

THE TWITCH

Newsletter of The Malling Society

Spring 2023

News from the Chair

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the passing of Barbara Earl our former Secretary and Chair of the society. She worked tirelessly for the society and the local community and will be greatly missed.

Her funeral will be held on 3rd March 2023 at St. Mary's Church, West Malling at 2pm.

In the boundary wall of Douces Manor, St Leonards Street, West Malling, was a seat popular with walkers whilst resting looking at the lovely views of the lake and Manor Park. Unfortunately, the seat has over time become unusable.

The Malling Society have discussed with the Douces Manor Estate and has agreed to replace the seat to Celebrate The Coronation of King Charles III on May 6th 2023.

West Malling Library has now reopened and as a reminder the opening times are as follows:

Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Midday - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 2pm
Thursday	1pm - 5pm
Friday	9am - 2pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm

NuVenture Bus routes 58 and 70 will continue to run through and around West Malling until at least July 2023. Operator Nu Venture have, however, decided to offer a one day per week return shopper journey on both routes until July. They hope by then that the service will have become self-funding, or that KCC will agree to share its cost with affected Parish Councils.

On **Mondays from 13th February**, a route 70 service will run from Wrotham Square and Borough Green station to Offham, West Malling, Leybourne Chase, Lunsford Park Tesco, East Malling's King and Queen, and back to West Malling. This will give shoppers about 1 3/4 hours at Tesco and about 2 hours 20 minutes in West Malling.

On **Fridays from 17th February**, a route 58 bus will run from Borough Green station and Wrotham Square via Trottiscliffe Ryarsh, Birling, Leybourne, West Malling, East Malling and Larkfield to Maidstone along the A20. This allows two hours shopping in the town centre, but will not include the Hospital on the route.

Timetable can be found at <https://www.nu-venture.online/onewebmedia/70> and <https://www.nu-venture.online/onewebmedia/58>

Local plan Up Date.

The Borough Council has decided to pause the local plan process by not reporting back further as planned in March.

The Government have announced plans to revise national planning policy which if passed may affect the draft plan. They could mean it becomes harder to develop in the Green Belt and the housing figures for each area becoming less rigid and not mandatory as at present.

Borough planners say the next report back to a meeting is likely to be in the Summer.

David Thornewell, Chairman.

Forthcoming Events - further details can be found on our Facebook Events page

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

and our website

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

The Malling Society Presents...

Meetings Programme for 2023

See what we have in store for you in the coming year

All General meetings are held at 19.00 (7pm) in the Main Hall of the West Malling C.E. Primary School, Norman Road, West Malling unless otherwise stated.

TALKS ARE AVAILABLE TO BOTH MEMBERS at £3.00 AND NON-MEMBERS AT £3.50 PER PERSON PAYABLE ON ENTRY



Tuesday, March 14th – British Legion talk by Steve Hammond Lisa Cooksley-White

Royal British Legion Industries is based in Aylesford, supporting the Armed Forces, people with disabilities, and the unemployed. Our village provides all levels of care, ranging from emergency accommodation to dementia care.

Royal British Legion Industries is Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Co. and is a national market leader in the production of road and rail signs.



Tuesday, April 11th – Women of the Air Transport Auxiliary by Geoff Collins

Geoff has a lifelong interest in aviation and has studied many aspects of aviation history.

Particularly interested in the women who became members of the Air Transport Auxiliary, they were the heroes of their time.

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Annual General Meeting to be confirmed



Tuesday, May 9th – Update on the Medway Queen – Heroine of Dunkirk Talk by Mark Bathurst

The Medway Queen, this humble paddle steamer went on to rescue over 7,000 British troops from Normandy in 1940.

Several of her crew being decorated for bravery and the ship also became known as the '**Heroine of Dunkirk**'

Tuesday, June 13th – A Group visit and guided tour of the Medway Queen from Gillingham Pier ME7 1RX

Cost: 7.00 Followed by a Cream Tea £5.00 Full details and booking form below



Tuesday, July 11th – 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 qualifications for horticulture at Hadlow.



Tuesday, September 12th – English Country Cheeses with tastings with Derek March

The list of cheeses from the United Kingdom, and there are over 700 named British cheeses produced in the UK, and has become an important export states The British Cheese Board (now part of Dairy UK)

We will see some and try them!!

Tuesday, 10th October To be arranged



Tuesday, November 14th 'History of the RAF West Malling' talk by historian Peter Hall

A fully illustrated on this famous Royal Air Force Station in the Kent countryside

Full details of 2023 programme can be seen on line [www. themallingsociety.org.uk](http://www.themallingsociety.org.uk) or printed programmes will be available at the meeting on March 14th 7pm at the West Malling Primary School.

The Twitch Heritage Centre, Douce's Manor, St. Leonard's Street will be open from Noon to 4pm (last admission 3.30pm)



2023 OPEN DAYS

- Sunday, April 23rd
- Sunday, May 28th
- Sunday, June 18th
- Sunday, July 23rd
- Saturday, September 9th

- Remembrance Sunday, 12th November

The new exhibition at The Twitch for 2023 is entitled:

'History of West Malling From Its Earliest Buildings'

with many fine photographs of the old buildings and their history.

Please note opening hours and help the volunteers by vacating the centre by 4 pm otherwise terms of our lease maybe compromised.

Douce's Manor is a private residence; the house and grounds are **NOT** open to the public. Parking is on St. Leonard's Street or in the town.

For further details on joining the Society, please visit our website pages.

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

Other events



A Circular walk around East Malling on Sunday 12th March at 2.30pm starting from St James Church. Led by David THORNEWELL. All welcome. Back about 4.30pm.



Malling Repair Café

The next 3 Malling Repair Café sessions will be on
18 March, East Malling Village Hall, New Road, East Malling, ME19 6DD
29 April, Larkfield Village Hall, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, ME20 6PU
20 May, Larkfield Village Hall, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, ME20 6PU

Visit www.mallingrepaircafe.co.uk for more details

Our Publications and CDs

We have a catalogue of Publications and CDs that our researcher has compiled over the years. Why not have a look and see if any of them interest you? You can find them here [Publications](#) or copy and paste this into your web browser

<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/mallingsociety-publications/>

For CDs click here [CDs](#) or copy and paste this into your web browser

<https://www.themallingsociety.org.uk/mallingsociety-cds/>

Updating our records

With all this covid drama we have had in the last 2 and a bit years, we need to update our records. Please would you be kind enough to complete a new Membership form, by visiting [Membership](#)

Please then Download form, print it and return it to:

Eileen Vago, Membership Secretary

The Malling Society, 116 St. Leonards Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6PD

The only part we require for the membership update is this section

Name(s) _____

Full Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

PRIVACY STATEMENT

By signing above you give us permission to use the information you have supplied in the following ways:

- To store it securely for membership purposes.
- To communicate with you as a Malling Society member to send you general information about The Malling Society and forthcoming events.

NOTE: Please be advised that you can request for your data not to be used for any of these purposes at any time by contacting us by email: themallingsociety@gmail.com or contact form at www.themallingsociety.org.uk/contact-us

Booking Form for Medway Queen

A Malling Society group visit with guided tour of the Medway Queen



On 13th June 2023 at 1.45 for 2pm start

From Gillingham Pier ME7 1RX

Cost: £7.00 Followed by a Cream Tea £5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone number: _____

Number of places required: _____

Total cost: _____

**Payment can be made by Cash/Cheque payable to The Malling Society
and send it to**

Eileen Vago, 116 St. Leonards Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6PD

Or Via PayPal (pay as a friend) to themallingsociety@gmail.com

Please use own transport, a few seats will be available if needed

The closing date is 20th May 2023