

Hackington Parish Council Community

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 20 December 2023

SEASON'S GREETINGS!



**We would like to wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a happy and
healthy New Year!**

Hackington Parish Council

Photo credit: Annie Spratt

'THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT'



Photo credit: Kent Wildlife Trust

The [Wilder Blean](#) project team received 'the best Christmas present' in mid-November when a second baby bison was born from the herd of the Wilder Blean project which is a pioneering partnership between Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust in Canterbury, Kent. The male calf was born to the 19-year old matriarch and the bull that was introduced to the herd in December 2022. More information [here](#).

Cllr Ania Bobrowicz, Climate Action Group

WHY THE ROADSIDE LITTERING?



As readers will know, some local residents are doing regular litter picks around the village. Fortunately, there is not a general littering problem but certain roads, notably Tyler Hill Road, Calais Hill, and Wood Hill are blighted by rubbish. There are other hotspots but these roads are where the problem is most obvious. The common theme seems to be drive-by littering on routes through the village.

So we were wondering what leads people to be so irresponsible. One view is that if an area is kept free of rubbish, littering is less likely to happen. However, the decision to throw litter is evidently affected by more than the environment. Nor does this explain why there is new littering within a short time of it being cleared. For some people driving through our village, there is clearly a culture of easy disposability of drink cans, bottles and ready food cartons. Given the right cues this is maybe something that can be influenced, perhaps by signage and by businesses through their choice of packaging and labelling about waste disposal. Of course, this is short-term and may have marginal impact, but surely every little helps!

In the meantime, the efforts of local residents over the last four informal litter picks have removed almost 60 kg of rubbish from local road side hedges and verges. That excludes the rubbish collected by other residents not participating in these regular sessions. The results of our efforts will be shared with Canterbury City Council in the hope that support can be enlisted in tackling this local issue. If you have any practical suggestions about interventions to help reduce the drive-by littering problem they will be very

welcome.

Cllr John Lavery, Conservation

THE CRAB AND WINKLE LINE - TYLER HILL HALT



The occasion of the first 'up' train to use the new halt at Tyler Hill
in January 1908

The Canterbury & Whitstable railway line opened on 3rd May 1830, three months before the more famous Liverpool & Manchester line. Just 6 ½ miles long The Invicta, designed by Stephenson had been brought round by sea (now in Whitstable Museum). On the day following the opening at 9.00 am the goods and passenger services began with 10 trains each way and the journey taking 40 minutes. In 1846 the journey time between Canterbury and Whitstable was 20 minutes with six trains a day in each direction, five on a Sunday. The 1st Class passenger fare was 1/- and 2nd Class 6d. The first season tickets were issued.

Tyler Hill Halt was opened in 1908 meaning the village residents and those from Blean now had access to public transport to get to Canterbury or Whitstable. Initially, the service was well used but it was challenged in 1926 when the bus service was introduced. The bus was more convenient as it ran through the

centre of the village although the journey took longer than the 15-minute train journey. The Halt was too far from the houses at Tyler Hill or Blean to be popular. The station platform was 200' long and lit by 7 oil lamps. There was a small waiting room and a ticket office. Gates were installed across Tyler Hill Road and a Keeper was appointed to man the crossing as required and to issue and collect tickets. He was housed in a railway cottage by the Halt. For many years in the 1940's to 1950's Mr and Mrs Webb were the Keepers. By 1910 the revised timetable listed ten trains from Canterbury and nine from Whitstable though not all stopped at Tyler Hill. Further halts were built at South Street and Tankerton.

The line was popular when it was the season for Sunday school outings. Several churches combined to organize their day trip to Whitstable. Often extra carriages were added to pick up the children and parents at the Halt. Another very popular day out was Whitstable Carnival. The line closed for passengers in 1931 and for goods in 1953. There have been several attempts at getting the line reopened but the tunnel has proved to be a problem although part of the route is a useful cycle track linking Canterbury with Whitstable.



Tyler Hill Halt

TYLER HILL MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES



Blean, Hackington, and Tyler Hill Society Meetings and Events

On 6th January 2024 there will be the usual winter walk starting from the Recreation ground at 11.00. A short walk followed by homemade soup at Tyler Hill cottage. All, including dogs, welcome!

Gardeners' Club Meetings and Events

There will be no meeting in January, but an AGM is planned for February.

Monthly Coffee Club at the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall

The monthly coffee club will meet again on **Wednesday, 3rd January 2024, at 2:30pm**. 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 7pm

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

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

Kendo: Mondays 7-8.30pm

Rock Choir: Mondays 10-11:30am

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

Tippy Toes: Thursdays 10-11.30am

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

Zumba Gold: Fridays 11-11:50am

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, 11th January at 7:30pm** in the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall.

All residents are welcome.

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