving LGR landscape.

We wanted to highlight the below session as it may be of particular interest to Parish Councils.

LGR Support: What Local Government Reorganisation Means for Parish and Town Councils

Thursday 10 December | 2:00pm - 3:15pm

This webinar will explore how councils undergoing LGR are developing relationships with parish and town councils and the wider community governance landscape. Attendees will hear emerging practice, practical lessons and examples of how councils are approaching engagement, partnership working and governance arrangements both during and after reorganisation.

Register here:
https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=1152701&eventID=3307

Details of the Local Government Association and available webinars can be found here Transformation | Local Government Association

Town Centre Projects Awarded

Helping isolated older people reconnect with their community, improving access to safe toilets in Maidstone town centre and supporting residents who struggle to get online are among the projects receiving a share of £48,000 from the MBC community grant scheme



A total of 18 community organisations have been awarded grants of between £500 and £4,999 through Maidstone Borough Council's Community Grant Scheme.

The first round of funding attracted 28 applications, with 18 projects receiving a grant.

The second round of the Community Grant Scheme will be available later this month and will be aiming to support borough wide organisations in bringing communities together and improving people's wellbeing. A third round of funding will be available in the new year.

Calling all Faith Groups – We want your views

Maidstone Borough Council would like to better understand the valuable work taking place across our faith communities and explore how we can strengthen communication and engagement between the Council and local faith organisations.

We are seeking views from faith organisations on how they would like to receive information from the Council, opportunities for engagement and consultation,

and whether there would be value in developing a regular forum for faith groups to come together, share experiences, raise issues and hear about matters affecting local communities.

If you are part of a faith organisation or are connected to people who are please complete or share the survey that can be found at the link below.
https://maidstone-gov.welcomesyourfeedback.net/abmgf4

Bins and Bank Holidays: Your Christmas Collection Changes

Every year, the Christmas Bank Holidays affect waste collection schedules. The collection day changes will affect every property from Christmas Day, and will be announced soon.

In the meantime, we have even more tips for less waste at Christmas:

- If you plan to host, ask your guests what they would like to eat. This will reduce the amount of food waste in your food caddy.
- Before writing your shopping list, check your cupboards, the fridge and the freezer - only buy what you need.
- As a gift, buy a loved one an experience, it will live in the memory forever.
- If you need wrapping paper, makes sure its recyclable paper and avoid those with glitter.
- Recycle your Christmas cards, or treat someone to a nice phone call instead.
- Buy rechargeable batteries early, charge them for the big day.
- Check your fridge temperature, it should be 3 to 4 degrees C.
- De-ice your freezer, get the space available for the holiday period.

Do you need a food waste bin?



A food waste bin package is available and includes:

- 23 Litre outside caddy
- 5 Litre kitchen caddy (random colours),
- a roll of compostable bags,
- a food bag clip,
- fridge magnet with food tips

All available for £ 9.00 including delivery.

Order your food waste package here

Fuel Poverty Awareness Day 2026
Wednesday 18 November

This year the national fuel poverty charity National Energy Action will be holding a Fuel Poverty Awareness Day on Wednesday 18 November in a mission to drive change.

For information on what Nation Energy Action do and how you can support their mission, visit National Energy Action (NEA) - the UK's leading fuel poverty charity

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Maidstone to come together for Remembrance Sunday

Maidstone will come together on Sunday 8 November 2026 to remember those who have lost their lives or been affected by conflict at the town's annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service.

Residents are invited to join military and civilian groups for a parade through the town centre, a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in The Broadway, a two-minute silence at 11am and the laying of wreaths.

The parade will set off at 10.30am from Week Street and the High Street, with the Service of Remembrance beginning at 10.50am. At around 11.15am, the parade will return to the High Street, where the Mayor and Commanding Officer will take the salute.

Temporary road closures will be in place between 9.45am and 12.30pm, with rolling closures used where possible. Please plan ahead and allow extra time. For full details, visit https://news.maidstone.gov.uk/home/news/26/october/remembrance-2026
Maidstone Borough Council thanks residents, businesses and visitors for their patience.



Space 2 Be Me

Are you a parent or carer of a child with additional needs? Space 2 Be Me's Drop-in Support Sessions offer a chance to receive free, face-to-face support from a Family Support Officer, with no appointment needed
No diagnosis is required. Whether you're at the beginning of your journey, seeking advice, or simply want to talk things through, they're here to help. Drop in during the advertised session times for information, guidance and support on anything from education and wellbeing to diagnosis pathways, benefits and local services.

Their experienced Family Support Team understands the challenges families can face and provides a welcoming, non-judgemental space to talk. Sometimes a friendly listening ear can make all the difference.

Maidstone Community Support Centre, Marsham Street, ME14 1HH
Monday 16th November 10:00 – 13:00
Contact:
01622 764566 or email info@space2beme.org.uk

Free Moving Well Workshops

Moving Memory Dance Theatre Company are holding free Moving Well workshops at Creative Maidstone, Gabriels Hill, on Tuesdays from 24 November to 15 December, 10.30 to 12pm.
The sessions are run by and for older people, and no experience is needed. Everyone is welcome, whatever your shape, size or level of mobility.
Sessions begin with simple getting-to-know-you activities and gradually build towards creating a short piece of choreography from participants' own stories and movements.

There will be a second block of sessions taking place 5 January – 16 February 2027 For more information visit Moving Well Maidstone - Moving Memory Dance Theatre

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Museum News

What's On at Maidstone Museum this November
November brings a great mix of exhibitions, talks and special events to Maidstone Museum, offering visitors opportunities to explore history, culture and community activities. [museum.mai...one.gov.uk]

Rock 'n' Roll: 50s Band & Bash
7 November
Step back into the 1950s with a lively evening of live music and dancing. Slim Si & the Smokin Aces will be performing classic rock and roll favourites for an adults-only night of vintage entertainment. [museum.mai...one.gov.uk]

Hiroshige's Tōkaidō: A Japanese Journey
14 November - 19 December
This major exhibition showcases the complete series of 55 woodblock prints by renowned Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige, charting the historic Tōkaidō route between Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto. Visitors can experience the landscapes, people and daily life of 19th-century Japan through one of the most celebrated print series in Japanese art.
[museum.mai...one.gov.uk]



Silent Disco at the Museum
21 November
Experience the museum after hours with a unique silent disco among the galleries. Guests can choose from three music channels and dance their way through the museum in this fun and unusual evening event.
[museum.mai...one.gov.uk]

How Julius Brenchley Explored the World
26 November
Discover the remarkable travels and adventures of Maidstone-born explorer Julius Brenchley in an evening talk exploring his global expeditions and contributions to natural history and collecting. [museum.mai...one.gov.uk]

Wreath Making Workshop
28 November
Get creative ahead of the festive season at this hands-on workshop, where participants can create their own Christmas wreath to take home.

Please share with your councillors and communities.
As always if you have news you would like us to share please contact us at Parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk

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