



KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

# THE HILL

## Festive Issue!



AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY



Sept 2025-26  
Business to become  
Dementia Friendly



DECEMBER 2025

# DEAR KINGS HILL RESIDENTS,

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the work of Kings Hill Parish Council and the wider community over the past twelve months. It's been a year of steady progress, thoughtful discussion, and continued commitment to the wellbeing of our parish.

We've seen improvements at the Community Centre, ongoing maintenance at the allotments, and constructive conversations around the possibility of Kings Hill becoming a town council. These are long-term matters, and I'm pleased to see the level of engagement and interest from residents in shaping the future of our community.

Looking ahead, one of the key issues likely to feature in early 2026 is the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Local Plan. At the time of writing, the plan is expected to go out for public consultation. While the details are still being finalised, it's clear that the proposals will have implications for housing, infrastructure, and land use across the borough - including here in Kings Hill.

We understand that residents will have questions and concerns, and we want to make sure those voices are heard. It is our intention to host a public meeting and presentation at the Community Centre during the consultation period, so that everyone has the opportunity to learn more and engage directly with the process. Please keep an eye on our website and noticeboards for updates as more information becomes available.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to mention that at the time of writing **we currently have four vacancies on the Parish Council**. If you care about your community and would like to play a more active role in local decision-making, I warmly encourage you to consider putting yourself forward. It's a rewarding way to contribute, and we welcome people from all walks of life. For more information, please contact our Clerk via the Parish Council office or website.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you in 2026.

Warm regards,

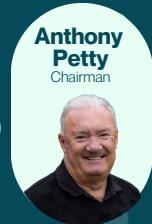
Anthony Petty  
Chairman



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).

# KINGS HILL PARISH

## COUNCILLORS & STAFF



**Anthony Petty**  
Chairman



**Felix McLymont**



**Margaret Colman**



**Neil Sherlaw**



**Angela Vincent**



**Siobhan Kirk**



**James MacKay**



**Sarah Barker**



**Karen Bell**  
Clerk & RFO



**Hannah Usher**  
Deputy Clerk & Deputy RFO  
Community Centre Manager



**Tasha Brockey**  
Deputy Community  
Centre Manager & Finance Officer



**Nicki Cooper**  
Committee Clerk &  
Allotments Officer

We would like to thank residents who were able to attend the community meeting on the 24th October 2025 and joined the conversation around Town Council status.

We are preparing a Q&A document which will be disseminated separately. In the meantime, we welcome any further questions from residents, these can be sent to [clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk).

## BUDGET CONSULTATION 2026/27

Every year, the Council sets a budget that determines how funds are allocated across Kings Hill; from maintaining green spaces and supporting community events, to investing in local services and facilities. This process is now underway for the 2026 financial year, and we want to hear from you.

What matters most to you - is it more community events? Better lighting or footpaths? Support for youth services or environmental initiatives? Support for more sports at the Kings Hill Sports Park?

This is your opportunity to help shape the Council's spending priorities and ensure that the budget reflects the needs and aspirations of the people who live here.

We're inviting residents to share their thoughts on what they'd like to see funded in the year ahead. Whether it's a big idea or a small improvement, your input is valuable.

Please email your suggestions to:  
[clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk)

All feedback will be considered as part of the budget-setting process. Further information, including updates on proposals and how your views are being used will be published in due course via our website, social media, and future newsletters. This is your community, your council, and your chance to influence how public money is spent. Let's work together to make Kings Hill an even better place to live.

# SPORTS PARK IRRIGATION

A major project undertaken this year at Kings Hill Sports Park was the installation of a new irrigation system, funded through S106 developer contributions.

This investment is a key part of a broader, phased programme to upgrade and future-proof the sports facilities. The new system significantly improves the quality and consistency of pitch maintenance, helping to ensure better playing conditions throughout the year and reducing the impact of dry weather on the grass surfaces. By automating and optimising water usage, the system also supports more sustainable grounds management.

This upgrade reflects the Council's commitment to maintaining high-quality community sports infrastructure and ensuring the facilities can meet increasing demand from local teams and users.

Further improvements are planned as part of the long-term vision for the site, with a focus on enhancing both the user experience and the environmental sustainability of the park.

## Volunteer

in a Girls' Brigade group near you

Your local group is...

1st Kings Hill GB



We'd love to hear from potential volunteers for our local Girls' Brigade groups! You can help children and young people make new friends, learn new skills, explore the Christian faith, and much, much more!



Contact us at

1stkingshillgb@gmail.com



[www.girlsbrigademinstries.org.uk](http://www.girlsbrigademinstries.org.uk)  
The Girls' Brigade England & Wales is a registered charity, number 206655, and a company limited by guarantee, number 206877

## GOODBYE TO OUR RESIDENT VICAR!



## Christmas Lunch

DECEMBER 25 13:00 PM

Kings Hill Community Centre ME19 4LG

RSVP to Zandi at 07707637347 or  
[cfcilondon@outlook.com](mailto:cfcilondon@outlook.com)

It was announced in October after 10 years of ministry at Kings Hill, Reverend Mark Montgomery will be moving to take up a new role as Vicar for the Benefice of Paddock Wood. He will continue to lead St Gabriel's and all of their services and Christmas activities until he moves in January.

Many of you will know Rev Mark through his work in the community - leading Remembrance Sunday services, memorial services for her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II, as well as his work with the food bank and other activities.

Whilst Rev Mark is moving on, St Gabriel's will continue to flourish under the guidance of its leadership team whilst they seek to appoint a new Vicar for the church to continue its ministry.

# KINGS HILL GIRLS BRIGADE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

A local uniformed community group that works with girls and young women is on the hunt for volunteer leaders transform the lives of its members.

1<sup>ST</sup> Kings Hill Girls Brigade is based at Kings Hill and currently has around 31 members but urgently needs new over 18s to lead weekly meetings and special one-off events like fun days and residential events.

Girls' Brigade community groups are uniformed youth groups for girls and young women, aged 4 to 18, from all backgrounds. They're a safe environments where members can relate to one another, have fun, learn new skills, make a difference in their community, and discover more about the Christian faith.



All of St Gabriel's regular activities, services on Sunday mornings (and at other times), small groups, the groups at the cricket pitch (The Hub Community Café and Little Angels Stay and Play), St Gabriel's Kings Hill food bank etc will all still continue, whilst the church leadership work with the Diocese of Rochester in appointing the next minister in Kings Hill.

There will be a service of Thanksgiving for Mark early in the New Year if you would like to attend, please email [secretary@stgabrielskingshill.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stgabrielskingshill.org.uk) for more information or keep an eye on the church website and social media channels.

Our programme is varied, and the activities enable girls and young women to grow and develop in confidence, resilience, wellbeing and life skills, whilst developing strong friendships, a sense of belonging, taking part in social action, and having great fun along the way.

GB volunteer leaders will receive full training and are DBS checked. The Kings Hill group is looking for volunteers to lead, plan and deliver sessions to the girls including preparing discussions, crafts, and games using badgework ideas provided. A leader would need to attend each week and commitment to at least two years.

They are happy to talk to anyone who'd like to find out more about getting involved and arrange a taster session to come and see what we do. You can contact Karen at [1stkingshillgb@gmail.com](mailto:1stkingshillgb@gmail.com) for more information.

## Christmas Services at St Gabriel's Kings Hill

At Valley Invicta Primary School

**Sunday 14th December**

**4pm - Carols by Candlelight**

Christmas Carols and Jumpers, a service for all.

At Discovery School

**Christmas Eve**

**2pm or 4pm Messy Nativity and Christingle**

Christmas craft activities followed by a 'scratch' Nativity and Christingle service.

**Booking essential via our website**

**9.00pm – Midnight at Jerusalem Communion**

A calm, peaceful way to bring in Christmas, with Carols and Communion.

**Christmas Day**

**10am Christmas Day Family Communion**

A lively family communion service the traditional way to start Christmas Day.



**Instagram:** [cofekingshill](https://www.instagram.com/cofekingshill/) **Facebook:** [/stgabrielskingshill](https://www.facebook.com/stgabrielskingshill/)  
[www.kingshillchurch.org.uk/christmas](http://www.kingshillchurch.org.uk/christmas)



# CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL & COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT KINGSHILL F.C.



The festive season brings mince pies, mulled wine, and family gatherings, but there's nothing quite like watching local football to break up the holidays. Kings Hill FC have got a packed December schedule that promises drama, passion, and perhaps the odd festive goal celebration.

Whether you're a regular supporter or simply looking to stretch your legs after one too many pigs in blankets, we'd love to welcome you down to Kings Hill Sports Park. Our women's and men's first teams play most weekends throughout December; admission is free. You'll find all the latest fixtures and kick-off times at [kingshillfc.com](http://kingshillfc.com).

Kings Hill FC is far more than what happens on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. With over 900 players across 75 teams, we're proud to offer football for everyone in our community, from toddlers taking their first steps on the pitch to our veteran players still showing us how it's done.

Our provision includes a thriving disability football section, two walking football groups, competitive adult men's and women's teams, and an extensive youth setup for boys and girls of all ages and abilities.

Get Involved in 2025!

We'd love to hear from you if you're thinking about New Year's resolutions and getting more active. Many of our youth teams have waiting lists, but there are spaces available across some adult, youth and inclusive football sessions. And if playing isn't your thing, there are countless ways to get involved: volunteering, coaching, sponsorship, or simply coming along to support from the sidelines.

We're a community club run entirely by volunteers and always looking to welcome new faces into the Kings Hill FC family.

From everyone at the club, have a wonderful Christmas, and we hope to see you at a match soon.

In October I attended the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester. I met with important stakeholders to discuss matters affecting my constituents and making Maidstone & Malling an even greater place to live, work and raise a family.

Several eye-catching policy announcements were made at the conference – here's some examples that will be welcomed by communities, families and businesses in Kings Hill.

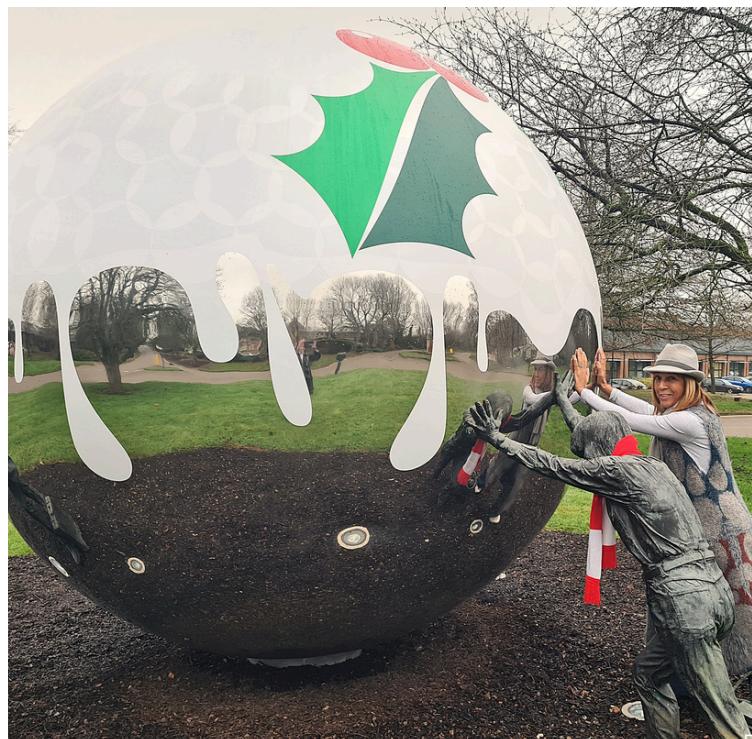
The abolition of Stamp Duty Land Tax on primary residences will help first-time-buyers and families stay / downsize or move into this wonderful area, close to good schools and with strong community ties.

Withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) will help us 'stop the boats' and regain control of our borders. Since June this year I have been co-leading a Conservative Party Policy Commission on the UK's relationship with the EHCR. Our 185-page report resulted in the withdrawal decision being made by Kemi Badenoch and her Shadow Cabinet.

And measures to scrap business rates in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors is a vital pro-growth measure, one that I know will be welcomed by local business owners and their customers.

More here: <https://www.conservatives.com/our-policy-prospectus>

I wish a very Merry Christmas to everyone in Kings Hill.



# IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, OUR CHILDREN NEED STRONG COMMUNITIES

By Amy Evers, an Independent Safeguarding Consultant based in Kings Hill

Across the country, we've seen more flags being raised and national debates about who we are and what we stand for. Taking pride in our country and heritage is a positive thing; it reminds us of belonging to something bigger. What really defines the strength of a community isn't just symbols; it's how we care for each other, day to day, especially our children.

Here in Kings Hill, we are fortunate. Ours is already a place with a strong, inclusive spirit. Neighbours look out for one another, families connect through schools and activities, and there's a real sense that people pull together when it matters. This is what children remember most not the noise of national politics, but the reassurance of being supported and valued close to home.

Sometimes the signs that a child is struggling can be small: becoming withdrawn, changes in mood or behaviour, or expressing worries that feel out of character. It doesn't always mean something serious is wrong, but it is a signal that they may need extra support. Starting with a gentle conversation often helps. Schools and GPs are local places to turn to, and national organisations such as the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) and Childline (0800 1111) are always there to listen.

In uncertain times, the most powerful statement we can make is in the everyday actions that show children they belong in a safe, supportive, and caring community. By building on Kings Hill's spirit of inclusion, we can ensure every child grows up proud of where they live, and confident about their future.

## STORY TIME WITH MRS CLAUS



Get ready to step into a world of festive wonder as Mrs Claus visits for a very special Story Time on Tuesday 16 December, from 10am to 11.30am.

Children will be treated to a morning of Christmassy tales, games and plenty of holiday cheer, all led by Mrs Claus herself. After story time, the fun continues with Stay & Play - little ones can get creative with Christmas colouring and festive games.

The session costs £5 per child (payable on the day by cash or card), with under 1s free.

Spaces are limited and advanced booking is required. To reserve your place, please email [active.communities@tmactive.co.uk](mailto:active.communities@tmactive.co.uk).

Don't miss this magical start to the Christmas season - perfect for sparking festive excitement and making memories to treasure.

## KHPC GRANTS

Do you have a project, event, or service that could benefit the Kings Hill community? Kings Hill Parish Council is inviting grant applications from local organisations that help improve residents' well-being.

Grants can fund up to 50% of project costs (or more in exceptional cases) for community initiatives, events, services, or equipment. Funding may come from your own fundraising, resources, or other organisations.

Applications are reviewed monthly (except August) by the Finance Committee. Submit your form and supporting documents at least 20 working days before a meeting, and you're encouraged to attend to present your proposal.

Please note: funding isn't guaranteed, and previous awards don't ensure future grants. Applications may be deferred if more details are needed, so plan ahead.

Need help? Contact the Parish Clerk for guidance.

Apply now using the QR code or email [deputy.clerk@kingshillparish.org.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@kingshillparish.org.uk).



## CLEARHEART LANE UPDATE

The planning application 21/00881 submitted to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is for a major residential development on land south of Kings Hill, adjacent to Clearheart Lane. The proposal includes:

- The construction of approximately 70 new homes
- Associated infrastructure such as roads, parking, landscaping, and drainage
- Access from the existing Kings Hill road network

This application has been a source of significant concern for both the Parish Council and many residents, particularly due to its potential impact on local infrastructure, traffic, and the character of the surrounding area and adverse impact on ancient woodland.

As mentioned earlier, Kings Hill Parish Council is preparing to seek a Judicial Review of the Borough Council's decision to approve this application. The Council remains committed to challenging the approval through legal channels to ensure that local concerns are properly addressed.

At the time of writing, the Decision Notice has not yet been issued, but we are acting swiftly to ensure this new evidence is fully considered. If you have local knowledge, historical insights, or observations that could support our efforts to protect this special corner of Kings Hill, please get in touch, your input could make a real difference. Contact the Clerk at [clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk).

## PRAXIS

Praxis, the new owners of a significant property portfolio in Kings Hill, have shared their ambitions for the area. Their plans include enhancing the quality and flexibility of existing office spaces to better support local businesses and attract new commercial tenants.

In addition to these improvements, Praxis intends to apply for a change of use on selected properties. This would enable them to explore opportunities for new residential development, potentially contributing to the growth and diversity of Kings Hill's housing options.

Praxis is committed to engaging with the local community and will be meeting with Kings Hill Parish Council soon to discuss their proposals in more detail. Their approach reflects a desire to invest in the long-term success of Kings Hill, both commercially and residentially.

If you would like support in connecting with Praxis or have questions you'd like raised during their discussions with the Parish Council, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS 2026

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community? Someone whose dedication, kindness, and tireless efforts make Kings Hill a better place to live?

We're delighted to announce that nominations are now open for the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award 2026. This prestigious award recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to their local community – often quietly, without seeking recognition.

Whether it's a volunteer who gives their time selflessly, a neighbour who always lends a helping hand, or someone who has made a lasting impact through community projects or support – we want to hear about them!

Deadline for nominations: 12 January 2026

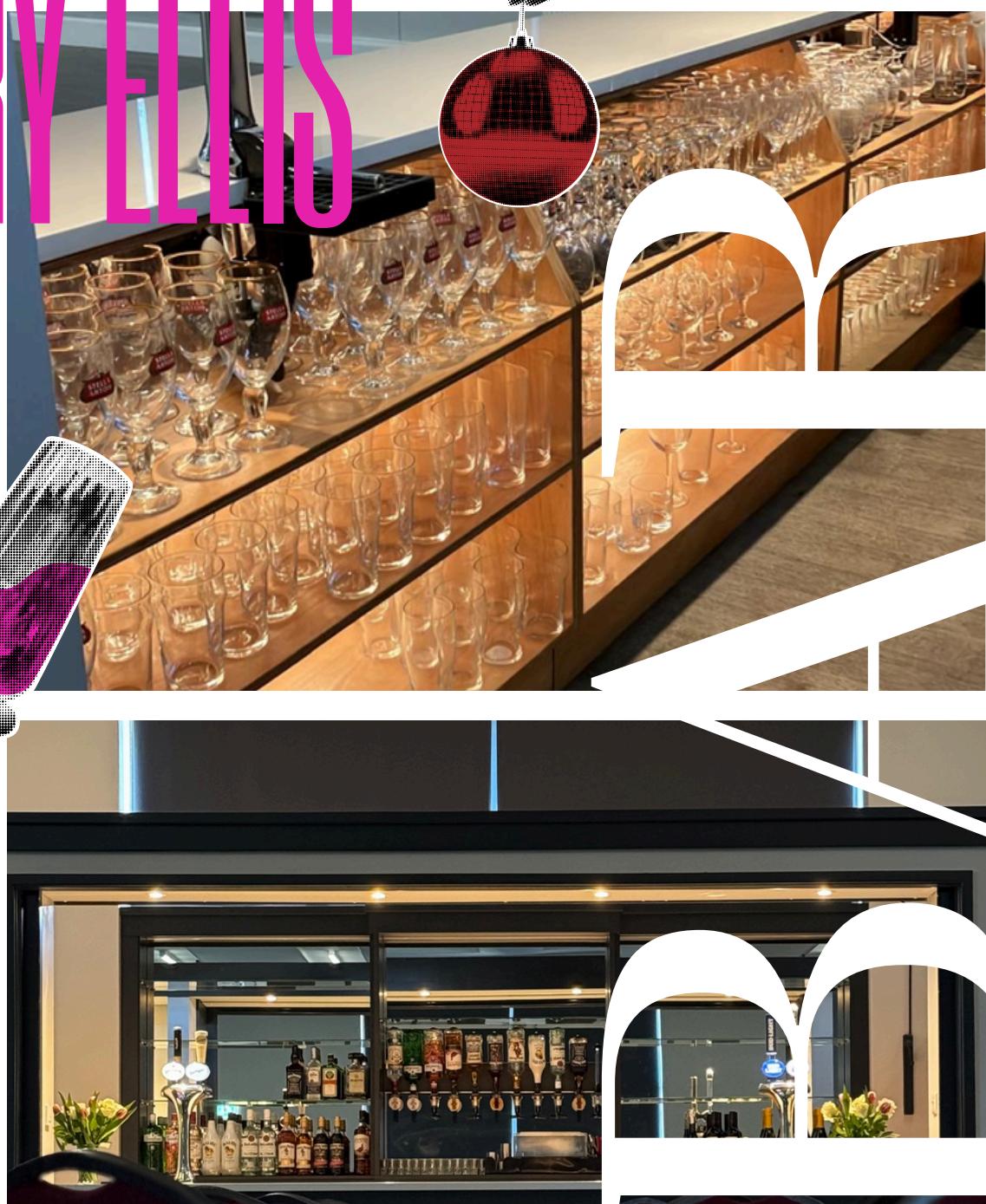
To nominate someone, please send us:

- Their name and contact details
- A short explanation of why you believe they deserve the award
- Any relevant examples of their community involvement

You can email your nomination to [clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk) or drop it off at the Parish Office.

Let's celebrate the unsung heroes of Kings Hill – the people who make our community truly special.

# MARY ELLIS



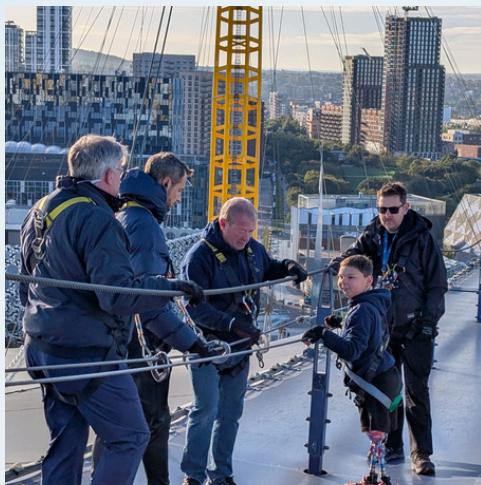
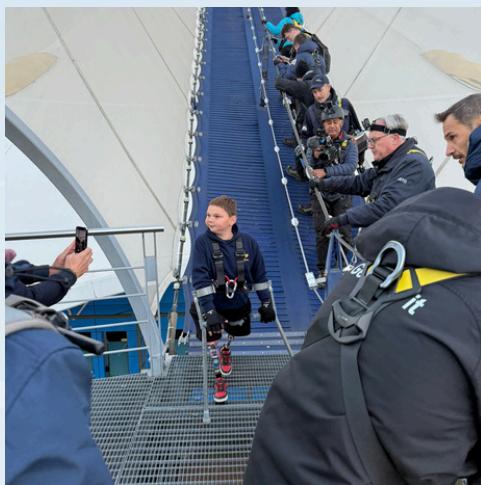
***Raise a glass at the new Mary Ellis bar!***

There's something new to celebrate at Kings Hill Community Centre! The Mary Ellis Hall now features a stylish new bar perfect for parties, receptions, and community gatherings.

Whether it's a birthday, celebration, or local function, the Mary Ellis Hall now offers even more to make your occasion special.

To find out more or reserve your date, email [bookings@kingshillparish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@kingshillparish.org.uk).

# TONY HUDGELL FOUNDATION - TRIP TO LAPLAND



DONATE NOW



The Tony Hudgell Foundation, a charity dedicated to supporting vulnerable children affected by physical, emotional, or psychological abuse, is working on a mission: to give children who've experienced unimaginable hardships a chance to experience the magic of Lapland.

Tony Hudgell, the young boy who inspired the creation of the foundation, knows firsthand what it means to overcome trauma. Despite enduring severe abuse as a baby, Tony has grown into an inspiring symbol of courage, kindness, and determination.

Two years ago, Tony had the opportunity to visit Lapland, and he described it as "the most magical place in the world."

Now, he wants to share that joy with others. His dream is to take 26 families of children affected by abuse (2 of them from Kings Hill!) on a 3-night, 4-day trip to Luosto, Finland, flying from either Manchester or Gatwick – and he's asking for your help to make it happen.

It's a chance for children who've suffered trauma to experience joy, wonder, and healing in a magical winter landscape filled with snow, reindeer, huskies, and, of course, Santa himself.

Tony is actively fundraising to turn his dream into reality. He recently took on the challenge of climbing the iconic O2 Arena in London to raise awareness for his upcoming trip. The climb not only demonstrated his commitment and determination but also helped draw attention to his cause.

The foundation extends a huge thank you to Canterbury Travel, who have partnered with the foundation. Every donation, no matter the size, brings Tony one step closer to making this magical experience possible for some of the UK's most vulnerable children.

For more information and to donate, either scan the QR code above or visit:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/tonyhudgellfoundation-lapland2025>

# kings hill christmas lights competition

Top 3 best decorated houses in Kings Hill  
win a cash donation to a charity of their  
choice!

All entries and nominations to:  
[events@kingshillparish.gov.uk](mailto:events@kingshillparish.gov.uk)

DEADLINE: 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025



## TMBC CONSULTATION UPDATE

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is currently considering launching a Regulation 18 consultation on its Draft Local Plan. The plan outlines how the borough might meet future housing needs, including a government-mandated target of around 19,000 new homes, while aiming to protect green spaces, improve infrastructure, and preserve the character of our towns and villages.

At the time of writing, the consultation has not yet been formally approved, but if it goes ahead, it is expected to begin in mid-November.

Kings Hill Parish Council intends to host a public meeting and presentation at the Community Centre during the consultation period to give residents the opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and share their views. We are committed to ensuring our community is informed and involved in this important conversation about the future of our area.

Please look out for further details, which will be shared as soon as they are confirmed.

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/local-plan/local-plan-updates>

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Sports Park Committee Meeting

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Planning & Transport Committee  
Meeting, followed by Finance  
Committee Meeting

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Sports Park Committee Meeting

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Climate Change & Environment  
Committee Meeting

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Planning & Transport Committee  
Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Sports Park Committee Meeting

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Planning & Transport Committee  
Meeting

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Climate Change & Environment  
Committee Meeting

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Sports Park Committee Meeting



# WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

Looking to reach local customers and grow your business in the community?

The Hill offers a fantastic opportunity to advertise directly to residents in your area.

With wide distribution and a loyal local readership, it's the perfect place to showcase your services, products, or events.

Advertising space is now available.

For rates and booking details, please contact us today:

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