



In this issue:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Our 1 st volunteer interview - keeping us all to time | (pages 10 and 11) |
| What's on in the area | (pages 14-15) |
| Warm Hub Wednesdays are back | (Page 4) |

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From the Church

Guy Fawkes Night, also known as Bonfire Night, commemorates the failed Gunpowder Plot of November 5, 1605, when Guy

Fawkes and a group of conspirators attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London. However, as Christians, it provides us with an opportunity to reflect on deeper themes of justice, rebellion, and the nature of authority.

At its core, the Gunpowder Plot was born out of a context of religious oppression. Catholics in England faced severe restrictions and persecution under Protestant rule. The conspirators believed that their violent act would restore Catholicism to England. While their intentions stemmed from a desire for justice and religious freedom, their methods raise critical questions about the morality of rebellion and the consequences of our actions.

As Christians, we are called to consider how we respond to injustice in our world. The Bible teaches us that while we may face persecution or oppression, our response should be rooted in love, grace, and a commitment to nonviolence. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus instructs us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. This radical call challenges us to seek peace rather than resorting to violence, even when we feel justified in our anger.

The story of Guy Fawkes also prompts us to examine the concept of authority. Romans 13:1-2 states, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." This scripture invites us to reflect on our relationship with government and societal structures. While it is essential to stand against unjust systems, we

must also recognise that authority is part of God's sovereign plan. Our task, then, is to engage with these authorities in ways that reflect our Christian values.

Furthermore, Bonfire Night is characterised by the symbolism of fire. Fire can represent both destruction and purification. In the Bible, fire is often associated with God's presence and judgement. The burning bush encountered by Moses (Exodus 3:2) and the refining fire mentioned in Malachi 3:2-3 both illustrate how fire can signify God's holiness and the process of spiritual refinement. As we gather around bonfires to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night, we can use this imagery to reflect on our own lives. Are there aspects of our character that require the purifying fire of God's truth?

As Christians, we are called to be agents of change in our communities. Instead of merely celebrating the historical event of Guy Fawkes Night, we have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue about faith, justice, and the ethics of rebellion. We can use this occasion to promote peace, understanding, and reconciliation in a world that often resorts to violence and division.

Guy Fawkes Night serves as a poignant reminder of the complexities of justice and authority. It invites us to reflect on our responses to oppression and the ways we engage with the world around us. To understand that people have different views on how they want to see justice lived out. Let us strive to embody Christ's love in our actions, seeking to build bridges rather than walls, and allowing the fire of God's truth to refine us into instruments of His peace.

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 Saiset	07973 136 968 tim@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Children and Youths Pastor	Lisa Glasscote	lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Lay Readers	Trevor Long	07513 420 509
Warden	Vacant	
PCC Secretary	Vacant	stjohnspcc@outlook.com
Foodbank and Community coordinator	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 Administrator	Jess Collins	01732 833 596 office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
Keys Editor	Rob Mansfield	07515 819 860 editor@keysmagazine.co.uk
Keys Deputy Editor	Claire Rawlinson	01732 834 896
Keys Distribution	Clem Giles	01732 833 543 clemgiles@hotmail.com
Keys Advertising	Liz Ridley	advertising@keysmagazine.co.uk

Sunday services

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

Tuesday services - 11:15am Morning Prayer

Contact the office to receive Church News and Notices or follow us on Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshildenborough/>)



Warm Hub Wednesdays
12pm - 2pm

Free homemade soup & bread roll
Free tea & coffee
All Welcome

Church Centre
Fawcus
Hildenborough




WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Warm hub Wednesdays - Please join us every Wednesday 12pm- 2pm for free homemade soup & bread roll

Remembrance Service - 10th November 10am one service only
Everyone is warmly invited to join us in Church for our Remembrance Service. Service will begin at 10am, wreaths will be laid at the altar followed by a parade in the Church car park



Operational Christmas Child
Please pick up a box and leaflet in the Church Centre to take part of this year's appeal. Collections will be 11th-18th November

Connect Group Social Event 7pm Wed 13th Nov 2024



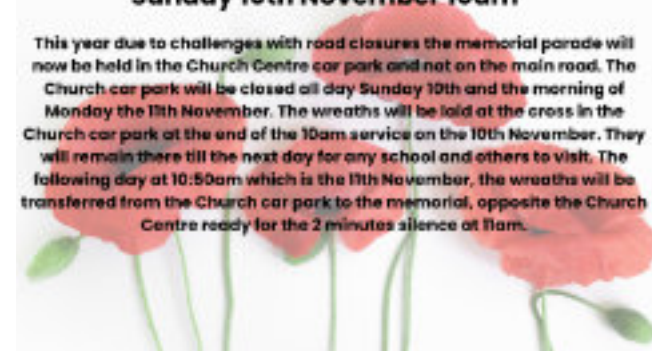
If anyone is interested in joining a new home Connect Group in January then do come and join us in the Church Centre for a chat and a coffee

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest we forget

Sunday 10th November 10am

This year due to challenges with road closures the memorial parade will now be held in the Church Centre car park and not on the main road. The Church car park will be closed all day Sunday 10th and the morning of Monday the 11th November. The wreaths will be laid at the cross in the Church car park at the end of the 10am service on the 10th November. They will remain there till the next day for any school and others to visit. The following day at 10:50am which is the 11th November, the wreaths will be transferred from the Church car park to the memorial, opposite the Church Centre ready for the 2 minutes silence at 11am.



From the Parish records

Burial of ashes - Delia Moss 17/07/24	Burial - Michael Riddle 27/09/24
Burial of ashes - Marian Barlow 23/07/24	Burial of ashes - Julie Ingram 03/10/24
Burial of ashes - Elizabeth Toms 25/07/24	Burial - Gordon Davies 03/10/24
Burial of ashes - Valerie & Frank Newman 29/07/24	Burial of ashes - Denis Alan Neal 04/10/24
	Dedication - Florence 28/09/24

Chatty Cafe Scheme



At a loose end?
Fancy a cuppa?

The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people of all ages to talk to others. During the day and time below, the table will be hosted by a friendly volunteer. Do come along and sit for a chat.

When: Every Friday (term time only)
11am - 1pm

Where: Angel Cafe
194 Tonbridge Road
Hildenborough
Tonbridge TN11 9HR

Save for five minutes or longer if you're enjoying chatting!
Having a chat can brighten someone's day
www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk

The Study Sanctuary at St John's



Every Term Time Tuesday from November, 4-6pm.
The Family Room, St John's Church Centre.

This space is designed for teenagers particularly in the GCSE and A'Level years.

It is hoped this space will help students to focus and study effectively, providing a calm atmosphere, comfortable chairs and tables and plenty of refreshments to sustain and enhance their learning experience.

No need to book, just turn up.
For more information contact: lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

HIVE
Hildenborough Village

For school year 6-13
£1 for 10/11
£5 for 24/11

The Hive Youth Group

Sunday 10th November
Movie Night, 5-7pm

Sunday 24th November
Clip'n'Climb, 4:30-6pm

All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact
Lisa Glasscote
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk
5-7pm at St John's Church Centre



Retired or semi-retired – looking for new interests or wanting to return to old interests. Perhaps TU3A can help. Come and meet some of our members at our monthly coffee morning on the 3rd Friday of each month. We meet at Christchurch, opposite the library, from 10:30 until noon. Find out first-hand about opportunities or visit www.tonbridgeu3a.uk. Our motto is "Live,Learn,Laugh".

Ollie Johnson

HELEN GEORGIE HILLS CHARITY

Do you have any medical/mobility needs that are not being met by the NHS?

Are you on a long waiting list for an NHS appointment/Treatment

Help could be available; the above charity has funds available to help residents of Hildenborough with medical problems.

To find out more, in complete confidence please contact.

Mr. David Wood 01732 506 241 Or Mrs. Janet Richardson 01732 838 903

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HILDENBOROUGH

CAFÉ THEO

After School Youth Café

For school years 6-13.

Open 1st and 3rd Friday in term time
4-5:30pm. 15/11/24 only in November

St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough.

For more info email...
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

- Games tables
- Board Games
- Consoles
- Crafts



The Café was very busy in the month of October with

the most people coming that I have ever seen. We welcomed Steve Brown who is a very versatile singer with a wonderful voice who sang a wide range of songs that we could listen to and join in.

We also had a visit from the Kent Fire and Rescue Team bringing with them their fire engine as they were also on call and may have had to dash off if they had had a shout. They went around all the tables having a chat and giving advice and distributing leaflets about how to keep safe from fire in our homes.

They gave us a Home Safety Essentials List which is useful to know:

Smoke Alarms: test them weekly.

Before you go to bed: Close doors and never use kitchen appliances such as a washing machine overnight.

Your escape plan: Know how to get out if there's a fire – Get out, stay out and dial 999

In the kitchen: Keep your cooker and hob clean and clear of items. Never leave your cooking unattended.

Plugs and sockets: Never overload sockets and switch off after use.

In general: Close internal doors before going to bed. Blow out all candles and fully stub out cigarettes or other smoking materials. Know where your keys are to leave the house.

The Kent Fire and Rescue Team also offer free home safety advice. Just call 08009 237 000 to make an appointment for a visit.

A date for your diary: Wednesday 11th December at 10.45am when St. John's Church will be holding its Traditional Dementia Friendly Carol Service followed by refreshments in the Church Centre. We would love to see as many people as possible and everyone is invited to this service to support those living with dementia.

The Café is open to anyone who would 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.

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 at 11.00 am – 12.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Family Room of the Church Centre at St. John's Church Hildenborough. There is plenty of free parking and disabled facilities on site.

If you would like more information on the Forgive-me-not Cafés or would like to be put on the mailing list for the monthly programme of all the Cafés contact Elaine on forgetmenot.sadfc@gmail.com or 07946 534 476.

Julie Rhodes

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Hildenborough finished the season with a six wicket win at Kilndown & Lamberhurst.

Needing 100 to win they reached their target with five overs to spare - Tom Walford making 40 before retiring, confirming him at the club's leading runs scorer with a total of 442.

Greg Smith made 22 - again before retiring - to finish on 323.

Matt Richards took 2-13 in the hosts total of 99 to finish as top wicket taker with 15.

On the previous weekend, Walford was top scorer in the two wicket win against Capel Development. He made 37 and Dean Sands 32 in a winning score of 72-8 in reply to Capel's 71 all out - Adam Chapman taking 3-15 off only 16 deliveries.

Two other games were cancelled - opponents - Brasted Invicta pulled out, while the other against Wateringbury was washed out.

End of season work on the Recreation Ground pitch was the final job done under blue skies and sunshine early last month.



Peter Wood

Hildenborough Library

"November always seems to me the Norway of the year." — *Emily Dickinson*

Here we are in November already. During the coming few weeks I am looking forward to class visits from Hildenborough CP school. Hope they all remember their library cards!

Please don't forget that we have some great groups at your library. These groups are free and run by wonderful volunteers who give their time to make this library a real community space. Please pop in if you have any questions.

Library Groups as follows (Term Time only)

Rhyme Time (Tuesday) 10:30am to 10:50am

Knit and Natter (Thursday) 2:00pm to 3:00pm Fortnightly

Writing Group (2nd Thursday of the month) 10:00am -11:00 am

Ancestry Buddy (booking required) Thursday 10:00am to 12:00pm

Craft Session Saturday 10:30am to 11:30am

Jacie

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, FOXSUSHIL HILDENBOROUGH, TN11 8HT

From the Editor

This is the first of our new feature where we look to shine a light on those who volunteer in our community. Some will be roles that you may be familiar with and others not so much. If you volunteer and would like to

contribute an interview, please get in touch with me (editor@keysmagazine.co.uk). I'd like to give a big thank you for Tim for being my first interviewee!

Rob Mansfield

Winding the clock at St John's

My name is Tim Rice, and I have lived in the village for nearly twenty years with my wife Karen.

My voluntary role is turret clock keeper to the clock at St. John's Church.

I took on this role just over three years ago when Mick, who had been caring for the clock for seventeen years moved away. I had recently retired and was looking for volunteer work in the Keys magazine when I saw this opportunity.

The clock was installed in 1865 (costing £55.10.0) and the octave of tubular bells installed in 1887 in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The clock was extensively repaired in 1948, and the bells were refurbished in 1982, and the church bell recast in 1993.

Cylindrical weights provide power for the clock and for the striking mechanism. These slowly drop through a shaft that is about eight



metres deep and needs to be rewound every six days.



My tasks are to wind the clock and strike, check everything is functional, adjust to the correct time, including when the clocks change.



The strike bell, above in the belfry, gets an occasional check.

Every couple of weeks, I ring the tubular bells to check they are all working. They do occasionally need adjustment.

All this only takes about 15 minutes every six days, longer if I do some cleaning.

The clock is serviced professionally every four or five years.

What skills have you picked up in this role? A good memory. So far, the clock hasn't run right down.

What is the best thing or your best memory about your role?

When Ben, my son in law spent a day helping me clean out the belfry. It had been badly soiled from pigeons roosting in there for several years. The wire that stopped them getting through the louvres was damaged. We managed to get all the birds out and block the holes until new wire could be fitted. Several bags of muck were removed. It was a two-man job with little room for manoeuvre.

Afterwards we were rewarded with a much fresher smelling tower!

What is the worst thing or your worst memory about your role? cleaning out the belfry. It was mucky, dusty, smelly, cramped and noisy on the hour.

If someone wants to learn more about your role, what is the best way of getting in contact with you?

There is a pdf available for download called "Turret-Clock Keeper's handbook" which gives a clear explanation of how everything works much better than I can.

You can Email me at chooks276@yahoo.co.uk.

If you were Prime Minister for the day, what would be the first law you passed?

I would need a completely different road system.

In this world of health and safety it is incongruous that a bicycle, a child and a mother pushing her pram are in such close proximity to fast moving vehicles, generally without even a barrier separating them. Also, vehicles travelling at speed in different directions on the same bit of road is strange.

I haven't got a clue how a better system could be achieved though.

What is your favourite section of Keys Magazine?

I enjoy the sky at night, nature and history articles the most, but I have found it useful when I have needed a local business, and it is a good source of local events and news.

Which 3 people, dead or alive would you invite for a dinner party and why?

I would invite Jesus. In Luke chapter 19 Jesus went to visit Zacchaeus. What interesting conversations they must have had.

Jesus died for us but is alive today. He is also God and the Holy Spirit, three people at my dinner table. There never has been and never will be anyone who could be more interesting to talk to.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

I would like to have the ability to understand, speak and read every language and dialect.

How wonderful to be able to converse with anyone easily.

Building that tower to reach the sky was a big mistake (Genesis chapter 11).

Tim Rice



HILDENBOROUGH FARMERS' MARKET

On Tuesday October 15th we had a fun-filled and busy morning when we joined in with the 'Turn Tonbridge Pink' idea and held our own event to raise money for Breast Cancer Now. The number of customers and stallholders wearing different shades of pink was amazing. The hall and stalls were decorated with banners and balloons, and we were all able to have our photo taken in a 'Wear it Pink' selfie picture frame with wigs and glasses to add to the fun.



We welcomed the Tonbridge charity Babons to the market. Babons Cancer Support is a charity that exists to come alongside the cancer community of Tonbridge, whether you are a patient, carer, family member, colleague or friend. If you would like their help they can be found at 147 High Street, Tonbridge or on 01732 711 634.



There was also a raffle with prizes generously donated by our stallholders. As we go to print the raffle has raised £200 and counting. We are yet to find out what the total amount will be to send to Breast Cancer Now, but we would like to thank everyone, customers, volunteers



and stallholders, who supported this event.



You can find many more photos on our Facebook and social media pages where there are photos of our raffle prize winners and those who had their selfie photo taken. We have been updating our social media pages and you can find lots of information about the Market on Facebook and Instagram

every week. Why not follow us on these sites for up-to-date information on stallholders and activities.

With Christmas fast approaching the Market is a good place to come and do your present shopping with many of our stalls having gifts that are just a little bit different. Also think ahead for vegetables, cheese, meat, bread, fish that you might need for your Christmas entertaining. Our last Market before Christmas will be on Tuesday 17th December.

The Market is now under new management, Nick Aldridge, assisted by Steve Sinclair, and can be contacted on:- managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com

FARMERS' MARKET RECIPE

Cheesy Chicken and Broccoli Bake

Ingredients

2 chicken breasts, diced
150g grated cheddar cheese
300g broccoli florets
2 tablespoons plain flour
200g pasta, penne or fusilli
2 tablespoons butter
1 onion finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
Fresh parsley, to garnish
Salt and pepper, to taste
300 ml milk

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan)

Cook the pasta in a pot of boiling water according to the package instructions. Drain and set aside.

Steam the broccoli florets for 3-4 minutes until tender-crisp. Set aside.

In a large frying pan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and garlic, sautéing until softened.

Stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute, then gradually whisk in the milk. Continue stirring until sauce thickens.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in half the grated cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Combine the cooked pasta, diced chicken, and steamed broccoli in a large mixing bowl. Pour over the cheese sauce and mix well.

Transfer the mixture to a baking dish, sprinkle the remaining cheese on top and bake for 20 minutes until golden and bubbly.

Garnish with fresh parsley and serve hot.

Whats on in and around the village?

Arts and culture are flourishing in the local community often with little by way of external funding - please read through the following events and try and get to one if you can!

Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra Concert Sunday 17th November 3pm at the STAG

Tickets range from £2 to £20

The centrepiece of our first full-length concert of the season is Dvorak's Cello Concerto, surely the greatest of all concertos for the instrument. We are delighted to welcome Ben Tarlton as our soloist following his very successful concert with us last season.

A light-music hit by Khachaturian - the Waltz from his Masquerade Suite - is the curtain-raiser, and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, with its famous scherzo played *pizzicato* throughout by the strings, completes this enticing programme.

TEMENOS CHAMBER CHOIR

Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm St John's Church, Hildenborough.

I heard a voice from Heaven

It may surprise you to learn that from 1954 to 1977 Hildenborough had a thriving Choral Society. Regular concerts were given first in the Village Hall and later in St John's Church (see Minutes of the Hildenborough Choral Society - HHS archives). There have been few, if any, such events since then, which makes the forthcoming concert to be given by Temenos all the more special.

This is the 180th anniversary of St John's Church - it is also the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and the 150th anniversary of the birth of his pupil Gustav Holst - two giants of the English choral tradition. Temenos' programme has been specially chosen by Patrick Craig, counter-tenor, conductor and music director of Temenos. It opens with Stanford's stunning double-choir *Magnificat* (inspired by Bach) and includes his much-loved *Three Latin Motets*, the exquisite *Beati Quorum Via* (sung annually in Canterbury Cathedral on the anniversary of the murder of St Thomas à Becket), *Iustorum animae*, and, for double choir, the jubilant *Coelos ascendit*. Gustav Holst, famous as the composer of *The Planets*, also wrote much superb choral music, including *The Evening Watch* and a glorious 8-part *Ave Maria*.

Mostly performing in and around Sevenoaks, Temenos has also given highly successful concerts in London, France and Italy.

The opportunity to enjoy this celebration of English choral music performed by a first-rate chamber choir on our doorstep does not come often. This will be a wonderful event. DO NOT MISS IT!

Tickets £15 (£7 students). Book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk, in person at Sevenoaks bookshop, or ring 01959 523765.

Charles Vignoles (Hildenborough History Society)

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir – Handel's Messiah

7:30pm Saturday 7th December – St Nicholas Church Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir is proud to perform this most celebrated work re-telling the life of Christ – one of choral music's eternal masterpieces and a truly British start to the Christmas Season!

Handel composed the Messiah in 1741 with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens. It was first performed in April 1741 in Dublin: so popular was this performance that gentlemen were asked not to wear swords and women to leave their skirt-hoops at home – advice that we repeat for our performance in St Nicholas Church.

Tickets £16.50; £15.50 over 60s; £5 students and U21 available from www.sevenoaks-

Christmas Market Hospice in the Weald

Saturday 23rd 10am to 4pm - Sunday 24th November 10am to 2pm

Save the date in your diary as Hospice in the Weald's Christmas market heralds the start of the festive season. Taking place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November within the Hospice grounds in Pembury.

This is a chance to support the Hospice and local small businesses and discover unique handmade items, which are perfect for gifts. The range of stalls includes crafts, decorations, jewellery, home decor and lots more.

In addition, you can try your luck with our raffle and tombola, indulge in delicious festive food and drinks, and practise your creativity at craft workshops, including wreath making.

Finally, no Christmas event would be complete without visiting Father Christmas in his grotto, for a festive photo. As he is going to be in demand, you will need to pre-book a time, which you can do on our website, listed below.

Canine members of the family are welcome, and parking is just a five-minute walk from the Hospice grounds.

To get more details, and to pre book the Santa visit please visit the events section of the Hospice's website at hospiceintheweald.org.uk or call the friendly Fundraising Team on 01892 820 533.

We look forward to seeing you at the event. All proceeds help to fund the free care and support Hospice in the Weald offers to adults and children in our community facing life-limiting and life-limiting illness.

Hospice in the Weald, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4TA



T.M.B.C. News

Planning.

The previous Labour Government inserted into the planning dictionary the words Bias and Pre-determination. Essentially if a member openly stated they were for or against a planning application, they were biased and had pre-determined the application. For a while we were even told not to attend sites subject to planning applications. Common sense has prevailed, and we are advised we can now at least visit sites and speak with supporters or objectors, without making comment though.

The Bund.

Work continues the alteration to the route of the foul piping to Tonbridge from Hildenborough.

A newsletter for October was produced: let me know if you would like sight of it or alternatively contact LEHES@environment-agency.gov.uk For more information on the works



being undertaken please contact lehesenquiries@volkerstevin.co.uk Here is a cheeky picture taken over the fence of the works in progress.

Southern Water.

Have issued a Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force newsletter (contact me if you would like a copy): they of course cover a fairly large area, but there is a piece written about reducing storm overflows (surface water into foul system). One method is slow-drain water butts but any method of preventing surface water entering the foul system is welcomed. It would appear that Southern Water are working on reducing connections of surface water to foul. Where these already exist, they work with homeowners and companys.

Council Meetings.

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

Contact us

Please do not hesitate for one minute about contacting Borough Councillors; we are here to assist on Borough Council matters. If you would prefer a home visit in private, that can also be arranged.

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@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk
or by telephone (07818 329 029)
**Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane,
Hildenborough, TN11 9HY**

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

I have a strong desire for more buses serving our rural villages. As an MP I have consistently supported efforts to keep buses serving all parts of Hildenborough, which is especially important given the key transport network the B245 serves through the village and between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks.

One of the ways you can help ensure our bus services are as good as they can be is by letting me know any issues or concerns you may have. I am always interested to hear the experiences of anyone who uses our local bus routes, including our children.

That's why I run a School Bus Survey each year. Since the new academic year started in September, I have run my 2024 survey to find out which services are working well, and which need improvement over the first few weeks of term. If you, or someone you know, has children of secondary school age, please ask them to complete my annual survey so they can have their say.

The school term between September and Christmas is always a tricky time for any parent, with our children going into a new school year and sometimes a new school entirely. It can often take several weeks for the best travel arrangement to become clear. This brings a change to the routine and travel

plans too. It impacts on how our roads are congested at peak times every working day.

With this being the case it's more important than ever to let me know your thoughts so that I can raise these with the relevant operators and Kent County Council. I meet regularly with our local bus companies and I am able to raise these issues with them directly.

If you would like to complete my survey, or share it with any neighbours, please send me an e-mail to tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk and I would be delighted to share it with you. Please do share this with any friends and neighbours who have children who get the bus to school, or who might wish to use one of our local bus services but hasn't yet.

If you would like to share your thoughts with me or have any issues I can help with, please contact me using these details:

E-mail – tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

Phone – 01732 441 563

Post – 130 Vale Road,
Tonbridge,
Kent, TN9 1SP

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – November 2024

The bright planets are coming into their own in the evening skies now having too long been the preserve of the early risers and shift workers.

Venus has been an evening object for some time but has been bumping along the horizon without gaining the height needed to make it instantly recognisable as the “Evening Star”. Of course, it’s worth remembering that by May next it will have moved to the other side of the Sun ready to be hailed as the “Morning Star”.

At the beginning of November, 5pm is a good time to look low down and close to the south west to catch Venus when it will be just 7° high. The Sun will be 5° below the horizon then. As the month progresses, Venus gains very gradually in altitude and moves more towards the SSW. By mid-month it is 9° high (around 4:40pm) and by month’s end it is nearly 13° in altitude in the SSW at 4:25pm. It will remain a brilliant evening object for us into March 2025 when it will return to the morning sky.

That favourite of telescopic observers, Saturn, is visible as soon as the sky is dark lying due south at 8pm early in the month and around 6:30pm by the end. The issue for Saturn is that it looks very much like a run-of-the-mill star without the brilliance of Venus or the other “gas giant”, Jupiter. If you do have the

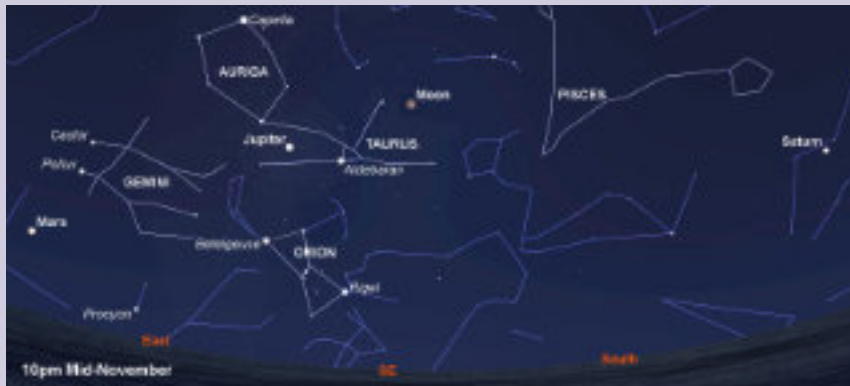
chance to look at Saturn through a telescope you may recall what I said back in July when talking about its ring system. If you look now, the rings will appear to be quite narrow which is the precursor to the “ring plane crossing” that we will experience next March as the Earth passes through the plane of the rings and for a while they will seem to disappear.

Jupiter is also making its presence felt, rising in the early evening as it brightens towards early December when it and the Earth will be at their closest for the year. This is called “opposition” when Jupiter, the Earth and the Sun are all in a line with the Earth in the middle. Jupiter will be at its brightest and largest so this is an ideal time to look for it at a sociable time of night.

Mars is also getting in on the act although it rises a little later than Jupiter, around 9:15pm on the first of November. The red planet is approaching opposition so it is also brightening considerably.

This time of the year sees the welcome return of the striking winter constellations whose brilliance is in sharp contrast to the somewhat muted spring groups. We see the hunter, Orion, and his retinue of two dogs, some twins, a bull and a charioteer. Actually, there’s also a hare and a unicorn but they’re not nearly so bright. The diagram indicates the constellations in capitals and the brightest stars in italics.

Brian Mills FRAS



Tales from the graveyard: Geoffrey DUNCAN

In our Churchyard there are two memorials to the same child. At 13, he was just a teenager in today’s terms but then old enough to train for war. He was from the Duncan family, an established village family and had been sent to the Royal Naval College.

By 1917 thousands of young men had gone to war never to return. Every family’s loss would be the same but only the wealthy could afford a commemorative memorial. In our Church on the wall behind the Lectern is a memorial plaque to Geoffrey the son of the Duncan family. There is also his grave in the Churchyard. Geoffrey had gone to train as a Naval Cadet then to become an officer in the Royal Navy.

He had been sent to the Royal Naval College, Osborne House on the Isle of Wight as a Cadet. The former Royal residence was used as a junior officer training college for the Royal Navy. The picture in the middle shows junior officers in training. In 1902 international unrest led to a rapid expansion of the Navy and an urgent need to provide for young officers and additional training places. In 1903 part of the estate around the stables at Osborne House. The former Royal residence was to be used as a junior officer training college for the Royal Navy.



In 1917 a Measles epidemic had swept the country and the Naval College on the Isle of Wight was not immune. Measles is a highly infectious disease There was no medical knowledge of how to control infectious disease at this time. If disease broke out on a

ship at sea it was quarantined and not allowed to dock until the disease had burnt itself out. This lack of knowledge is well illustrated by this young man who was brought back to the village to be buried in the churchyard in 1917 at the height of the epidemic. He was just 13 years old.

Geoffrey Duncan had joined the Navy and sent to the former Royal residence to be trained as a junior officer in the Royal Navy. At Osborne College he contracted measles and died of the complications of the disease which led to pneumonia. The young man’s family gave him a military funeral, in keeping with the times. Today we have reduced the risks from Measles through vaccination. Almost all children in the UK receive a vaccination against it (and other diseases).

This was not the only epidemic of the First World War. Thousands on both sides died in the war as it neared its end due to an epidemic of “Spanish Flu” with killed thousands both in the trenches and at home.

George Gorham

HILDENBOROUGH GARDENERS' SOCIETY

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The year is coming to a close – at least from a gardener’s point of view. However, our first quiz evening held on Friday 11th Oct. proved to be a great success. Around 60 people came, complete with their own refreshments, and tried to answer questions on a myriad of topics – not many on gardening. The only remaining activity will be our A.G.M. on Friday December 6th at 8p.m. in the Village Hall. We shall be seeking new committee members to replace some of our existing ones who will be stepping down.

Members are reminded that our members’ garden store in Riding Lane has now closed for the winter. We shall reopen at the end of February 2025 with good stocks of composts, farmyard manure, fertilisers and pest controls, to enhance your garden for 2025. Membership will remain at £6 per year.



David Haugh



Evening WI: Our October meeting saw Val bring along a picture quiz for everyone to do while we got the Harvest Supper ready to share.

We all shared a lovely spread of savoury and sweet treats along with a nice cup of tea or coffee. Following the picture quiz Val treated us to a trip down memory lane, “Guess the old-fashioned Sweets!” It was a lovely opportunity to remember the sweets we all had as children. This was followed by another quiz based on the names of sweets, the winners sharing a box of chocolates! Thank you, Val.

Jan spoke to us about the work of the Food Bank, and told us about the items that were collected, we all agreed that at the next meeting we would bring along an item. So, from November we will all try to bring along an item for the Food Bank each month when we meet.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 12th November**, when we will be having a visit from The West Kent Green Team, who are part of the WI.

The evening WI meets once a month and welcomes new members, so please feel free to just drop in and say hello, even just for one evening to see what we are all about.

Please note our meeting time, we meet in the family room at the Church Centre at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Lorna Stapley-President.

Hildenborough Village Hall

The village hall has been saddened by the death of Colmar Lewis, who has been the treasurer for many years. We now need to find a replacement volunteer to undertake the financial duties he managed. The hall is well used, but normally only issues invoices to regular users every quarter, and we have a person who provides this service. Someone who understands the basics of finance is needed to take the reins. As a Registered Charity we have to send in annual reports to demonstrate our solvency and good practice.

If you feel that this is a position you could fulfil – a very worthwhile part of the community in the village – please do let me know. Offers will be warmly welcomed to help us maintain the hall in a good operating situation. The Farmers’ Market is settled into its new venue at the hall, and joins a large number of classes and groups who use the Village Hall to their advantage.

David Haugh, HVH Management Committee Chairman, 01732 832869

Stop, Look, Listen: Recognising the Signs Before Burnout Strikes

Is burnout real? Could you or someone you love be heading that way?

In the fast-paced whirlwind of modern life, taking a moment to pause and reflect may seem like a luxury, yet it's an essential strategy for warding off burnout and starting to thrive.

Three years ago, I experienced burnout out working as a deputy headteacher in a job I absolutely loved. I worked very long hours, had wonderful colleagues and put everything I had into my role. However, I wasn't able to say no, I was constantly overwhelmed by my to-do list and I forgot to take care of myself. We all experience burnout in different ways.

A survey conducted by the Mental Health Foundation found that 74% of UK adults have felt so stressed at some point over the past year they felt overwhelmed or unable to cope. Research from the University of Chester indicated that up to 40% of parents report experiencing burnout, with increased stress due to work-life balance issues. None of us is immune!

Take a breather today - set aside just five minutes to evaluate your mental and emotional well-being, and discover small, actionable steps to foster resilience and thrive in the face of stress.

The wonderful reality is that a few small steps can make a huge difference. Try guided journaling. Expressing your thoughts, feeling, hopes and fears. Consider what you are grateful for each day and watch your focus shift.

Rowena Hicks' book BURNOUT-BUSTING TEACHERS' JOURNAL comes out in November. It's a great present for a teacher friend. You are welcome to her book launch on 9th November at Stocks Green Primary School. www.rowenahicks.com

St. John's Church, Hildenborough and Hildenborough History Society

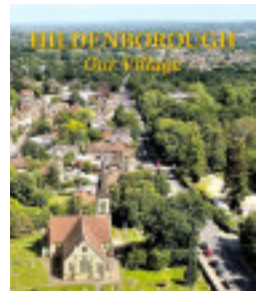
In September 2021 Hildenborough History Society published its book “**Hildenborough Our Village**” and sold out all 729 copies within a matter of weeks. Since that time there have been many requests from people wanting to buy a copy but sadly not enough to enable Hildenborough History Society to warrant a further reprint, which would require a minimum print run of 100 copies, particularly in the light of significant increased costs.

However, during the 180th anniversary celebrations of the founding of St John's, Hildenborough, there were so many requests for copies of the book that the church asked HHS to instigate a reprint, which it would underwrite and retain any profit accruing.

HHS were happy to agree to this and following an update of the text which has only corrected errors in fact and grammar but without allowing additions except where this did not affect the page numbering.

We are therefore happy to announce that there are 100 books available for sale at the price of £20 plus £4.00 postage should you require this.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy should contact Howard Dolling either by email at johodoll@gmail.com or by telephone on 07876 451 168. Sales will be on a first come first served basis and once stocks are exhausted there will be no further reprints. We look forward to hearing from you.



Centre Piece

From Hildenborough Parish Council - <https://www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
Contact: Julia Church (Clerk) - 07818 329 029 clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk
Postal Address: Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Riding Lane, TN11 9HY

Last month saw a new member in attendance at the Parish Council meeting on 9th October, after local resident and management consultant, Mandy Pereira, was co-opted on to the council. Mandy has a special interest in local planning issues and was happy to accept an invitation to join the council's Planning Committee.

Highways

During last month's meeting, councillors agreed to carry out a Pre-consultation Engagement with the local community about the installation of double yellow lines on London Road opposite the Harvest garage. Inconsiderate parking by vehicles across the pavement has been forcing pedestrians out on to the busy road and the Parish Council has a record of numerous complaints about the situation. The council also agreed to install a sign on Riding Lane to remind motorists to drive carefully as they approach the school, library and other amenities that



Westwood pond looking tranquil this autumn

attract the footfall of numerous pedestrians throughout the day.

Recreation Ground

Following a playground safety inspection earlier this year, the council have arranged for some areas of the playground surface in the Riding Lane Recreation Ground to be repaired. We apologise for any inconvenience this work may cause as areas of the playground will have to be cordoned off while repairs are carried out, but it is important to maintain the playground in good condition for the safety of its many visitors. Corroded

sections of the basketball frames in the Multi Use Games Area adjacent to the tennis courts are being replaced this autumn, which will mean access will be limited at the facility for a day or two while the work takes place. Councillors have also been considering the next steps to take regarding the installation

of a footpath around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground, a major project that will be largely funded by S106 monies generated by the Berkeley Homes Oakhill development which is nearing completion.

Westwood

Our landscape contractor visited the pump cycle track last month to clear away overgrown vegetation and any debris that may cause obstruction to cyclists. He has also cut back vegetation that was becoming invasive at the far corner of the track, revealing damage to the fence beneath which the Parish Council's maintenance contractor, Andy, has been attending to.



The pump cycle track in Westwood

Andy has also been busy at Westwood pond, installing safety signs and equipment ready for when the renovated pond and its abundance of wildlife will be ready for nature enthusiasts to visit next spring. The Parish Council is in the process of creating a smart new Information Board which will tell visitors all about the project to turn the pond into a haven for the endangered Great Crested Newt and other species of wildlife that may be spotted there.

We have checked that the supply of sandbags in the store at Westwood is well stocked-up in case they are needed during the coming winter months. Hildenborough's drainage infrastructure does seem to have coped well with some recent prolonged and heavy downpours but it's always best to be prepared.

War Memorial

The Hildenborough Guides have been busy tidying up the plants around the War Memorial recently and have added some colourful new plants ready for Remembrance Sunday. New posts around the border of the War Memorial are also due to be installed and the work will be carried out later this year.

Farmers' Market

A representative of Hildenborough Parish Council is normally in attendance at the Farmers' Market on the second Tuesday of every month to meet residents and listen to any concerns that can be passed on to their fellow councillors. Please say hello if you should see them – they will be delighted to hear any feedback from residents regarding the work being carried out by the council on your behalf.

Finally, it was with much sadness that the Members of the Parish Council learned of the recent death of Colmar Lewis. Colmar has been a much-valued member of the Council for some 20 years and his knowledge and experience will be sorely missed by us all.

If you have any questions or concerns to send to the Parish Council, please e-mail me at clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk or call me on 07828 329029.

Julia Church
Parish Clerk

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From the editor

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Keys magazine. It is getting increasingly difficult to squeeze everything into the magazine!

The deadline for submitting content is the 15th of each month. January's magazine is going to be slightly different as we have to make sure the magazine gets printed before Christmas and so the deadline will be around the 13th December. Please get any content to me as soon as possible to give you the best chance of being included. Editor@keysmagazine.co.uk.

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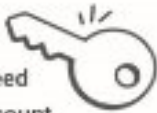
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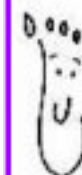


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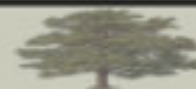
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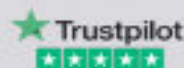


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Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups

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Generation Creation (Sundays)

Church Office **01732 833 596**

Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**

Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

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Community Groups

Evening Women's Institute

Beavers (Ages 6-8) Thurs 5.15-6.30 pm

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

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

Guides

Brownies

Hildenborough Conservation Group

Hildenborough Farmers' Market

Hildenborough Gardeners' Society

Hildenborough History Society

Village Preservation Society

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Hildenborough Parish Council

Hildenborough CofE Primary School

Stocks Green Primary School

Stocks Green Pre-School

Village Hall Bookings

West Kent Concert Band

Floodline

Hildenborough Speedwatch

KENT POLICE (Non-emergency calls)

Hildenborough Sports

Badminton

Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club

Hildenborough Cricket Club

Hildenborough Friendly Badminton Club

Stoolball Club

Tennis Club (membership)

Hildenborough Road Races

Tonbridge Swimming Club

Tonbridge Bridge Club

Miss Lorna Stapley - **07960 174 789**

hildenboroughbeavers8thtonbridgescouts@hotmail.com

hildenboroughwolfcubs@gmail.com

8thtonbridgescouts@gmail.com

Sharon Roberts - **07960 782 178**

hildenbrownies@outlook.com

Mrs Lynne Flower **01732 355 080**

Nick Aldridge - **managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com**

David Haugh **01732 832 869**

Judith McQuillan **01732 834 610**

David Vanns **01732 835 289**

Emily Simons **07715 113 899**

Julia Church **07818 329 029**

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CHECK YOUR NI RECORD: ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON YOUR FULL STATE PENSION?

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has recently reminded people to check and make sure they are not missing out on a valuable State Pension entitlement due to gaps in their National Insurance (NI) record.

The issue mainly affects parents, particularly women, who claimed Child Benefit before 2006. During that time, Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP) was designed to reduce the number of NI qualifying years needed

to receive the full basic State Pension. However, if you didn't provide your NI number when claiming Child Benefit, your record may not reflect the HRP you were entitled to, potentially lowering the State Pension you will now receive.

How to check and claim

It takes about 10 minutes to check your record on GOV.UK. If you find any gaps, you can submit a claim online

or by post. There's no need to apply if you already receive the full State Pension or if your missing year is already counted as a qualifying year.

Why this matters

For those nearing, or at, State Pension age, these missing years could make a difference in retirement income. Taking a few minutes to check your records now could help ensure you receive the full pension you've earned.

If you would like any advice, please contact us on **01732 838877**

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