

Summer 2020

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Parish Council Magazine

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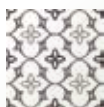
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Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 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. As always, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition.

Sara Archer (Clerk to the Council)

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Chairman's newsletter

What have the Romans ever done for us?

The past few months have been difficult for everyone but it has brought our small communities together. The Thursday evening gathering of residents in The Length and other streets to celebrate the work of the NHS and other key workers has been inspiring. It has been a pleasure to be part of it.

We hope that we will all be able to get back to normal very soon. Your Parish Council has continued to work despite the lockdown. Thanks to Sara, our clerk we have been able to hold remote meetings and progress has been maintained in many areas.

The Bell Meadow looks as good as ever thanks to the work of our handymen and The allotments and Cemetery are improving every month.

By the time you read this we hope to have the gates installed in Sarre and The Bell Meadow Car Park should have been remarked with white lining. This is only possible due to the dedicated voluntary work that your Councillors do for you.

I am most grateful to The Councillors and residents that have continued to do litter picks throughout the lockdown despite having to do this whilst social distancing.

We are still a forward-looking Parish Council that wants to ensure that our villages are as best we can make them. If you have any thoughts on how we can improve, please email our clerk or, better still, please along to our meetings when they restart. We still have two vacancies on The Parish Council and welcome new comers to be part of it.

Link. - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7tvauOJMH0>

Gordon Bryant Chairman

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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
Graham North	07701 071334
Lisa Fallon	07833577011

Sarre

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

Contact us

Clerk to the Council:

clerk@stnicholaswithsarre.co.uk

www.stnicholas-at-wade

with sarrepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Useful Contacts



PSCO Debbie Forsyth	deborah.forsyth@kent.pnn.police.uk
Police non-emergency	101
Police emergency	999 or 112
Thanet District Council	577 000
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	847 253
School	847 791
St Nicholas Church, The Vicarage	
Bell Meadow Pavillion Committee	bmpavilion@gmail.com
Thanet STD code	01843

Websites

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

Village Hall

www.villagehall.snaw.org.uk

Venues for hire

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During the COVID19 restrictions, meetings are now going to be held remotely via ZOOM. For joining instructions you have to email the Parish Clerk. You can join the video/audio meeting using a Laptop/Desktop computer (Windows/MAC) or most Apple IOS/Android phone/tablet devices. You can link to the Video and/or Audio if you have a microphone/camera as necessary. We recommend that you download ZOOM prior to joining the meeting - <https://zoom.us/download>. To access the Audio only, you do not need to use a computer and can join using a Home or Mobile Phone - using the keypad to enter the meeting ID and Password you will be provided with for the meeting when asked. 2020 (until notified otherwise, all meetings take place online, joining instructions from the Clerk - see above)

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Protect Your Property



The idea of being burgled is a worry to many people and the experience of it can be traumatic to victims. As with all types of crime prevention is better than cure.

A simple way to discourage burglars is to reduce the opportunity for them to approach your property.

Criminals will look for properties that:

- Seem unoccupied.
- Have little or no obvious security.
- Have doors or windows left open
- Where they can approach a house without being seen.

A successful break-in may encourage the burglar to return a few weeks later when your house is full of nice new replacement goods.

FENCES AND SHRUBBERY

The location and appearance of fences, gates, trees and hedges are all important in determining whether a property is a high or low risk for a burglar. You want to eliminate possible hiding areas, or easy ways of gaining entry. Overgrown bushes and trees can make it easier for a burglar to get into a home unnoticed.

It helps to have good visibility into the front garden, so low fences (around 1m high) are good there, but at the back, high walls or fences (1.8 metres or 6 feet tall) provide maximum security. Fitting a trellis or plastic spikes to the top of a fence makes climbing it more difficult. Barbed or razor wire or broken glass is not recommended on walls or fences; if you use these, and a person injures themselves on it, you can face prosecution under the Occupiers Liability Act – even if the person was trying to enter your property without your permission. However, you can protect your property with a prickly bush! Hawthorn, pyracantha and holly are all good examples of anti-trespass hedges.



Gravel driveways and paths are better burglar deterrents than paved ones, as it is hard to disguise the sound of someone crunching on loose gravel. Lock up garden tools, ladders and any other items such as bricks which might help an offender break into a property.

OUTSIDE LIGHTING

Good lighting helps to deter a burglar; it also gives security to any welcome visitors to the house. Constant lighting, such as low-level dusk-to-dawn lights (with photoelectric cells, so they only come on when it's dark) should be used at the front and rear of the house. Fit lights out of easy reach, ideally at least 2.25m high.

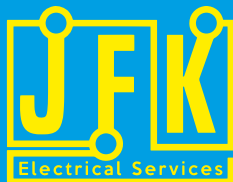
GARAGES AND SHEDS

One of the first places that some burglars may look is in sheds, garages or outbuildings. Usually they are not as securely built as the home and are often located where visibility is poor which can make them an easier target.

They often contain a ready source of tools for breaking into the main section of the house. Make them just as secure as the house, so that any burglar is forced to take more time and make more noise.

Perimeter checklist

- Is the area around your property free of tools that an offender might use?
- Are sheds and outbuildings locked at all times?
- Does the property have a clear view to the front.
- Have you left packaging from new items purchased sticking out of bins?
- Are all vehicles secure.
- Have you removed all items of value from your car, ie laptops, phones, shopping bags, cash?



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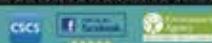
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A NEW, FREE Telephone Befriending Service



Ageless Thanet launched a Volunteer Telephone Befriending Service in April, to help Thanet's over 50s to feel more connected during lockdown.

Befriending Services can sometimes have negative connotations, with assumptions that it is a service for the elderly or frail; but Ageless Thanet want you to know that this is not the case! Many of us have found the physical separation from our family and friends challenging during lockdown, and it has been very easy for feelings of loneliness and low mood to creep in, even if you live with other people. It is completely normal to need other people in your lives, not just the person/people you live with; you don't have to be alone to be lonely.

They have a bank of lovely volunteers ready and waiting to make regular informal and friendly telephone calls to local over 50s. Can you help link them with people who might appreciate a relaxed weekly call?

Angela is one volunteer who has been making regular befriending calls. Not only does she see the benefit for the people she calls, but she also enjoys making the calls herself.

She says:

"I've found that some people who have been isolated and on their own, really appreciate the calls simply for the opportunity to talk to someone. Others who may not be alone, appreciate the opportunity to talk to someone 'different'.

These calls often include a range of topics, both serious and 'fun,' and both myself and the Befriendee usually have a few laughs during the call. There is always something in general that we can both talk about, and other subjects that crop up that we find we both have a particular experience of, or interest in - some of the topics have been quite unexpected, and we wonder, 'how did we get onto that?' which also raises a smile. The topics have been varied - sharing trips down memory lane, talking about books and films, hobbies, pets, holidays, cooking - so many



things that might seem to be 'run of the mill' conversations, but talking about them with someone new can bring a different interest and perspective to them.

I enjoy the calls as much as the person I'm talking to, both for sharing thoughts and ideas, and also there's always something new to learn for both of us! I find being a telephone befriender both rewarding and enjoyable (without wishing to sound too gushing), but it's true."

Whilst this service was initially launched in response to Covid-19, Ageless Thanet has decided that this will continue to run once lockdown is over. If you, or someone you know, would like a weekly call to have a friendly chat, please call **01843 210005**, or email **info@agelessthanet.org.uk**

Interested in joining Ageless Thanet? You don't have to be aged 50+ to volunteer with them, they recruit anyone over 18. They would love to hear from people who might like to become a volunteer telephone befriender or new 'online social' host (always with their assistance and support). They create bespoke volunteering opportunities which work around the comfort, skills and availability of each individual, and you can give as much or as little time as you like. For more information call **01843 210005** or email **info@agelessthanet.org.uk**

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Westgate & Birchington Inner Wheel Club

Westgate & Birchington Inner Wheel Club have been busy sourcing and sewing 'Scrubs' for the NHS.

Every month when we meet, we hold a raffle at £1 a head. All the profit from the raffle goes to our 'Disasters Fund', which is kept separately from the ordinary charity account. Then when there is a disaster or trouble of any sort we can donate a sum quickly. As we felt that the coronavirus pandemic was likely to be the most disastrous event in most of our lifetimes, it was important to help in any way we could. A few of us joined the 'Margate Scrubbers' who were making 'scrubs' for the QEOM. They were also making scrubs for 'Hot Hubs' where some local GP's were gathering to deal with possible coronavirus patients, and several local care homes have been issued with the scrubs too!

We donated £200 from our disasters fund and then several members generously donated, who were not sewers but wanted to help, which raised the sum donated to just over £450. We sourced 160 metres of royal blue material, tapes for the drawstrings and thread.

This will make 60 sets of scrubs. Margate Scrubbers have taken orders for specific colours and sizes, so that they can conform to the usual uniform colours etc. The first 40 have already been delivered to the maternity unit at QEOM, with a further 20 going to the Pilgrims Hospice.

We also discovered that a local firm, AllStyles, in Minnis Bay, which usually makes plastic signage, had started to produce, at their own expense, PPE visors for the NHS. When they ran out of their own materials they asked for some donations, and we donated £200 to them to purchase more plastic and other materials which were needed. Our partner Rotary club, Westgate & Birchington, also made a donation to the visors' production.



The photos show

Hazel taking delivery of the bale of material. It took 2 people to hold it, but fortunately as it was over 9 feet long they could still socially distance themselves!

One of our members, Carla Latchford sewing at home. She said 'I am proud to be doing my bit for the NHS'.

Hazel Hedges dressed up in some scrubs, with the rainbow logo on the top pocket. She said 'They were rather large as they were XL, and the trousers were very long!'

Sets of completed scrubs.

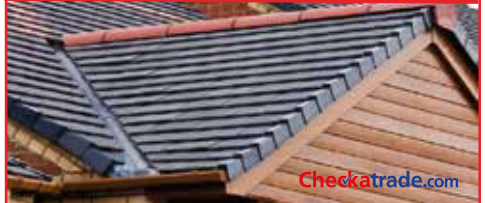
President Jacquie Agnew and Treasurer Louise Stokes donating the cheque and trying on the visors at AllStyles Signs and a close up of the visors with the rainbow logo on.



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The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy

As the UK exits phase one of the Government's response, where the Government has sought to contain, delay, research and mitigate, it will move through two further phases.

Phase two: Smarter controls

Until the UK can reach phase three, the Government will gradually replace the existing social restrictions with smarter measures that balance its aims as effectively as possible.

The Government will enact measures that have the largest effect on controlling the epidemic but the lowest health, economic and social costs.

These will be developed and announced in periodic 'steps' over the coming weeks and months, seeking to maximise the pace at which restrictions are lifted, but with strict conditions to move from each step to the next. The Government will maintain options to react to a rise in transmissions, including by reimposing restrictions if required.

Over time, the Government will improve the effectiveness of these measures and introduce more reactive or localised measures through widespread, accurate monitoring of the disease. That will enable the lifting of more measures for more people, at a faster pace.

Meanwhile, the Government will continue to increase NHS and social care capacity to ensure care for all COVID-19 patients while restoring 'normal' healthcare provision.

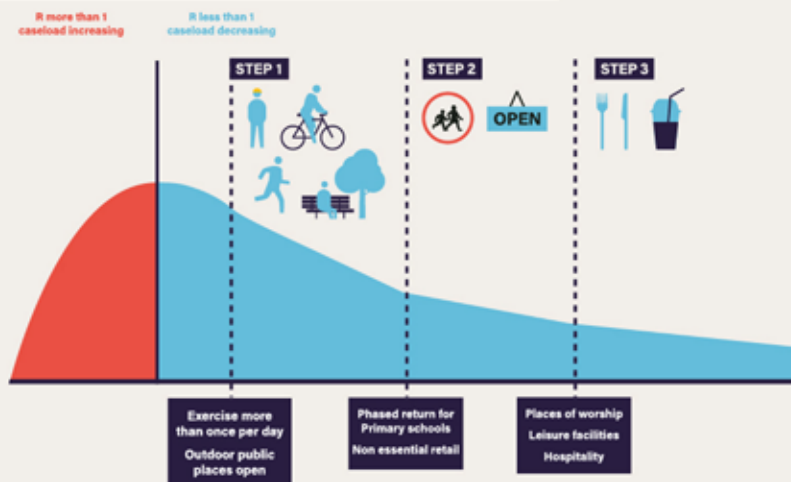
Phase three: Reliable treatment

Eradication of the virus from the UK (and globally) is very unlikely. But rolling out effective treatments and/or a vaccine will allow us to move to a phase where the effect of the virus can be reduced to manageable levels.

To bring about this phase as quickly as possible, the Government is investing in research, developing international partnerships and putting in place the infrastructure to manufacture and distribute treatments and/or a vaccine at scale.

To read the full recovery strategy, visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy

Steps of adjustment to current social distancing measures





Coronavirus

How to get tested



If you think you might have coronavirus you can now have a test.



The signs of coronavirus are:

- High temperature
- Or a new and continuous cough
- Or loss of smell or taste



If you or anyone you live with has any of these signs then you must all stay at home.

You can find out how to get a test and how long you need to stay at home at **[nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)**

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The Summer Reading Challenge is back – **digitally**

The popular annual Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4-11 is under way once more through KCC's libraries service – despite the library buildings themselves being currently closed.

This year's theme is "Silly Squad" which is all about funny books, happiness and things that make us laugh. Children taking part in the challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into many different kinds of funny books.

Children's reading can dip during the long summer holidays if they do not have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure, and the annual Summer Reading Challenge is intended to address this.

Last year, 19,111 Kent children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge (Space Chase – 2019) – with 11,175 children completing the Challenge – significant increases of 12% and 15% respectively on 2018.

Usually children visit their local library to register and collect a wallet, stickers and other rewards as they progress through the challenge, reading a total of six books.

However, with the disruption caused by COVID-19 causing public libraries to be currently closed, the 2020 Challenge will work in a different way. For the first time in Kent, it is going to be a digital-only activity to keep children reading and support parents and carers with children already at home.

Silly Squad launched on Friday 5th June with a special day of curated virtual events on the Summer Reading Challenge's Facebook page. It includes special super silly readings, family activities and draw-a-longs from guest celebrities and authors. The challenge then runs through the summer until the end of September.

The digital challenge will be free to access, featuring games, quizzes and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading related activities at home.

Children can choose their own reading goals, create book reviews, play games and collect virtual rewards. Parents and guardians can register their children online at:

www.sillysquad.org.uk via the safe, sign-up process.

Although library buildings are closed, Kent Libraries will continue to deliver the Challenge by promoting it to families, and e-Books and e-Audio books are free to borrow from www.kent.gov.uk/libraries with titles for children as well as adults. eBooks and eAudio are automatically returned so you do not have to keep an eye on the due date.

There will also be weekly virtual Silly Squad-themed creative craft challenges during the Challenge, visit:

www.facebook.com/KentLibrariesArchives
Find out more about the Challenge at :
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.





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What to do in the garden in the **summer**

July brings long, warm days that continue late into the evening - perfect for pottering in the garden after work, hosting barbecues, and enjoying your beds and borders as they reach their peak.

For advice on what to get started on this summer, check out the 'what to sow & grow in July' page (website bottom right). In the meantime, here's a list of jobs to keep on top of:



TIMELY TIPS

1. Summer can still throw out a few surprises – make sure tall plants and climbers are well supported in case of bad weather.
2. Water at dusk to reduce evaporation and use mulch to retain moisture around plants.
3. Terracotta pots are prone to evaporation so dampen the pot down to keep roots inside cool and damp.
4. Regularly deadhead bedding and perennial plants to encourage new blooms for as long as possible.



IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

- Cut back faded perennial plants to keep borders tidy.
- As your penstemon flowers fade, cut them back to just above a bud to encourage more flowers.
- Cutting back growth in hanging baskets can encourage new flowers and foliage and will revive the display. Make sure you that feed your baskets well after doing this.
- Cut back hardy geraniums and delphiniums after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms.
- Continue to tie in and train new growth on climbing plants.
- Prune wisteria now. Just remove the whippy side-shoots from the main branch framework to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem).
- Prune lupins to encourage further flowers.
- If you need to prune your deciduous magnolia, now's the best time to do it.
- Divide clumps of bearded Iris so they have time to form roots and flowers buds for next year before the cold weather arrives.
- Take cuttings from your favourite tender plants for overwintering indoors. Cuttings can also still be taken from shrubs and herbaceous perennials.
- Deadhead bedding plants and perennial plants to stop them self-seeding and to encourage further flowering.
- Deadhead your roses to keep them looking tidy. Leave the flowers in place if your rose produces attractive hips (seed pods).
- Deadhead sweet peas regularly to keep them blooming. Water daily in dry weather.
- Capture seed heads from dandelions and other weeds. Collect them before they get a chance to release their seeds and spread throughout your garden.
- Keep an eye out for pests on plants, early treatment is best.
- Stop rust damaging hollyhock foliage by pruning out affected leaves and/or spraying with a fungicide.

- Look out for clematis wilt. Symptoms include wilting leaves and black discolouration on the leaves and stems. Cut out all affected material and dispose of it in your household waste.
- July is a good time to spray ground elder, bindweed and other persistent weeds with a glyphosate-based weed killer as the plants now have lots of leaf surface area with which to absorb it.
- Use water butts instead of tap water as often as you can when watering your plants.
- Turn the content of your compost bin every month to keep it well aerated.
- Keep bird baths topped up in hot weather.
- Remove floating blanket weed from ponds by twirling it around a stick or garden cane. Before composting it, pile the weed close to the pond for a few hours so any displaced creatures can crawl back into the water.



LOOKING AFTER YOUR LAWN

- This is your last chance to feed your lawn with a special lawn fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth.
- Water your lawn during hot weather, particularly newly seeded or turfed lawns. Don't allow new lawns to dry out.
- If you're experiencing prolonged dry weather, set your mower blades higher to reduce stress on the grass.
- Warm weather encourages rapid weed growth - apply specific lawn weed killer to tackle this problem.
- If your lawn is infested by ants, brush out the nests on a dry day. Always brush them away before mowing.
- Recut any lawn edges if needed and install lawn edging to make future maintenance easier.
- Look after your aphid eaters - ladybirds, hoverflies and lacewings feast on greenfly and blackfly so it's worth protecting them.
- Look for aphids on the underside of leaves - rub them off by hand or spray with an insecticide to prevent them multiplying. Alternatively use natural pest control such as Lacewing larvae.
- Keep an eye out for scarlet lily beetles on your lilies - remove and crush any you see. Also check for the sticky brown larvae on the underside of leaves.
- If your plants are wilting for no obvious reason, check for vine weevils by tipping your plants out of their pots and looking for 'C' shaped creamy maggots amongst the roots. Treat with nematodes if vine weevils are spotted.
- Prevent slugs attacking your young plants by using pest control. For container plants apply copper tape.

OTHER JOBS ABOUT THE GARDEN

- Water the soil around the base of plants rather than the foliage. Make 'pools' around individual plants so that the water is directed straight to the roots where it's needed.
- Water containers and baskets thoroughly in hot weather. Continue to feed them with a balanced liquid fertiliser every 2 to 4 weeks.



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