

Hackington Parish Community

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 32 | January 2025

WANT TO HELP OUT BY VOLUNTEERING IN LOCAL EMERGENCIES?



Photo credit: [Efe Yağız Soysal](#)

The Hackington resilience plan is to help our community prepare for and respond to emergencies affecting the local area. The aim is to identify resources and key contacts ideally in the community who will support the emergency services and local authorities responding to emergencies. There will be actions in place to anticipate and reduce the impact of recurrent seasonal hazards, and a small group of volunteers will be needed to provide support when an emergency happens that has not been anticipated. The intention is also to provide residents who regard themselves as vulnerable with additional means of getting help in an emergency.

This plan is intended mainly for use in exceptional circumstances, such as when the emergency services are severely stretched or there is no certainty of response within a reasonable time. For it to go live, the parish council needs volunteers, some with specialist skills. In the event of minor injuries and before the emergency services are there, it would be really useful to have an additional

person on hand with first-aid skills. In the stormy season, we can expect trees and branches to be brought down. So far the local authorities have been able to clear roads reasonably quickly. If that were not the case, it would be really useful to be able to call on somebody qualified to use a chainsaw, so that roads and pathways are cleared more quickly. **We do need a few more residents who would be happy to be on call for emergencies.** If normal communications are down there may be a need to door knock or do leaflet drops so that everyone is up to speed with what is going on. Along with these volunteers, we need someone who has previous experience organising people to respond effectively during an emergency – perhaps from the army, police, fire or ambulance service.

Training and practice for emergencies will be provided for volunteers – so that when called upon there will be a Resilience Group capable of providing practical support for our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please start with an email to John.Loverly@hackington-pc.gov.uk

John Loverly, Conservation

BLEAN BIO PARK: SAVE THE BLEAN VISION UPDATE



Ania Bobrowicz and Suzanne Wyatt giving an update on Save The Blean vision

On 25th January Save The Blean Action Group gave an update on the vision for the land owned by the University of Kent in Blean (referred to as C12 in the draft Local Plan). The meeting took place at Blean village hall and was very well attended with over 55 people.

The group is in the early stages of developing a plan (tentatively named Blean Bio Park) for the site that includes a country park with a range of heritage sites, reforestation and re-wilding areas, carbon and nutrient neutrality projects that will benefit the whole district, and land set aside for agriculture to protect local food production.

To help shape this, the group needs your feedback. What do you think is important to preserve in Blean? What needs changing? They are keen to hear from people who live and work in the wider Canterbury district as well as near the Blean, to find out what's important to you. Please complete the survey <https://forms.gle/e9trhdP4MTC592a96>

Save The Blean is also looking for volunteers. If you think you would like to help, please contact info@savetheblean.org.

Ania Bobrowicz, Chair

ALL THAT COULD BE LOST...EXHIBITION OF BLEAN PHOTOGRAPHS



Save The Blean is proud to present a photography exhibition *All That Could Be Lost* highlighting the wildlife, countryside and heritage at risk of destruction.

The exhibition features photographs taken by members of the public capturing the unique landscape and biodiversity of this area of North Kent. The Blean Woodland Complex is one of the largest and most distinctive ancient woodlands in the UK – an area of rare and diverse wildlife, and home to the world-leading Wilder Blean rewilding project.

The Blean is currently under threat from three huge housing developments totalling some 5,000 houses. This exhibition will celebrate the beauty, history and value of The Blean, and raise awareness of all that is at risk of destruction. The exhibition will run for four weeks in Canterbury city centre, before moving to the Church of St Cosmus and St Damian in Blean.

Friday 7th February until Thursday 6th March

At Rock Paper Scissors Gallery, 22-24 Stour St, Canterbury CT1 2NZ

Saturday 15th March until Wednesday 9th April

At the Church of St Cosmus and St Damian, Tyler Hill Rd, Blean CT2 9HU.

Opening on 15th March with a tea and coffee morning from 11 am until 1 pm.

EVERY LITTER BIT HURTS:

AN UPDATE ON LITTER PICKING IN TYLER HILL



Our litter pickers: Jacqueline Basquil, John Lavery and Robert Wildman

Littering is one of the most troublesome environmental concerns. It affects us all, from humans to animals – and not just because of the mess. Litter takes years to degrade, causing harm to wildlife and habitats. So not for nothing does the saying go “every litter bit hurts”.

Faced with the eyesore of drive-by littering along a number of roads through the village, back in the Autumn of 2023 three of us decided to undertake monthly litter picks. We sought backing from the City Council but it was unable to help because several of the roads have no pavements, raising safety issues for volunteers picking along the verges and hedgerows. With care over the way in which we picked litter and wearing reflective clothing, we decided to go ahead as independent volunteers.

Fast food, packaging, drinks cans – particularly energy drinks and Fosters lager, for some reason – together with bottles, cigarette packaging, and vaping products are the most common rubbish dumped. Some finds are rare and beg lots of questions – such as the box of viagra found recently!

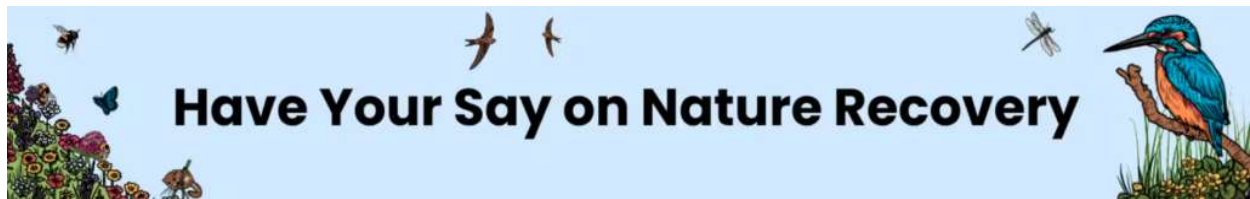
As the litter picking has continued and word has spread, the group of litter pickers has now grown to eight, operating as two teams doing fortnightly litter picks. To date our group of residents has collected 363 Kilograms of rubbish, as well as regularly reporting fly tipping and roadside issues such as blocked drains

and missing 'manhole' covers.

The group intends to continue throughout 2025 and extend its activities by participating in the Great British Spring Clean. Rob Wildman and I will be in touch in the coming weeks about this.

John Lavery, Conservation

KENT AND MEDWAY LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY CONSULTATION



In the UK we are sadly recognised as being one of the world's most nature-depleted countries and this is replicated at the local level within Kent. Our population within Kent is growing at above-average rates, 10% of our species are threatened with extinction, and we have habitat fragmentation and loss with more proposed, in 2019 79% of monitored rivers and lakes did not meet the required standard phosphorous levels for good ecological status and small air particle pollution is double the recommended average maximum limit.

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a comprehensive plan aimed at revitalizing and safeguarding the region's natural environment. Kent County Council has been appointed as the responsible authority for this initiative.

Key Objectives of the LNRS:

- **Identify Priorities:** Establish clear priorities for the restoration and enhancement of nature across Kent and Medway.
- **Map Valuable Areas:** Create detailed maps highlighting existing valuable natural habitats and propose areas for potential habitat creation or improvement.
- **Promote Collaboration:** Encourage collaboration among landowners, farmers, businesses, and local communities to support nature recovery

efforts.

- Support Biodiversity Net Gain: Guide the implementation of mandatory biodiversity net gain by identifying areas where development can contribute positively to nature.
- Inform Local Planning: Serve as a vital evidence base for local planning authorities in the preparation of their Local Plans, ensuring that nature recovery is integrated into future developments.

Public engagement has been a cornerstone of the LNRS development, with over 1,000 individuals contributing to the draft strategy. A public consultation is currently open from **16 January to 12 March 2025**, inviting residents, organisations, businesses, farmers, and landowners to provide their input. Feedback from this consultation will be instrumental in finalising the strategy, which is scheduled for completion by May 2025. Once finalised, the LNRS will play a crucial role in creating a network of wildlife-rich areas across Kent and Medway, contributing to the broader national effort to halt the decline of nature and promote its recovery.

We would urge you to take part and think about our positioning within a fragmented Blean landscape and the very real threats that are proposed on our doorstep! The website is <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/nature-recovery>

Rob Wildman, Footpaths

CALLING ALL TECHNICAL EXPERTS!

The planning application for the solar farm at Britton Court Farm has now been submitted to the Canterbury City Council and can be viewed here <https://pa.canterbury.gov.uk/> (reference number CA/24/02283). If you are an expert in geophysics, noise pollution, drainage, ecological impact assessment, solar battery storage, or anything else solar farm-related, please comment on this proposed application. We need your technical expertise to feed into this consultation. **The deadline is 7 February 2025.**

TYLER HILL MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES



Blean, Hackington, and Tyler Hill Society Meetings and Events

The BHTHS is holding a talk by Su Westerman, a member of Canterbury Volunteer Historic Graffiti team on **February 10, 7.30 for 7.45** in the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall. The title of the talk is 'Historic graffiti: the story of marks on walls'. Refreshments will be provided. Members free. Non-members £5.00 All welcome!

Gardeners' Club Meetings and Events

The Gardening Society will not meet in December, January or February.

Monthly Coffee Club at the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall

The monthly coffee club will meet again on **Wednesday, 5 February 2025, at 2:30 pm**. Entry £1.

Regular Clubs running at the hall (please see the notice board outside the hall for contact details):

Bowles Society: Every Thursday evening at 7 pm

Canterbury Photographic Society: First Wednesday of the month 6.45-10 pm

Chi Chi Dance Fit with Maddy: Mondays 7:30-8:15 pm

Clinical Pilates: Every Tuesday in term time: 8:30-9:25 am and 9:30 to 10:25 am

Gardeners' Club: Third Wednesday of the month: 7.30-9.30 pm

Kendo: Mondays 7-8.30 pm

Rock Choir: Mondays 10-11:30 am

Thai Chi: Mondays 5.30-6.30 pm; Wednesdays 5-6 pm; Sundays 2-3.30 pm

Tippy Toes: Thursdays 10-11.30 am

Yoga: Tuesdays 7.30-8.30 pm; Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am (Chair yoga); Fridays 9.30-10.30 am

Please note that all Tyler Hill Memorial Hall activities are run by the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall committee, not the Hackington Parish Council. Therefore for any inquiries, please contact tylerhillmemorialhall@gmail.com.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday,**
20 March at 7:30 pm in the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall.
It will be preceded by the **General Assembly at 7 pm.**
All residents are welcome.

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Hackington Parish Council

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