



# **Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council Newsletter March 2025**

Parish Office, Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall,  
Horton Road, South Darenth, Kent, DA4 9AZ

## **St George's Family Village Fête Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 Heathside – behind Village Hall**

Parish Clerk: Lisa Johnson  
Assistant Parish Clerk: Vanessa Maskery

[office@hksdparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:office@hksdparishcouncil.co.uk) 01322 865193

The office is open for visitors on Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm

The Parish Council meet on the first Monday of each month  
7.30pm in the Village Hall - All welcome to come along  
[www.hksdparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.hksdparishcouncil.co.uk)

# USEFUL CONTACTS

**Police** - 999 (emergencies if life is in danger or crime is in progress)  
101 (non-emergencies)

Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

**Sevenoaks District Council** - 01732 227000

<https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/>

Fly tipping, street cleaning, dog fouling, parking issues, bottle banks, graffiti, planning applications, abandoned vehicles

**Dartford Borough Council** – 01322 343434 <https://www.dartford.gov.uk/>

Fly tipping in Roman Villa Road (outside our boundary)

<https://www.dartford.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online>

**Kent Highways** - 03000 418181 (Emergency out of hours 03000 419191)

Anything that may cause accident or injury, Kent Highways online

This is the link to report a pothole, or a number of other issues that KCC are responsible for. Roads, potholes, streetlights, pavements, drains, traffic lights

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/ReportAFault.aspx>

**Environment Agency** - 03708 506 506

For any problems with the river, (although often issues are the responsibility of landowners either side of the river)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

**Citizens Advice** – 0808 278 7810

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-west-kent/contact-us/>

**Thames Water** <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/emergencies>

**River Darent Medical Group, Devon Road Surgery** – 01322 862121

# Parish Council News

There has unfortunately been a spate of anti-social behaviour causing vandalism throughout the village within the past few months.

The bridge at Franks Lane has been vandalised twice following KCC undertaking works to reinstate it. KCC structure team will undertake some short-term safety measures and then review how best to proceed. CCTV has been discussed but unfortunately KCC only provide cameras in relation to fly tipping. Criminal damage issues are led by the Police. Cllr Roger Gough is proposing to bring together the various organisations involved to plan the next steps.

There has been some vandalism to trees being cut down in the 100 Year Wood (this is located between Westminster Field and the A225). Gill Tripp's bench has been vandalised and only remnants of the bench remain. The signage and posts have been removed.

During November there was damage to Heathside field suspected to be caused by unauthorised riding of motorbikes and quad bikes.

If anyone has any information, please do report to the police and inform the Parish Office.

At the November Parish Council meeting, Nick Gurr was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor. This means we now have eight Parish Councillors and there is still space for one more. If you are interested in volunteering for your local community and helping to make a difference, please do contact the parish office.

There are some available allotment plots. Please do contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to rent one or would like further information.

# What is a Precept?

The precept is a tax that Parish Council's charge their local electors to meet their budget requirements. Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their precept plus any other income they generate from services or facilities they provide. The Parish Council precept is part of the Council Tax and is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payments. The precept requirement is the difference between the Parish Council's estimated income and its anticipated spending requirements for the financial year (its budget). The financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Parish Council needs to agree a budget before it can set its precept, and both must be agreed by the full Parish Council. When calculating the precept, the Parish Council takes into consideration current year's spending levels for ongoing services for which it is responsible e.g. recreation facilities, village hall, streetlights, cemeteries, insurance and cost of the parish office, costs of any additional spending plans or projects, provision for contingencies and reserves, and levels of anticipated income.

Once a precept has been approved by the Parish Council. They inform Sevenoaks District Council, and it is then added to residents' council tax bills.

Part of the precept calculation is the 'Band D equivalent' Band D is the middle band of council tax paid on an average property in the area. The Band D equivalent provides a measure which allows precepts among councils of different sizes to be compared. The estimated number of Band D equivalent properties in the tax base is notified to the Parish Council by SDC prior to the precept setting exercise. The required precept is divided by the number of houses in the tax base to get the Band D equivalent.

**The precept request for Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council for April 2025-March 2026 is £154,133. The Parish Council portion on your council tax bill for an average band D property will equate to £117.41 per year, £2.25 per week.**

**St George's Family Village Fête**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**  
**On Heathside and in the Village Hall**  
**12noon until 4pm**

**Free event hosted by the Horton Kirby and  
South Darenth Parish Council**

**Craft stalls, train rides, pony rides, face  
painting, free bouncy castle and slide, beat-  
the-goalie, BBQ, giant darts, games and  
much, much more!**

**Bring all the family for a traditional fun  
village day out.**



## **HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

In December each year, the Parish Council awards grants, at its discretion, to community organisations who demonstrate a clear need for financial support. The organisation must be either non-profit making or charitable. The organisation will normally be expected to have clearly written aims and objectives, a written constitution and membership rules, copies of which should be submitted as part of the application.

The Council only award grants where the use or purpose of the grant benefits Horton Kirby and South Darenth and its residents. The benefit could include but is not limited to providing a service and/or providing activities and/or enhancing the quality of life.

Each application is assessed on its own merits. However, to ensure as fair a distribution as possible of available funds, the Council will take into account the amount and frequency of any previous awards. Due account may also be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or fundraising activities.

Grants have been awarded for December 2024 as follows:

- Horton Kirby Cricket Club - £250 to replace broken patio furniture for the enjoyment of home and away teams as well as visitors
- Horton Kirby Bowls Club - £250 for chairs and replacement hedging
- St Mary's Society of Bellringers - £500 towards the cost of protection equipment of the bell ropes and a new flag
- Darent River Preservation Society (DRIPS) - £500 for river testing and processing kit and volunteer supervision days.

If you would like further information to apply for a grant for December 2025 please do contact the Parish Clerk.

# Solar Farm Developments

## Within Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish boundaries

Horton Wood The developer is currently working on the planning conditions attached to the new consent. These and the remaining pre-commencement conditions under the original consent remain the developer's priority and this will dictate when the project can physically commence construction. They are still targeting the summer of 2025. However, this is the current estimate and the actual programme start date is yet to be confirmed. (See map1 hatched black and labelled HORTON WOOD approved).

Chimmens Farm This planning application was rejected by SDC. However, an appeal has now been lodged. Residents and organisations that made comments on the original planning application will be contacted directly by the reviewing inspectorate (see map1 hatched yellow and labelled CHIMMENS SF PROPOSAL)

## Within neighbouring Parishes

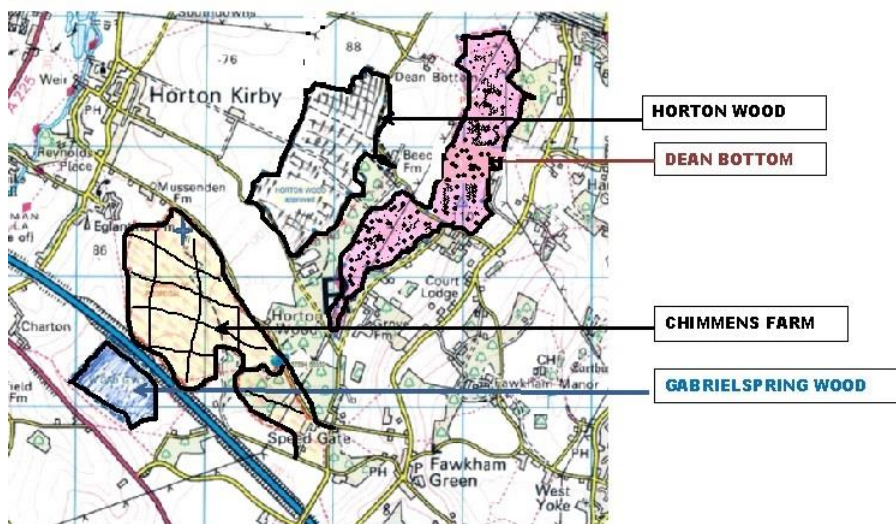
Gabrielspring Wood This development is in Farningham jurisdiction and is significantly smaller than other developments in being about 40acres (see map1 hatched blue and labelled W GAB G W) and is awaiting an SDC planning decision.

Dean Bottom Solar Farm The proposed development is in Fawkham jurisdiction and of a similar size to the Horton Wood array. The developers proposed a consultation presentation, however, to date this has not taken place and there has not been a formal planning application. (See map1 hatched pink and labelled DB)

New Ash Green Solar Farm The proposed development is in Ash-Cum Ridley jurisdiction and of a similar size to the Horton Wood array being approx. 200 acres (see map 2) A consultation presentation was made to Ash-Cum-Ridley PC on the 13th November. Awaiting formal planning application.

# Solar Farm Developments

Map 1



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# Village Litter Pick

Please join us for a 'Spring Clean' on

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Together we can make a concerted effort to tidy our roads and verges - the more of us there are, the easier it will be.

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am

For more information please contact [cllrwhite@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cllrwhite@sevenoaks.gov.uk)



# **Join the Parish Council as a Parish Councillor**

Are you passionate about Horton Kirby and South Darenth? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the community of Horton Kirby and South Darenth. Make a change and become a councillor.

Being a parish councillor is a varied and highly fulfilling role. You do not need any experience or special qualifications, and you will gain lots of new skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence.

By becoming a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, because of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, helping local groups, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

It is true to say that on their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the borough council, health authorities, police etc). In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

Please come along to a Parish Council meeting held on the first Monday of each month or contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

# **HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The LHS celebrated its Thirtieth Anniversary by holding its AGM in November at the Bull in Horton Kirby. Some 20 members were able to attend the event, the AGM business was completed in record time and the lunch provided by the staff at the Bull was excellent. It was unanimously agreed that future AGMs should be held there.

Sadly, the Society has lost one of its founder members, Peter Flewin, who passed away recently. Peter had always been a great supporter of the LHS not only with information based on his knowledge of the villages but also through his vast collection of local photographs. Although he was unable to attend meetings in more recent years, he was always kept in the loop and contributed from his home through telephone calls and member's visits.

Meetings are bi-monthly in the Jubilee Hall

Membership is £10 (£15 for a couple)

Refreshments and raffle at all meetings

New members and visitors are always welcome

Books on local history are available from the Parish Office

## **2025 Programme**

10th March Melanie Gibson-Barton "And so to Ted" (please bring a Teddy Bear)

19th May Wilf Lower "Medway Tales"

14th July Keith Whitmore "Old Dartford"

8th September Chris Bull "Grim Gravesend" or "Sutton at Hone Library"

10th November AGM at the Bull 12.30pm

**Terry Moyle (Chair) 07939581572 or [terrymoyle74@gmail.com](mailto:terrymoyle74@gmail.com)**



**1st Horton Kirby Scout Group meet at the  
Horton Kirby Scout Hut, Horton Road, DA4 9BS**

**We help change lives by offering 4 to 18-year-old children and young adults fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in the community.**

**Squirrels: (age 4-5) Mondays 16:15 - 17:15 [firsthksquirrels@yahoo.com](mailto:firsthksquirrels@yahoo.com)**

**Beavers: (age 6-8) Tuesdays 17:45 -19:00 [hkbeavers@ymail.com](mailto:hkbeavers@ymail.com)**

**Cubs: (age 8-10.5) Mondays 18:00 - 19:30 [hkcubs@ymail.com](mailto:hkcubs@ymail.com)**

**Scouts:(age 10.5-14) Wednesday 19:15 - 20:45 [hkscouts@ymail.com](mailto:hkscouts@ymail.com)**

**Explorers: (age 14-18) Fridays 19:00 - 21:00 [hkexplorers@ymail.com](mailto:hkexplorers@ymail.com)**

**There are spaces available in most groups for boys and girls**

**If any adults would like to help there are always vacancies for volunteers, please get in touch or come down and see us**

# Horton Kirby Cricket Club

As the days get longer, so the cricket season gets closer, and we are hoping it will be as successful as 2024. Members have just started attending winter nets which take place on a Monday evening at Longfield Academy at 5.30pm. Outdoor nets at the Club start in mid-April.

The Club would like to thank the Parish Council for a grant towards some new patio furniture, to make spectating even better and for other Pavilion improvements.

Like other facilities in the Village, we suffered criminal damage to our fence in September which necessitated replacing the whole fence which was repaired by members at great expense.

One member is putting together a History of the Club and has sourced a lot of information. If anyone has any photos, recollections or press cuttings we would love to hear from you. You can contact Mac on 07801 550 949.

We would welcome any new members to our family friendly Club, no matter what your ability as we play league and friendly games. We are looking to raise a Sunday side this season. We have an expanding Junior section, so any interested youngsters do feel free to come along.

For more info contact Darren Bull 0778977322 [hortonkirbycc@gmail.com](mailto:hortonkirbycc@gmail.com)



# Can you volunteer to drive for our local Community Car scheme?

Having established a community transport scheme in Farningham and Eynsford to help people with journeys to health and social care appointments, we are keen to extend this resource to Horton Kirby and South Darenth.

The project consists of two parts:

- a voluntary car scheme (where volunteers use their own vehicles to transport residents local to the area, and are reimbursed at the government approved rate of 45p per mile)
- access to a specially adapted wheelchair accessible vehicle which is owned and run by the scheme with help from a government grant and ongoing sponsorship from BJ Motors (White Post Garage, Farningham).

Since the scheme was launched last summer, we have enrolled sixteen volunteer drivers and over forty residents from Eynsford and Farningham, and we have provided over one hundred journeys to hospitals, primary care practices and other health and social care settings.

Before launching the scheme in Horton Kirby and South Darenth we need to establish a pool of local volunteers who can support both the voluntary car scheme and drive the wheelchair accessible vehicle. Volunteers are added to a WhatsApp group, where the coordinator posts transport requests, and drivers can respond to as many or as few journeys according to your circumstances.

Please call Steve Boddington (coordinator) on 07405 710197 if you would like to discuss this further or would like to volunteer.

e-mail: [dvcc.car@outlook.com](mailto:dvcc.car@outlook.com)

website: [www.dvcc.online/community-car](http://www.dvcc.online/community-car)



# **VILLAGERS GARDENING CLUB**

## **Programme - 2025**

**Horton Kirby and South Darenth Jubilee Hall 3.30pm**

- 17th March    Kent Wildlife Trust - Reserves through the seasons
- 21<sup>st</sup> April     Hanging Baskets – A joy to make - Helen Harris
- 19th May     Peruvian Flowers – Caroline Halfpenny
- 16th June     A Prize Chelsea Garden – A Move to the Ellenor Hospice
- 21<sup>st</sup> July       Darent Rural Rides - Christoph Bull
- 18th August   Forge House Garden   Tea and Cakes– 3.30pm
- 7th September   Hyde Hall RHS Garden – Coach Outing
- 15th Sept       To be confirmed
- 20th October   Kent Cob Nuts at Potash Farm - Alexander Hunt
- 17th November     Castle Farm Shoreham Growing and Using Lavender
- 15th December    Christmas Social Pearly King and Queen

**New Members and Visitors Always Welcome**

**Annual Subscription £30 - per Calendar Year**  
**Visitors £4.50 per visit**

**For further details contact Peter Bradley on 01322 862005**



# Sevenoaks - Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth

**39 crimes were reported during November 2024**

**Criminal damage and arson – 8**

**Vehicle - 6**

**Anti-social behaviour - 5**

**Violence and Sexual Offences - 11**

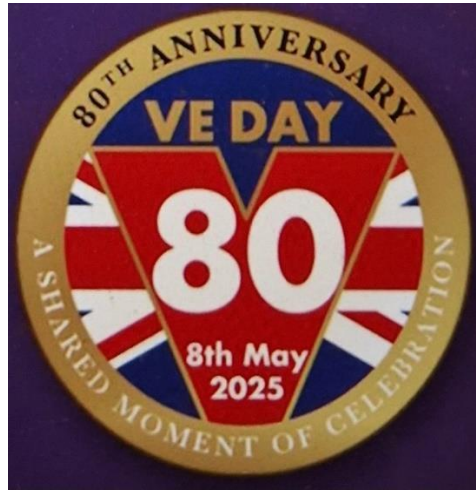
**Other - 9**

**Please report all incidents to 101 or online**

**<https://www.kent.police.uk/area/your-area/local-policing-team-contact/contact-your-local-policing-team/id-like-to-report-a-crime/?tid=731279&lid=&cid=&rid=800841&stepid=1>**

**If anti-social behaviour is not reported, then there will be no record. No record means the perception that there are no incidents. The more you report the more chance of some action by the Police being taken. Please do not just record your frustration on Facebook.**

**please report anything you see or suspect**



**VE DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CEEBRATIONS on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
VILLAGE HALL 7.30PM**

The VE Day flag will be flown.

The church bells will ring at 6.30pm.

1940s entertainment 8.00 – 9.00 pm

Proclamation 9.30pm

Beacon Lighting 9.30pm

Teas and coffees – South Darenth Royal British Legion

Fish and chip supper

As we have a fish and chip van in attendance it would be good to have some idea of numbers. If you plan to attend, It would be extremely helpful to let either Lisa (parish clerk) or Terry know before 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Lisa – [office@hksdparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:office@hksdparishcouncil.co.uk)

Terry – [terrymoyle74@gmail.com](mailto:terrymoyle74@gmail.com) 07939581572



# **LEVELTOP SERVICES LTD**

## **Landscaping & Garden Maintenance**

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Grass Treatments - Small Demolition  
Hedge Trimming - Turfing/Seeding  
Gutter Clearing - Artificial Grass  
Grass Cutting - Tree Pruning - Shed Bases  
Tree Work - Planting - Fencing - Patios**

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**leveltopservices1234@outlook.com**

# The Darent River Preservation Society

*Early inhabitants gave the river its name – Derva, the ‘oak river’.*

*This was enlarged by the Romans to Derwentio, the ‘river of oak trees’.*

The chalk river – whose name originates from prolific oak trees that crowded its banks – rises in the Greensand Hills south of Westerham and runs for 21 miles through the Darent Valley to join the Thames at the Dartford marshes.

Once navigable in flat-bottomed boats as far upstream as Lullingstone, and with sufficient force to power up to 30 mills along its length, today’s river has been left on the brink.

Continuing over-abstraction by water companies, a changing climate and pollution threaten its survival – and that of the wildlife it sustains.

Join us and connect with people and organisations who are working to safeguard the future of the river.

Every river is special, but the Darent’s status as a chalk river marks it out further. Chalk streams – of which only around 200 exist – are unique to England and north-west Europe. They derive most of their flow from underground aquifers which, together with the chalk landscape, give these rivers a gentle quality with their own aesthetic and ecological characteristics.

Our tireless lobbying put the plight of the Darent on the political agenda. In the first 15 years since DRiPS formed, no fewer than 20 reports were written about the river’s low flow by bodies such as the National Rivers Authority, Thames Water and the Environment Agency.

**As the current guardians of the river, we need to safeguard its future and improve its condition for future generations. Together, we can make a difference.**

Email: [darentdrips1985@gmail.com](mailto:darentdrips1985@gmail.com)

# The Weir at Westminster Field

We are aware of the problems in the UK and around the world. Everyday news concerning the environment is in the media. Some of it is very alarming. But let us turn to our Parish of Horton Kirby and South Darenth. The Darent runs through our Parish. The river and its controlling structures require maintenance. There are weirs further up the Darent and there is our weir at Westminster Field. This one does need urgent repairs and should be carried out in late summer when the river flow is at its lowest. Now the river level is exceptionally high, and repairs cannot be done. A detailed visual inspection of the weir was carried out on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 by me and District Councillor Alan White. We are grateful to the residents of Millen Court for giving us permission to do this. We could only see what was above the water as the river is in its high winter flow. The sluice controls could still be used but are not connected. The sluices are set in a fixed position regardless of river flow or volume. The last time the sluice gates were renewed was in 1990 according to records. Inspection and repairs are now overdue.

The central pier needs repair. The brickwork urgently needs repointing. Water is leaking into the internal parts of the structure. The fixed concrete overflow to the right looking upstream from the bridge still looks good. The weir is part of Millen Court estate and is theirs to look after. However, the weir is part of our heritage and needs attention very soon. So, when you cross the bridge into Westminster Field, look upstream and marvel at the engineering of years gone by. It is worth preserving and needs your help.

On a different note, we ask the Environment Agency to clear vegetation from the river in the Parish. This has not been done for over 20 years. There are blockages which need removing to prevent flooding downstream from Westminster Field.

**Malcom Dunn**  
**Darent River Preservation Society**

## Village Hall Regular Activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8am-12pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 9.15am- 12.15pm)	8am-3pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 9.15am- 12.15pm)	8am-12pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 9.15am- 12.15pm)	8am-3pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 9.15am- 12.15pm or 2.45pm)	8am-3pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 9.15am- 12.15pm)	Private Bookings	Private Bookings
1.15pm-3.15pm  Monday Club (term time)	12pm-3pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 12.15pm- 2.45pm)	1.45pm-4pm Short Mat Bowls (seasonal)	12pm-3pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 12.15pm- 2.45pm)	12pm-3pm Twinkletoes Preschool (Session 12.15pm- 2.45pm)	Private Bookings	Private Bookings
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 7.30pm-9.30pm PC Meeting	4pm-5.15pm Kate Barnes Theatre Club	7.30pm-late Falcons Table Tennis Club	8pm-10pm Bushin Kenpo Martial Arts Academy	Private Bookings	Private Bookings	Private Bookings
Dec 24						

## Jubilee Hall Regular Activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	10.30am-11.30am Redbridge Yoga				Private bookings	10.00am- 11.00am Vinyasa Yoga & Private bookings
12.00pm-3.00pm Twinkletoes  Village Garden Club 3.30pm-5.30pm Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup>  Street Dance 5.00pm – 6.00pm Village Hall 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	5.15pm-6pm Beginners Tap (ages 5-14)				Private bookings	Private bookings
7.30pm-9.30pm Local History Club 8i-monthly 2nd	7.30pm – 8.45pm Dance Generation Yoga Flow	8.00pm – 9.00pm Adult Dance Fitness	7.00pm – 10.00pm  W.I. Monthly 3rd	Private Bookings	Private bookings	Private bookings

Please join us at the

# The New Monday Club

1.45pm to 3.00pm

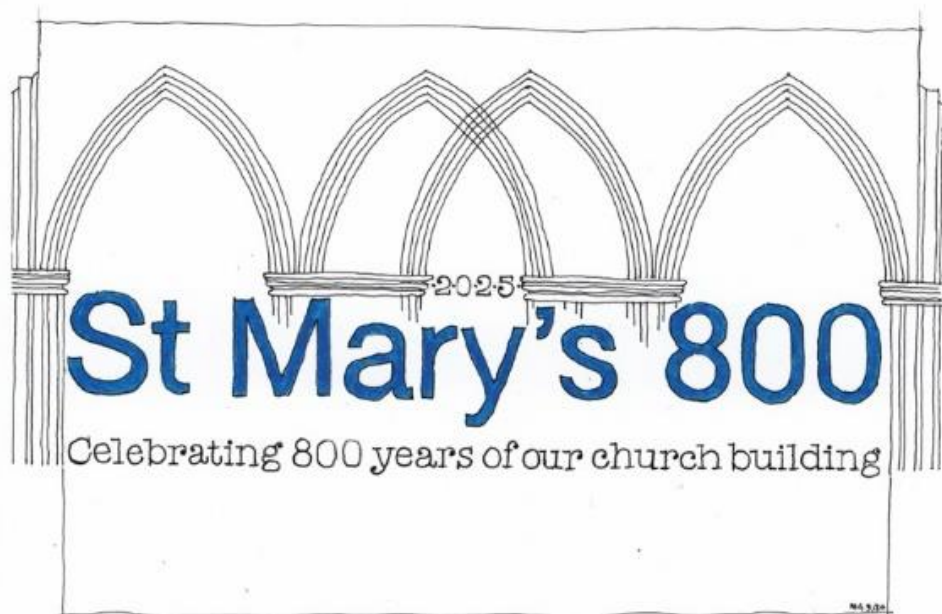
Horton Kirby & South Darenth  
Village Hall, DA4 9AX

A local not for profit community group,  
suitable for children up to the age of 5  
Toys, games, singing, arts and crafts  
plus refreshments for everyone included

£4 per family & £1 per extra adult

No need to book in advance

Find us on Facebook or contact Debbie  
on 07956 851571 for more info



**The Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev Jonathan Gibbs, launched a year of celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of St Mary's Horton Kirby Church building at a service at St Mary's on 12 January. Throughout 2025 there will be a series of talks, concerts, and exhibitions to welcome people to St Mary's, especially those who don't normally go to church.**

**Around £200,000 needs to be raised for repairs to save this historic building. St Mary's receives no financial assistance from national or local government or from Church bodies.**

**We must be self-sufficient to survive.**



## **St Mary's Church Dates for your diary:**

**Saturday 22 March 7.30pm:** Concert - Michael Bublé Tribute with Jason Allen and a live quartet, tickets £20

**April 5-12:** History Exhibition

**Sunday 18 May 3pm:** Concert - The Swingtime Sweethearts (Swing music and songs from WW2), tickets £15

**June 7-14:** Art Exhibition (Open Garden at Court Lodge also on June 7)

**Saturday 5 July 2pm:** Concert Horton Kirby Primary School, Scouts and Explorers

**Sunday 13 July 4.30pm:** Evensong sung by the Choir of St John's East Dulwich

**September 5-8:** Flower Festival

**Sunday 5 October 3pm:** Concert - Gwalia Male Voice Choir, tickets £18

**Saturday 15 November:** Concert - Classical Music, time and ticket price tbc.

**Saturday 6 December:** Festive Christmas Evening with Carol Singing

### **For further information and tickets, contact:**

Malcolm Green: [linda.green55@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:linda.green55@yahoo.co.uk) 07943 325061

Karen Holland: [karen.800stmarys@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.800stmarys@btinternet.com) 07840 642750

Christine Page: 01322 864776



**Village Church South Darenth,  
21 New Road**

Sunday Services 11am, friendly and informal we extend a warm welcome to you.

Follow us on Facebook 'Village Church South Darenth' for regular updates

**David and Vivienne Curtis** were inaugurated as the new Pastors of Village Church with a special service in the Village Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> January, to accommodate all those who wanted to celebrate as they started their new role. David and Vivienne have a very long association with South Darenth with David having grown up in the village with his family here. We are thrilled to welcome them into church life here!

**In honour of Ben and Gwen Dawes for their love and faithfulness**

**Ben Dawes** retired officially in September having been preparing for a few years to retire, plans that were put on hold following the very sad passing of his wife Gwen in 2023. He and Gwen pastored the Church for 28 years, leading the Sunday worship, Sunday school, after school Buzz Club, and Women's Fellowship. Christmas 'Love in a Box' gifts, support for missionaries abroad, gifts for Oasis Women's refuge and more were regular features of their ministry. Despite his retirement Ben was still leading Carol singing just last month in the Jolly Millers much to everyone's enjoyment. Ben and Gwen also guided the church into its own Trusteeship under the Church Growth Trust in 2013, ensuring the building will remain in Christian service for years to come. They instigated the extension to the front of the building which incorporated accessible toilets and entrance to the hall. The kitchen was also overhauled to enable catering for events such as the Harvest Suppers and Christmas dinners. Last year we had a memorable Passover Meal as well. Their vision was for 'church to feel like home'.



**In March 2025 The Gospel Hall (as it was originally known) will be 90 years old.** We will be looking to write the history for posterity and if you have any memories or photos you would like to contribute or share, please do get in touch with Heather 07932 011874 or email [heatherrohard@mac.com](mailto:heatherrohard@mac.com)

### **Friends and Neighbours**

Our weekly warm space has enjoyed its second year; guests have really enjoyed coming along for hot drinks, a cooked dinner, board/card games, painting and plenty of chat. 71 people have now benefited from a visit and there are regularly 15-20 people each week. As the Spring arrives the format is likely to change so keep an eye on Facebook updates or get in touch for more information. A **huge thank you to our volunteers** who run this and to the **Anthony Roper Charity** for their donation of £200 towards running costs.

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### **Marjorie Seal MBE**

**The memorial seat is now in situ at the corner of Montgomery Road and East Hill. This is in memory of Marjorie Seal MBE for all she did for the villages.**



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
SOUTH DARENTH AND DISTRICT



# VE DAY

## 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

### 10 M A Y 2 0 2 5

# Hog Roast To Commemorate VE80

**Saturday 10th May 2025**

**-6:30pm til late**

**£15pp- Ticket includes a  
welcome drink and Hog Roast  
All Veterans and Serving  
Members are invited for Free**

# BAR



## PLEASE CONTACT FOR TICKETS

The Royal British Legion  
South Darenth and District Branch  
Devon Road, South Darenth, DA4 9AB

Amy 07922920310  
[trbsdbookings@gmail.com](mailto:trbsdbookings@gmail.com)

*In Aid of Branch Funds*

Please inform us, prior to the event, if you have any dietary needs

No Under 18s





**Calendar of Forthcoming Events 2025**  
**The Royal British Legion Hall, Devon Road**

**Friday Quiz Nights**

21 Mar, 16 May, 18 July, 12 Sept, 21 Nov

7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Max 8 players per team. £5 pp.

To Reserve your table, call Steve on **07958 489129**

**Tuesday Book Swap and Coffee mornings**

18 Mar, 20 May, 15 July, 16 Sept, 18 Nov

Swap books you have read for more books you would like to read

Hot drinks and cakes on sale

**80<sup>th</sup> V.E. Day Commemoration & Hog Roast**

**Saturday 10 May 2025 18.30 – 23.30** ..... with licensed bar.

£15 pp to include food, entertainment and complimentary drink on arrival. No charge for Veterans or serving Forces members.

For tickets call **07922 920310** or email [trblsdbookings@gmail.com](mailto:trblsdbookings@gmail.com)

Dates still to be confirmed for Open Mic Night, but next one is 21 March. All welcome From 8 pm until late..... with licensed bar



# **HORTON KIRBY BOWLS CLUB**



**We welcome both new and experienced Bowlers to one of the most successful Bowling Clubs in Kent. All types of membership are available, and tuition is provided free of charge to new bowlers both male and female.**

**The environment we provide is ideal for those who wish to play the game competitively or as a very pleasant pastime.**

**We have several Club matches each week against other Clubs for both men and women and have internal competition as well.**

**There is a lot going on for bowlers of all ages and standards. Young bowlers are very welcome. If you are interested in finding out about joining, please contact us by telephone or by visiting the Club when it is open.**

**Bowls is not only a sport, but you can also have a varied and active social life at the Club. It is the ideal sport for meeting new people, socialising and meeting new challenges head on.**

**In the first instance, please call 01322 863544. Alternatively, please call in when we are open at Heathside, Horton Road, South Darenth, DA4 7AX.**

# A HUGE Thank You to Our Generous Community

We are absolutely thrilled to announce the incredible generosity shown by the residents of South Darenth, Horton Kirby and Sutton-at-Hone in support of the Ellenor Hospice. Thanks to your kindness, we have raised a staggering **£3649.04**, your best yet. This outstanding achievement will make a real difference to the lives of those cared for by the hospice and their families.

Since 2020 the Santa Sleigh Run has raised £14,556. Your support is truly invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for every donation.

## Special Thanks to Our Local Businesses

We would like to extend a special thank you to some fantastic local businesses whose contributions have been instrumental in making our fundraising efforts a success:

- **Timber Mouldings, The Bridges, The Jolly Millers and The Bull:** A huge thank you for your combined donation which enabled us to build a brand-new sleigh! This was a fantastic addition to our fundraising activities and brought joy to many.
- **The Cafe at Hawley Garden Centre:** Thank you for your generous donation of sweets for Santa to give out. These treats brought smiles to many faces and added a touch of magic to our event.
- **Mark Luck Haulage:** thank you for your donation of diesel so Santa could get around the villages

We are incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive and generous community. Thank you once again for your kindness and for helping us to support the vital work of the Ellenor Hospice.

ASHLEY, DAVE, and SUE



# BLB

THE BROW & LASH BAR

HOME BASED BEAUTICIAN IN  
SOUTH DARENTH

OFFERING BROW, LASH &  
NAIL TREATMENTS

@THEBROWANDLASHBARKENT\_  
THEBROWANDLASHBARKENT@GMAIL.COM







St Mary's PCC in association with Celebtime Ltd present  
at St Mary's Church, Horton Road, Horton Kirby, DA4 9BN

**JASON ALLEN**  
tribute to  
**MICHAEL BUBLÉ**

with four-piece live band  
and licensed bar

**ST MARY'S  
HORTON KIRBY**

**Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm**  
**admission by ticket £20**



**FOR  
FURTHER  
INFORMATION  
AND  
TICKETS:**

**MALCOLM GREEN**  
07943 325061  
linda.green55@yahoo.co.uk

**CHRISTINE PAGE**  
01322 864776

**KAREN HOLLAND**  
07840 642750  
karen\_800stmarys@btinternet.com

# ★ KATE'S PERFORMING ARTS ★



THEATRE CLUB INCORPORATES  
DANCE, SINGING & DRAMA.  
CLASSES WILL HELP BUILD  
CONFIDENCE!

## TUESDAY THEATRE CLUB

4PM-5.15PM

## BEGINNERS TAP DANCE CLASS

5.15PM-6PM

HORTON KIRBY & SOUTH DARENTH  
VILLAGE HALL!

THEATRE CLUB £8.50 PER WEEK

TAP ONLY £6



AGES  
4-11



**KATE HAS BEEN TEACHING FOR 20 YEARS,  
FULLY QUALIFIED AND DBS CHECKED**  
**KATE BARNES: 0796 2203222**  
**kateweller4@hotmail.com**



## STREET DANCE CLASS! EVERY MONDAY 5PM-6PM ANYONE WELCOME AGED 6-14



**£8.50 PER WEEK**

**COME FOR A FREE TRIAL!**

**BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW WITH KATE BARNES: 0796 2203222**



# ADULT DANCE FITNESS!

**Wednesdays 8pm-9pm  
Jubilee Hall-Horton Kirby &  
South Darenth Village Hall**

**LOVE TO DANCE? WANT TO GET FIT!?  
THIS IS THE CLASS FOR YOU. FAST-  
PACED FUN DANCE ROUTINES**

**£8.50-Pay as you go**



**KATE BARNES: 0796 2203222  
kateweller4@hotmail.com**



# **ST MARY'S HORTON KIRBY**

## **800 ANNIVERSARY**

### **EUCHARIST LAUNCHING ST MARY'S 800th YEAR**

with the Bishop of Rochester | 10am Sunday 12th January

### **TALK: "ABOUT ST MARY'S: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"**

7.30pm Saturday 8th February

### **CONCERT: MICHAEL BUBLE TRIBUTE**

Jason Allen performing with live quartet | 7.30pm Saturday 22nd March | tickets £20

### **HISTORY EXHIBITION**

Saturday 5th April to Saturday 12th April

### **CONCERT: THE SWINGTIME SWEETHEARTS**

with songs from WW2 and swing music | 3pm Sunday 18th May | tickets £15

### **ART EXHIBITION**

Saturday 7th to Saturday 14th June (Court Lodge Garden also open on Saturday 7th)

### **CONCERT: HORTON KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL + SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS**

2pm Saturday 5th July

### **EVENSONG**

sung by the choir of St John's East Dulwich | 4.30pm Sunday 13th July

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Friday 5th September to Monday 8th September

### **CONCERT: GWALIA MALE VOICE CHOIR**

3pm Sunday 5th October | tickets £18

### **CONCERT: CLASSICAL MUSIC**

Saturday 15th November | time and ticket price TBC

### **FESTIVE CHRISTMAS EVENING WITH CAROL SINGING**

evening of Saturday 6th December

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TICKETS, CONTACT:**

Malcolm Green: email [linda.green55@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:linda.green55@yahoo.co.uk) | tel 07943 325061

Karen Holland: email [karen\\_800stmarys@btinternet.com](mailto:karen_800stmarys@btinternet.com) | tel 07840 642750

Christine Page: tel 01322 864776



# POWER



# YOGA



## TUESDAY

JUBILEE HALL \* HORTON ROAD \* SOUTH DARENTH DA4

7:30pm \* £10 drop in

[www.dancegeneration.co.uk/yoga](http://www.dancegeneration.co.uk/yoga)

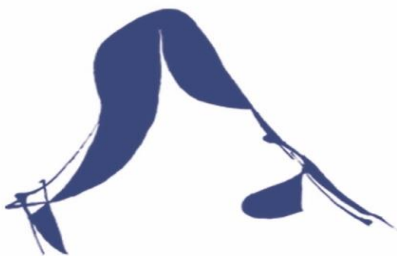
Maria 07811 823467



**SCIENCE BASED YOGA FOR BALANCE STRENGTH & FLEXIBILITY**

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Yoga with Shelly  
Vinyasa Flow



All levels welcome  
Sunday 10 -11am  
@ Jubilee Hall  
Drop-in Class £10  
07967021807





Funded by  
UK Government

## ***Volunteer drivers needed!***

# COMMUNITY CAR

- drivers with their own vehicles
- drivers for our accessible vehicle

Call Steve: **07405 710197**  
to find out more

Priority given to  
**health & social care appointments**  
Wheelchair accessible transport also  
available



Coming to **South Darenth  
& Horton Kirby**

Kent  
County  
Council  
kent.gov.uk



community transport  
association

MEMBER

Sponsored by

**BS Motors**

White Post Garage, Farningham



Hosted by Darent Valley Community Church

Pastor Adrian Elms 07908 045445; [pastor@dvcc.online](mailto:pastor@dvcc.online)

Sharing God's Love

# YOGA CLASS



**A Revitalising & Relaxing Yoga Class**

**Jubilee Hall  
Horton Road  
South Darenth, DA4 9AX**

**Tuesday 10.30am – 11.30am**

**£8 'drop in'** (exact money please)

Or £28 for four sessions (do not have to be consecutive)

**Bring a blanket and a yoga mat!**

**Contact details:**

**[northkentyoga@gmail.com](mailto:northkentyoga@gmail.com)**



# Planning Applications January 2025

Reference & Site	Development	Decision
<b>23/01461/FUL</b> Gills Farm, Gills Road South Darenth Kent DA4 9LE	Redevelopment of the mixed-use site to include demolition of seven existing homes, commercial buildings and agricultural barn and creation of 15 new homes, modern commercial floorspace (use class E(g)) and associated parking and landscaping. Amendment 30/11/23 – To design, including layout and appearance of proposed buildings. Additional information regarding phasing, archaeology, sustainability and financial viability.	APPROVED
<b>23/03716/FUL</b> Appledore Rays Hill Horton Kirby DA4 9DB	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling.	REFUSED (APPEAL)
<b>24/02519/CONVAR</b>	Removal of condition 4 (removal of permitted development rights) of planning permission 24/01151/HOUSE	GRANTED
<b>24/01151/HOUSE</b> The Leas Dartford Road Horton Kirby Kent DA4 9JE	Demolition of existing kitchen. New wall facing courtyard, new single storey side extension with rooflights, removal of stone balustrade and gate. Alterations to fenestration	GRANTED
<b>24/00264/FUL</b> Catahoula Fields Eglantine Lane Farningham DA4 9JL	Change of use and temporary (period of 2 years from October 2023) part covered external storage facility with handstanding for vehicular access and two containers	REFUSED (APPEAL)
<b>24/01832/FUL</b> Field West of Junction with Rays Hill/Eglantine Lane Horton Kirby, Kent	Relocation of Highway Access inc. associated hard & soft landscaping	APPROVED
<b>APP/G2245/W/23/3325352</b> Planning Application: <b>22/02053/FUL</b> Plot 4 Grazing Land Horton Road South Darenth To receive decision of appeal hearing of 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 if available.	Change of use of land for the stationing of 3 touring caravans for occupation by extended Romany Gypsy family.	APPROVED
<b>APP/G2245/W/23/3333490</b> Horton Wood, Mussenden Lane Horton Kirby, Kent	Storage Building. Additional comments to be submitted by 29 <sup>th</sup> July.	Dismissed on Appeal
<b>24/02034/FUL</b> Land South of Canada Farm Canada Farm Road South Darenth Kent	Improvements to existing access track together with revisions to approved access track and cable route installation (in connections with Solar farm approval under permission reference 22/02599/FUL).	AWAITING DECISION
<b>24/02400/MMA</b> Land North West of Horton Wood Canada Farm Road South Darenth	Minor Material Amendment 22/02599/FUL – amendments to site layout, additional PV rays and removal of a s section of the new access track	AWAITING DECISION
<b>24/02865/HOUSE</b> Willow cottage Calfstock Lane	Extension of driveway with new parking spaces. Installation of retaining walls.	GRANTED

Farningham	Landscape alterations including removal of trees.	
24/02626/HOUSE Mussenden cottage Mussenden Lane Horton Kirby Kent	Demolition of existing extension and outbuilding. New single storey rear extension and changes to fenestration	GRANTED
24/03094/HOUSE 9 Carleton Place Horton Kirby Kent, DA4 9DL	Demolition of existing rear extension. New two storey side extension, part two-storey and part single-storey rear extension with Juliet balcony and roof-light. Demolish and replace front porch	GRANTED
24/02239/FUL Plot 1 Grazing Land Horton Road South Darenth Kent	Change of use of land to Gypsy/Traveller site comprising the siting of 2 mobile homes and 2 touring caravans. The erection of 2 dayrooms alongside ancillary works including provision of new parking and hard standing.	AWAITING DECISION
24/02871/LDCEX Traffic Island North of The Lodge Franks Lane Horton Kirby	Use of the land for the commercial storage, cutting, sale and distribution of logs	REFUSED
24/02602/HOUSE 24/02603/LBCALT Croft House The Street Horton Kirby Kent DA4	Demolition of existing part single storey, part two storey rear additions. Erection of part single storey, part two storey rear extensions with rooflights. Internal alterations. New rooflight. Alteration to fenestration. New sheds	GRANTED
24/02707/HOUSE 6 Rashleigh Way Horton Kirby Kent DA4	Proposed single storey rear extension and first floor rear and side extensions with internal alterations to form new bedroom and wet room for disabled use.	GRANTED
24/03429/FUL The Queen 58-62 New Road South Darenth Kent DA4 9AR	Change of use from Public House to 4 x 2 bed dwellings, inclusive of demolition of existing single storey rear elevation store, part single storey, part first floor rear extension and associated external alterations and landscaping	AWAITING DECISION

# Parish Council Information

Parish Council Meetings held on the first Monday of every month in the Village Hall

## **Parish Councillors**

Chair: Dawn Mitchell - 07910 312710

Vice Chair: Heather Rohard - [heatherrohard@mac.com](mailto:heatherrohard@mac.com)

Ian Blackamore - 01322 864024

Nick Gurr – [nickghksdpc@gmail.com](mailto:nickghksdpc@gmail.com)

Dave Holland - [cllrhollands@hotmail.com](mailto:cllrhollands@hotmail.com)

Terry Moyle - 07939 581572

Christine Page - 01322 864776

Dawn Wakefield - [dawnrw14@gmail.com](mailto:dawnrw14@gmail.com)

## **District Councillor**

Laurence Ball [Cllr.Ball@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Ball@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Alan White Tel: 07841410147 [Cllr.White@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.White@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

## **County Councillor**

Roger Gough Tel: 01959 525109 [roger.gough@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.gough@kent.gov.uk)

## **Member of Parliament**

Laura Trott Tel: 0207 219 3000 [laura.trott.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:laura.trott.mp@parliament.uk)