## *Our new Parish Councillor Charlotte Wallace reports on recent changes in the Parish...*

There's been plenty happening around the parish recently, with positive changes and community news worth sharing.

In environmental news, a rare and protected species has been recorded at Borden Nature Reserve. Eggs of the fiery clearwing moth were first discovered there in July 2021, and adult moths were observed in June 2025 by the Kent Field Walkers Group. The species is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Its presence is a reminder of the importance of preserving our local green spaces. New bylaw signage will soon be appearing around the parish, particularly at entrances to the Playstool Grounds. Residents are asked to look out for these notices and to take note of the information displayed, helping ensure that these shared spaces remain safe and welcoming for all.

Residents are also encouraged to use the My Community Voice website or app to raise concerns with local police, including issues such as speeding. Reporting concerns in this way helps officers better understand community priorities and target enforcement where it is most needed.After several years of work and liaison with the local authority, a new 20mph speed limit came into force in Main Borden Village this February. Enforcement will be carried out by local police, with the aim of improving road safety for everyone.Finally, thanks go to Jacksons Civil Engineering, who generously provided and installed the village's new Christmas star, officially lit during November's switch-on event and warmly received by residents and visitors alike.

As always, parishioners with compliments, concerns or complaints are encouraged to contact the Parish Clerk via the Parish Council website at www.bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Borden Parish Hall** – https://bordenparishhall.com/, General enquiries bookings andinfo@bordenparishhall.com,

**Knit n Natter** is up and running once again. We meet once a month on Fridays 2pm at The Pavilion, at The Playstool. You can get up to date information on the Facebook group 'Borden Knit n Natter'.
If you knit, crochet or natter you are more than welcome. Come along and make new friends, have a cuppa and slice of cake. I look forward to meeting you. Nicola

**Borden United Charities** is a local charity that can make grants for people in need of a bit of help or for educational purposes etc. Please contact the clerk Lynda Fisher at bordenunitedcharities@gmail.com Tel: 01795 477015

**Potholes, Damaged Signs, Blocked Drains, Overgrown Verges** - any highway faults can be reported on 03000 418181, or you can report and track them online using the KCC Fault reporter at http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

**Borden Parish Council -**
Third Thursday of each month - 7:00 pm - Borden Sports Pavilion or visit our website www.bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk/.

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# The Borden Broadside

*Vol 17 - Spring 2026*

Dear All

Welcome to the first issue of The Borden Broadside in this chilly year of 2026,

As you can see, there's lots of events coming up over the next few months, and the Parish Council have been working hard across a range of issues.

There is still a vacancy on the Council, so please contact the clerk if you are interested.

Yours Truly
Cllr Mike Baldock
Editor

## 'Archaeology Roadshow' at Borden Parish Hall ME98JS
## Saturday 16th May 2026 2pm until 4pm

After our visit to 'Works' on a local housing development site in 2024, it was suggested that BHG organise an 'Open' event to share knowledge of the many 'finds' found in the Sittingbourne area over the years. This idea has now taken the form of an 'Archaeology Roadshow' which will take place on Saturday 16th May 2026 between 2-4pm at Borden Parish Hall. Heritage groups, including Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne (HRGS), SWAT Archaeology, Commonwealth Graves Commission and others including local residents, have been invited to showcase their collections and knowledge at this event. Please get in touch if you would like to be a part of this event, either as a History / Heritage group or organisation, or as a volunteer / individual. Our local heritage is for everyone, it should be shared, and we would love for our local community to celebrate our wonderful local history with us. For further details, call 01795 479727 bordenheritatge.co.uk

## The Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award Winner 2025

The KALC Community Award Scheme is an opportunity for each member Council to make one nomination for either an individual or group who lives or works within the Local Council boundary and is considered to have made a significant contribution to the local community.

We are delighted to share with you that the KALC Community Award for 2025 was presented to John Hepburn for "his loyal dedication and commitment to the Parish of Borden, through his service as a Parish Councillor, Chairman of the Parish Hall, and active member of Borden Heritage Group".

Well done John

# Can You Help?

Our local archivist, Cllr John Hepburn, has brought this photo to our attention. It was taken by English Heritage in the late 50's or early 60's. Unusually there is no information attached to the photo, apart from the words beneath the photograph "cottage since burned."
Do you have any information on this thatched cottage, where was it in Borden, who lived there and what is the story behind it burning down?

Please email John with any information, however small. Let's see if we can unravel its history. jhepburn. bpc@btinternet.com We will bring any update to you in the next Broadside.

## *NEW SPEED LIMIT*

Kent County Council has recently introduced a new 20mph speed limit to roads in the parish; Wrens Road, Hearts Delight, Bannister Hill, Borden Lane, The Street, and sections of Wises Lane, Pond Farm Road and School Lane. The Parish Council's Highways Committee worked with KCC as a result of the many residents who expressed concerns about speeds. Informal and formal consultations took place and the Parish Council was pleased to see that KCC listened. This change aims to improve road safety for both pedestrians and motorists, encouraging drivers to reduce their speed and be more mindful of their surroundings.

This is long awaited by Borden Parish Council and a further speed limit is to be introduced in Danaway in the coming months.

Some residents have reported the new limit has made no difference, but it has been proven that motorists do drop their speeds in such limits and that can only be a good thing. Ignore those who are intimidating you by driving close because you are adhering to the speed limit and if you have dashcam evidence please forward to our local police constable, PC Ryan Atherton who has been carrying out speed checks along Borden Lane. In one 90 minute period he stopped and spoke to 17 drivers who were driving in excess of the speed limit. He said this is the most he has ever stopped in one check and was surprised at this. He spoke to the drivers and gave words of advice. He will be out and about in the parish doing further speed checks which the parish council appreciate and welcome.

The Parish Council have been pursuing our request with Swale Borough Council for an extra bin at the Playstool near the pavilion. One dog waste bin and an old rubbish bin were removed and replaced with one new waste bin.

Dog faeces can be placed in a waste bin but rubbish can not be placed in a dog waste bin so it was felt that two waste bins are required to prevent an reoccurrence of the picture shown in a well used area.

Cllr Clive Sims said, "We looked at placing a bin in the Playstool entrance from the Woodlands but apparently that is too far for the contractor to empty and collect so the obvious answer is to have a second bin placed near the pavilion entrance. Thankfully Swale Borough Council have agreed to our request so the second bin should be in place before the end of March".

Teresa, our clerk has been instrumental in pursuing this solution over the past year so the successful conclusion is welcomed.

## *Dawn Chorus Day*

Why not join us for a walk round the Nature Reserve this Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday May 3rd.

The Borden Wildlife Group meet at 4:45am by the Cryalls Lane gate into the Nature Reserve and have a wander round listening to the early dawn chorus.

# New Ladies Football Team

A ladies football side are now permanent residents at The Playstool sports pavilion. Playing under the name of Park Regis Ladies FC the team initially evolved from Sittingbourne ladies first team. They play their home matches at The Playstool on a Sunday afternoon opposed to the men's team who play on a Saturday. The team comprises of ladies of all ages from the age of sixteen.

The team has three hard working fantastic coaches, Toni Golden, Shane Sandy and Gavin Hawks who equally work tirelessly to promote and manage the team. It is worthy of note that without such volunteers committed to running teams, sports for all would not flourish as it does today.

The team's ethos is they believe that growing the women's game is important, empowering other women to step forward, showing determination and courage to women and girls of all ages that they can do it too!

Toni said, "We have fun, play a competitive sport we love with a great atmosphere". She continued, "We are extremely grateful to Borden village for allowing us to have our own space where we can continue to grow as a club and inspire others. The facilities we've been allowed to use have been a huge benefit to this team and we're thankful to have this wonderful opportunity".

Anyone interested in playing ladies football can contact the team on 07704 460016.