



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2025



[www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk)

<b><u>PAGE</u></b>	<b><u>CONTENTS</u></b>
2 - 3	Introduction - Vigo Parish Council Celebrates 25 Years
4	Vigo Parish Council Meeting Dates
5	Who Are We & What Do We Do?
6 - 9	A Report from Pat Banks (Outgoing Chair Vigo Parish Council)
9	Streetlights in Vigo
10	How to Contact the Parish Council
11 – 12	How Your Money is Spent
13	Councillor Contact Details
14 – 15	Vigo Covenants
15	<b>FREE</b> Bat Walks
16	Kent Association of Local Council Community Awards
17	Grounds, Grass & Tree Maintenance in Vigo
18	Autumn Leaves
19	Tidying Up in Vigo (The Bay & The Underpass)
20	Salt Bin (Information & Map)
21 – 23	CPR Advice and <b>NEW</b> Defibrillator Map
24	Vigo Play Park
25	Vigo Pop Up Café
25	Fraud Prevention
26	<b>FREE</b> Garden Centre Outings with Driving Miss Daisy
27	Welcome Packs for New Residents
27	Small Grants Available from the Parish Council
28	Recycling
29 – 30	Gravesham Repair Cafes (Including Vigo Repair Café)
31	Anna Chaplaincy
32	Culverstone & Vigo Scouts
33 – 34	Trosley Country Park
35 – 36	Hemsley Zoo
37	Vigo RFC
38	Harvel Hash House Harriers
39	Useful Contacts
40 – 41	Clubs & Societies (including the Village Hall 800 Club Lottery)
42	Vigo Verges – Growing Wild
43	Wildflower Survey



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **WELCOME TO THE VIGO PARISH COUNCIL** **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

My name is Joanne Glass, and I am the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Vigo Parish Council. I work alongside Clare Collings, who is our Assistant Clerk. We are pleased to be able to provide this newsletter to you, so you can see what YOUR Parish Council has been up to over the last year. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or feedback, please do get in touch.

Vigo Parish Council (VPC) is made up of nine Council Members who are voted into their posts by the electorate of the Parish, or co-opted, to form a Council that endeavours to make decisions in the interests of the local community.

The Parish Council owns and maintains 65 hectares of Community Land within the village (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), along with approximately 40,000 trees, most of which have Tree Preservation Orders.

VPC also owns and maintains the playpark, the zip wire & the ballpark, two bus shelters & 69 streetlights throughout the village. VPC own and maintain four out of the six defibrillators available in Vigo.

VPC manage and enforce the restrictive covenants in the village – these were imposed by the original developers and were put in place to ensure that all properties and their surroundings are maintained to a high standard and look welcoming and attractive to residents and those visiting the village.

As a statutory body, we are a consultee on all Planning Applications.

We meet every month (except August) and would love to see you at one of our meetings. Dates are noted in this magazine and are also available on our website and noticeboards.

I would just like to finish by wishing all the very best to Cllr Pat Banks, who will be leaving the village for pastures new very soon. Pat & her husband Robin have lived in the village since the very beginning. Pat has been a Parish Councillor for 18 years and has been the Chairman of the Parish for 12 of those. Pat has worked tirelessly over the years, volunteering hours of her time and she will be sorely missed by many.

## VIGO PARISH COUNCIL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



The first houses in Vigo were built in the mid-1960s, with the first resident moving into Timberbank in 1965. Vigo Parish Council did not exist then – the community land in the village was registered to Vigo Village Trust and was managed by the Vigo Residents Association.

Vigo Parish Council was formed with the inaugural meeting held in April 2000. It was the first new Parish Council of the Millenium. Until that point, Vigo had been part of Meopham Parish. This year, Vigo Parish Council celebrates their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



### **The original Parish Council April 2000**

#### L-R (standing):

Roland Graves, Carole Baylis,  
Janet Jones, Alan White,  
Peter Savage

#### L-R (seated):

Colin Talboys, Colin Wells,  
Martin Chinnery,  
Brenda Beetham



### **The current Parish Council May 2025**

#### L-R

Alan White, Jim Haslem,  
Pat Banks, Simon Chaplin  
Sharon Cottam,  
Andy Woolway, Elliott Hulf.

Mandie Jones &  
Dave Hawkins not pictured



## **MEETING DATES 2025/2026**

**Please note that Parish Council Meetings are now held on a Monday (usually the third of the month) In the (small) village hall, starting at 8pm.**

All meetings are Full Council Meetings unless otherwise stated.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

(Only to be called if there is Urgent Business)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

(Annual Parish Meeting)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

(Annual Meeting of the Council)

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

## **VIGO PARISH COUNCIL: Who are we & what do we do?**

Vigo Parish Council is made up of nine Councillors who live locally. They are voted into their posts by the electorate of the Parish, or co-opted, to form a Council that endeavours to make decisions in the interests of the local community. Councillors are not paid but volunteer their time to serve our village. Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and the minutes which record discussions and decisions are posted onto the Council's website [www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk) You can also ask for a copy from the Clerk.

### **VIGO PARISH COUNCIL**

- Manage the Community Land in the village, cut the grass, and look after the trees by carrying out regular inspections and remedial tree works
- Litter pick the main routes in the village
- Look after, litter pick and inspect the play park and ballpark
- Manage, maintain and repair the village streetlights
- Look after the bus shelters in the village
- Award small grants to local organisations
- Manage and enforce the restrictive covenants in the village
- As a statutory body we are a consultee on all Planning Applications
- And so much more! Why not come to one of our meetings?

### **GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Benefits & Council Tax | • Leisure                 |
| • Electoral Services     | • Environmental Health    |
| • Housing                | • Bins & Street Cleansing |
| • Licensing & Community  | • Parking                 |
| • Street / Road Signs    | • Planning & Building     |

### **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

- |                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Education & Schools | • Waste Management             |
| • Transport           | • Trading Standards            |
| • Planning            | • Fire & Public Safety         |
| • Social Care         | • Highways (including signage) |
| • Libraries           | • Drainage                     |

# Vigo Parish Council: Annual Report 2025



This report was given at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## WELCOME

Cllr Banks welcomed everyone to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting.

Vigo Parish Council (VPC) is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! Until 2000 Vigo was part of Meopham Parish Council. A lot of work went into making Vigo into a Parish in its own right and in 2000, it was incorporated as the first new Parish of the Millenium. It was a pleasure to welcome some of these first Parish Councillors to the meeting to thank them for their all their effort and input to Vigo.

## KALC AWARD

The first business of the evening was the presentation of a Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Award which is an award to recognise the work that is done for the community. This year it was awarded to the leaders of Culverstone and Vigo Scout Group. The Group started in 1969 and a lot of young and now not so young, people of Vigo have benefited by taking part in many exciting scouting activities.

## HEMSLEY CONSERVTAION CENTRE

Following this there was a very interesting talk about the work at the Hemsley Conservation Centre.

## NEW FACES

Cllr Banks then introduced the new people who have joined the Parish Council during the past year: Cllr Elliott Hulf, Assistant Clerk Clare Collings, Gardener Daryl Chidgey and Tree warden Tony Neild.

## MINUTES

The minutes from last year's meeting were then noted and, following the meeting, are available on our Website: [www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk)

## FINANCE

The Audited Accounts from last year (2023-24), the draft budget for 2024-2025 and the budget for 2025-2026 were presented to the meeting. All documents are available on our website (alternatively please contact the Clerk for copies).

As is always the case, most of the money spent during the year goes on the maintenance of Vigo - grass cutting, tree works, litter picking and much more, to keep the village safe and looking good. We also spend some money on administration – to make sure that things that need doing, do get done and to keep things running smoothly.

Cllr Banks then spoke about the larger than normal percentage increase for Vigo, explaining that the main reason was to fund our Community Warden and to increase the tree work budget. However, for a Band D property, the increase is about the same as buying one extra loaf of bread per month!

### OFFICE MOVE

A lot of things had happened in the last year, and Cllr Banks spoke about some of the most notable ones. Firstly, since we have engaged a part time assistant clerk, the office that had been used since the Council was first formed, was no longer large enough. for both Jo (Clerk) and Clare (Assistant Clerk) to work in it at the same time, and so in August, the Parish office was moved – lock, stock and barrel, to the 2 offices on the other side of the Village Hall.

### UNDERPASS

Another major event was repainting the underpass, which had been in a poor state for some time. Last summer we paid to have it pressure washed and then Paul and Steph painted it for us. It does look better. Hopefully the ends will be painted soon. These were not done last year, as the weather conspired against us.

### THE BAY

The seating area in the Bay had been a cause of concern for some time. Residents' working parties tried hard to make an improvement, but as weeds grow so quickly, it was difficult to keep on top. So VPC engaged Daryl, as our gardener and his hard work along with pressure washing the brick walls, has made a terrific difference.

The post box in the Bay, had been looking dreadful for quite a long time. For some years, Jo had been trying to get this repainted. At last, it has now been repainted - it's not a wonderful job but at least it is now bright red!

### SPEEDING

For some time, there has been concern that vehicles travelled too fast in Vigo. We had 2 Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) surveys, looking at the speed of vehicles using Waterlow Road, which showed a substantial number of cars travelling over the speed limit. Our liaison officer at Kent Highways said this was a situation where we should take some action to encourage people to stick to the speed limit, so Kent Highways proposed 30mph signs on the road and some new reminders on posts. We paid a contribution to this, and these are now in place. We are planning to have another speed survey soon to see if they are having any effect.

## GROUND MAINTENANCE AND TREE SURGERY

As is clear from the budget, our contractors Paul and Steph always have a lot of regular tree work to do. They also deal with issues that residents have raised with the Council, regarding Parish trees. And of course, they always step in to deal with emergencies. We have increased the budget for tree work for 2025/2026.

A project that has been going for a few years now, is “Vigo Verges – Growing Wild”. The majority of people who responded to our survey were in favour of this and of leaving uncut islands of wildflowers. VPC plans to repeat this initiative on Waterlow Road again this year, making sure to keep site lines clear, as we did last year.

## STREETLIGHTS

A few years ago, Gravesham Parish Council handed over the running of our streetlights to us. When we took them over, only 7 of our 69 lights were LED. Now, we are very pleased to say that all our streetlights have been changed to LEDs – better in our fight against Global Warming and better for the electricity bill,

## POP UP CAFÉ

The Pop-up café continues to be very successful monthly event and is organized by Jo, our clerk, with volunteers to help. The Parish Council supports the event by paying the rent.

The café is a good venue for sharing information with residents, and having visitors to speak; for example, in the April café, where we welcomed our MP Laura Sullivan

## RODENTS & OTHER PESTS

On the downside, rats are still something of a problem in the Village. We bought some poison-free traps and have caught some rats – but not as many as we would have expected – are rats in Vigo too clever to be caught? We continue to monitor the traps, but please remember, the best way to deal with the rats is to make sure food is not left on the ground.

Another potential hazard for the future, is the encroachment of Asian Hornets into Kent. We had a talk from the Asian Hornet Watch team, who explained that they needed the help of the public to find out if the numbers are increasing and where they are. They supplied VPC with a number of traps – with instructions and information. There are some left, if anyone would like to have one. They are available from the Parish Office.

## GOOD NEWS

During the year we had good news about an issue that had been causing a lot of stress, for a lot of people. The illegal development at Fowlers Stone Wood was finally cleared!

## THANK YOU

Cllr Banks then went on to say that there are a lot of people that she needed to thank and apologised for singling out just a few. Firstly, thanks to Jo Glass, our Parish Clerk, who is such an asset to this Parish – we really couldn't manage without her. And thank you to our Parish councillors. Then, of course I must thank Paul and Steph, who do such amazing work in Vigo.

## FAREWELL

Finally, Cllr Banks reminded people that this would be her last meeting as Chairman, as she is moving. She said that It has been a great privilege to have been able to be Chairman for so many years, and that she would be leaving VPC in good hands. Jim Haslem, our current vice chairman, has agreed to take over the role of Chairman for next year, and Jo continues to be the Clerk.

---

## STREETLIGHTS IN VIGO



There are 69 streetlights in the village, and Vigo Parish Council is responsible for maintaining them all. We are pleased to report that we have now finished our upgrade programme, and all lanterns are now LED units.

We work with an excellent local contractor (Streetlights Limited) who regularly inspects the lights and carries out any repairs quickly and efficiently.

If you notice a streetlight not working, please report it to the clerk:

[clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk) or by telephone 01732 823337.

## **HOW TO CONTACT VIGO PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Parish Council Clerk works on a hybrid basis for 28 hours a week. The Assistant Clerk works for 4 hours a week.**

Open Office Hours (where you can call to speak to the Clerk or Assistant Clerk):

**Monday 9am – 1pm\* and Tuesday 2pm – 5pm**

\*the exception to this is when there is a Parish Council meeting, on those days the office will be open from 3.30 – 6.30pm.

Other times are available by appointment only.

### **Alternatively, you can contact us in a number of ways:**

- You can visit directly or telephone during office hours 01732 823337.
- You can leave a letter / note addressed to the Clerk via the village hall letterbox. Please ensure envelopes are addressed to either the Parish Clerk or Vigo Parish Council.
- You can leave a message on the answerphone 01732 823337
- You can email the Council: [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk)
- You can send a direct message via our website [www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk)
- You can write to the Parish Council at the following address:

The Clerk, Vigo Parish Council, Vigo Village Hall, The Bay, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent. DA13 0TD

- You can attend a Parish Council meeting (please see the list of dates published in this newsletter, on our website or on our noticeboard).

**OUR OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER IS 07778 391 903**

## VIGO PARISH COUNCIL - Agreed Budget for 2025/2026

<b>COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION COSTS (A)</b>		<b>£</b>
Salaries, Tax, NIC, Pensions		39,900
Memberships		1,000
Chairs Allowance		60
Travel & Training		1,940
Office & Meeting Rental		5,300
Office Equip / Stationery / Postage		800
Telephone & Broadband		650
Payroll Charges		350
Professional Fees (audit fees, solicitor, surveyors etc)		4,100
Bank Charges		156
Land Registry Fees		50
Website Running Costs		500
Election		759
Insurance		3,600
Meeting Supplies & Expenses		50
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION</b>		<b>59,215</b>

<b>COUNCIL SERVICES (B)</b>		<b>£</b>
Grounds Maint / Grass / Trees		66,400
Gardener		2,500
Emergency Tree Surgery & Project Work		14,500
Repairs, reinstatement & improvements		1,300
Paladin Bins		1,250
Bus Shelter Cleaning		90
Play Park & Ball Park maintenance		1,500
CCTV maintenance & upgrades		1,000
Street Light Adoption / maintenance		10,950
Community Warden Sponsorship		9,000
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL SERVICES</b>		<b>108,490</b>

<b>COUNCIL PROJECTS &amp; EVENTS (C)</b>	<b>£</b>
Defibrillators	250
Hanging Baskets / The Bay	250
Annual Report	650
Grants in Aid	1,200
Project Village Hall	500
Christmas Decorations	300
Pop Up Café	275
Misc/Sundries	200
Reserves	1,000
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL PROJECT &amp; EVENTS</b>	<b>4,625</b>

TOTALS (A+B+C)	172,330
Less income: (bank interest)	-2,500
<b>Total Budget 2025/2026</b>	<b>169,830</b>

Precept Raised	148,105
Funding from reserves	21,725
<b>Total Budget 2025/2026</b>	<b>169,830</b>

<b><u>TAX BASE</u></b>	<b>£</b>
Amount Payable per Band D Household per annum	206.92
Amount Payable per Band D Household per week	3.98

**The amount payable per Band D household per annum has increased by £18.73 (9.95%) from the previous year.**

**£12.57 (6.68%) of this increase is to fund the Community Warden service.**

**34% of our overall budget is spent on administrative costs to deliver  
66% of our budget on council services, events and projects**

## **VIGO PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Council is currently made up of nine Members as follows:

Cllr Jim Haslem (Chair)	<a href="mailto:jim.haslem@vigo-pc.gov.uk">jim.haslem@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Pat Banks (Vice - Chair)	<a href="mailto:pat.banks@vigo-pc.gov.uk">pat.banks@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Simon Chaplin	<a href="mailto:simon.chaplin@vigo-pc.gov.uk">simon.chaplin@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Sharon Cottam	<a href="mailto:sharon.cottam@vigo-pc.gov.uk">sharon.cottam@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Dave Hawkins	<a href="mailto:dave.hawkins@vigo-pc.gov.uk">dave.hawkins@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Elliott Hulf	<a href="mailto:elliott.hulf@vigo-pc.gov.uk">elliott.hulf@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Mandie Jones	<a href="mailto:mandie.jones@vigo-pc.gov.uk">mandie.jones@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Andy Woolway	<a href="mailto:andrew.woolway@vigo-pc.gov.uk">andrew.woolway@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Alan White	

## **GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: Meopham South & Vigo Ward**

Cllr Ejaz Aslam (The Conservative Party) represents the Meopham South & Vigo Ward. [ejaz.aslam@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:ejaz.aslam@gravesham.gov.uk)

Cllr Gurjit Kaur Bains (The Conservative Party) represents the Meopham South & Vigo Ward. [gurjit.bains@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:gurjit.bains@gravesham.gov.uk)

## **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL: Gravesham Rural**

Cllr Diane Morton (Reform) is the representative for Gravesham Rural.  
[Diane.morton@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Diane.morton@kent.gov.uk)

## **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Lauren Sullivan is the Labour Member of Parliament representing Gravesham.  
[lauren.sullivan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lauren.sullivan.mp@parliament.uk)

## **COVENANTS IN VIGO**



All residents in Vigo are bound by Covenants on their properties.

Covenants were imposed on all homeowners in Vigo by the Developers. This was to ensure that all properties and their surroundings would be maintained to a high standard and look welcoming and attractive to the residents and to people thinking of moving into the Village.

The Covenants are made between all homeowners and Vigo Parish Council (who are the successors to the Developers). They also exist between residents in the same phase of the development. Vigo Parish Council (VPC) has the responsibility for maintaining and enforcing the covenants.

A document setting out the general requirements of each of the six covenants, in non-legal language is available on our website [www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk) or from the Clerk.

Residents are advised to check the Covenants in their Deeds to see exact wording.

**The most common covenant issues are:**

### **WINDOWS, DOORS, AND CHANGES TO THE EXTERNAL APPEARANCE OF YOUR PROPERTY**

You need to have covenant approval before changing your windows and doors or making any other alterations to the exterior of your property (including cladding).

Making an application for approval is free – just contact the Clerk for details. If you have made changes, and need to apply for retrospective approval, there is a fee of £50.

### **FENCES, HEDGES, WALLS & BARRIERS IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING LINE**

Residents cannot erect a wall, fence or hedge in front of the building line of their house. This includes the erection of a wall, as part of an extension. The restriction that prevents walls, hedges and fences being erected in front of the building line results from the original planning permission granted to the developers, which required the Village to be 'open plan'.

Residents cannot change the position or height of existing walls or fences unless they have asked for, and received, written permission.

**We are aware of a number of properties within the village that are currently in breach of covenant three (hedges in front of the building line)**

The Parish Council is undertaking a rolling programme to address these breaches. If you are in breach of this covenant and would like to discuss the matter with the Parish, please contact the Clerk. The Parish Council will consider any extenuating circumstances you have that you may wish to put forward.



---

## BAT WALKS – book your place now!

Following the success of our guided Bat Walks in 2022, Vigo Parish Council are pleased to announce that we will be running two more of these events.

The Parish Council are hugely grateful to local resident, Craig Williams who kindly runs these events for us.

Craig will walk you through the village, hopefully you will see some bats, and he will pass on some of his wealth of knowledge to you.

The places are FREE and available to Vigo Residents only, on a first come first served basis. Anticipated start time is 8pm (to be confirmed) and the walk will last up to 90 minutes.

**DATES AVAILABLE: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 & Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

Please contact the Clerk by telephone or email to book your place. Email is preferred [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk)



## KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

### COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

This scheme recognises and celebrates residents or groups who have made significant contributions to their local communities over a period of years. The scheme is supported by various councils, including Kent County Council and Medway Council. The winners are awarded a framed certificate signed by the Chairman of Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent and the KALC Chairman.

This year Vigo were pleased to award the KALC Community Award to:

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> CULVERSTONE & VIGO SCOUT GROUP**

**With grateful thanks to the scout leaders and other volunteers for their dedication and time. This group (established 1969) is invaluable to the young people of Vigo (Beavers, Cubs & Scouts).**



This photo shows Lauren Sullivan (MP for Gravesham), John Richards, Mike Mickleburgh & Marion Weston (Scout Leader) along with representatives of the Scout, Cub & Beaver Groups, and Cllr Pat Banks (Vigo Parish Council Chairman)

**If you would like to nominate someone for a future award  
please do let the clerk know**

## **GROUND, GRASS AND TREE MAINTENANCE IN VIGO**

We are lucky to have Paul and Steph, who look after all our grounds maintenance, grass cutting and tree surgery in the village. They work tirelessly to keep our village looking beautiful.

We also engage Daryl, our gardener, who looks after The Bay (seating area and hanging baskets) as well as other odd jobs, including planting spring bulbs, and clearing leaves where necessary in the Autumn. Daryl planted 200 daffodils last year and we anticipate the same this year.

All of the team work really hard and do a wonderful job. There are some occasions where we may engage an outside contractor to do tree work, especially if specialist equipment is required (a cherry picker for example) but our team still work alongside those contractors to ensure that the best job is carried out.

### **STORMY WEATHER**



We were hit by a few heavy storms during the latter part of 2024. Paul & Steph do a fantastic job of inspecting, monitoring and maintaining the thousands of trees that

we are responsible for, but there is always a chance there will be some trees that fall or are damaged in very high winds.

Paul & Steph work all hours to clear any issues as soon as they can. In some circumstances they even clear trees that do not belong to the Parish Council, if they are blocking a road or causing other urgent issues.



This tree in these photographs belonged to Trosley Country Park, but Paul & Steph cleared it as it was blocking the main road into the village.

## **AUTUMN LEAVES**

The Parish Council were very aware of problems that have occurred in recent years with heavy rainfall, leaf fall and potential flooding in Vigo. We were particularly aware of the concerns of Timberbank residents who suffered awful floods in 2019, due to a combination of unprecedented rainfall and blocked drains. The Parish Council decided to be proactive and do what it could to reduce the risk going forward.

### ***What did we do?***

- We carried out crown lifting work to the Chestnut Trees on the Parish Land in Timberbank. This resulted in far less leaves falling during the Autumn.
- We asked Gravesham Borough Council to carry out regular road sweeps & we asked Kent Highways to inspect and clear any blocked drains.
- We engaged a contractor to periodically leaf blow and clear the gutters and roadside edges in the worst affected parts of Timberbank.



### ***What did we ask you to do?***

- We asked you to NOT sweep / blow leaves from your property into the road. Leaves swept into the road gutters can lead to blockages that could damage you or your neighbour's home.
- We asked you to be a good neighbour and check the drains nearest your property and report any blocked drains to Kent Highways.
- We asked you to consider paying a small annual fee to get Gravesham Borough Council to collect your garden waste.

## **TIDYING UP IN VIGO**

### **THE BAY**

The Parish Council has spent some time, money and effort in trying to brighten up and tidy up The Bay. What have we done?

- We have engaged a gardener who is regularly weeding and tidying the flower beds in the seating area.
- We have had the lamppost upgraded to an LED lantern.
- We have had the lamppost painted.
- We have put hanging baskets on the village hall
- We have had the walls around the seating area in The Bay jet washed – what a difference!
- We are having the bollards and the cannon balls painted
- We are going to speak to the relevant authority about having the block paving jet washed too.

Here are some before and after photos.....



### **VIGO UNDERPASS**

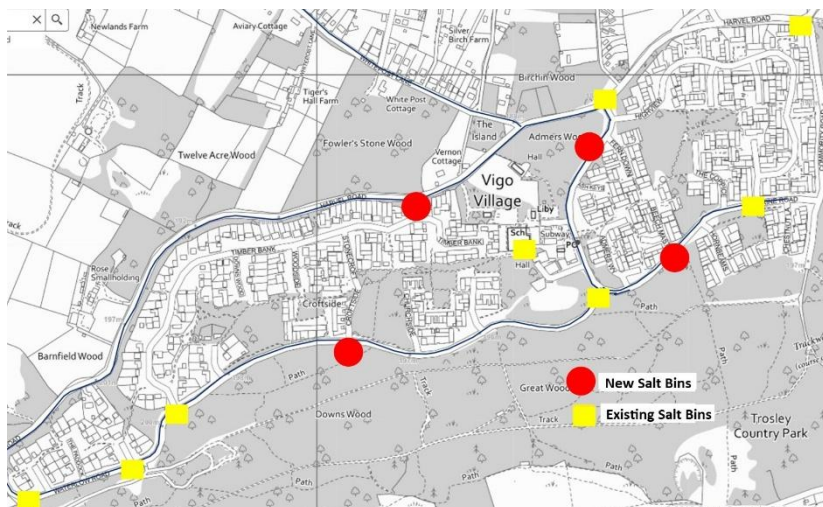
We had the underpass cleaned and repainted, it looks so much better now! We hope to get the outside of the underpass decorated soon. Here it is, before, during & after!



## SNOW & SALT BINS

As is often the case in the winter months, Vigo was once again hit by heavy snow fall in January 2025. Our contractors do what they can to keep the routes around the shops in The Bay and outside the school clear.

Historically there have been eight salt bins in the village. However, Vigo Parish Council reviewed this and agreed that additional salt bins were required. Following a successful grant bid to our County Council Member, we were pleased to report that an additional **FOUR** bins were installed in the village. A map showing the location of the bins is below, and is also available on our website (or you can contact the Clerk for a copy).



Please note that any issues with winter maintenance, including roads / footpaths that need gritting, should be reported to Kent Highways. Contact them online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement> or by phone 03000 41 91 91

Location of Automated External  
**DEFIBRILLATOR**  
cabinets in and around VIGO



**VIGO RUGBY CLUB**  
During open hours

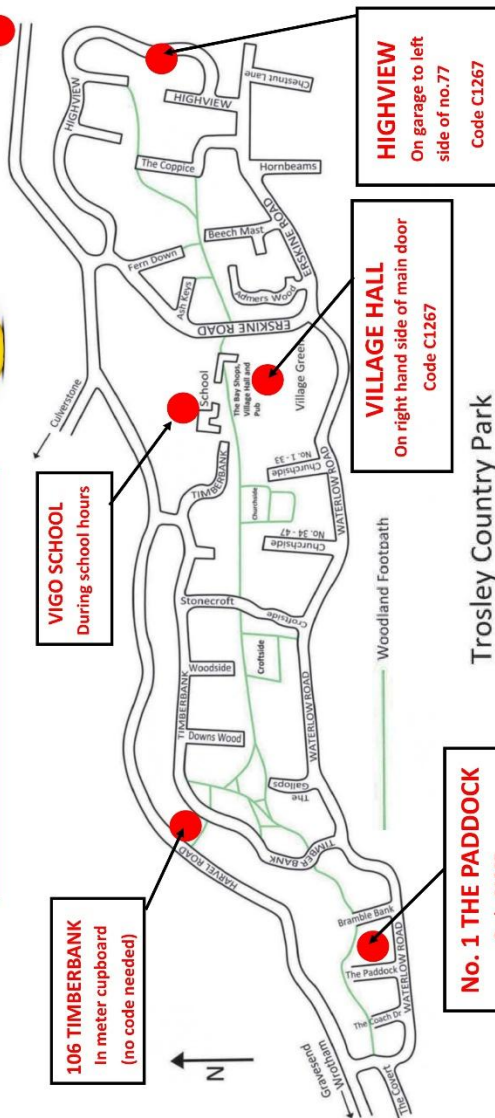
**106 TIMBERBANK**  
In meter cupboard  
(no code needed)

**VIGO SCHOOL**  
During school hours

**VILLAGE HALL**  
On right hand side of main door  
Code C1267

**HIGHVIEW**  
On garage to left  
side of no. 77  
Code C1267

**No. 1 THE PADDOCK**  
Code C1267



Trosley Country Park

## RECOGNISING & TREATING CARDIAC ARREST

### IS THE PATIENT CONSCIOUS?

Conscious means able to respond to commands or answer questions.

### IS THE PATIENT BREATHING NORMALLY?

Patients in cardiac arrest will not be breathing normally, if at all.

If you answered NO to both questions then:

DIAL 999

START CPR

SEND SOMEONE FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR

### CPR

Press down **hard** and **fast** in the centre of the patient's chest.

Do this at a rate of about 100 times per minute.

(The beat of Nelly the Elephant  
or Stayin' Alive is about right).

You need to press down about a third of the patient's chest depth.

**Do not be afraid to push too hard.**

Let the chest recoil between compressions.

You do not need to provide rescue breaths.

- When the defibrillator arrives; turn it on by opening the flap at the front, and follow the instructions.
- The defibrillator will know if the patient needs a shock or not. It will not shock a patient who does not require it and it cannot harm the patient. You do not need training to use it.
- Some patients in cardiac arrest do not require defibrillation but still require chest compressions (CPR) so sometimes the device may not deliver a shock.

# **DEFIBRILLATORS IN VIGO**

## **Important Information**

- We are lucky to have a total of SIX defibrillators in the village. Four are the responsibility of the Parish Council and are accessible 24 hours a day (three of these are locked).
- The code for the locked cabinets is the same for all of them C1267
- The defibrillator that was located in The Villager public house has now been moved to the outside of the village hall. This is so that it is accessible around the clock.
- You will have been delivered (with this annual newsletter) a new defibrillator map that shows all the locations. This map is also included within this newsletter.



**PLEASE DISPOSE OF ANY OLD DEFIBRIALLTOR MAPS YOU HAVE  
AND ONLY USE THE NEW UPDATED ONE THAT HAS BEEN  
DELIVERED TO YOU.**

**You can check you have the right version by  
looking at the map and checking that a  
defibrillator is marked as being located at the village hall.**

## Vigo Play Park

Vigo Parish Council has plans to do a minor refurbishment on the play park before this summer. What are we planning to do?

Install a new Timber Trail. The old one is beginning to rot and needs to be replaced. We were lucky enough to be successful in obtaining an Awards for All Lottery grant that will fund this replacement.



Areas of the playpark surface (grass matting) are compacted and not really fit for purpose anymore. We will be getting the areas around some of the playpark equipment replaced with rubber mulch, which will give a much-improved result.

Some of our equipment has peeling paint and is faded. There is also some graffiti that needs to be removed. We will be sanding down and repainting the areas that need attention.

Our benches need some TLC and will be sanded down and repainted / re-stained.



**Doing this work will involve closing the playpark for a few days, but we hope to get as much done before the school summer holidays as possible.**

**Watch this space!**

As part of our lottery application, we carried out a survey with the children at Vigo School, and the local scout, cub and beaver groups. We haven't yet analysed the results, but a quick glance tells us that there are a LOT of requests for a "ground trampoline" or a musical area in the play park. The Parish Council will research this and try to obtain funding for this in the future.

The Pop Up Café continues to be a success and is well attended every month.

Everyone is very welcome, you can be sure of a friendly face, someone to chat to, as well as a cup of something & a slice of cake.

There is no charge for anything (donations are welcome).



### **2025 CAFÉ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

All dates are the first Friday of the month

10am til 12 noon, in the Village Hall

**4<sup>th</sup> July**

**1<sup>st</sup> August**

**5<sup>th</sup> September**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**7<sup>th</sup> November**

**5<sup>th</sup> December**

2026 Dates to be released at the December Café.

---

### **ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FRAUD?**

For example:

- \* fraudulent calls
- \* romance fraud
- \* gift card fraud
- \* emails and text messages
- \* rogue trader fraud
- \* investment fraud?



**Would you be interested in attending a Vigo event  
(run by a Fraud Prevention Officer within Kent Police)?**

If there is enough interest, Vigo Parish Council will look at booking an event.

Please email [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk) or call 01732 82333 to let us know if you would be interested, and if an evening or a weekend would be best or if you are able to attend a day time session.

Thank you.

Driving Miss Daisy & Vigo Parish Council are pleased to offer

## **FREE Garden Centre Outings**

**Funded by the National Lottery**

**A Unique Driving and Companionship Service** ~ Driving Miss Daisy offers more than just transportation. They provide a friendly companion to assist you throughout your journey, helping you attend appointments, run errands, and enjoy social events.

**Driving Miss Daisy have joined with Vigo Parish Council and are pleased to be able to offer a limited amount of FREE Garden Centre Outings for Vigo residents.**

### **Garden Centre Trips – What's Included?**

- **Free of charge** (limited offer due to National Lottery funding)
- Enjoy a **relaxing visit** to a local garden centre (venue to be confirmed)
- **Three-hour total trip** (approx. 2 hours morning or afternoon at the garden centre)
- Vehicle accommodates **4 people** (including **1 wheelchair user** and walking aids)
- **Companion driver** stays with you throughout the trip
- **Free hot drink and cake** included (additional purchases welcome)

### **How It Works**

- You request a spot for yourself (and your Vigo friends if you wish)
- Your companion driver will accompany and assist you throughout the trip
- Places are on a strictly **first come, first served basis**.

### **Available Dates & Times**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**Two time slots each day:** Morning (9.30am – 12.30) or Afternoon (1.30pm – 4.30pm)

*Places for each trip are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.*

### **How to Book**

(you can book just for yourself or with 1–2 fellow Vigo residents)

#### **Contact the Clerk:**

**Address:** Vigo Parish Council, Vigo Village Hall, The Bay, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0TD

**Phone:** 01732 823337 (answerphone available)      **Email:** clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk

**In person:** Office Hours: Mon 9am - 1pm, Tues 2pm - 5pm (other times by appointment).

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

**Come along, meet friends, and enjoy a lovely day out.**

## **Are you new to Vigo or know somebody that is?**

The Parish Council has developed a “welcome pack” for people who are new to Vigo. The welcome pack includes the latest Parish newsletter, a copy of the bus timetable, information on covenants, how the Parish Council works, what the precept is spent on etc.

The document is also available online: [www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk) (under the “news” tab). Hard copies are available from the Parish office.



---

## **Small Grants Available from Vigo Parish Council**



Do you run a local group or charity that makes a positive impact in our community? Vigo Parish Council is pleased to offer **small grants of up to £250** to support organisations that benefit the Parish and its residents.

Applications are invited from **voluntary groups, not-for-profit organisations, and charities** that provide services, enhance local life, or improve our environment. Your project should make a clear contribution to those who live, work, or visit the Parish. Applications from organisations based outside Vigo may be considered if the benefit to Vigo residents can be clearly shown.

Grant applications are **considered twice a year**, in **March** and **September**. If you apply, your application will be held and reviewed in the next available round.

A **full Grant Policy**, including eligibility criteria and key information, is available to view on our **Parish Council website**. [www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk)

If you think your group qualifies and you've got a project in mind, we'd love to hear from you!

**To apply or for more information, please contact the Parish Clerk:**

[clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk) or give us a call 01732 823337.



## **RECYCLE YOUR OLD ELECTRICALS**

Please continue to recycle your old electricals at the recycling bin located in the car park next to Vigo School. All small electrical items can be placed in this container, which will be collected and recycled by Gravesham Borough Council. Any electrical item containing a plug, battery or cable can be recycled.

## **GLASS RECYCLING**

Did You Know? Gravesham residents can now put glass out for recycling with their fortnightly kerbside collection.

With no separate container needed for glass items, households can rinse them, put the lids or caps back on and pop them in with the rest of their recycling.



## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS**



There are six EVCPs in the village, these are located in the car park next to Vigo School.

## **VIGO REPAIR CAFE**

Vigo Parish Council are pleased to be able to support the Vigo Repair Café, by awarding a small grant toward their rental costs.

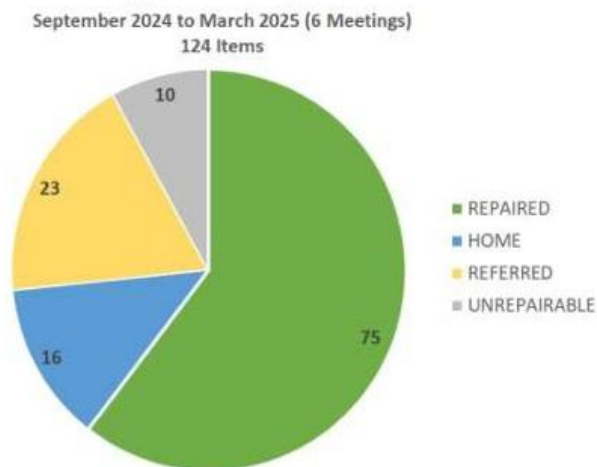
The repair café is going from strength to strength and is well attended – why not pop along? Contact email: [GraveshamRepairCafe@gmail.com](mailto:GraveshamRepairCafe@gmail.com)

### **Vigo Repair Café**

#### **Progress so far**

The Vigo Repair Café offers a free meeting place on the second Saturday of every month where volunteers with skills help people repair their broken household items, promoting a culture of repair and reducing waste. At Vigo the repairs include electricals, clothing, bikes, clocks and more. The overall aim of repair cafés is to help achieve a more sustainable future by encouraging people to get stuff repaired rather than sending it to landfill and then buying a brand new replacement that requires more of the earth's resources for its manufacture.

So far we've held 6 repair cafes in Vigo since September 2024. Out of 124 items brought in for repair, 75 were repaired at the meeting, 16 were taken to a volunteers home for repair, 23 were referred (e.g. for specialist repair) and 10 were unrepairable.



Since September four local residents have joined the team of Gravesham repairers, leaving vacancies for around half a dozen more to make the Vigo branch self-sustaining. Anyone who can spare one day a month and has a knack for mending things (or can help with reception or refreshments), will be welcome to drop in at one of our events to see what we do.

The "Crisp Packet Project" runs alongside repair cafe, recycling empty, washed crisp packets into thermal blankets and other survival items for the homeless.

In March this year, the Gravesham Repair Café won the Gravesham Friendly competition jointly with Gravesham Sanctuary and this has secured an annual grant of £1500 for 3 years. The plan is to spend it on consumables needed for repairs, frequently needed tools and education & training for repairers.



**STOP!**  
**YOU COULD**  
**GET YOUR ITEM**  
**REPAIRED**  
**FOR FREE!**

**OUR SKILLED TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WILL ATTEMPT  
TO REPAIR YOUR ITEM FOR FREE, AT ONE OF OUR**

**GRAVESHAM REPAIR CAFES**

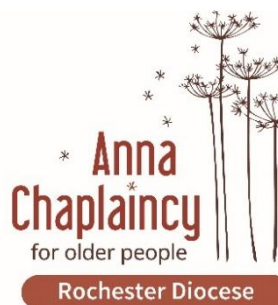
**FIND OUT WHERE, WHEN, HOW:**  
**FACEBOOK:** GRAVESHAM REPAIR CAFE  
**EMAIL:** GRAVESHAMREPAIRCAFE@GMAIL.COM  
**OR SEE OUR BLOG:** GRAVESHAMREPAIRCAFE.BLOGSPOT.COM



My name is Stephanie Perfitt, and I am a Lay Minister and Anna Chaplain licensed and Commissioned by The Church of England.

I have been a lay minister for three years and an Anna Chaplain for two years.

I have recently joined the churches of Vigo, Stansted and Fairseat working alongside the Reverend Christopher Noble.



My relationship with these churches and congregations began during my training when sent to Vigo for my church/community placement. I never severed that link and have worshipped alongside these congregations for some time now.

As time has passed it became apparent to me that I should make these churches my home church and become a full member assisting Chris with the services and to reach out to the communities.

I am married with two daughters and four lovely grandchildren whom I enjoy spending time with.

I also enjoy socialising - chatting and meeting people so I would really enjoy getting to meet some of you who live in Vigo.

Anna Chaplaincy is a specific ministry to the senior members of our communities. So, if you feel lonely, isolated or forgotten about then why not get in touch with me and I can come along and have a cuppa and maybe help you in some way.

My contact details are 0777 432 0435 or [perfitts1964@gmail.com](mailto:perfitts1964@gmail.com)

Anna Chaplaincy is there for anyone who needs some company and friendship, and it would be a great pleasure for me to do that for you.

If you would like to check me out, then please do contact

Jo Glass the parish clerk at the parish office 01732 823 337 or [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk)  
OR Reverend Christopher Noble [rev.stmarysstansted@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stmarysstansted@gmail.com)

I very much look forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting up with you

Every blessing

Stephanie

## **1<sup>st</sup> Culverstone and Vigo scout Group April 2025**



The past year has seen the group membership grow to 95 young people, a slight increase on 2024 which was itself a great year in which our growth was recognised at county level. We now operate two Beaver colonies: two cub packs and a scout troop.

Thanks to the dedication of our small leadership group supported by willing parents, we continue to offer great opportunities for young people to participate in many different activities and experiences. This includes day trips away; camping weekends either at Hopehill or further afield, skills such as rifle shooting, archery and, soon to come – tomahawk throwing.

We do welcome anyone who can spare 30 minutes to come and talk to young people on topics that would interest them – previously we have had visits covering First Aid; Kent Police, Waste and Recycling in Gravesham, Keep Fit; Owl Sanctuary and Local History. If anyone has something they are passionate about and would be suitable for any of our age groups, please get in touch

Our annual water event held at Leybourne lakes – Kontiki - saw the scout group win the novelty raft competition, something that we enjoy entering every year. This year our design went on to be used by Heart of Kent Hospice in the Maidstone River Festival and won best dressed raft! It was then sold to raise funds for the Hospice.

Our funds, which largely come from term fees, have been supplemented by selling items donated to us through “Bargains in Vigo” (Facebook Page), and by events that are arranged to fundraise for the group. We have another very popular murder mystery evening coming up on the 11<sup>th</sup> October in the village hall so please save the date. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support – this really does get put to good use.

The big change in the scout hut grounds is the development of a wildlife pond. Conceived after we lost a tree to high winds, this pond has been constructed and stocked with only native plant species. Its purpose is to allow the groups to experience and study pond life at close quarters and we plan to make it available to other scout groups in the district. We already have tadpoles and are looking forward to seeing the pond mature through the year.

## TROSLEY COUNTRY PARK

Trosley Country Park is a country park situated on the North Downs within the Kent Downs National Landscape (formerly known as the Kent Downs AONB)



With a total of 70 hectares, split between 44 hectares Woodland, and 26 hectares of Chalk Grassland (roughly 60:40) and over 12 kms of Waymarked Trails, our diverse habitats are home to many rare and protected species of fauna and flora - providing an amazing space, open to all, right on your doorstep.

We were proud again to have achieved both a “Green Flag” and a “South and Southeast in Bloom” award this year - important external validation of how we manage the Parks.

Our Visitor Services and Education team hosted events on 26 days across the park with 1465 attendees recorded and our trails proved as popular as ever.

Much of our Summer work was devoted to repairs, maintenance and upkeep, path clearance and when we produced the 42cu metres of logs for our biomass boiler and the 400 bags of firewood and kindling that we sold this year. The logs and firewood are a by-product of our forestry work and part of our sustainable woodland practice, as well as an important contributor to keeping down the cost of running our park.

We were delighted to replace the loose-fill safety surface at our large play area with ‘wet-pour’ and have the short, connecting section of the Trosley Trail made up with stone, both of which provide improved accessibility.

We also tackled over £20,000 worth of health and safety tree works, removing trees that are a risk to the public. Over the last five years, a significant number of these trees have been Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) affected by Ash Dieback (previously known as *Chalara dieback*), and this year was no exception. Because of diseased trees and the risk they pose, we have again blocked off some of the informal tracks through the park, as we have done in the past.

We undertook scrub management on ¾ hectare of the Chalk Grassland, working in both Little Pell and Great Pell towards meeting our statutory obligations to restore them. We cut and clear woodier species and ranker grasses, to let the much rarer herbs and wildflowers flourish. This is necessary to supplement the more sympathetic and selective but slower work done by the grazing goats.

In the woodland, we have concentrated our efforts on reinstating the ride and glade network. Rides and glades are spaces within the woodland which provide a marginal habitat with separate zones for trees, shrubby edges, taller herbs and short turf which also provide connectivity between habitats. In a healthy woodland, in a fully functioning ecosystem, these spaces would occur naturally but within the park we need to assist. We have planned it to fit around the existing waymarked trails and other clear areas like the play equipment and viewpoints and this year we cleared around 1ha (less than 2% of the total woodland). This was a mixture of tree-felling, brush cutting and removal of previously felled wood.

Following feedback from residents and users, part of our Summer works this year, we will be to focus on minor improvements to our Shared User route, which we hope will bring benefits to all.

We couldn't do it without the support and commitment of our volunteers - thank you. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Richard.

[richard.lees@kent.gov.uk](mailto:richard.lees@kent.gov.uk)



## **HEMSLEY ZOO: More Than a Job: The Wild Life of a Zookeeper**

As you can probably imagine, working with animals, ten staff and volunteers, and the general public means no two days are ever the same. But zookeeping and animal care in general is not just a 9-to-5 job; it's a lifestyle.

Growing up in a horse-mad family gave me the discipline and skills needed to always put the animals first. Family events, school discos, parties, even Christmas came second to my furry friends. Before I could even think about getting ready, the animals' needs had to be met. That kind of commitment lays the foundation for any career in animal care, and it's something I always look for when hiring new staff. If you're ready to go home and relax but your animal has other ideas, your plans have to change.

My career didn't always revolve around animals. Horses and competing on weekends were my hobby, not my profession. When people ask what I did before running a zoo, I usually say I had "normal jobs." But even those roles helped prepare me with the skills needed to handle the unexpected. And in this line of work where you're caring for animals and welcoming the public you have to expect the unexpected.

Our day starts at 8 a.m when I meet with the animal care staff or zookeepers (to use the more traditional term) to go over the day's tasks. I let them know if we have any special experiences scheduled, which allow visitors to get up close to some of our amazing animals while learning about the work we do both here and beyond.

Between 8 and 10 a.m, the keepers begin their daily routines. It's during this time I'm updated on any health concerns, births that may have occurred overnight, or anything else that needs my attention.

While I'm working through my own tasks, I'm always on call and could be radioed to attend emergencies or assess situations.

One incident that stands out happened during a period of strong winds. I noticed a tree leaning at an odd angle and, upon closer inspection, saw a massive crack stretching from the base of the trunk nearly 30 feet upward.

It was leaning directly over one of our animal houses. Panic set in as we realised the potential for major damage—not just to buildings, but to the animals themselves.



The team worked quickly to relocate as many animals as possible before the tree surgeons arrived. Thankfully, they were able to strap the tree and return later to safely remove it. It was a tense day, but one that highlighted our team's ability to respond quickly and calmly.

As I said, this job doesn't end when you go home. A couple of years ago, around 11:30 p.m., our security system alerted me that there were people on site. I checked the camera footage, which had automatically been sent to my phone, and saw two masked individuals with torches walking through the zoo. It's a feeling some of you will understand that instant wave of anxiety and urgency.

I live about ten minutes away, and the emergency response that night was phenomenal. We do house dangerous animals, and in the wrong situation, lives could be at risk. Within minutes of arriving, armed police, a helicopter, and a drone were all on the scene. Although the intruders had already left, we used the drone's thermal imaging to check on the locations of our most dangerous species before entering the grounds. The stakes in this job can be high, even in the middle of the night.

Thankfully, not every day is so dramatic. There are moments of true joy that remind us why we do this work. One of the most rewarding parts is when we successfully assist in the birth and early care of animals. Sometimes, we have to step in to hand-rear newborns including porcupines, rusty-spotted cats, small monkeys because the mothers are unable to do so. These tiny lives require round-the-clock care, including feedings every two hours for weeks or even months. But the moment they grow strong and start to thrive on their own, it's worth every sleepless night.

Working with animals isn't just a career, it's a commitment, a lifestyle and sometimes a calling. It requires resilience, flexibility, and a lot of heart. There are days filled with adrenaline, nights that end with worry, and early mornings that start with joy. No two days are ever the same, and that's what makes it special. For those who are drawn to this field, know this: it's not always glamorous, but it's always meaningful. At the end of the day, knowing you've made a difference in the lives of animals and the people who love them is the greatest reward of all.

Henry Weedon

Operations Manager [www.hemsleyconservationcentre.com](http://www.hemsleyconservationcentre.com)



Vigo RFC have in a short space of time made quite a splash in Kent Rugby. Only two years ago, they won a national cup, the Papa Johns Trophy, beating Wells of Somerset in the Final. Since then, they have not been doing so well, suffering a dreadful run of injuries to key players. However, they are hopeful that this is all behind them and look forward to next season. The season has now ended but training will start again on Thursday evenings, around mid-June

They continue to run training sessions for children from the age of 4 upwards on Sunday mornings, with over 100 local children learning to play the game. Last season the under 12's and Under 15's both gained promotion with unbeaten seasons.

A Ladies team has been formed and train on Thursday evenings. Although numbers started on the low side, there has been much interest lately and Vigo hope to have a competitive Ladies' side soon.

All players are, of course, welcome at one of the most family orientated clubs in the area.

Vigo RFC strive to become the focal sporting point for Vigo, Harvel and Culverstone. In addition to rugby, Oakenden Bike Polo also use the facilities and host an Annual International Bike Polo Tournament, whilst the Club is also the centre for Kent Archery.

[Vigo RFC](#)

## HARVEL HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Harvel Hash House Harriers are a small, friendly hashing club based in Harvel running around local villages including Vigo, Trottiscliffe and Luddesdown. The club cater for all abilities.

Tuesday Training 7pm Harvel Cricket Club

Hashing 11am First Sunday of the Month

New members welcome contact [hvhharriers@gmail.com](mailto:hvhharriers@gmail.com)



## USEFUL CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone No.	Email/URL
<b>Vigo Parish Council</b>	01732 823337	<a href="mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk">clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk">www.vigo-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Vigo Village Hall</b>	01732 823905	<a href="mailto:vigovillagehall@outlook.com">vigovillagehall@outlook.com</a> <a href="http://www.vigovillagehall.org">www.vigovillagehall.org</a>
<b>Kent County Council – Highways</b>	03000 419191	<a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem">www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</a>
<b>Gravesham Borough Council</b>	01474 337000	<a href="http://www.gravesham.gov.uk">www.gravesham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Lauren Sullivan:</b> MP for Gravesham		<a href="mailto:lauren.sullivan.mp@parliament.uk">lauren.sullivan.mp@parliament.uk</a>
<b>ClIr Diane Morton:</b> County Council Member		<a href="mailto:Diane.morton@kent.gov.uk">Diane.morton@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>ClIr Ejaz Aslam:</b> Borough Council Member	07855 330620	<a href="mailto:ejaz.aslam@gravesham.gov.uk">ejaz.aslam@gravesham.gov.uk</a>
<b>ClIr Gurjit Kaur Bains:</b> Borough Council Member		<a href="mailto:gurjit.bains@gravesham.gov.uk">gurjit.bains@gravesham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Mandy Cason:</b> KCC Community Warden	07977 981931	<a href="mailto:mandy.cason2@kent.gov.uk">mandy.cason2@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Jacqueline Fuller:</b> District Support Community Warden	07813 713036	<a href="mailto:jacqueline.fuller@kent.gov.uk">jacqueline.fuller@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Police</b> Non-Urgent Number	101	<a href="http://www.kent.police.uk/">www.kent.police.uk/</a>
<b>Free Home Fire Safety Visit:</b> (available if you are over 70, living with dementia, have a long-term health condition, are pregnant or have young children, or if you smoke)	0800 923 7000	<a href="mailto:home.safety@kent.fire-uk.org">home.safety@kent.fire-uk.org</a> <a href="http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/home-fire-safety-visits">www.kent.fire-uk.org/ home-fire-safety-visits</a>
<b>Mental Health Support:</b> A highly trained & experienced team available 24/7 to provide expert support no matter what you are going through.	0800 107 0160  OR text the word KENT to 85258	<a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/release-the-pressure">www.kent.gov.uk/ social-care-and-health/health/ release-the-pressure</a>

## CLUBS & SOCIETIES IN THE VILLAGE

(all are held in the village hall, except Scouts which is held in the Scout Hut)

### **Little Learners Pre School and Nursery:**

Monday – Friday, 9am – 3pm Term Time Only

[littlelearners.vigo@gmail.com](mailto:littlelearners.vigo@gmail.com) 07549 354660

### **Public Library:**

Tuesday 12pm – 5pm,

Wednesday 2pm – 5pm

Friday 2pm – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 2pm.

Hundreds of books on site and any book obtainable from other libraries. Plus free access to internet and word processing. Vigo Small Hall.

### **Fencing:**

Meopham & District Fencing Club

Wednesday 19.30 – 21.00. [madfencing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:madfencing@yahoo.co.uk)

Tele: Janet our coach on 07887837697.

### **Neylon Taylor School of Irish Dancing:**

Wednesday 3.30 to 5.30.

Led by Patricia Taylor T.C.R.G A.D.C.R.G.

Tel: 0778 9690689

### **WingChung – Self-defence lessons 13+years:**

Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30pm. [wingchunselfdefence@outlook.com](mailto:wingchunselfdefence@outlook.com)

Tel: Steve Rose 07786 002399

### **Dance-A-Cise:**

Tuesday 4.00pm to 6.45pm

Thursdays 4.00pm to 6.30pm.

Sign up for a free Trial [www.dance-a-cise.co.uk](http://www.dance-a-cise.co.uk) Tel:0776 555 6418

### **Line Dancing**

Monday 7pm-8pm.

Tel: 07581472276

### **Church:**

Services are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Children aged 4+ whose parents are attending the service can attend the free Sunday Club. There are toys for the younger children to play with.

Free tea and coffee after the service.

For more information about Vigo, Stansted or Fairseat Services or other events the Church organises please contact:

[secretary@stmarysstansted.com](mailto:secretary@stmarysstansted.com)

or visit [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16394](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16394)

### **Vigo Scouts:**

Monday 17:45 – 19:00 and 19:15 – 20:30 - Cubs

Tuesday 18:00 - 19:00 - Beavers Tuesday group

Thursday 18:00 – 19:00 - Beavers Thursday group

Thursday 19:30 – 21:30 - Scouts

Meetings are usually held in the Scout Hut (near the Ball Park) Vigo.

Please contact: [1stcandvscouts@graveshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:1stcandvscouts@graveshamscouts.org.uk)

---

## **THE 800 CLUB –**

### **A lottery which supports YOUR Village Hall**



662214

**RAFFLE**

The 800 club is a monthly lottery and is so named because there are 800 houses in Vigo. The lottery is run as a “roll-over” scheme – if a number is pulled out and it is not allocated to anyone, the winnings roll over to the following month.

The ticket price is £1 per number and can be paid by Direct Debit.

Support the village hall and sign up the hall manager on 01732 823905.

An application form is available online: [www.vigovillagehall.co.uk](http://www.vigovillagehall.co.uk)

## VIGO VERGES: GROWING WILD!

**Thank you to everyone who took part in our survey over the last two years.**

(Another survey will be available in this Annual Newsletter). Support for the project is growing:

- ✓ **70%** are in favour of letting the grass grow in **May and June**
- ✓ **80%** are in favour of leaving "**wildflower islands**" into July  
(both figures are up from last year)



### Why Leave the Grass Longer?

- Wildflowers need time to **set seed** and grow back stronger next year.
- **Long grass** and wildflowers help tackle pollution, store carbon, and create vital homes for bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.
- **97%** of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s.
- Butterfly numbers have dropped **50%** since 1976.  
**13 species of bee** are already extinct in the UK.
- Even a **small patch** of wild grass can make a **huge difference** for nature, our community, and the planet!



### What's Happening on the Verges?

- The grass verge along Waterlow Road will not be cut during May, June & July.
- The Parish Council contractors will **cut a narrow strip** around the edges of the verge
- **Strimming at junctions** will ensure road safety
- A **botanical survey** will help us track how wildflowers increase over time

**This isn't about saving money!**

Our contractors are still fully busy with other work around the village.



### LOOK OUT FOR WILDFLOWERS IN VIGO! 🌻

**Orchids bloom from June onwards — we wouldn't see them if we cut too early!**

**Thank you for supporting wildlife, beauty, and biodiversity in our village**



## Wildflower Growing Season

### Have your say!



Please answer our quick survey and return it to the Parish Council, by either popping it through the village hall letterbox, or by scanning it and emailing it to [clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vigo-pc.gov.uk)

#### WE WELCOME ALL VIEWS. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO REPLY

1. Are you in favour of the grass being left uncut during May and June?	YES	NO	DON'T MIND
---	-----	----	------------

(NB we will continue to cut the verge edges, under any benches and around the junctions).

IF YOU ANSWERED **YES** TO QUESTION ONE, PLEASE ANSWER QUESTION TWO

2. Once we cut the grass, we intend to leave "islands" or "corridors" of wildflowers while they set seed. These areas are not planned to be cut until the end of July.  Do you support this?	YES	NO	DON'T MIND
--	-----	----	------------

WHICH ROAD TO YOU LIVE IN? \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any other comments for us? We welcome any feedback, positive, negative or neutral.**

[www.vigo-pc.gov.uk](http://www.vigo-pc.gov.uk)