



SEPTEMBER 2025

# THE HILL



KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE



# LETTER FROM KHPC

Dear Residents,

As the leaves begin to turn and the evenings draw in, Kings Hill remains vibrant with activity, reflection, and forward momentum. This autumn, we celebrate community achievements, look ahead to seasonal events, and continue building a Parish that thrives on engagement and excellence.

The Kings Hill Community Centre continues to be a hub of activity this season, offering a wide range of regular classes and events — from baby ballet and fitness sessions to community group meetings and private functions. With halls and meeting spaces available for hire, it's the perfect venue for autumn gatherings, workshops and celebrations.

Kings Hill Parish Council continues to work diligently on behalf of residents. Following our recent qualification to apply for the LCAS Gold Award, we are now preparing our formal submission — a reflection of our commitment to transparency, leadership and service excellence.

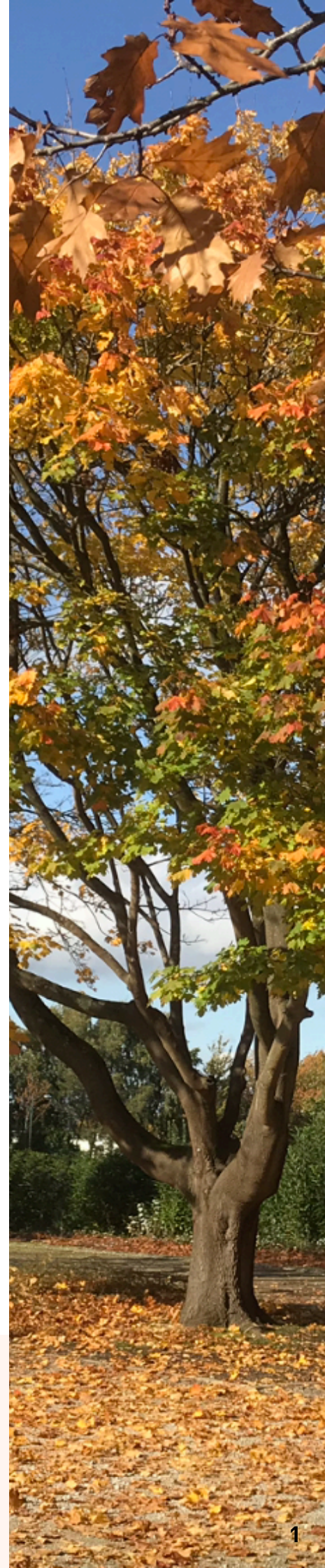
Autumn is a wonderful time to explore Kings Hill's extensive network of cycle paths, woodland walks, and green spaces. Whether it's a stroll through the village green or a family bike ride along the bridleways, the landscape-first design of our community continues to offer beauty and wellbeing in every season.

As we move into the final months of the year, KHPC remains focused on delivering value, supporting local initiatives, and celebrating the spirit that makes Kings Hill such a special place to live. Thank you for your continued support — and here's to a bright and busy autumn in our Parish.

Kind regards

Councillors and Officers of Kings Hill Parish Council

The View from The Hill is the Quarterly magazine from the Kings Hill Parish Council. If you have any comments about the articles in this edition of The View from the Hill or wish to give us any other comments you may have on any Parish Council matter, please write to: The Office/ Finance Manager, Kings Hill Parish Council, Kings Hill Community Centre, 70 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill ME19 4LG. Alternatively please contact us on 01732 870382 or email [administration@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:administration@kingshillparish.gov.uk).







JOIN CFCI FOR A  
**FREE CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH**

25th December 2025 13:00pm  
Kings Hill Community Centre  
ME19 4LG

RSVP to Zandi at 07707637347  
or cfcilondon@outlook.com

## MARY ELLIS BAR

Earlier this year, Kings Hill Parish Council approved a project to install a new bar facility at the Kings Hill Community Centre. This decision followed careful consideration of how to enhance the centre for private hirers, council events, and community functions.

To clarify, this will not be a public bar. It's intended to support the growing number of private events, celebrations, and meetings—providing a more complete and professional venue experience for residents and visitors.

### Why a Bar?

Feedback from event organisers highlighted the need for better hospitality options. A built-in bar will:

- Boost appeal for weddings, parties, and receptions
- Support council and community events
- Increase hire potential and revenue to reinvest in local services

We understand not all residents may agree; concerns about cost, necessity, and the centre's character are valid. We remain committed to listening and ensuring every project delivers value and meets community needs.

The bar will be integrated into the existing layout and used only for appropriate, pre-approved events. We'll keep residents informed and welcome feedback throughout the process.



# KINGS HILL SPORTS PARK

Right in the heart of our community, Kings Hill Sports Park offers a wide range of activities for all ages – whether you're looking to keep active, meet new people or simply enjoy some time out with friends and family. Alongside our own sessions such as Walking Netball, Walking Football and Story Time, you can book our excellent facilities to enjoy a game of tennis, netball or even a kickabout on the superb 3G pitch.

For little ones, our Tuesday morning Story Time with Miss Alison is a big hit. Running during term time, this lively and interactive session brings stories to life with music, props and colouring activities, while grown-ups can relax with a hot drink in the Refuel Café.

If you fancy something a bit more energetic, Walking Netball takes place on Wednesday at 9.30am – a relaxed, fun and social way to keep moving, whatever your experience level.

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**tmactive**

Prefer football? Our Walking Football session every Friday at 11am is perfect for keeping fit and meeting new friends.

Our tennis and netball courts are available for public hire and benefit from floodlighting for evening play. Kings Hill Sports Park is also home to the Kings Hill Community Tennis Club, Bloom Netball, The Rondos Academy for junior football training, Typhoon Touch Rugby and even The Dog Squad – offering UK Sniffer Dog classes for your four-legged friends.

During school holidays, our 3G Pay & Play sessions are a great way to get together for football or rugby at just £5 per person. And whenever you visit, don't forget to stop by the Refuel Café for delicious food and drinks.

Whether you live or work in Kings Hill, there's always something to enjoy at your local sports park. To find out more, book a court or join a session, visit [www.kingshillsportspark.co.uk](http://www.kingshillsportspark.co.uk).



# BIG SEASON AHEAD FOR KINGS HILL FOOTBALL CLUB



Kings Hill FC is back in full swing for the 2025/26 season, with the Men's First Team already three matches into their Kent County League Premier Division campaign. The main pitch is in outstanding condition, and our thanks go to everyone who has helped prepare it for the season ahead.

For the first time, pitches 4, 5 and 6 now have a watering system, thanks to the Kings Hill Parish Council. This investment should, over time, bring these playing surfaces up towards the same high standard as our main pitch, a huge boost for the many teams who use them each week.

Our women's section has expanded to two adult sides, with the First Team set to open their campaign on 7 September with an away match in the First Round of the Vitality Women's FA Cup. There's also plenty of football to enjoy on home soil, with the men scheduled to play six more matches at Kings Hill before the end of September. We've already seen bumper crowds of over 200 at two of our home fixtures, fantastic support for the team.

Our youth squads return to training at the end of August, with their league seasons kicking off in September. It has been a busy summer for our Club Secretary,



Kings Hill FC vs. Aylesford FC

who has registered more than 900 players, and for our digital team, who have launched a brand-new club website. A massive thank you goes to Andrius for his incredible efforts in delivering this in time for the start of the season.

We were honoured to be named Kent FA Grassroots Club of the Year 2025, and it was a proud moment to see Andrius recognised with the New Volunteer Award, both awards reflecting the dedication and spirit of our entire club community.

We are proud to welcome Kings Hill Properties as the new main sponsor for both our men's and women's First Team kits, alongside valued support from Jacksons and Pro Intense Academy. The Men's First Team also benefit from additional sponsorship from RM Toms Transport. Volunteers remain the heartbeat of the club, and there are many ways to get involved whether on matchdays, in administration, or through specialist skills. Local businesses can also join our journey through sponsorship, advertising, or event support.

With our senior sides already showing promising progress, record numbers of players across the club, and ambitious plans to improve facilities in partnership with the Parish Council, there has never been a better time to be part of Kings Hill FC.

<b>DATES FOR THE DIARY</b>
Thursday 18th September 2025 Full Council Meeting
Friday 19th to Saturday 27th September 2025 Music @ Malling Festival 2025
Tuesday 23rd September 2025 Sports Park Committee Meeting
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025 Planning & Transport Committee Meeting
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 Climate Change & Environment Committee Meeting
Thursday 16th October 2025 Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 Sports Park Committee Meeting
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025 Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 Planning & Transport Committee Meeting
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November Planning & Transport Committee Meeting



**We want you to help shape Kings Hill's future!**  
**Kings Hill Parish Council has begun work on its**  
**2026–2027 budget — and we want to hear from**  
**you.**

Each year, the council sets a budget to fund the services, facilities, and projects that matter most to our community. It's a key tool for delivering value to residents — and your input is essential.

Now's your chance to help shape Kings Hill's future. We want to hear your ideas, priorities, and suggestions for the year ahead — whether it's play areas, environmental projects, youth services, or accessibility improvements.

How to Get Involved:

- Email the Parish Office
- Speak to an officer at the Community Centre
- Attend a council meeting and share your views in the public session

Your feedback helps ensure the budget reflects the needs and goals of our community.



# E-SCOOTERS & BIKES



We’ve seen an increase in the use of e-scooters and electric bikes, many of which are being used illegally.

## Did you know that:

- Privately owned e-scooters are not permitted on public roads or pavements—only those part of approved rental schemes (which do not currently operate in Kings Hill) are legal.
- E-scooters and e-bikes being ridden illegally can be seized by the police.
- These vehicles pose serious risks when used improperly or without adequate safety gear.

We urge parents to talk to their children about the rules and dangers of using such vehicles on public land.

If you witness unsafe driving, anti-social behaviour involving e-scooters, or any other crime or nuisance in our area, please report it directly to Kent Police. Every report builds a clearer picture and helps prioritise policing resources.

To report a non-emergency crime:

📞 Call 101

🌐 Or visit: [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

In an emergency, always call 999.

Together, with your support, we can continue to make Kings Hill a safer, more respectful, and enjoyable place to live.

The Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership is a group of organisations who work together to reduce crime and disorder within the borough of Tonbridge & Malling.

Part of this work involves dealing with anti-social behaviour and an Anti-social Behaviour Officer is employed to co-ordinate the work in tackling the problem.

The Anti-social Behaviour Officer works with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services, Youth Offending Service and Housing associations. Together they work to resolve issues and reduce anti-social behaviour in the borough.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can cause disturbance to communities and distress to individuals. Examples of anti-social behaviour include:

- Nuisance neighbours
- Verbal abuse or threats
- Groups of youths causing problems
- Persistent intimidation and harassment
- Vehicle related nuisance



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS	
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Office	01732876149
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	01732844522
Crimestoppers (report a crime anonymously)	0800555111
Mediation Service	01622692843
Victim Support	08081689276

# END TO END: NINE DAYS IN THE SADDLE

## JOHN O'GROATS TO LANDS END

On Friday 23rd May, three cyclists from Kings Hill Wheelers (Mat McLoughlin, Martin Bartlett, and Richard Chatfield), supported by Kings Hill Parish Councillors Margaret Colman and Neil Sherlaw, set off from John O'Groats on a 9-day, 935-mile ride to Land's End.

They took on this epic journey to raise funds for three great charities: Diabetes UK, Dementia UK, and Alzheimer's Research.

Here's their story!

[www.khwcc.org](http://www.khwcc.org).



### Day 1: John O'Groats to Tain – 85 miles

Three Kings Hill Wheelers began their epic ride. After a quick stop in scenic Durham, a stiff northerly and grey clouds followed us into the stark, beautiful Highlands. We reached Tain by early evening, after 104 scenic but soggy miles.

### Day 2: Tain to Fort William – 110 miles

A dramatic sunrise lit the Cromarty Firth as the A9 took us past glowing lochs. Climbing Drumochter Pass was tough, but fast descents into Spean Bridge rewarded us. Showers returned near Loch Lochy, ending with a well-earned Wetherspoons dinner.



### Day 3: Fort William to Glasgow – 103 miles

Glencoe was unforgettable – low clouds clung to peaks, and eerie silence filled the glen. Rain lashed us over Rannoch Moor, with Martin narrowly missing a sheep. Sunshine broke as we descended into Loch Ness and Loch Lomond, and Glasgow welcomed us with traffic and friendly faces.

### Day 4: Glasgow to Carlisle – 101 miles

We left Glasgow facing headwinds and heavy skies. Lanarkshire's route was tough and undulating. A puncture near Abington and a brief thunderstorm added to the challenge. But the descent into Dumfriesshire lifted us—swooping roads and sudden warmth. Carlisle welcomed us with a cosy pub and amazing chips!





### Day 5: Carlisle to Preston – 104 miles

We skirted the Lake District in 18°C and blue skies, stopping at Morrison's for lunch. Neil and Margaret negotiated with the Manager to store our bikes inside. The store supports the same charities as us, and their Community Champion took our details to add to the Morrison's website – giving our charities more exposure!



### Day 6: Preston to Telford – 102 miles

We skirted Wigan and Manchester's congestion, with Martin leading a visit to Wigan Rugby Stadium and some off-roading to dodge traffic. His Garmin failed, causing detours through Warrington. Shropshire's hills surprised us, but the late sun and clear path into Telford lifted our spirits.



### Day 7: Telford to Bristol – 106 miles

The boys set off in heavy rain, where Martin's pricey cycling shoe lost its sole – luckily, Mat had gaffer tape, and the fix held to Land's End. The Severn Valley was sodden and slow, with a brutal headwind near Bristol testing our patience. Martin's playlist, blasting from his phone in a bottle cage, kept morale just above despair.



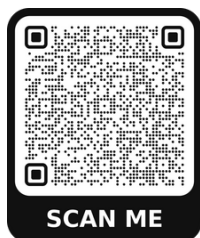
### Day 8: Bristol to Okehampton – 101 miles

The boys began with riders from Mat's Launceston club, hitting the West Country's brutal climbs. A Mendips sunrise and bacon baps in Taunton helped. Devon brought postcard views, 16% gradients, shifting rain, teasing wind, and relentless terrain. We rolled into Okehampton battered but triumphant.



### Day 9: Okehampton to Land's End – 104 miles

Cornwall's hills and rain were brutal, but something – maybe the pasties – kept us going. Sunlit lanes and cheering locals gave us unexpected energy. The final coastal stretch was magical: sea ahead, tailwind behind. Then: Land's End. Nine days, 935 miles, and a journey we'll never forget. The boys arrived around 6pm and had dinner at the last pub before New York. Well done, lads!



**DIABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

DONATE TO  
RICHARD'S CHOSEN  
CHARITY!



**DementiaUK**  
Helping families face dementia

DONATE TO MARTIN'S  
CHOSEN CHARITY!



**ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK** FOR A CURE

DONATE TO MAT'S  
CHOSEN CHARITY!





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# KINGS HILL ALLOTMENTS

The allotments at Kings Hill continue to thrive and improve. Our communal greenhouse has received positive feedback from our allotment holders; it offers protection from adverse weather conditions and helps extend the growing season, benefitting all users.

We are pleased to inform you that security lighting will soon be added to the newer block, further enhancing safety and security for everyone.

In our commitment to supporting local wildlife, we have installed hedgehog boxes at the allotments. These provide safe habitats for various creatures such as toads, insects and other beneficial wildlife.

We are also excited to participate in the Bee Squared Project, a national initiative dedicated to supporting bees and other pollinators. As part of this campaign, the Parish Council will be distributing seed packets to create a one square metre flower patch. These seeds will be plated in May to maximise their growth potential.

Kings Hill Parish Council is continually seeking new ways to address climate and environmental issues within our community. If you have any ideas for green projects that the committee and council might consider, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [nicola.cooper@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.cooper@kingshillparish.gov.uk)



# KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCIL SETS THE GOLD STANDARD

Kings Hill Parish Council is proud to announce that we have met the criteria to apply for the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) Gold Award — a milestone that reflects our commitment to excellence, transparency, and community leadership.

## WHAT IS THE LCAS GOLD AWARD?

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS), run by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), recognises outstanding parish and town councils. The Gold Award is the highest level, requiring excellence in governance, leadership, and community engagement.

This achievement reflects the hard work of our councillors and officers and confirms that KHPC:

- Operates with transparency and accountability
- Engages actively with residents and stakeholders
- Shows strong leadership and vision
- Pursues continuous improvement and best practices

More than a formality, it demonstrates our commitment to serving Kings Hill to the highest standard. For residents, it means a council that:

- Exceeds statutory requirements
- Responds proactively to local needs
- Is nationally respected for good governance
- Delivers real value to the community

Qualifying to apply for the Gold Award is a proud milestone — but it's just the beginning. KHPC will now prepare its submission to the LCAS panel and continue striving for excellence.

Thank you for your support — together, we're building a council that goes above and beyond.

## HELEN GRANT MP

Dear Reader,

It is over a year since I was elected MP for Kings Hill, and engagement with residents in this special place is truly gratifying.

It was a real honour to attend Kings Hill FC 2025/2026 end of season ceremony and present awards to the U14s boys' team, who are this year's Kent Youth League Champions, as well as the Club's Endeavour Award to the Jets Frame Team!

A crucial national campaign I am working on is the Lobular Moon-Shot Project, where I have been advocating for specific government funding for research into lobular breast cancer. I know this cruel illness is a critical issue for many residents. Another national campaign I am co-leading is the 'Blue Badge Battle'. More details on this and other issues I am working on are provided on my recent summer newsletter that should have come through your letter box recently! You can also view via the QR card below:

Warm wishes,  
Helen

Photo: Presenting the KHFC  
Endeavour Award to the  
Kings Hill Jets Frame Team





# DO YOU HAVE A FOOD VAN? We want you!

Kings Hill Parish Council is inviting food van operators to get in touch for the opportunity to trade at our popular bi-annual community events.

These events are always very well attended, offering a fantastic opportunity to showcase your food, grow your customer base, and make great profits — with no pitch fees.

If you serve quality food with friendly service, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested?

Please contact the Parish Office to express your interest and find out more:

[events@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:events@kingshillparish.gov.uk)

01732870382

Join us and be part of some of the busiest and most exciting events in the area!