

Spring 2019

St.Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre

Parish Council Magazine

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Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of our magazine which includes local news, updates from local organisations, dates for forthcoming events and some other articles we hope you will find interesting.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition and Molly Hollman for the use of her photograph for the cover picture.

With the forthcoming local elections taking place in May, why not take a look at the article on becoming a Local Councillor and make a difference in your Parish!

Sara Archer (Clerk to the Council)

Front cover photograph – Molly Hollman

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A big thank you goes to all the local businesses that have advertised and supported the St. Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council Magazine.

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Chairman's Letter

In 1995, I had the great pleasure of meeting actor Brian Blessed at the premiere of a film that I had invested in.

'The Bruce' (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0115766/>) starred Oliver Reed and Brian Blessed played a part in it. He is what some would call 'a national treasure' with his booming voice and effervescent character. The following is a quote from him – 'My parents taught me honesty, truth, compassion, kindness and how to care for people. Also, they encouraged me to take risks, to boldly go.

They taught me that the greatest danger in life is not taking the adventure'.

Well, the investment was an adventure and gave my wife and I a lasting memory. Kindness is very difficult to find when confronted with dishonesty and untruths. Wanting to be liked by offering more than you can give may appear to be a way of being kind but it is dishonest and only leads to mistrust.

As Chairman of your Parish Council since 2016, I have tried to provide the best that our budget can afford and carry out our duties to the benefit of all residents with scant regard to any factions. Of

course, not only are we limited by finance, we are also constrained by our responsibilities. We try to work closely with all our partners – local businesses, Kent County Council and Thanet District Council but quite often their more holistic view of our community can conflict with our parochial one and this means that we do not always get our way! Planning Applications, road works and road safety are a classic example of this.

We try to represent all the residents of both villages as honestly as we can, we will not always please all the people all the time but we will do our very best to ensure that our community is listened to and make it as pleasant possible.

Please continue to support your Parish Council by coming to the monthly meetings and contribute to our debates in a positive fashion, tell the truth as you see it but with some empathy – treat all of us as you would want to be treated.

If you are new to either of the villages, please make yourself known either in person or by telephoning me on 01843 847454 and I assure you that I am more than willing to listen to your ideas to provide us with a thriving community that cares about each other.

Gordon Bryant
Chairman

Council contacts

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month and councillors from Thanet District Council and Kent County Council also usually attend. Members of the public are always welcome and a slot is available for questions so if you would like to ask a specific question, make a suggestion or simply listen to what is going on locally then please come along.

Councillors

St. Nicholas-at-Wade

Gordon Bryant <i>Chairman</i>	01843 847454
Patricia Cheniston	01843 848630
David Divers	v_diver@yahoo.com
Peter Evans	01843 831629

Graham North	07701 071334
Rob Searle	07491 621949
Sonya Smyth	07508 069178

Sarre

Lee Ageros	07446 781059
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Peter Radclyffe	01843 847345
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Sara Archer <i>Clerk to the Council</i>	01843 821989
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James Read <i>Asst' Handyman</i>	via Clerk
Martin Savage <i>Handyman</i>	via Clerk

Contact us
Clerk to the Council:
snawpc@gmail.com
www.stnicholas-at-wade
withsarrepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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Neighbourhood Watch

Drinking Responsibly



Know your limits - Don't drink too much, and don't drink too quickly. In practice, this basically looks like having one drink per hour, with water or a soft drink between alcoholic drinks.

Avoid mixing alcohol and other drugs

- That means both prescription drugs and recreational drugs. Make sure you know how alcohol will react with any medications you're on. If you decide to take drugs, don't drink alcohol.

You'll usually end up pretty sick if you combine the two.

Don't drink and drive

If you have to drive, don't drink. Make arrangements for how you'll get home before you go out. Alcohol is a depressant drug that slows down your reaction speed, which means if you need to think and act quickly, you probably won't be able to.

Don't risk it. If you're drinking, plan to use a taxi, bus, train or a designated driver to get you around.

Drink driving offences and penalties

- If a person is found guilty of drink driving or attempting to drive while above the legal limit, he/she could get 6 months' imprisonment, an unlimited fine or a driving ban for at least 1 year (3 years if convicted twice in 10 years).
- Refusing to provide a specimen of breath, blood or urine for analysis could lead to 6 months' imprisonment, an unlimited fine or a ban from driving for at least 1 year.

Being convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol has a number of effects on everyday life beyond a drink driving fine or ban. You could lose your job, particularly if you drive for work as your employer will see this on your licence. You may also find it difficult to seek employment in the future.

If and when you are legally allowed to drive again, it won't be cheap. Car insurance costs increase significantly after a drink driving conviction.

How much alcohol can I consume before I am over the limit?

The only safe limit of alcohol to have in your blood and drive is zero!

The official amount of alcohol is 35 micrograms per 100 ml of breath reading, this cannot be translated into an exact number of units as it depends on many factors, height and weight, time when last drink was consumed etc., so the best advice is not to drink at all or order a taxi. Remember also, that the effects of alcohol or drugs can take a long time to wear off and it is possible that a person could still be "Over the limit" the morning after drinking or taking drugs.

When you're out for the evening

- Watch your drinks and food to ensure that nothing is added to them.

Never leave your drink unattended, even if you are going to dance or to the toilet. If your drink has been left unattended, don't drink any more of it. If something tastes or looks odd, don't eat/drink any more if it. Be aware, though, that some drugs are colourless and tasteless.



- If someone you don't know or trust offers to buy you a drink, either decline or accompany them to the bar and watch that nothing is added.
- Pay attention to your instincts. If you feel uneasy about someone, there may be a reason.
- Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you'll be home.
- Avoid walking home alone and never with someone you don't know well.
- Drink responsibly, arrange for a member of your group to be a designated driver.
- The ideal plan is to book your cab or taxi in advance or call a licensed cab company from the party and arrange for them to pick you up right outside the venue.
- Always sit in the back of a cab/taxi and if you get chatting to the driver, do not give away personal details. If you feel uneasy with the

driver, ask him to stop at a busy familiar place and get out.

- If using public transport, have your ticket, pass or change ready in your hand so that your wallet or purse is out of sight.



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KCC introduces new bus feedback scheme

An opportunity for passengers to tell Kent County Council about their experiences of using bus services has been launched. KCC's new Bus Feedback Portal is available at www.kent.gov.uk/busfeedback and allows people to provide details on their experiences of the services they use.

'The Bruce' (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0115766/>) starred Oliver Reed and Brian Blessed played a part in it. He is what some would call 'a national treasure' with his booming voice and effervescent character. The following is a quote from him – 'My parents taught me honesty, truth, compassion, kindness and how to care for people. Also, they encouraged me to take risks, to boldly go.

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Gordon Bryant
Chairman



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PTFA

Writing this article in bleak February, the memory of Christmas is starting to fade and The PTFA's attention is turning to Spring (if not just for warmer weather!)

Christmas is always an exciting time for the children at the school and it is such fun being part of the action whether it is serving teas at the Nativity, preparing for the Christmas Fair or helping the children to choose gifts for their parents at the PTFA-run Christmas shop. The children's excitement and wonderment are certainly infectious!

The Christmas Fair was a popular event with both the children and adults! There was Father Christmas, stalls, games and refreshments. This event certainly would not be as successful as it was if it weren't for the support of all the school staff, the parents and carers, the children and the local community and businesses.

The PTFA raised a staggering £2736 at the Fair this year! This amount was then match funded by both Pfieters and Price Waterhouse Coopers to bring our total amount to well over £3000! This was an amazing effort and the PTFA are grateful to everyone who helped to support our fundraising last term.

In recent months, school staff have been working

hard to design and improve the school play area and provide sporting facilities to further enhance the children's sporting skills and recreational activities. I am delighted that the PTFA will be working to support this project both in finances and resources. I hope to share further details about this project in future articles!

Future events include hosting the school disco just before the February Half Term. This is a popular event for the children (and usually the adults like having a sing along and bop to the music too)!

The Spring term will include Mother's Day Gift Shop, Easter Egg Hunt, the 2nd Year running of "The Great St Nick's School Bake Off" and the popular children's "Fizz & Quiz".

The PTFA are incredibly thankful to the support shown by our local village community. If you would like to help (and don't forget it is Parents, Teachers and Friends Association)! Please don't hesitate to get in touch! We are a welcoming bunch who are always grateful for extra help. You can either email me: stnicschoolptfa@gmail.com or pop into the school office. Thank you for your continued support,

Sarah McManus

PTFA Chair; St Nicholas at Wade CEP School.

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Country Eye - Helping Keep the Rural Community in Kent Safe

Country Eye Ltd have built a free App for people living and working in the rural community. The app allows users to record and share information on crime, suspicious behaviour and damage in their home community or whilst out and about.

The Crime, Rural Advisory Group (CRAG) has commissioned the design and build of the Country Eye app. Mike Bax, Chairman, explained, "data suggests that the cost of rural crime in Kent stands at 1.8 million, if you include the additional hidden costs to repair property, replace locks and the time taken out of a working day to address these issues, the cost is considerably higher. CRAG was formed to help combat rural crime and to work with farmers, businesses and residents to find solutions."

The app has been built to help residents and farmers in Kent report information quickly and efficiently. This information is securely

stored in a central database and accessed by the voluntary Country Eye team who are fully trained by Kent Police. The team analyse and disseminate the information and then broadcast it out to other local app users.

Peter Rolington, Chairman of Kent Crimestoppers and member of CRAG will head the team of volunteers, Peter said "Country Eye will be an invaluable tool to inform people living and working in the countryside about incidents that are occurring in their area. Technology has advanced greatly in recent years and has enabled us to develop a digital version of the highly successful Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the rural area. cont... ►



- ◀ We will be able to broadcast information directly to users about potential incidents as they happen. The Country Eye app will allow a greater audience to receive information, particularly those living in the most remote parts of the county."

Country Eye has the full backing of Kent Police with information being sent securely to the relevant authorities. Kent Police is committed to responding to concerns in rural communities and to carrying out high visibility patrols. The information collated through the app will give officers a greater understanding of potential problem areas. The app has been supported by Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Kent, National Farmers Union and BTF Partnership.

The Country Eye app identifies four different Rural Categories which make up the majority of incidents that occur in the countryside.

Theft: Vehicle, Metal & Cable, Machinery & Plant, Livestock, Outbuilding, Fuel & Oil and Equine.

Farm Crime: Arson, Fly-Tipping, Trespass with and without Firearms, Criminal Damage and Suspicious behaviour with and without vehicles.

Animal, Wildlife Crime: Poaching, Animal Welfare, Endangered Species & Conservation, Hare Coursing and Horse Crime.

Heritage Crime: Off-roading and Metal Detecting (without owner's permission) /Night Hawking

The app has a knowledge section which highlights the key factors for each type of incident above to assist users.

Sign up is simple; the system requires a contact number, email address and postcode.

The app records and disseminates information using the phones camera and GPS location settings. Recording information is intuitive; users will click the camera icon, take an image, choose from a drop-down the type of crime, whether a crime reference number has been issued, and any other useful information.

The location, time and date will be automatically recorded. The app can also use an existing image from the camera's photo library.

The application is not intended for emergency purposes; users should report to;
999 – (crime in progress)
101 – (crime committed) or report to Crimestoppers if they wish to remain anonymous – **0800 555 111**

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching **Country Eye**



KCC Public Transport Portal

On behalf of Mike Whiting, KCC Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport & Waste

During last summer's Big Conversation with residents, many people told us that they didn't know who to give feedback to about bus services

To make this clearer, we have launched a Bus Feedback Portal. It includes information about how to make a formal complaint or compliment about bus services and who to contact in the event that bus users experience problems.

It also includes a feedback form for residents to let us know about their experiences of using buses and the quality of service provided.

We will use the feedback that we get a greater understanding of what types of problems bus users experience and to spot trends about the areas or on which services they arise. We will use this information to inform the

conversations that we have with bus operators through our Quality Bus Partnerships or more generally and help improve things for bus users.

KCC is encouraging people to use the form to let us know about their experience of using buses and the quality of service provided. A link to the portal is provided below.

www.kent.gov.uk/busfeedback

If you have any comments about the portal then please Email public.transport@kent.gov.uk

*Mike Whiting
Member for Swale West
Cabinet Member for Planning,
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St. Nicholas at Wade & Sarre Gardeners Club

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month from March until October in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm and new members are always very welcome. Why not come along and join us? The Club is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society as well as the Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies.

Our first speaker on March 13th is the Parish Councillor and Club Committee member, Lee Ageros, who will talk about 'Nettles'.

The full 2019 programme of events will be displayed on the village notice boards and websites from the beginning of March. Members benefit from a 10% discount

at the Preston Garden Centre thanks to Sarah's continuing generosity. Annual subscription remains at £6.

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St. Nicholas in full bloom

Sat 1st & Sun 2nd June 12-5 pm

Several gardens of the village will be opened to the public for the bi-annual OPEN GARDENS organised by The Friends of St. Nicholas at Wade Church. It is a treat for all garden-lovers to have a private peak at these wonderful gardens, then have a delicious cream tea.



After a restorative cup of tea, visitors can take a look at a number of stalls selling an array of wares, including books, bric-a-brac, and a plant and garden themed stall.

Visitors will have loads to see around the village including an art exhibition, classic cars, food stalls, craft fair and a chance to try their luck in the bumper raffle.

The gardens will be open from 12 to 5pm on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June. Entry tickets for all locations will be £5 per person whilst children under 16 are free. Tickets can be bought on the day at each garden. All proceeds from the event go to the upkeep of the St. Nicholas at Wade Church.

The Friends of St. Nicholas at Wade Church organise the Open Gardens every two years

and is seen as a major community event. The village church which was begun in the 11th century and needs constant upkeep therefore events like the Open Gardens help save this wonderful building for the future generations. The church is at the centre of the community having a toddler group, concerts, coffee mornings and charity events throughout the year. The Friends of the Church raise funds for the Fabric Fund, which is used purely to aid the restoration of the building.

If want to support this great event by visiting that weekend or you are interested in getting involved, volunteering on the day, baking scones or manning a stall, please call or email Amanda Lynch

on **07800818351** or
amandaglynch@hotmail.com.

BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Could You Be A Councillor?

Any person 18 years of age and older who is a local government elector, lives or works in the parish or lives within three miles of the area of the Local Council may stand for election.

Candidates for election must complete nomination forms and submit them to their local electoral office by the closing date for nominations - usually four to five weeks before polling day. The local electoral office will be at Thanet District Council.

A Councillor's normal term of office is four years. He/she is a holder of a Public Office.

Councillors can receive expenses for their role.

Candidates may stand under a party political label, but most don't.

Councillors are subject to their Council's Code of Conduct and must complete a Declaration of Interest form which will be publicly available.

What Will You Do If Elected?

- Attend Council meetings and raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to take action.
- Make informed contributions and influence debate at meetings.
- Receive training for your role.
- Represent the Council externally.

Who Controls the Local Council?

In short, you do. Parish electors vote for Local Council members every four years and are entitled to go to the Annual Meeting and say what they think. Council meetings are also open to the public to observe (but not participate in) and there is usually an opportunity for informal discussion when the meeting is adjourned. Local Councils are public bodies and subject to the Freedom of Information Act and GDPR laws.

Who Supports Local Councils?

Local Councils in England are supported by 38 County Associations of Local Councils that provide legal, procedural and other advice. They provide relevant training for Councillors and representational services too. In Kent, Local Councils are represented by the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC). www.kentalc.gov.uk At national level, Local Councils are represented by the National Association of Local Councils. www.nalc.gov.uk

A Little About Local Councils

- Elected representative body of the local community. Provide services to meet local needs, improve quality of life and well-being in the community.

- Statutory bodies with certain duties and legal powers. They are democratically and financially accountable to the local community.
- Have the legal right to be informed about planning applications and other issues.
- Give the local community a more powerful voice.
- Help support local groups in their area. This may be through funding, provision of meeting places, or through publicity. This could include voluntary groups that help young people or the older generation to name but a few.
- May take on some devolved duties from the "Principal Authorities", Kent County Council, Medway Unitary Authority and the twelve District and Borough Councils in Kent. The Principal Authorities are responsible for Education, Transport, Planning & Development, Waste Collection and Disposal, Housing, Licensing and Street Trading.
- Local Councils can raise money to spend on public purposes through their "precept" which is collected through the local Council Tax. Most of that money is invested back into the local community to improve facilities and services. Many local councils also supplement the precept by obtaining grants. Sometimes they own property and can use the money from rents and leases. They can also generate income through running their community facilities.
- Local Councils are the least bureaucratic kind of local authority. Their funds are a tiny part of the Council Tax with an average cost across England of less than £65/year to Council tax payers. They get no general government grant so they have every incentive to keep their expenditure low and get value for money.

So, what are you waiting for?

Are you concerned about your local area?

Do you want to represent the views of local people?

Are you passionate about services provided to your community?

Do you want to contribute your business or personal skills and expertise?

Why not stand for your local council and make a difference!

For more information on Local Councils in Kent and how to become a Councillor, go to

www.kentalc.gov.uk

Useful Contacts



Community Warden Tony Gander	07969 584 182
PSCO Debbie Forsyth	deborah.forsyth@kent.pnn.police.uk
Police non-emergency	101
Police emergency	999 or 112
Thanet District Council	577 000
Community Dog Warden Tony Gander	577 580 tony.gander@kent.gov.uk
Kent County Council	03000 416 161
Library (Minster)	821 442
Doctor's Surgery Birchington	848 818
Doctor's Surgery Minster	821 333
St Nicholas Post Office	844 632
School St Nicholas-at-Wade CofE Primary School	847 253
St Nicholas Church, The Vicarage	447 791
Bell Meadow Pavillion Committee	bmpavillion@gmail.com
Thanet STD code	01843

Websites

Parish Council

www.stnicholas-at-wadewithsarrepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Village Hall

www.villagehall.snaw.org.uk

Venues for hire

The Pavilion, Bell Meadow, Bridges Close bmpavillion@gmail.com

Village Hall, The Length www.villagehall.snaw.org.uk

Manor Hall, Manor Road fairbrass901@btinternet.com

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Regular Events

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www.villagehall.snaw.org.uk

The village hall is available for hire and can be booked via the Booking Secretary by e-mailing **tina.walker@villagehall.snaw.org.uk**

Mondays

9.45 to 10.45

Low Impact Exercise

Just turn up on the day

10.45 to 12.00

Coffee Morning

Just turn up on the day

15.45 to 19.00

LA Dance Class

19.00 to 20.00

Metafit

Nina on 07557 512432

Thursdays

10.30 to 13.00

Art Group with Tina Rowland

01843 294829 or just turn up on the day

19.00 to 21.00

Highland Dance

Just turn up on the day

Tuesdays

Times vary

Dance4Fun

Steven on 07710 469148

19.15 to 20.45

Line Dancing with Annette

Just turn up on the day

Fridays

12.00 to 14.30

Minster Surgery

01843 821333

Times vary

Dance4Fun

Steven on 07710 469148

Wednesdays

Times vary

Dance4Fun

Steven on 07710 469148

16.15 to 18.45

LA Dance Class

19.00 to 21.30

Gardeners Club

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second Wednesday of
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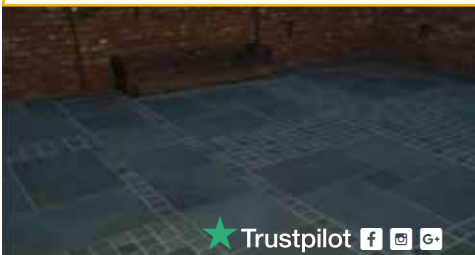
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speedwatchpc@outlook.com

Or call on:

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Speedwatch is now active again in Thanet. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please use the contact information in the poster.



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EPC Rating: E



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