

The Malling Society

Spring Newsletter 2022



Dear Members,

Welcome to the Spring '22 Newsletter. I hope that you are all well this unprecedented time, although things seem to be looking brighter on the Covid front, with cases on a downward trend and the easing of government restrictions. That gives me confidence that we will be able to run our face to face meetings again!

Any correspondence can still be sent to themallingsociety@gmail.com where Kris will pick it up and pass it to the respective person to deal.

Monthly Meetings

All General meetings are held at 8pm in the West Malling C.E. Primary School, Norman Road, West Malling ME19 6RL unless otherwise stated.

Talks are available to both **Full members £3.00** and **non-members at £3.50** per person payable on entry.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday March 9th



'Walking Around East Malling Village Historic Centre' by David Thornevell

A talk about the old buildings and other historic features that can be seen on a walk round the village.

Wednesday April 13th

'The Country Seat' A talk by Martin Heard

Understanding the architecture and historical context of the early Georgian 'stately' home



Wednesday May 11th

Blackthorn Trust, Barming. A group tour of their ongoing projects, followed by refreshments. The cost per person will be £3.00 There will be time for a walk around the gardens. Meet at **13.20 for 13.30**

There will be the need to book in advance, numbers limited to 24, own transport will be required. We are hoping a few lifts will be available!



If you would like to book a place, please contact Eileen Vago 01732 841297 or email at themallingsociety@gmail.com Closing date 22nd April

Wednesday May 25th



AGM Details will be sent out nearer the time, this will hopefully be a Face-to-Face meeting. **Venue and Time to be confirmed.**

Wednesday June 15th



'Folklore and Flowers' by Sophie Leathart

A light hearted look at some of the myths and legends surrounding our flowers and trees.

Sophie has gained RHS qualification for horticulture at Hadlow College.

Wednesday July 13th

'Welcome to the Morris'.

A talk by Lesley Iannidinardo

Introduction: Welcome to the world of Morris Dancing. A potted history of the Morris' Morris styles and regions. A glimpse of the festivals and traditions. The benefits of Morris Dancing.



Wednesday September 14th



This presentation by Peter Batty explores the history of **East Malling's horticultural station** founded in 1913. In the last few years, it has hosted BBC Radio 4' Gardeners Question Time' and had a visit from Matt Baker from 'Country File'!

Wednesday October 12th



The history of 'Douce's Manor' home of the 'Twitch Inn', Heritage Centre Talk by Eileen Vago.

Talk compiled by Eileen and our Society Researcher Ron Martin

Wednesday November 9th



'History of the RAF West Malling' and the 618 Volunteer Gliding Squadron.

Fully illustrated by historian Peter Hall



The next AGM...

This will take place on **25th May of 2022**. It maybe via Zoom! It may even be a face to face meeting which will be great! Details to be confirmed nearer the time.

Executive Committee Roles for up for nomination are:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer / Membership Secretary
- Admin Secretary
- Meetings (speakers) Officer
- Outings Officer
- WebAdmin and Social Media / Publicity Officer

Any Nominations can be made to themallingsociety@gmail.com. At least 14 days prior to the AGM

Local Restrictions Support Grant Scheme

Back in February 2021 we received a sum of money to help to maintain the Society's closure and loss of income during this unprecedented time. The Committee decided to extend this help locally, by supporting local causes, so far we donated £500 each to the following local causes:

Macey's Meadow for their hedging.

The Malling Society was pleased to be able to make a donation from the Local Restrictions Support Grant to Macey's Meadow. The Macey's volunteers were delighted to be able to purchase a number of hedging plants, which they have now planted and which will help with the future sustainability of the area.





West Malling C.E Primary School for replacement Sports kit and The Malling Society Trophy for the Most Outstanding Pupil.

Sports Award for School



The Malling Society is always looking at different ways to help local organisations and as we received a government grant, we were delighted to be able to offer West Malling CE Primary School a new personalised sports kit along with the Malling Society Sportsmanship Award in the form of a shield. This donation was made to help one of our local schools and thank them for allowing the group to meet in one of its classrooms every month. The presentation was made by The Malling Society Members Cllr David Thornewell and Richard Bowles at the school's harvest festival in St Mary Church, West Malling. We wish them

well in their sporting achievements and follow them with keen interest. The headmaster David Rye was very pleased to accept this gift which will benefit a large number of his pupils in a variety of sports.

(Both of the pictured children have all the relevant permissions for their images to be used.)

Richard Bowles

Malling Abbey - the St Benedict's Centre



52 Swan Street
West Malling
ME 19 6JX
centremanager@stbenedictscentre.org
01732 252651

28th May 2021

Dear David,

Thank you so much for the very generous donation of £500 which the Malling Society has kindly made to St Benedict's Centre from the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

The Centre was closed for some months during the pandemic which resulted in a loss of income. The donation from the grant is very much appreciated and I know the trustees join with me in thanking you and the Society.

I am personally pleased that St Benedict's is becoming more widely known in the town and we are developing a relationship with residents and those who work in West Malling. I hope we can build on this and the Centre can offer a place of rest and refreshment to those in the local area.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jane Winter', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Rev Jane Winter

Director St Benedict's Centre

Spadework Last year was a very challenging year in our 37 year history and we are so grateful for your continuous support.

With your support we have been able to create covered spaces outside for our Trainees.

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We still have some funds left so if you have any proposals that you would like to put forward, drop us a line at the usual email address -

themallingsociety@gmail.com.

Local Walk

David Thornewell is proposing to lead a circular walk on East Malling Parish Walk on Sunday 1st May 2022.

After a gap last year David Thornewell as Chairman of East Malling Parish Council is leading a circular afternoon walk from St James Church, East Malling starting at 2.30pm. All welcome. Parking behind The Institute or the car park off the High Street near the station. Ends about 4.30pm.

Subs

If you have setup a standing order for payment of your subscriptions (£7.00 p.a.) this will continue as normal. Those of you that normally pay by cheque at the AGM, can send your cheques made payable to **The Malling Society**, to Mrs E. Vago, 116 St Leonards St, West Malling, ME19 6PD.

Or via Online banking to **The Malling Society, Account No 64676218 at National Westminster Bank, West Malling Branch (sort code 55-81-07) Ref: Membership Renewal.**

Alternatively, why not set up a standing order with your bank, details can be found on our website, this is a very safe and simple system.

<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/about/joining-the-society/>

The Twitch Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre will again be opening on the Heritage Weekend in September. Dates are Sunday 11th September, Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th September (Heritage Open days).

Other open days are aligned with the Farmers Market dates –

Sunday 27th March, Sunday 24th April, Sunday 22nd May, Sunday 26th June, Sunday 24th July and November 13th Sunday (Remembrance Sunday)

Any updates we will keep you informed via the website.

<http://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/events/>

and the Facebook Group Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/574446186223021>

Orders for our CDs or Publications

Will continue to be available via the website.

<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/malling-society-publications/>
<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/malling-society-cds/>

Have a great spring/summer!! Stay Safe!!

Kind Regards

David Thornewell Chair