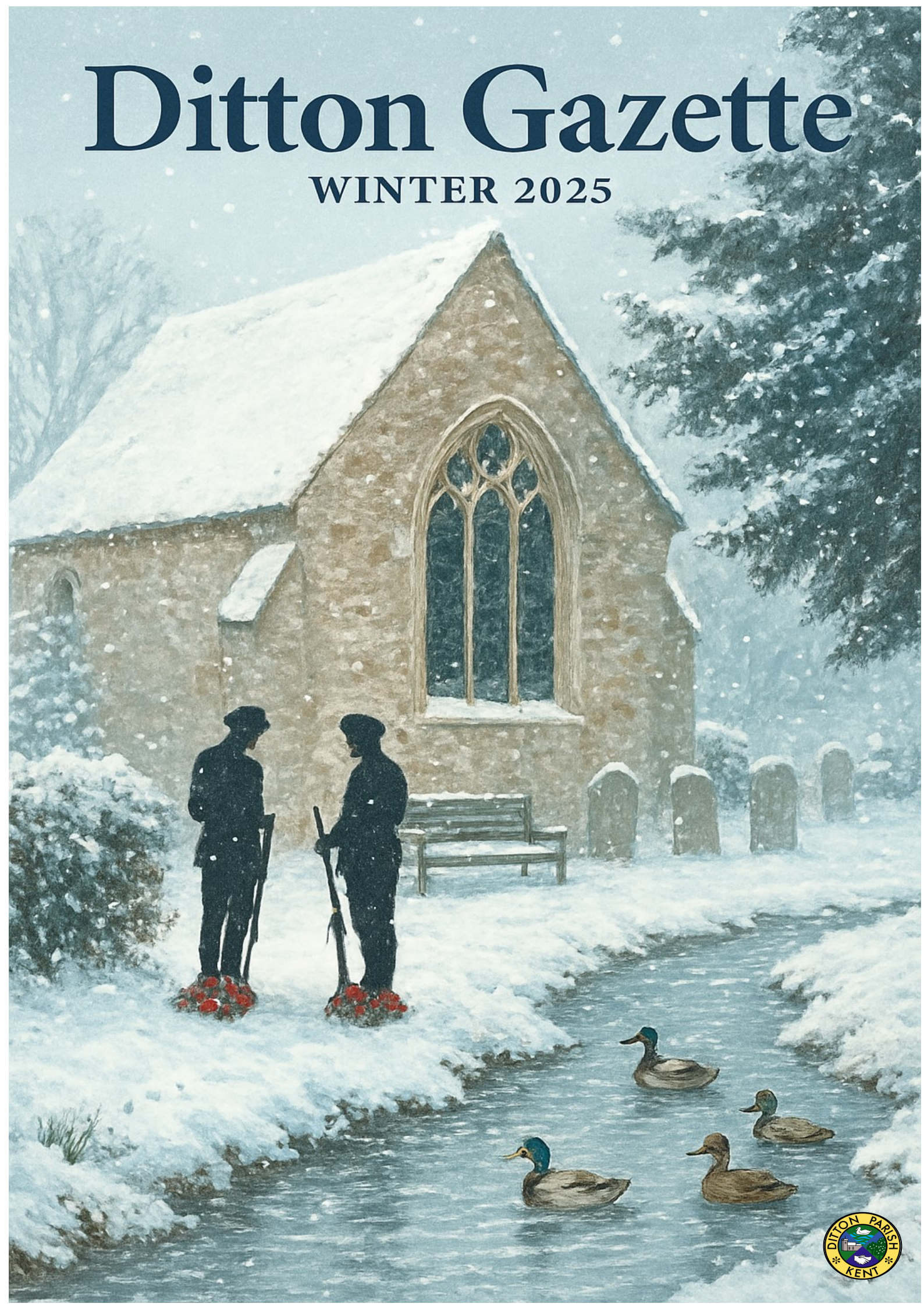


Ditton Gazette

WINTER 2025





YOUR COUNCIL

Ditton Parish Council

Clerk to the Council - Nicola Greenaway

Ditton Parish Council
Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road
Ditton, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6AH

Tel: 01732 844749

clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dittonparishcouncil

www.facebook.com/thekilnbarn

Business Administrator - Sally Craig finance@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Centre Admin - Selena Gardner admin@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Open Spaces & Amenities - Lynn Fitchett osa@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman – Nigel Newman nigel@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors — David Adlington

[all can be contacted James Cox

via parish office] Lisa Cox

Jackie Dearden

Adam Laidouci

Tony Mulcuck

Maria Newman

Mike Porter

Anne Throssell

Adrian Waters

Richard White

**** Vacancy ****

Your Borough Councillors

Rob Cannon Robert.cannon@tmbsc.gov.uk

Steve Hammond Steve.hammond@tmbsc.gov.uk

Colin Williams Colin.williams@tmbsc.gov.uk

Your County Councillor

Andrew Kennedy Andrew.Kennedy@kent.gov.uk

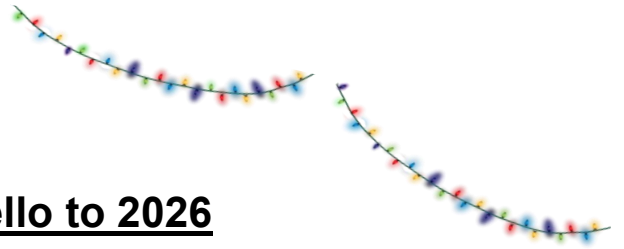
Your MP

Helen Grant helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

To report highways matters e.g. salt bins, potholes, lights, road signs, abandoned road signs, call 03000419191 or report online at: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem.

For recycling collections, fly-tipping, council tax and other local services, contact Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522 or visit www.tmbsc.gov.uk

Chairman's Message



Farewell to 2025 and Hello to 2026

A warm welcome to our winter edition of the gazette.

It does feel like 2025 was just a blur and the Christmas decorations have barely been stored for 5 minutes from last year.

This year saw the 30th anniversary of the village twinning with Rang Du Fliers – a town in northern France, approximately 50 minutes from Calais. A range of activities took place across the channel during the year to celebrate the occasion.

The council has been working on the Local Plan [future housing plan] that Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are proposing. There is a public meeting on Tuesday 16th December where Matt Boughton will be attending.

We are also still waiting for the housing proposal from Barming to the East Malling Research centre to be heard by TMBC. This is likely to be in the New Year. We are also raising our concerns at Kent County Council as it felt like the village could not move for road closures and traffic lights over the last year – and, in our opinion, not seen much improvement or benefits!

Work is now booked for essential tree works in the New Year – getting ready for a new spring and new hope. But open spaces have continued its cycle of improvements and maintaining during the year.

There is plenty taking place in the community centre and we are happily promoting our regular hirers – a wide range of activities take place – ideal perhaps after the Christmas period. The centre is continuing with renovations, with fire door updates and new lighting on the stage taking place.

In relation to the council membership, Kim Nash stood down over the summer. This means there is currently one place available on the council. Please feel free to attend our main council meeting at the first Monday of the month to see what we do.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Nigel Newman, Chairman, Ditton Parish Council



Parish Council Update from the Chairman of the Council

Vacancies

The council currently has one vacancy. Serving on a Parish Council allows you to contribute to your local community for the benefit of all. We are a collective mixture of ages and expertise and we would welcome anyone that would wish to contribute. Council meetings are open to all to attend, so if you wished to find out how the council operates, please come and visit one of our meetings.

What does the Parish Council do?

The Council meets on the first Monday of each month for the Full Parish Council meeting. This would be the meeting that would cover finance, reports for the community police, County and Borough Councillors, correspondence from partner authorities and residents and planning matters.

All Council Members also meet again mid-month for the Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee. Primarily this will be for comments linked to planning applications made to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council - the principal planning authority.

The Council is responsible for the running of the Community Centre. The Community Centre Committee meet monthly to discuss the hiring of the centre, the maintenance and running of the centre, our Kilnbarn bar and the events that go on each month.

The Council is also responsible for the open spaces such as the New Road recreation ground, the Kilnbarn recreation ground and the Quarry Local Nature Reserve. It also assists on matters such as the Public Right of Way footpaths and the Stream. This committee also meets monthly.

We also have a Finance and Administration Committee and a Personnel Committee that meet quarterly or when required.

Community Centre Committee

The Committee has over the past 12 months continued the maintenance of the Kilnbarn Bar. This year we have renovated the disabled toilet.

The Community Centre has also seen developments including the repainting of the Don Carman Hall. We are also looking at replacement stage lighting in the Oaken Hall and upgrading the sound system. The Council is also hoping to upgrade the toilets for the Don Carmen Hall during 2026.

The car park was resurfaced this year allowing the village to benefit from free parking along with users of the Community Centre.

Planning Committee

Whilst fairly quiet this year, all planning applications that are made in Ditton, whether for tree removal or cutbacks, garage conversions to large scale construction of new houses are considered by the council.

Comments made by the public are considered and the Parish Council will report to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council it's opinions linked to any developments. Plans will be considered either by Planning Officers for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council or actually by the local Area 3 Committee made up of TMBC members for the local area only.

Open Spaces Committee

The Committee monitor all the Open Spaces and upkeep of the green areas around the village. The council has worked hard to monitor the trees of the village and you would have seen maintenance of trees throughout the year to make sure the trees are safe and healthy and not causing any issues.

The Council Open Spaces Staff also carry out maintenance in the Infant School and in the churchyard. The Committee also manage our popular allotments which are very well tended and we continue to have a waiting list

What does a Parish Councillor Do?

A councillor's primary role is to represent their parish and the people who live in it. As part of a local council, you will work with Council staff to:

- run local services such as our open spaces and recreation facilities
- influence the long-term development policy and comment on planning applications in the parish
- improve the quality of life and the environment in our local area
- identify issues which are important to residents
- improve the lives of residents by providing local community projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes, community groups and agencies.

Eligibility

You must:

- be a British, Irish or EU citizen
- be over 18 years old
- live in the parish of Ditton or within 3 miles of it or have your principal place of work in the parish of Ditton.

If you think this is something you can do please contact the Clerk via e-mail clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.

What's going on at your community centre each week?

Monday	13:00pm – 15:30pm	Ditton Indoor Short Mat Bowls	moira-batchelor@hotmail.co.uk
Monday	19:00pm – 22:00pm	Ditton Dog Training club	steve1066@btinternet.com
Tuesday	09:30am – 11:45am	Ditton Toddler Group	saunders-23@hotmail.co.uk
Tuesday	13:00pm – 15:00pm	Line Dancing	Stephen 07476 749797 stephen.howardisa@hotmail.co.uk
Tuesday (term time)	16:30pm & 19:30pm	Paris Performing Arts	Paris Performing Arts info@paris-arts.co.uk
2 nd Wednesday of the month	13:00pm – 16:00pm	Ditton & Malling Active Retirement Association	j.usherwood2@btinternet.com
Wednesday	19:00pm – 21:00pm	Tails of Success	tailsofsuccesskent@outlook.com
Thursday	11:30am – 12:30pm	Move It Or Lose It	lance.fermor@moveitorloseit.co.uk
Thursday	12:00 noon – 14:00pm	Line Dancing	Stephen 07476 749797 stephen.howardisa@hotmail.co.uk
2 nd and 4 th Thursday of the month	15:00pm – 17:00pm	Healing Voices	healingvoiceskent@gmail.com
Friday	13:00pm – 15:30pm	Ditton Indoor Short Mat Bowls	moira-batchelor@hotmail.co.uk
Friday	16:30pm – 19:15pm	Matt Fiddes Martial Arts	kent@mattfiddes.com
1 st Friday of the month	20:00pm – Midnight	Ceroc	virginia@ceroc.info
Saturday (term time)	09:00am – 16:30pm	D'arcy Stage School	georgia@darcystageschool.co.uk
2 nd Sunday of the month	19:00pm – 22:00pm	Latin Fever	julie.latinfever@yahoo.co.uk



OAKEN HALL

**DON CARMAN
HALL**

ACORN ROOM

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE VENUE FOR HIRE

Located within the beautiful grounds of Ditton village, Ditton Community Centre has three individual rooms available to hire. From Birthdays to Anniversaries, our rooms are designed to accommodate different sized functions depending on your requirements. Come and celebrate your family event here with us.

***LARGE FREE ONSITE CAR PARK**

*** FULLY LICENSED BAR HIRE IN BOTH OUR
DON CARMAN HALL AND OAKEN HALL**

***TABLE SET UP INCLUDED IN YOUR HIRE**

***DECORATE YOUR OWN HALL/ROOM**

***WEDDING HIRE ALSO AVAILABLE**

*** SELF CATER YOUR OWN FUNCTION**

***ALL ON ONE LEVEL WITH DISABLED ACCESS**

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES

admin@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01732 844749

www.dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Looking for something new in 2026

Kent County Councillor Andrew Kennedy has a hosted website to promote to all residents all clubs and societies that are in Ditton and the surrounding area.

Please visit www.communitybridge.co.uk to find out more clubs and societies in the area.



DITTON COURT QUARRY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Ditton Court Quarry Local Nature Reserve is a wonderful asset to the village and this great open space continues to be enjoyed by many. Unfortunately we have experienced some anti-social behaviour in the quarry including damage to trees and riding of motorcycles. We always report any vandalism or anti-social behaviour to the local police and would encourage users of the quarry to report any incidents to the police and also the parish council office.

We have placed an order for some new signs for the Quarry and we were very pleased to receive a grant of £300.00 from KCC Cllr Andrew Kennedy to cover the cost of the new signs. We hope to have the new signs in place soon. Thank you Andrew.



[L-R Nicola Greenaway (Parish Clerk), KCC Cllr Andrew Kennedy, Cllr Nigel Newman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Anne Throssell (Member of the Open Spaces Committee)]





Merry Christmas from **DITTON BOOK EXCHANGE**

Wish list:
Please contact
us about
volunteering in
2026!

Dates for 2026

Winter/Spring

Jan 5th & 19th
Feb 2nd & 16th
Mar 2nd & 16th
Apr 20th
May 18th

Summer

Jun 1st & 15th
Jul 6th & 20th
Aug 3rd & 17th

Autumn

Sep 7th & 21st
Oct 5th & 19th
Nov 2nd & 16th

Winter

Dec 7th & 21st

2-4pm
Ditton
Community
Centre



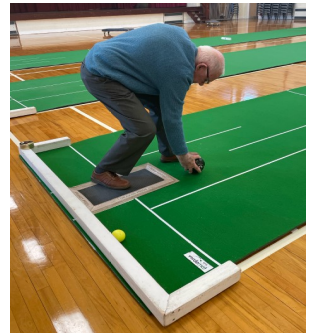
Ditton Short Mat Indoor Bowls Club

Have you ever thought about taking up Short Mat bowling? If so, your local club would love to meet you. Although we enjoy friendly competitions, amongst ourselves and against other local clubs, participation in competitions is optional. Some people enjoy a challenge, while others are looking for some gentle exercise in good company, punctuated by a nice cup of tea and a biscuit !

Our social diary has recently included a summer picnic, afternoon tea at Wealden Hall and lunch at The North Pole. Coming up soon will be our Christmas party, when we pull our crackers, don the paper hats and interrupt our bowling for a buffet lunch. There might be a champion sitting at home, or perhaps someone just looking to pass a few hours in a sociable environment.

If either is you, we meet Monday and Friday afternoons, 1.30 - 3.30 at Ditton Community Centre. You have nothing to lose as your first three trial sessions are free and we can lend you all the equipment you need to get started. After that the cost is £50 a quarter, which works out at less than £5 a week for both sessions.

For further details ring Moira on 07939 975533



Ditton Pétanque Club News

On Thursday evening, 20th November, at the Annual General Meeting of the Kent Pétanque League, Ditton was presented with the Shield for coming top of Division Four in the Summer League for 2025. Ditton also won the Plate competition for 2025 against teams from all the divisions. This was a very proud moment for the club. The pictures show Mrs Judy Barnsley, the Club Captain, receiving the awards.





Ditton Infant School

Before the summer break Ditton Infant School achieved the WIRE Award for RE. The WIRE award is a SACRE-led project which seeks to encourage all Kent schools to be increasingly proactive with their RE, to widen their doors, and become more inclusive. Spencer Dixon, a Kent County Councillor and Chairman of SACRE, presented our award in assembly at the beginning of July.

We then started a new academic year and the last two terms have been as busy as usual. We welcomed our new Year R children and their families in September and parents across the school joined us for harvest celebrations. Donations of food were collected and then distributed by the church. In November we also took part in the annual Poppy Appeal and held a non-uniform day on 14th November for Children in Need.

Each term we take part in an interschool personal challenge for PE and were delighted to have been awarded a Gold Certificate for the Shuttle Runner in Term 1. Year R also took part in a balance bike workshop. Photos can be found on our school website. <https://www.ditton-inf.kent.sch.uk/>

The PTFA held a pumpkin themed disco for the children which was very well attended and are now busy planning for 'Elfridges' event at the end of this term, when we also look forward to the Year R nativity and Key Stage 1 carols.

It's not too late to come and look round if you are looking for a school for your child for September 2026. Please do call the school office to arrange a tour as we would love to show you around. The online form for YrR applications can be found here <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places> and closes on 15th January 2026.

With very best wishes for a happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Mrs C Lewer
Headteacher

News from St Peter's Church



Ross Terranova - Rector of Ditton

Peace on earth ?

*Heaven on earth
We need it now
I'm sick of all of this
Hanging around
Sick of sorrow
Sick of pain
Sick of hearing again and again
That there's gonna be
Peace on earth*

These are words sung by the Irish rock band U2, written after the devastation of the Omagh bombing back in 1998 which killed 28 people and injured many more. In it they sing of the enormous sense of frustration we feel as we look at the world in which we live - a world we sense where life should be more than it is.

It is at Christmas especially where these emotions often hit us hardest. We look at the agony in the middle East with the terrifying war between Israel and Hamas, the pain and anguish of Ukraine , with a war now approaching its fourth winter. The images are still lodged in our minds. The emotions can be raw for us personally as we experience a lack of peace in our own lives, in our own families - it always feels so much worse at Christmas. It can be a failure in relationship, lack of security at work, the death of someone we love. We sing of peace on earth but sometimes that peace seems incredibly evasive!

Is it just a fantasy, a mirage that always seems out of reach, like sand running through our fingers? Like the songwriter we long for an end to all the sorrow, all the pain.

The season of Christmas reminds us that Peace on Earth is something that comes with a heavy price. All true peace-making requires enormous risk which is maybe why it is so rare. The risks are those of being misunderstood, misrepresented and the possibility of being left totally alone in the end. Those are the risks that Jesus took for you and me as He came to our world to bring peace. This peace is not then an empty cliché without any meaning but one which for the baby born in Bethlehem ultimately cost Him his life.

Here lies the heartbeat of the Christian faith and the Christian life. It speaks of a God who came to us, who experienced our anguish and yet triumphed through it all. He offers his peace to us now and a real hope as we look out on our troubled world .

May you have a peace filled Christmas.

Ross



News from St Peter's



Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

For the fifth year St Peter's Church took part in a shoebox appeal for Link to Hope, a small Christian charity which offers help to people of all backgrounds regardless of race, colour or creed with no qualifying criteria other than that they are poor and marginalised. Boxes are sent to either a whole family or an elderly person living in extreme poverty in Eastern Europe.



The Family Shoeboxes of gifts are given to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time – buying presents is just not a priority. Boxes are filled with essential items, sweets, games and presents for all the family or useful items for the elderly.

Crafty Coffee knitting group made a large donation to help towards transportation costs as well as knitting lots of hats to go in the boxes. We had some very generous monetary donations and gifts enabling us to pack 63 boxes in early November. After our service in Church we were able to send a total of 83 boxes to Eastern Europe this year. Many thanks to everyone who donated and helped in any way, it was a great team effort.

A quote from the Link to Hope website says, "We like to think of each gift as a shoebox full of smiles, bringing a little bit of light into families' lives and letting them know someone is thinking and caring about them."

If you have never sent a box before please consider doing so next year, it is such a lovely thing to do. For more information you can visit www.linktohope.co.uk

Judith Boarer



We warmly welcome you and your family and friends to our Christmas Services for 2025

Sunday 21st December Carol Service 6.00pm

Christmas Eve Carols on the Green 4.30pm

Christmas Holy Communion Christmas Eve 11.00pm

Christmas Day Christmas Praise 10.00am



Carols on the Green!

Come and start your Christmas by joining together on the green outside St Peter's on Christmas Eve at 4-30pm for 'Carols on the Green'. This has become one of the highlights of Christmas for many and its wonderful to see so many of you come to sing well known Carols reminding each of us what Christmas is really about.



We would love to see you there again, bring your friends and family along, wrap up warm and remember to bring a torch with you. See you on Christmas Eve !



We have had another busy year at Ditton Church Pre School and have been pleased to welcome some lovely new ladies to our staff team.

Children have enjoyed growing produce in our Pre School allotment and were particularly proud of a giant courgette, which sparked some debate over whether it was actually a courgette or a marrow!

It is always lovely to share some of our produce at Harvest time and we are grateful to the Parish Council for once again bringing a tractor round to Pre School to help bring our Harvest talks to life.

Following on from Harvest the children joined in enthusiastically with using a wide range of media and materials to create firework displays, as well as decorating Poppies to commemorate remembrance day.

By the time this newsletter is published we will no doubt be covered head to toe in glitter and enjoying our traditional Nativity services, making Christingles and looking forward to our end of term children's Christmas party, with Magic Martin providing entertainment and a visit from Father Christmas!

On behalf of all the staff at Ditton Church Pre School we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Wendy Caldicott. Pre School Manager



DITTON REMBRANCE SERVICE 2025

This year's Remembrance Sunday main service was held in the church. Again it was very well attended and we had speakers outside for anyone that could not take a seat in the church. We had a great turnout from our local uniformed groups. Representatives from the 2374 Squadron Air Cadets, Ditton Detachment Kent Army Cadet Force and the Ditton Scout Group took part in the service and all were impeccably turned out and we were very proud to watch them march to the War Memorial. A big thank you to everyone involved in the planning and taking part on the day. Special thanks go as always to the volunteer Road Marshals - we could not do this event without you. Thanks also to the parish staff that helped on the day and to Matt Stephens Audio for all his help with providing the necessary audio equipment, music and walkie talkies.

A short act of Remembrance also took place on Tuesday 11th November at 11am led by Cllr Tony Mulcuck, thank you Tony.



Ditton Bowls Club

Kilnbarn Recreation Ground
Kiln Barn Road
Ditton
ME20 6QR

Ditton Bowls Club welcomes new members. Outdoor lawn bowls begins in April and goes through until September. During the winter months short mat bowls is played in the clubhouse.

If you would like to have a look around our club and have some trial sessions, we are very happy to arrange this. For more information you can either email us at dittonbowls@gmail.com or call our Chairman, Richard Baker on 07840 973766.

DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

This year, 2025, we have been celebrating the 30 years that Ditton has been twinned with Rang-du-Fliers. We have created a commemorative garden near to the Community Centre. We are grateful to Gallagher for giving us a piece of rag-stone on which to mount a commemorative plaque. A number of shrubs have been planted in the garden along with bedding plants in red, white and blue. Thanks to the care provided by Ditton Parish Council ground staff the plants have flourished. We hope that people who live in, or visit Ditton, have enjoyed the display.



[Members of Ditton Twinning Association with the 30th Anniversary Garden]

In July representatives of Ditton Twinning Association and Ditton Parish Council were invited to Rang-du-Fliers for the Bastille Day celebrations. We were warmly welcomed with a meal at the Chateau de Montreuil and entertained during the afternoon with a concert performed by Airs, a local group of musicians. This was followed by a supper, a parade around the village with lanterns, and a superb fire-work display.

The next day we were involved in the inauguration of the new Square de Ditton set in a beautiful garden. Floral tributes were laid in front of the plaque. We then went to the Place de la Paix for the official remembrance celebrations of Bastille Day.



DITTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Ditton Pétanque Club also visited Rang-du-Fliers for the annual match with the Rangeois. There were some hard and close games, but the Rangeois retained the cup. Perhaps the result will be different next year when it is Ditton's turn to host the French team.

In October, the Ditton Pétanque Club supported the Ditton Twinning Association who organised a Quiz Night in the Community Centre. Although there were some challenging questions everyone enjoyed the evening. It was good to see that one of the pétanque club teams came first. They seemed to know all about Space and Aliens.

The Ditton Heritage committee invited Ditton Twinning Association to partake in their Open Day at the end of October. This was an opportunity to display photographs and memorabilia commemorating past twinning events, Thank you to those who braved a rather chilly Sunday to come and join us. Also a special thank you to all the volunteers who were there to help with setting up the exhibition and answering questions.

If you would like to know more about twinning, please contact Monica on 01732 844292.



communigrow

GARDEN GATE GROUP FOR SUPPORT AFTER BEREAVEMENT

Fridays, 10.30am-12.30pm

Led by Richard King, counsellor and therapist experienced in bereavement support

Garden Gate is a small group for anyone affected by bereavement to come along, take part in community gardening, have a cuppa and a chat or simply just be.

Set in the beautiful, peaceful surroundings at Communigrow, East Malling, bringing together people with a shared experience and an interest in gardening.

To find out more gardengate@communigrow.org.uk



www.communigrow.org.uk Charity No. 1159534



communigrow

TIME OUT

Fridays, 10am-12pm

GARDENING GROUP FOR VETERANS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

Gardening, construction and DIY projects with like minded people in our relaxing outdoor space

Time Out is a small group for anyone who has served in the armed forces or emergency services to come along, learn new gardening skills, have a cuppa and a chat or simply just be.

Set in the beautiful, peaceful surroundings at Communigrow, East Malling, bringing together people with a shared experience and an interest in gardening.

To find out more info@communigrow.org.uk



www.communigrow.org.uk Charity No. 1159534

Feeling Proud at Communigrow!

Communigrow is incredibly proud to announce that their Apprentice, Logan Boorman, has won the Kent Life Magazine, Young Gardener of the Year Award.

Logan joined Communigrow, a community garden and sustainable food education charity bordering Ditton and East Malling, in bleakest January this year to train for his Level 3 Crop Technician qualification. He has been a wonderful asset to the team with his enthusiasm, hard work and good humour! Logan has taken ownership of their new polytunnel, growing and nurturing the plug plants, taking on the sales of fresh veg and supporting the work they do with beneficiaries in the community garden.

Logan such a personable member of the team and gets on well with people from all walks of life - the children and young people who attend the Field School, the young adults with additional needs in the Young Roots group, the adult volunteers and service users, and the customers who pop in to buy their chemical free veg and have a chat about growing food.

He always has a smile and is willing to go above and beyond to make people feel welcome and included.

On receiving the award, Logan said of his experience at Communigrow, "There's a magic in the work and community that goes on at the field— and it's a joy to see the lives of people change just by being on the land together."



As well as the work they do with children and young people, Communigrow provides free weekly therapeutic gardening sessions for adults. This includes their Garden Gate Group for people experiencing bereavement, Time Out Group for veterans, serving personnel and emergency services workers, and Gardening To Feel Great which is a wellbeing group for people aged over 55 or who have long term health conditions.

If you would like to find out more about Communigrow and the work they do in our community please visit www.communigrow.org.uk or give them a follow on Facebook or Instagram. You can also email enquires to info@communigrow.org.uk

DITTON & MALLING ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

D.A.M.A.R.A.

It has been a bit of an up-down year for DamARA the last twelve months, unfortunately one of our members, Cissie Ancient who has been a member for many years, and who we celebrated her 100th birthday with earlier in the year passed away in October. She will be greatly missed.

We have had to cease two of our activities, namely New Age Kurling and Ten Pin Bowling due to rising costs and lack of interest, something that a lot of local clubs are suffering from.

During the year we have celebrated many National Events including the 80th Anniversary of V E Day, we had asked our members to dress up in Red, White & Blue and they did not let us down, as can be seen in the photo (Lft-Rt: Don Stevenson, Caroline Rands & Tony Mulcuck) also there was the Easter Bonnet Competition which was won by Margaret Beels (with bow under her chin) and was judged by our K.C.C Councillor Andrew Kennedy.



We are now looking forward to the Christmas Party we have when we have entertainment supplied by Trevor Styles, the tables are decorated by the members and a lot of us dress appropriately.

We have been informed that our parent Executive committee KentARA who look after the 76 or so clubs in Kent and organise County-wise events for the members, have been awarded "The Kings Award for Voluntary Service" (KAVS) this is equivalent to an MBE. Our club founder Tony Mulcuck was a member of this Executive committee for some twenty years or more and started their Short Mat Bowls competitions and Christmas Concerts.

Find us on 

at www.facebook.com/dittonparishcouncil

For the latest updates regarding Ditton Parish Council and upcoming events in the Kilnbarn Bar and Community Centre like us on Facebook!

**** PRIZE WINNING DITTON ALLOTMENTS ****

This year, we are very pleased to advise that some of our allotment tenants won awards in the Annual Competition organised by Coolings Garden Centre - Coolings in Bloom, the Tonbridge & Malling Allotment category. Congratulations go to:

FIRST PLACE - Mariusz Morgas, Plot 17b



SECOND PLACE - Mark Webb, Plot 13



THIRD PLACE - Geoff McCormack, Plot 2 [Unfortunately Geoff was unable to attend the presentation].

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday 22nd December

OPEN as normal 8.30am - 4.00pm

Tuesday 23rd December

OPEN as normal 8.30am - 4.00pm

Christmas Eve

CLOSED

Christmas Day

CLOSED

Boxing Day

CLOSED

Monday 29th December

9.00am - 12.00 Midday

Tuesday 30th December

9.00am - 12.00 Midday

Wednesday 31st December

9.00am - 12.00 Midday

Thursday 1st January

CLOSED

Friday 2nd January

OPEN as normal 8.30am - 4.00pm

DITTON HERITAGE CENTRE

We have had a fairly successful year, with our monthly Open Days attracting many Ditton residents and people from further afield, mostly looking at the history of our parish and also trying to find information of past generations of their families. Everyone who came and signed our visitors book expressed congratulations on the way we have presented the many documents etc on display.



Congratulations must go to our Archivists and volunteers for this work, plus the rest of the committee working behind the scenes. Our only downfall was the cancellation of our annual Craft Fair which was unfortunately not supported this year by sufficient stall holders. But we made a decent profit from a new fundraising event, namely a Summer Raffle. The draw was undertaken by Cllr Nigel Newman, Ditton Parish Council Chairman on 27th October. The first 5 winners were: 1st Prize: £100, Mrs S. Sparks. 2nd Prize: £50, M & S Voucher Mr M. Day. 3rd Prize: A meal for 2 at the Kathmandu Palace Restaurant, D. Reed. 4th Prize: A Chocolate Hamper, M. Stevens. 5th Prize: A Men's & Ladies Haircut, At Justin Lords. S. Gardner.

We wish to thank all those businesses and individuals who donated other prizes, and all those who supported us by selling & purchasing tickets.



If you wish to visit to contact or visit the Heritage Centre please contact the secretary Maralyn on 01732 844195 or by email to: mulcuck.anthony@sky.com.

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?
DO YOU HAVE A SKILL OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?
IF SO AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL

PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK FOR MORE INFORMATION
clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk 01732 844749

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Ditton Minors Football Club!



As we reach the end of another fantastic year at Ditton Minors Football Club, we want to thank our incredible community for your continued support. 2025 has been a year of real growth and success, both on and off the pitch.

Our Race Nights raised an amazing £2,500, and our Annual Tournament welcomed over 120 teams for a brilliant weekend of grassroots football. These events show what we can achieve together. This year also saw the launch of Mini Minors, our pathway for children aged 3–6. Sessions run every Saturday and can be booked via our website — a perfect first step into football before joining our U7s.

Looking ahead, registrations are now open for the Ditton Minors FC Tournament 2026 – New for this year: 5-a-side format for all age groups (U7–U14); Double the trophies; Ability-based groups; Two knockout competitions per age group; Minimum 4 games. Early Bird booking: £45 per team (until 1st January 2026): <https://www.tournifyapp.com/live/dmfctournament26>

Our tournament sponsorship opportunities, from £100–£600, offer great exposure for businesses across our website, screens, banners and social media. Every sponsor helps us improve facilities, support our coaches, and keep football affordable for all.

Our Youth Committee continues to shine, with young volunteers gaining qualifications and supporting club initiatives — a true credit to our community. To every parent, player, volunteer, coach, sponsor and supporter: thank you. Your commitment helps our children thrive and fall in love with football. From our family to yours, we wish you a peaceful festive season and an exciting 2026.

www.dittonminorsfc.co.uk | hello@dittonminorsfc.co.uk



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

LINE DANCE

New Beginners Classes

Starting
Thursday 8th January
2026



Every Thursday
Beginners 12.00 to 1.00

Improvers 1.00 to 2.00

£6.00 for one hour.

£8.00 for two hours

Come and Learn
Something New
Great Fun and
Good Exercise

Ditton Community Centre
Kilnbarn Road, Ditton
ME20 6AH

For more information
phone or text Stephen
07476 749797

We'd like to know your views about how you would prefer to receive the *Ditton Gazette* and also if you read information on the Parish Council noticeboards? Please take a moment to answer the questions below and either tear off and drop this slip back to us, or email the clerk with your preferences - clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk .

Ditton Gazette Preference Questionnaire

How would you prefer to read the Ditton Gazette?

- ☐ Printed copy
- ☐ Digital copy (PDF/email)
- ☐ I'm happy with either format

If you chose a digital copy, how would you like it delivered?

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Parish website
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

If you chose a printed copy, how would you like to receive it?

- ☐ Pick up at Community Centre or Church
- ☐ Delivered to my home
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Would you be willing to switch to digital to help reduce printing costs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Any additional comments or suggestions?

Parish Noticeboard Questionnaire

1. Do you read the parish noticeboards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ No

2. How useful do you find the noticeboard information?

- ☐ Very useful
- ☐ Quite useful
- ☐ Not useful

3. Would you be happy to read parish information online instead?

- ☐ Yes, online only
- ☐ Yes, both online and noticeboards
- ☐ Prefer noticeboards only

4. If information were online, where would you prefer to see it?

- ☐ Parish website
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Any additional comments or suggestions?



THE KILNBARN

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve	12pm-11:30pm
Christmas Day	12pm-2pm
Boxing Day	12pm-8pm
Saturday 27th	12pm-11pm
Sunday 28th	12pm-8:30pm
Monday 29th	3:30pm-8:30pm
New Years Eve	12pm-12:30am
New Years Day	12pm-8pm

Find us on 



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