

BADGERS MOUNT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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HIGHLIGHT

Speed Limit Reduction: Orpington Bypass From 50mph to 40mph

Over recent weeks, many residents may have seen discussion on social media and community WhatsApp groups about a proposed reduction in the speed limit of the Orpington Bypass. For others, this newsletter may be the first time you are hearing about it. We would therefore like to share the full background and explain clearly how you can have your say.

Road safety has consistently been one of the most frequently raised concerns with Badgers Mount Parish Council (BMPC). In response, the Parish Council has spent a long time working with Kent Highways, gathering evidence, holding meetings, and pressing the case for change. We are pleased to confirm that this has resulted in an in-principle agreement by Kent Highways to reduce the speed limit on the A224 (Orpington Bypass) from 50mph to 40mph. This marks the start of the process. To progress the proposal, BMPC needs clear confirmation that residents across Badgers Mount support the 40mph speed limit, enabling the Council to formally advise Kent County Council.

Your Vote Matters

We now need every resident to take part in the pre-engagement consultation. A strong and clear response will ensure that both BMPC and KCC are confident that this change truly reflects the wishes of our community and will help move the proposal forward. We thank everyone who has already voted; no further action is needed.

How to Vote:

There are two simple ways to take part:

Paper Voting Slip (see below)

Please clearly state:

- That you are in favour of reducing the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph
- Your house name or number & road name

Tear off the completed slip and post it through the letterbox at:

Montclare, Orpington Bypass, Badgers Mount

By Email

Send an email confirming your support, along with your house name or number and road, before the 10th of January 2026 to:

clerk@badgersmountparishcouncil.gov.uk

SPEED LIMIT CONSULTATION – VOTING SLIP PROPOSED REDUCTION A224 : 50MPH → 40MPH



**Badgers Mount
PARISH COUNCIL**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE PARISH COUNCIL POSTBOX :
MONTCLARE, ORPINGTON BYPASS, BADGERS MOUNT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DO YOU SUPPORT THE SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION?

☐ YES

☐ NO

EMAIL ID (IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT EMAIL UPDATES):



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WINTER READINESS: CLLR ALISTAIR DUNLOP

Winter brings additional hazards, including power cuts, icy roads, and challenging walking conditions. Residents are encouraged to prepare for short-term power outages with torches, candles, warm bedding, and charged power banks, and to take extra care when driving or walking during snow, ice, or heavy rain. Simple preparation and caution can help everyone stay safe and comfortable throughout the winter months.

Driving: KCC provide grit and salt bins on the main roads, and your Parish Council have installed extra ones, most recently between Johnsons and Milton Avenues, in Crest Close, at the junction of Sandersons and Christies Avenues, and at Woodlands View. We can't afford to have any gritting people on standby so help yourself and your community by doing it in person. These are only for Community use in gritting our roads – don't be selfish, if you need to grit your own drive or patio, please buy it from local hardware stores.

Routes off the Mount – the Badgers Road/Orpington Bypass junction is tricky in snow and ice, both trying to get up onto the Mount (wheelspin) and trying to join the Bypass. In previous icy spells, cars have been known to slide helplessly across the road and end up on the grass in front of the Care Home, luckily without hitting anything or being hit by traffic. If in doubt, use Highland Road which is less of a gradient and often less snow covered because of tree shelter.

Entrance via Highland Road junction from the Orpington direction – it is often easier to go round the Badgers Mount roundabout and back into Highland Road from the Sevenoaks direction. This provides a gentle turn in rather than the back-over-your-shoulder manoeuvre if coming from Orpington. It also lets you see if Highland Road is clear to enter without being stuck in snow on the turn because someone is coming the other way!

Sleet and thaw conditions can make UK hills particularly hazardous. Heavy rain and strong winds can quickly soak clothing, leading to rapid heat loss and hypothermia. As body temperature drops, physical function and clear thinking are impaired, increasing the risk of serious

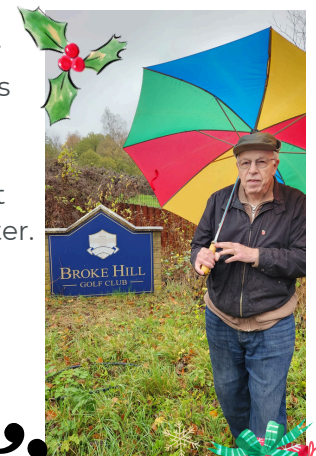
PLANNING APPLICATIONS: BROKE HILL & EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

Badgers Mount Parish Council (BMPC) continues to closely monitor all planning applications affecting the parish. The proposed redevelopment at Broke Hill remains under review, following the submission of more than 800 objections from residents of Halstead, Badgers Mount, Pratt's Bottom, Chelsfield, and surrounding areas. An update is expected early next year, and residents will be informed as soon as further information becomes available. Notably, Broke Hill has not been included as a potential development site in Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) recent Regulation 18 consultation for the Emerging Local Plan, as it is considered high-performing Green Belt land.

The Regulation 18 consultation closed on 11 December and forms part of the new Local Plan, which will guide development across the District between 2027 and 2042. The Plan is required to meet a significantly increased Government housing target of 17,175 new homes, equivalent to 1,145 homes per year—a 63% increase on current targets. While SDC aims to prioritise development within existing built-up areas and brownfield land, national planning policy requires some Green Belt land to be considered to meet this target.

Failure to meet housing targets could see the Local Plan rejected, leaving the District exposed to unplanned development. The draft Plan includes sites proposed by landowners, alongside measures to deliver affordable homes, protect jobs and high streets, and provide essential infrastructure, while safeguarding most Green Belt land and the District's character.

“Community Courtesy
Please keep footpaths clear—
especially on the A224
Avoid parking on corners or
narrow roads to ensure safe
pedestrian and emergency vehicle
access.”



BADGERS MOUNT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

BADGERS MOUNT WI: KAREN LAGARDE PRESIDENT

The ladies of Badgers Mount WI have been very busy increasing their knowledge of a broad number of things over the months since the last newsletter.

The speaker for our June meeting was Louise Canby, she told us all about her grandfather Johnny Douglas who was an English composer, pianist, musical director, conductor, and string arranger primarily working with film scores and orchestras. He recorded more than 500 tracks for Decca Records, over 80 albums for RCA Records, and provided music for 36 films during his career. His most famous composition is the title music to the film 'The Railway Children' obviously a story dear to our hearts due to our closeness to Knockholt Station where part of the film was shot. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, learning of his experiences with many famous singers whilst listening to excerpts of his music. Our summer outing in July was a visit to Bateman's, the East Sussex home of Rudyard Kipling where the ladies reported that they had a very interesting and enjoyable time. In August, our 'Show and Tell' meeting was very well attended. Many members and one guest brought in some very interesting articles including a piece of knitting, a beautiful memory box filled with articles that past and present members of BMWI had made and a painted vase. There were some very diverse anecdotes too, from cruising mishaps, a very amusing session based on the television programme 'Would I Lie To You' and one very proud member's talk about her daughter in law who has been awarded an MBE.

Richard Winston's 'Great Big Garden Safari' talk in September did not disappoint. Robert is a talented photographer and he showed us the many different and colourful species of insects and birds that regularly inhabit his garden. He is also very well travelled and brought along a selection of beautiful prints taken on his worldwide trips.

Our October speaker, Robert Miller spoke to us of his journey from resigning from banking and turning his attention to buying and selling collectables and antiques. He uses that well known online auction site and also travels to boot fairs, auctions and antique and collectable fairs to fuel his passion.

Helen Kendell-Tobias fuelled our ladies' passion for shoes in November, with a very interesting talk which ranged from the earliest bark shoes discovered, thought to be dating back to 7/8,000 BC, to the reasons why various types of shoe were created – Babouche in Morocco – easy to slip on and off when visiting a place of worship to the Paduka shoe in India – a wooden sandal made with only the very smallest flat areas in order to minimise crushing any insects on the ground.

We learnt that the first recorded heeled shoes were made for Mongolian archers in the 8th Century – the heels anchored them to their stirrups and that this style was then adopted by Louis IV of France.

Royalty has played a great part in the popularity of styles of shoes - Prince Albert introduced slippers, Queen Elizabeth II the court shoe, Princess Diana the ballet slipper, Princess Katharine the high heel and Queen Camilla who wore Mary Janes at her Coronation. Helen then advised us on the manufacture of modern shoes, the technology involved, their breathability and how we should only pack 3 pairs when going on holiday and should only own a capsule of 5 in our wardrobes!!

Our Christmas celebration was held recently with invited members from the other local WI groups. A delicious cream tea was devoured with a glass or two of bubbly to mark the occasion.

On behalf of the members of our small group I would like to wish every reader a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



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Merry Christmas

BMRA:

ARTHUR EVANS CHAIRMAN

Recent events at Badgers Mount

The tea/coffee morning with the alternate Library Bus on Thursday mornings at the Hall continues every week. A few more residents may like to join us.

The annual Sunflower competition was won by Dave Bonnage, with Nesbit House having a fantastic display which was unfortunately not visible from the footpaths.

The 1st Friday of the month 'Badgers' get together at the Hall has been a success for those attending. This will re-start in March.

Residents and locals found their dancing boots for a fantastic evening of Line-Dancing. This is to be repeated next year.

The names of the men on the Hall Memorial have been remembered. Ongoing research is revealing information about these men.

Another successful Village Clean-up, swept through Badgers Mount and left it spick and span. Bacon butties and hot drinks were provided to all.

Halloween Trick and treating followed some displays of wonderful pumpkin carving. Children called at participating houses and received some spook-drakula gifts.



The Christmas Market and Elf Workshop was a good success for local crafters. Catering was assisted by village teenagers, who gained valuable work experience.

Nesbit House Big Light Switch On was performed by Brian and Linda George at dusk following some carol singing entertainment by children from Knockholt Primary School.

Carols in the Hall will be Sunday 21st December 6pm at the Hall.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

BMPC, BMRA, BMWV, and all related organizations extend warm Season's Greetings to all the residents. We wish everyone a joyful holiday filled with peace and happiness. As 2026 approaches, here's to a successful New Year full of opportunities and achievements.

Email questions or contributions to clerk@badgersmountparishcouncil.gov.uk

Newsletter produced and printed by Badgers Mount Parish Council