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Temple Ewell Newsletter



### **Temple Ewell Organisations**

Parish Council Chairman	Mr Glenn Mousley	824121
Clerk to the Parish Council	Mr Andrew Howard-Grigg	361774
Police Community Support Officer	Megan Keehner	07929 049947
District Councillor	Mark Rose	07733 080861
County Councillor	Geoffrey Lymer	07960 490929
T E School Head Teacher	Mrs A Matthews	822665
Friends of TE School (Sally Parker)	friendsoftheschool@hotmail.com	
Sunday Club	Mrs J Miles	824280
Friday Club	Yvonne Sacker	330017
Art Workshop	Antionette Tourret	826292
Brownies	Mrs A Newington	827138
Community Coffee Mornings	Mrs J Miles	07375863405
WI	Jan Luckhurst	331051
Produce Association	Trevor Barlow	824787
Temple Ewell Players	Mr M Brodie	07766 228728
Men's Club	Mr A Ladbrook	824948
Village Hall Bookings/Enquiries	John Holness	448140
Youth Club	Marilyn Holness	448140
Branching Out	Marilyn	448140
	Trish	820966
Kent Wildlife Trust Conservation Tasks	Bob Newington	827138
Short Mat Bowls Club	Audrey West	823511
Allotment Manager	Dominic Castle	07836 388458

### **St. Peter and St. Paul Temple Ewell**

Priest-in-charge: Revd. Ian Parrish 01304 279673 revd.irp@gmail.com

Church Warden - Mrs E Waller 824709 Dr Judith Shilling, 827692

PCC Secretary - Vacancy

PCC Treasurer - Chris Tyler 07715 078882

### **Baptist Church**

Rev Ewart Graham on 375823 or John Woodland on 822982

Hello All



As I write this we are all eagerly awaiting the Prime Minister's announcement about how we might start to come out of lockdown. It is with some trepidation, I know, that many people will start to go back to normal life, especially those that have been shielding. For myself, as someone who has continued to go in to work since July, I can't wait to be able to meet up with family and friends and do things that been forbidden for the past year. I've gratefully had my first vaccination and now for me normal life beckons.

Spring is just around the corner, and cautious hope comes with it.

Prize winners in the Newsletter Raffle, drawn on 18th December at the village shop were:-

1st Michael Sheridan	6th Carol Mounce	11th Veronica Douglas
2nd Jeanette Potts	7th Eileen Lim	
3rd Emma Lyons	8th David Waller	
4th Mike Brodie	9th Rachel Liversidge	
5th Cindy Tuson	10th Paul Watts	

[www.tenews.co.uk](http://www.tenews.co.uk)

Editor: Jeanette Potts

Email: [templeewellnews@gmail.com](mailto:templeewellnews@gmail.com) Tel: 01304 826386

Address: 13 Chilton Way River CT17 0QB

We welcome all contributions to the content of the Newsletter, but please remember that the deadline date for the next issue is 8pm on the 15th of the preceding month. However, please note, there is no August or January issue of the Newsletter.

NOTE: You should be aware that articles are also published on the website [www.tenews.co.uk](http://www.tenews.co.uk) - please inform us if you want any part of your article withheld from that particular medium.

A copy of every Newsletter is posted on the website, including the village diary. Make sure you log on to [www.tenews.co.uk](http://www.tenews.co.uk)

#### **Temple Ewell Newsletter Editorial Committee**

Editor / Web	Jeanette Potts	826386
Chair / Distribution	Jenny Miles	07375863405
Vice Chair	Jenny Olpin	825011
Treasurer	Lisa Scrivens Waghorn	07412 595349
Secretary	Ruth Horton	268998
Events	Barbara Sheridan	827493
Member	Cindy Tuson	823325



## Village Diary

*Provisional dates only  
please check before attending*

### Mar

- Thurs 11 W.I. Meeting 7pm in the Village Hall  
Tues 30 Parish Council Meeting 7.15pm in the Baptist Hall

### Apr

- Thurs 8 W.I. Meeting 7pm in the Village Hall  
Tues 27 Annual Parish Meeting 7.15pm in the Baptist Hall

### May

- Thurs 13 W.I. Meeting 7pm in the Village Hall  
Tues 25 Parish Council Meeting 7.15pm in the Baptist Hall

### June

- Thurs 10 W.I. Meeting 7pm in the Village Hall

### July

- Thurs 8 W.I. Meeting 7pm in the Village Hall

## RIVER ART GROUP

We currently have **vacancies** in our Class that meets on  
Tuesday mornings 9.30-11.30am term times  
in River Village Hall (cost is £50 per term)  
Our teacher is well known local artist, Penny Bearman  
Call Jeanette on 01304 826386 for more info



## **Works In Russell Gardens**

Site works continue in Russell Gardens. This means there is no access to the north side of the ornamental lake at this time. We apologise for any inconvenience.

We have closed off some pathways into Russell Gardens. The pathway from the new timber gate main entrance to Russell Garden is open, and access to Bushy Ruff is via the ornamental brick boat house and pathway. Due to site limitation we are not able to have a step free access route currently, however further pathway works and route closures/openings will be notified in due course.

## **New toilets now open in Kearsney Abbey**

We can't wait to fully open our new visitor facilities when the lockdown restrictions are eased. In the meantime, the new toilets in Kearsney Abbey are now open daily from 8am to 4pm during the winter season.

Please help us keep these new facilities clean and observe the current rules to keep everyone safe. Remember - wash hands, cover face, make space!

The car park at Kearsney Abbey is open along with the temporary café and toilets (including disabled access).

## **Keep in touch**

If you have any comments or questions, please email us on [kearsney.parks@dover.gov.uk](mailto:kearsney.parks@dover.gov.uk) or follow us on Twitter @Kearsneyparks





## I'M A SAINT AND LOSING MY PATIENCE

When you were a child, you spoke like a child  
when you were a babe, you were a babe  
but now you're 21, I'd expect, by now, you should  
**GROW UP.**

You're still living under our roof  
of the house you were born and grew up in.  
A little respect for our rules and feelings would be nice.  
**SO GROW UP.**

It's pretty much all we ask of you right now.  
That, and a little increase in keep.  
After all, your laundry is still being done by Mum,  
and me, your Dad, telling you that you can have the car -  
for me a big leap of faith.  
**SO DO BACK UP.**

No, I'm not nagging you, just trying to be very patient.  
You are still having your cake,  
and we're letting you eat it.  
Your granddad would also say "and having the bag to carry it in".  
So I'm telling you, not begging you -  
**JUST SIMPLY GROW UP.**



## FRIDAY CLUB

Just home from giving our Percy Cox a good send off. Many lined the street outside The Fox and as his car stopped, we all clapped to send him on his way. God Bless you mate and on a personal note thank you for always being there for me, miss you loads.

Birthday wishes to Mary Brown who turned 94 years young, wishing you many more Mary (and the cake was delicious).

As many of us now have had the first vaccine, here's hoping that we can get back to some normality in the not too distant future.

A big thank you to Robert and Donna for keeping us all in supplies, and to Steve and Alyson for the tasty takeaways, many thanks to you all.

In the meantime, keep warm, keep safe and stay indoors.

***Best wishes, Yvonne***

### **Temple Ewell Village Store & Post Office**

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# TEMPLE EWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

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## IT'S SNOWING

February brought a plentiful fall of snow which was greeted with joy in many households. Certainly, there was great rejoicing from the children. Out with the sledges; up with the snowmen; in with the frozen hands. Even the older members, those who have not properly grown up, were excited by the vision. The landscape had completely changed. Everything had a covering. The beauty was breath taking. Even the ugliest of structures was now clothed in loveliness.

This picture is exactly what the prophet Isaiah was portraying in his book when he gives us the equivalent spiritual picture. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Things we are less than proud of, stand out like a red traffic light. Red was also representative of more serious offences which cause the shedding of blood. This passage in the Old Testament is foretelling the complete covering of all our misdeeds, available because of the death of Jesus Christ. Even the most ugly can have a covering of beauty.

There is also an additional benefit of snow. It deadens the sound. Everything becomes quiet. In the same way, the cleansing of Christ gives us deep peace.

We are sorry that our church is closed at present due to Government Restrictions and we will re-open as soon as it is permissible. If you would like us to pray for a particular need or require assistance in the mean time the please telephone one of the numbers below.

If we can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact June on 822982, Jack on 825150 or our minister Ewart Graham on 375823. [www.templeewellbaptistchurch.com](http://www.templeewellbaptistchurch.com)



## Temple Ewell Parish Council

Another month has passed and the lockdown continues! However, the country is in full swing with the Coronavirus vaccination programme and there does seem to be light at the end of the tunnel. The infection rates, especially in East Kent, have fallen steadily since the highs of a few weeks ago and by the time you read this note the government will hopefully have issued a roadmap of getting back to some kind of normality.

I had my vaccination a couple of weeks ago at the Dover Health Centre and it was a seamless process that was very efficiently handled and the vaccination itself was given with just the slightest of pin-pricks. Once you are offered the vaccination, I urge you to take advantage of this as part of the process in recovering from the pandemic.

Our work on the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) has continued and it was decided at the last Parish Council meeting to pursue the placing of a pedestrian crossing in London Road by the junction of Templeside and High Street. Residents in Lower Road/High Street have also been canvassed regarding a proposed 20mph speed limit and additional signage to keep the road free of heavy goods vehicles. The additional pedestrian crossing on London Road close to the Railway Bell is also set to proceed subject to KCC funding being approved.

The main building work at Manor View development is now complete with just internal work being finished. More houses are now being occupied and we welcome these additional residents to Temple Ewell. We would also like to report that a smart new fence has been put up by the railway company, adjacent to the site, although we have requested that a clean-up is carried out to remove a large quantity of rubbish that has been exposed which is scheduled for 6 March.

We have a number of projects that we hope to get underway during 2021 including the resurfacing of the path up to the allotments and also addressing the poor surface of the George and Dragon Car Park. We will keep you informed of progress on these and other projects that we can start to move forward as we come out of lockdown. For the most

up to date information parishioners can check the village notice boards by the shop and Railway Bell plus the website [www.templeewellpc.world](http://www.templeewellpc.world) and our Facebook and Twitter posts.

It was early in February that we awoke to a blanket of snow that lasted a week and was deeper than has been seen in Temple Ewell for many years. It was great to see many families making good use of this and building snowmen and sledging on some of the many hills that surround the village. There was even a group of skiers and snowboarders who were taking advantage of the alpine conditions. It certainly was very cold for several days and I hope there were not too many falls or burst pipes once the thaw came. I look forward to catching up with you next month when hopefully we will be enjoying spring-like weather.

***Glenn Mousley – Chairman of the Parish Council***

**Parish Clerk:** Andy Howard-Grigg

**Tel :** 01304 361774    **E-Mail :** [TempleEwellPC@Outlook.com](mailto:TempleEwellPC@Outlook.com)

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## **The Uxbridge Dictionary have issued a few more new word definitions: -**

**Granary:** Old people's home.

**Capsize:** About 7 %.

**Rancour:** Japanese term of abuse.

**Posthumous:** The act of delivering Greek food by post.

**Collie-Wobbles:** Three-legged sheep dog.

**Taffeta:** A Welsh goat's cheese.

**Parsnip:** Dads vasectomy.

**Onomatopoeia:** The first sign of a weak bladder.

**Suggestive:** A sexy biscuit.

**Piccaninny:** The process for selecting the Tory leader. (In the interest of fairness feel free to replace with the political party of your choice).



***Pete Olpin***

## **Village Store Couple win DFDS Everyday Heroes Prize for Pandemic Response**

Robert and Donna Febrer who run the Temple Ewell Village Store and Post Office in London Road, Temple Ewell near Dover have won a £500 cash prize and DFDS trip to France after being nominated for the DFDS “everyday heroes” competition.

Alison Worton, from Templeside, said she nominated them for their amazing support to the community during these challenging times. She said: ‘Sometimes lovely people deserve recognition for what they consider to be “just doing their jobs”. They went from running a fairly quiet little village shop to being the absolute hub of the village during lockdown. The post office in River closed so their workload in that area increased dramatically but again they were so calm in their transactions.

‘Their delivery service to our older residents was unfailing. They always had eggs! They upped their selection of fresh produce which they had previously only offered a very limited range (understandable, as during normal times, we have a Tesco at the top of the hill!). They would order in special requests from the bakery. They increased their wine range!! All this and also with 2 young children at home.’

Jenny Olpin, from the Temple Ewell Newsletter, also nominated the couple. She said: ‘From the moment of lockdown they adjusted their stock to meet the needs of not only our village but that of Lydden and River too. To date Robert and Donna have delivered where needed and maintained a happy, patient and receptive persona, never complaining. Throughout the land the Village Shops have come back into popularity during this crisis and in Temple Ewell they rose, and continue to rise, to the significant increase in local shopping needs and provision.’

DFDS launched its competition to recognise the ‘everyday heroes’ of the pandemic to celebrate winning the World’s Best Ferry Operator title at the World Travel Awards (WTA) for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in succession in November. In each of the areas of its UK ports of Dover, Newcastle and Newhaven, people were asked to nominate someone who has gone above and beyond to help their communities during the pandemic.

Judging the entries for DFDS were Gemma Griffin, MBE, Vice President of Human Resources and Crewing and Lucy Chambers, Brand & Content Specialist. Ms Griffin said: ‘Throughout the pandemic, DFDS is proud to have continued lifeline services for essential travel, getting people home, as well as helping to keep the UK’s supermarket shelves stocked and shipping vital

goods such as medicines into the country. We wanted to acknowledge how individuals stepped up to help others during this exceptional year.

'The standard of nominations was so high that it was a tough decision to choose the winners. Each stood out in their own way for their differing contributions to their communities, and it was moving to read how much they were valued for what they do. It's lovely to be able to surprise them with this cash prize and free trip for 2021 when we all hope to be able to travel freely again.'

Winners will get the chance to find out for themselves why DFDS has maintained its WTA record of wins even in a year when it couldn't run a full passenger service. As well as the top prize of £500 and there is a crossing to Europe with DFDS for travel during 2021. DFDS travellers can plan their trip with the reassurance of the company's travel guarantee that means they are protected if their plans have to be put on hold due to pandemic-related restrictions.



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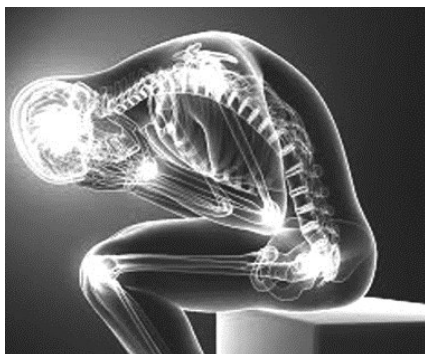
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## Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and St Mary's Lydden

March Services, to which we warmly welcome you. For details of our services please go to

[www.facebook.com/templeewellpepaul](https://www.facebook.com/templeewellpepaul)

<b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30am, Parish Eucharist at Temple Ewell
<b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Mothering Sunday 9:00am Parish Eucharist at Lydden
<b>March 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9:00am Parish Eucharist at Lydden
<b>March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Palm Sunday 10:15am Temple Ewell – meet at the George and Dragon to process to church 10:30am Parish Eucharist

It is shocking to think how much the world has changed over this last year and for the first time in hundreds of years our churches were closed for public acts of worship. But in February we re-opened our churches in line with Government guidance. We are maintaining our current pattern of services:

Wednesday Prayer & Share, 11.30am at Temple Ewell

Sunday morning services of Holy Communion, 09.30am and 10.30am alternating weeks at Temple Ewell and Lydden.

Both churches will be open for private prayer in the week: Temple Ewell 10am – 2pm Tue, Thu & Sun and Lydden open every day.

In reviewing our policies and procedures we have focussed on capacity, both churches are small, which means that there isn't space to safely accommodate large numbers of worshippers, but all are welcome and COVID safety guidance will be maintained. We know that many people will not want to come at present and each of us need to take seriously the guidance to stay at home unless our journeys are essential. We are also keen that people are not putting themselves at risk. If you are vulnerable or anxious or feel that worshipping in our church buildings is not essential or want to minimise the risk to yourselves or others that is entirely understood and has our complete support.

Over this last year we have seen that God is not just found in church but as we have discovered is there on-line, in our homes, with our neighbours and with those who we meet along the Way. In keeping safe we all profit from our neighbours being healthy and hope that the day will come when we can remember our loss but also celebrate the joy of our neighbourliness. The good news of the vaccine and continued efforts gives us great hope that this time of restriction is finite and shines a bright light of hope into a future that is filled with faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love.

Above all keep safe, keep praying and keep in touch.

***Revd Ian Parrish***

## ***Wellbeing***

This month I want to share with you the joy of gazing in wonderment at an icon, a picture, a landscape or even the simplicity of a leaf or snowflake. Simply looking, without assigning any interpretation or meaning to the object of your gaze can take you deep into a contemplative awareness of self or even God. I suggest beginning this exercise by using a photograph or painting that you treasure or better still to step outside and experience the wonderment of the world around us. The important part is seeking peace.

Follow this link and join Revd Ian Parrish in a time of Wellbeing:  
<https://youtu.be/qEoP5TTYWU4>



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Dover District

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Key workers and residents living in Dover area, without coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, can now book a test ONLINE.

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Do not book a test if you are self-isolating or have any COVID symptoms:

The test involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat (tonsils), using a long cotton bud. You will do the swab yourself in a booth. The booths will be cleaned after each use.

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If you test positive, you will need to self-isolate for 10 days. You must take a home test to confirm the result. Other people in your household should isolate for 14 days.

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<https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home?>



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The Producers in Fairtrade co-operative always get a democratic say in decisions – women included.

- By supporting Fairtrade in your weekly shop, it benefits others considerably; and also demonstrates a better understanding of where our food (and other Fairtrade products) come from .
- Both Dover and Deal have Fairtrade town status and it is very important that we continue to work with the Community to maintain this status ; our aim is to have a Fairtrade District, and we have the support of both town councils and DDC.
- As it is Fairtrade Fortnight From 27/2/21 to 7/3/21 our activities will include a virtual meeting with a speaker on 3 March 2021 – anyone interested in attending and /or wanting to know more about our Fairtrade groups please contact [pambrivio@ntlworld.com](mailto:pambrivio@ntlworld.com) .

Additionally we have donations of Fairtrade Footballs to make and if anyone has contact with youth groups who would be interested in receiving a couple, please get in contact.



**Thanks**

***Pam Brivio, Dover Fairtrade Town Network***

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## Letters to the Editor

We would like to hear from you. What do you want information on? Need help with something? Want to comment on a local issue? This is the place to do it!





**Join us at Dover districts  
Virtual Fairtrade live event**

**Wednesday 3rd March 2021  
2.00pm - 3.30pm**

Guest speaker, Adam Gardner, Head of Campaigns of Fairtrade Foundation will speak on the topic 'Fairtrade, Climate and You' the principles of Fairtrade and the effects the climate change are having on producers.

For further information please email:  
[pambrivio@ntlworld.com](mailto:pambrivio@ntlworld.com)

To watch, copy and paste the following link to your browser:  
<http://dover.gov.uk/Fair-Trade>



## Temple Ewell Art Workshop

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## Temple Ewell Brownies

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February last year the girls went to Eythorne Steam station and planted daffodil and crocus bulbs in the train's recreation area, with other Brownies and Guides from our district. They planted over 200 bulbs and then went back to Eythorne Village Hall for hot chocolate and biscuits and sang some songs together.

That was our last activity as, like everything else because of government restrictions, we had to pack up in March 2020.

We have not been meeting since then and so in January 2021, after long discussions, it was decided that we would close the Temple Ewell Brownie Unit.

Temple Ewell Brownies closed once before, during the war, to reopen again in April 1951, and this year would have seen us celebrate 70 years as a Unit. It made us one of the longest running organisations in the village.

I started helping when my daughter joined, in response to a request for help from the then Brown Owl. I was an ex-Temple Ewell Brownie myself. After a few months Brown Owl left so I agreed to carry on helping with Jenny Miles and Karen, a Guider from Whitfield. We carried on like that for some time, till eventually I got my licence and became Brown Owl. Over 200 girls have been enrolled by me over the years, from an Albie to a Willow and, the most popular name, Claire/Clare (9).

I would like to thank all the ladies who have helped me over the years at camps, sleepovers, trips, events, activities and at the unit meetings. Without your help none of these would have been possible, not forgetting of course the mums and dads who provided transport to the various event venues. Thank you very much, all of you.

Hopefully in the future the Brownie Unit will start up again and someone else will take on the role of Brown Owl, maybe sometime in the near future, this year or next year, and there will be others prepared to help the girls enjoy themselves in Guiding to make new friends, laugh, talk, shout and sometimes just be quiet together.

***Anne Newington, Guider***

**A new initiative to help local  
residents: Dover Pantry**



Dover residents are getting a helping hand with their grocery shopping, thanks to the new Dover Pantry which opened on Wednesday 20th January at Unit 16 in the Charlton Centre. The Pantry is part of the national Your Local Pantry network, which has proven to be an effective and sustainable solution to food poverty. The initiative is the result of the hard work and determination of a number of local organisations coming together to help the community during these challenging times.

The Pantry offers local residents the opportunity to access high-quality food in return for a weekly subscription fee of only £5. They can apply to become members in person at the Pantry or online at [www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/doverpantry](http://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/doverpantry).

Many of the groceries will be supplied from FareShare, the national charitable network that redirects supermarkets' excess stock to good causes. Local supermarkets have also been generously donating surplus produce, and supporters of the Pantry are donating ambient food. If you would like to help support the Pantry with donations of food, please drop them into St Peter and St Paul Temple Ewell or St Mary's Lydden where you will find boxes in the porch. Robert and Donna have kindly offered to have a collection box in the Temple Ewell Village Store and Post Office.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Pantry, or offering financial support as a Friend of the Pantry, please contact me for more details.

***Judith Shilling***

***Dover Pantry Volunteer Coordinator***

***[judithshilling@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judithshilling@yahoo.co.uk)***

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## Temple Ewell and District Produce Association

Good news thanks to Reece we will be able to have a virtual Spring Show again this year on March 27th. Please upload your entries

to [reecej@tedpa.com](mailto:reecej@tedpa.com) by Wednesday 24th.

As we have been unable to have any meetings, the 2020 schedule will have to be used. Looking forward to seeing any crafts you have been doing during lock down in Class 48 (Crafts for Adults) Hope you are all keeping well and staying safe.

Regards

***Edie and Trevor***

[info@tedpa.club](mailto:info@tedpa.club)



Like all organisations we are still keeping in touch with members.

### Scout Hut at River



Friday - Beavers 4-30 to 5-30pm

Tuesday - Cubs 6-30 to 8-30pm

Monday - Scouts 6-30 to 8-30pm



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The roadside gang of Temple Ewell for the Kent Wildlife  
Trust started back on Tuesdays 9.30-3pm

To join us on our tasks call Bob Newington on 827138.  
We also have Sunday tasks once a month.

**New volunteers are welcome**



## District Councillor

As local authority budgets continue to reel from the financial impact of COVID-19, Kent County councillors have voted through the authority's spending plans for 2021-22. The budget focuses on supporting communities and residents to recover from the pandemic and keeping vital services going in the county.

To achieve this, councillors agreed a 'regrettable but unavoidable' 1.99% rise in general council tax, and 3% ring-fenced to meet increased spending on adult social care. The proposals were accepted at a virtual meeting of the full county council with 55 "for", 12 "against" and 2 "abstentions."

During today's Budget County Council meeting an amendment to the formal budget recommendations, proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group was approved, following their acceptance of a slight change to the wording

As part of the budget plans KCC has also proposed a package of extra financial support and funding for Kent's lowest income families. This will include an automatic £50 reduction on the council tax bill of anyone currently receiving a discount. There are now over 65,000 families eligible for this scheme, compared to 56,000 a year ago. On top of this extra help, it is also proposed to give every district council funding for their Council Tax hardship fund, which will allow families just above the very lowest income bracket to apply for extra financial support.

As well as the proposed council tax reduction, The Helping Hand Scheme will provide help to just-managing families with utility bills, firms struggling to stay afloat, digital poverty and supporting crowdfunded projects to get communities back on their feet.

The council tax increase, which equates to £67.50 a year (£1.30 a week) for Band D households, is needed to meet budget pressures predicted in the next financial year due to the pandemic, and to meet extra spending pressures in social care. Council tax is now 70% of the income the authority relies on to pay for services. The authority is having to increase its adult social care budget by £40.1m, taking the total adults social care budget to £437.5m this year, and COVID-19 has triggered increased care needs, and risks to care services in the coming

Since 2013/14 KCC's core revenue support grant from central Government has reduced from around £247m to approximately £10m, which means increasingly core local authority services have to be funded by council tax.

The council will be spending around £1.132bn on day-to-day services, which equates to about £720 for every person living in the county. This is an increase of £68.8m (6.5%) on the approved budget for 2020-21 an extra £41 for every person.

It originally intended to add £9.2 million to its reserves to cover off the risks relating to adult social care services and children's services, as well as the huge uncertainty caused by the pandemic. However, since it produced its draft budget the council has revised its plans to take account of the third national lockdown which has meant taking out £1.8 million of the reserves instead. Changes include an anticipated £5million rise in prices for adult social care, another £5 million for increased social care demand and removing a £3 million saving on pothole repairs due to less government funding for highways.

As we come out of lockdown the risks and pressures on our services and spending increase. Greater complexity in needs of people in care, pressures on mental health, domestic abuse; and the children who were out of sight of public agencies, when so many fewer were in school, are now likely to come back to our services in increased numbers and with increased needs.

We have had significant support from government this year, which we have lobbied hard for. But, if we look ahead, we see a lot of government restraint over the years to come, as it seeks to rebuild its finances after COVID-19. It is important that the one-off funding we have had is used to help those in need through this time of crisis. That is what we set out in our Helping Hands Scheme announced a few days ago, some £10m to support individuals, businesses, communities and the voluntary sector.

Today we are announcing further measures of council tax relief for those who are most vulnerable. In what are, and what will continue to be, challenging times, we are taking measures to sustain a council strong enough to help people when it is needed. This budget is about setting our course, protecting our services and keeping our council resilient in the face of the challenges of the coming years. Kent has received about £140 million from the government to cover additional spending incurred and income losses to date due to the impact of the pandemic.

The Chancellor has said that over time, and once the economic recovery is secured, the government is fully committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure borrowing and debt are on a sustainable path, but it would not be right to speculate at this stage how this is to be achieved.

In our approach to the capital programme this year we have sought to re phase spending into later years so that we do not fall into the trap of committing to additional borrowing which subsequently proves to be unsustainable.

This means the programme presented today is very much about an appropriate timing of spend on projects we are already committed to, rather than including a lot of new projects. KCC has a strong track record of good financial management but we are at the lower end of the resilience range. We cannot be complacent and must maintain and improve our financial rigour.

### **Other key points from the draft budget:**

The council proposes a £97.7m increase in spending on council services, including £5.5m for adult social care packages, £2.8m for home-to-school transport for Special Educational Needs pupils, £3.2m to cover increased demand for children's social work and disabled children's services.

- This increase in spending is offset by £61.7m which includes savings from efficiencies, transformation and policy choices, additional income; as well as £22m from reserves.
- There is proposed capital investment of £1.058bn on infrastructure over the next 3 years 2021-22 to 2023-24, mainly on roads and schools. This includes £19m of new schemes, £54m of schemes that have been removed, and £168m of spending that has been rephased within the three-year period.
- The budget has been prepared against the backdrop of an unprecedented level of uncertainty and risk. This stems from a one-year settlement from government for 2020-21 followed by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which hit soon after the 2020-21 budget was agreed last February.
- KCC has received a total of around £140m in one-off grants which should be enough to meet the costs of dealing with the COVID pandemic in the current financial year.
- However, these costs do not include the impact of the latest national lockdown and the latest wave of infections we are now experiencing. The budget for 2021-22 includes the £32.9m non ring-fenced emergency grant and a COVID-19 Local Council Tax Support grant of £14.3m.
- The council is experiencing a rise in demand and extreme pressure on services as well as seeing increased levels of financial hardship for residents and businesses.
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer has already stated that, once the pandemic has subsided and economic recovery is secured, the government is committed to ensuring that borrowing and debt are on a sustainable path, which is likely to impact future funding levels for local councils. The council is under a legal duty to set a balanced and sustainable budget and maintain adequate reserves such that it can deliver its statutory responsibilities and priorities and be considered financially resilient.

As your representative for the Dover West Ward, I voted "for" all the recommendations, except for one, in the budget. That was I voted "against" a reduction in the member's community and highways grant funding which was proposed to be reduced yet again from £15,000 down to £10,000.

Over the years of serving the Dover West Ward I have found this grant funding useful for financing community or highways projects on the ward, where such projects would struggle to raise funds via any other means.

I have further suggested KCC discontinues the Central Government inspired plan under their partnership with Homes England to set up a Dover Fast Track bus system to take residents in the Whitfield and Whitfield rural area into Dover Priory Rail Station and the local supermarkets. If Stagecoach can not fill their buses with such passengers then I doubt Dover Fast Track will improve things, but this will cost KCC or you and I, the ratepayer, around £30-40 million plus, to build and is based upon flawed "housing needs" algorithms.

To support me with your objections please email [Barbara.Cooper@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.Cooper@kent.gov.uk) and [Roger.Gough@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Roger.Gough@kent.gov.uk) before March 18. This will save KCC, or put another way, you and I an unnecessary expenditure for the rate payer. You can read my newsletter article objecting to the Dover Fast Track in my November/December 2020 report. The only way to halt this unnecessary spend is by a good thousand objections, which will save rate payer's money.

***Geoffrey Lymer***  
***Kent County Councillor***  
***Dover West Ward***



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Canterbury Hospital	01227 766877
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital	01843 225544
Dover District Council	821199
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Citizens Advice Bureau	03448 487978
Dover Library	204241
Dover Leisure Centre	201145
Stagecoach Dover	08456 00 22 99
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Age Concern      Maggie Paterson	207268

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