

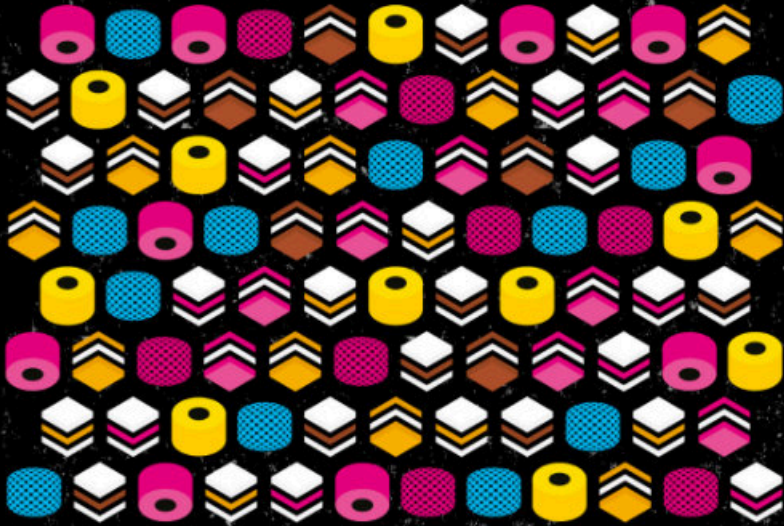


CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

KEYS

HILDENBOROUGH

Jan 2025



God welcomes all sorts!

In this issue:

Our 3rd volunteer interview - Starlight Puppets - pages 10-11

Local community help available - pages 7 to 9

Meteor Showers - what to look out for - pages 18 and 19

New Keys Website (soft launch) - www.keysmagazine.co.uk

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From the Church

Happy New Year.

Sadly, for some, New Year is not always something to be welcomed. We

hear people make resolutions, then feel shame when they don't quite manage to keep them up. Some people get overwhelmed in January weighing themselves down with thoughts of having to conform to others' expectations of them. When we don't often do what we set out to do, we can be disappointed with ourselves, and this can perpetuate feelings of failure and inadequacy.

For many, New Year might be a time for hope and daring to try something new. Missing a loved one, in any context, can also make New Year something that might appear daunting and unsettling. After the hustle and busyness of Christmas and New Year, we can be left with ourselves and our thoughts. I mentioned in my Christmas talks that one of the true gifts of Christmas is when people focus on loving each other deeply. Doing small things with great love can be a real achievable goal. When people are wrapped up in loving one another and being there for others, especially in times of need, they find a new sense of purpose and self-worth.

The more we love others and lovingly serve, then the more we appear to find true contentment. We are wired for loving relationships and community. In those deep meaningful relationships, we find security, significance and self-worth. At

Christmas, joy in the form of a baby that entered the world so that we would never feel alone. We would know we are loved and have a purpose in a deep relationship with our creator. God often wants us to reflect upon where we give our time, talents and treasure and to make sure we know what they truly are. God works differently to the world and His timings are not often ours.

Do we go from one busy season to the next without giving ourselves time to reflect and rejuvenate and care for our mind, bodies and souls? We are made for a relationship with Jesus and His desire is that we don't straddle two fences. The rhythm of the world or the rhythm of God. God wants all of us, so that He may draw near to us. God moves silently and gently, in the everyday of our lives. He pierces our hearts with His love, inviting us to Him and gives us time as He waits for our response. His love enables us to celebrate what is, grieve what was, and look for what could be. He is able and willing to help us in our lives if we give Him the opportunity. Jesus said this, John 14:27 reads "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Let's give this New Year into God's keeping and ask Him for direction and connection with Him and others as we journey forward. Then we know we are in safe hands.

Tim Saiet

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

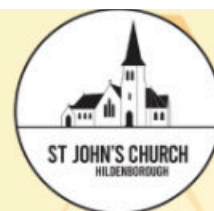
9:15am - Contemporary service with breakfast served in Church from 8:45am
Refreshments served between services in the Church Centre. All welcome.
11am - Traditional service

Tuesday service - 11:15am Morning Prayer

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



"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."



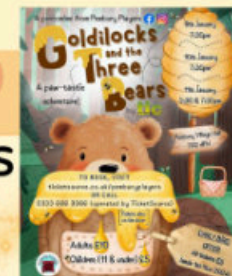
The Hive Youth Group

For school year 6-13
£1 for 26/1

Saturday 11th January 2:30pm

PANTOMIME

Sunday 26th January
Junior Task Master Challenges
5-7pm, Church Centre



All youth leaders hold a valid DBS

For more information please contact
Lisa Glasscote
lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk



CAFÉ THEO



After School Youth Café

For school years 6-13.

Open 1st and 3rd Friday in term time
4-5:30pm. Just 17th January this month.
St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough.

For more info email...

lisa@stjohnshildenborough.co.uk

- Games tables
- Board Games
- Consoles
- Crafts



Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



Happy New Year everyone!

We finished 2024 with the St. John's

Church annual carol service in the Church which was beautifully decorated with a large tree at the altar. We all enjoyed singing well known

carols and listening to poetry and bible readings. Afterwards we enjoyed hot mince pies and coffee in the Church Centre.

We look forward to seeing you on the 8th January 2025 for our first Café of the New Year when we are hoping to welcome Annalene

Beechey who is a professional singer who sings songs from the musicals and tells stories about her experiences of being on the London stage.

If you are feeling lonely and would like some company, please come along as 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 a chat.

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. 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 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

Leigh United Charities -Are you struggling to pay your bills? We may be able to help.

Leigh United Charities was set up in 1901 to help people living in the old parish of Leigh and the Hollanden portion of Leigh in Hildenborough. This includes residents who live on Riding Lane as far as Vines Lane, including Garlands, Church Road, Mount Pleasant, and Riding Park, as well as all residents of the old parishes of Leigh and Charcott.

The charity's original purpose was to help with the relief of poverty, and we are still an anti-poverty charity today. If you are having difficulty affording the essentials, either because of temporary hardship or more generally, we may be able to help.

The charity has a small income which is available to support those in need who live within the charity's area of giving.

If you or anyone you know needs help of this kind then please apply first to check that you live within the charity's geographical area and, if you do, for assistance. Your enquiry will be treated in strict confidence.

Please contact:

LUC chairman Brian Ball at brianball358@btinternet.com or 07532 205 037

or the clerk, Jane Clay on clerkLUC@gmail.com

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



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

Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service



HOME ENERGY ADVICE

If you're worried about paying your energy bills, want to know how to make your home warmer or need advice on accessing financial support, Better Housing Better Health are here to help. We're a charity working locally to improve residents' domestic warmth and wellbeing and improve the energy efficiency of your property.

BETTERHOUSING BETTERHEALTH CAN HELP WITH:

ENERGY
SWITCHING

GRANT
ELIGIBILITY
CHECKS

FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

PRIORITY
SERVICES
REGISTER

WE ARE HERE.
www.bhbh.org.uk



GET IN TOUCH
0800 1070044

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UK Government

Are you over State Pension age, or know someone who is?

Pension Credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs.

If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim **Pension Credit**, even if you own your home or have savings. People who claim **Pension Credit** may also be able to get:

- The **Winter Fuel Payment*** and other help with heating costs
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments

You could be eligible for **Pension Credit** if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances.

Don't miss out.

Check your eligibility at gov.uk/pension-credit
or by calling **0800 99 1234**

Eligibility criteria apply
*or the equivalent in Scotland.



SCAN TO FIND
OUT MORE



Meet the volunteer – Starlight Puppets

Hi I'm Dave Hopkins and I have been part of the congregation at St John's for a year now, but have lived in Hadlow for over 20 years.

I help lead Starlight Puppet team.

The team has been running for 7 years and moved to St John's in 2023. Overall, I have been working with puppets for 24 years as part of another adult only team.

Starlight Puppet Team aims to bring the bible stories to life using Muppet Style puppets, we also have a wide range of popular songs that have different wording that we might use to help tell the story. The team consists of both adults and young people and anyone over the age of 10 (year 6 at school) are welcome to come and try out for the team. Age is no limit as the oldest puppeteer I know is in her 80s and still able to perform and travels around the schools in her area.

Starlight Puppets have fortnightly practice sessions on a Sunday afternoon from 3:30 until 5pm, meeting before Hive Youth Group, which the kids are encouraged to attend.

In each session we do some basic training, practise a sketch, a song or discuss an upcoming performance, either in St John's or at another location or Church.

Other things we might do include making props and recording sketches. We might also

plan a sketch then take it away to write at home.

When we visit other places or help at events or services at St John's we have to setup the stage, get the puppets ready and take part in the performance.

How many hours a week do you spend doing it? Normally it is 2 hours every fortnight, but if we lead a service or go to a different location this can be a little more, as the leaders tend to go and setup before the younger members arrive, but we all help to pack away.

What skills have you picked up in this role? Being able to be flexible enough in what we do to change what we have planned due to a change in circumstances on the day. We had a Christmas service where we had a narrator out front and accidentally they turned over 2 pages and we had to quickly get the whole nativity story back to the right spot, which meant giving instructions via the puppet to the other team members without anyone realising.



Do you receive training? Most years we attend a Festival in Rugby dedicated to the Creative ministries called Equip Festival. There we get to see other teams perform in competitions, we can enter a competition if we wish, watch the showcase performances from experts, and then attend specific workshops led by the experts. The festival covers Puppets, Illusions, Ventriloquism and Children and Youth ministry. There is even the opportunity to join the Academy who spend a week in August working very hard to bring together an evening's performance. It's really good to go and meet friends and make new friends each year.

What is the best thing or your best memory about your role? The reaction we get after a service has ended. People are often surprised at how good it was and one of the best reactions was when we were at Scott's Project and the way the residents and Day Visitors reacted. We were also asked to lead a School Assembly at a Secondary School where I used to work, and how after we had finished staff members said it had changed their view of Christianity and how relevant it was.

What is the worst thing or your worst memory about your role? Saying goodbye to those who have been at the group but who



have now left for university, and when something happens to delay our arrival and having to be super quick in setting up.

If someone wants to learn more about your role, what is the best way of getting in contact with you? Drop an email to Starlightpuppets@gmail.com

What is an interesting fact about you? I enjoy singing and am a member of two choirs, and I also enjoy being an Artist working in most mediums and have also exhibited locally.

Dave Hopkins

**Starlight
Puppet team**

**Practice Sessions
every 2nd and 4th Sundays
3:30pm in Church Centre**

**Year 6 and above including Adults are welcome to join the team.
Email first to make sure we are not out performing.**

email: Starlightpuppets@gmail.com

HILDENBOROUGH FARMERS' MARKET



A very Happy New Year to all our customers, stallholders and volunteers! The Market re-opens on **Tuesday 7th January 2025** and we look forward to seeing you all.

The Market had a busy 2024. We said goodbye to some stallholders and hello to some new ones. We had a change of venue, and this has been a great success – we would like to thank everyone who supported us during the changeover and continued to come to the Market. We said a very big thank you to Janet and Julie as they stepped down from their roles as Manager and Secretary. Nick Aldridge has taken over as Manager ably assisted by Steve Sinclair: they can be contacted on the email below. Our children's activities continued throughout the school holidays and at the time of writing this we are looking forward to hearing Hildenborough CE Primary School and Stocks Green School sing festive music to us with the run up to Christmas. Phew! I feel quite worn out just reading all the things we have done!

You may have seen that the Market now has Gift Vouchers that you can purchase to give to your friends and families. A gift that is a little bit different and can be redeemed at any of our stalls. Just buy the voucher from us, they are £5 each and can be made up to the amount you require. The recipient of the voucher just hands it over to the stallholder that they wish to purchase from and hey presto it's done!

As always, the café is always open and 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.

Contact the Market manager: Nick Aldridge on: - managerhildenboroughfm@gmail.com

Also follow us on social media for your



weekly update on what stalls will be at the Market. We are open from 8.30am to 11.00 am every Tuesday at the Hildenborough Village Hall in Riding Lane.

Facebook – Hildenborough.Farmers.Market

Instagram - hildenboroughfarmersmarket

FARMERS MARKET RECIPE

Quick and Easy Vegetable Curry

A very quick and easy curry to serve up with rice and a salad.

Ingredients – makes 5 servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves crushed garlic
- 2 ½ tablespoons curry powder
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 400g can diced tomatoes
- 1 cube vegetable bouillon
- 285g package frozen mixed vegetables
- 350ml cups water
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander

Directions

1. In a large saucepan over medium-high, heat oil and sauté onion and garlic until golden. Stir in curry powder and tomato paste, cook 2 to 3 minutes.
2. Stir in tomatoes, vegetable bouillon cube, mixed vegetables, water, salt and pepper to taste. Cook approximately 30 minutes until vegetables are well done (not crunchy). Sprinkle with fresh coriander prior to serving.



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.

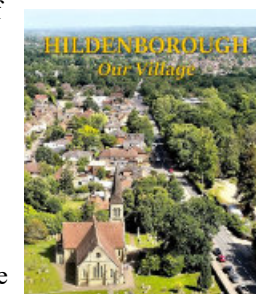
However, during the 180th anniversary celebrations of the founding of St John's, Hildenborough, there were so many requests for copies of the book that the church asked HHS to instigate a reprint, which it would underwrite and retain any profit accruing.

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.

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.



Howard Dolling

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!

Hildenborough History Society – 24th Jan 7:30 Village Hall

George Buswell will be speaking on "Tonbridge and the English Civil War" at our meeting on Friday 24 January at the Village Hall.

If you are not already a member of our Society but would like to hear this excellent speaker, who has entertained us before, bring along £2 and you will be able to join us in the experience. For an extra £1 you can also buy a cup of tea or coffee before the meeting or during the intermission.

Pat Davies

THE OAST THEATRE, TONBRIDGE

“TITTERNICK” By Ian Tucker-Bell

Presented by permission of Orange Works

1st February – 8th February 2025

Michael has written a stage musical of the hit film “Titanic”, which is quickly taken up by Bogham Players – a village-hall drama group with far more spirit than ability. When concerns are raised about infringing the film’s copyright, the society quickly start making changes to the story to avoid any ramifications.....what could possibly go wrong?

This highly amusing play is sure to provide the perfect entertainment to brighten the cold, dark days of February. Come along and see for yourself!

Performances: 8 p.m. (Sunday 3 p.m.)

Tickets: £14

Book online at www.oasttheatre.com

Credit card bookings 0333 666 33 66 (booking fee applies)



Tonbridge Music Club events

Sunday 19th January am at Somerhill School – Coffee Concert - Sam Haywood, a locally-based pianist who is internationally known, will give a concert entitled ‘Musical Liaisons’. In it, he will pair well-known works by Chopin with beautiful, unknown works by female composers.

Saturday 15th February – Tonbridge Parish Church - Samuele Telari, an accordion player will be playing works by Mozart, Schubert and Tchaikovsky. While one might not think of the accordion and classical music going together, you will be in for a big surprise. This young, Italian player has won many awards for his musical skill.

Saturday 22nd February pm at EM Forster Theatre – ‘Peter and the Timer Wolf’ performed by the Kidenza Orchestra and Ann Bryant, the author and narrator herself. It is a re-telling of the classic piece and has all of Prokofiev’s music.

More detail, as well as how to buy tickets, is available on the TMC website, www.tmc.org.uk

Christmas tree recycling - £20 www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk by 7th January

This service is available for anyone in the TN1 to TN20 post codes.

Trees collected 12th to 14th January.

More than £40,000 was raised last year with tree chippings donated for use in the community.



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.

Christmas Wonderland Brings Joy to Hospice Children - 7th December

Hospice in the Weald for Children hosted a magical Christmas party for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families. Over ten families enjoyed festive activities, met Santa, and created lasting memories.

The inclusive event featured accessible crafts, a magical "snow" play area, and an interactive projection for children of all abilities. Hayley Radcliffe, who helped plan the event, said, "The most rewarding part was seeing the joy and reactions from the children; huge smiles, laughter, and interaction"

Live Christmas music and festive decorations added to the warm and inclusive atmosphere. Entertainers specialising in inclusive theatre ensured every child could participate in the fun.

This party reflects the Hospice's year-round commitment to supporting children and their families.

Learn more: <https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/for-children/>

T.M.B.C. News

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

Leigh Barrier Improvements.

The Environment Agency state, they have made great progress over recent months. Last September they successfully installed the first of the three new gates (below) on the control structure. The old Barrier gates are now 42 years old. In the field at Hawden Farm, sheet piling has been in progress and work on the Penstock chamber starts soon. A comment about the programme being tight has been made by the EA but completion is anticipated to be by the end of 2025.



Pictures from the EA, showing the new gate being lowered into position and the general arrangement of the penstock chamber and pump (right) at the end of the Hildenborough bund (although the bund is actually in Tonbridge!).

Waste Contract.

The Borough Council's waste service is one of the biggest contracts at circa £1.78M for the 2024/25 period. It must be expected that



this cost will rise for 2025/26.

K.C.C.

The whole of Knowsley Way is programmed for treatment works during 2025/26. The actual type of surface treatment will be confirmed after a site assessment.

Hildenborough Parking.

The Hildenborough Parking action plan is due next year (it's been a long time coming). Informal consultation has been undertaken and now Formal consultation will take place early next year. Generally speaking residents wanted corner protection by double yellow lines; the resident parking areas were not so popular as were double yellow lines along stretches of various roads.

TMBC Procurement.

Amazingly after all these years, the Auditors, Grant Thornton highlighted the fact that TMBC did not have a procurement strategy i.e. where do we order the next lorry load of paperclips from. Considering the Council is still here since 1974, those paperclips were

obviously sourced from somewhere. Anyway, TMBC is joining the Mid Kent Procurement Partnership initially for 2 years; work has started on a number of contracts including waste and recycling, litter enforcement and construction.

Stop The Knock.

The Council is to pilot a scheme of up to 500 cases whereby 'ReachOut' are commissioned to engage with residents who are struggling with debt, helping them get support to improve their financial, mental and physical wellbeing and hopefully reconnect those residents with TMBC in-house teams to resolve their debts. ReachOut are not debt collectors, they engage, offer help,

impartiality and confidentiality and take time to understand individual circumstances and challenges.

Contact me. Please do not hesitate for one minute, about contacting me on Borough Council matters. If you would prefer a home visit in private, just let me know.

Council Meetings.

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

Cllr Mark Rhodes

Borough Councillors

Kath Barton
c/o TMBC, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ
Kath.Barton@tmbc.gov.uk

Mark Rhodes 01732 369 405
39 Cranford Road, Tonbridge
mark.rhodes@tmbc.gov.uk

TMBC - 01732 844 522

Kent County Councillor

Harry Rayner 03000 421 606
harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Council via
clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk
or by telephone (07818 329 029)
Hildenborough PC, Riding Lane,
Hildenborough, TN11 9HY

Hildenborough Village Hall - Treasurer required

2024 was another successful year for our village hall, tempered only by the death of our treasurer Colmar Lewis. We are still looking for a volunteer to become our treasurer, so do get in touch if you feel this is a worthwhile job you could do. During the year our electrical supply was upgraded and modernised, so the hall is in good shape as we go forward. Good use is made of the hall and there are users every day at some time in at least one of the rooms. The transition of the Farmers' market from the Church Centre seems to have gone well, and the installation of Wi-Fi by the Parish Council has aided any users needing to have internet access. We remain probably the lowest cost hall for hire in the area, and intend to keep it so, offering residents a clean safe hall for a myriad of activities. Happy New Year to all.

David Haugh (01732 832 869)

The Night Sky in Hildenborough – January 2025

The sky, as I'm sure you know, rises and sets carrying with it the stars, Sun, Moon and any number of other celestial bodies. A process that is nothing to do with the sky itself, rather it is a result of the Earth spinning on its axis giving rise to the illusion that the celestial sphere is on the move and rotating about the north and south celestial poles (NCP and SCP). These poles are simply the Earth's poles of rotation projected into space and onto the imaginary celestial sphere. You probably know that the north celestial pole is marked by the star Polaris, which is in the constellation of Ursa Minor (the little bear). However, not all of the sky moves in the way I've just suggested with a portion centred on the NCP (and SCP for those south of the equator) that in fact never sets at all. The size of this circle of sky is determined by where on the Earth we are situated, or to be more precise, how far from the pole we are.

If you were standing at the north pole, the (NCP) would be overhead and your latitude would be +90°. However, our location on the Earth's surface gives us a latitude of about 52° so, for us, the north celestial pole is 52° above the horizon. To take this to its logical conclusion, if you were on the equator, latitude 0°, you would have the NCP on one horizon and the SCP on the other. This means that everything in the sky would be visible to you at some time during the year.

To go back to my point about some of the sky not setting, it follows from what I said above that anything you can see that lies between the NCP and the northern horizon will never set from our latitude. Admittedly, it will be in different positions throughout the year, note how the position of the Plough changes with the seasons, but it will never pass below the

horizon. We call anything that doesn't set "circumpolar".

One advantage of this is that the Quadrantids meteor shower, that reaches peak activity on the night of the 3rd/4th January, is circumpolar which will be an advantage if the sky is clear as it can be a very active shower. A thin crescent Moon (that incidentally will be very close to Venus) will have set in the west before 8:30pm so will cause no problems. If you look generally north at an angle of around 45° you may see a meteor every 3 or 4 minutes if conditions are good.

The following night, the 4th, if you have a small telescope or binoculars take a look at the Moon at 5:15pm and you will see Saturn appearing to approach the dark edge of the Moon (it's actually the Moon that's moving) and at around 17:21 it will disappear (technically Saturn will be "occulted" by the Moon).

Should it be clear on the nights of the 15th/16th/17th/18th have a look towards the south west where you will see the brilliant planet Venus as it makes a close approach to Saturn. The two bodies pass less than 2½° apart before Venus moves away towards the north. Of course they aren't close together in reality, it's just that they appear, due to a line-of-sight effect, to be near to one another.

The map is drawn for 15th January at 7:30pm and shows the positions of the four naked eye planets visible at that time. Mars is just below the two bright stars in Gemini, Castor and Pollux, whilst Jupiter is in Taurus and just north of the bright star Aldebaran which has an obvious red hue. Saturn and Venus are below the Square of Pegasus and more or less in line with the two righthand stars of the square.

Brian Mills FRAS



From our MP: Tom Tugendhat

Small Businesses are the backbone of our economy. Across the area I represent in Tonbridge, Edenbridge and North Downs Villages, thousands of us are employed in a small business, or run one ourselves. They are the very backbone of our economy.

The past few years have been tough, but over recent weeks I've been hearing much more from concerned small businesses given some of the measures the new Government are introducing.

Take the rise in Employers National Insurance. Not only is this a surprise, but it makes it harder for our businesses to grow and take the chance on employing more people.

National Insurance increases are a tax on business, jobs and investment. Surveys show businesses are far less likely to hire and take on new staff. It is why I voted against this policy.

Given the challenges that many are concerned about heading into 2025, I would like to hear from as many small businesses as possible across our community. Do you feel confident about the future? Do you feel you have the freedom to plan and forecast how your business will grow?

Please let me know. I can only represent you if you share your thoughts with me. The National Insurance increase is one many have shared with me, but whether it is this or any other burden you are concerned about, do be in touch. I am keen to know more if you run a small business.

My contact details are as follows:

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

Tom

Hildenborough Litter Pickers

Do you run a local community group in Hildenborough? Would you like to do a fun, outdoor session? Then do consider a group litter pick. I am happy to loan out the litter picking equipment and suggest areas to pick (with notice).

Last year the Hildenborough Guides spent a fun 45mins litter picking (they played a litter bingo game) in teams.

Alternatively, please come along and help us out on our village pick which is the first Saturday of the month, 10am to noon, at the Rec.

Please feel free to contact me at emilysimons24@gmail.com or via the Hildenborough Litter Pickers Facebook page.

Emily Simons



Hildenborough Evening WI

Our December 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.

Our speaker for the evening was Penny Harris delivering her talk based on the book "A Wealden Woman's War." The story of Edwina Hall.

Penny told us the story of Edwina, how she met and fell in love with a pilot who had been shot down, injured, lost a leg, and been taken prisoner in Italy. The story started when Edwina Hallett was an 18-year-old girl growing up in Tunbridge Wells. Churchill was Prime Minister, and the war had started in Europe. She decided to join up and was sent for training to Gloucestershire where she learnt to drive trucks. In 1942 she was sent to collect injured repatriated airmen, this is where she met John Brodie Thomson Hall: they fell in love and in ten weeks were married. He needed intensive treatment following his injuries but fought to get back to flying and continued to fly until the war ended. Edwina continued driving trucks throughout the war.

After the war John and Edwina decided they wanted to run a pub and finally took over The Blacksmiths Arms in Chiddingstone. It took time for them to settle to this new way of life, but eventually became part of the local community. At times the pub became really busy, such as hop picking season, when pickers would descend on them from London for several weeks at a time.

By 1950 the couple had had their first child and decided to leave the pub and buy a smallholding. This was a lovely talk about Edwina's life and her love for John. It was great to hear about the places that are so familiar to us and about a very different way of life.

A few of the ladies read some Christmas poetry and we shared some festive treats with a welcome cup of tea before wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, at the end of another successful year.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 14th January 2025**, when we will be holding our New Year party.

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.

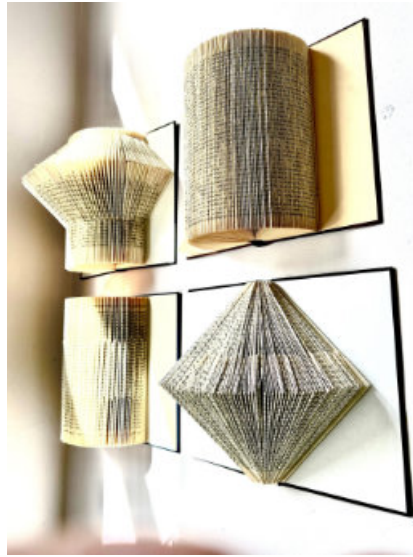
Lorna Stapley-President.

Hildenborough Railway Station Art

I have been looking forward to running this piece for some time. There has been a change of staff at Hildenborough Railway Station and we warmly welcome Emma Giles. We hope you are very happy here.

Emma has a artistic flair and the ticket office / waiting room was beautifully decorated for Christmas. For those with a keen eye, Emma has created some beautiful decoration pieces and we'd like to share them with you here.

I think the mouse is my favourite as it's in keeping with some of the cartoons I slide into the magazine every now and again. **Rob**



Warnings – Things to watch out for

Here is a collection of recent warnings issued by Kent Police

Rogue Charity Collectors – There have been reports of bogus door to door charity collections for Breast Cancer in the Tonbridge and Malling area. The police have spoken to several charities who have said they don't collect door to door. Please check for identification and the name of a charity before you donate money. If you're not sure, you can always donate directly to the charity.

Car Sale Scams – The scam involves 2 or 3 people attending the sellers address and whilst one distracts the seller, another will put oil in the coolant or water in the oil of the vehicle for sale. They will then show this to the seller and state that the engine, if not blown, has blown and offer a much lower amount for the vehicle. Top tips include, stay with the buyers, be wary of any enormous discount requested and be confident to refuse the sale.

Card fraud - is when a criminal steals personal information from your credit or debit card or steals the card itself. What to look out for –

- Always look after your cards and card details. Try not to let your card out of your sight when making a transaction.
- Check receipts against statements carefully. Contact your card company immediately if you find an unfamiliar transaction.
- Store your statements, receipts and financial documents safely and destroy them, preferably using a shredder, when you dispose of them.
- Sign any new cards as soon as they arrive.
- Cut expired cards through the magnetic strip and chip when replacement cards arrive.

Scam text messages – e.g. 'winter fuel payment' – Scammers may try and text you a

link to a website to claim some form of benefit or payment. This could well be a fake website designed to steal your data.

Rogue Traders - Please be wary of cold callers offering to undertake work on your property as this work may not be necessary or may not be completed to a satisfactory standard and you may be overcharged and out of pocket. If seeking a tradesperson to undertake some work on your property, please remember to always:

- Obtain at least three written quotes.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations. (or use the adverts in Keys Magazine! – Editor)
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand.
- Never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Tales from the graveyard: The Titanic Connection - Lucy Snape

This August we were reminded of the tragic loss of the Titanic when remote cameras showed us pictures of the now crumbling wreck (see picture below).

In April 1912 when the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank into the Atlantic Ocean the reaction at the time was of

horror as if everyone knew someone who was on the ship. There were few villages where the ripple from the sinking did not reach.

Hildenborough could also trace someone known to the inhabitants who was lost in this disaster.

Thanks to the efforts of the late Tim Asquith who researched the story of this local girl we know a little of her story.

Lucy Violet, the daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Lennard was born in a village near Farnham, Surrey and was baptised at the local church on 2nd May 1890. She was eldest of nine children. Her father Edward was a groom, and they moved from Surrey to Kent where by 1911 the family were living in Cataract Cottage at Horns Lodge near Hildenborough. He was a "Coachman" working for the Right Honourable 16th Earl of Derby. Edward's two youngest children (Ellen and Adrian) were born in Hildenborough and christened at St John's Church.

By this time Lucy is 20 and working. She had met and married Lawrence Edward Snape, this

was at the Tonbridge Register Office. The records do not show how they met but the records do show that they had a daughter Margaret Isabel Snape born on 18th June 1910 in their home the "Flying Dutchman Inn" Hildenborough where Lawrence was the Landlord.

Lawrence took a trading trip to Singapore, but sadly died of dysentery. Lucy and daughter returned to England arriving in London 7th December 1911. Lucy needed an income and

having seen the work of the stewards she decided that she would earn a living as a Stewardess. She obtained a position on the "Titanic" working on the 2nd Class E Deck from the 6th April 1912 with a salary of £12.00 for the trip. When the Titanic started to sink, she opted to stay to look after the passengers.

On 30th April 1812 one of the National newspapers, The Daily Sketch, ran an interview with "A survivor" who reported that "A

Stewardess, Mrs Snape, a widow with a little girl helped the passenger with their lifebelts as she wished them good-bye. "

All the documents that Tim Asquith had referred to in writing about the disaster can be found on the "Hildenborough History Society" web site where there is a lot more details of this family.

George Gorham

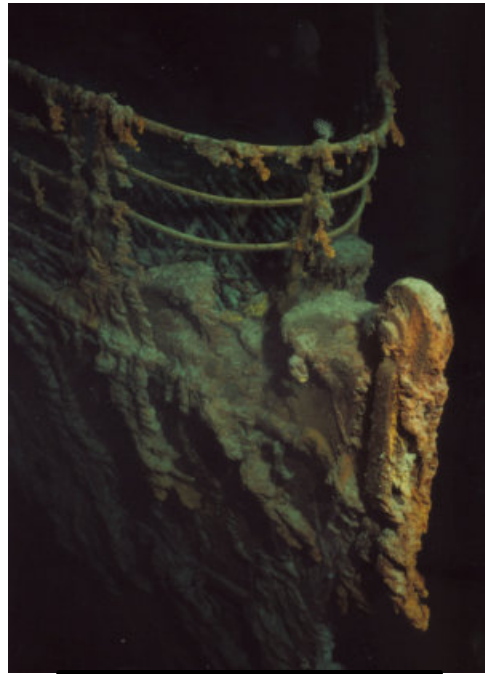


Photo by NOAA on Unsplash

What will you do on Tuesday afternoons in wintertime ?

HILDENBOROUGH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

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with tea, biscuits and chat halfway

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If you can walk, talk and bend whatever age come and give it a try when more can be explained.

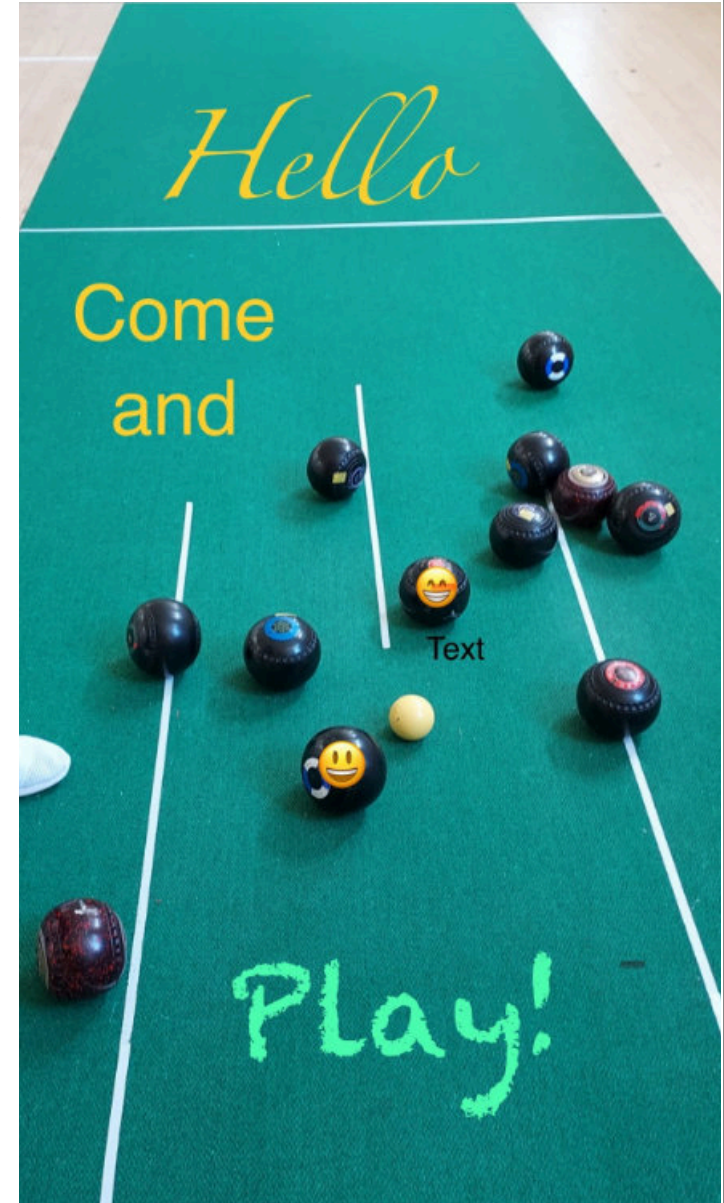
It's friendly, sometimes frustrating and very fun!

First 3 sessions free

Hildenborough village hall @ 1:45 pm

Call Terry on 07767 098 403 or Gillian 01732 833 700.

Or just come along!



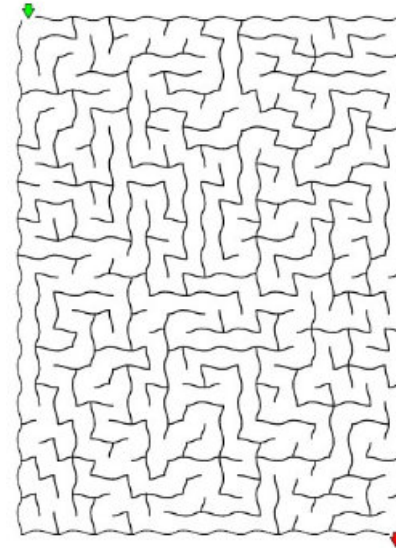
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donkey
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blessing
wanted
pay
angel
Balaam
home
God
camped

happy
Balak
wanted
invade
Jordan
King
river
stopped

Maze - can you find the path?



Sudoku - Medium

			6				7	
		7				3	5	
3						7		4
						2	6	
8	5							1
		9	3					
		9		5				3
		4	1				8	
2						9		

Sudoku - Easy

			7	8	1	5		
1		7	2					6
				5	9		7	
			8		5	6	3	
	1	3	6		7	2	4	
8	4	6		2				
7		4		1				
9					6	8		2
2	1	8		5				



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

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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**

wkcb@muzodo.com

0345 988 1188

jonathan.ashton.bidwriting@gmail.com

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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**

www.hildenboroughtennis.co.uk

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

chairman@tonbridgeswimmingclub.co.uk

Lionel Shields **01732 355 919**



Hilden Park Chartered Accountants



BE WARY OF SELF ASSESSMENT SCAMS

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have issued a reminder to be careful about scam attempts that target people filing Self Assessment tax returns. In the last year, nearly 150,000 scam attempts were referred to HMRC, a 16.7% increase on last year. With the 31 January 2025 filing deadline approaching, fraudsters are likely to step up their activities.

HMRC reports that around half of all scam reports in the last year were fake tax rebate claims. Fraudsters are usually aiming to get hold of personal information and banking details. It is helpful to know that HMRC will never leave voicemails threatening legal action or arrest. Neither will they ask for personal or financial information over text message.

HMRC will not contact you by email, text, or phone to announce a refund or ask you to request one.

If you have been contacted by someone claiming to be from HMRC and feel unsure whether it is a scam, or you would like to check whether you are due a tax refund, contact us and we will be happy to help you.

If you would like any advice,
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