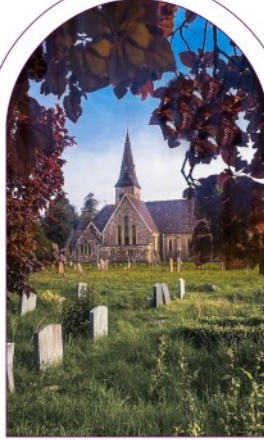


KEYS

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

HILDENBOROUGH

June
2024



HIVE

HILdenborough Village

The Hive Youth Group

Photography Contest May 2024



towns

BATHROOMS

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to design your dream bathroom.

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From the Church

Robert Cumming was not the first art critic to be puzzled by Filippino Lippi's famous 15th century painting Virgin and Child. He stared at the picture for long periods of time, trying to understand the deeper meaning the artist was trying to convey. Baffled, he was convinced he was missing the deeper message of the artwork.

The picture depicts Mary cradling the infant Jesus on her knee with two saints, Dominic and Jerome, praying in the foreground. But the picture's perspective appeared all wrong. The hills in the background look as if they might topple out of the picture, Jerome and Dominic seemed awkward and uncomfortable, and Mary seemed to be staring at no one in particular. Nothing appeared right and there was no explanation. Many critics had thought that this picture was flawed and the picture was at first considered one his worst pieces of art.

Cumming had a revelation, he realised that the painting was never meant to hang in a gallery, but was intended by the artist as an aid to prayer. Lippi then understood that those trying to get the true meaning of the picture needed to be kneeling and looking upwards, and it was when Cumming fell to his knees, only then did the picture come alive, he finally saw the details of the picture in its true perspective.

Too often we make a similar mistake. We view God from our perspective. It's only when we are willing to fall on our knees in humility before Him, that we see Him as He truly is. If God truly created everything, then we come before Him in awe and wonder.

Awe because God made all things. Wonder, that in all the things God made, He sees humankind as worthy of being made in His own image.

The final thing God created was human beings, the crown of His creation. God's intention for all human kind was that they would know Him deep in their hearts and souls. In that intimate place or sacred connection. Humanity would know God's incredible love for themselves. From that place of love and closeness with God, life would be experienced in its fullest dimension. God created people to walk daily with Him. Sadly, this as we know is not the case for all people. God gives free will for people to accept His love or turn away from Him. Love never forces itself on another. Jesus came to reveal God to humankind and to let them know God was reaching out to them through the life and teaching of Jesus Himself. Only through Jesus can people know God truly for themselves.

I wonder if you have ever thought about how much God loves you?

As you read this, know that God is reaching out to you at this moment and the bible says when a person meets with God for the first time the whole of heaven celebrates. Why not ask Him to reveal Himself to you. What have you got to lose? You do have everything to gain and an eternity in heaven with God.

Tim

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - Directory

Tel: 01732 833 596

Website: www.stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Please ring the church office or email any time, if you would like to discuss any pastoral or administrative matter

Role	Name	Contact Details
Vicar	Rev Tim Saiet	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Lay Readers	Trevor Long Susan Trowbridge	07513 420 509 01732 833 848
Warden	John Bonarius	07801 478 346
PCC Secretary	Vacant	stjohnspcc@outlook.com
Foodbank and Community Co-ordinator	Adele Hopkins-Ballard	07942 148 175 adele@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Safeguarding	Kate Lake	07579 821 956 safeguarding@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Treasurer	Richard Lake	07579 210 122 treasurer@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Archivist	Howard Dolling	01732 833 364
Church Centre Bookings	Cynthia Fawcus	01732 833 397 cynthia@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Church Operations Manager	Nancy Mansfield	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Keys Editor	Rob Mansfield	07515 819 860 keysmag@hotmail.com
Keys Deputy Editor	Claire Rawlinson	01732 834 896
Keys Distribution	Clem Giles	01732 833 543
Keys Advertising	Liz Ridley	keysmagazineadvertising@gmail.com

Our Services

Sundays

9:15am Contemporary service with breakfast served in Church from 8:45am

Refreshments served between services in the Church Centre. All welcome.

11am Traditional service

Tuesdays

11:15am Morning Prayer

Contact the office to receive the monthly Church News and Notices or follow our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshildenborough/>) for the most up to date information.





WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

180th Anniversary Exhibition - Last Day Saturday 1st June

Thank you to all the organisations and individuals who came together to put on our 180th Anniversary Church and Community Exhibition. The last day to see it is Saturday 1st June, 10am - 6pm. It is free to attend so do pop by if you haven't already. It's the last chance to complete the Patmos Mouse trail too!

Who Let the Dads Out - Change of Day for June Only!

Due to the exhibition in the Church Centre, this month's Who Let the Dads Out takes place on Saturday 8th June, 9:30am - 11am. Suitable for children aged 0 - 6 and their male carer. We look forward to seeing you on the bouncy castle!

Regular Services and Activities (*term-time only)

Sundays	09:15 Contemporary Service 11:00 Traditional Service
Mondays	*Bright Sparks, 10:00 – 11:30
Tuesdays	11:15 Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
Wednesdays	Churchyard Team Meets, 09:00 – 11:00
Thursdays	*Angel Café, 09:00 – 14:00 Princess Christian's Farm Market Stall, 10:00 – 12:30 Foodbank Open, 09:30 – 12:30 Kent Advice Hub available, 09:30 - 13:00
Fridays	*Angel Café, 09:00 – 14:00 Kent Advice Hub available, 09:30 - 13:00



Children's and Youth Activities - Hive Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (term-time) and Café Theo meets on alternate Fridays (term-time). Generation Creation (formerly Kids Church) runs during our 09:15 Sunday service most weeks. Contact Lisa Glasscote (see page 4).

Church Opening Hours

If you would like to pop in to Church for some quiet time or prayer do contact the Church Office and we can arrange a time to open it for you.

Life Events

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are a significant part of the life of our Church. Do contact us if you would like to discuss any of these events for you or your loved ones.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

09:30 - 14:00 Tuesday and Friday
01732 833 596
office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



Nancy Mansfield will be stepping down from her role as the Church Operations Manager, effective Friday 14th June. She has accepted a new position at Barnabas Aid, an organisation committed to serving persecuted Christians around the world. This opportunity aligns closely with her background in international aid and her desire to positively impact the lives of those in need.

Nancy says "The church has been an integral part of my life and I am deeply grateful for the connections, support, and growth I have experienced here. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve at St John's and I cherish the memories we have created together. My personal highlights include the music concerts, Magical Fundraising evening, lighting our beacon for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, the Remembrance parades and most recently our 180th celebrations. Of course, not forgetting last year's Christmas tree! Our family will continue to worship at St John's Church and my husband Rob is staying on as Editor of Keys magazine. Recruitment for a new Church Administrator will be underway and the new post-holder will make their introductions to you in due course. In the meantime the contact details for the Church Office remain the same and Tim and the team will be on hand to support you or answer any queries."

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Every Thursday and Friday in term-time we welcome Angel Café to St John's Church Centre. They are open 9am - 2pm with soft play on a Thursday and Bookmania storytelling and crafts on a Friday. With the better weather they have been able to open the outside seating area and are serving freshly prepared salads and smoothies in addition to their usual lunch menu. The cakes are a real treat too!



We are pleased to announce that a few weeks ago a new partnership was launched with Princess Christian's Farm at our Café. They will have a stall at the Café on a Thursday morning selling their own homegrown produce, fresh eggs and handmade crafts and gifts. Vouchers will be available to our Foodbank beneficiaries so they can purchase fresh produce too.

Please do come along to support Angel Café and Princess Christian's Farm.

To volunteer and support this initiative do contact our Foodbank and Communities Co-ordinator Adele Hopkins-Ballard (see page 4). Thank you!



IF YOU ARE IN NEED
OF A HELPING HAND
WITH SOME ESSENTIALS
PLEASE CALL OUR FOODBANK,
CONFIDENTIALLY, ON:
07942 148 175



Foodbank

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HILDENBOROUGH



OPEN EVERY THURSDAY 09:30 - 12:30
CHURCH CENTRE, FOXBUSH, HILDENBOROUGH, TN11 9HT



KENT ADVICE HUB AVAILABLE



The Kent Advice Hub is a free, confidential, independent and impartial advice service. It provides support on a wide range of issues such as money/debt, housing, employment, immigration and more during the cost of living crisis. We are encouraging anyone who has concerns to seek advice and support as early as possible to avoid the situation getting worse.

The hub has been installed at St John's Church Centre and will be available for use every Thursday and Friday, 9:30am - 1pm in a private meeting room.



Funded by
Kent County Council's
Helping Hands Scheme
Residential



NEXT MONTH: SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR OUR
Summer Fair
SATURDAY 13TH JULY
12PM - 2PM

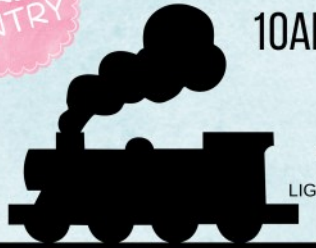
MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 13TH JULY

10AM - 3PM

FREE ENTRY

- Join us for lots of fun including
- Traditional Fun Fair Games • Crafts • BBQ • Market Stalls
 - Fire Engine • Police Car • Giant Jenga • Live Musical Entertainment
 - Our Primary School PTAs will be hosting stalls



WORKING LAYOUTS
MECCANO EXHIBIT
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Help Wanted Board!

If you have a role or a need that you would like to include, please get in touch - keysmag@hotmail.com. Priority will be given to local volunteer roles but if there is space I will consider local paid jobs too. There is no charge for appearing on this page.

Can you spare one hour a month to help out? Contact the Church Office
01732 833 596 - office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Hildenborough Farmers' Market Volunteers wanted variety of roles

If interested, please contact:

Janet - 01732 838 903

janetrichardson863@btinternet.com

St John's Churchyard Volunteers wanted

If interested, please contact:

Adele—01732 833 596

adele@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Fruit picking

Would you like to help prevent food waste by helping a group pick local fruit?

Please call Becky Mackay 01732 835 518

or email at

tonbridgeharvest@hotmail.com

The individual(s) appointed to any role at St John's Church will be expected to abide by our safeguarding policies and be willing to take the required online relevant safeguarding training facilitated by our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

West Kent Concert Band

Wind & Brass players wanted!

www.westkentconcertband.org.uk

From the Registers

Funeral service for Catherine Abbott was held on 16th April

Memorial service for Jean Chesterman was held on 20th April

Interment of ashes of Joan Gould on 26th April

Interment of ashes of Jan Saunders on 4th May

Interment of ashes of Linda and Geoffrey Smith on 7th May



HIVE
HILDENBOROUGH VILLAGE
The Hive
Youth Group
9th June
Movie Night

For school year
6-13
£1 for this
session



23rd June

Hive Has Got Talent!

Come along and show us your talent,
maybe it's dancing, football skills,
playing an instrument, magic, comedy,
whatever it is, we would love to
encourage you to join in.

**All youth leaders
hold a valid DBS**

For more information please
contact

Lisa Glasscote

lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

Both 5-7pm at St John's Church Centre



Hive Youth Group – Photography Contest

Last month we were excited to be joined by Kate Lake who gave us a photography workshop. We learnt the difference between jpeg and raw files, some composition techniques and editing advice in lightroom. We went out to take photos around the church and the prize for the winning image went to Maisy Saiset. You can see her photo on the left. Kate chose it as she particularly appreciated Maisy's use of nature that frames her composition. Well done to all our budding photographers for putting your skills to use so quickly and for making this month's cover of Keys magazine.



Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and the Café was full to overflowing. For our May Café we welcomed Ceiron (AKA Not King Cole) a fabulous crooner who made our feet tap to the various songs he sang. Some of our patrons enjoyed a dance but the finale of New York, New York and then Sweet Caroline had everyone on their feet with arms swaying and smiles on our faces.



Would you like to get out of the house for a couple of hours and meet other people for some conversation? If you are feeling lonely and would like someone to chat to please come along, we would love to meet you.

Whilst some of those who attend the Café live with a dementia diagnosis, others have mild memory loss, others care for a person with dementia, others would like company and a chat. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 11.00 am in the Family Room of the Church Centre at St. John's Church Hildenborough.

Next month the Kent Fire and Rescue Service is coming to give us a talk on how to keep safe in the home and what services they can offer, from smoke alarms to electrical and kitchen safety. If you have a long-term health condition or are an older person or a smoker you are eligible for a free Safe and Well home visit.

If you would like more information on the Forget-me-not Cafés or would like a reminder about the days and times of other Forget-me-not Cafés in the area, please contact Elaine on forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com or 07946 534 476.

Julie Rhodes

Appeal Target Reached: Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex



Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) is excited to announce that thanks to the phenomenal response from its communities, the charity's urgent appeal to buy its air ambulance helicopter has rapidly reached the £1 million goal in just six weeks! Thank you to anyone who donated.

Churchyard Team update

Sadly, the churchyard team suffered a break-in; all the tools were taken except for the odd spade and rake. What had taken 3 long years to build up and save for, had been taken overnight..... and to what end?

The churchyard team is a church-based community project, voluntarily run by the people of the community (some whom don't come to church) for the benefit of the people of the community.

For me personally, it has become a time of reflection, contemplation and a lot of prayer..... for the hard work that had been achieved, the people willing to help, and to the people who took the equipment.

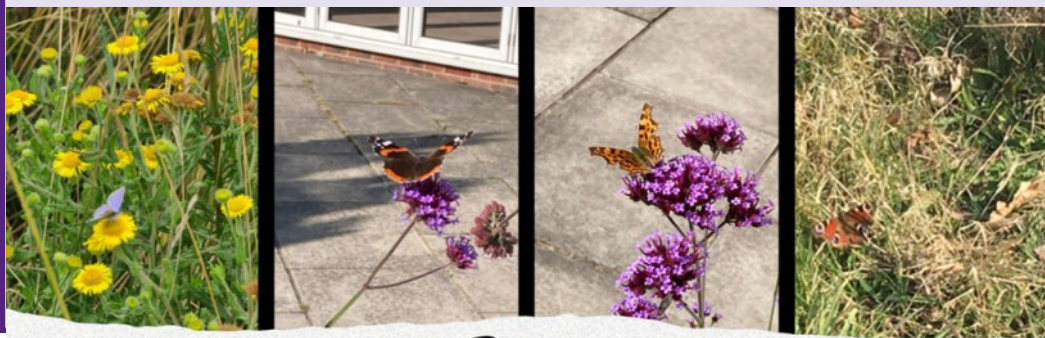
This story has a better ending as amazingly enough when all seems lost, miracles happen! We were blessed enough to have a lady contact our county councillor, Harry Rayner, who found some money to contribute to the replacing of the tools, various offers came in of donations of spades rakes and hoes. It

means that our work can continue.

The season is now in full bloom, the trees have flowered, and the daffodils and tulips are out in full colour. Spring has finally arrived. The grass will soon need mowing, the weeds will need plucking and we have started levelling out the soil in the churchyard by removing ant hills and filling in major holes. Ants can be troublesome but play a vital role in our eco system. According to the Royal Horticultural Society ants are related to wasps and bees. There are over 30 different species of ant in Britain, and they often feed off other invertebrates including other ants!

Soon the summer will be in full swing, and we shall be visited by plenty of wildlife. Butterflies were very popular last year! Can you name the ones in the picture that were found in the churchyard? Why not pop down and have a look and see how many you can spot?

*Much love and blessings
Adele*



Hildenborough History Society

Date for your diary:

Hildenborough History Society Friday 19th July 7.30 Village Hall

Treat in store! Gilly Halcrow explores the fascinating History of Food, Drink and Table Manners - a pleasure not to be missed! Further details in next issue.

Charles Vignoles

HILDENBOROUGH



FARMERS' MARKET



For one week only on the 28th May, we met in the Village Hall in Riding Lane and not in the Church Centre as St. John's Church was celebrating its 180th Anniversary. As this article is being written before the day it is hoped that all went to plan!

In the middle of May we were sorry to say goodbye to Carla Betts from Winterdale Cheese. Carla had been at the market for many years selling her local cheeses. We send Carla our best wishes for the future. We will be welcoming a new cheese stall at the beginning of this month: The British Cheese Co will be selling all British cheeses including Winterdale Cheese.

Are you looking for some fresh fish? Then visit Mikey our mobile fishmonger selling the highest quality fresh fish and seafood. None of the fish is frozen and is sustainably sourced, picked up fresh



from the Grimsby dock market and brought down to Kent in Mikey's specially adapted van.

Dementia Action Week was in May. The market continues to support those with dementia by being dementia friendly. Some of our stallholders are dementia friends and each year we have been awarded the logo above from the Kent Dementia Action Alliance.

We hope that you will come along and join us at our weekly market for some shopping. There are food stalls plus craft. Our Café is open during the market and is a great place to have a chat, coffee and cake. Our opening times are 9.00 – 11.00 am with plenty of free parking at St. John's Church Centre.

We can be found on Facebook and our details can be found on the KFMA website, although some of the information is being updated.

For information on the market please contact:
Janet Richardson, Manager
Tel: 01732 838 903
Email: janetrichardson863@btinternet.com

Farmers' Market Recipe for June: Toad in the hole

Ingredients

12 chipolatas
1 tbsp sunflower oil

For the batter

140g plain flour
2 eggs
175ml semi-skimmed milk

Method

1.Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Put the chipolatas in a 20 x 30cm roasting

tin with the oil and bake for 15 mins until browned.

2.Meanwhile, make the batter. Tip the flour into a bowl with ½ tsp salt, make a well in the middle and crack the eggs into it. Use an electric whisk to mix it together, then slowly add the milk, whisking all the time. Leave to stand until the sausages are nice and brown.

3.Remove the sausages from the oven – be careful because the fat will be sizzling hot – but if it isn't, put the tin on the hob for a few minutes until it is.

4.Pour in the batter mix, transfer to the top shelf of the oven, then cook for 25-30 mins, until risen and golden. Serve with gravy and your favourite veg.



HI I'M HERBERT THE HEDGEHOG!

YOU MIGHT SEE ME IN YOUR GARDEN SOMETIMES, BUT
I'M SHY AND OFTEN LIKE TO HIDE IN BUSHES AND LONG GRASS.

PLEASE CHECK FOR ME BEFORE YOU MOW, STRIM OR CHOP. I
MIGHT BE HAVING A NAP OR LOOKING FOR FOOD IN THE
UNDERGROWTH.

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY SPIKES!

Hildenborough Cricket Club

An opening weekend washout and defeat at neighbours Hadlow in a 40 overs-a-side-contest.

Set a challenging target of 235, Hildenborough started slowly, reaching 92-3 at around halfway before a collapse to 135 all out to lose by 100 runs.

Billy Francis top scored with 59.

Hildenborough captain Jean-Pierre Martens won the toss and put the hosts into bat restricting them to 17-3, before Ross

Bothworth-Davies led the home recovery with

68 to take them past 200.

Mark Skinner took three wickets in his first eight overs finished with 4-45, Francis (2-16) and debutant Nathan Hammond (1-33) were the pick of the Hildenborough bowlers.

Fixtures

2/6 Kent Ramblas (A)

9/6 Groomsbridge (A)

16/6 Brasted Invicta (A)

23/6 Kilndown (A)

30/6 Chevening H TBC

Peter Wood

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – June 2024

There is a degree of relief for observers now that the planets are gradually appearing in the morning sky as they begin to move out of the solar glare. On 1st June, Mars is in the east at an altitude of 8° along with Saturn, that lies slightly closer to the south east. A crescent Moon can be found between them. By the end of the month, Saturn is more prominent, just past south east, and almost 30° above the horizon. The thought of leaving the comfort of bed at 3 or 4 am to see them may be enough to persuade all but the hardest to wait for the longer nights which incidentally will soon arrive following the summer solstice on 20th June. The change occurs very gradually at first but by the last day of the month the difference in the amount of daylight will be approximately 53 seconds less than the previous day.

During June both Mercury and Venus move into the evening sky although they are currently too close to the Sun for identification. Venus remains a difficult object to locate until later in the year whilst Mercury was at its best for 2024 back in late March. There is a chance to see it in the evenings in July but it will always be close to the horizon when care must be taken to ensure the Sun has set if using optical aid to search for it.

Our old friend the Plough (part of the constellation Ursa Major) is high up in the north west in the evenings with the end star

in its tail/handle less than 10° from the zenith or overhead point. It is making its way back down towards the northern horizon although it will never set from our latitudes and is therefore termed “circumpolar”. This term refers to objects that are close enough to the north celestial pole (marked by the pole star, Polaris) to always remain visible. The more you travel southwards towards the Earth’s equator, the lower in the sky the Plough becomes until, when you reach the equator, you have the north and south celestial poles on opposite horizons. You would be in the enviable position, if you stayed there all year, of having seen the entire night sky at some point in time.

The north celestial pole is marked by the unspectacular star, Polaris, the Pole Star. People tend to think that the pole star must be the brightest and most significant star in the night sky but this isn’t the case at all. The fact that it occupies the location it does is nothing more than pure coincidence. Incidentally, our fellow astronomers in the southern hemisphere have no obvious star to mark the position of their celestial pole.

When I said that Polaris marks the position of the pole, that wasn’t strictly true. To be more precise Polaris is just over ½° from the true celestial pole although it serves its purpose admirably as a quick, if not truly accurate, indicator of north. Polaris hasn’t always been the pole star thanks to

something called precession. If you imagine viewing the Earth, with its axis of rotation extended into space a short distance, you would see each of the poles describe a circle in the sky which would take just under 26,000 years to complete. Polaris, as well as a number of other stars, lie on, or close to, that circle so at some time in the past and future the Earth's north pole will point at them.

This type of precession is more commonly referred to as the precession of the equinoxes. This is because, as well as the location of the pole changing, the point in the sky where the Sun lies at the moment of an equinox also moves at the same rate. This gradual motion over so many years is caused by the gravitational attraction of the Sun and Moon acting on the equatorial bulge of the Earth, a statement that may lead you to ask why the Earth isn't a perfect sphere.

The answer is that it tends to form an oblate spheroid, so that it bulges at the equator and flattens across the poles, thanks to the centrifugal force caused by the planet rotating. The oblateness of the Earth only amounts to an additional 43km around the equator, but Jupiter, that rotates in just 10 hours and generates a much stronger centrifugal force, measures an extra 9,250 kilometres around its equator compared to around its poles. To put that into context, Jupiter's equatorial circumference is 439,260 kilometres.

Brian Mills FRAS

Tonbridge University of the Third Age (TU3A)

Live, Learn Laugh with TU3A

Find out more at our coffee morning on the third Friday of the month at Christchurch, Tonbridge from 10:30 till noon.

Please bring cash.

Visit our website at www.tonbridgeu3a.uk
Ollie Johnson

Hildenborough Library News

“In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.”

– John Steinbeck

Many parents may shudder at the thought, but we are getting closer to the summer holidays and at the library, this means the return of The Summer Reading Challenge. Keep your eyes peeled for updates at the library.

Library Groups are as follows:

Monday at 2:15- 2:35pm: Storytime

Tuesday at 10:30-10:50am: Baby Rhyme Time

Thursday at 2-3pm Fortnightly: Knit and Natter

Thursday 10-12am: Ancestry buddy. Booking essential

Saturday at 10:30 -11:30 am: Craft session

Have a great month.

Jacie

Hi Kent Charity Quiz Night

Friday 14th June - 6:30pm

Hildenborough Village Hall



Teams of up to 8 people, £8 per person

Please bring your own food, drinks and nibbles.

For more information or to book, please call 01622 691 151 or email b.hendy@hikent.org.uk

Hi Kent is a charity for D/deaf & people living with hearing loss (Registered charity No. 1052036)

Hildenborough Road Races

The weather on Race Day was not unprecedented in being totally awful, but this had occurred but once since we started in 1985.

Were we daunted? Certainly not - we are British and the show must go on!

Despite some late withdrawals, the overall turnout exceeded 350 which beats the previous best by about 40 and the income will have exceeded any previous year although final figures are not available at the time this article was written.

Amy Pay the Race Director was at pains to pay tribute to various Organisations and individuals which are mentioned later in this piece. Praise for Amy, the Race Director would be unanimous amongst everyone involved on the day and in the brilliant preparation beforehand.

Congratulations to the winners of the various adult and children's races:-

10 mile

Graeme Macintosh, Wadhurst Runners
00:59:59

Elizabeth Owen, Tonbridge AC, 01:09:59

5 mile

George Marshall, Tonbridge AC, 00:26:12
Nicola Evans, Tonbridge AC, 00:31:00

2.5 mile

Oliver Lester, Tonbridge AC, 00:15:27
Emma Etheridge, Guernsey AC, 00:16:13

Winning Schools in the Children's Races were as follows:-

Years 1 - 2 Stocks Green

Years 3 - 4 Stocks Green

Year 5 - 6 Hildenborough

Trophies donated by the Parish Council the best Girl and best Boy in Years 5 - 6 were Bibi Dart and Archie McCrum.

In case you wonder the pre-School winners were not recorded. They were just happy to take part!

Our grateful thanks go to the following:-



Nizels Golf and Country Club for supplying the water at the finish line.

Ridings Café for their pop up and profits which are going to HSA.

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers for all their help on day.

Volunteers and marshals - without whom the race could not take place.

Runners for good cheer, even in the weather! and last but not least **Adam Denis** our amazing Photographer. Visit the Races Website www.hildenboroughraces.co.uk to

download free photos which are down to his generosity

Hildenborough PC for donation of children's trophies

All the profits, as happens each year, will be donated locally to benefit children's sport and Village Clubs.

We are planning for next year which will be our 40th Anniversary. It will be even more special than 2024 and that is saying something!

Pat Davies - Hildenborough Sports Association

STOCKS Fest

Saturday 29th June
1.30pm - 9pm

Stocks Green
Primary School



PREBOOK NERF
LASER HERE

MUSIC

1pm THE WEST KENT CONCERT BAND

2.30pm THE BRACKETS

3.15pm THE SCHOOL CHOIR

3.35pm THE 'STOCKS GREEN ALL-STARS'

4.15pm STOCKSFEST KIDS DISCO

5pm THE HEARTBEATS

6.30pm THE U-TWINS

7.30pm THE JT BAND

9pm FINISH

1.30pm - 5pm

FIRE TRUCK

ALICE'S ICES

STOCKS & COCONUT SHY

CRAFT AREA

BOUNCY CASTLE

NERF LASER

HAIR BRAIDING

GLITTER FESTIVAL FACE ART

BALLOON ANIMALS

STILT WALKERS & JUGGLERS

PLANT STALL



Stocks Green School
Association
Email: sgpta@stocksgreen.com
Phone Number: 01892 810000

BAR & FOOD AVAILABLE ALL DAY
£5 PER ADULT • KIDS £1

Alcohol bought from outside sources is prohibited on school premises. No smoking or vaping. No dogs allowed.

T.M.B.C. News

Castle Car Park.

TMBC Cabinet, were persuaded to abandon plans to extend the Upper Castle Fields car park by 28 spaces. I can remember a time when there was only green grass covering the whole area. In fact, as a pupil of Slade School, (67/68) we were taken to that area one afternoon and we played until home time. It occurred to me the other day the reason we went there was because the then, TUDC (Tonbridge Urban) wanted to construct the car park that is there now.

Footpath.

The footpath that runs from the end of Leybank, is unfortunately in a sorry state. Communication with KCC to improve the surface does continue. It would seem however options are limited, without spending a vast sum of money. You might be aware of St Andrews Church in Hadlow Road (the small green building). Next to the Church is a footpath, that was in a similar state. Over a couple of weekends, volunteers man-handled with shovels and wheelbarrows about 10 tons of MOT road base over most of the length of the path - it was spread with rakes and rolled. Suffice to say that now the path has returned to its near original condition. The road base has sunk sub surface from the impact of footpath users.

LFSA Barrier.

The Environment Agency (EA) has extended invites to the Barrier to members. Work is progressing now and due to security fencing access is limited. On site, viewing of the barrier is only permitted on the upstream side. The barrier system will be raised by 600mm, so the water volume behind the barrier can increase by 7.3M Cubic metres, requiring an extra 16 hectares. Bentonite Clay is being used during these works. I believe the Hildenborough bund will also be constructed with Bentonite. Downstream

from the barrier Open Stone Asphalt Erosamat Geotextile Layer has been used to strengthen the river banks. Included in the new works is an eel pass. The picture shows the barrier middle gate open from the upstream side.



Gatwick.

Several Councils were invited to attend a Discover Gatwick Presentation; I attended with another member from Tonbridge. Gatwick would like to start using the North taxiway for take offs, by adding 6m wide of concrete to its north side, this then enables the centre line to be moved. For 2023, 40.9m passengers passed through, (46.6m 2019) there were 256,000 aircraft movements (280,000 2019) and there are now 56 airlines using Gatwick, up from 54. Aircraft noise of course is never far from the discussion; Gatwick use 22 noise monitors, two are positioned 20 miles away from each end of the main runway. If you search 'Gatwick WebTrak' you can access a live map of the area as planes approach. We were given an airside visit after security, belts off, phones in the box etc. The amount of snow clearing plant sitting not being used is phenomenal and it did not get much use last winter.

The Seat.

Unfortunately, the metal seat outside the Vicarage was removed. My grateful thanks to a number of people who at least tried to get it repaired.

Local Plan.

All the details of the emerging Local Plan are available via the TMBC website.

Council Meetings.

Please remember Council meetings are still streamed on You Tube, however public attendance is permitted in the Council Chamber.

Contact.

Councillors are here to assist with any matters relating to Borough Council business although we have been known to chase after a great many other matters. Please contact your Borough councillors at any time if you require assistance.

Cllr Mark Rhodes

Borough Councillors

Kath Barton

c/o TMBC, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ

Kath.Barton@tmbc.gov.uk

Mark Rhodes 01732 369 405

39 Cranford Road, Tonbridge

mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk

TMBC - 01732 844 522

Kent County Councillor

Harry Rayner 03000 421 606

harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Council via

clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk

or by telephone (07818 329029)

Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane,

Hildenborough, TN11 9HY

Community Speedwatch Expands in Hildenborough: More volunteers needed

Hildenborough residents will be pleased to know that Kent Police have approved two additional sites for Hildenborough Community Speedwatch to educate drivers on their speed. These new locations, one in Riding Lane and the other near the BP garage, are in response to ongoing concerns regarding excessive speeding in the village.

Community Speedwatch empowers local volunteers to actively engage in monitoring and addressing speeding issues within their neighbourhoods. Equipped with a speed detection device, trained volunteers collaborate with the police to collect data on speeding vehicles, which can result in warning letters being sent to registered vehicle owners. Persistent offenders may receive further enforcement action from the police.

With the introduction of these new sites, the Hildenborough Community Speedwatch team is seeking dedicated volunteers to join their friendly team. Sparing just an hour or two or so can make a significant impact on road safety in Hildenborough. If you are interested in volunteering, please register on the Community Speedwatch page at www.communityspeedwatch.org and complete the user-friendly online training. Experienced team members will then provide on-site training to ensure you are well-prepared to contribute effectively.

Remember, the success of Kent Community Speedwatch relies on the collaborative efforts of community members like you. By volunteering your time and effort, you can play a crucial role in promoting safer roads and fostering a stronger, more connected community in Hildenborough.

Eva Charrington



May's litter pick was a triumph!

37 volunteers, 18 bags of rubbish, we are (at the time of writing) at a bag total of 117 for the year so far.

The sun was shining and it lovely to see all the new faces, as well as our regulars. Our youngest picker was just 3! Great work (as always) from our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. We had lots of families and solo pickers. The whole event had a fabulous community feel.



It was lovely to have the support of Ridings Café, who gave 12 lucky pickers a free drink on them.

We meet the first Saturday of every month, at the Rec, 10am to noon.

You don't have to stay for the whole time, you can make a difference in just 20 minutes. We have equipment to borrow and routes to suggest. All made very welcome. Find us on Facebook @Hildenborough Litter Pickers for more information.

Next litter pick is Saturday 1 June

Emily Simons

Learn to spot the signs of an investment fraud. Read our top tips.



To learn how to invest wisely and avoid being a victim in this way read the latest tips and advice from the Get Safe Online website: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/investments/>

Investments are a favourite trick used by fraudsters to steal your money ... either funds you've put aside 'for a rainy day' or life savings to be used for a dream holiday or your retirement.

Between 2020 and the end of 2023, nearly 100,000 people in the UK fell victim to investment scams, totalling £2.6 billion or £13 million every week. These figures refer only to reported scams, so are likely to be considerably higher.

launched a new 'Self Help Tool Centre' - nine free, easy-to-use to use tools to help keep you and your family safe, secure and confident when using the internet. It can be accessed here: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/selfhelpcentre/>

We hope you find these useful.

Kind regards,
the Get Safe Online team

Finally, Get Safe Online has this week

Kent Fraud Alert System



Fake Delivery Text Messages

Beware messages looking for you to click a link or pay a fee. If you are expecting a parcel, go to the courier's website directly to track it.

QR Codes (Parking Machines)

There have been some reports of fake QR codes being used to steal payment details. Check for scratches or damages. Stick to using official payment methods.

Impersonation Scam

KCC have heard that some residents have been contacted by criminals pretending to be KCC and Lifeline services calling for bank

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)

details for a digital update. These are scams and you should hang up immediately.

Rogue Traders/Doorstep Criminals

Be wary of cold callers and be sceptical. Get alternate quotes from trusted sources.

Fake Parking Ticket Scam - Tunbridge Wells

Kent Police have had reports of fake parking tickets being put on cars. If you're unsure apply ABC (see red box) before making any payments.

Centre Piece

From Hildenborough Parish Council - <https://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Contact: Julia Church (Clerk) - 07818 329 029 or clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk

The Parish Council held its Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 8th May, when Cllr Ioannis Sklavenitis was appointed as the new Chair and Cllr Karen Dobson was appointed as Vice-Chair. Other members of the council were appointed to various committees.

West Wood

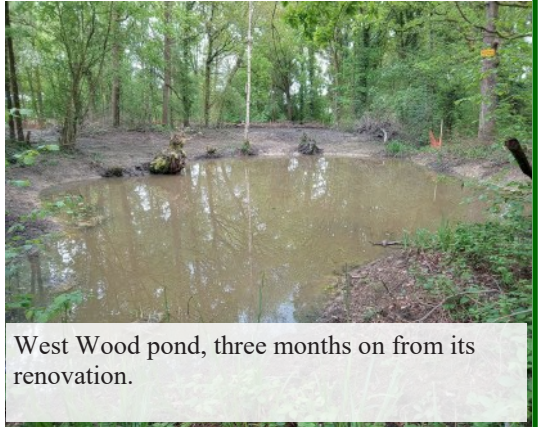
Sarah from Medway Countryside Partnership visited the pond in West Wood last month, to carry out her three-month check to see how the pond was faring following its renovation.

The project is primarily to create a suitable habitat for the endangered Great Crested Newt, but, as Sarah found, a wide variety of other pond creatures are also benefiting from the project.

After her inspection, Sarah said: "The pond is full of life at last, whereas before there was none after a pond dip. Today I found, pond skater, water beetle and water beetle larvae, phantom midge larvae, daphnia, water shrimp, bloodworm, water boatman and backswimmer. There is also some marsh marigold growing around the edges".

Sarah said that the orange fencing at the pond should stay in place for at least another couple of months as the silt is still very wet in places and the site in general is very muddy. A professional Risk Assessment was undertaken recently to see whether safety measures are necessary. Once the warm summer sunshine has dried out the silt, the pond will be a

delightful place to visit later this year.



West Wood pond, three months on from its renovation.

The Recreation Ground

The grass has been cut and sporting activities are finally resuming at the Recreation Ground, following the wettest spring on record. The pounding of hundreds of feet during the Hildenborough Road Race on 6th May churned the ground up in places as it was pouring with rain for the event, but the field is recovering quickly now the warmer weather is here. Despite the weather, there was still a record-breaking turn out of runners for the Road Race and the organisers were delighted with the success of this year's event.

At last month's Annual Parish Council Meeting, councillors decided to seek a qualified consultant to assist with putting together a specification for the proposed new footpath around the perimeter of the Rec. The footpath will be funded by S106 monies from Berkeley Homes and the investment in professional advice should ensure the footpath

will be cost-effective but at the same time, long-lasting for future generations to enjoy. It is a major project for the Parish Council, who is always mindful of using its budget wisely on behalf of Hildenborough residents.

Police

Hildenborough's local Beat Officer, PC Ollie Evans, has reported that from 3rd April to 3rd May there were 12 crimes reported in Hildenborough, six of them related to theft. Ollie stopped two males who were in the process of stealing motorbikes, and he arrested both of them for going equipped for theft and it is expected they will be charged. Ollie said that four of the crimes were very much opportunistic and he would like to remind residents to keep property out of sight and secure. He said residents would be wise not to leave vehicles unattended in very rural locations overnight. He would also like to encourage residents to continue to report any suspicious behaviour/vehicles to Kent Police and/or the Parish Council. There was a previous issue with motorbikes being stolen from the railway station but after multiple arrests this appears to have calmed. Ollie said he is working with the Neighbourhood Task Force to continue to tackle any drug use in the area but any reports of drug use at the Recreation Ground are few and far between.

Highways

As of Friday 10th May, the "wigwags" (flashing warning lights) in Riding Lane are being programmed to operate at the start and end of the school day to help slow



The planters on the Village Green have been filled with a mix of summer perennials and annuals purchased from the Farmers' Market plant stall for visitors to enjoy this summer.

traffic down as it approaches Hildenborough CE Primary School.

The obstructive parking across the pavement on London Road, opposite the Harvester Garage, is forcing pedestrians into the busy road. The Parish Council has been liaising with the police, landowner, borough, and county council to try and resolve the issue and at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, it was agreed that the painting of double yellow lines onto the highway to prevent parking would be explored with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council.

To report any concerns, you believe the Parish Council may be able to assist with, please e-mail me at clerk@hildenboroughpc.org.uk or call me on 07818 329 029.

You can follow us on Facebook [@hildenboroughparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hildenboroughparishcouncil).

Julia Church

Tragedy at Powder Mills. The story of William Gorham.

Imagine my surprise when I was browsing through old local newspapers in Tonbridge Library when, in a newspaper dated August 1918, I came across this report under the headline:

“FACTORY EXPLOSION AT THE POWDER MILLS AT 7AM.”

It was a report of an Inquest into the death of William Gorham aged 40 leaving a widow, Kate. They had been married for three years and had two sons William and Roland. Roland had married and lived in West Ealing . He had died in 1912 aged 30. His Father, Alexander also worked at the factory.

The Newspaper reported on the inquest where evidence was given that two men were working in the hut at the time of explosion. The hut was completely demolished. The other man Henry James Balchin, was aged 47 and unmarried. The funeral was at St. John’s and the remains of the men were buried in the same grave. At this time World War 1 was drawing to an end but there was still a huge demand for



Gun Power in barrels was transported from the works along canals which can still be seen in the Country Park.

gunpowder to keep the guns firing. The Powder Mills at Leigh had never been so busy. Work continued round the clock to meet demand. They produced a fine grade of gunpowder that had many uses from charges for rifle bullets to barrel loads of gunpowder to be hidden under enemy trenches to be detonated to blow a gap in the enemy trenches as the army pushed forwards.

The Powder Mills buildings were designed to limit the possibility of an explosion but accidents still happened. The huts where the powder was made were spaced out so that an explosion would have a limited

effect. Even the workers homes were designed with no

windows or doors on the factory side of the house to limit the damage an accident would cause. The men knew that theirs was a dangerous job and their safety deepened on keeping to the rules. There were very few accidents reported in the local papers.

George Gorham

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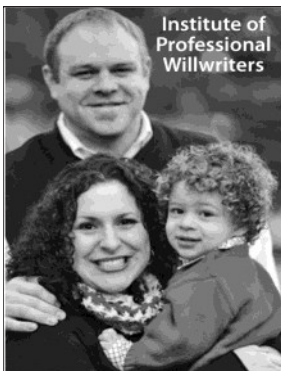
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Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups

Church Office **01732 833 596**

Prayer Chain

Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**

Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)

Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

Generation Creation (Sundays)

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Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute

Miss Lorna Stapley - **01732 832 871**

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hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com

Cubs (Ages 8-10.5) Monday 6.30-8 pm

hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com

Scouts (Ages 10.5-14) Friday 7.30-9 pm

8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com

Guides

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

Brownies

hildenbrownies@outlook.com

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

Janet Richardson **01732 838 903**

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Hildenborough History Society

Judith McQuillan **01732 834 610**

Village Preservation Society

David Vanns **01732 835 289**

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Emily Simons **07715 113 899**

Hildenborough Parish Council

Julia Church **07818 329 029**

Hildenborough CofE Primary School

www.hildenborough.kent.sch.uk - **01732 833 394**

Stocks Green Primary School

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Stocks Green Pre-School

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Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club

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Stoolball Club

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Tennis Club (membership)

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Hildenborough Road Races

Amy Pay - **hildenroadrace@gmail.com**

Tonbridge Swimming Club

chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk

Hildenborough Bridge Club

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



Hilden Park

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NEW DIGITAL SERVICE TO CHECK YOUR STATE PENSION FORECAST

A new digital service has been launched that makes it easier to check if you have any gaps in your National Insurance (NI) record that may affect your State Pension entitlement.

The service is called Check Your State Pension forecast and can be accessed via GOV.UK or the HMRC app. You will need to register for or login to your Personal Tax Account to find the service.

The forecast details your NI record by

tax year and identifies if there are any years that are not counting towards your State Pension entitlement. The service also shows the details of any voluntary NI contributions that you could make to increase your forecast.

The service allows you to choose which years you would like to pay voluntary contributions for and then takes you through to a secure payment facility to make payment.

If you think you may have gap years in your contributions, it is

important to check sooner rather than later. Because of new State Pension transitional arrangements, the deadline for paying voluntary NI contributions was extended to 5 April 2025. Currently, it is possible to make voluntary contributions for tax years going back to 6 April 2006. However, from 6 April 2025, it will only be possible to make voluntary contributions for the preceding six years.

If you would like any advice,
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