



Parish Newsletter

January 2026

Violence Against Women and Girls - We still need your views!

We're celebrating an incredible response to our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Citizens Deliberation and VAWG survey, hundreds of people have already shared their views and signed up to take part in our ground-breaking deliberation project. Thank you so much to all of you that have shared and promoted to help us achieve this.

But we need more young people involved. Those under 24 are under-represented and those 16-18 are particularly under-represented. Their voices are vital to shaping solutions that reflect their experiences and create a safer future for everyone. The decisions made today will impact their future, they deserve a say and we want their voices in this process. Young perspectives help design solutions that work for all generations and what's more participants in the Citizens Deliberation will be paid for their time.

How to get involved

- Complete, promote and share the VAWG Surveys

Youth Survey <https://letstalkmaidstone.uk/engagementhq.com/violence-against-women-girls-youth-consultation>

Adult Survey <https://letstalkmaidstone.uk/engagementhq.com/violence-against-women-and-girls>

- Sign up, promote and share details of the Citizens Deliberation

<https://www.involve.org.uk/news-opinion/project-updates/help-shape-safer-maidstone>

Deadline: 26th January to sign up to the Deliberation and the 25th January to complete the surveys

Thank you again for your continued support.

Waste less food in 2026

Start a fresh in 2026 with MBC's new food caddy package offer, now providing



- 23 L black/orange caddy
- 5 L kitchen caddy
- Roll of food compostable bags
- Food bag clip
- Fridge magnet with
- information leaflet.

All for the price of £9 including delivery to your home.

Available for Maidstone residents only.

Order via the website. <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/bins-and-recycling/new-or-replacement-bins>

Lost or damaged 23L food bins can be replaced free of charge.

Did You Know?

Separate food tonnage has increased by almost 50% since February 2025, we now collect around 400 tonnes per month – all is treated separately at AD plant on the A228.

The material is treated, the process provides a liquid fertiliser used on local farms and electrical power which is transferred to the national grid.

How does the system work? link to KCC video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJBKI0niS2o>

Top Tips for Food waste reduction:

1. Check your fridge temperature - the ideal fridge temperature is between 1-4°C.
2. Use a shopping list - write a weekly meal plan and only buy what you need. Make sure you check your cupboards, fridge and freezer before going shopping.
3. Use your freezer - freezing food can extend its lifespan and stop it going to waste.
4. Measure your food portions - only make what you need.
5. Get to know your labels - 'use by' relates to food safety, whereas 'best before' relates to quality. You can eat food after its best before date if you think it's still fresh, but you shouldn't eat food after its use by date.

Final Call Out: Recipes for Maidstone's Community Cookbook

If you would like to submit a recipe on behalf of your group or individually to the Maidstone Community Cookbook, please do using the below form by the **End of January**.

The cookbook is going to be a printed recipe book with extra advice and tips on cooking healthily, cheaply and sustainably. When finished the cookbook will be provided free to people using VCSE services.

[Maidstone Community Cookbook Recipe Submission – Fill in form](#)

Spaces Still Available for Free Carbon Literacy Training



We're offering a free **accredited Carbon Literacy course** designed specifically for Parish Councils. This full-day training will give you the knowledge, confidence, and practical tools to take meaningful climate action in your role and community.

Carbon Literacy training is an accredited course which aims to create *"An awareness of the carbon*

costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis" Around one-third of the UK's carbon emissions are shaped by local authority decisions, policies, and partnerships—giving local councils a crucial role in driving the nation's transition to net zero

Why attend?

- ✓ Understand the science and impacts of climate change on our communities
- ✓ Explore the unique role of local and parish councils in driving decarbonisation
- ✓ Learn from real-world examples of carbon reduction
- ✓ Collaborate with peers to discover practical, low-carbon solutions
- ✓ Gain an accredited Carbon Literacy certification

Dates: Tuesday 3rd February **Or** Thursday 5th February

Time: 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM (includes lunch and refreshment breaks)

Location: Mote Park Education Room

Please contact climateandbiodiversity@maidstone.gov.uk with any questions or to book

Free places on a Composting Workshop

A free composting Workshop will be offered in March to all groups who take part in the Hot Composting Trial

If you are a local business or community group wanting to improve your food waste practices, and produce your own compost then this is for you.

We have 10 x hot composting bins to trial with groups or businesses in Maidstone. They are 200L in capacity, with dimensions (height: 117.5cm Width: 51cm Depth: 51cm). You can produce high-quality compost in just 90 days, and a hose extension kit is included.



Please contact climateandbiodiversity@maidstone.gov.uk if you are interested, including a brief explanation of your plans and how you intend to monitor your usage over time, and use the compost you produce.

Museum News

February Events

Wednesday 11th February – Museum Opening

Lunar New Year – Calligraphy (Craft) – Monday 16th February (book online)

Meet Samuel Pepys – Children’s Workshop – 17th February (book online)

February Half Term Crafts – 17th to 20th February (book online or in person)

Victorian Britain Day by Day (Talk) – 18th February – 7 to 8:30pm (book online)

Introduction to our Collections (Talk) – 26th February – 7 to 8:30pm (book online)

Night at the Museum: Movie & Crafts – 28th February – 1 to 4pm (book online)

February Exhibition

Young Artist Award – 11th February to 27th June 2026 (FREE) Loose Primary School – 11th February to 28th March (FREE)

All events to be booked here: <https://museum.maidstone.gov.uk/whats-on/events/>

Maidstone Family Hub Event

Family Hubs will be holding a Family Hub Awareness and Networking event for Maidstone on 22 January 2026. These events are aimed at local organisations who are supporting children, young people and families, this include schools, voluntary, community and charity organisations, faith groups and Parish Councils

They are asking that you sign up to these events using the booking link below.

Please share this with relevant colleagues.

[Kent Family Hub Awareness and Networking Events – Fill out form](#)

Light up Maidstone

Join the **Light up Maidstone** event on **Friday 6 February, 5.00–7.30pm** – a FREE evening of lights, music and entertainment, featuring a spectacular lantern parade through the Town Centre.

Hundreds of schoolchildren and community groups will carry illuminated lanterns from County Hall to Jubilee Square.

The event also launches **One Maidstone's Month of Mental Wellbeing**, including:

- A town-wide Lantern Trail
- Activities, workshops and wellbeing support
- Events for all ages

If you would like to be involved please get in contact info@onemaidstone.com.

Damn it! Dance it! Free event at The Mall Maidstone

Moving Memory Dance just launched Damn It! Dance It! – welcoming, no-experience-needed movement workshops for older people, running on Friday mornings at The Mall Shopping Centre until 13 February.

They're designed to support connection, confidence and wellbeing in a relaxed, friendly setting.

Full details are here:

www.movingmemorydance.com/event/damn-it-dance-it-at-the-mall-maidstone-block-1/

Please contact Parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk if you would like to contribute to the monthly newsletter.