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From the Church



Gaffer tape was originally developed during World War II for sealing ammunition cases. It was also used to repair

military equipment, including jeeps, firearms and aircraft. Gaffer tape is still the preferred go to for fixing many jobs today. In Finland, gaffer tape is actually called 'Jesus Tape', because it repairs everything!

We celebrate and remember Christmas in the Church because Christmas reminds us that Jesus did not come into a dirty stable and hurting world to rub shoulders with the rich and famous of His time. Jesus had a mandate to save the lost, to help the broken, and fix the lives of those who had come to the end of fixing themselves. In the Nativity, God visually demonstrates that restoration and repair has literally come into the centre of our real and troubled lives. Jesus came to make a difference that was literally out of this world. God's power given through Jesus, has the ability to restore and save those who ask Jesus for His help. God was sending His son to restore humankind's relationship with their creator. Shepherds, the outsiders of first-century society, the ultra-poor, would be visited by angels, and be the first to meet the Saviour of the world. That is not to say that Jesus' message was just for the poor, but it was showing that God's priorities weren't the priorities of society at large. He had come to show the impossible strength of the gospel to those who had no strength of their own.

Gaffer tape has three core qualities: it repairs everything; it is impossibly strong; and when it touches you, you can't get it off.

When you meet Jesus, He has the power to repair lives, He is impossibly strong and once you have met Him you understand that nothing else is worth having unless Jesus is at the centre of your life.

The Gaffer Tape Gospel has restoration at its very heart; it speaks directly into our prejudices, our divisions. It is the gospel for immigration, integration and collaboration. It takes away our petty differences and offers us true unity in head and heart, unity under the headship and lordship of this tiny baby. As St Paul says, 'He is before all things, and in him all things hold together' (Colossians 1:17).

Before Jesus, my life was broken and needed to be stuck together. My heart needed the power of restoration that only Jesus could restore and once I met Him, my whole life changed for the better. Once met, He is impossible to forget or live without, such is the power of the baby that was born that first Christmas day. The tape the world offers is not sticky enough or strong enough to do the trick. The Gospel means good news and this gospel, as the angel said, is 'good news that will cause great joy for all the people' (Luke 2:10).

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas, 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	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
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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/>)

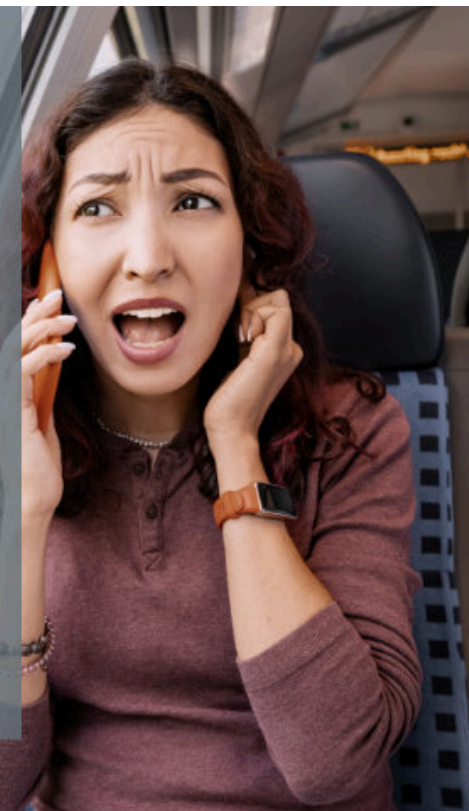


"Does anyone have a light, please?"



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Nativity



Join Us for Our Interactive Nativity Service!

Date: Sunday, 8th December
Time: 9:15am

Step into the story of the first Christmas!
Our interactive nativity service invites everyone—especially children—to come dressed as a nativity character and help us bring this beautiful story to life.

Gather with us and Candy Cane puppet for a morning filled with singing, wonder and a candy cane or two as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

All are welcome!



Warm Hub Wednesdays 12pm - 2pm



Last Warm Hub of the year - 18th Dec



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

Church Centre
Foxbush
Hildenborough



Christingle Service

Join us for our annual Christingle Service on Tuesday December 24th at 4pm, where we'll celebrate the story of Jesus' birth and reflect on God's love for the world.



At St John's Church Hildenborough



Forget-me-not Cafés

Companionship over a cuppa



On a bright November morning, the Café

forward to seeing you on the 8th January 2025 for our next Café.

welcomed Ceiron (AKA Not King Cole) to entertain us. Ceiron took us through some lovely songs by Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and even though it was still November we had a couple of

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.

Christmassy songs. We enjoyed singing along and then used up the remainder of our energy by having a little dance to New York, New York.



Don't forget our Traditional Dementia Friendly Carol Service on Wednesday 11th December for an 11 am start followed by refreshments in the St. John's Church Centre. We would love to see

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

as many people as possible and everyone is invited to this service to support those living with dementia. Please pass the word and come along with your family and friends.

Hildenborough. There is plenty of free parking and disabled facilities on site.

On behalf of the Forget-me-not Cafés, I would like to wish everyone who attends and our brilliant volunteers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look

If you would like more information on the Forget-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

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



Helping People in West Kent: The Work of DAVSS

Domestic abuse affects many people across the country. DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services) is a charity that helps anyone aged 16 and over who is experiencing domestic abuse in the West Kent area, offering free support and working with people for as long as needed, helping them to feel safe and in control of their lives.

DAVSS offers help to people facing all kinds of abuse and with a caring and flexible approach, DAVSS gives each person the right support for their situation, helping them make safer choices and avoid more dangerous situations. People can contact DAVSS directly, but the charity also works with the Police, Social Services, doctors, and other groups. Serving the West Kent areas of Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, and Tonbridge & Malling, DAVSS offers free support across these communities.

What DAVSS Offers

DAVSS runs a helpline with trained volunteers who provide support over the phone. Volunteers are trained to give both practical advice and emotional support. They guide people through difficult situations, such as going to court, getting protection orders, and making sure they are as safe as possible. Thanks to a partner law firm, DAVSS clients also have access to free legal advice when they need it.

For people who are trying to rebuild their lives after abuse, DAVSS provides tool kits that teach them about healthy relationships. They also work with other local organisations, such as West Kent Mind, to help clients with mental health and other needs.

Supporting Families and the Community

DAVSS knows that domestic abuse affects entire families. That's why they run special programmes for survivors and their children (ages 8-18). These programs cover important skills like handling emotions, coping strategies, and self-esteem. Children and adults build resilience by learning these skills in group settings, helping them make positive changes and feel more supported. DAVSS also runs peer support groups where survivors can meet, share stories, and feel connected with others who have had similar experiences. These groups build confidence and offer safe spaces to talk, learn new skills, and find hope for the future.

How You Can Help DAVSS

Although DAVSS gets some funding from local councils, they still depend on donations and grants. Community support is crucial to keeping their services going. Volunteers are especially important, helping as caseworkers, helpline advisors, and support group leaders. To find out how to donate, volunteer, or get more information, please visit the DAVSS website (<https://www.davss.org.uk/>) Together, we can support DAVSS's mission to help people in West Kent live safe, empowered lives.

From the Editor

We got some great feedback last month for our volunteer interview. A big thank you to Tim for taking part. Up next is Steve Wood, who runs Who Let The Dads Out (WLTD),

If you volunteer and would like to contribute an interview, please get in touch with me (editor@keysmagazine.co.uk).

Rob Mansfield

Who Let The Dads Out?

alternatives, or just chatting to the dads.

Hi, my name is Steve Wood and I have been part of the congregation at St John's for a year now. I am married and have 3 grown up boys living at home.

I help lead the Who Let the Dads Out group and have been helping for nearly a year now.

We meet monthly on the First Saturday from 9:30 until 11am in the church centre. Who let

the dads out aims to provide a safe place for fathers, father figures and their children, to come and meet others, to provide a safe environment to spend time together and for them to have fun, form friendships and find support.

We are part of a national network of groups, although each local group is slightly different.

I and the rest of the team arrive about 9am. Our first job is to get the Inflatables out of storage and then we set out the toys, mats and other items. While we do that the kitchen team prepare the bacon sandwiches, snacks and drinks.

By 9:30 the dads start to arrive, and their children can't wait to do all that is available! I might end up serving the Coffee or Tea taking around the Bacon Sandwiches, sorting out Gluten free



We might have other activities depending on the time of year but all to enable that interaction.

Most of the time is spent on the Saturday morning setting up and putting away, and we tend to spend 3 hours in total a month.

I used to be involved in a different group, and it has been good to bring those skills over. One of the key skills in running the group is meeting people, talking

to new dads. The other one is making sure we have enough helpers and a volunteer cook.

A personal highlight was when we introduced the inflatable slide. We had some very surprised faces from children and dads alike!



Some of the worst aspects of it is seeing the kids outgrow the group or find other activities.

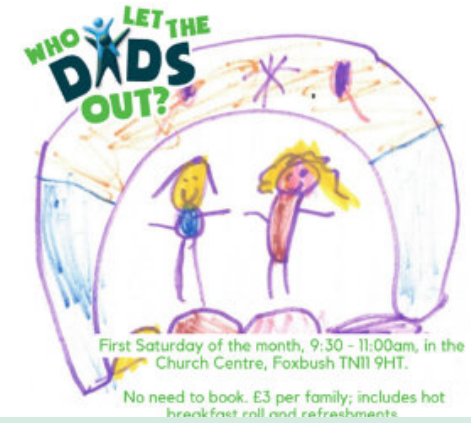


If you'd like to know, drop the editor of Keys an email (he helps me out) or come along to a session on the first Saturday of the month.

What is an interesting fact about you? I used to be involved in Hot Air Ballooning!



Steve Wood



On the first Saturday of the month between 9:30 and 11, we hold a relaxed play group for kids aged 0-6 and their dads at St John's Church Centre.

We have a bouncy castle, bouncy slide, ride on toys and soft play. We also have a quieter area where you can colour in or play with some toy cars.

It costs £3 per family which includes, tea, coffee, biscuits, bacon or egg rolls and on occasion we get some muffins and doughnuts!





The Market has been very busy over the past month, and we had a successful half term with the Angel Dance Company running a hip-hop session for our younger customers.

We can now turn our thoughts towards Christmas and what better place to do your Christmas shopping. The Market has so many different stalls that if you want to buy those last-minute gifts or a special gift then come along and browse. Need a food top up for your Christmas entertaining then we have vegetables, cheese, fish, cake, beer, meat, bread, pastries, honey, candles, flowers, jewellery, – the list goes on!

On 10th December and 17th December, you can also get into the Christmas mood when we will be welcoming the choirs of Hildenborough Primary School and Stocks Green Primary School who will be coming

along at about 9.45am to sing Christmas carols and music.

Once you have completed your shopping, sit down and relax with a cup of coffee and a cake or biscuit and have a chat with your friends or Market volunteers.

The last Market of the year will be on Tuesday 17th December and the Market will re-open on Tuesday 7th January 2025 (correct at time of going to print).

We would like to wish all our customers, stallholders and volunteers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

FARMERS MARKET RECIPE
Chocolate Truffles

Ingredients to make about 18 truffles

- 100g Cadburys Bournville chocolate
- 25g slightly salted butter
- 3 tbs double cream
- 25g ground almonds
- 50g icing sugar
- 75g sweet biscuits, crushed
- 2 tbs rum (optional)

Method

Melt 75g of the chocolate and grate the remainder. Stir all the other ingredients into the melted chocolate, mixing well.

Leave in the fridge until firm enough to handle fairly easily.

Divide mixture evenly and roll into about 18 balls, tossing them in the grated chocolate. To make them look Christmassy coat with sprinkles and/or add a small edible Christmassy decoration.

Leave in the fridge until firm. ENJOY!!

The Oast Theatre celebrates 50 Years!

This year the Oast Theatre, London Road, Tonbridge, is celebrating a milestone: fifty years as a vibrant home of theatre, but it has an even longer history. Tonbridge Amateur Dramatic Society, TADS, began productions one hundred and two years ago, in 1922, later merging with Tonbridge Little Theatre, TLT, to become Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club, TTAC, in 1946.

However, space was limited in the drama society's original home, the old stables behind the Mitre public house in Hadlow Road, so a new premises had to be found. The redundant Oast House on London Road was deemed a suitable premises, albeit a huge conversion project. Originally a working farm building in the 1800s, where hops were dried and packaged for the brewery, it was converted after much fund-raising into a theatre, with its first performance in 1974.



Since then the Oast has grown into a highly regarded and well established centre of drama and art. There are ten productions on the main stage a season, three of which are performed by the teenagers of the thriving youth group, plus one by the 8-13 year olds, 'The Hoppers'. The theatre studio upstairs also presents one act plays and we often host visiting performers such as, recently, The Brothers Broke, a tribute to John Lennon and Bob Dylan, and Alan Bennett's An Englishman Abroad, being performed by Paul Doust as Guy Burgess, on 22nd-24th November.

The Oast Theatre is a busy place! It is run by a huge team of dedicated, kind, talented volunteers whose help in all areas backstage and frontstage is invaluable. Around 100 people are involved in every production, there's set building and painting, front of

house meet and greet, selling tickets and refreshments, costumes, lighting, sound, poster and programme design, stage management, props, publicity, marketing, cleaning, gardening, general maintenance, and of course, not forgetting the actors and directors! There's always lots going on with an enormous amount of team spirit, friendship and community running throughout.

Come along and join us if you like the sound of this. The enthusiasm of our volunteers

keeps the theatre vibrant, but we always need more help!

If you do fancy getting involved, being part of the crew, making new friends, channelling your inner creative spirit, come and join us for a coffee on a Wednesday morning (0900-1200) and meet some of the team who make The Oast such a fun and friendly place. Membership is £30 a year, enabling you to enjoy discounts on tickets whilst also helping to support your local theatre. The Oast Theatre isn't just a theatre, it's

a club and we need any help you can offer to keep it going, to keep it alive, to keep it a place for the community.

Tickets for our Christmas production of Arabian Nights, a magical tale of fantasy and imagination, are on sale via our website, www.oasttheatre.com, along with information about the rest of the season's shows. Have a browse under 'What's On', bring family and friends and come and see what we do.

Do contact any one of us under the 'contacts' tab if you'd like to know more.

Hope to see you soon!

Mandy Hulston

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!

West Kent Concert Band are giving a concert on Saturday December 14th at 11am- 12noon in St John's Church. They will be playing a mix of Christmas tunes and carols.

Based on previous concerts it is very enjoyable and a great start to the Christmas season for all the family.

Free light refreshments afterwards in the Church Centre. Entry is free but donations are welcome to recover costs.

Carols and Christmas Celebrations with Hospice in the Weald.

Book the **17th of December** in your diary for these events.

Children's Christmas Celebration.

A magical hour for young children to sing along with festive favourites, play games and listen to Christmas stories and poems. Doors open at 1-30pm for the fun to start at 2-00pm!

Tickets: Children, £5, Adults, £10, Children under two, free.

Carols at Christmas

An occasion for all the family, of festive music, readings and performance. This year, for the first time, The Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Choir, and the Tonbridge Community Singers will be performing. Doors open at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start, with an 8.00pm finish.

Afterwards you are invited to join us for a drink and mince pie.

Adult tickets are £30, and £15 for children.

Venue and booking

Both events are taking place in the atmospheric and beautiful Chapel of St Augustine at Tonbridge School, High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1JP.

To book your tickets, and to receive more details, visit the events section at hospiceintheweald.org.uk, or contact the Fundraising Team on 01892 820533.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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 illness.



Wealden Vocals are performing on 21st December at 7pm - St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks.

is a mixed-voice concert choir based around Tonbridge & Sevenoaks - including several Hildenborough locals! We sing a range of styles including pop, gospel, and classical, giving termly concerts at local venues and often raising funds for a number of charitable causes.

We are a friendly group of 40-plus singers: no auditioning required, although we have a fairly large turnover of music for concerts, so a willingness to learn and take risks is essential!

If you are interested in trying us out, send us an email at wealdenvocals@gmail.com, or come see us at our concert at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks on Saturday 21st December, 7pm.

Tickets are £15 (£10 for under 16's) and can be bought at michaelbascommusic.com/event-list.



Hildenborough History Society – 'Tonbridge and the English Civil War' 24th January 7:30pm in the Village Hall

There is always an air of keen anticipation amongst our members when George Buswell comes to speak at one of our quarterly meetings at the Village Hall. One of the six Authors of "Tonbridge Through Ten Centuries", which came out in 2015, his talks are always well researched and delivered with consummate ease and not a little humour.

Members are therefore looking forward, keenly, to his next visit on Friday 24 January. There will be no cost to members but if you know George or would like to see and hear what I am talking about, you can come as a Visitor by paying a small charge of £2 for the evening. This talk is entitled "Tonbridge and the English Civil War"

Our meeting will start, as usual, at 7.30pm with a brief progress report from our Chairman Charles and an Autumn Financial Statement from Howard. Tea and Coffee are available before the meeting starts but can also be bought, after Charles and Howard have completed their piece before we sit back and leave the stage to George. The Evening will end between 9.30 and 10pm.

Oh, and before I forget, we wish a VERY happy Christmas to all our members.

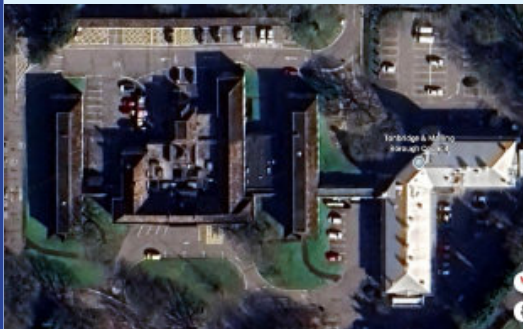
Pat Davies

T.M.B.C. News

May I wish all Hildenborough residents and businesses a Very Happy Christmas.

Council Offices.

When I was first fortunate enough to be elected to the Council, the Council offices in the then West Malling consisted of the Gibson Building, the former officer's mess of West Malling Airfield and some former airfield buildings, affectionately known as the H buildings. There were also staff at Tonbridge Castle offices. Then in 1998 the Council put an application in to build the new offices linked to the Gibson building with a corridor. In the picture, an aerial Google shot, the Gibson Building is on the left (dark roofs) and the newer offices the right, (silver roof) with a narrow corridor linking them.



The Gibson building is Grade 2 listed, built in 1939 and West Malling airfield was opened in June 1940, although a series of raids in August 1940 rendered the airfield unserviceable for much of the Battle of Britain. It reopened in October of that year, becoming a night fighter station with Bristol Beaufighters in 1941, and later used by Mosquitos and Typhoons in offensive operations in northern Europe; it became a key station during 'Operation Diver' in 1944, the name given to the defence of the east and south-eastern coasts against the V1 bomb. The Officer's mess included accommodation and forms part of an exceptionally well-

preserved group of buildings on the domestic site which are strongly representative of the neo-Georgian and Art Deco type designs characteristic of the 1930s expansion period and seen elsewhere. The present Council chamber is within the Gibson building. The Civic entrance to the Gibson building is shown in picture 2, the Council Chamber, are the 5 windows to the right.



So, what is going to happen; the Council has now applied for planning and listed permission (it has to apply to itself) to completely separate the buildings by removing the corridor link, reinstating what is necessary to the Gibson building and adding some extras to the newer buildings, solar panels, EV charging, bike stands, new doors, ramps and facilities on the ground floor for a new Council Chamber. A decision on the Gibson building and its future is yet to be taken. The main entrance to the newer offices is shown below and is now considered to be part of Kings Hill.

Both applications planning and listed were approved by full Council..



Leybank/Bramble Close Flooding.

Our MP Tom Tugendhat managed to extract Southern Water and Environment Agency officials out of their offices for a meeting in a Leybank resident's garden, thanks to resident Alan Hobbs for access, and thanks to resident Sue Corbin for guidance to all during the meeting.

KCC councillor Harry Rayner and myself, also attended. Tom Tugendhat, suggested a further meeting with the agencies to formulate a way, forward. Picture shows assembled group beside Hawden Stream.



Former HSBC Building.

Tonbridge residents within the Hildenborough ward might have read about a single person allegedly saving the building from development. I can assure them that it was the whole Area planning committee who took the

decision on the building to refuse residential development.

Tree Protection Orders (TPO).

As the name suggests, a TPO affords protection to such designated trees. However, work to those trees is permitted by application to the local authority, in our case TMBC.

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.

Council Meetings.

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

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



Evening WI: Our November meeting started by welcoming our members and one visitor who had joined us for the evening. We went through some general WI business and updates of forthcoming events and activities. Following on from our discussion last month everyone had bought along some items for the foodbank, and we will do this each month now.

Our speaker for the evening was Janie Ramsay who is a member of The West Kent Green Team, (part of the WI) who are climate change ambassadors. Throughout the UK there are over 220 thousand WI members-we can make a difference.

Janie talked about the areas where small changes can make a difference. The campaign to use less water: she talked about ways we can save water and use less. Save water and then reuse it, for example to water the garden. Consider our energy use, switching things off rather than leaving them on standby, using LED lightbulbs, washing clothes at a lower temperature. Reduce food waste, buy locally sourced food and support farmers' markets. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Use a refill shop. There is one in Tonbridge.

She talked to us about the textile industry and their huge carbon footprint. Consider the clothes you buy and the clothes in your wardrobe, buy from charity shops. She explained that there are 1.75 million tonnes of clothing wasted in the UK every year. She finished her talk by saying we can all make small changes, we don't need to do everything all at once but everything we do helps.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 10th December**, when Penny Harris will be our speaker for the evening, delivering her talk "Potholes, Pigs and Paradise".

The evening WI meets once a month and gives members the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, and have fun. We always welcome 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.

Breathe! - 'Whole body health, whole body commitment, and breath' Joseph Pilates

December can be a joyful, exciting month but also a stressful month leading up to Christmas and the New Year. With extra shopping, celebrations, family get togethers etc, it can be exhausting and little time to take a breath.

Learning to stop and focus on breathing properly every day can improve overall health, physically and mentally, from improving digestion to decreasing stress levels amongst many other important factors.

Breathe in slowly through your nose to filter allergens and boost the intake of oxygen and allow the belly to rise (diaphragmatic breathing). Breathe out fully for longer than the breath in allowing the belly to fall.

In wellness and Merry Christmas

**Kirsten, Body Wellness Pilates
Hildenborough**



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.

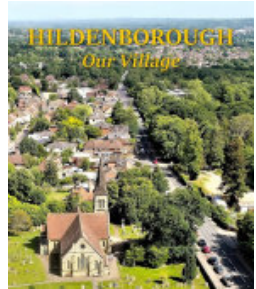
However, during the 180th anniversary celebrations of the founding of St John's, Hildenborough, there were so many requests for copies of the book that the church asked HHS to instigate a reprint, which it would underwrite and retain any profit accruing.

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.

Looking for a great Christmas present, then look no further! please contact **Jess Collins** either by email at office@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk or by telephone on **01732 833 596**. 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.

All proceeds go to church funds, which will amount to £500 when all books sold.



Hildenborough Library

"The rooms were very still while the pages were softly turned and the winter sunshine crept in to touch the bright heads and serious faces with a Christmas greeting."

– Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

It has been a lovely few weeks here at the library. I have had class visits from the children of Hildenborough CP School who have all chosen books and designed Christmas decorations for the library 'Christmas Tree'. They were all so enthusiastic and polite. It was a joy to see them enjoying the library.

I am sure I will see lots of you in the coming month but just in case I don't, I want to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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

From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

As I write my final column of the year, I wanted to reflect on how momentous 2024 has been, both in Hildenborough and across the country too.

My year has hardly been quiet - a General Election in which I am honoured to have had so much support, and a leadership election that was, well, less successful!

We have also seen a change of Government and some unexpected outcomes from elections around the world, including most recently in the US. Many of these results have happened for similar reasons - economic outlooks are challenging, and we need to support those building a future. That's why the Budget was so disappointing. We all want better public services and the reforms that deliver them, but we also know that you can't tax your way to growth any more than you can use the brakes to accelerate.

Now that I am no longer in Government, I am looking forward to bringing even more attention to the communities that we share and the needs that we have in our corner of Kent. Our future, our security and our prosperity are all dependent on the choices that we make. I look forward to continuing to play my part.

I hope everyone across the village enjoys a restful Christmas and New Year period. After an intense few years, I am looking forward to spending some time with my family. As always, I will remain available to help anyone in need throughout Christmas and into the New Year. My contact details are as follows:

E-mail – tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
 Phone – 01732 441 563
 Social Media - @TomTugendhat

Tom

Wordsearch - back by popular demand!

h	k	n	h	t	h	f	a	m	i	l	y
s	t	a	b	l	e	n	e	b	d	h	m
g	p	z	u	c	j	h	g	s	a	n	a
e	m	a	n	g	e	r	u	y	v	b	r
y	v	r	c	l	u	i	e	r	i	r	y
w	o	e	h	e	n	s	s	i	d	o	v
b	j	t	r	i	r	t	t	a	j	o	p
v	e	h	r	y	p	b	a	u	o	m	b
b	s	i	u	h	o	m	e	x	s	s	e
f	u	l	i	v	i	n	g	d	e	q	a
q	s	e	m	p	i	r	e	w	p	s	n
v	i	s	i	t	o	r	s	s	h	n	u

- Space
- Joseph
- Empire
- Guest
- Born
- David
- Room
- Jesus
- Manger
- Syria
- Taxes
- Stable
- Baby
- Living
- Nazareth
- Quirinius
- Family
- Bed
- Mary
- Bethlehem
- Everyone
- Home
- Vistors
- Augustus

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – December 2024

In astronomy, as in life sometimes, it's all or nothing. During December the bright planets are dominating the evening sky after what seems an inordinately long wait. The pre-dawn planetary observer will now have to be satisfied with Mars and Jupiter making their way towards the west.

Early in the month, when the Sun is 6° below the horizon at around 4:30pm, the brilliant Venus can be seen a little over 12° above the SSW horizon. As the sky darkens Venus sets in the south west, but soon after it does so, by way of compensation, Mars rises in the ENE. The result is that by 9:30pm Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are all on view and reasonably well positioned.

Towards the end of the month, look at 7:30pm to see them in similar locations with the bonus that Venus has moved to join the group and is low down in the WSW. Its position will continue to improve for the rest of 2024 and into 2025.

You can use the map printed in the November issue to locate the planets which will be accurate at 8pm in the middle of December apart from the position of the Moon.

Although Venus is by far the most brilliant object in the early evening sky, and still brightening, once it has set, Jupiter, although not quite as striking, is very obvious towards the east. On the 3rd of this month, it reaches "opposition" which is when it is closest to Earth and therefore at its largest and brightest.

If you get the chance to look at it through a telescope you will see the bands of cloud that envelope the gas giant, and if you're lucky the Great Red Spot may be visible. This is an anti-cyclonic storm in Jupiter's atmosphere where winds can blow at up to 400mph. It has been present since at least 1830 and may possibly date back to as early as 1665. You may also note when viewing that Jupiter is not actually round, rather it is "oblate" which means it is flattened at the poles. This is caused by centrifugal force due to the massive body rotating in just ten hours. If you have binoculars, you will be able to watch the daily dance of the four Galilean moons as they orbit the planet, although you are unlikely to see them if your binoculars are hand-held. They really need to be tripod mounted or, at the very least, rested against a fence post or wall.

The winter solstice, for us in the northern hemisphere, occurs on 21st December at 9:21am. This is when the Sun is as far south in the sky as it can get, meaning that we only have 7 hours 52 minutes and 5 seconds of daylight that day. This contrasts with the summer solstice on 20th June when we had 16 hours 35 minutes and 43 seconds of daylight.

2025 should be an interesting year astronomically speaking with strong meteor showers in January and December that will be unaffected by moonlight. Also, we have a partial eclipse of the Moon and a partial eclipse of the Sun, both of which are in March as well as a total eclipse of the Moon in September. So, plenty to look forward to.

Brian Mills FRAS



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

At the November Finance Committee Meeting, councillors discussed the Parish Council's budget for next year and agreed to recommend that the members approve a small increase of 2% in the precept for the next financial year due to inflation and to cover the cost of projects including the installation of a footpath around the Recreation Ground. The council is also in the process of building up a reserve fund to build a new pavilion in the Rec which will be an enormous asset to the community. Other projects earmarked for next year include a sustainable landscaping project in the Recreation Ground; installation of a new fence around the playground in the Rec and the addition of one or two items of accessible playground equipment to the existing equipment in both the Village's playgrounds.

At the November Parish Council meeting, Kent County Councillor, Cllr. Harry Rayner asked the Parish Council to help make local residents aware of the Winter Fuel Payment, where residents born before 23rd September 1958 could get either £200 or £300 to help pay heating bills. For more information and to check eligibility criteria visit www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment.

Highways

An expert in traffic management attended the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11th November to advise the Committee on how best to prepare for any future housing

developments comprising 100 or more properties with regard to local highways infrastructure. He explained that independent traffic surveys have to be carried out as part of the pre-application process which are considered by Kent County Council, the highways authority. KCC's recommendations with regard to the impact of a development on local traffic flow are then taken into consideration by the planning authority, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. There is no requirement for the Parish Council to undertake its own surveys but the councillors will be following the progress of any development proposals and ensuring they meet all planning criteria.

At the November Parish Council meeting the councillors approved the purchase of a speed warning sign for installation on Riding Lane, to remind motorists emerging from the national speed limit that they are entering a built up area and need to slow down. It is hoped this will make it safer for motorists pulling out of the Recreation Ground car park and for all pedestrian traffic in this busy hub of the village. The councillors also approved the pre-consultation engagement survey with regard to the installation of double yellow lines opposite the Harvest Garage on London Road. The survey will be distributed to residents living close to where the proposed double yellow lines will be located and will also be promoted on the Hildenborough Parish Council Facebook page and website. Alternatively, please e-mail

clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk if you wish to complete the survey.

Following a request to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to install a dog waste bin opposite the BP Garage on the other side of Tonbridge Road, I can report that the request was refused on the following grounds: there is already a dog bin located nearby that adequately serves the needs of local dog owners; the proposed location for a new bin is too close to residential homes, which may lead to concerns regarding odour and cleanliness; the installation and ongoing maintenance of an additional bin would incur costs that are not currently justified given the existing resources; based on the TMBC's assessments, the volume of dog waste generated in this area does not warrant the addition of another bin.



Open Spaces

Councillors recently agreed to take advantage of a sale

to purchase two new benches for the playground in the Recreation Ground and one new bench for the playground in West Wood. The benches are made from recycled plastic and are very durable.

The mowing season has come to an end, and we are now in the midst of the leaf-clearing season, with our Maintenance Contractor, Andy, ensuring the footpaths in West Wood and the Recreation Ground are kept clear of leaves that could become quite treacherous

and slippery if they are not removed. The repairs to the damaged playground surface in the Recreation Ground will be taking place during December and it is anticipated that the repairs to the basketball frames will have been completed by the end of November.

A new volunteer has recently joined the Hildenborough Flood Wardens, and he lives in Riding Lane, one of the areas badly affected by flooding in October. Kent County Council very quickly investigated the drain in Riding Lane and discovered the flooding was caused by a blockage resulting from logs that had been washed down the drain. The logs have now been removed. If you are interested in joining Hildenborough's team of Flood Wardens and would like more information, please contact the phone number/e-mail address below.

The War Memorial looked splendid in time for the Remembrance Sunday parade, following the installation of colourful bedding plants by members of Hildenborough Guides.

Following the sad death of Cllr Lewis there is now a

vacancy for a new parish councillor, so please get in touch if you are interested and would like more information about the role.

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 329 029.

Julia Church

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Local Directory

Church Contacts

Home (Connect) Groups

Prayer Chain

Bright Sparks, (Mondays, term-time)

Generation Creation (Sundays)

Church Office **01732 833 596**

Cynthia Fawcus **01732 833 397**

Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

Lisa Glasscote **01732 833 596**

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**

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

www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk - **01732 832 758**

www.stocksgreenpreschool.co.uk - **01732 834 115**

Hilary - **07734 544 412**

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0345 988 1188

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Kathryn Stewart **07809 299 553**

David Chambers **01732 833 612**

Barry Webb **01732 838 422**

Ivan Kirkpatrick **07730 888 429**

Bill Richardson **01732 838 903**

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chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



"NUDGE" LETTERS BEING SENT BY HMRC TO TAXPAYERS

HMRC have recently increased their use of "one to many" or "nudge" letters to taxpayers which suggest that there may be errors or omissions in tax returns or accounts information. HMRC argue that these letters are a key tool in their compliance strategy but this is essentially a "fishing"

expedition more akin to direct mailing and this may alarm many taxpayers who are completely innocent. Please get in touch with us if you receive such a letter and we can deal with the matter on your behalf.

We have also become aware of scam letters and emails purporting to be

from HMRC being sent to taxpayers. These letters request important personal information which would be needed by fraudsters to access your data. If you have doubts about whether a communication from HMRC is genuine, please contact us and we will check its authenticity.

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

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What's on this month St John's Hildenborough

NATIVITY
8TH
DECEMBER
9:15AM

CAROL
CONCERT
22ND
DECEMBER
6:30PM

CHRISTINGLE
24TH
DECEMBER
4PM

MIDNIGHT
COMMUNION
SERVICE
24TH
DECEMBER
11:15PM

CHRISTMAS
DAY
SERVICE
25TH
DECEMBER
10AM

ADVENT 5 WEEK SERIES

1ST DECEMBER

9:15am Contemporary Service
The Reason Jesus Came
11am Traditional Service
Do the Fathers Will
Reading - John 6:30-40

8TH DECEMBER

9:15am Contemporary Service
11am Traditional Service
To Give Abundant Life
Readings - John 10:10
2 Corinthians 9:8

15TH DECEMBER

9:15am Contemporary Service
11am Traditional Service
To Save the World
Reading - John 12:44-47

22ND DECEMBER

9:15am Contemporary Service
11am Traditional Service
To Bear Witness to the Truth
Reading - John 18:28-40

29TH DECEMBER

11am - one service only
Devoted to God

