

DUNTON GREEN NEWS

Dunton Green Parish Council

Issue 027 Spring 2023



Dunton Green Daffodils - Freda England

An edition packed with information about the Parish Council, the 2023 Local Elections, interesting articles and more!



Dunton Green Parish Council
Working for a Better Community in Dunton Green

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DUNTON GREEN NEWS

c/o Parish Council Office, Dunton Green Pavilion,
Recreation Ground, Dunton Green, Kent TN13 2UR

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CLLR. FREDA ENGLAND

Chairman's Update

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

As the days lengthen and we welcome Spring, I'd just like to look back to Christmas and although it's a bit early, tell you of some of our plans for next year.



Despite some technical problems with power, we were joined by a crowd for our Christmas singalong.

As you may know, we are trying to be a greener council and a couple of years ago we planted what we hoped would be our forever Christmas tree. It would have been lovely if it had reached the heights of the one in the photo but unfortunately it has struggled and we bought the large one just for this year.



We have taken some more advice and will be planting a different species tree in the coming months and hopefully we'll have it for many years to come. The little tree will be relocated somewhere more suitable.

We appreciate the efforts of parishioners to decorate their homes and gardens. We are to fortunately receive some CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies which we hope to use to fund far more lights for the village green next year, and we may even use solar power too!

Cont...

....Chairman's Update

On the subject of trees, we have also been planting some more indigenous trees in Price's Wood, as we promised when we were gifted it and took on maintenance.

The cost of living crisis continues and very soon your new Council Tax bills will be landing on the door mat. You pay for a proportion of the



Weeping Willow - one of the species planted

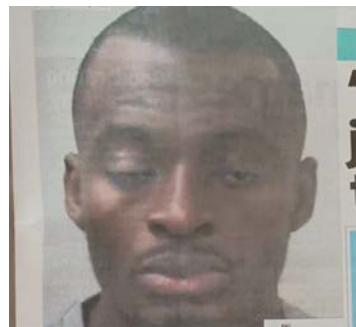


cost of your local services through the Council Tax. It is made up of five charges for Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council, your local town or parish

council, Kent Police and Kent Fire & Rescue Service. Each authority sets its own charge. Once again, **I am pleased to say that DGPC, like last year, will not be increasing its part of the Council Tax.** Unfortunately the other 4 organisations will. As we go to press these figures are not available but we expect KCC to be 4.99%.

In December the village was hit by a lot of doorstep parcel robberies, causing a lot of frustration and annoyance but ultimately very difficult for the police to solve. There was also a daylight robbery on Ryewood. With the help of video doorbells and neighbourhood awareness, the intelligence did lead to an arrest and jail.

Cont...



A BURGLAR who drove on the wrong side of the road in a failed attempt to avoid arrest has been jailed for more than seven years.

On November 14 last year, Shaquille Campbell went to a house in Brewhelm Road, Dungeness, while the owners were away and broke in.

Once inside he made a mess of the house as he hunted for jewellery, cash and designer clothing, which he made off with.

On the following day, Campbell was driving a BMW in Worsted Lane, Cuckfield, when a patrol spotted the vehicle and requested him to stop.

Campbell failed to stop and continued at an excessive speed, driving on the wrong side of the road and colliding with another car.

He was arrested and officers seized a pair of trainers he was wearing that had been stolen during the break in at Dungeness.

Investigators from the Chief Constable's Crime Squad identified that Campbell had also committed burglaries between September 21 and November 5 in Rickmansworth, Hert-

fordshire, and in Chesham and Tring towns, both in Greater London.

At the latter address he had also robbed the occupants. Further enquiries by detectives led to the recovery of some of the property stolen from the Rickmansworth burglary at a garage shop in Shepherd's Bush.

Campbell, formerly of Ilford, Essex, was charged and later pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court to three counts of burglary, one count of robbery, a theft and dangerous driving.

Last Tuesday, Campbell, 36, was sentenced to seven years and eight months imprisonment.

He will also be disqualified from driving for 18 months on his release and until he has passed a re-test.

Investigating officer DC Colin King said: "Campbell is a prolific criminal who stole high value cars and designer clothing during burglaries, harassing victims when disturbed by some of his victims.

"His driving when seeking to evade arrest put other road users at considerable risk of harm and he deserves to be in jail."

....Chairman's Update

Planning issues continue to challenge the Parish Council. In the past weeks there has been a Public Appeal hearing about the proposed bunds on the Chevening estate (the Chevening Parkland Scheme), which if allowed will increase lorries using Polhill considerably during their construction. At time of going to press there had been no decision on the Appeal. Permission has been granted for over 600 homes at Fort Halstead.



We have submitted a response to the latest consultation on the Sevenoaks Local Plan (Plan 2040). We are disappointed that the land that runs parallel to

London Road from the Village Hall to the school continues to be classed as poorly performing Green Belt.

The Parish Council really needs some help. There are currently some vacancies for Councillors and if you are interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk. However, if you'd just like to help out



occasionally, we really need some volunteers to help run the very popular fireworks event in September. Again, please contact The Clerk. It's only a few hours here & there but *if we don't have any volunteers we will have to cancel.*

Looking forward, I hope to see many of you at the Annual Parish Meeting which is hosted by the Parish Council. It's your chance to meet and talk with local organisations and representatives and our chance to say thank you to the many volunteers in the village without whom a number of our popular services would not be possible. We have some exciting play/sports proposals we'd like to hear your opinions on, and we have a speaker. The Sevenoaks Town Crier will be giving a talk on the history of Town Criers. There will be a free buffet and wine and residents are very welcome to attend.



Freda England
Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council
chairman@duntongreenpc.org.uk

www.duntongreenpc.org.uk

Dunton Green Pavilion



Dunton Green Pavilion is a fantastic community facility owned and managed by Dunton Green Parish Council.

Located at the heart of the village on the Recreation Ground with excellent facilities— a modern and spacious Main Hall, plus a clean and well-equipped kitchen and a smaller room ideal for meetings.

If you are thinking of setting up a new class or activity, please do get in touch to see how we can help. The Pavilion is also available to hire for birthday parties and other private events.

For more information including pricing and availability, please contact Wendy Jackson, the Bookings and Facilities Assistant on bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk / 07305 814694

Or take a take a look at our website: www.duntongreenpc.org.uk

Dunton Green Parish Council

Working for a Better Community in Dunton Green





POP UP CAFE in Dunton Green

Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, London Road, TN13 2UR

JOIN SUE!

Wednesdays at 1.30pm until 3.30pm

Classes are on the **SECOND**
Wednesday of every month!

February 8th, March 8th, April 12th

Improve your mobility, strength & balance

Meet others, in a friendly, covid-safe, class with a qualified instructor and a cup of tea/coffee



PROUD TO SUPPORT AGE UK

For more information, call **Sue 07867 648 667**
or email
suebarken@ageuks.sevenoaksandtonbridge.org.uk

Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge registered charity number: 1084213 - 0018

Check www.duntongreenpc.org.uk for updates

Dunton Green Project

Easy Netball

Everyone is welcome. Minimum age 14

£2.00 pay
as you go

Thursday 7pm to 8pm

MUGA, near the Pavilion, Recreation
Ground, Dunton Green, TN13 2UR



For more information, please call 01732 227000 or
email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk

The Railway Tavern, Dunton Green

Whilst chatting with friends one evening in the local pub, conversation turned to the whereabouts of the old Railway Tavern in the village, and I thought it worthy of further investigation.

Along with the Miners Arms, this pub originally catered for the Welsh Miners who were digging the nearby Polhill tunnel for the London to Hastings line. Pictured below around the 1900's, the Railway Tavern was located on the right-hand side just after the railway bridge down Station Road and is thought to have been built between 1840-1860's.

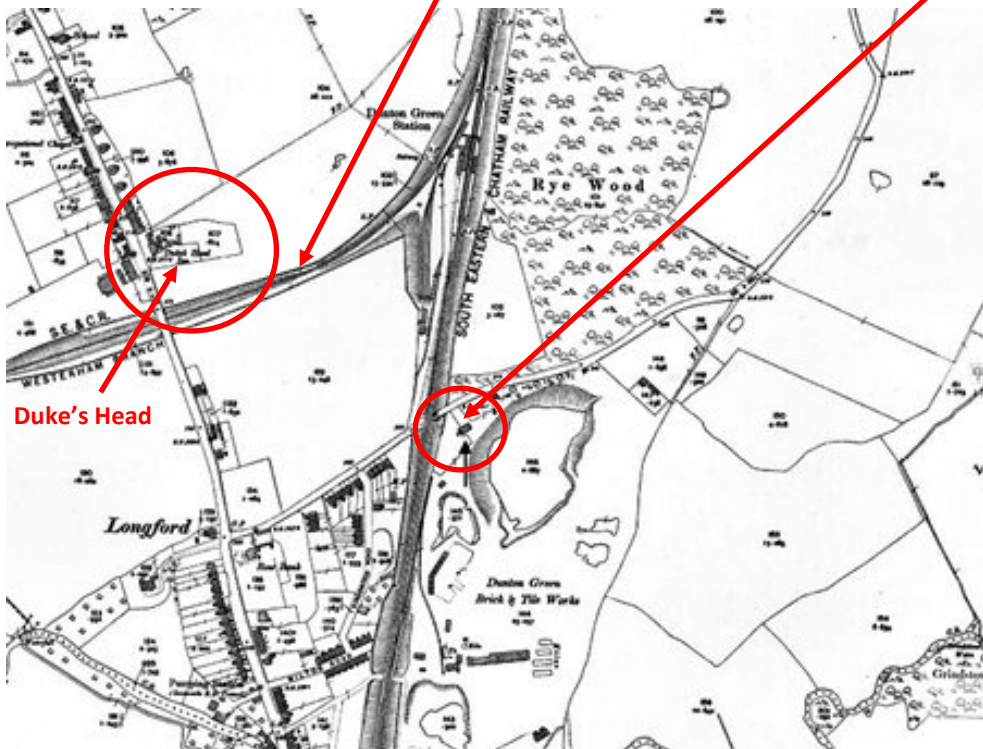
The Bligh's reference on the sign relates to John Bligh, said to be the largest hop grower in the region. Bligh purchased the Holmesdale Brewery in Sevenoaks in 1862 and extended the Railway Tavern building in 1882. The picture possibly shows the landlord and his family standing outside the pub, with seemingly a large lake in the background, which is likely to be one of Dunton Green Brick & Tile



Photo circa 1900 (from South-East History Boards)

Works flooded pits. These flooded pits were later filled in and the site became the West Kent Cold Store, and thereafter, the large housing development of Ryewood.

An Ordnance Survey map from 1909 shows the location of the Railway Tavern by the Brickworks and near the bridge. Interestingly, the map also shows the Westerham railway branch from Dunton Green (from www.disused-stations.org.uk).



A notification in the 'Intoxicating Liquor and Billiards Licensing' section in the Sevenoaks Chronicle and Kentish Advertiser dated 21st February 1913, states that the license for the Railway Tavern beerhouse expired on the 28th December 1912. It's not apparent what happened to it after that, however, friends recalled the virtually derelict building, by then known as Bridge Cottage, still standing in an overgrown plot of land in the 60's and 70's.

They remembered a recluse, an old chap known as ‘Dick Turpin’ by the local kids, who grew flowers and sold them locally and (rumour had it) at Covent Garden. A little research has revealed the man to actually be called Turtin (an easy mispronounced or misheard derivation) with first name possibly Frederick, who passed away in 1972. Mr Turtin was in fact a brilliant Mathematics professor who previously lectured at the London University and had the nickname ‘Trigger’ Turtin, as a nod to the maths discipline of Trigonometry. He moved into Bridge Cottage after the collapse of his marriage, living in the increasingly derelict and run down cottage. Although appearing unkempt and dishevelled, residents remember him being very quiet and polite, and when he did speak, he had an impeccable cut-glass accent.



After his death, West Kent Cold Store bought the building and plot of land for an extension to their car park. The site of the old Railway Tavern now sits on the edge of the Ryewood estate nearest the railway bridge.

If you have any interesting old photos of Dunton Green, we would be delighted to receive them.

Cllr Debbie Parker



SATURDAY FREIGHTER GUIDANCE

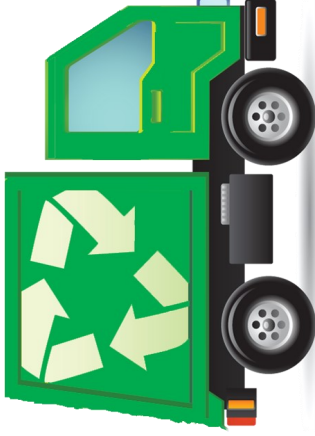
The Freighter cannot accept **white goods**, washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, freezers, cookers, cast iron boilers or baths, long metal poles, building materials, manure, large parts of engines or vehicles or hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste now includes items like fluorescent tubes, **televisions & computer monitors**, **batteries**, **oil tins and filters**, **paint and paint tins** and **chemical containers**. These items **cannot** be accepted on the Saturday Freighter service and must be taken to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Compostable garden waste cannot be accepted.



FREIGHTER REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE



DATES FOR THE DIARY

THE NEW BI-MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

11th MARCH 2023

LUSTED ROAD 11.45AM TO 12.15PM
MILL ROAD 12.30PM TO 1.00PM

PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR EXCESS REFUSE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ADDITIONAL SERVICE
NON-RECYCLABLE REFUSE (EXCLUDING METAL)



BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, TENNIS COMING SOON!

If you're interested in registering your child to take part in any of the activities that DGPC funds, please look out for details of session timings on social media over the next few months!

SIGN UP TO EMAIL ALERTS AT
WWW.DUNTOONGREENPC.ORG.UK TO
RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS OF UPCOMING
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you spare a few hours now and again
to help us organise and run community
events?

To register please contact us:
clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk / 01732 462966





Dunton Green Parish Council

Tracy Godden: Clerk & RFO Dunton Green Parish Council

01732 462966 / clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk

Wendy Jackson: Bookings & Facilities Assistant

07305 814694 / bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk

Your local representatives: Dunton Green Parish Council



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ClIr Debbie Parker

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ClIr James Copeland

james@duntongreenpc.org.uk



Could this be you?!!

If you are interested in joining us at DGPC please contact the Clerk (details on page 2)

Your other local representatives:



Sevenoaks District Council - 01732 227000

ClIr Kim Bayley - 01732 458556

cllr.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk

ClIr Cameron Brown - 01732 740654

cllr.brown@sevenoaks.gov.uk



Kent County Council - 03000 41 41 41

ClIr Nick Chard - 03000 41 10 09

nick.chard@kent.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS : DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday Mar 14th 2023 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Saturday Mar 11th 2023 - Saturday Freighter

Wednesday Mar 29th 2023 - Annual Parish Meeting / Parish Reception

Tuesday Apr 11th 2023 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Saturday May 13th 2023 - Saturday Freighter (PROVISIONAL)

Tuesday May 16th 2023 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Tuesday Jun 13th 2023 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Saturday Jul 8th 2023 - Saturday Freighter

Tuesday Jul 11th 2023 - Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Pavilion

Wednesday 26th July - SDC Family Fun Day 10am - 2pm Rec Ground

Saturday Sept 16th 2023 - Saturday Freighter

Saturday Nov 18th 2023 - Saturday Freighter

Visit www.duntongreenpc.org.uk & sign up to Email Alerts to keep up to date/informed

about all the latest news, meetings and events information as it is published. Meeting agendas are published in the week prior to the meeting and are available on the website.

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

1st May 2023

Please forward items, articles & photos: for possible inclusion to
clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk
or to Dunton Green Pavilion (address on page 2)

The Parish Council is also on
Facebook and Twitter!



Dunton Green Parish Council
Please follow us / give us a like!



@PcDunton [Dunton Green PC Clerk]



DUNTON GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent



ACC Peter Ayling - Kent Police · 17h
Well done to our officers who, out v.early, spotted a suspicious vehicle close to M25. Climbing equipment, harnesses & protest banners recovered, 5 in custody. Preventing more mass disruption & misery for thousands.



🗨️ 1,477 ↻️ 1,143 ❤️ 11.5K 🔗

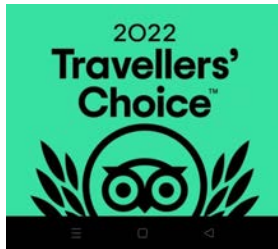
Like many of you I had to allow extra time for motorway journeys during these protests. This arrest was made on Dunton Green's border, at Sundridge Road as it runs parallel to the motorway and there are lots of overhead gantries.



Front page of The Sevenoaks Chronicle for Dunton Green, promoting the warm place initiative by The Gathering (at Dunton Green Pavilion).

Always good to see a new business in the village, even if it's one you don't want to go to often!





It's great to see local businesses applauded. Well done to all at Bojangles. A 2022 travellers' choice on Trip Adviser and in their Top 10 in Kent!

Tripadvisor's top 10 rated breakfast restaurants in Kent

1. **Goose On The Green Cafe** Walmer
2. **Bojangles Coffee House** Dunton Green
3. **Casa Da Claudia** Royal Tunbridge Wells
4. **The Galley** Ramsgate
5. **The Wallflower Cafe** Canterbury
6. **The Refectory Kitchen** Canterbury
7. **Zara's** Birchington
8. **Kings Coffee Shop** Deal
9. **The Hive Cafe** Ramsgate
10. **The Bus Cafe** Margate



KentLive

The long cold period we had produced these icy florets on the Village Green hedge!



Whoops! This sign came a cropper but KCC Highways were very quick to return it to upright.

Out and About - 'What Katie Saw' Information, Gossip and News from Kate, our roving correspondent

It's sad to see a business that was incorporated on 7 October 1946 all boarded up and closed.

Technical Treatments on Rye Lane.



More fun in the classroom!

Dunton Green PC Clerk Retweeted



Dunton Green Primary @DGp... · 4h

Year 3 have been busy creating Stone Age clay pots today. The children really enjoyed manipulating and sculpting the clay as well as using different clay modelling techniques. Well done Year 3!
[#clay](#) [#DT](#) [#StoneAge](#) [#pottery](#)



🗨️ ↻ 1 ❤️ 1 📊 9 🔗



Village Hall has a nice new sign.



Card scanner at the station.

It would be great not to have to use the ticket machine where I can never read the screen as the sunshine bounces off it



The old Vauxhall garage site flattened and ready for the foundations of the new flats.

And no sooner had the hoarding gone up, than much of it came down. Good to see common sense prevailing and residents' road safety concerns heeded.

The Miner's flying the flags for the 6 Nations rugby and proud of their 5 star hygiene rating.

PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights

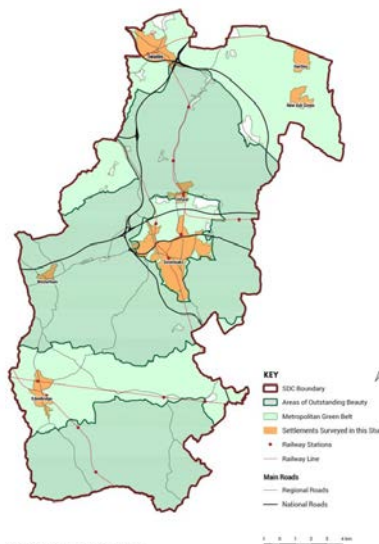
◆ PLAN 2040 - Sevenoaks District Council

consultation. As reported in the Winter 2022 edition, SDC has drafted an important part of the new Local Plan and they wanted to hear your views. The Parish Council submitted its comments on this Regulation 18



consultation. There will almost certainly be another phase of consultation in autumn this year and the Parish

Council will provide information to residents so that you can submit your views. As SDC is committed to protecting the Green Belt (covering 93% of the District), at this stage, they were not considering any Green Belt release but that is likely to be a consideration in further rounds of consultation when there could be more site specific consultation.



◆ The Parish Council has reiterated again

its concerns about Dunton Green being considered as ‘Sevenoaks Urban’ for the purposes of SDC Planning. As a reminder, where the Plan 2040 refers to the 4 town settlements (Swanley, Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Westerham), when it refers to Sevenoaks it means SEVENOAKS URBAN, an area that SDC Planning identified some years back which encompasses a number of outlying villages, including Dunton Green.

◆ Comments were submitted by DGPC to the Appeal for the Chevening

Parkland Scheme. The original application by the Chevening Estate was refused planning permission by SDC but the Chevening Estate submitted an Appeal and this was heard at the end of January. A decision is expected within 4-6 weeks of the Appeal Hearing. DGPC was NOT a consultee on the application or the Appeal but commented anyway.

PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights

◆ **Council Tax 2023.** The Precept has not changed. This is the amount of money which the Parish Council asks the District Council to collect with the local council tax. Unlike the District and County Councils, the Parish Council receives no direct government grant. It raises its income through the parish precept element of the Council Tax and the charges it makes for its services. Due to a very slight change in the Tax Base this actually means that for each household there is a very slight reduction for the year. Of course, this will be swamped by the increases to the other elements of the Council Tax bill, which are expected to increase significantly.



◆ **Plans have been put in place for this year's Annual Parish Meeting.** This is an Annual Assembly of the village; a chance for organisations to report on what they have been doing in the previous year, a time for residents to ask questions and an occasion when the community can come together. It is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council, although the Chairman of the Parish Council is obliged to chair the meeting and the Parish Council Clerk takes the minutes. The Parish Council also now uses this evening as an opportunity to hold a Parish Reception so that it can say thank you to volunteers and organisations who help provide services in the village. It also offers residents a more informal opportunity to speak to the Parish Council and others. Everyone is very welcome! *See the back page for more details.*

◆ **Kent Police are currently reorganising and the new structure (a new Neighbourhood Policing Plan) will be introduced in June 2023.** We will be welcoming the PCSO to this year's APM whilst we still have a ward PCSO. The new plan will see PCSOs (those that remain) allocated to various streams. There will be Ward PCs but it remains to be seen how the new structure will work in practice. The Parish Council has had excellent links with the PCSO and the Community Safety Unit and will be working towards developing similarly good relationships under the new structure.



PARISH COUNCIL News Highlights

- ◆ As previously reported, the Parish Council is planning to upgrade its play spaces in the recreation ground and Longford



Meadow by making use of the existing fencing. There



will be further talks with play specialists. This will be a project that runs over the longer term so that we enhance the facilities each year, making them appealing for a wider range of users. **We'll publicise dates for a public consultation on which games would be preferred later this Spring . Look out for more information in due course on social media.**

- ◆ The Parish Council has agreed plans to install hanging baskets at three more locations in the village. We'll keep the locations under wraps for now but we will hopefully be able to share pictures of them in situ in the next edition of Dunton Green News!

- ◆ And in keeping with its 'Making Dunton Green Greener' ambitions, the Parish Council will be looking to install signage, more planting, insect hotels and bird boxes across a number of its sites this year. We'll be talking to the school in the hope that some of these projects can be used to engage our younger residents.



- ◆ Price's Wood now has six new trees. The planting is the last phase of the Queen's Green Canopy project (the other area was the Longford Meadow planting last year). It also forms part of the Parish Council's stated aim to enhance the wood, which was gifted to it five years ago, with more native species.



2023 Elections Special

This year sees both Parish and District Council elections taking place.

The following pages give you some information about the Parish Council, what its plans are and how you might consider getting involved.

Important dates in the elections programme:

Publication of Notice of Election - Friday 17 March 2023

Nominations open - Monday 20 March 2023 – 10am

Nominations close - Tuesday 4 April 2023 – 4pm

Deadline for a candidate to withdraw - Tuesday 4 April 2023 – 4pm

Deadline to appoint Election Agents for District candidates - Tuesday 4 April 2023 – 4pm

Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated - Wednesday 5 April 2023

Appointment of Poll and Count Agents deadline - Wednesday 26 April 2023

Election Day – Thursday 4 May 2023 - 7am to 10pm

There is further information about voting and standing as a candidate (parish & district) available on SDC's website:

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20053/elections_and_voting

We have also included information on VOTER PHOTO ID which is being introduced at these elections.

We can't KNOW everything...

Whilst we might want to try to keep up with social media to know how people in the village feel and what is worrying them, we can't possibly see every post.

If there's something that you think we should know about, please email us on clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk or call us on 01732 46296. We very much want to hear from you.



We can't SORT everything...

Some of it we can, some is down to Sevenoaks District Council, and other bits may be the responsibility of Kent County Council (or perhaps an entirely different agency).

It can be confusing to know who does what, if in doubt either check our website or ask us!



We can't THINK of everything...

We try our hardest to come up with ideas to improve our community or solve problems affecting residents, but we are only a small team of councillors & staff so we always welcome new ideas.

If you think there is something that we might be able to do to improve our village please do get in touch!



We can't DO everything...

We very often have vacancies for councillors and this year is election year. If you think you can help make a difference to our village please get in touch. The workload isn't onerous, you can get involved in committees or events as you see fit. It is such a great feeling being able to make our village better for everyone. Or perhaps you would rather sign up to be one of volunteers?

SOME OF THE THINGS THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN DOING OVER THE LAST YEAR...

Donations made to deserving groups and organisations that help make a positive difference for residents

Happy to Chat benches

Additional CCTV at Rec

Response submitted to Plan 2040 Regulation 18 consultation – the Local Plan will help inform planning decisions going forward

Queen's Green Canopy tree planting on Longford Meadow

Installation of Climbing Rox play equipment

Christmas Tree, lights and Christmas Singalong

Working with partners to organise the Annual Service of Remembrance

Arranging and funding the bi-monthly Saturday freighter service

Supporting and working with Dunton Green Primary School and Team DG

Working with PCSO to tackle ASB

Supporting residents re bus route cuts and engaging with KCC, SDC & Laura Trott

Working with and supporting Age UK to provide much needed services for our older residents

Provision for sports sessions for young people: basketball, football, tennis

Assisting KCC with identifying areas requiring highway improvement in the village

New tables and benches for our recreational and open spaces

AND SOME OF WHAT WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE COMING YEAR...

More Public Access Defibrillators (adding to the 4 that DGPC already provides)

Village Green Lighting Project

Respond to key planning applications and the key next stage of consultation for Plan 2040

Play equipment projects in various open spaces

More Hanging baskets in new locations

Enhancement of our open spaces: bug hotels, bird boxes, signage, planting

Last stage of the Queen's Green Canopy project: planting in Price's Wood

Ongoing work with partner organisations to improve engagement, facilities and services for the village

Development of ideas for how best to utilise DGPC's 'extension' land adjacent to the recreation ground

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



DUNTON GREEN NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:
clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk / 01732 462966

WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local (parish and town) council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Give communities a democratic voice

Local councils run numerous services, depending on the size of the council. Many you will see day-to-day, but some are less known. These include introducing solar panels, setting up dementia-friendly groups, organising community buses, creating neighbourhood plans, implementing suitable housing, establishing youth projects, managing allotments and open spaces, maintaining footpaths, public seating and litter bins.

BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood.

Local councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally

Local councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

CAN I STAND FOR ELECTION?

To stand for election to a local council you must be:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- At least 18 years old
- An elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary

FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.nalc.gov.uk/makeachange



ing Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

INTERESTED IN INCREASING ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

It's Election Year! Have you considered becoming a Local Councillor?

Join one of our online info sessions

KALC is running two identical online events that last for one hour each and will give potential candidates an idea of the rewarding nature of the role of Councillor in a Parish or Town Council.

- 21 February 2023
- 21 March 2023

Both at 7pm and totally free!

**Head over to our website:
Training & Events – KALC
(kentalc.gov.uk)**



More contact info:

Kent Association of Local Councils,
Dover District Council Offices, White
Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover
CT16 3PJ
01304 820173
www.kentalc.gov.uk
kalc@kentalc.gov.uk

VOTER INFORMATION 2023



Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you don't have an accepted form photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. You can apply for this at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at your local council.

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your local council. To find their contact details visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voter.

Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID, or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

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01689 830964

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01732 742000

REIGATE
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Would you, or someone that you know, like to attend the Dunton Green Lunch Club every month?

Are you not going because you can't get transport?

Call Judith on 07836 525 938

Dunton Green Lunch Club is a great place to meet friends, make new ones, enjoy a hearty lunch and have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon!

Dunton Green Parish Council has provided funding to Age UK so that arrangements can be made for Dunton Green residents to be brought to the Pavilion every month. All you need to do is contact Judith!



DATES FOR 2023

Wednesdays:

5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July

Let's Lunch



Join us at the **Dunton Green Lunch Club** on the first Wednesday of each month (except August)

11.45am to 2pm

At Dunton Green Pavilion, Recreation Ground, off London Road, TN13 2UR

To book transport please call Judith
07836 525 938

For more information, please see
www.ageuk.org.uk or
www.duntongreencpac.org.uk





My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts we send you, share information and tell us about the issues affecting you.

You will be able to play an active part in police appeals as well as being kept up to date with what is happening in your local area.

Unlike social media, My Community Voice is a secure and personal messaging system that allows you to determine what type of alerts you receive and how.

If you are passionate about your neighbourhood and want to have your voice heard, then sign up to My Community Voice via the QR code here.



My Community Voice allows you to comment by clicking the 'reply' link within a message. This will be sent back to the person that posted the alert. All emails are read and actioned. This service should not be used as a crime reporting tool. Please use www.kent.police.uk/report or in an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999.

Sign up today to start getting alerts about the matters that mean the most to you such as community safety, anti-social behaviour, including speeding and many others.

Kent Police are committed to engaging with communities, **understanding what's important to them**, increasing trust and confidence and helping to protect people from harm. Police, partners, and the public working together can build resilient and safe communities, and both reduce and prevent crime.



Sign up to start receiving alerts by email, text or voice note here:
<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Content/Pages/Register>

Pilgrims Way

Running through the North end of the village is a rather unassuming footpath: Now known mostly as the North Downs Way, this was once part of the Pilgrims Way.

Locally it runs down Star Hill and clips the Northern tip of Dunton Green down Morants Court Road, before heading off alongside the Donnington Manor Hotel to Otford and Kemsing and off towards Canterbury. Blink and you miss it in the



village.

However, “The Pilgrims Way” is an ancient trail stretching some 150 miles across Hampshire, Surrey and Kent. Although now primarily used for recreational purposes, the route is historically significant as it connects the

shrines of Saint Swithun at Winchester Cathedral and Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. Records suggest that pilgrims might have walked along this route for at least the last 1000 years. But there is evidence that the name ‘Pilgrims Way’ has actually been applied to a pre-existing ancient trackway dated by archaeological finds to 600–450 BC, but probably in existence since the Stone Age. The prehistoric route followed the "natural causeway" east to west on the southern slopes of the North Downs.

So thousands of years ago, people were trading, hunting and migrating along a very similar route.

The name “Pilgrims’ Way” may in fact only date to the early Ordnance Survey Maps of Victorian times, and actually the surveyor Edward Renouard James published a pamphlet in 1871 entitled “Notes on the Pilgrims' Way in West Surrey”. While acknowledging that the route was "little studied" and that "many persons in the neighbourhood had not been aware of it", he nonetheless used the name on the Ordnance Survey map. I find this totally plausible, as even today people tend to be unaware of the history of where they live. In contrast to Edward James’ findings, F. C. Elliston-Erwood, a Kentish historian, notes that tithe records dating from before 1815 use the well-established name "Pilgrims' Way" to reference and locate pieces of land. Earlier still, surviving thirteenth century

documents show a "Pilgrim Road" by the walls of Thornham Castle, Kent, on what is today considered the route, so there is contention there.

Another source of contention is the volume of traffic that used this route to access the shrine at Canterbury: Wikipedia says "The numbers making their way to Canterbury by this route were not recorded, but the estimate by the Kentish historian William Coles Finch that it carried more than 100,000 pilgrims a year is surely an exaggeration; a more prosaic estimate—extrapolated from the records of pilgrims' offerings at the shrine—contends an annual figure closer to 1,000". Given the length of the route, the time it would have taken to walk it, and the terrain covered, I think this is far more believable. It's possible that the larger estimate assumed all pilgrims heading for Canterbury, by all routes. The famous "Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer, for example follows travellers to Canterbury, but via a different route: from South London via Watling Street.

Nowadays, the route is largely covered by the North Downs Way National Trail, although the older name reappears too, notably up the road in Kemsing. So why did the pilgrims in the Middle Ages want to walk all that way?

Well it's mostly to do with Thomas Becket.

Also known as Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Thomas of London and later Thomas à Becket (21 December 1119 or 1120 – 29 December 1170). Thomas was an English nobleman of Norman descent who served as Lord Chancellor from 1155 to 1162, and then notably as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170.

Not long after his elevation to Archbishop, Thomas fell out with Henry II, refusing to put Royal Authority before Church Authority. This led to him seeking sanctuary in France for several years, before Henry agreed to compromise, and Thomas could return.

However, the two again fell out when Henry was formally crowned in York (rather than Canterbury which was normal as the Archbishop of Canterbury was the most senior cleric). In retaliation, Thomas excommunicated The Archbishop of York and the Bishops of London and Salisbury. Henry was furious. Posterity has it that he angrily exclaimed: "Will no-one rid me of this turbulent priest!"

But again there is contention. Edward Grim, a monk from Cambridge who was present at Becket's murder has the King's words as: "What miserable drones and traitors have I nurtured and promoted in my household who let their lord be treated with such shameful contempt by a low-born cleric!" Which, while less punchy, has been accepted by historians including Simon Sharma as being more accurate (although as Edward wasn't with Henry in France at the time, we have to assume that he managed to speak to someone who was there while researching his biography of Thomas). Whatever the King actually said, four



knights who heard him considered it an order, and promptly rode off to Canterbury to do the King's bidding. The four: Reginald FitzUrse, Hugh de Morville, William de Tracy and Richard le Breton—travelled from Normandy to Canterbury with the intention of forcing Becket to withdraw his excommunication, or, if he refused, taking him back to Normandy by force to face the King. On 29th December 1170, they confronted Thomas in Canterbury Cathedral. When Becket resisted their attempts to seize him, they slashed at him with their swords, hitting him in the head and killing him. The actual



account by Edward Grim – who was himself wounded in the attack – is decidedly gory! Although nobody, even at the time, believed that Henry directly ordered that Becket be killed, his words had started a chain of events that almost inevitably led to his death.

In fact, as Henry's rant had not actually been directed at Becket, but at his own household, the four probably thought that a failure to act would be regarded as more evidence of treachery and ineptitude. It's possible that Henry was just shouting his frustration, and that this was picked up by over-zealous knights, eager to please their King and advance their own positions. Either way, Thomas was dead, and people were outraged!

One of the earliest depictions of Becket's murder, original in the British Library

There were demands that the King be excommunicated. Pope Alexander III forbade Henry to hear Mass until he had atoned for his sin and in May 1172, Henry did public penance in Avranches Cathedral in Normandy.

The four over eager knights subsequently fled to Scotland and from there to Knaresborough Castle in Yorkshire. All four were excommunicated by Pope Alexander in 1171 during Easter and ordered to make pilgrimages to the Holy Land as penance for 14 years! Meanwhile, Thomas was canonised on 21 February 1173 – little more

than two years after his death – by Pope Alexander III and the rise in popularity of the Pilgrims Way began as people wanted to show their respects to the new saint.

He is still venerated as a saint and martyr by the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion.

After his death, local legends regarding Becket arose. Interestingly, as well as honouring the saint, these tales also display Becket's well recorded grumpiness. "Becket's Well", in nearby Otford, is said to have been created after Becket had been

displeased by the taste of the local water.

Becket struck the ground with his crozier (curved Bishop's staff) and two clear springs burst forth!

Whatever the truth, the well is there!

And the absence of nightingales in



Becket's Well Otford (from Otfordheritagevillage.org.uk)

Otford is also ascribed to Becket, who is said to have been so disturbed in his devotions by the song of a nightingale that he commanded that none sing in the village ever again. Fortunately, this obviously doesn't extend to Dunton Green since our split from Otford in 1908 – as we had a nightingale in the village recently!

So the next time you're walking along the North Downs Way, spare a thought for the thousands of pilgrims who walked that same route nearly a thousand years ago, and to the hunters, traders and tribespeople admiring a similar view a thousand years before that. I wonder what people will see along this route a thousand years from now.

Cllr. Andy Lapham

Sources:

Wikipedia

<https://explorekent.org/blog/2021/11/01/walking-the-pilgrims-way/>

<https://otfordheritagevillage.org.uk/otford-village-archaeology/the-palace-and-becket-well/>

https://www.northdownsway.co.uk/ndw_oxted_otford.html

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & LOCAL LISTINGS

Taking place in DUNTON GREEN PAVILION, Recreation Ground, London Road

{Bookings: bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk 07305 814694}

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Age UK Lunch Club | 1st Wednesday each month, 01732 454108 |
| Age UK Pop In Café | 2nd Wednesday each month, 01732 454108 |
| Pilates (Bryony Tilley) | 07973 345 321 |
| Taekwondo (Oaks Martial Arts) | 01732 759988: info@oaksmartialarts.com |

The Gathering Community Cafe Tuesdays 9-11am term-time

Taking place in DUNTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND, London Road

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Easy Netball | 01732 227000; communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk |
| Community Basketball | Kent Panthers - just turn up Mondays 5.30pm |
| Mini Tennis | Text Keir 07815 039497 to book a place 07803 050 431 |
| Backyard Bootcamp | enquiries@backyardbootcamps.co.uk |

DUNTON GREEN VENUES (Other)

Taking place in Donnington Hall, Barretts Road

{Bookings: Mrs J Field 01732 462429; www.donningtonhall.co.uk}

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dance Academy of Sevenoaks | Emily Teale 07840 109 052 |
| Darenth Table Tennis Club | David & Janet Field 01732 462429 |
| Gauge One Model Railway Assoc | Jeff Brazier 01732 454890 |
| Hartbeeps | Jamie Blackburn 07795 103 197 |
| Little Learners | Helen Bakie 07889 825 727 |
| National Kick Boxing & Karate Assoc | Hilary King 07796 858 194 |
| Sevenoaks Table Tennis League | Janet Field 01732 462429 |

Taking place in Village Hall, London Road

{Bookings: Mrs A Rodwell 01732 469610}

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Coffee Morning | 3rd Thursday of each month, 10.30am |
| DG School of Ballroom Dancing | David & Sandra Coppen, 07808 540 315 |
| Holy Communion | 1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays (see St Mary's info) |

Taking place in Dunton Green Primary School, London Road

{Bookings: School Office 01732 462221; office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk}

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Kuk Sool Won Sevenoaks | 07963 338 544; www.kswsevenoaks.com |
| Bujinkan Sevenoaks Dojo | bujinkansevenoaksdojo.org 16+ Thurs eve |
| The Gathering Church Service | Sundays 2.45-4pm |

**PLEASE DO LET US KNOW IF WE CAN UPDATE THIS LIST WITH THE
DETAILS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE VILLAGE**

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & LOCAL LISTINGS

OTHER Organisations and activities

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Bessels Green Baptist Church | 01732 454921; info@bgbc.co.uk |
| St Mary's Church Riverhead & DG | 01732 669454; stmaryriverhead@gmail.com |
| Citizens Advice Bureau (Sevenoaks) | 01732 440488; info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk |
| Dial-A-Ride (Compaid) | 01892 832447 |
| Dunton Green Primary School | 01732 462221 office@dunton-green.kent.sch.uk |
| Gymboree | 07827 910 978; sevenoaks@gymboree-uk.com |
| Kent County Council | 03000 41 41 41; www.kent.gov.uk |
| Kent Fire & Rescue | 01622 692121; 999 emergency; www.kent.fire-uk.org |
| Kent Police | 101; 999 emergencies; www.kent.police.uk |
| Kent Sheds | www.shedsevenoaks.weebly.com |
| Sevenoaks District Council | 01732 227000; information@sevenoaks.gov.uk |
| Sevenoaks District Council | 01732 227000; communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk |
| Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group | 01732 458931; www.sevenoaksvolunteertransport.com |

Dunton Green Pavilion & Outside Space
RECREATION GROUND, LONDON ROAD
07305 814694
bookings@duntongreenpc.org.uk



Dunton Green Village Hall
LONDON ROAD
01732 469610



**AFTER THE PANDEMIC THERE IS
CAPACITY AT ALL OF THESE
VENUES - IF YOU HAVE A GROUP,
CLASSES OR NEED A PARTY VENUE
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

Donnington Hall BARRETT'S ROAD
01732 462429



Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?



Walking in Kent <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/kent> has loads of walks to download and print, **free**, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Kent (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



And if geocaching (treasure hunting using an App) might be of interest to you and the family, take a look at the **North Downs Way Geotrail** which is located nearby at Otford and Kemsing.

For more details:

<https://nwkcpc.org/north-downs-way/>





VOLUNTEER WITH US

YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

DAVSS needs volunteers to train as Domestic Abuse Advisors.

Full training is provided

Join our local award-winning charity providing vital wrap around support and aftercare to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in West Kent.

Local volunteers supporting local people

Can you

commit to volunteering one day a week?

CONTACT US TODAY!

For more information call or email:

☎ : 01892 502 074

@ : office@davss.org.uk

www.davss.org.uk

Helpline : 01892 570 538



DUNTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

DOES YOUR BUSINESS NEED ATTENTION?

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We pride ourselves on providing DG News to every household in the village, every quarter and we keep all back copies available via our website. To find out more please contact us: clerk@duntongreenpc.org.uk

DUNTON GREEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023



29
MAR



7-9
PM PM



Dunton Green Pavilion

Recreation Ground, London
Road, Dunton Green TN13 2UR

An opportunity to have your say on matters relating to Dunton Green. All Dunton Green residents are welcome to join us for this annual update, to hear our speaker and to enjoy the Parish Reception

For more information or to submit questions for the APM please contact the Parish Council:

clerk@duntongreen.pc.org.uk
01732 462966



Annual Parish Meeting

Reports & Information



Chris Conlan

Speaker - Sevenoaks
Town Crier



Parish Reception

Networking, buffet
& drinks

Weds

29th

Mar